



THREE2SIX
Refugee Children's Education Project

*Friends of
Three2Six
Newsletter*

**Volume 21,
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OCTOBER 2020

NEWSLETTER

Visit from photographer, Lizette Cressey

In October, a very talented amateur photographer, Lizette Cressey, visited two of our campuses to take pictures of the project. She joined us for two full afternoons and followed all our activities, from the transport of the children to our daily assemblies, to teaching and meal time.

Next month, she will be joining some children and staff on our third campus on a three-day camp outside of Johannesburg. Below are some of the beautiful pictures that she took over those two days.

Thank you, Lizette, for your generosity!



JPCCC counselling sessions

In October, we started our counselling sessions with the Johannesburg Parent Child Counselling Centre (JPCCC). The JPCCC visits our campuses once a week to check on our children to ensure that they are not affected by any traumatic situation they might have gone through, especially during the COVID crisis.

Sacred Heart day



Like every year, on the 2nd of October, we celebrated Sacred Heart Day together with the Sacred Heart College community. However, unlike other years, we couldn't get together to attend mass because of COVID. Instead, it was pre-recorded and our children participated in the readings.

After mass our children enjoyed ice-creams. One of our teachers also took the opportunity to teach our children about the Marist values. And children drew and wrote about their experience being part of Sacred Heart College.

World day of Migrants and Refugees

On Sunday, 4th October, all our campuses joined the Catholic Church to celebrate the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

According to the Holy See, this day is celebrated on the last Sunday of September but this year it was postponed to the 1st Sunday of October.

The World Day of Migrants and Refugees is a day where we celebrate refugees to show that they are recognized human beings who need compassion and love, and to be cared for like any other human being. We celebrate the courage of people who have been forced to flee their home countries to escape conflict or persecution.

The theme for this year was "Every Action Counts." It reminds the world that everyone, including refugees, can contribute to society and that every action counts in the efforts to create a more just, inclusive, and equal world. This year's celebration focused on Internally Displaced People (IDPs).

For our celebration at Sacred Heart College, the children learnt about IDPs and the way to welcome, protect, promote and integrate them into our communities. The children also recited the prayer for Migrants and Refugees.

At our Observatory Girls campus, we celebrated with colleagues and learners on the 3rd of October. Learners dressed in their cultural outfits and participated in dance, drama and singing activities. Our children had a lot of fun showcasing their cultural dances and songs from their countries.





These activities were done as a team to show no discrimination, love for each other and unity among us. We taught the learners that they have rights like anybody else - a right to education, shelter, food, health care services and respect. We also prayed for peace, harmony and togetherness.

On our Holy Family College campus, the celebrations opened with a prayer. To celebrate the diversity within the project, our team introduced the various African countries that our learners come from. Each grade then presented a poem, a song and a cultural dance from one of their countries of origin. Everyone shared a meal before going home.

In South Africa, refugees face a number of challenges, including xenophobic attacks, discrimination and poverty due to unemployment. Some children do not have access to education due to a lack of proper documentation for instance. Refugees deserve to be treated with dignity and equality. Freedom and justice must always prevail when dealing with refugees as they are human beings and fellow Africans in need.

Grade 5 camp

Our Sacred Heart College campus Grade 5s went to Kloofwaters Camp on 13 and 14 October. They packed their camping bags, travelled on the bus and enjoyed learning from camp counsellors and various other activities, like bump sliding, spiders net and spot the lantern, developing their concentration, building up their courage and helping them to overcome fear.

This was a very enriching experience for our Grade 5s.



Alumni day



Lockdown has been a difficult time for everyone but it has been disproportionately difficult for those members of the population who are already marginalised. Being a teenager is hard enough without having to teach yourself, worry about finances and food and not be able to see your friends and loved ones. Our Alumni have suffered through this lockdown. Many of their normal support mechanisms took a backseat as they had to navigate a completely new structure – one of those support mechanisms being our monthly Homework Days.

We were finally able to safely meet up with them again on the 3rd of October. Our Marist Youth Coordinator, Beth Code, assisted in the organisation of the day all the way from Australia and we had an incredibly successful day on which we were able to safely allow for our young adults to engage.

The first session was run by Pam Paton-Mills and centered around the healing nature of movement – we learned how to express our emotions through conscious movement in a calm and thoughtful environment. Many of the Alumni curled into balls of anxiety, jumped for joy at seeing their friends again, or slumped to show how tired they felt. There was a feeling of understanding as we looked around to see the same feelings we felt reflected in those around us.



We then began exam preparation across all subjects in the homework room. The group have really had to take on a personal leadership role and guide their own teaching.

Daniel then took the group for sports where he worked with the children to train their hand-eye coordination and ball skills. We played basketball and soccer matches, danced, played four-square and milled about on the grass.

We applauded the internal strength of our Alumni, and as always look forward to our next session which thankfully will only be a month away.

A past learner volunteer at the project



Randry joined the project as a learner at its inception in 2008. After completing Grade 6 at Three2Six, he joined the United Church School in Grade 7, then came back to Sacred Heart College to write the College entrance test.

He won the Sacred Heart Scholarship and completed his matric in 2018. He is currently applying to study at the University of South Africa (UNISA) to become an English and Mathematics teacher.

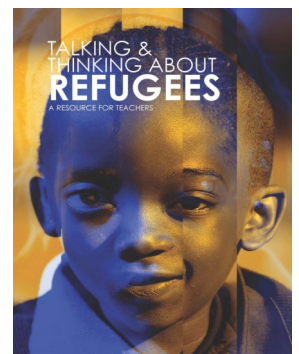
As an aspirant teacher, he has joined us mainly to give back to the Project, but also to shadow our teachers, for his future career as an educator. He is currently running Ipad classes with our Grade 4 and 5 students every week to help acquaint them with technology.

Advocacy update

Online version of our anti-xenophobia resource

As announced in our previous newsletter, an online version of our Talking and Thinking about Refugees toolkit was developed. The toolkit is in an HTML file format that can be easily accessed offline.

You can find it on our website by following this link (don't forget to scroll down!) <https://www.three2six.co.za/ttr/navigation.html>



To make this online resource interactive and easy to follow, it includes videos featuring our teachers introducing parts of the toolkit.

If you have any questions or comments on the resource, or would like to receive copies of it for your student teachers or teachers to use it in their classroom, please do not hesitate to contact advocacy@three2six.co.za

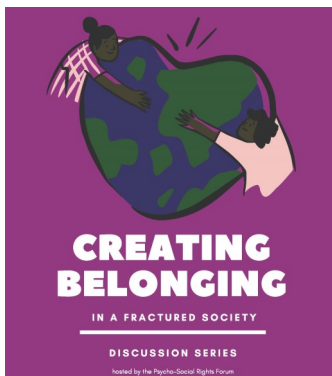
The more we share this resource, the more mindsets around refugees will change, furthering our goals for a more tolerant society.

Advocacy with Destination Unknown



Over the last few weeks, the project has been partnering with Destination Unknown at the advocacy level. Destination Unknown is a global network of organisations and youth networks from around the world which includes our funder Terre des Hommes, and that campaigns for the rights of children and youth on the move to be upheld and protected. The network currently has an initiative on shifting narratives on this population for organisations working with them with an objective to influence the narrative on this more broadly. Follow us on social media to soon find out more about our joint campaign.

Indaba meetings



Throughout the month, the project participated in three Indaba meetings on “creating belonging in a fractured society” that were hosted by the psychosocial rights forum in collaboration with Synergos and the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA).

These sessions revolved around presentations from specialists from the NGO sector (e.g. Scalabrini, Sophiatown community psychological services), the Department of Justice, international organisations (i.e. UNHCR and IOM) and academia, and reflections on the issues raised and the possible collective way forward.

The aim of the meetings is for these stakeholders to work hand in hand towards a more inclusive South African society by understanding and addressing these gaps together. Some of our past learners shared their thoughts and experiences on what it means to belong. The link to the project's “Talking and thinking about refugees” resource was distributed with the participants to help understand key elements on refugee related issues.

SACBC meeting

On 1 October, the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference held a virtual meeting on the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

An overview of Catholic social teaching was given and the global and local reality of IDPs, who fall under the above category of persons, was presented as well as the actions the Church is doing to protect and support them.

The numerous participants, including Three2Six, who represented various South African cities and Southern African countries, mentioned the services that they are currently offering to migrants and refugees to allow them to connect and exchange information on available resources.

Global Action Month



Each year in November, Global Action Month - initiated by Terre des Hommes - is celebrated worldwide by children and youth, on the occasion of the adoption of the UN Convention on the rights of the child.

During that month, children and youth organize actions on the year's theme to claim the realization of their rights. The 2020 theme is on the environmental rights of children.

In anticipation of this, on 30 October, some of our Grade 5 learners joined children from Sacred Heart College to clean a river near the school. They were very eager to participate and showed a real interest in protecting the environment.

On the same day, our Grade 1 learners made toys out of milk boxes and our Grade 4s bird nests out of plastic bottles.

Follow us on social media throughout November to know what our children are doing to defend their rights and to protect their environment.

Fundraising update

As we approach the end of the year 2020, the project would like to extend its gratitude to all its partners, friends and families who have consistently provided support towards the Three2six Refugee Children's Educational Project.

We would like to thank the following Partners who have made contributions in the project to assist in delivering its objectives for this year. It is through your support that the project can impact on the lives of the marginalized children in our community.

September:

Private Dutch funder – R 1 862 484.50

October:
Breadsticks Foundation – R379 117 .00

We extend our gratitude to all our partners for the 2020 academic year:

- Misereor
- Misean Cara
- Mary Oppenheimer and Daughters - Jessica Slack Foundation
- Terre Des Hommes
- Private Dutch Funder
- HCI Foundation
- JSE
- German Marist Solidarity
- Maitri Trust
- Caring Women's Forum
- Marist Brothers Canada
- The Breadsticks Foundation
- The Salesians of Don Bosco Ireland
- Harris Mathews Charitable foundation
- Kennedy Hanly Foundation

Thank you for all you do for our kids. You are a part of their lives too.

We are always available to answer any questions you may have and looking forward to updating you with the 2019 Annual Report and Financials of the project.

Sincerely,

Nthabiseng Seane
Fundraiser