



THE NEWSLETTER

improving lives • creating sustainable solutions • making a difference

Laura Hampson, Vancouver Office

We sat down with Laura Hampson, our Vancouver Office Champion, and this is what she had to say.

" I first heard about the GTO when I applied for a job with Golder Associates. Having travelled through several African countries, I was excited to hear about the GTO and their work to improve local communities impacted by the AIDS pandemic. I was lucky to join the Vancouver office, which had strong GTO support, and I quickly met the Vancouver Champion, who helped me set up my monthly donations (of course) as I began volunteering at local events.

When the local Champion left, I volunteered, which is how I met Sue Longo, who was building a support structure for our wonderful volunteers in smaller offices. This support structure has grown across Canada and North America.

We have exchanged ideas on sharing the load and raising money through fundraisers and fun initiatives.

The GTO's work aligns with my core values of helping others grow and thrive. Being an Office Champion has been a rewarding experience for me, as was the volunteer trip to Zimbabwe I attended in 2018. No matter how much or little time you can spare, there is something you can do to help improve the lives of thousands of children every day."



How to Donate

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Holiday Smiles



Holiday Smiles is an initiative the GTO runs to raise funds for our NGO's children to ensure they receive a small gift during the holiday season.

We love to ensure that the children feel the joy and love the holidays bring. We need your help to make this happen. Your donations ensure that each child receives a holiday surprise, and gifts are items that the children require (as decided by the NGO).

The Holiday Smiles funds go towards clothing and shoes, sports equipment, toys, books, stationery, school uniforms, food packs and personal items. For the past seven years, this programme has been an enormous success, and the reward is seeing a smile on each child's face.

Help us give the gift of a smile this holiday season by donating to the Holiday Smiles Programme - www.givengain.com



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Philangethemba News

The latest project is a mini factory for processing plastic waste into recyclable polymers such as PET, LDPE, HDPE and PP. It will be installed in a container located in the centre of Molweni township.

The container has been set up at a location selected by the local Ward Councillor.



This project will take the plastic waste out of the township and provide a local site to process plastic waste collected from the nearby suburbs. This will help clean up the Molweni township and by having the recycling centre at a local site transportation costs and carbon footprint is also reduced.

It will offer work opportunities for a small business set up by local entrepreneur Nonkanyiso Ngcobo. Nonka is seen here with her father and the Ward Councillor, who greatly supports the project.

Nonka has already selected a young man, Melusi, with the necessary technical skills to operate the machinery and together, they will recruit someone to manage a team of sorters. They have decided to call their new company "Ibala Lezwe Recycles. Ibala Lezwe means "Landmark", and the motto means "Let us clean our land".

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In addition, the project will generate income for many waste pickers who will collect plastic waste in the community and get paid from Ibala Lezwe Recycles.

Philangethemba will own the container factory and lease it to Ibala Lezwe Recycles and will, in this way, generate revenue to help fund a range of education projects in Molweni.

The container has been located so it faces north, and in phase 2, solar panels will be installed to provide power for the factory.

In 2015 GTO funded two solar installations at the Philangethemba Campus.



Gel batteries were used for the initial installation of the solar hybrid system. These batteries came to an end of their useful life after 5 years. We are very grateful to the GTO for agreeing to replace these batteries with lithium batteries.



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With These

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