



THE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

improving lives • creating sustainable solutions • making a difference

News from The Love Trust's Nokuphila School (Thembisa- South Africa)

The GTO's Impact on the Nokuphila School Nutrition Programme.

Children who are well-fed can learn better. More than 9.6 million children in South Africa depend on the Department of Education's school nutrition programme. The Nokuphila School, part of The Love Trust and supported by the GTO, is no different and provides a nutrition programme to support learning. The Nokuphila Nutrition Programme began in 2010



to ensure that learners at the school received consistent access to meals. It was an essential aspect of Nokuphila's learning programme, considering that many of their pupils come from disadvantaged backgrounds and do not have consistent access to food. For many Nokuphila students, the meals they receive at school may be the only time they eat all day.

This nutrition programme encourages learners to attend and stay in school and lets them focus on learning rather than their stomachs. Good food improves cognitive abilities, so Nokuphila's meals are regularly assessed for nutritional value and portion size to ensure they provide the best food for learning and growing minds.



Learners enjoying nutritious and filling meals during breaktime.

How to Donate
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Organisations such as GTO Trust are what society needs to assist us in reaching such goals. The consistent support we receive from GTO has made it possible for all 388 of our learners to receive three meals, including a snack on each active school day.



Food items ready for the school menu, thanks to GTO's generous contribution.



We want to thank GTO for their generosity to our school, our learners and the community of Thembisa. Your support does not stop at Nokuphila but moves beyond our gates because it contributes to our learners becoming contributing citizens and members of their community. Our shared vision of the importance of nutrition will ensure that each child at Nokuphila School grows to reach their full potential, and for that, we are grateful.

News from ACET (Matopos - Zimbabwe)

Another Graduating Class!

The communities at ACET are improving all the time! We have students who have qualified for college, and some are even now teachers through our educational assistance programmes.

We have improved the lives of children living with HIV by giving them food supplements, and they can enjoy a normal childhood. The GTO has also assisted with supplying blankets during the cold winter months.

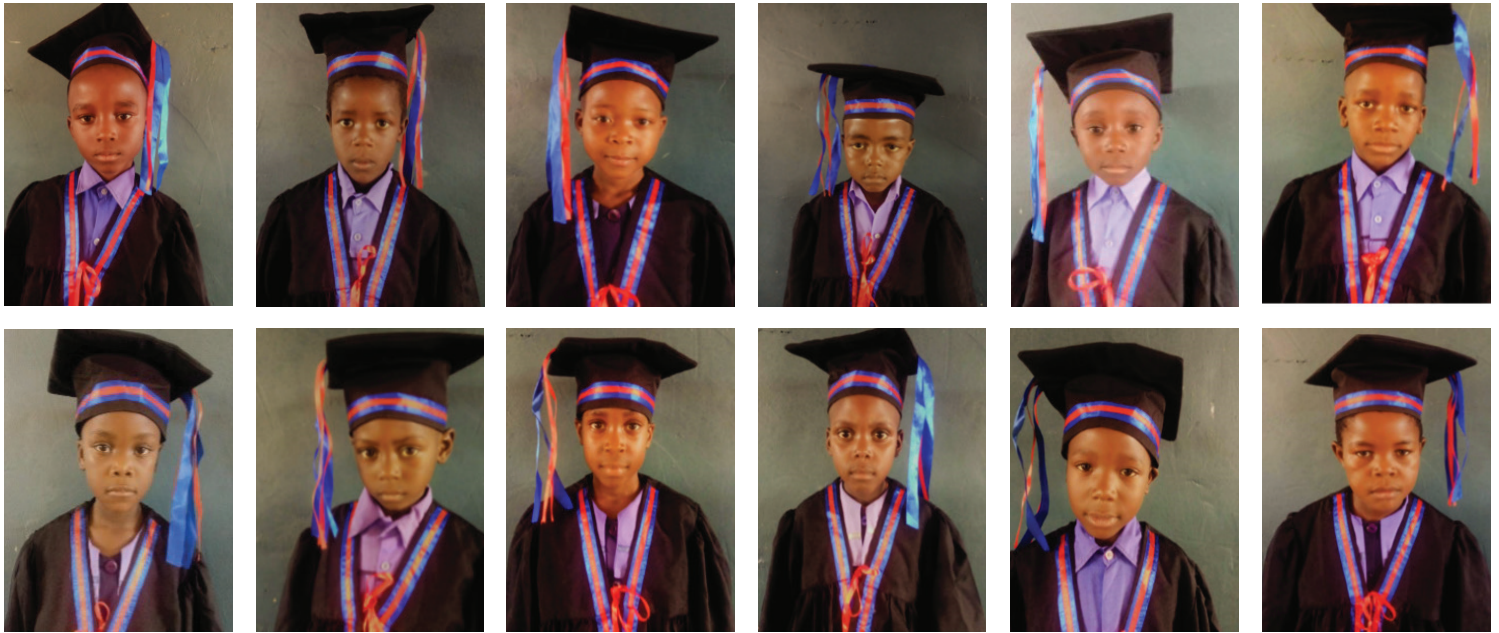
The GTO has assisted with building the ECD (Early Childhood Development) school in the local area. This has had a huge impact as children aged 3–5 previously had to walk 8–10 km for early development education.

A mini-graduation ceremony was held on the 28th of November to celebrate 12 students transitioning to their next grade. It was a joyful occasion, and the participation of parents and the local community showed how important school and student success are to the whole community.

A big thank you to the ACET director, the dedicated staff of teachers and the catering team for their contributions. Their efforts in facilitating the growth and education of these children are invaluable to the community. Such initiatives not only contribute to individual development but also foster a sense of community and hope for a brighter future.

The ongoing success of the community care programme and projects like the ACET ECD School demonstrate the positive impact that collective efforts can have on the lives of vulnerable individuals.

Celebrating the achievements of our ECD graduates.



Gwandavale Secondary School Update!



The construction progress on the additional buildings.

Gwandavale Secondary School, sponsored by the GTO through a generous donation from Paul and Nancy Smolkin, opened at the beginning of 2022.

Before the Gwandavale school was built, secondary students had to walk as much as 40 km to attend the nearest school. Now, they only need to walk a few kilometres. Only 42 students could initially enrol for Form 1 due to Covid restrictions. We now have 80 students from Forms 1 to 3 and four teachers. Thanks to the support from the GTO, additional buildings (classroom, storage) for the teaching staff are underway.

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News from Bulembu (Bulembu, Eswatini)

Holiday Smiles!

Everybody looks forward to the Christmas holidays, especially the children, and fun activities make them extra special. In 2023, the GTO provided funds to hire jumping castles and an inflatable slippery slide, which was a hit! The children had a blast cooling off on the slide on the extra-hot days.

The GTO also funded an outing! The children typically spend most of their time on-site at Bulembu, and getting the chance to go out is a significant event, particularly when it involves a special treat. Some children had the opportunity to indulge in delicious fried chicken, chips and ice cream from KFC, followed by enjoying the movie Peter Rabbit together.

For many, it was their first time experiencing a movie, making the outing even more memorable. GTO, your thoughtful gestures, both big and small, mean the world to us. Thank you for always considering the well-being and happiness of the children. Your kindness has brought countless smiles to their faces – thank you!



Holiday Smiles made unforgettable with jumping castle fun!



New Donation Platform

We are pleased to announce that we have a new partner for donations in Canada!! Canadahelps is a platform supporting Canadian charities and the GTO now has a page! We have tested the system on a multi-country Zoom call and donations are received instantly, with low fees and a tax receipt issued automatically.

The link is below to the GTO page – we would love for you to give it a try!

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/99744>

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