

1. Skills development training and employment

Batho Ba Lerato is an Orphans and Vulnerable Children project in Thaba Nchu, Free State Province that strives to assist youths. Some did not perform well at school and others are from child-headed families. The programme aims at empowering them with artisan skills in order to support their families. In August 2012 the project managed to send forty youths to the Bethlehem Basic Training Project for training in various skills such as plumbing, welding, carpentry and bricklaying. Of the forty youths, ten are now road workers earning a salary of R3700 per month and nine are self employed. Twenty one were referred to the National Youth Development Agency through the assistance of the Department of Social Development to equip them further with skills and knowledge on how to draw up a business plan to establish their own businesses. Some of these youth have subsequently been involved in repairing of and maintenance done in the OVC shelter project which forms part of the programme funded through PEPFAR, and in a building project funded by a European donor.

2. Hospitality Management training

Siyathokoza Orphans and Vulnerable Children project operating in Botshabelo- Free State Province managed to organize a Hospitality Management training during the September 2012 school holidays. A total of ten disadvantaged girls benefited from a five day Hospitality Management training. The main purpose of the training was to equip them with basic understanding of the hospitality industry and how it operates. The Children learnt how to do formal setting and decoration of tables, formal reception and serving of guests, preparation of rooms and facilities and also how to prepare breakfast. The training was conducted at a local guest house and facilitated by a Hospitality Management graduate from the Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein. The delegates also had an opportunity to put into practice what they had learnt during the training.

3. Scholarship opportunity

Sixteen year old Jabu Martins (not his real name) from Nightingale Hospice Children's Center in De Aar, Northern Cape managed to obtain a scholarship from the AFS Intercultural Programme to study in the USA from July 2012 for a year. This scholarship was awarded on merit and Jabu did exceptionally well in the written tests and in the panel interview conducted in Cape Town. The AFS Intercultural Programme provides scholarships for South African learners who display high academic ability and leadership skills to study in the US

for a year while living with a host family. While attending school in America, Jabu has had the opportunity to participate in various leadership camps, youth seminars and be an ambassador for South Africa, creating awareness of issues which the youth in our country are facing.