



October 2019

Dear Friends,





It is hard to believe that another year has flown by. Fall is in the air, and Thanksgiving is around the corner. We are thankful for your continued interest in and support of the Bokamoso Life Centre. Your generosity makes it possible for the Youth to have a daily nutritious meal, gain literacy skills, participate in counseling, drama and art therapy, sports, and other activities that heal their minds and bodies and upon graduation from Bokamoso, have the opportunity to attend college. None of this would be possible without you.

As part of our Bokamoso family, you should know there is much to be thankful for this year. The Foundation and the Centre are growing in exciting new ways. The Centre has established its first volunteer Board of Directors and hired a permanent Manager. I had an opportunity to spend time at the Centre in July and worked with this new group. We are delighted to have these talented people working with us in South Africa to build a stronger, more vibrant Centre. The Youth are flourishing under the guidance of the new Manager, Mr. Thomas Ledwaba, and our talented staff. Attend an event during the annual January Cultural Exchange and see for yourself.

The Foundation has also seen some big changes this year. Several of our legacy Board members have retired, but continue as active volunteers and historians. Roy Barber, Leslie Jacobson, Elese Sizemore and Lou Jacobson spent many years traveling to South Africa, creating beautiful music and drama with the Youth, and shepherding the Foundation into a thriving organization. We will always be grateful for their contributions. We also welcomed Ken Guinta, a St. Andrews parent (and former Bokamoso host), to the Board in July. Please welcome Ken and check in with our Board alumni at one of our events.

Take a moment to read our Youth success story to get an intimate idea of how your contributions made a difference in one young woman's life. Nathi is just one of many young people who are living their dreams because of your donations. There are 30 Bokamoso Youth studying at South African colleges, universities and Voc/Tech schools exploring their dreams. Your donations make this possible. Of the 30, 17 receive direct financial scholarship assistance from Bokamoso and 13 receive financial assistance directly from their college, but obtained with Bokamoso's help.

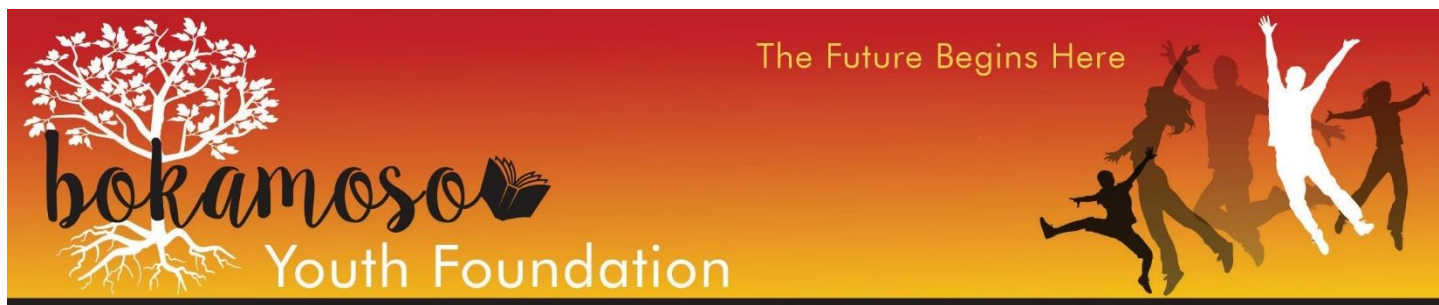
Everyone's contribution is meaningful

			
\$25	\$75	\$100	\$500
provides food for 1 youth for a month	provides transport for 1 youth to go to college for a month	provides college books and materials for 1 youth for a year	provides college fees for 1 youth for a semester

Please contribute today. You can use the enclosed envelope, or visit our website, www.bokamosoyouth.org, or our Facebook Page, and click on Donate. In this season of Gratitude, know that we are grateful for you and your commitment to making positive changes in the lives of the Bokamoso Youth.

Sincerely,

Dr. Constance Sullivan, President
Bokamoso Youth Foundation



ANNUAL 2019

At the Bokamoso Life Centre (BLC) in Winterveldt, South Africa, young people continued to take charge of their lives. Bokamoso means “future” in the Tswana language —and the Centre and the Bokamoso Youth Foundation (BYF) in Washington, DC, continued their strong partnership to help Winterveldt youth lay solid foundations for their futures through ongoing joint efforts to build a stronger and more resilient community organization.



The support of the Bokamoso Life Centre is a creative partnership of a number of DC area groups and individual volunteers. Long-time supporting institutions include St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Seekers Church, George Washington University, National United Methodist Church, All Souls Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church, Inc. of North Brentwood, Abt Associates and a number of other local churches and schools. The BYF Board of Directors: President, Dr. Constance Sullivan; Vice President, James Cawley; Secretary, Kathryn Tobias; Treasurer, Charles Vance, Benny Pittman, Elese Sizemore, Julye Williams.

FOUNDATION

We say good bye to some of our Founding Board members as they move on to retirement and new adventures. We wish them well and are grateful for all of their contributions, and that they will continue to be involved with the Foundation and the Centre through other channels.

- Roy Barber-Founder and past President of the Foundation.
- Leslie Jacobson-Founding Board member and Artistic Director
- Elese Sizemore-Board member and former Board Secretary
- Lou Jacobson-Board member

Let's Welcome New Board Member Kenneth Jay Giunta



Ken Giunta assists charitable organizations on matters related to management systems, accountability and transparency. He also offers professional support and consulting in the areas of fundraising, board management and strategic planning. Prior to retiring in 2007, Ken held numerous management positions in federal and state government as well as in the not-for profit sector, including Interim CEO, Vice President and Senior Director of Membership and Standards at the American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction); Senior Director for Corporate Resources and Marketing and Secretary to the Board of Directors at the Overseas Development Council (ODC); Chair of Mayor-Elect Sharon Pratt Kelly's Transition Subcommittee on International Trade, and Deputy Director and subsequently Acting Director of the District of Columbia's Office of International Business (OIB). Ken has also held senior leadership positions on several community and international boards, most recently as Board Chair of Social Accountability Accreditation Services (SAAS). Ken is a Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude graduate of Tufts University. He received his Masters Degree in International Affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy with a concentration in comparative politics, developmental economics and international business.

THE CENTRE



The Bokamoso Life Centre Board of Directors and Manager (left to right)

Patricia Hochleutner-Board member,
Thomas Ledwaba, Manager, Palesa Nhlapo-Board member,
Tebogo Loate-Chair, Mokhutwane Phooko-Board member

Alumni Spotlight - Meet Nkosinathi "Nathi" Mbatha

Nkosinathi Mbatha is a vibrant 24 year old who matriculated in 2014 at I.R Lesolang Secondary School. In her own words, read her inspiring story.

"I didn't have plans on what I was going to study after my matric but I've always had love and interest in fashion.

Growing up my family couldn't afford a lot of things and buying clothes for us was always a challenge so all the time if I see a friend or distant relatives wearing new clothes, I would get so sad and frustrated until I got used to it and so that's when I decided that I'm going to study clothing so I'd be able to sew clothes for me and my family.

But in my high school, I realized that Fashion is not just about sewing clothes and wearing them, it's actually more than that. After finding out all the things involved in fashion, the love for it sparked even more. Since I didn't have any plans about my matric I was told about Bokamoso Life Center (BLC) so I decided to start attending. Little did I know that it would be the best decision I've ever made in my life.





In 2016 I was granted a scholarship by BLC to study clothing production. I studied for two years in Tshwane North TVET College. Early this year in Feb I was selected by the college to intern in the Tshwane North College fashion factory for 18 months which will end August 2020.

I can proudly stand tall and proudly to say if it wasn't for the scholarship that was granted to me by BLC I wouldn't be here."

ALUMNI ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Scripted Streets a clothing brand currently active and ran by four focused youth who meet through the Bokamoso programs. Thabelang "Teddy" Phoku, Tshepo Seabi, Nkosinathi Mbatha and Blessing Rakgaole are the owners of the business and they all bring a different feel to the business and keeps it alive. Blessing Rakgaole is a graphic designer to the business and he's currently studying that professionally, Teddy is a graduate in marketing, Nkosinathi is a professional clothing designer and currently doing her practicals, Tshepo is a graduate in Travel and Tourism. Scripted Streets has produced t-shirts for Bokamoso in 2018/19 and 2019/20, also they came up with a design for the drama group's cultural attire, currently designed t-shirts for a well known Tshwane Youth Gospel Choir (TYGC). Scripted Streets sold 40 t-shirts and 20 caps last year to local customers and since then our market grew and t-shirts and caps are selling like hotcakes. Currently we will be buying our equipment and take our business on another level and create jobs for our people in the community.

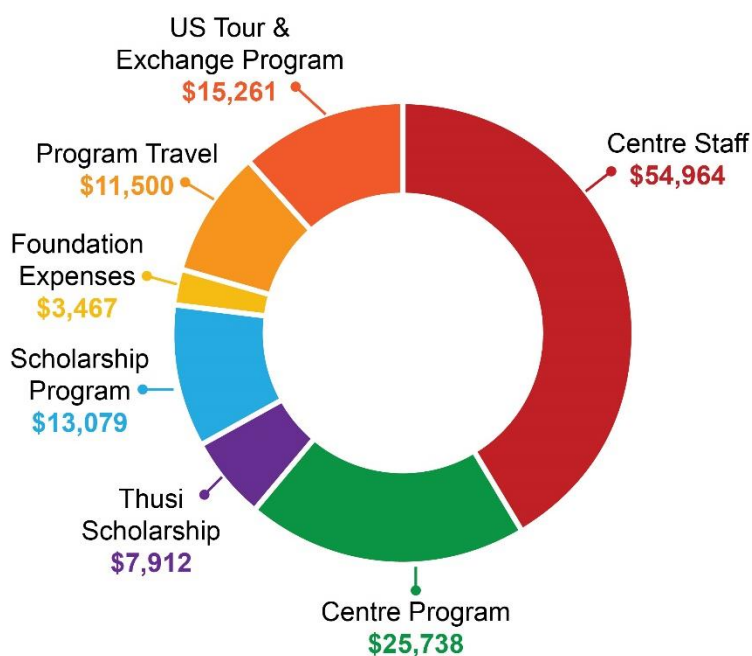


FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND EXPENSES

Bokamoso Youth Foundation Financial Statement September 2018 – August 2019

Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$ 27,986
General Contributions	\$ 119,549
Thusi Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,500
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 11,500
Expenses	\$ 131,921
Net Change	\$ 2,628
Net Assets End of Year	\$ 30,614

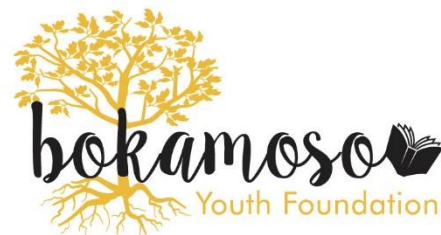
Bokamoso Youth Foundation Expenses September 2018 – August 2019



To support **Bokamoso**, mail a check made out to the **Bokamoso Youth Foundation** to 3927 Military Road, Washington, DC 20045. Or donate online at www.bokamosoyouth.org; click on Support, then select Donate. Visit the site for more information. The BYF is a U.S. tax-exempt 501C(3) charitable organization dedicated to transforming the lives of youth and empowering community leadership in Winterveldt, South Africa.

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The Bokamoso Life Centre celebrates its 20th year anniversary in 2019 – founded in 1999 in response to the lack of opportunities for the youth of Winterveldt, the Centre has operated continuously as a safe haven for young people (generally 18 to 24 years old) to develop life skills, to artistically express themselves, to explore new paths for them selves and to develop the confidence to follow those paths.



**FOUNDED
1999**



1,200

youth have graduated from the Centre's Adolescent Development Program



250+

youth have benefited from the nearly 400 scholarships offered by the Centre since 2008



**More than
250**

youth have participated in the US Tour



1 Bokamoso graduate has received national attention for his film work; his films have been shown on TV and he received a prestigious national film award



34

Bokamoso youth studying at South African colleges and universities



7

of whom have received scholarships directly from the universities they are attending

Bokamoso graduates are employed in:

- Nursing
- Teaching
- Social Work
- Community organizing
- Day Care
- Youth programs
- Banking
- HR & Employee Training
- Policing
- Entertainment
- Media (photography, videography, radio)
- Information Technology
- Engineering Fields (chemical, mechanical, electrical)
- Trades (construction, welding, masonry)



Bokamoso graduates are contributing to the families in which they were raised, often affording younger siblings opportunities to advance

Bokamoso graduates have started their own businesses

- Chicken farming
- Clothing
- Photography
- Performing Groups
- Movies (producing & production)
- Small shops selling consumer goods



Apartheid and its legacy destroyed, in many, the human will to dream for a better life; Bokamoso has rekindled the ability to dream within the youth they serve – and has equipped them with the tools and skills to pursue their dreams