



ANNUAL Report January-December 2020

BOKAMOSO YOUTH FOUNDATION NEWS

2020 started out on a high note. We had a very successful Bokamoso Cultural Exchange and Performing Arts program. In January and February, the Youth danced and sang their way in to our hearts; and moved us with stories of their personal challenges and the ways in which Bokamoso lifts them up and helps them succeed. The Dream Brunch at St. Andrew's was an enormous success and raised approximately \$24,00.00. They shined at their annual performance at George Washington University, and were a big hit at the Embassy of South Africa event. They also had opportunities to explore Washington with their St. Andrews host families.



Performing at the Dream Brunch



Touring Washington D.C.



Enjoying the GW performance



Having fun with SAES friends

For more pictures and videos from the 2020 trip, or to get more information about the 2021 Virtual Events, check out our new website: www.bokamosoyouth.org, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

It takes a Village-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, Susan Ashcom, Kenneth Giunta, Benny Pittman.

Welcome New Board Member Susan Ashcom



Susan Ashcom joined the Bokamoso Youth Foundation Board in June, bringing her experience as an employment law attorney, IT professional, and most recently, world history teacher in Washington, D.C.'s public charter schools to the Foundation's mission. As an educator, Susan takes a personal interest in her students' post-high school plans, mentoring them for college and careers, which attracted her to Bokamoso's mission, as the Centre expands horizons and career opportunities for young people through education, participation in the arts, and cultural exchange.

She believes in the reach of Bokamoso's programs: they positively impact not only the youth who participate directly, but also their families, communities, nations, and by extension, the world.

The mother of three young adults, Susan grew up on a farm near Charlottesville, Virginia, and went on to earn a BA with distinction in honors history from UNC Chapel Hill and a JD from the University of Pittsburgh. Her first overseas trip was to the USSR, where visiting a nation so very different from her own kicked off a life-long appreciation for different cultures, places, and peoples.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND EXPENSES

Bokamoso Youth Foundation Financial Statement January-December 2020 (1)

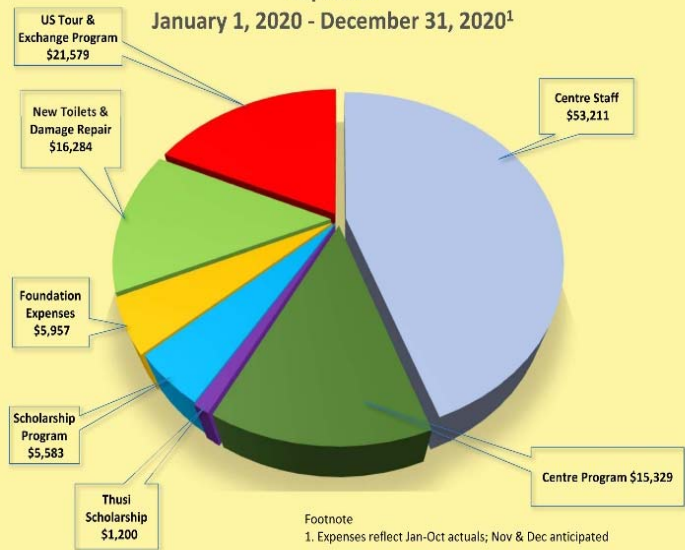
Bokamoso Youth Foundation Financial Statement January to December 2020¹

Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$ 31,728
General Contributions	\$ 127,493
Thusi Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,500
In-Kind Contributions	\$ -
Expenses	\$ 119,143
Net Change	\$ 11,850
Net Assets End of Year	\$ 43,578

Footnote
1. January to October are actual; Nov & Dec anticipated

Bokamoso Youth Foundation Expenses September 2018 – August 2019

Bokamoso Youth Foundation Expenses January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020¹



\$25
provides food for 1 youth for a month



\$75
provides transport for 1 youth to go to college for a month



\$100
provides college books and materials for 1 youth for a year



\$500
provides college fees for 1 youth for a semester

Bokamoso Life Centre Sustains Unprecedented Damage from Storm



Bokamoso staff assesses the storm damage in April 2020.

In April, a storm hit Winterveld, causing catastrophic damage to the Bokamoso Life Centre’s pit toilet facilities and the garage, and damaging the kitchen roof, hall, and staff offices.

While the Centre was already closed due to the global coronavirus pandemic and no staff members or youth were injured in the storm, this damage meant that Bokamoso would remain shuttered until new sanitary facilities could be constructed and additional damage repaired.

This unforeseen challenge threatened to stall progress towards the Centre’s mission and programs and eliminate a vital resource to youth throughout Winterveld. Estimates for repairs came in at over R153,600, or close to \$9,600 U.S. dollars.



Bokamoso Youth and community members paint the new facilities.

Through the hard work of management and staff Bokamoso Life Centre now has new sanitary facilities, including indoor plumbing for the Centre’s restrooms and sinks.

This construction cost the majority of the Foundation’s Capital Improvement Fund, demonstrating the value of your generous contributions to that effort throughout the years.

Without your generosity the Bokamoso Youth Foundation could not have supported the efforts of management and staff in Winterveld as they constructed these new facilities that will last for years.

Thanks to management and staff, these new facilities were open and operational by August as the center re-opened under new coronavirus guidelines.

To support **Bokamoso**, mail a check made out to the **Bokamoso Youth Foundation** to 5614 Connecticut Avenue NW # 167, Washington, DFC 20015-2604. 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.

Bokamoso Life Centre Weathers Coronavirus Uncertainty

Like the rest of the world, South Africa was severely affected by the global coronavirus pandemic. To date, over 779,000 South Africans have contracted COVID-19 and over 21,200 have died. In response to this crisis, South Africa's government issued strict stay-at-home and shut down orders. Adherent to these restrictions, the Bokamoso Life Centre closed in mid-March.

In order to reopen, the Centre Board members worked with the management and staff to develop a sanitation, health and safety plan that adhered to Government guidelines. In Mid-August the Centre received the clearance from the Department of Social Development to re-open. The Youth returned to the Centre and resumed participation in the Youth Development Program (YDP) and the new Department of Social Development funded Computer Training Program. Those receiving funds from the Scholarship Program continued to attend their educational programs.



In August, the Centre Board, management, and staff had a successful meeting with parents, community members, and YDP participants to outline the health and safety protocols necessary to re-open the Centre. All of the YDP programs resumed including the new Computer Certification Program. **Congratulations to the Centre Team for successfully applying for and receiving a grant from the Department of Social Development for \$17,600 to plan and implement the new Computer Certification Program.**

After the meeting, the community came together to clean and sanitize the Centre. Funds were provided from the Foundation to purchase personal protective gear, including masks, gloves, cleaning products and sanitizer. Concurrently, management and staff completed required pandemic protocol training. **Without your support, the Centre could not have completed the necessary steps to reopen.**



November 14, 2020 marked the First Annual Bokamoso Alumni Reunion at Centre, organized by Alumnus Kenny - d Mdluli. Networking, social media and word of mouth resulted in over 100 Bokamoso Alumni attending the day long festivities that were full of song and dance, and catching up with old friends. The Alumni are excited to work with the Bokamoso team to support the Centre's Mission

PC: Thou Art Productions: Alumni with Centre Board member P. Hochtleitner