



The Bokamoso Youth Foundation
5614 Connecticut Avenue, NW, #167, Washington, DC 20015 USA
Email: futures@bokamosoyouth.org
Web: www.bokamosoyouth.org

Bokamoso Youth Foundation News **January - December 2024**

2024: Maintaining Connections: Unfortunately, we were unable to bring the Cultural exchange group to the US again this year, but we managed to maintain the strong ties between the Foundation, the US Bokamoso Community of supporters, and the Centre by bringing a small group of Bokamoso staff to the US in January followed by Foundation Board members traveling to South Africa in October. The 23-year relationship continues despite a myriad of challenges and the commitment to the mission remains stronger than ever.

In January: Staff members Steve Baloyi and Tshepo Seabi and Alumni Tshepiso Thabethe received a warm welcome from all of the Bokamoso Supporters during their two-week visit. They brought the latest news from the Centre reconnected with the Bokamoso family of supporters.

St. Andrew's Episcopal School: The group enjoyed snowy days, caught up with long-time supporters Alice Stewart and Tom Britton at the Saturday breakfast, discussed South African Culture in a variety of classes, and even taught the preschool students' South African songs.



Steve, Tshepo and Tshepiso also had an opportunity to participate in Sunday Services and spend time with the congregations at our partners Westminster Presbyterian Church and Seekers Church.



Jean Marsh Adams Fund

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of Seekers Church member Jean Marsh Adams. She always had a special place in her heart for marginalized students when she taught art in the public school system. It was her love for young people that drew her to visit Bokamoso with Roy Barber. When she returned, she became an ambassador for the annual visits of students from the Youth Centre. Jean's commitment to young people lives on through her generous contribution to the Bokamoso Youth Foundation. It has been put into an endowment fund that will support post-secondary education for Bokamoso students through Jean Marsh Adams Scholarships.



June: The Board welcomed Farayi Madziwa, a seasoned development professional, who joined the Bokamoso Foundation Board in June 2024. Farayi brings over 17 years of experience having worked in diverse roles across the public, private, and NGO sectors. Based in Washington, DC, he leverages his expertise to support climate adaptation efforts globally. Farayi holds advanced degrees from the University of Maryland and Stellenbosch University. Beyond his professional pursuits, Farayi is passionate about fostering intercultural exchange, empowering youth and disadvantaged groups, and enjoying the great outdoors.



Youth Foundation

The Bokamoso Youth Foundation
5614 Connecticut Avenue, NW, #167, Washington, DC 20015 USA
Email: futures@bokamosoyouth.org
Web: www.bokamosoyouth.org

Bokamoso Youth Foundation News

January - December 2024

Fall was a particularly busy time. The Foundation was pleased to represent Bokamoso and South Africa at St. Andrew's October Fall Homecoming festivities and November's Heritage Day.

New Board member Farayi Madziwa, SAES Bokamoso Coordinator Daphne Clyburn, and students from the Bokamoso Club hosted an exhibit table at Homecoming, which showcased the Foundations work and activities at the Center. St Andrew's continues to be a central and core partner of the Foundation, helping to raise awareness of the challenges that young people face in Winterveld and to widen the circle of support for at-risk Bokamoso youth.

In October Foundation Board members Connie Sullivan and Jim Cawley visited the Centre after a five-year break. It was wonderful to be back at the Centre. We had a productive meeting and delicious lunch with the new Bokamoso Life Centre Board, spent time with the youth and the staff and reconnected with various alumni and friends in the area.



Top Photo: Madziwa, Clyburn, and students from the Bokamoso Club hosted an exhibit table at Homecoming



Bottom Photo: Jim Cawley dished out his delicious homemade Chakalaka, a traditional South African dish, to staff and students at Heritage Day



Photos Above: Jim caught up with some youth at the end of the day and Connie taught yoga as part of the physical fitness program.

Your Donations Help Us Help Youth:



\$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



Youth Foundation

The Bokamoso Youth Foundation
5614 Connecticut Avenue, NW, #167, Washington, DC 20015 USA
Email: futures@bokamosoyouth.org
Web: www.bokamosoyouth.org

Bokamoso Life Centre News

January - December 2024

The Centre was a thriving, busy place in 2024. They initiated new programs and strengthened the core programs.

They continue to strengthen their community relationships including ChildLine and In January, over 100 youth from Winterveld enrolled at Bokamoso. Sixty-five youth committed to the 10-month Youth Development Program (YDP) program and will graduate in December. These youth will have completed YDP, the Life Skills Program and the Computer Accreditation Program and are eligible for the Scholarship Program. The Cultural Exchange group was chosen after a challenging audition process. We are hoping that we have more success acquiring visas this year.

The Centre received a 3- year grant from the Department of Health to run an HIV/ADS testing and information program. Several staff members of this new program are Bokamoso Alumni. The Department of Social Development renewed their grant for the Computer Training Program and Life Skills Program.

Education and Employment

In 2024, 28 students participated in the Scholarship Program. Ten students obtained South African National Scholarships with Bokamoso assistance, and 18 students are directly supported by Bokamoso Scholarships. Among the courses being pursued by this cohort are Economics, Law, Business Administration, Hospitality, Security/Policing, Engineering, and Psychology. Since its inception in 2008, the Bokamoso Scholarship Program has provided almost 600 scholarships to more than 300 students for post-secondary and vocational education. Currently in 2024, 30 youth have completed their education/training and 13 have found employment in the areas of Security, Policing, Retail and Education. We are grateful for the Centre staff and Board for their continued guidance of this successful program.



Above: 2024 Graduates



Above: 2025 Cultural Exchange Group



Above: The Department of Public health HIV/AIDS Program staff. The group leaves from Bokamoso each morning to go out in to the Community and provide free testing and information. They spend one day per week at Bokamoso providing testing for the Winterveld community.



Above: The Computer Center is a busy place each day. Under the direction of computer facilitator Relebohile Molotsi, 110 youth will have completed their Computer Certificate training by the end of the year; 60 from YDP and an additional 50 youth from the community.



The Bokamoso Youth Foundation
5614 Connecticut Avenue, NW, #167, Washington, DC 20015 USA
Email: futures@bokamosoyouth.org
Web: www.bokamosoyouth.org

Bokamoso Life Centre News

January - December 2024

Jim and Connie were happy to have the opportunity to meet with the new, all volunteer, Bokamoso Life Centre Board that took over in June. Several of the Board members have connections with Bokamoso, either as parents of Alumni or as Alumni themselves. The new Board members bring experience in human resources, legal and accounting. We are grateful for all of the work of the previous Board and wish them well. We had a day of productive conversation regarding the growth of the Centre, the role of the Foundation and our mutual goals for the partnership between the Foundation and the Centre. We are looking forward to working together to fulfill the mission of Bokamoso Life Centre.





Centre Board



Centre Staff



Pictured Above: BYF Board president Connie Sullivan, BLC Board Chair Ayanda Ndlondloli, Secretary Bongoni Mnguni, Centre Manager: Hilda Ramonkone, Treasurer: Poppy Masha and BYF Board Vice-President Jim Cawley. Not pictured: BLC Board members Onny Makuya, Hazel Beauchamp and Dora Sewela.

| | |
|---|---|
|  | 65 Students Enrolled |
|  | 30 Youth Graduated, 13 with Jobs |
|  | 16,000 Meals Provided |
|  | \$7,721 Spent on Youth Education |

Bokamoso is a proud member of Charity Navigator. To make a contribution: mail a check made out to Bokamoso Youth Foundation to 5614 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC20015; or donate online at www.bokamosoyouth.org/donate.

Please visit the website for our 2023 Financial Report under "Drum".