

Orange Heart initiative

Lesedi Day Care, Katlego Sitrus

GLORIA WEARE

The Orange Heart initiative was formed around the CGA Citrus Summit of 2019. Profits from the event were to be returned to the community to assist worthy individuals or organisations in uplifting the local people.

The second charity to benefit from a R50 000 donation in 2019 was the Lesedi Day Care (LDC) Centre, which was established on the Katlego Sitrus farm near Marble Hall in Limpopo in 2012.

"Although the Day Care Centre can provide care for between 36 and 52 children of farmworkers up to the age of four, we currently have 19 farm children in our care. Older children join our school during school holidays so that their parents can work.

"LDC believes in investing in the development and education of our young children and that education can change the future of a child. We believe that by investing in the lives of our young ones we are growing a new generation of well-rounded individuals who can make a positive contribution to SA.

"Our family has been in this country for 300 years, our roots run deep and it is our wish to invest in this country's future through the children on and around our farm," say Anné and her husband Stéfán Pretorius (both owners of Katlego Sitrus. Anné is also office bearer at LDC). Anné continued to explain that many women in the community could not take up formal employment, because they had no-one to assist them in caring for their young children. Another reality is that those single mothers who do work have to rely on older siblings to care for the younger children, and this means that the older children cannot attend school. Through these realities Anné said they became aware of the great effect Lesedi Day Care could have on empowering woman, as well as the education process of children in the community. "We have seen the reality and impact of this in the community."

Knowing that their children are well cared for, safe and fed, as well as receiving quality early education in a nurturing environment means that their mothers can go to work and earn an income. At the crèche, the children also participate in an international fitness and movement educational programme, partnered by Monkeynastix. These classes are run on a weekly basis at the school. And trained teachers develop a relationship with every child, which helps them to identify any developmental delays or health issues. Lesedi is also providing adult basic education and training (ABET) for farm workers. The programme focuses on skills such as reading, writing, numeracy and mathematics.

Although the R50 000 charity donation was received in March 2019, the two CGA Directors for Senwes, Charles Rossouw and Piet Engelbrecht, only recently had the opportunity to visit the crèche for a photoshoot and to present the cheque.

They were taken on a tour of the facility and shown the various items that had been purchased with the donation. The

items purchased have ensured that the educational toys and equipment now available to these young children are on par with those available at crèches and playschools in much larger, urban areas countrywide.

Anné and her team can be proud of their efforts to ensure the improved futures of these children and their families.

Her contact email is: anne@katlego.co.za. Thanks to Petronette Nortje for assisting with the visit by the CGA Directors, and arranging the photographer. ❀



*Anné and Stéfán Pretorius, co-owners of
Katlego Sitrus*



Clockwise from top: The whole group in the classroom; Charles Rossouw and Piet Engelbrecht with the children; Piet and Charles present the cheque and certificate; the group in front of the jungle gym



PHOTOS: EPIE DU PLESSIS