



# Solidarity Activities in the Southern African Province

*January 2018*

# The open school movement in Malawi

To provide access to education for those who were excluded in the past.

- Girls
- Adult learners
- People living in the community around the schools





# The holiday camp programme in Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa

To provide opportunities for children that they do not regularly get in their school life.

- Science, Computers, Art and Drama
- Physical activities: Swimming, Soccer Volleyball
- A feeding and gift programme (especially at Christmas time but also during the summer)









# The Three2Six Project





# Mission Statement

To provide access to quality bridging education for refugee children, to support them to integrate into a public school.



# Our values

- **Marist Characteristics**  
As a Marist program we live the characteristics of presence, family spirit, love of work, simplicity and in the way of Mary.
- **Quality Education**  
We provide the highest possible quality of education for our learners.
- **A Safe Space**  
We provide an environment that is socially, physically, spiritually and emotionally safe for our learners.
- **Integration and Inclusion**  
We embrace diversity and seek opportunities for our learners to engage with their host school and broader South African community.
- **Diversity of Expression**  
While we are a Marist program, we embrace the diversity of expression found in all our host schools and value the unique gifts in each of our communities.
- **Understanding and Giving Voice**  
We understand the complex nature of displacement and seek to give voice to our children and their broader refugee communities.

# Our Objectives

1. To provide safe, quality education to primary school refugee children who cannot access public education.
2. To build the children's resilience and prepare them to leave the project and enter into mainstream schools.
3. To provide employment and professional development for refugee teachers.
4. To advocate for the rights of refugee children.

# Context

- Migration in Southern Africa
- Immigration legislation  
Identity documents, right to education
- Xenophobia
- Post apartheid cultural and racial context
- Education in South Africa



# 2017 in review: continued program at Sacred Heart College



# 2017 in review: continued program at Observatory Girls





# 2016/7 in review: new program at Holy Family College





# Holy Family College: team



# Holy Family College new initiatives

- Host school Three2Six Management Committee
- Life skills diversity focus (religion and culture)
- Varsity community service placements
- Parent volunteers
- Regular engagement with host school community



# Objective 1: Provide safe, quality education

- 2017: 275 children in grades R – 6 at 3 campus'
- South African curriculum materials
- Teacher professional development
- Mentoring and testing
- Holiday programs





## Objective 2: Building resilience and preparation for transition to mainstream schools.

- Grit Scale development
- Life skills
- Free play
- Host school engagement
- Broader community engagement
- Confidence and self esteem
- Holiday Program



# Three2Six Grit Scale: measuring resilience

## Qualities Measured 2013 - 2014

- Actively participates
- Shows enthusiasm
- Invigorates others
- Is eager to explore new things
- Asks and answers questions to deepen understanding
- Actively listens to others
- Finishes whatever they began
- Recognizes and shows appreciation for their opportunities
- Remains calm even when criticised or otherwise provoked
- Allows others to speak without interruption
- Knows when and how to include others
- Tries hard even after experiencing failure
- Works independently with focus
- Comes to class prepared
- Pays attention and resists distraction
- Gets to work without procrastination
- Gets over frustrations and setbacks quickly
- Believes that effort will improve their future
- Recognizes and shows appreciation for others
- Is polite to adults and peers
- Keeps temper in check
- Able to find solutions during conflicts with others
- Demonstrates respect for feelings of others

# Three2Six Grit Scale: measuring resilience

1. Define what each number on the scale looks like in a real classroom
2. Ensure that the evaluation tool is not only used to assess learners' qualities, but to encourage educators to develop strategies to improve them.



# Eg: 1. Actively participates

## 1. ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES

### HOW TO IMPROVE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

- Conduct oral activities individually and in groups
- Encourage the learner to contribute to class discussions
- Praise learners who make any contribution even if their response is incorrect
- Stimulate the other learners to praise their peers when they contribute to class discussion
- Provide opportunities for learners to write their responses on the whiteboard



## Eg: 1. Actively participates

| 4  | 3  | 2   | 1   |
|--|--|---|---|
| This is a learner who is consistently present, active, and gives constructive responses in class. The learner quickly responds to instructions and assists the teacher in the classroom. | This learner makes an effort to participate. The learner understands what they are talking about while participating (answering) oral questions. | This learner is present and participates in class but does not give correct or constructive responses. The learner pays attention in class but struggles to complete assigned work. | This learner is present in class but does not participate actively. This learner requires constant encouragement to respond to questions. The learner fails to complete tasks given and does not show interest in his/her work. |



## Objective 3: Refugee teacher employment and professional development

- Qualifications in countries of origin
- Assistance with SACE accreditation
- Further studies
- Mentoring and coaching
- Part time work
- Cultural mix



# Objective 4: Advocate for the rights of refugee children

- Precieuse (2013)
- Journey with an Artist (2012, 2015)
- Musical Theatre Challenge (2014)
- Music and Dance (2016)
- Lost in the Middle report (2016)
- Immigration Green Paper submission (2016)
- Presentations, workshops and conferences
- Volunteer programs



# Holiday programs

- World Cup 2010 and prevention of child trafficking
- Science
- Creative arts  
Drama, dance, music, art, craft
- Expression of self
- Sports
- Computers and ipads
- Reading
- Cross cultural interaction
- Excursions





# Volunteers

- South Africa
- Australia
- Germany
- Brazil
- Paraguay

Kindermissionswerk, CMI,  
AVID, private

Marist Young Adult  
Community



# The future

## Challenges

- Acceptance into government schools (legislation and attitude)
- Meeting high demand
- Funding for growth
- Poverty of the parents
- Organisational development

## Opportunities

- Increased advocacy - attitudinal change in government and society
- Organisational development
- Relationships with new schools
- Increased host school engagement
- New partnerships (international and local)