

DECEMBER 2023

# EAGLE Learning

ENHANCED ACCESS TO GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCES

## 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY!

In the spirit of the Christmas, we held a Christmas Concert in partnership with Kukhanya Media for some primary schools in the rural Matobo area. Three schools participated with a total of 99 children taking part. There was much excitement in the lead up to the event, with the choirs showing serious commitment to their rehearsals and preparations and we enjoyed seeing them in their specially-made choir uniforms.

The children performed Christmas carols, with one choir conducted by an 11-year-old!! For some of the kids, this was the first concert they had ever attended, so quite a special occasion for them and their smiles lit up the venue as soon as they arrived. The humble decorations carefully put together by the EAGLE team made everyone feel Christmassy and festive.

The audience was made up of parents, local community elders, and teachers who had come to support their children. Some teachers even formed an impromptu choir of their own and gave a sterling performance.



The school choirs shared the spotlight with local musicians who we were glad to welcome to the event. These musicians interspersed the event with several performances, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

We were grateful to local business, Hamara, which gave day-old chicks as prizes to the winning schools. This means that not only did the children celebrate Christmas, but with a little hard work, they will be able to start a chicken business in January!

It wouldn't be Christmas without the carol "Joy to the World", which was our closing song before everyone went home. The whole event was a truly great learning experience for everyone involved and a reminder of how much joy can be found in coming together and celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



### MEET A MENTOR

My name is Azaretha Munsaka and I am the mentor of the Mablauwni learning group. I live with my family which currently consists of 18 people. To provide for ourselves, we rely on farming and selling fruits such as mangoes and guavas by the roadside. I have a two year old child named Mzothule. I completed my A Levels but was unable to carry on to university because of the expense.

I was introduced to EAGLE by my church youth leader. After working with the children for a few sessions, I realised that I loved it! Nombulelo and Lisbeth are two of my students who consistently impress me. They are always punctual, lighten the mood, and never miss a session. Another learner, Previous, was a reserved student, but as a result of the training I have received this year, I have learnt how to help her come out of her shell.

I walk for three hours to reach the Mablauwni learning group, and in time I would love to open a group closer to my home. I understand the difficulties that these learners go through to get to the nearest school. My goal over the next six months is to attract

more students to the group and confidently mentor them. I hope that my students will grow academically, socially and spiritually.

I am grateful to EAGLE for giving me this opportunity and helping me realise my gift for teaching!



### MEET AN EAGLELITE

My name is Claretta Dube. I recently sat my Grade 7 exams at Hope Primary. Although Agriculture was hard, I hope I did well in my exams.

I stay with my grandmother because my parents are in South Africa. To proceed with my education I will need a donor to pay my fees at Secondary school. At the same time, I hope to continue to be part of an EAGLE learning group next year.

Attending the Adventure Quest Camp this year was wonderful. I learnt how to code, to play as a team and I gained critical thinking skills. The water slide was super fun! I was afraid at first, but I conquered my fear. I also made a lot of friends. The porridge wasn't great though, I wish it had more sugar!



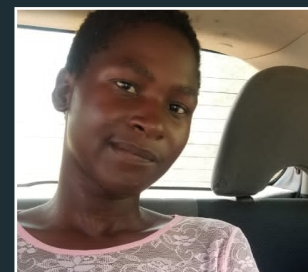
### HOME BASED VISITS

We took time in December to visit some of our learners in their homes. Doing so helps us ensure that beneficiaries are deserving and that they are well taken care of in their home situations. It also gives us time to fellowship with parents.

While some homes are very modest, we found them all to be clean and welcoming. We heard good reports of change seen in learners, behaviourally and

academically. The Holy Spirit is truly at work.

One parent commented: "I have noticed a change since Ashley (7) joined the EAGLE literacy group. When he gets home he teaches his siblings and even helps out other kids in the neighbourhood with their homework. We can't afford to send him to school but I am amazed at the amount of stuff he has learnt in a short space of time!"



Ashley and his mum, Sijabulisiwe

