

# Soapie star surprises kids

Bold and Beautiful's Texas Battle thrills needy Christel House pupils with surprise visit

AMY SAUNDERS

YOUNG girls from the Christel House South Africa School in Ottery were encouraged to reach for the stars at a special women's breakfast programme last weekend.

The school that uplifts children and their families from poverty-stricken areas across the Cape commemorated Women's Month with inspirational success stories, dance and poetry.

American TV star from the well-known series, the Bold and the Beautiful, and scholarship sponsor of the school, Texas Battle, popped in to surprise the ladies. Battle said his commitment to assisting three of the pupils is about more than just sending them money for their fees.

"That doesn't work. I spend time with the girls. I want them to know they have choices. It's about helping them learn what it takes to cope.

"When I met the teachers and staff here they gave off a different vibe than teachers at other schools that I have been to. I have been to schools where teachers have not been in class. The



**UPLIFTING:** Texas Battle, with Wendy Woolf, Denise Waller, Judy Jones, Cheri Davids and Colleen Sayers, surprised guests at Christel House.

students told me the teacher went on a smoke break.

"There has to be education first. Education is growth. You go to any township in South Africa and you can tell there is a need for education," Battle said.

The head of marketing and devel-

opment at Christel House, Sharon Williams, said the event was about celebrating women and girls and also reaching out to make sure people get to know the school and its mission.

She said the Christel House vision is to help children break the cycle of

poverty and become self-sufficient contributing members of society.

"We are highlighting the role women play in education and showcasing our school as a place of hope where holistic education takes place. The girl child, like all our children, is very important and we want people to support them."

"We find children in the poorest communities who need an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty they are born into. We do home visits to assess the level of poverty, since poverty is part of the criteria. Parents do not pay school fees at all and their children receive a full scholarship that includes academics, transport, uniform, meals, social and health services, and more."

Additionally, women from the Make A Difference Leadership Foundation and Palesa Moeketsi who is now the owner of Chesa Communications also attended the breakfast. Moeketsi told her story of how she started her working life as a general office worker doing everything she didn't enjoy for R80 a day but is fortunate enough to run her own business now.

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