

MEDIA RELEASE

18 January 2018

START

Making a difference in 2018: Back to school drive with Christel House SA

Christel House South Africa, a non-profit school in Ottery that serves twenty impoverished communities in Cape Town, has launched a Back-to-School fundraising drive to raise critical funds needed for the start of its new academic year. The school has 755 underprivileged students enrolled from grades R to 12 and need financial aid to purchase shoes, books and nutritious meals for the start of the first term.

Christel House operates nine learning centres around the world of which the school in Ottery (Cape Town) is the only one in Africa. Learners are transported daily (Mondays to Fridays and some Saturdays) from areas such as Khayelithsa, Langa and Mannenberg using 18 school busses for the daily return trips. The school has a holistic K-12 education model that focuses on strong character development, complemented by regular health care, nutritious meals, guidance counselling, career planning, family assistance and college and careers support. Through this structured approach, it breaks the cycle of poverty and transforms the lives of hundreds of underprivileged children ever year.

In South Africa, like many developing countries, over 45% of the population is classified as poor, with the youth being the most severely affected. At Christel House, learners are not only selected based on academic merit alone, but also on dire financial need. The main requirement for admissions is a monthly household income of R1 500 or less and therefore helps the 'poorest of the poor' to break free from a life of poverty.

Christel House's Director of Fundraising and Marketing, Francois Louw, says, *"For the past ten years since the school was started, our graduates have outperformed provincial and national matric pass rates, with a 97.8% pass rate recently achieved by the class of 2017. The fact that we admit students from some of Cape Town's most deprived and underprivileged communities makes the academic outcomes even more remarkable. Christel House works and helps children who have very little opportunity to reach their full potential."*

With the school reopening on 17 January 2018, Christel House SA has launched a Back-to-School fundraising drive to support its learners for the start of the first academic term. Members of the public and businesses can assist by donating funds to purchase a pair of school shoes (R150), sponsor the nutritional meals for one month for a student (R320) or cover the costs of curriculum-based books (R500). Donors can also sponsor a student for an entire academic year at a cost of R58 000 which includes total tuition fees, healthcare, social services, transport, uniform and other essential holistic educational needs.

Louw added, *"For many of these children, their school shoes will be the only pair they will own during their school career. At a time when many people are making a list of resolutions and aspirations for the New Year, Christel House provides a tangible*

Non-Discriminatory Clause

Christel House admits students of any race, colour, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programmes and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships and loan programmes, and athletic and other school-administered programmes.

opportunity through which members of the public can make a positive difference to the life of an impoverished child in 2018."

A 100% of all donations go towards Christel House's holistic human development programs and South African donors are eligible to receive a tax-deductible 18A tax certificate for the value of their contributions. As an accredited level 4 B-BBEE contributor, businesses also qualify to receive BEE points for their donations.

Once-off or monthly donations can be made online via Givengain at <https://www.givengain.com/cc/backtoschoolchsa/> or through an electronic funds transfer:

Christel House SA
Bank: First National Bank
Account #: 62690724573
Branch Code: 250 655
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ
Account Type: Call Account

For any queries, contact Francois Louw on 021 704 9400 or flouw@sa.christelhouse.org.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Supporting images and captions:

Image 1: Pupils of the 2018 grade R class. Sixty Grade R students have been enrolled for 2018, and will over the next 12 years enjoy quality education at Christel House SA.

Image 2 and 3: A grade R learner trying on his brand new sponsored uniform.

Contact for further information:

Kristen Matthews, PR & Communications Officer
Tel 021 704 9400
Email k_matthews@sa.christelhouse.org

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