



FIELD BAND FOUNDATION

Youth development through music and dance



CHAIRMAN'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

"Your Foundation's call in 2015"

Welcome, Friend of the Field Band Foundation, to this first "Music for Life!" e-zine and, indeed, to a decisive year of reorientation. This year we have set for ourselves the goal of strengthening our foundations for growth, deepening the impact on lives in our care. Calmly accepting the sometimes hard truths about the limits of financial support we can expect. And being realistic about the levels of support that we can give.

Beyond the razzmatazz of our performances, you rightly expect the Foundation to approach its work in ways that are focussed, realistic and brave; and to ensure that our service offering is sustainable.

It is critical that we do so, for the Foundation's work provides exactly the sort of platform that young people of determination can and will grasp to better their lives.

Over the past 18 years, our work has seen more than 40 000 youngsters benefit from 79 600 years of developmental training, 23 800 attending for a minimum of three years.

But let me be clear – none of our victories are inevitable, and all of them take effort, and, yes, resources. When we started the Field Band Foundation all those years ago, we too needed to learn, and we soon did. We learned that some places needed HIV/Aids interventions and we added those to the basic band work in those places. Then we found it was needed everywhere.

Thus we also found that our Children in Distress interventions were universally applicable, and so too our life skills training for events and financial management.

So fast have we grown and so much have we learned, my friends, that I must tell you now – we have come to understand that we cannot and must not run any band without the full complement of Foundation programmes and interventions.

And this costs more money, but is absolutely necessary and unavoidable as we deepen our mission. In fact, these are realities we embrace, knowing that their fulfilment brings reality to horizons of opportunity for the children we work with.

I must therefore ask that you, every member of our Foundation's family, to help us ensure that our work is carried out to its fullest potential. This means being paid for at its realistic cost. It means that our sponsors, donors and supporters will be asked for upward adjustments to reflect the reality of that we achieve. Our primary task this year is to explain why this is necessary, why it matters, and what it is worth.

There are nearly 6 000 young South Africans currently in y/our care. Their potential to progress is real and their potential enormous.

I look forward to walking the Foundation road together with you this year. , I trust that 2015 will bring ever-deepening reward to our great common cause.

Herman Mashaba, 5 January 2015