

Top-to-Top Spouses Program Brings Joy to Johannesburg Primary School

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The Thabo Tona Primary School in Kaitleng, Johannesburg, welcomed 13 guests with song, dance and a big "thank you" during a July 13 visit. The guests were part of the spouses program for the Top-to-Top bottler meeting being held nearby.

Established in 1987, the Thabo Tona Primary School houses 1,000 children, most of whom are orphans. Until recently, the school did not have sufficient running water to meet the needs of the students. Poor water pressure from the municipal connection point meant that an ablation block built a few years ago couldn't be used. As a result, the children were forced to share unhygienic pit latrines.



Yet thanks to a grant from The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation and the work of local implementing partner, Resolve Consulting, this has changed. Thabo Tona is one of many schools in South Africa that will benefit from *RAIN Water for Schools*, TCCC's legacy program for the FIFA 2010 Football World Cup. An additional 99 South African schools and 100 across Africa will also benefit from the project in the coming months.

The project aims to bring clean drinking water to schools and is a component of TCCC's Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN), which aims to bring clean water to more than 2 million people in Africa by 2015.



A complete transformation

During the event, Mike Rabe from Resolve Consulting highlighted the improvements made at the school. "To alleviate the water pressure issue, we installed an elevated water tank that holds 10,000 liters and fills up overnight (when the pressure is higher)," he said. "This provides sufficient water to flush the toilets and use the basins during the day. We also laid a line from the ablation block to the municipal sewerage line, installed a rainwater harvesting tank and upgraded the area around the tap that is used for drinking."

The school and the community were clearly delighted with the improvements. "When this school started, we had just two teachers and three classrooms, no water and no telephones. Today we 'see the light' thanks to Coca-Cola's help," said Mrs. Khubeka, school principal. "Now we can use healthy toilets. It is working, it is right... thank you, Coca-Cola."



The children will also receive three computers and a full sanitation and hygiene education program.

Many hands make light work

After the formal program and handover of gardening tools to the school, the guests donned gloves, grabbed a trowel and began planting with some of the older schoolchildren and community members. Just 30 minutes later, all of the vegetable seedlings had been planted and watered.



The ladies then walked around the rest of the school to see the projects that had been implemented – including the water tank and ablation block – and a classroom. All guests were excited about the project and really enjoyed their time with the children. One of them commented that while this is a great start for this school, there is always more that can be done. The ladies are currently discussing plans to provide additional help.

