

update

A Room with a View to the Future

The Kerus Orphan Care Center has truly become a home away from home. Daily, over 130 orphans ages 4-18 walk through the doors of the center, ready to learn and grow and experience something that speaks hope into the society in which they live. Many of our “little ones” are now older teens, faced with the challenge of acquiring the skills needed to launch into the world as responsible adults. While the original building has served us well, it has been apparent that an additional facility was needed to meet the unique needs of these burgeoning young adults. Your response to this need was overwhelming, and this May, we were thrilled to dedicate the new *It Takes Courage!* Training Center. A crowd of over 200 excited children, grannies, staff members and people from the Soshanguve community gathered for a word of encouragement and commissioning, along with a time of prayer and thanksgiving for the provision of this wonderful gift. Spontaneous dance broke out as a grateful community spread their own very special blessing over the building. The center will provide room for vocational training for the teens and a new retreat for the grannies to meet weekly for fellowship and encouragement. Now that the building is complete, the next challenge is purchasing furnishings for the inside and for the outside patio. We are grateful for everyone who gave to make this wonderful addition a reality and look forward to sharing the progress of our teens as they enjoy their new “Room with a View to the Future!”

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JENNIE



MARCIA

In August, we had a wonderful leadership retreat for our orphan care management and the school principals we work with in Soshanguve. We took the team to “the bush” for a time to get away from the challenges of their daily responsibilities, do some planning and pour into them spiritually and emotionally. What a sweet time we had together. One of the highlights was to watch

the sun rise in the savanna early on Sunday morning together. As the sun peeked over the mountain the whole team broke out in spontaneous songs of praise to God and dance. Several said it was the first time they saw a sunrise over a mountain. It was so moving and beautiful. So many times we forget to stop and thank God for the blessings of a new day, for the joy of little things like a sunrise and to simply celebrate in song and dance! You are in our hearts and prayers. Thanks for being on our Kerus team!

Jennie Marcia





>> Every now and then, happiness is . . . a new shirt!

Love comes in All Sizes!

Sometimes love shows up in unexpected ways. Recently, a new friend of the Kerus family treated our orphans to a batch of brand new Ravello t-shirts. A welcome addition to sparse and wear-weary wardrobes, these brightly colored shirts were matched only by the bright smiles on our children's faces and the warmth in their hearts as they enveloped themselves in the love represented by the shirts.

It was a good day!



Open doors for Thato



To our orphans, the Kerus Orphan Care Center (OCC) is an open door. It represents stability and safety in a community that promises neither. Such was the case in a very practical way for one of our teens, Thato, who was recently thrown out of her home by her aunt with no other family willing to take her in. Had there been no Kerus Orphan Care Center in her life, this could have spelled disaster for Thato. But she knew where to go —where the doors were wide open for her! The OCC staff gladly took her in and are helping her navigate this very difficult time. We are especially grateful to Caroline, the OCC cook, who has welcomed Thato into her home and is taking care of her. While the ultimate goal is healing and reconciliation in Thato's family, she remains covered by those who know her and deeply care for her.

Thato's situation, unfortunately, is not unique. Family relationships within the townships of South Africa are fragile, threatened by societal pressures, lack of education and the ever present impact of HIV/AIDS. We are grateful to be able to provide a family, for Thato and many other orphans, that is there to hold them up when theirs fails them.



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The Greek word *Kerus* means "of the heart" or "to do something with *passion*."

This word *captures* the spirit and vision of Kerus founders Dr. Jennie Cerullo and Dr. Marcia Ball, who share a *common goal*: to offer *hope* and better health through practical, character-based programs.

Their *diverse* backgrounds make them uniquely suited for this exciting *outreach*.

Vision // Courage // Compassion