



Newsletter No. 8

McGregor, 9 August 2021



Dear Friends of Symbulon Charitable Trust,

Hope

The Leitmotif of this edition # 8 of our regular newsletter this time is Hope.

Of course we hope that the misery COVID-19 has brought to the world will come to an end very soon.

In spite of all restrictions, however, Symbulon's support of First Step Ballet McGregor had a positive impact. The number of children having dance classes has increased. Mary has been assisted by two Guest Teachers. The support this year, unfortunately, had to be less than last year, caused by the fact that some sponsors have put their donations on hold, due to COVID. We hope this as well will be back to normal next year.

In spite of the temporary closing of the church hall during the last strengthening of the lockdown restrictions, Mary found ways to go on: she is creative and a go-getter, and found ways to hold her dance classes in another location, for the time being, organizing individual classes for some of the most talented, in preparation of a International Ballet Competition which was foreseen to be held in July or August 2021, but has been postponed. We hope it can take place this October.

It's a shame, yes, but it gave extra time for the girls to exercise on their new en pointe shoes.



Eight's International Ballet Competition

Of course all dancing girls hope for the grand prize, although the international competition will be tough. But Mary thinks that the taking part is a value in itself and a motivation for holding on to the sometimes hard

lessons and dance classes. Postponing of the Competition gives hope the competition can be organized live, and production by video will not be necessary, which would affect and detract from the unique historical ambiance of the recent years.

Hope to recapture the good contacts with Dance Companies in NL

In the Netherlands dance organizations get, bit by bit, more chances to perform again, after this was forbidden for about a whole year. Understandably this had a negative impact on the further development of plans and perspectives we had. End of the lockdowns will mean end of the blockages of performing in direct interaction with the public. Our promising contacts have been frozen for a while, but hopefully they can revive.



Hope for new donations

Sometimes funny: we met somebody in the Netherlands - we initially thought she was kidding - said: if you will send me a picture of yourself in a tutu, I will donate € 50,— to you Symbulon Charitable Trust. Of course we took up that challenge, and Symbulon got the donation.

A special surprise

Driving in the car, André en Marjorie Rieu contacted us unexpectedly with an overwhelming phone call, asking: "can you use some extra money for the Dance School?". Of course our answer was "YES!" after which they explained that André got the invitation to open an International Congress of ParkinsonNet, held in Maastricht. He spoke to the organizer Prof. Teus van Laar that he intended to give the fee away for charity, and explained about our Symbulon initiatives.

This met great enthusiasm with Prof. Van Laar, who spontaneously doubled the fee. Therefore suddenly our Trust got access to an extra donation of € 10.000,—, which is in rands R 170,000.—.

The enthusiasm of Prof. van Laar was closely related to a main theme of the International Parkinson Congress, which was the miraculous impact of music on Parkinson patients. This link shows what that is: the introduction video of the opening of the Congress.

<https://vimeo.com/539562517/d0cb4d5ff4>



Prof Dr. Teus van Laar



Magic?

It seems like magic, because very recently a special development made the extra financial means, mentioned above, more than desirable. We will inform you soonest, with a special edition of this newsletter, about when we are able to make these special developments public.

Our main sponsor

It made us quite happy to receive this extra donation in this period in which André Rieu was forced to put his sponsorship on hold due to the restrictions and necessity of cancelling all his concerts all over the world for about a year and a half until now; a period of losses of earnings and ongoing income, necessary to be able to start up again after the restrictions of the lockdown.

Recently he has posted a humorous message on his Facebook, expressing his hope for better times and his relief in having the opportunity to perform most likely again. This of course gives us hope for the continuation of his sponsoring Symbulon Charitable Trust.

Please share and enjoy this hopeful development by clicking this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=192426319333248>

Hope for Fund Raising here in South Africa

The registration of NPO (Non Profit Organization) en PBO (Public Benefit Organization) opens the way to hopefully finding sponsors in South Africa.

Until now Symbulon Charitable Trust almost solely relied on gifts from the Netherlands.

Thanks to the registrations donations in South Africa will be tax deductible, which might help to more easily find sponsors in or in the vicinity of McGregor.

Symbulon Charitable Trust wants to sponsor small projects in the field of Dance, Music and Theatre.

It might be possible in near future to have in McGregor maybe a youth choir, a youth orchestra, improvisational theatre for young boys and girls? It is a great hope this might be occur, and it is even a bigger hope, this will be supported after a dream for an our own Studio comes true.



Volunteers

As mentioned in our News Letter # 7 symbulon was requested, shortly before Christmas 2020, to see if we could find a place where two volunteers could offer their support during half a year, the period in between their metrics and start of further training in university. Their application letter opened our hearts: *"we are two hard working girls who love children very much"*.

The Breede Centre, Waldorf School, First Step Ballet McGregor and the Buffelskloof Laër school did their utmost best to give an opportunity of what the two volunteers were requesting. Two of the trustees of Symbulon Charitable Trust offered their services, guidance and more.

Looking back we have to admit that this exercise was a little disappointing, with a bitter aftermath, painful for the trustees.

A report you can find in the tab “news” on the web site <https://symbulon.co.za>