

A Story of Life-changing Connections

By Xabrina-Michel'li Thompson

“They are the living memorials, the real and lasting tribute to a life invested in others. This is an investment that will survive time and go on into eternity.”

– Marion Stroud

Each day is an opportunity to become an instrument of God. There are countless ways that we can be instruments in God’s hands, but one of the most powerful tools we have to involve people on the deepest level, inspire them, and move them to action, is by sharing stories that need to be told. Learning to write can change your life, if you learn to write compelling stories that need to be told, you can make your life story and consequently the readers life story, life changing. The sharing of stories has a powerful ability to bring people with philanthropy in their hearts together. For example, I shared a story in an article which I wrote for the International Association for Community Development (IACD). The article centered on non-profit organizations that were doing sterling work in needy communities and was published by the (IACD) on their website and captured the attention and hearts of the Gabriel Love Foundation, ultimately resulting in their funding the education of two vulnerable orphaned children.

It is through this shared story, that the Gabriel Love Foundation stepped out in faith to become long-term investors in the lives of John and James, bright five-year-old twin brothers, living at the Benjamin Generation Childcare Centre, a place of safety for orphaned vulnerable children, in the quaint little town of New Hanover in South Africa. The Gabriel Love Foundation gave John and James the gift of a quality education which they would otherwise have not been able to access. Through this investment, John and James are growing up to be bright, confident young boys, truly young leaders in the making.

The Gabriel Love Foundation could have made a more high-profile, visible investment but this contribution is a behind the scenes investment that is of such deep meaning human consequence. Their contributions to humanity will become a lasting legacy which will connect them to those lives which they touch, which lives in turn will touch other lives, and so on, potentially touching lives for generations to come. Just as I, a beneficiary of the Gabriel Love

Foundation educational scholarship, will remain, together with John and James and the many more to come, “...living memorials, the real lasting tribute to a life invested in others. ...an investment that will survive time and go on into eternity”. The greatest legacy which lives on in the hearts of the people that the Gabriel Love Foundation has touched.

The Gabriel Love Foundation understands that philanthropy is activism and a requirement brought about by economic injustice. Therefore, their monetary contributions are selfless acts of justice and empowerment, not acts of charity. Their investment is in the most vulnerable and their profits lie in the improved lives of those communities. But I have found that the disarming truth about philanthropy is that it does not require a person to have large financial resources to enable a story of life-changing connection to empower future leaders. All it requires is that we learn to become resourceful and tap into the spiritual resource’s god has lavished on us; we are wealthier than we think. However, it is the gift of a quality education that improves our resourcefulness, to empower our communities, and teach them about their spiritual wealth, so they too can empower themselves and others.

There are few more worthwhile social contributions to be made than giving a child the chance of a better future. My adoptive parents gave me the chance of a better life, which offered me the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give back to orphaned vulnerable children, by becoming more. I am grateful for this success story and pledge my best efforts in continuing myservice to the plight of orphaned vulnerable children in the hope that my modest efforts of using words to advocate for those like me, will give some comfort to the people I am able to help. Helping the most vulnerable people in society brings me joy and inner peace. It is an essential part of my life and my destiny, as I know what it is like to be one of them. The value and results of philanthropy are incalculable.



Disclaimer: The children’s faces have been blurred out for child protection and privacy purposes.