



the sandf

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



A dream comes true for Nokululeko as she receives VIP treatment at the Rand Show

*Article by: Col Shuping Motswadira and Ms R.D. Khashane, Defence Reserves Division
Pictures by: Sgt Malatji, Defence Reserves Division*

It was like a dream come true for young Nonkululeko Xaba when she was chosen as a lucky recipient to get VIP treatment from the hospitable South African National Defence Force (SANDF) staffers at the Rand Show on Thursday 31 March 2016.

The South African Air Force (SAAF) in support of social responsibility initiatives joint venture with Reach for a Dream NGO in Pretoria helped to fulfill the young lady's dream of becoming a military officer for a day and own her own laptop.

To make the day extra-special for the young damsel who suffers from a kidney-related chronic condition, the SAAF took her through a long and exciting journey of life at the South African National Defence Force – from the capability skills demonstration site to a wide variety of exhibition stalls at the Rand Show.

Accompanied by her mother Xolisile Mkhize and her best friend Gugulathu Sibiya, she could not hide the excitement and joy when finally meeting her heroes and heroines.

“I am happy and excited and wish that the two organisations also extend their open hands to my fellow peers”, said Nokuthula of her unforgettable experience.

Chaplain M.L. Mutshekwane from SANDF Chaplain Services encouraged the young motivated lady from Mayibuye Thembisa (Centurion) to always pursue her dreams in life.

Another successful Department of Defence inspirational deed aimed at fulfilling children's' dreams in line with the government commitment of creating 'a better South Africa by nurturing leaders of tomorrow'. There is no doubt that this special treatment that this young lady received will be instrumental in her to joining the force in the future.

Reach For A Dream Foundation's mission is to encourage children to use their dreams to fight life-threatening illnesses and inspire hope. Reach for a Dream believes in dreams they seek as far as possible to make dreams come true.

The Foundations vision is to grow, which would enable the Foundation to continue giving hope to children fighting life-threatening illnesses through the fulfillment of their dreams, and to further help as many children facing these illnesses through their national projects such as their Camp Sunshine, Queen For A Day, Captain Courage and their Jabulani Kingdom Hospital entertaining projects that all function on an ongoing basis. Each day we fulfill on average four dreams across South Africa.

For 25 years the Reach For A Dream Foundation, has brought hope, joy and healing to South African children. These children between the ages of 3 and 18 years have used their dreams to fight life-threatening illnesses such as cancer, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, kidney failure and Blood disorders. A total of 1328 individual dreams were fulfilled in 2012, we also orchestrated 218 outings organised by their various regions. A total of 4920 children attended these outings. In addition to this, Reach For A Dream held 34 Captain Courage projects and 38 Queen For A Day projects. The foundation organised 27 Camp Sunshines and their Jabulani did 438 visits to children in hospitals.



Chaplain M.L. Mutshekwane, presenting the Laptop gift from Reach for a Dream to the ecstatic Nonkululeko



Nonkululeko receives VIP treatment at the Reserves stall and receives a Reserve scholarly promotional hamper full of goodies