

## Social Responsibility Initiatives



Robson Savage is committed to helping organisations and people in its immediate locale and in the broader area of its client base and expertise. With this in mind, a number of organizations and individuals have been assisted in various ways over the past eighteen months.

Of these the bulk of the assistance has been given to Guild Cottage, which is situated less than a kilometre from the Robson Savage office.

Guild Cottage is a residential treatment center for up to 18 sexually abused girls, all of whom have been referred to the home by the Courts. The girls generally remain at the home until they are 18 or are sufficiently healed to be able to re-integrate into society. Obviously treating, educating and maintaining the girls is expensive, and the amount provided by the government is completely inadequate.

The building that houses Guild Cottage was built in 1907 as a home for orphans and children in distress and has continued to be a place of refuge until the present time, which means that the building is of enormous heritage significance, but also very costly to maintain.

Robson Savage has undertaken vast amounts of building maintenance and restoration that was crucial to keeping the building habitable and fit for purpose. This has included the refurbishment of the sick bay, roof repairs, painting, repairing and rebuilding cupboards, providing new beds and other furnishing, TV and PC repairs and replacement and new curtaining.

In addition, a new fence was constructed around the existing low heritage fence so that the large front garden could once again be used by the girls, and to increase the safety of the home. Once this lovely play area was re-commissioned, an outside gazebo was built and furnished to make the space more friendly and useable, and some outside play equipment will soon be provided.

The needs of the staff and girls have not been forgotten. Robson Savage has sourced and funded much need orthodontic and health related treatments, school development and psychological assessments and school fees. The girls have been taken on outings, given Christmas presents and clothes, and the staff have been sent for a well-earned team-building break at a day spa!

All in all, Robson Savage's efforts and interventions have made a very real positive impact on the lives of the girls and staff. We are thrilled with the outcomes and look forward to further beneficial involvement!



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# "It is all about the ability to fulfil your potential if given the opportunity."

During 2019, Robson Savage became aware of the plight of a truly amazing young man. Coming from rural KwaZulu – Natal, he achieved astounding matric results – 7 A's including 100% for physical science. Although unable to secure any funding he had enrolled to study actuarial science at the University of the Witwatersrand and made his way to the residence and began studying. Robson Savage has stepped in to provide not only a full scholarship, but essential life skills support.

It has been an uplifting journey so far, watching this humble and highly intelligent young man blossom to become comfortable

with university and city life, while maintaining exceptional grades.

He has learnt to take buses and Uber around Johannesburg, eaten in restaurants and experienced different types of food, taken plane journeys between Durban and Johannesburg, and is now confident enough to travel alone by air and sampled the thrill of large shopping centers and shopping for clothes alone.

It is an awe-inspiring privilege to be part of his journey which is all about the ability to fulfill your potential if given the opportunity.



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Over the past few years, Robson Savage has regularly provided support to the SAME Foundation. This organisation partners with hospitals and schools to supply the equipment and infrastructure they need in order to service large communities. Their engagement includes the procurement and installation of all the equipment, so that all the donations go directly to the intended cause.



We have been involved in diverse projects that have ranged from renovating wards, to providing hospital beds and donating specialised equipment towards the upgrading of Leratong Hospital, to upgrading the classrooms and science facilities at Lofentse Girls School, in Orlando, Soweto. These carefully-targeted interventions make enormous impacts that are felt across the wider community.



## Let it grow!

The Robson Savage office building in Richmond is surrounded by a peaceful, beautifully maintained garden which is enjoyed by staff, neighbours and the broader community alike. There have been visits by residents of the nearby old age home to view the gardens, and the garden will be opened to raise money for local charities in the spring.

The pavement garden is exceptionally lovely and contains a variety of herbs available to be used by local residents, while picking the flowers that abound is welcomed. Many compliments have been received from neighbours, passers-by and visitors, which is very gratifying and heart-warming.

The Randburg Chess Club meets in the offices every Tuesday evening at no cost to the club, and every 2 weeks Johannesburg Heritage Foundation makes use of the boardroom to meet with planners and architects in the area. In this way Robson Savage reaches out to the immediate community and makes a palpable difference in the neighbourhood.