

OTLOTLENG
MOTSWADI



OTLOTLENG'S STORY

**EDUCATION IS A GIFT THAT CANNOT
BE TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU.**

My name is Otlotleng Motswadi and I'm 20 years old. I am currently studying at the University of South Africa and I'm also an assistant teacher at Meridian Rustenburg.

The reason why I chose to be a teacher is because I believe that teachers are God's angels that are there to guide, listen and teach you. I lost my mother when I was in grade 2 and at the time I thought that it was the end of the world. Luckily, my primary school teachers were there for me through thick and thin. When I had to go to high school I had to leave my surrogate parents - my teachers - and attend a new school. In the year 2011, I started grade 8 at Meridian Rustenburg and everything fell in place. For me every school has been a second home.

In my matric year I lost my second mother, my aunt who took me in when my mother passed away, and I wanted to drop out of school so that I can help around the house. My matric year was really the hardest of my life so far. My classmates were very supportive and again my teachers were there for me during all my troubles. They encouraged me to have faith and not drop out of school. If it wasn't for them, I do not even want to imagine how my life would be.

Based on what I have been through, I strongly believe that I will also get to help and change someone's life as a teacher, just as my teachers changed my life. I stand here today proud and tall to say that I am a product of Meridian Rustenburg. I truly want to be a role model to someone who has gone through the same scenarios or who feels like giving up. At the end of every dark and scary place there will be light and happiness, and God will always prove you wrong whenever you feel as if He has left you.



PARTNERING FOR BETTER QUALITY EDUCATION

Otlotleng's story of hope is just one of thousands that have been made possible by the Schools Fund. Managed by Old Mutual Alternative Investments, the Fund invests in independent schools that provide quality education, while capping the school fees to make them more affordable for parents. The aim behind such an impact fund is to ultimately support Government in delivering quality education for learners from historically disadvantaged backgrounds through independent schools. This objective requires partnership with independent providers that have a track record of providing quality education, engaging in sound financial management and having good governance practices.

To provide this quality education, the Schools Fund has partnered with the following school operators across the country:

- BASA Management
- Royals Management
- Meridian (managed by Curro Holdings)
- Prestige (managed by Barnstone Education)
- EdInvest
- Two Oceans Foundation
- Blue Hills Management
- St Christopher's.

These school operators provide quality education and engage in sound financial management and good governance practices. Meridian Rustenburg, a school based in the North-West province that caters for Grades R to 12, is where Otlotleng found her support system and a start to fulfilling her potential. It is just one of the 33 School Fund schools that are working to unlock the shackles of poverty. 🌱