Touch an Angel

Who says dreams don't come true...

When I was small, like most other children I had big dreams. I was going to be someone. As time drew near to completing my school career some very serious nerves set in. I would be turning 18 years old and that would mean that I would no longer be cared for by the welfare system that had so kindly taken care of me until then. I also realized that there was probably no chance for me to study. I was wondering what sort of job I would be able to get if I couldn't study. I would also soon have nowhere to live. While most of my friends were planning their future studies, my future dreams felt shattered. I knew that a good education was the key to a better future.

By a pure miracle and in answer to many prayers, Lynne became part of my life. She founded "Touch an Angel", which she named after me. Through her wonderful project my dream became a reality. I was afforded an opportunity to study and not only that but was also cared for, coached and mentored every step of the way. That is what makes this project special and different from all others.

The mentoring and nurturing gave me confidence. I was able to complete my studies and have a Curriculum Vitae that I felt proud of. I was able to get a professional job. I still remember that first pay slip I received and how I felt the sun on my face as I looked up and thanked God for all the Angels that helped me along the way.

Shortly after my studies I married a wonderful man, Andre. We have been married for 19 fun and exciting years and have 3 beautiful adventurous boys - Joshua (16), Ivan (14) and Matthew (9). The education I received has enabled me to give them the life that I always dreamed of having.

How it all began

My name is Lynne Franks – sadly for me I was never able to have children, but Heavenly Father blessed me with many other ways of Mothering. Angie is one of our priceless treasures.

This is her story:
In December 1997 our Programme "Touch an Angel" was founded – inspired by Angie du Plessis, a gentle young girl living in the Strathyre Salvation Army Home in Johannesburg.

Angie was the second eldest of 5 children and from a broken home, from where she was removed and placed in this Institution. Angie was determined never to allow these circumstances to stifle her potential and a chance of the future she dreamt of. An education at the prestigious Queens High School would improve her options – however their fees could never be covered by the home.

So Angie called the Principal directly for an appointment, walked the 4-5 km and interviewed the surprised and suitably impressed gentleman with her steely determination, courage and commitment. Angie was immediately enrolled, subsidies to cover fees, uniforms and books arranged, leaving Strathyre to pay only the amount they could allocate towards her fees. This determination saw Angie pass her Matric with flying colours.

Having never had an art lesson in her life, Angie's artwork portfolio left us astounded by her raw talent. Her dream was a Degree in Graphic Design – thus the Touch an Angel Programme was conceived, the funds raised and, four years later, she achieved her goal.

There are so many children desperately in need of education and so few willing and able contributors. With Touch an Angel, contributors can be assured that their donations will give children a golden opportunity to get an all important proper education as well as vital encouragement and coaching to reveal that star hidden inside them.

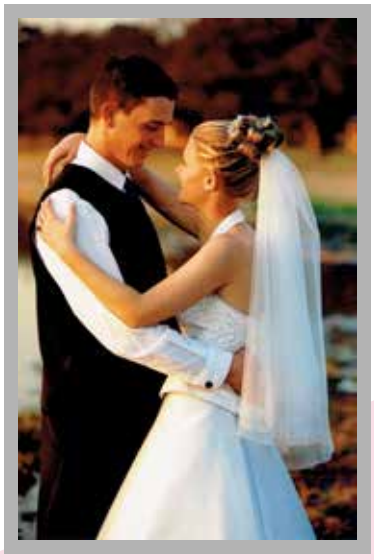
A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement. She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, "Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can't save all these starfish." The girl seemed crushed. But then she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied, **"Well, I made a difference for that one!"**

I feel like one of those starfish that were saved. How easily my story could have been so different had I not had the help and support that I so desperately needed.

Thank you!

We can't help everyone,
but everyone can help someone.
Ronald Reagon

When we seek to discover the best in others,
we somehow bring out the best in ourselves.



Note from Lynne: This story of Angie is extraordinary in so many instances – when considering the quote made by Gordon B. Hinckley (A former President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) "***When you save a girl – you save generations***" – Angie takes this statement to a whole new level – with 3 generations! Together they have raised the **next** generation with their three sons, have built 2 cottages on their property for each of Angie's parents (the **past** generation), plus a wise and nurturing environment for her brother Tristan – the **present** generation. What an absolutely awesome righteous extension they have added so naturally to the Touch an Angel story. We are filled with gratitude for the love, kindness and caring that Angie and Andre have so selflessly provided.
Latest update: As the Advertising world has been hard hit by the pandemic – Angie is now adding to her qualifications as a Primary School Teacher – another career where her talent, compassion and integrity will hugely impact on those beautiful minds blessed to be in her care.

We are sure this priceless success story will touch so many hearts. We pray too that sometime in the future, a similar story will unfold in Linkie's family.

The Dream

graduating

one day as an Account

Tristan(Brother) Claudia(Mum) Angie & Andre
Sons - Matthew(9) Ivan(14) Joshua(16) Alfie(Dad)

Tjiane Family – Frank, Maggie daughters- Peggy (Bandile and Sibusiso) Rosinah (Kgotso and Neo) Sannah (FrankJnr Angela Seipati and Tshiamo)