# Newsletter

Issue 2: July 1-7, 2023



### Segotlo Sa Dijo Cultural Event

We attended a cultural event in Maunatlala on July 1, where Maunatlala's youth performed. Pictured above are MPH student Izabel, program coordinator Segwati (also known as FiFe), and Maipelo, the Village Development Committee (VDC) Secretary, who joined in the performance.





#### Maunatlala Totem Walk

Monday, July 3, was the Presidential holiday in Botswana. Program Coordinator OT took us on a walk to see Maunatlala from a new perspective, and we had the opportunity to visit the village totem, which includes an engraved plaque with names and dates of former and current village chiefs.



## **Program Implementation**

This week, the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and the Disability Awareness projects began implementing their programs in schools. The SRH and GBV projects, led by Divya Reddy and Marky Kowal and assisted by Kamryn Lopez and Izabel Kickner, first worked with students at the Junior Secondary School. Day one included program curricula, and on Day 2, students shared how they felt about the program and what they learned.

Courtney Jost, who leads the Disability Awareness Program, visited the Maunatlala Primary School, where she met with teachers and provided them with tools to better assist students with disabilities. We will share more on these projects in the coming weeks. See the Spotlight of the Week to hear about the youth development project.



#### Setswana Word of the Week

Kgosi is a term to describe a tribal chief among the Tswana people of southern Africa.

Additionally, the office of tribal leadership is called the bogisi, while the person who assumes office is the kgosi.



When the team was not collecting data, they worked together to finish a 1,500 piece puzzle as a teambuilding activity!

## **Photo Gallery**













Spotlight
of the
Week:
IVAN
ESTRADA

Ivan Estrada is working on his Ph.D in public health at OSU and leads the Positive Youth Development project.

Ivan says, "The positive youth development (PYD) project aims to study the relationship between youth development and alcohol use behaviors among youth in the village of Maunatlala.

"The results from this study will help inform the development of local strategies to improve youth development in the village. Given this, the PYD project aims to share the results of this study at the end of July 2023 during two presentations involving youth and community stakeholders. These will be led by local youth, who were instrumental in collecting youth survey and focus group discussion data.

"The presentations are also in partnership with the Youth Development Community Advisory Board, which has played a key role in the implementation of research activities and the interpretation of the study's results."

