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## *Shoes speak louder than words!*

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A 14-year old boy attending one of CMR's life skills programmes was noted by the facilitator as being very poorly dressed wearing broken school shoes. He was also extremely shy.

On further enquiry by the CMR social worker, it was discovered that the boy was living in extreme poverty. Previously, he had been living in a happy home with both his mother and father. His father started becoming abusive when he started a relationship with another woman. The child and his mother were thrown out of the only home he had ever known – forced to live in a makeshift shack.

**THEIR ONLY FORM OF INCOME WAS THE STATE CHILD SUPPORT GRANT OF R 500 P/MONTH, WHICH THE MOTHER WAS TRYING TO SUPPLEMENT BY TRADING AS A STREET VENDOR.**

His shabby school clothes had attracted teasing and bullying from other children and this had a damaging effect on his self-esteem, which was why he was so shy. CMR assisted in getting him a new uniform and shoes, and continue to monitor his welfare and physical and emotional wellbeing. His participation in the life skills group and general confidence has soared thanks to some attention and a little help!

