

MEDIA RELEASE

2 February 2010

Gingerbread Foundation Bursary Award

At an award ceremony held on Monday, 1 February 2010, in the small village of Schoemansdal in eastern Mpumalanga, young Thandiwe Mncina (18) became the first recipient of the Gingerbread Bursary for tertiary education.

The Gingerbread Bursary, which is worth R150 000, is awarded to the top matriculant from the orphan community in the Nkomazi region of Mpumalanga. It was established by Mugg & Bean in partnership with the Nkomazi Community Trust which is working to improve the lives of more than 6000 orphans and vulnerable children in that area. In November 2009, Mugg & Bean handed the Trust a cheque for R500 000 towards the creation of tertiary education bursaries for these disadvantaged children.

Thandiwe, who was a student at Njeyeza Secondary School at Schoemansdal in the Nkomazi region, achieved two distinctions and a university entrance pass in her matriculation year. She plans to become a teacher, and will use the bursary to study a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Psychology, at the Universities of Johannesburg or Pretoria. Her school principal, Mr Shekwa, who has recently been promoted to School Circuit Manager, was delighted at Thandiwe's success. "She is a very special person. I know she will do well in life."

At the bursary award ceremony, Thulisile Malangwane, a trustee of the Nkomazi Community Trust said "We are very happy for Thandi. She has done so well despite her circumstances and great personal difficulties. She is a role model for all the other young adults in this community."

What makes Thandiwe's achievement remarkable is that from a very early age she was forced to look after her dying mother and take care of her two brothers and sister. At only ten years old, after losing both her parents, she became the child-head of her household and has provided for her three younger siblings while undergoing her school education.

Thandiwe's enrollment at university has had to be postponed until next year due to the delay in announcing matriculation results by the Mpumalanga Department of Education. She will treat 2010 as a bridging year to prepare herself for higher education, and will be undertaking courses to improve her computer and creative arts skills. She will also be actively involved in social work within her community, for which she will receive financial support from the Nkomazi Community Trust.

Mugg & Bean and the Nkomazi Community Trust wish her all the best for the road ahead.

Enquiries:

John Maxwell

Nkomazi Community Trust

Tel: 011 467 4998

Email: john@peermerit.org.za

Martie Smuts

Brand Manager

Mugg & Bean Franchising

Tel: 011 380 7860

Cell: 072 409 6500

Email: chatterbean@themugg.com