



Celebrating 20 years of being  
a Leader in Youth Health.

New loveLife Trust  
tel +27 (0)11 523 1000  
fax +27 (0)11 523 1001  
48 wierda rd west,  
wierda valley, sandton, 2196  
po box 45, parklands, 2121,  
south africa  
[www.lovelife.org.za](http://www.lovelife.org.za)

## The Boy Child Summit

The Department of Social Development Gauteng, The New loveLife Trust (loveLife) and Save the boy child are embarking on a Boy child Summit on the 20th of August 2019, to be held at the Birchwood Hotel, East of Johannesburg. To implement on the SA Men of the Year Awards Ambassadors delegated responsibility to develop and implement programmes that are geared towards advocating, assisting, empowering, protecting, inspiring, enabling, advancing, improving men and boys to ensure a better quality of life and to promote human dignity for all.

The inadequate focus on the empowerment of a boy child will not help in achieving a gender balance or gender equality; reduction of gender-based violence; and will under no circumstance help in building self-reliant and sustainable communities. It is a well-known factor that although men are also victims of violence, majority of perpetrators of gender-based violence remain men. Therefore, in order to curb the scourge of gender-based violence and in an effort to building healthy and strong communities, the inclusion of the boy child in empowerment programmes is critical. DSD Gauteng, loveLife and Save the Boy child have come together in this partnership as a result of their understanding that preventative programmes are imperative if we were to produce young men and Boys we desire.

These partners are of the conviction that the Adolescence is a critical developmental period for both boys and girls; yet in many settings, boys as much as girls face particular challenges during this period. Although boys reach puberty later than girls; literature shows that boys are more likely to experience identity crisis at this stage than girls. This may be perpetuated in some cases by the lack of a father figure in their lives, amongst other things. Early



Celebrating 20 years of being  
a Leader in Youth Health.

New loveLife Trust  
tel +27 (0)11 523 1000  
fax +27 (0)11 523 1001  
48 wierda rd west,  
wierda valley, sandton, 2196  
po box 45, parklands, 2121,  
south africa  
[www.lovelife.org.za](http://www.lovelife.org.za)

maturation in boys can cause depression. Literature states that boys at puberty stage tend to experience emerging cascades of personal and contextual risks such as negative self-image, anxiety, social problems and interpersonal stress. The discussion above clearly demonstrates that boys also need special attention in dealing with their psychological and physiological development in life generally

#### AIM OF THE BOYCHILD SUMMIT IS TO

- Form a network of organisations that will ensure the development of a boy child
- Lobby other government departments the private and sector civil society organisations to invest in young men

#### INVEST THROUGH

- Creating role modelling programmes for young men in order to have positive reference. Analysis of statistics of children in conflict with the law and recent releases of Stats SA indicated that one of the main measures of whether a boy child will succeed or fail in life is whether the boy child has a man to look up to or not:
- Create interventions that assist young men with coming through age programmes



Celebrating 20 years of being  
a Leader in Youth Health.

New loveLife Trust  
tel +27 (0)11 523 1000  
fax +27 (0)11 523 1001  
48 wierda rd west,  
wierda valley, sandton, 2196  
po box 45, parklands, 2121,  
south africa  
[www.lovelife.org.za](http://www.lovelife.org.za)