



Press release
March 2019

Gift of wheels – from Silverstar to Yamkela (13) with love

Silverstar Casino (<https://www.tsogosun.com/silverstar-casino>) staff brought the month of love to a joyful end with the handover of a custom-built wheelchair for 13-year-old Yamkela Luphepha from Zandspruit, who has cerebral palsy and has spent most of his young life lying down or being carried. The project was a collaboration with the Sweethearts Foundation, which works with corporates, schools, and volunteers, collecting bottle tops and bread tags for recycling in exchange for wheelchairs for people who cannot afford them.

At the handover ceremony at Silverstar on 28 February, Yamkela in his wheelchair and his mother Xoliswa were escorted down the passage lined with staff members to thank the staff for their efforts and to show off Yamkela's brand new 'wheels'.

The Foundation, which believes that "a wheelchair is a basic human right", has collected and recycled over 43 tons of bottle tops, close on six tons of bread tags, and donated almost 300 wheelchairs since 2013.

Yamkela, who lives with his mother and two sisters, aged 26 and four, has been in desperate need of a wheelchair – for mobility and also to enable him to sit up and be comfortable. Xoliswa is thrilled with the life-changing gift of a wheelchair, which, she says, "will allow me more freedom and to take Yamkela to places that I never could before. Thank you to all the employees at Silverstar for caring and for making this happen."

Adele Wilson, Silverstar CSI Manager, explains the process, "In June 2017, each department at Silverstar was issued with large bins to fill with bottle tops, which were regularly emptied and weighed. With every 450kg collected, Sweethearts Foundation will donate a wheelchair to a beneficiary of our choice, which in the case of Yamkela, was guided by a staff member who lives in Zandspruit and is passionate about serving the disabled in her community."

The Silverstar CSI team met with Yamkela and Xoliswa and took them for an assessment to customise his wheelchair for his condition and for easier mobility in the informal settlement. The value of the wheelchair is R7,531.

Wilson adds, “The bottle tops and bread tags project initiated by Sweethearts Foundation both reduces the amount of plastic that ends up in our landfills and provides mobility for people who would otherwise not have any. I am very proud of the Silverstar staff and what a difference we have collectively been able to make to Yamkela and Xoliswa’s lives. Bottle top collection has become second nature to us and will continue unabated.”

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MEDIA RELEASE ISSUED ON BEHALF OF SILVERSTAR CASINO by STRATEGIC PUBLIC RELATIONS. All media queries can be directed to Dallace Rickson Jolly on (011) 672 2037 or dallace@stratpr.co.za

ABOUT SILVERSTAR

Silverstar is nestled in a magnificent natural environment and surrounded by parts of the Magalies Mountains. Live music, hilarious stand-up comedy, blockbuster movies, mouth-watering dining, casino thrills and so much more all in one fantastic destination. Not to mention the ample under-cover and open parking and convenient location just off the R28 which makes Silverstar easily accessible from Lanseria International Airport. It is easy to see why this Tsogo Sun destination attracts in excess of 100 000 visitors monthly. For a day out in Johannesburg with a difference, go West...to Silverstar.

Southern Sun Silverstar is a 34-roomed, luxurious and contemporary hotel with a magnificent view of the fountains, outdoor Square and giant outdoor screen. This is definitely the place to stay in Krugersdorp.

Catch all the latest blockbuster movies on the big screen at movies@ Silverstar with six movie theatres to choose from and a 4K projector in the Grand Star Cine, you are sure to be entertained. There is so much more fantastic family entertainment on offer at Magic Company and the best events and shows take the stage at The Globe. For breakfast, lunch, dinner or a cocktail, we have a restaurant venue to suit your taste buds. Great food is offered at eight restaurants and four fast food outlets.

A visit to Silverstar isn’t complete without trying your luck on the casino floor. There are plenty of winning opportunities to be had with over 900 Slot machines and 32 Table games! Our Silverstar Rewards card Rewards you while you earn, save and play! No frills, no fuss just genuine benefits that will make your time at Silverstar even more rewarding!

Our stylish conferencing facilities accommodate up to 700 delegates and can be utilized for everything from high-level corporate meetings to glamorous private functions.

Indulge yourself at the Soulstice Day Spa and let us nurture your mind, body and spirit. This is a spa experience not to be missed with a menu offering massage, therapies and beauty treatments.

Silverstar – West Rand’s Number One Entertainment Destination!

For more information go to www.silverstarcasino.co.za or call +27 11 662 7300.

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