

*For immediate release*

## **Santa Shoebox project distributes 1395 Little Sun solar lamps to children in South Africa**



**Cape Town/Berlin, 6 June 2017 – Last Christmas, Santa Shoebox project and Little Sun teamed up to bring solar light to students in rural South Africa. From 1 November to 24 December 2016, people shared light by symbolically purchasing Little Suns online. In total, 1395 Little Sun solar lamps were raised and have now been distributed by Santa Shoebox project to children living in some of South Africa’s most remote areas such as Hoedspruit, Calvinia and Matatiele. Those children live in communities where few homes are connected to the electrical grid and that face severe social problems, where shack fires occur regularly.**

The distribution was facilitated through Santa Shoebox and 15 of their beneficiary organisations like Eco-Kids in Hoedspruit or Laerskool Elandsvlei.

Nicolette van der Merwe in Calvinia, principal at Laerskool Elandsvlei School, was happy to see the Little Suns being used by her pupils. She says, as it is getting dark quite early these days, the lamps help them to walk home safely after school and she already sees an improvement in homework:

*"We had parents meeting last night. It is now getting dark quite early at night. It was so nice to see children and parents attending the meeting - walking to school and walking back home using the Little Sun lights. We also see the last month or what an improvement in homework being done." She adds the lamps can play an important role in their region, as they "are in a community where there is 100% no electricity."*

Read more on the Little Sun blog: <http://littlesun.com/santa-shoebox-makes-solar-wishes-a-reality-rural-south-africa/>

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## **About Little Sun**

Little Sun is a social business and global project founded by artist Olafur Eliasson and engineer Frederik Ottesen to bring clean, reliable, affordable energy to the 1.1 billion people in the world living in off-grid areas without electricity. Purchasing Little Suns in areas of the world with electricity makes the products available in off-grid areas at reduced, locally affordable prices, where they provide a clean alternative to toxic and expensive fuel-based lighting and a steadfast and clean alternative to relying on the electrical grid. Little Sun addresses the need for energy in a sustainable way that benefits off-grid communities by working with local entrepreneurs, creating local jobs, and generating local profits.

[www.littlesun.com](http://www.littlesun.com)

Little Sun is a proudly certified B Corporation.

## **About Santa Shoebox Project**

The Santa Shoebox Project is a trusted not-for-profit organization, beloved in South Africa. It is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Santa Shoebox is powered by an extensive network of over 46,000 supporters who pack personalized gift boxes for underprivileged children who otherwise would not receive gifts in the festive holiday season. Together, Little Sun and the Santa Shoebox Project aim to give solar lamps this holiday season - above the 100,000 gift boxes Santa Shoebox will already provide - specifically to children who are in need of a safe and clean light source.

<http://santashoebox.org.za/>

