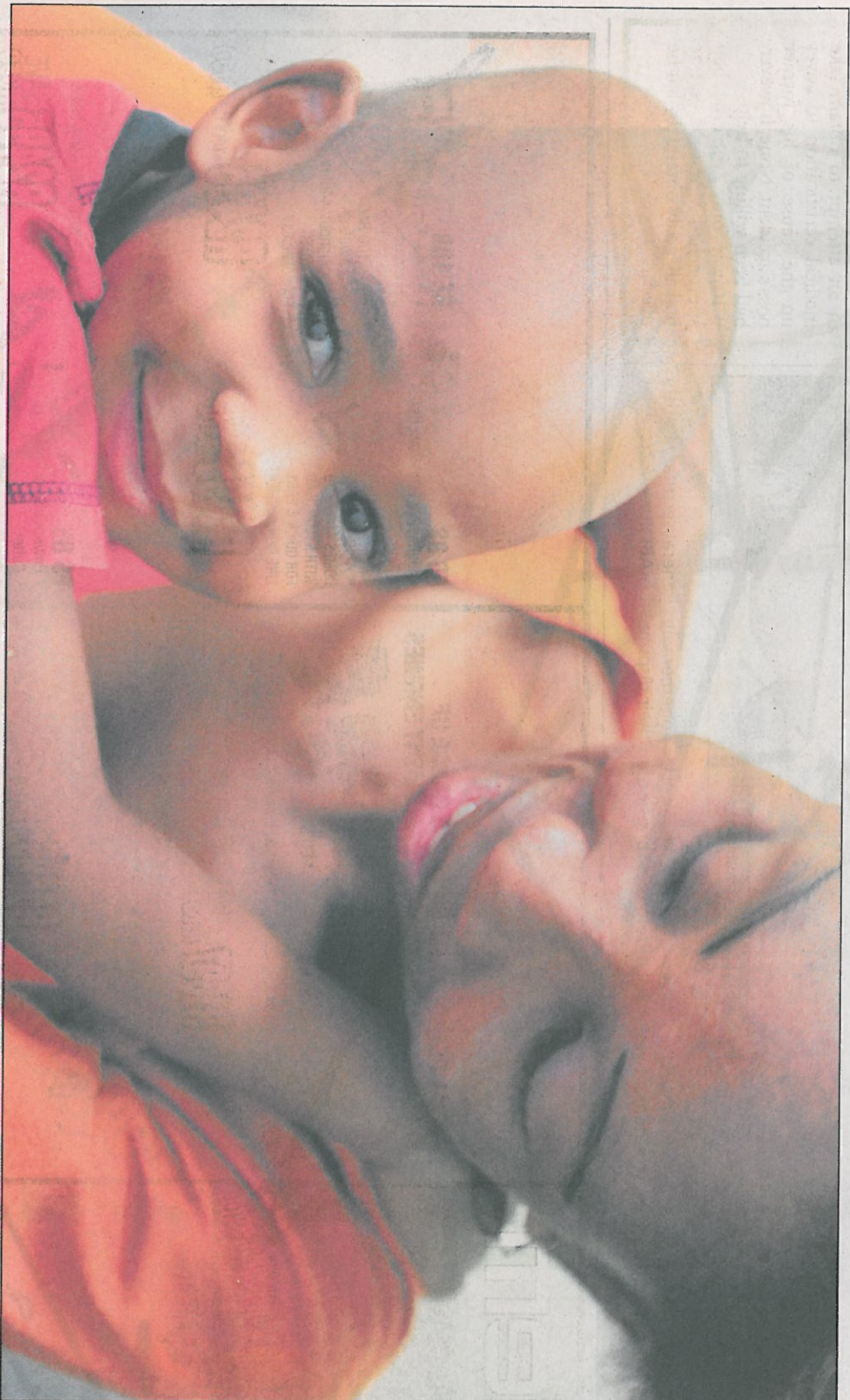


Social worker helps reunite mother and her missing son



REUNION. Lethabo Bawa after being reunited with his mother Sonia at the Child Welfare offices yesterday after disappearing just before Christmas. Picture: Neil McCartney.

ALEISHA TISSEN

IT was a month ago when four-year-old Lethabo Bawa went missing from a relative's birthday party in Dobsonville, Soweto and yesterday he was reunited with his mother, thanks to a quick-thinking social worker from Joburg Child Welfare.

The social worker whose name is known to *The Citizen*, was watching *Dr Love on Call* on Soweto TV on Monday and after seeing an insert on Lethabo and Sonia, realised she had recently placed the child into a place of safety and contacted Dr Love to reunite the two.

"I got a call the same day saying they had the child. It was due to the quick response of the social worker that these two are reunited today," Dr Love told *The Citizen*.

Sonia Bawa, a private nurse who works in Cape Town, was alerted to the news that her son had gone missing on December 19 and rushed to Johannesburg to spearhead the search for Lethabo.

"Many children go missing – we're some of the lucky ones whose story has a happy ending," said Sonia yesterday. A visibly relieved mother and son hugged and snuggled while social workers finalised the case.

Sonia said she would be taking Lethabo with her to ensure "something like this never happens again". – aleisha@citizen.co.za