

Ukuthasa News

Winter 2022

Helderberg Academy: nurturing leadership skills and boosting confidence



After nearly two years of restrictions and uncertainty, the **Helderberg Academy** is back with exciting news and developments. Director Rozanne Gordon describes what a week looks like at the Academy and some recent changes ...

“We are so thankful to be down to level 1 lockdown at last, which means many freedoms have been restored. The Academy has been in full swing in terms of training daily, we have five groups in three communities and we train from Monday to Friday. We have seen encouraging growth, with more than 20 kids in each group and between 85 and 90 kids attending faithfully every week.

One exciting development is that the monthly prizes are being replaced with a prize-giving once a term. Before, the prize was a ball and a book given to one child each month, whereas now we have a once-a-term ceremony where we give out five awards: Leadership Award; Player of the Term; Most Improved; Sportsmanship Award and Skills Award.

As well as their award, the kids receive a certificate to keep, and there are two floating trophies, as well as other prizes such as balls, small toys and sweet treats.

So far we’ve had two prize-giving ceremonies, and they were a big hit with the kids. They see the Leadership Award as the one to aim for, and it’s impressive how they’ve guessed who will get the award and have been right!

The reactions they have when they realise they’ve won an award because of their contribution and because of their ability and character is amazing – they light up! I prepared a surprise for the winners of the Leadership Award and took them on an outing together, all leaders of different communities, to treat them to a lunch. In December, we also took these leaders to a beach trip, which was the start of a leadership development programme.

There is so much potential in all of these kids and I would love to see them grow to become pioneers. We hope to nurture those leadership skills and beautiful characters to give kids the confidence to believe they have what it takes to become great men and women.”

Rozanne Gordon, Director of the Helderberg Academy.

If you would like to support this amazing project, please contact us at laia@ukuthasa.org.

Projects in the Spotlight

The Emyezweni pre-school wraps up another year with a huge celebration

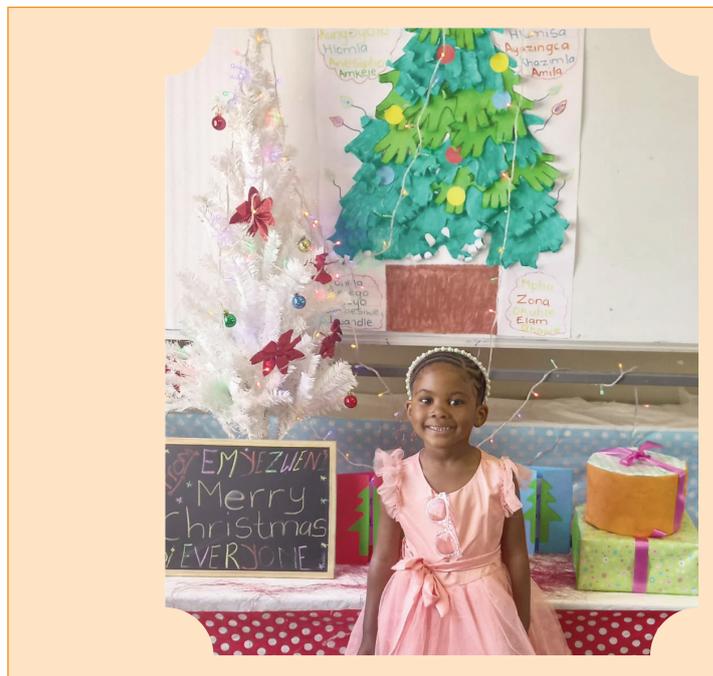


Emyezweni had yet another challenging year with quite a few burglaries, as a result of unemployment and desperation in the area. However, the children were able to celebrate the end of year in style! They visited a play area by the beach, had a Christmas party with lots of food and were able to go on the newly acquired school bouncy castle.

Daniela Fredericks, **Emyezweni**'s Principal, says: "Thanks to **Ukuthasa** and other sponsors we managed to push through, and kept the happy learning spirit within our school. We had a successful academic year, and ended things off with a lovely outing for our Grade Rs, and a joyful Christmas party for all our children at school. Thank you for partnering with us."

From left to right, clockwise: Christmas meal, a child on a climbing frame, a girl discovering her Christmas meal and treats, a group of children on the bouncy castle, a child playing with one of the machines at a play centre.

*"Education is the most powerful
weapon which you can use to
change the world."*
Nelson Mandela



Update

Choices A season of change

At **Choices** we have had a great year despite shrinking our service to our core function of crisis counselling for women. Because of the Covid pandemic we haven't been able to run Skills training courses (the room is too small) and we haven't been able to go into schools to present life-skills training because schools aren't allowing non-teachers on their premises.

We have had to restrict lettings at **Choices** to one per room, so instead of nine residents we have four in the house and a young married couple in the flat. This has reduced our rental income but the **Ukuthasa** Covid-19 Relief Fund has kept us solvent. We are beyond grateful.

Danielle Davelaar will complete her two-year placement with **Choices** at the end of March 2022. She has been a huge blessing in her approach to counselling and training and her ability to network in our local communities. She has established relationships with the local hospital and all of the clinics in our area. If she hadn't been seconded to us, we wouldn't have been able to remain open during lock-down which began in March 2020 and is still in place although less restrictive. We won't replace Danielle for the time being. For now, my husband Gary and I will oversee the service and we hope to recruit volunteers to oversee counselling sessions.

Nicky Welsh, Ukuthasa Project Worker

If you want to find out more about how this project supports women in crisis, visit our website: www.ukuthasa.org.



Would you like to sponsor a child?

The **Child Sponsorship Programme** provides much needed funding to the **Emyezweni pre-school**. This programme enables children to attend the school by contributing to their school fees and enhancing their educational experience through funding educational school trips and buying resources to equip the classrooms to a high standard.

Sponsorship of a child is for one year, and there are two levels available:

£14.50 per month (partial sponsorship)

£29 per month (full sponsorship)

Each sponsor will receive regular updates and work from the children in the Grade R class throughout the course of the year.

For more information, please contact Laia@ukuthasa.org.



Get involved...

Gifts that make a difference

Thank you!



Congratulations to keen **Ukuthasa** supporter **Jane Fawcett** for completing the London Marathon in October last year and raising more than £1300 for our coffers. Thank you on behalf of everyone at **Ukuthasa**! If you would like to raise funds for **Ukuthasa**, please contact Lai@ukuthasa.org.

Would you like to give a gift that makes a real difference to a child in need in South Africa? Log on to our online gift shop at www.ukuthasa.org/gift-shop.htm and find practical ways to help a child in their education or sports training – you can choose anything from art supplies and baking sessions to football boots and balls... There's something for everyone!



There are many ways you can support **Ukuthasa**, including by using the following fundraising websites:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Shop online from major stores who donate a percentage of each sale to charity.

www.recycle4charity.co.uk

Recycle your old ink cartridges.

www.everyclick.com

A search engine that donates 1p to charity for every search you make.

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/ukuthasa>

If you prefer to make an anonymous donation by credit card, this website enables you to do just that - quickly and easily.

Talk to us For further enquiries, correspondence updates or feedback, please contact Laia Martinez at:

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