

Ukuthasa News

Summer 2021

From a learner at **Emyezweni** to a mother of a learner



Soon after Emyezweni was founded in 1992, Bongwiwe started attending the Preschool as a child. Many years later, she has decided to send her son to the same preschool she attended when she was little.

Here is her story:

“Attending **Emyezweni Pre-school** gave me the school foundation that every child should receive. My sister and I and a few childhood friends all attended Emyezweni because we were all from the same block of flats then. One parent would pick us up from our houses to drop us at school and would then fetch us again. That is how we got to know each other and enjoyed all the school trips.

We would get to the school, get breakfast and, later, lunch to get us through the day. You know, all those meals made a huge difference to us because our families could not afford to make us lunch boxes. Some of the families around the flats only had one person that was working and had to provide for the whole family.

The foundation I got at **Emyezweni** made me the person I am today; the teachers were very passionate, patient and looked after us very well. My son, Lwandle, is also attending the same pre-school since last year. I enrolled him in here because I want nothing but the very best for him. I want him to get the best school foundation that will give him more opportunities in life.

Lwandle really enjoys going to school, every day. He comes

back home with something new he has learned at school and stars on his forehead. When I ask him about the stars, he tells me that his teacher gave him a star because he was good and answered the questions that were asked. During weekends and school holidays, he will always ask me when is he going to school!

I am one of the **Emyezweni Pre-school** products, the teachers made me who I am today, but mostly also the community we came from made me the person I am today. Despite the poor background and the community we came from, there are still good things that are happening around us. These are the schools we came from, the people who cared for and disciplined us, and the opportunities we were granted to make a change around us”.

Would you like to help other children like Bongwiwe and Lwandle to get a strong early years education and thus, the best possible start in life? To find out more about Ukuthasa’s sponsorship programme contact laia@ukuthasa.org.

Projects in the Spotlight

Helderberg Academy: Looking forward to the year ahead.



From top to bottom: Macassar and St. Lowry's Pass Village communities playing games; some of the children showing their gift bags given by Roxanne.

After a whole year without training sessions, matches or just having fun together, the children from the **Helderberg Academy** have finally been able to start playing their favourite sports again, always making sure they follow the government safety guidelines.

Rozanne Gordon, who joined the **Helderberg Academy** as their Director in February 2020, has been sharing with us her hopes and plans for the coming months:

"It's been an ongoing process trying to figure out the way ahead with new protocols having to go in place and securing new training venues. A few weeks ago, I put together gift bags with a few goodies in order to give them a little lift. I included a book that they could use as a Journal and write whatever they felt or wanted to. My hope is that, at least for some of them, this will be a tool I can use to disciple them on a more personal level. Often in a group setting, they can't really speak about what they are going through and I thought if they had some way to talk to me or ask advice, this would be a good platform. It would also be a good form of communication should we go back into any kind of lockdown."

For **Rozanne**, what's most important is that "the boys and girls that come to our training sessions realize their potential, knowing that they can truly make a difference in the world by being light and good examples to others. That they will also feel loved and eventually that they will share the same love with those in their community."

How you can help...



Get a Glimpse...

Choices Serving the community in pandemic times



From top to bottom:Christeline and Cynthia, from the Choices team, filling reports; Louisanne at the Amasekeni, the nearly new shop run by Choices

We ended 2020 thinking that it had been a year of closing and cancelling events and hoping for a better 2021 but thus far we are still in lockdown, now level one, but with C19 surges happening in various parts of the country and of course with South Africa achieving Pandemic Red zone status because of our nasty variant.

We were not able to host our annual Spring Tea at the end of October and we arranged and then cancelled a team picnic at a local Golf course. Then towards the end of November the Premier of the Western Cape made a public appeal asking everyone to avoid year end functions and to re-close church meetings and gatherings which had only just started again. So we cancelled our picnic as we felt we should set an example and support his appeal.

Danielle Davelaar, Counselling Team Manager at Choices, made up Christmas gifts bags which were great fun and really appreciated by the team. Through the **Ukuthasa Covid Relief** fund, we were able to give small financial gifts to the counselling team members which was a great and welcome surprise for them.

We opened again mid-January with a limited service and we are now back to four counselling sessions a week. We are not allowed to go into schools yet so our Schools programme is dormant and our training room is too small for Skills Development course under the current rules. But we are grateful to be providing our core service of counselling women in crisis and we have been very busy indeed.

Amasekeni, our nearly new shop is open again and we have been able to distribute Baby packs into some of our poorer communities.

The team are doing well and looking forward to vaccines and more normal days.

Nicky Welsh, Ukuthasa Project Worker in South Africa.

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

The Helderberg Academy is in need of new boots and trainers, as well as socks, after they have realised that, a lot of their boots and shoes are broken and need replacing.

If you would support them, head to www.ukuthasa.org and check our shop, where you will be able to buy a set of trainers and socks for £15.00. or a football for £5.00. Alternatively, you can send an email to laia@ukuthasa.org for more information on how you can support this project.

“Helping one person might not change the world, but it could change the world for one person.” –Anonymous.



Focus on Fundraising

The Virgin Money London Marathon: Jane runs for Ukuthasa



On 3rd October 2021, Ukuthasa's long time supporter **Jane Fawcett** will be running the Virgin Money London Marathon to raise money for **Ukuthasa**.



Here is a bit about Jane: "I am running my first, and possibly only marathon, for **Ukuthasa** as I have always supported them since they were founded in 1995. It is a small locally run charity in South Africa which is making a difference in the lives of many through the projects they support. They are involved in a preschool in a township, crisis pregnancy and a sports academy for young people to name a few. I hope you will be able to support me and them as they celebrate their 25th year this year."

Would you like to support her? Go to www.give.net/janefawcett to give online. If you would like to donate via bank transfer or cheque, contact Laia at laia@ukuthasa.org.

Stay connected...

Remember to check our website www.ukuthasa.org and our Facebook page for more news and updates!



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

www.easyfundraising.org.uk:

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

www.giveasyoulive.com:

Fundraise for Ukuthasa while doing your everyday shopping.

smile.amazon.co.uk:

Support Ukuthasa every time you shop on Amazon. Just go to smile.amazon.co.uk and select Ukuthasa as your chosen charity.

www.give.net:

Make a credit card donation directly to **Ukuthasa**. It is quick, easy and anonymous.

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



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