

NEMATO

Change a life

success in life – for youth, by youth

Newsletter, 8 December 2012, issue 11

NELSON MANDELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & SPORT

The first year of Nemato under its new name *Nemato Change a Life* is coming to an end. Our new funders the *Mike Thomson Change a Life Trust* and *The Learning Trust* have made an enormous impact on our organisation. We changed from surviving from month to month, to a sustainable organisation that is growing and expanding. That doesn't mean it was an easy year. We are constantly faced with many serious challenges, like violence, dysfunctional education and many more. It is very difficult for youth growing up in our townships to become successful in life. The challenges don't stop us though, they makes us more needed and determined. If we don't give our youth a future, what future is there for our country?

We want to thank the many people and organisations that helped us changing lives! Thank you very much, enjoy the festive season, and have a great 2013!

NEMATO CHANGE A LIFE

Holiday

The year is coming to an end. Our activities are slowing down, but we will not close for the holiday. There will be a beginners' course for rowing. Our summer school is preparing some members for the entry test in January for PE College. Members can learn skills like repairing rowing boats and earn

President's Award hours for it. Some members are testing their brain power by learning chess. Our building will be open for the members every day and we'll keep cooking of course. We'll just take a break from the usual activities like the homework class and the sports programme (we'll go for a swim instead!). No newsletter in January. Our next newsletter will be out in February.



Summer School: Khan Academy

Visit PE College

On Thursday 29 November we visited PE College to get an idea of the studies they offer. It is a Further Education and Training College (FET) and besides the general subjects of mathematics, English and life orientation, it focusses on practical skills training in fields like engineering, office administration, management and safety in society. It can be an attractive alternative to high school, especially for our under-performing township schools. A couple of our members are going to try to pass the entry test to study at PE College next year.

Summer school

In the holiday we opened our summer school again, but in a different format from last year. No class, but internet based

learning using the Khan Academy. Work in your own time and pace, but monitored and supported. It is a pilot, to see if we should try to introduce it in the homework class. It would be great if it works, because with only two untrained and unqualified teachers and 60 learners from grade 1 to 12 in our after-school class, it is not easy to offer a high quality programme that suits everybody. Internet based learning could offer education much better adjusted to the level of each member.

Change a Life presentation

Since the start of the year the Mike Thomson Change a Life Trust has been our main funder. This has changed our organisation dramatically. From desperately swimming to stay afloat, we are now sitting in a little boat and steering our organisation and our youth to a better future. Our basic needs are looked after. We can focus our energy on the quality of the programme, to give more youth a better chance in life!

We were invited to the JSE (the stock exchange in Johannesburg) to present our organisation to the funders of the Change a Life trust who make everything possible. Our presentation was well received. Many thanks to Change a Life for changing our lives!!!

Lottery applications

Last month we reported the late delivery of the applications for Lottery funding by our sports clubs. Worried that our applications would not be accepted, we visited the Lottery office in Pretoria. The good news is that Lottery, aware of challenges with the post, looks at the date of sending of the applications, not the date of arrival. Lottery sent us confirmations that they accepted our applications for rowing and gymnastics, and there is no doubt they'll accept our third application, for the fencing club, soon.

Those three applications were for sport. Lottery just closed for applications from charity organisations, and we submitted an application for Nemato Change a Life this week.

Pre-school

We are preparing the start of our pre-school for children between the age of one and four. It is an exciting step forward for Nemato Change a Life. The first years of a child are so important for the development, and so many things go wrong

for too many children in our community. One of our members, Destiny Nelson, who is studying Early Childhood Development at Rhodes, is going to run the pre-school. Donations of toys and tools in good condition are most welcome!

Anything that floats

What is better in the summer holiday than playing in the river on anything that floats, and even more fun when it is a competition where it doesn't matter how slow you go, and you can still win a prize. Five members enjoyed the "Anything That Floats" competition organised by the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) and Stenden University. Our team on their home built "coxed quad" did a great job in swimming, paddling and going nowhere slowly. They won a nice meal at Spur for we don't know what, maybe for having most fun or for



Our slowest coxed quad at Anything That Floats competition.

going very slowly.

Fundraising course

The German Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) offered us, as member of the Sport for Social Change Network – Southern Africa, a fundraising course in Johannesburg. It gave an interesting insight in what the big funding organisations look for when they select projects to support. Hopefully it will improve the success rate of our fundraising activities.

NEMATO ROWING CLUB

Competitions cancelled

Unfortunately the Dam Regatta and the Sunday's River Competition were both cancelled. That ended the competitive season for the rowers a bit earlier than expected, but it was no big disaster, we had a nice year with some good competitions in Port Alfred, East London and Pretoria.

Beginners course

In the summer holiday, when the water is warm, we do the beginners' course with basic rowing and swimming lessons at Kiddies Beach. We are fixing the boats at the moment and hopefully we'll receive the riggers we ordered for our beginners' boats soon, so that we can get the course started.

NEMATO GYMNASTICS CLUB

Metro Cup

The last gymnastics competition of the season was the Metro Cup in Port Elizabeth. Based on results in earlier competitions, 12 Nemato gymnasts who didn't make it to SA Games, were selected by the Eastern Cape Gymnastics Association for this competition. Our gold medallists were:

- Thando Ngoqo (11-12, euro trampoline, level 2)
- Sinoyolo Qholoma (13-14, euro trampoline, level 2)
- Siphosethu Nazo (11-12, blacktop trampoline)
- Akhona Ngesi (9, mini trampoline)
- Aphiwe Folo (8, mini trampoline)
- Lukhanyo Qobosha (13-14, blacktop)
- Ayamangalisa Nqomfo (9-10, double-mini, level 2)
- Wandisa Baku (11-12, blacktop, level 1)

The competition ended with a display of all gymnastics disciplines by the best Eastern Cape gymnasts in each level out of all age groups. They received awards for their achievements. Four of our gymnasts had the great honour of being invited for the display and awards:



Competing at the Metro Cup.

- Siphosethu Nazo (blacktop trampoline)
- Ayamangalisa Nqomfo (double-mini level 2 and (euro trampoline level 2)
- Liyema Nxopho (double-mini level 3)
- Siphamandla Baku (tumbling level 4)

NEMATO HANDBALL CLUB



Our handball team in action in Durban.

Tournament in Durban

Our handball team had a difficult year. After a long struggle to get a team together that is committed, the next challenge was to find opportunities to play matches. Handball is a small sport in South Africa. We are new in the sport and we still have to get to know the people. But the good news: our team went to Durban for their first tournament. We lost our match 8 – 13, not a bad result at all for our first ever handball match and playing against a strong team. The girls enjoyed the trip and the game. We look forward to get a another game.

NEMATO FENCING CLUB

Swiss fencing workshop

The fencers were spoilt with great events last month. A workshop in Port Alfred by Benjamin Steffen, a top fencer from Switzerland, gave a wealth of new skills and knowledge to our young club. It was for both fencing clubs in our township: Nemato and Ingubo.

George Competition

We had a competition in George, the second competition for our fencers. For some of them it was their first competition and they were very happy to compete with other fencers in George. Our team did very well and won 3 medals:

- Zolani Mbexa (juniors silver)
- Thulani Ngogela (junior bronze)
- Sphelo Sneli (senior bronze)

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