

NEMATO

Change a life

success in life – for youth, by youth

Newsletter, 8 June 2013, issue 5

NELSON MANDELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & SPORT

If growing up in our township was easy, there would be no need for Nemato Change a Life to exist. Unfortunately, growing up here is very challenging, and becoming successful in life is almost a mission impossible. Offering a programme that can change lives of our youth is a major challenge in itself. We are constantly looking for new ways and new ideas. As soon as we sit down, thinking we found the magic formula, we get punished by the grim reality of apathy taking over. This is a hard job, and we need everybody's support. We are excited to have an Advisory Board with very special people, including the Vice Chancellor of Rhodes University, helping us. Besides grants from our main funders *Change a Life* and *The Learning Trust*, we also receive much needed donations from other organisations and people, as you can read in this newsletter. We want say *many thanks* to everybody who is helping us giving our youth a future!

NEMATO CHANGE A LIFE

Improving the organisation

Although attendance is good, we have been disappointed by the low levels of initiative and responsibility displayed by the members. Our usual reaction of taking away privileges like playing on computers seemed to worsen the situation.

To turn this attitude around, we closed the organisation for a week to reorganise. During the week members worked very hard to sort out some urgent facility problems, like unsafe tap water and no sewer. We fixed our water filter and created an underground space for our grey water. At the same time we held meetings to discuss improvements in our programme.

After the week we reopened with a couple of new initiatives. Our new day programme is much more detailed, with time for sport, activities, homework, our maths class, and also free time when members can enjoy playing on the computers again. We introduced activity groups for maintenance of the facilities, the sports equipment, the website, a group to organise activities and trips, an HIV/aids group and a photography group. On Friday evenings we show a movie. The members really enjoyed our first movie: *Live of Pi*. On Saturday evenings we have computer game competition with a small prize for the winner.

Rules only seemed to apply when one of our two managers were watching. To change that around, the members elected ten members who they accept as their leaders and who sort out conflict and misbehaviour. It is also their duty to give punishment to misbehaving members. "Success in life - for youth, *by youth*" It seems to be working again, which is an



Sorting out our grey water problem

amazing achievement if you keep in mind that some leaders are only 14 years old.

The place is full of activity and excitement again, a great improvement, but it is an ongoing process. As soon as we relax because we think we are doing fine, the apathy and lack of commitment that undermines our community, will creep back into our organisation.

Maths class

Maths is the main challenge for most learners at school, so we spend most of our after-school class time on this subject, but we don't stop there. Literacy, science and brain teasers are also on the programme.

We started reading books and where better to start than with *Charlie and the chocolate factory*, so much fun!

YouTube is an amazing source of visual information to explore the world and beyond. We visited the International Space

Station, had a peek at how the Square Kilometre Array radio telescope will look, an engineer took us almost 4km down under ground in the deepest mine in the world, just South of Johannesburg, and many more fascinating trips that tickle the mind.

Computers

Stenden South Africa donated us two good quality second hand computers. Now we have five computers available for our members. That is great! Keep in mind that hardly any of our members have a computer at home, and how can you become successful in life if you have no computer skills? We also offer internet to our members, which opens up their world.

Nike

We thank Nike for the large donation of sports clothes and shoes that we received!

NEMATO ROWING CLUB



Athi visiting Paris

Athi in Belgium

Our student at the University of Johannesburg, Athenkosi Hlekani, went to rowing competition in Belgium as coach of the national junior under 16 quad. His crew had a great competition. It was the first time for a Nemato member to visit

Europe. A visit to Paris made the trip extra special. We are very proud that Athi has taken *Change a Life* to a new level, and as you can see in the picture, he has grown almost as tall as the Eiffel Tower. Well done Athi!!!

Donations

We are very happy that Nemato Rowing Club received a large donation from Eton College in the UK. They use their Basher Races very successfully as a fundraiser for our club.

J-Pak, a specialist supplier of quality production line equipment, is the sponsor of Nemato Rowing Club.

We want to thank Eton College and J-Pak for funding the running costs of our rowing club.

Motor

Despite training our motorboat drivers carefully, we had an accident with a boat. The motor went under water and was damaged by the salty river water. It was not the first incident. We made our rules for driving the coach boat stricter: our trained motorboat drivers have to be at least 18 years old.

NEMATO GYMNASTICS CLUB

Anderson's Competition

The first competition of the year for our gymnasts was Anderson's Club Competition in Port Elizabeth. We spend our weekends with a small group of our top gymnasts at Mandy's Tumbling & Trampoline School to get trained by the best coaches in the country. This is having an amazing impact

on the level of gymnastics of all our gymnasts. The quality of our training and coaching has gone up dramatically in a very short time, and it showed at the competition. Siphamandla Baku impressed the crowd not only with very strong tumbling and trampolining, including a beautiful double front somersault with a half twist (fliffis) followed by a double back

somersault on the double mini, but also with his coaching of our entire team. All our gymnasts are showing great skills. With Nemato and Sunshine Coast Gymnastics Club both going from strength to strength, we can safely claim that Port Alfred has become one of the strong gymnastics centres in the Eastern Cape. Our next challenge is to get proper training facilities in Port Alfred. We thank Stenden South Africa for transporting us to Anderson's Competition Port Elizabeth!



Siphamandla coaching Xolisani at competition in PE

NEMATO HANDBALL CLUB

Kit and balls

Our steadily growing group of handball girls got a double boost this month with the donation of brand new kit by Andrew and Sasha Craig (congratulations on your wedding!), and balls donated by the Department of Sport and Recreation! Thanks a lot! The team is ready to compete and the first matches are planned for later in June.



Handball team with new kit and balls

NEMATO FENCING CLUB

Equipment

The Eastern Cape Fencing Association received fencing equipment from the national federation, donated by Lottery. The equipment was split equally between the two Eastern Cape fencing centres: Port Elizabeth and Port Alfred. Each centre has two clubs, an established club and a starting club. In Port Elizabeth Excelsior looks after Motherwell and in Port Alfred Nemato looks after Ingubo. Lack of equipment was holding us back. With the new equipment we do not yet have one set per fencer, but we are in a far better position than before. The weapons are good quality competition epees what help us in competitive arenas.



Fencers with new equipment

CONTACT DETAILS

Nemato Change a Life

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Our supporters

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