

NELSON MANDELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Nemato Change a Life

Nemato Change a Life offers a ‘cradle to career’ youth empowerment programme for disadvantaged youth from the townships in Port Alfred: Nelson Mandela Township (Nemato), Thorn Hill and Station Hill. We help our youth to get the mindset, knowledge, skills and support to escape from poverty: *success in life – for youth, by youth.*

Axole at Fort Hare University



Axole passed matric last year and has been accepted by Fort Hare University to further his education. A big next step towards success in life!

Siyanda hotel receptionist



Siyanda moved in one year from casual worker at the Royal St Andrews Hotel to receptionist! How? Our English lessons helped him overcome his fear of speaking English. Our computers gave him important skills.

Nikita at fencing course



the help of donations, we were able to have this trailer built. It helps us, for example, to transport luggage to retreats, and it also supports members in growing their businesses, like recycling, gardening, and chainsaw services.

Amplify After School Symposium



We attended the Amplify After School Symposium by The Learning Trust in Cape Town. A great opportunity to sit back and reflect on our programme, to pick up some great new ideas, and the grow our network.

challenges of youth empowerment

Running a successful youth empowerment organisation in our community is not easy. We get confronted with challenges all the time. We'll share three examples.

1) Charity freezes poverty

There is a saying: "charity freezes poverty". Handouts put people in a comfort zone. The urgency to move forward is gone, and the charity aimed at helping people out of poverty keeps them stuck in poverty. Aware of this risk, we designed our programme from the start to reward commitment. You must attend classes to get food. You must take part in sports sessions to go to competitions. Still, it is easy to fall into the comfort zone trap: sitting in class and doing some sport just to get free food, and then spending the rest of the day watching nonsense on



YouTube on our wifi. We closed for three days to rethink and discuss how to shake things up and restart: no more wifi, no more just hanging around. Be active. Participate in the programme and work on your future. Pull up your socks or go home.

2) Career Hour rethink

On school days, we open in the mornings for a "Career Hour". This is for members who are out of school and not working, to spend time building their own small businesses. But attendance has been low, which makes it difficult to run a support programme. So it's time to rethink our approach.



high pressure cleaning services

The truth is, becoming a successful business person takes a very strong mindset. Even people from the best backgrounds often fail in business. So we can't expect all our young people to follow that path.



presenting our businesses at Bathurst Show

In our communities, a big part of the economy is hustling. It's things like typing CVs, keeping a few chickens, growing vegetables at home, fixing clothes, or selling snacks at school. There is nothing wrong with this. It's how many people create a decent life for themselves. So we've changed our model. Instead of one person running for example the sewing machine business, more members can be trained and use the machines to earn money. Same for the other machines like the high pressure cleaner and welding machine. In this way, more people get a chance, and the equipment is used more effectively.

If someone grows from hustling into building a proper business that can employ others and grow the local economy, that's great, and we will support them all the way.

The third pathway, alongside hustling and business development, is job preparation. This means getting the best education you can, and doing skills and job readiness training.

All three pathways can lead to success in life. And at Nemato Change a Life we'll try to support our members in whichever path they choose.



glass and plastic recycling

3) Gender Based Violence

Gender-Based Violence has been declared a national disaster in South Africa. Sadly, we are not free from it either. But unlike many places, we do not ignore it or brush it off as “just playing”. We deal with it directly. As part of this, the police visited us to speak to our members and address the issue openly.



We know that speaking out can lead to criticism. Some people may say negative things or label us as a bad place for girls, when in fact we are trying to create a safe space for girls. But that will not stop us from doing what is right.

We also want to thank Vuyolwethu for stepping in when a girl called for help. His actions made a real difference, and the police recognised him with these certificates.



learning organisation

We showed you some of the challenges we are faced with. This newsletter is not meant to show how great we are by hiding the many challenges we face. Reality is that helping youth succeed in disadvantaged communities like ours is very difficult. Just running some homework classes is easy, but making a real difference in the future of our youth is much harder.

The only way to make things work is by constantly learning, rethinking, adapting, and trying new ideas. As Rhodes Business School Director Owen Skae wrote in Leadership Magazine: “A project like Nemato Change a Life is successful because the organisation epitomises

action-based capacity building, it has developed an effective programme model that responds to the needs of its community, and it has built a strong organisation capable of making the programme work in its context.”

That may sound very positive when we are constantly facing challenges, but perhaps that is exactly his point. We could simply run sport activities, provide meals, and maths classes. That is okay, but for real change we must face the challenges, try a way forward, and keep trying until it works, and when it stops working, try again. Learn by trying.

We are proudly a "learning organisation".

To quote Samuel Beckett: “Fail. Fail again. Fail better.”

That is how we become successful!

after school alliance



After the Amplify After School symposium by The Learning Trust, we are now forming an alliance of six local after-school organisations so that we can stand stronger together. We have already held our first meeting, where we shared insights from the symposium, as well as on-the-ground challenges and learning experiences.

One of the key benefits of this alliance is that, when applying for programmes (for example, a numeracy programme), it becomes much more efficient for partner organisations to work with our alliance rather than engaging with one small after-school organisation at a time.

We are also working on a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise the alliance, making it easier for organisations and funders to partner with us as a collective, without having to engage with six separate organisations.

The Learning Trust has welcomed this initiative, and we have already had an initial meeting to explore ways of working together. With their deep insight into the South African after-school ecosystem, we will benefit from access to the latest ideas and impactful programmes in education and youth empowerment.

Bathurst Agricultural Show



We were at the four-day Bathurst Agricultural Show! People could try out our trampoline and fencing, or meet our members who run their own small businesses and see the products and services they offer. We also put on some shows, like bouncing balls and doing triple flips on the trampoline.



trailer



Our new trailer is helping in many ways: transporting our trampoline to the Bathurst Show, carrying luggage to our retreats, collecting recycling in town, and even helping the Rotary deliver water rollers to households that live far from tap water.

kitchen tiling



Thanks to generous donations, we were able to buy tiles to upgrade our kitchen. Zoom in to see where the tiles were made: Tanzania. If you think that means lower quality, you don't understand Africa. We value quality. Africa is rising!

The tiling was done professionally by Thokizani (068 022 7810). Please support our community!



candle course



Asonle attended a candle-making course in Gauteng, learning to be the best. He now offers beeswax and upcycled candles in all sorts of shapes, as well as coloured and fragranced candles.

coastal rowing



After deciding to change our rowing club from flat water to coastal rowing, we took part in trials in KuGompo City and had a session in coastal rowing boats. The following weekend, our rowers travelled all the way to Durban for a coastal rowing competition. Agcobile won gold in the single and, together with Chris, bronze in the double.



fencing



We had four fencers at the Senior South African Championships in Gauteng. No medals, but it was still great to compete at that level.

donations



We can run our organisation thanks to the generous support of our main funder, the Mike Thomson Change a Life Trust. But it's our donors who make the extras possible.

Thanks to a church donation, we have fruit with our meals three times a week for the whole year. Stenden students made it possible to upgrade our kitchen. We received cooldrinks from Rotary. Others donated sanitary pads for our girls and water for our tank. Donations also helped us buy our trailer.



Our next goal is plastic upcycling machines. We have already ordered an injection moulder.

Your donations are always most welcome!



donate

Nemato Change a Life members offer many products and services.
Support our members by buying from their businesses, it is the best help you can give!

Chainsaw services

Professional tree felling and bush clearing with an eco-friendly solar-powered chainsaw.
Contact Phelo 064 094 8153

Grass cutting

Keep your lawn looking its best with our efficient grass cutting services.
Contact Thembani 071 909 0339

High pressure cleaning

Restore the shine! Professional high-pressure cleaning for roofs, wall, floor, agricultural equipment, trucks and cars.
Contact Athenkosi 063 925 0802 or Aphiwe 069 827 0375

Car wash

Give your car the sparkle it deserves! Convenient cash wash services available at 375 Runeli Drive.
Contact Athenkosi 063 925 0802 or Aphiwe 069 827 0375

Welding

For all your welding jobs. Strong welds that last!
Contact Thulani 078 578 2034

Phone repair

Cracked Screen? Battery issues? Get your cellphone repaired quickly and reliably.
Contact Manase 063 057 4360

Snake rescue

Caring about you and the snake. Licenced snake removal for your peace of mind. (deadly puff adder in picture)
Contact Manase 063 057 4360

Photography

Capture life's precious moments! Professional photography for your events and family photos.
Contact Agcobile 076 093 2435, Sipiwo 063 934 3904 or Mike 079 061 4667



Onele's township tourism at Stenden student market

Handmade candles

Beautiful beeswax and recycled candles. Purchase our unique creations or recycle your old candles with us at the Market Traders Store in Port Alfred.
Contact Asonle 073 079 2165

Recycling services

Join us in protecting the environment! We recycle glass, PET bottles, and aluminium tins. Drop off at Nemato Change a Life or Market Traders Store.
Contact Phelo 071 072 8749 or Soyisa 071 246 1579

Live keyboard music

Elevate your event with soulful live keyboard music for church, events and festivals.
Contact Lihle 078 832 5020

Professional DJ services

Get your music right! Our DJ services ensure the perfect soundtrack at your parties and events.
Contact Lihle 078 832 5020

Sewing machine & clothing repairs

Clothing in need of a fix? We offer reliable sewing services and clothing repair services.
Contact Thulani 083 886 3490

IT & admin solutions

Comprehensive support for your business: computer maintenance, administrative services, bookkeeping and social media management.
Contact Sipiwo 063 934 3904

True Colours Township Experience

Discover the heart of our community! Engaging township walks for an authentic experience.
Contact Onele 066 111 9480

Cab services

Call our driver for transport in Port Alfred and out of town trips. Take a ride in his comfy VW Polo with free wifi.
Contact Eustice 078 218 1161

Professional document & application services

Boost your career, academic success and events! Fast and accurate typing. Attractive and custom designs for your events.
Your words, our expertise - professional design and writing services
Contact Sino 073 734 4805

CONTACT DETAILS

Nemato Change a Life

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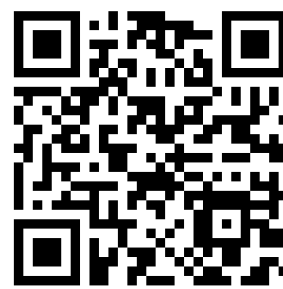
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OUR MAIN SUPPORTERS

Change a Life



Alexander
van
Assendelft

