

NEMATO

Change a life

success in life – for youth, by youth

Newsletter, 15 October 2012, issue 9

NELSON MANDELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & SPORT

It was a month full of trips to sports competitions and meetings, including three trips to Gauteng. That didn't stop us from all the other activities, like the homework class, the sports training sessions, feeding the members, running our office, and the ongoing challenge of fundraising for all of it. Other challenges we face, are the difficulty to find land for the Nemato Change a Life Centre, and the difficulty to find good alternatives for our dysfunctional township schools. For all challenges we have to find solutions: if we don't give our youth a future, what future is there for our country?

NEMATO CHANGE A LIFE

Land

Our battle to find land for the Nemato Change a Life Centre is still on. We thought we found a plot, only to discover that it isn't owned by the people living there, but by government. Unfortunately, we have wasted far too much time already trying to get the municipality to support us.

President's Award

We offer our members the opportunity to participate in The President's Award. This youth empowerment programme is a great way to encourage our members to take our programme a step further. The participants have to do sport, skills development, community service and an 'adventurous journey'. Five of our members were invited by The President's Award to do their two days bronze level adventurous journey at Assegai close to Grahamstown. The annual award ceremony took place a week later in the town hall in Grahamstown. Our silver medallists are: Ashley Backward and Bongisani Magopheni. Our bronze medallists are: Buhle Ngcelwane, Lifa Nxopho, Lindokuhle Nikelo, Qhamani Isaac, Sonwabile Mhomho.

Food donation

University Boat Race took place in Port Alfred. The students collected an impressive amount of food for us. Thank you!!! Help with food is much needed as our membership is up by over 50% from last year, so our expenses have also increased a

lot. Unfortunately we had to reduce the quality and quantity of our food, to be able to keep offering a meal every day.

PE College

Three of our students are doing a bridging course at PE College for NCV engineering, but unfortunately, after all passed the first trimester, the level of the second semester turned out to be too high a step up, with all failing. The challenge for our organisation is to find a way forward, and for the students to prove that they deserve support. In general it is



Members at President's Award event in Grahamstown.

challenging to find good alternatives for our dysfunctional township schools, as, despite our homework class, poor school results make it difficult to qualify for better education. The only real solution we see is starting our own school, with pre-school early childhood development as a first step from next year.

Drivers licence

Congratulations to Athenkosi Hlekani for passing his drivers' test! He is the second member to receive his driver's licence, thanks to funding by Lottery for capacity building. Hopefully some more will follow. It is not only great empowerment, but

also very helpful for the running of our organisation as we didn't have any members with a licence before this.

AIDS summit

Lunga Vulindlu represented Nemato Change a Life at a summit in Johannesburg, organised by *Show Me Your Number*, which, like Nemato, is a member of the Sport for Social Change Network, and the Sport & Entertainment Sector of South African National AIDS Council. The summit looked back on the work done in the last four years, and looked forward how to improve the impact of Hiv/Aids awareness programmes through sport.

NEMATO ROWING CLUB



Rowing with Olympic Champions.

Olympic rowers

The Olympic Gold medallists Sizwe Ndlovu and James Thompson visited Port Alfred. They were invited by Stenden South Africa as motivational speakers for a youth camp

organised by Stenden. Our rowers were invited for two activities in the camp. We did a rowing demonstration, showing all sorts of tricks in the boats that very few rowers in the country are able to do. The show was followed by a nice supper in a restaurant. The other day we competed with the Olympic rowers on our Kowie River. The first 500m race was the Olympians in a double against our Under 16 quad. It was an easy win for our quad. The second race was the two Olympians mixed with our U/16 cox (Aphelele Makaleni) stroke (Lindokuhle Nikelo) and number three (Buhle Ngcelwana) against the double Xolisani Hina and Makholwa Bari in the double. The quad had a clear win. We went to the Civic Centre for a supper with the youth camp participants. The Olympic rowers motivated the youth to have dreams and aim for success in life.

Donation Eton College

Eton College in the UK used a regatta that they organised as a fundraiser for Nemato Rowing Club. This fantastic initiative raised an amazing R13500 for our club. Thanks a lot Eton for your much needed support!

NEMATO GYMNASTICS CLUB

SA Games

The big annual trip for our gymnasts was to the South African Gymnastics Games in Pretoria. It was a reward for commitment to our programme all year. Nine gymnasts were selected for the Eastern Cape team to participate in the competition, but two of them didn't meet our high standards for commitment and had to stay home. Five of our most committed gymnasts, who didn't make the Eastern Cape team, joined the trip.

Preparation for the competition was a challenge. This year SA Games was only on the top level trampolines: the double mini trampoline and the euro trampoline. Our second hand double mini trampoline broke and we don't have a euro trampoline.

We could only train on our blacktop trampoline for beginners. That preparation was unfortunately not good enough to win medals for trampolining. We also don't have a tumbling track. In tumbling the gymnasts did surprisingly well with Bronze for Siphokuhle Nyoka in 11/12 level 2, Bronze for Liyema Nxopho in 11/12 level 4 and Gold for Siphamandla Baku in the 14 and over level 4. These results are amazing, keeping in mind that we don't have a tumbling track and our gymnasts are in knowledge and skills ahead of our coaches.

The trip is not only about competition, but also about exposure: experiencing that the world is bigger and more exciting than the township in Port Alfred. We went ice skating in Pretoria, visited the Pretoria zoo, Gold Reef City in



Our gymnasts at Hector Pieterse Memorial in Soweto.

Johannesburg, the Hector Pieterse Museum and Mandela House in Soweto, and more.

Many thanks to Rhodes University for offering transport for the trip!

Qualified coaches

Lunga Vulindlu and Philasande Mara passed the coaches exam and are now qualified level 1 tumbling coaches. Well done!



Siphamandla Baku winning gold at South African Games.

Donation for trampoline

The donation we received to fix our double mini trampoline is unfortunately still in our bank account. The size of mat we need is no longer produced. We sent our old mat to a company who promised to copy it, but they never collected it from the post office. We have asked the post office to return it to us, so that we can try another company. Hopefully something will work out soon, so that we'll have at least one trampoline for our experienced gymnasts.

NEMATO HANDBALL CLUB

Members

Good news from the handball team. For the first time the team has seven full members, enough to start playing matches. Our

programme manager Chuma Nyendwana is using his sport network to find opportunities, like friendly matches and tournaments, for the team to play.

NEMATO FENCING CLUB

Nemato/Ingubo

The cooperation between Nemato and Ingubo is working well. During three sessions per week we train together at their venue with our equipment and our coaches. It is great to have a second club up and running. Hopefully in future they can get their own coaches and equipment, so that they can run their club independent of us.

SA Champs

The South African Amateur Fencing Association invited our fencing coach Chuma Nyendwana to the South African Championships in Pretoria, to let him experience competition at that level and take the knowledge back to our club. Thanks to Randall Daniels for organising the trip. We are looking forward to participate in one or two competitions later in the coming months.



Nemato and Ingubo together in fencing.

CONTACT DETAILS

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