

NELSON MANDELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Nemato Change a Life - Highlights



buildings connected

We connected our two buildings to make one centre. Most building work is done by the members: learning by doing and building our own place. We used our favourite building material: sandbags!



robotics

Four members have joined a Chicago based robotics team. With three zoom sessions per week they are working on a robot to help people to become more physically active. We are going high-tech in the township!

coding



Coding has become a key element of our programme, all the way from basics with Tanks to real coding in HTML, C# and Python. Coding is a crucial skill for many future careers, and it's a great way to train logical thinking.

African Trampoline Trials



Trials for African Championships proved the strength of our gymnastics club: Four of the six strongest South African trampoline gymnasts are from Nemato Gymnastics Club!

SUCCESS IN LIFE - FOR YOUTH, BY YOUTH

Nemato Change a Life offers a holistic set of youth empowerment programmes for disadvantaged youth from the townships in Port Alfred: Nelson Mandela Township (Nemato), Thorn Hill and Station Hill. We give our youth the mindset, knowledge, skills and support to escape from poverty, for *success in life*.

coding

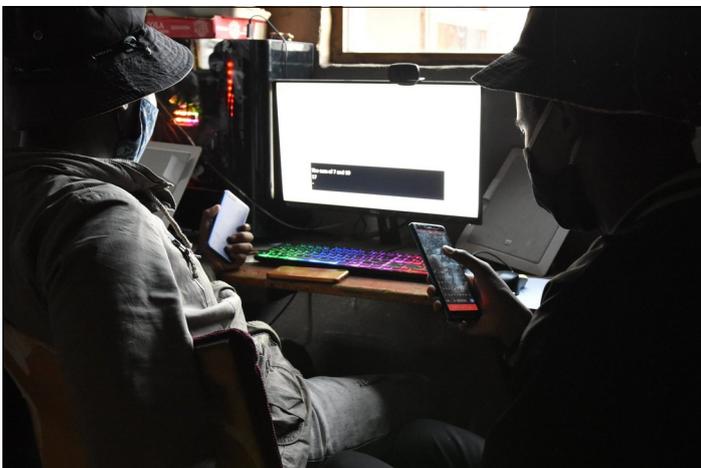


Coding has become a key element of our programme. It's a crucial skill for many future careers, and a great way to train logical thinking.

It starts with Tanks developed by Nelson Mandela University professor Jean Greyling. With puzzle pieces you put your coding together. The phone app scans the pieces and moves the tank according to the code. The concept of moving forward, backward and turning is much easier than the abstract concepts of mathematics, but to drive the tank around obstacles to a target needs a lot of thinking. As pictured above, Nemato members were spoilt by professor Greyling after completing the course.

A step up from Tanks is kTurtle, a simple learning language that offers all the basics of coding and endless opportunities to develop amazing shapes.

For members who are keen on coding as a possible career we offer a C# course (pictured below) offered by Nelson Mandela University, Python as part of our robotics course with Chicago and HTML and Javascript for the maintenance of our website.



numeracy and maths



Unfortunately school teachers have to rush through thick maths books and teach their students tricks, like solving equations, to pass the tests. This undermines the natural creativity and curiosity of children. In our maths classes, we try to leverage these natural attributes by making maths real, visual, exciting and accessible to all.

We go down to basics, to help our students understand concepts and experience the universal power and beauty of mathematics. By going back to basics we also fill the gaps in the foundation of maths, and by grouping our members in levels, everybody gets a chance to catch up and move ahead, independent of their grade at school.

To make maths practical and relevant, instead of solving equations, we build equations. We build them to address real issues in our organisation or in the lives of our members. Once we have an equation, we use it in a spreadsheet or in coding and let the computer calculate the answers for us. In that way we combine the power of humans asking questions and translating them into mathematics, with the power of computers in calculating and solving equations.

We strongly believe that we have to move away from focusing on training young people to become calculators. We see deep understanding of mathematical concepts and computer based problem solving as the two pillars of mathematics necessary for success in the fourth industrial revolution.

fly farm



We have taken our first step towards sustainable fish farming which involves harvesting fly larvae from waste food and turning it into fish feed. We have the first black soldier flies in this brand new fly farm pilot project. Our next step is to get fish tanks to start a small fish farm.

skills



We offer many learning opportunities from doing sudoku to house wiring and from bookkeeping to carpentry. Never too young to learn!

matric



Congratulations to our twins, international handball player Lihle and international gymnast Liyema, for passing matric!!!

learnerships



Congratulations to Siphamandla and Sinoyolo. They were selected for a Blue Flag tourism learnership. Siphamandla is doing his learnership at the award winning Royal St Andrews Hotel and Sinoyolo at the Royal Alfred Marina.

no tap water



For months we have been without tap water. We share our rainwater with the community, but our tank ran dry. Thanks to Josh, Robin and others for filling up our tank!

Citi sponsors Change a Life



Our main funder, the Mike Thomson Change a Life Trust, has a new sponsor: Citi, the leading global investment banking and financial services group, headquartered in New York.

website



Siyanda updates our website weekly, using HTML. Coding skills! <https://nemato.org.za>

projector



Many thanks to the Nemato Foundation for donating us a new projector with screen!

school shoes



Good school shoes are expensive and many families struggle to buy them. We received a very generous donation of strong school shoes for our most committed members. Many thanks to Prof Brenda Scholtz and Prof Jean Greyling of Nelson Mandela University and Godfrey Jacobs!!!

President's Award



We were recently in Makanda for a President's Award leaders' meeting. Our members can join the awards programme and receive bronze, silver and gold awards for completing sport, skills training, community service and hike.

ECD support



Preschools can apply for government lockdown support, but the application process is online and complicated. We invited the Port Alfred and Bathurst townships preschools to our office and helped with the applications.

Nadine Haynes donated lots of preschool toys. We identified two disadvantaged preschools for her, which receive no funding and are in much need of support.



SPORTS

Our sports clubs offer four small Olympic sports: rowing, gymnastics, handball and fencing.

rowing beginners course



Our beginners rowing and swimming course went well this summer, with a nice group of new rowers joining the club.

video ergo



Our rowers can now train on our rowing machines (ergos) watching themselves on screen, to improve their technique.

Gauteng Open



Our fencers competed in the Gauteng Open in Soweto. It was our first competition after the year long Covid-19 lockdown.

trials for African Champs



Trials for African Championships proved the strength of our gymnastics team: Four of the six strongest South African trampoline gymnasts are from Nemato Gymnastics Club!

African Championships is the qualifying competition for the Tokyo Olympics. The gymnastics federation had set the qualification norms for African Champs far beyond reach, to avoid the high 'risk' of a gymnast qualifying for the Olympics. We fail to understand why the federation doesn't want trampoline gymnasts to compete at the Olympics.

handball nets



We got new strong goal nets, to replace the little that was left of our old nets. After a shaky start after the lockdown, the club is back on track and pulling in new members. Hopefully there will be opportunities to compete in tournaments again soon.

CONTACT DETAILS

Nemato Change a Life

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OUR MAIN SUPPORTERS

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van
Assendelft

