

# THE PARTNERSHIP

## The Partnership

## Their future in our hands Our future in their hands

By Kanthie Raidoo

The pride and treasure of any nation is their youth. A nation that neglects the teaching and the upbringing of its youth is a nation on the decline. South Africa prides itself on being one of the most progressive nations on the face of Africa. But how can we be when our children are dying from AIDS, when our schools are scenes of violent crime, when rape and child abuse has become the norm of the day, when teenage pregnancy is out of control, when teenagers are heads of homes instead of parents, when young girls prostitute themselves to make a living and so the list goes on. We have an entire generation at risk, children robbed of their innocence, robbed of love, robbed of parents, and robbed of the essence of being a child. If we are honest, then we must confess that we as a nation have lost control of our children and youth. Too many of our most cherished possessions are wandering aimlessly through life, with little thought about tomorrow or any dreams for the future.



*“God holds each generation responsible for the one that comes after it”*

Parents have also lost their ideal position. On the one extreme, we have parents who dedicate their time and responsibilities to build bigger houses, have more cars and attain more wealth. Children are raised with a lack of love, lack of parental guidance and loneliness. The lack of these essentials, contribute to conflicts, depression, psychological problems as well as all kinds of personal, social and family crimes. On the other extreme, children and parents are very busy in their struggle to survive through poverty, homelessness and different kinds of abuse. They suffer in hunger, with illnesses and in their desperation for survival look for temporary sources of joy and happiness. This is found in drugs and alcohol, promiscuous sex, gambling, violence and the likes.

In both these situations, children and youth are alienated and confused about their purpose and value in life. Their motto has become: “do as I like” or “my life, my freedom”. They enjoy freedom without responsibilities; they see no need for parents, no need to be parents and no need for any authority. With such views they lose not only faith in life, but faith in themselves

as well. People, who have no self respect, have no problem disrespecting others, or carrying a gun to school, or cursing our elders, or lying and cheating to get what they want. Unfortunately, many of them are learning to do things the wrong way. They are trying to drink their way to sobriety, steal their way to wealth and lie their way to justice.

**So what does the future hold for this present generation of children and youth?** They now live in a world that you and I as adults have created. But soon you and I as adult will live in a world that they will create. They will run this country, they will put policies in place, they will manage our economies, they will be our teachers, police officers, they will make decisions for us .... They will be our future.

I believe that God holds each generation responsible for the one that comes after it.

There was a time when the community, the school, and the church worked hand in hand together to create whole complete human beings. With that no longer being the case, the real challenge of our time is to raise whole human beings. Children and youth cannot raise themselves; they need positive, supportive, significant adults who will be their mentors, their guides, their friends, their roles models, their heroes.

We must never lose sight of our responsibility to our children and youth. The word responsibility means 'the ability to respond'. How will you respond today? What part will you play, what role will you take to ensure we develop whole human beings.

I have come to realize that it is not where you come from that really matters: it is where you are going. Where are we going as a people? How important are our children to us? Raising our children must become a top priority in our lives. Cultivating their minds, strengthening their bodies, and elevating their spirits ought to be uppermost on our agenda.

Jeremiah 29:11 says:  
For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

Is there hope for the future? God thinks so, I believe it!

# Youth for Christ - the past, present and into the future

Since 1944, Youth for Christ has had a distinctive history of reaching out to youth. Beginning in dozens of cities across the USA, enthusiastic young Christian leaders preached the gospel to a young generation weary of the costs of World War II. With a heartbeat of reaching youth with the gospel of Christ, the motto "Geared to the Times and Anchored to the Rock" was coined by Billy Graham, the first full time staff person of Youth for Christ.

Today, with the same passion, Youth for Christ seeks to reach out to youth, many who have lost their way. Young people are looking for a truth that works. Youth for Christ is involved in responsible, effective services with children and youth that are relevant to this generation. This also involves giving every young person the opportunity to be presented with the gospel.

So what does the future hold for Youth for Christ KZN as we move into 2008?

With a human resource compliment of approximately 55 full time staff, 70 full time local volunteers and 30 international volunteers, the leadership of YFC strives to provide leadership and management to 7 projects, with a budget of approximately 9 million rands for 2008. The director team strives to ensure that good governance is practised, that we understand and correctly interpret the environment in which we operate, that winning strategies and



interventions are developed and executed, that impact is measured and that organisational capabilities are developed, such as developing leaders. In 2008 YFC/KZN will impact approximately 30 000 children and youth, 400 teachers and 2650 families through the projects.

This is no easy task, but we see the hope and God given potential of each child that we come into contact with. We are committed to serving and addressing the needs and issues of youth in KwaZulu Natal. Be it homelessness, poverty, HIV and AIDS, gender inequality, child headed households; helping to shape the future is the heart of what YFC is about. As youth specialists, YFC is the catalyst to make this happen. With passion, energy, skill and love we will serve.



**Check out our new look website.**  
Lots of new information, stories and photos updated monthly!!  
[www.youthkzn.co.za](http://www.youthkzn.co.za)



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kwazulu-natal  
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DEVELOPMENT CENTRE  
INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

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## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Nonkululeko Ndima

I was born and raised at Nquthu. God has still blessed me with both parents and I have two sisters, five brothers and a husband. I love my family a lot. My journey with Youth for Christ started nine years ago as a volunteer in the Tennyson house project, while studying for my Basic Qualification in Child Care. I worked in the shelter and towards the end of 2000 I was appointed as a child and youth care worker. In 2007 I moved to a new position as an intensive care manager. I thank God for providing the team that I work with. They have groomed me to be the person that I am today. In my spare time I like to spend quality time with God because I know that he has a greater plan for my future and I know that he is there all the time. I cannot function without the Lord in my life. What I do not like is to see people not getting along with each other, but peace and happiness makes my day!!!



### Lindo Cele

Lindo has worked for YFC since 2006. In 2007 he was appointed as Khayaletu residential coordinator. Lindo is from Imbali in Pietermaritzburg. Lindo enjoys driving and one day wants to be a race car driver. If you ask Lindo how he is feeling, he will most likely tell you he's tired.



### Stacie Adams

I am a volunteer from Australia. I was first here in 2005 for 4 months, working at the Khayaletu girls shelter. In October 2006 I returned to YFC/KZN. This time I am here for 18 months in the role of marketing manager. I enjoy spending time getting to know people. I am currently studying philosophy here in Pietermaritzburg.



### Mondli Ndlovu

Mondli started with YFC in 2003. In 2007 he took over the role of L'Abri program coordinator. Mondli is married last year, and with his wife has a very cute 9 year old son. He is very close with his family and still spends lots of time with his parents. Mondli loves interacting with people, and socialising is one of his favourite things to do. He also enjoys watching sport of any kind, and likes playing any kind of sport that wont get him hurt.

