

THE PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership

There's no place like home

In this partnership we share stories of two amazing young people, whose tenacity and courage together with the support of Youth for Christ staff and volunteers have changed their lives forever. Our work with children is very reflective of what Christ has called us to do but more so of how much He has called us to love.

Kwazi Hlongwane* is a 17 year old boy who lost his parents when he was young. He ran to the streets to make a living and while there he met with the Khayaletu Street Team (a project of YFC/KZN).

Through building relationship with the staff of the Street Team, he was encouraged to join them on a camp where the boys on the streets were taken to the wilderness, and through the many activities, relationships and trust were built that allowed staff to find out about his background and if he would want to return home. After the bush camp, Kwazi lived in the shelter while staff started the reunification process. During this time at the shelter in 2004, Kwazi missed the substances he was taking, he missed his friends on the street and his freedom and left the shelter and decided to go back to live on the streets.

In 2006 the Residential Team of Khayaletu decided to focus on children that were a little bit older than their target group which was 10-14 years old, and also to focus on children that had been in the streets for a longer period of time, or even been in the shelter before. Kwazi was one of these children who then decided to try again to leave the streets. He came to the shelter in Pine Street in May 2006 and he attended school at Sobantu during that year finishing grade 7.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. (Matthew 25:35-36)

“...whose tenacity and courage have changed their lives forever...”

During this time, the Residential Team worked closely together with Kwazi and his uncle. Kwazi was behaving very well both in the shelter and at home during the weekends and holidays when he visited his uncle in Kwa Pata.

In December 2006 Kwazi left the shelter and he moved to stay at home permanently with his uncle in Kwa Pata. In January this year, he started grade 8 at a High School near his home. The Khayaletu After Care team visits Kwazi at his home and he is still doing well.

Zanele* came to Tennyson House shelter in 1996, referred to us by the principal of the school she was attending. Zanele's case had been brought to the principal's attention by the school's security guard who had caught Zanele sleeping in the school's toilets. When she was questioned about this it appeared that she had been sleeping in the toilets for some time.

Zanele had come from the rural areas in search of a better education in the urban areas. Her relatives from the father's side had promised to take her in and pay for her school needs. When she got to Durban she soon discovered that assisting her with school needs was never in her relatives'

agenda; they just wanted someone to do all the housework for free. But Zanele was determined to go to school and through the assistance of neighbours, she registered for school. The relatives still refused to give her transport money to get to school, so she ended up sleeping in the toilets in order to be at school every day.

One of the teachers had a girl in her class from Tennyson House shelter and decided to call the shelter for assistance. She was admitted into the shelter on condition that a speedy reunification process with the family would take place. When the reunification process started, the family insisted that they had no responsibility whatsoever where Zanele was concerned. She continued to stay in the shelter, as the team continued to work with her family for them to see reason and take some responsibility for her.

Later on when the family was asked to allow Zanele to visit for the holidays they agreed. By this time Zanele's aunt was very sick and Zanele had to take care of her. The aunt, the only blood relative, eventually died and Zanele had to find somewhere else to stay. She was by now in matric and older than the age group catered for in the shelter. It was decided she could come back to the shelter but she would assist staff with their duties rather than being like one of the girls in the shelter.

A volunteer in the shelter had a sister who had heard the story of Zanele and took an interest in her. This lady took Zanele into her family and became responsible for her, including her further educational needs. Zanele has lived with them ever since. They assisted her to gain entrance at a university and paid for her tuition. They also assisted her and the shelter staff to connect with Zanele's biological family. The timing for this was perfect because Zanele's biological mother didn't live long after they were reunited.

Zanele has recently graduated from the university with a B. Soc. Science degree in Community Development. She now works as an intern for a company in Pretoria.

These stories demonstrate the reason why we chose to call this newsletter 'the Partnership'. For without true partnership these amazing outcomes would not be possible. Thank you to all who help us, our donors, schools, local communities and of course God, because without you the work of our staff and volunteers would be impossible.

* not real names



The Value of Volunteers

There is no doubt that the ministry of Youth for Christ cannot continue effectively without volunteers. This year approximately 40 local volunteers were recruited to add value and enhance the projects of Youth for Christ. They help shape the identity of the projects, add enormous value and worth to the lives of children and youth served, and their dedication, commitment and spirit contribute significantly to the quality of life of children and youth.



So who are the volunteers in Youth for Christ?

- Our interns are local volunteers who serve in the homeless children projects and Yazini schools program both in Pietermaritzburg and Durban. This project, Internship, provides opportunities for young adults to give a year of their lives to ministry. They are recruited at the beginning of the year and serve 4 days a week in the projects and attend formal training one day a week.
- Interns also serve in the Change Agents project which is an HIV and AIDS program that conducts workshops in schools. These interns receive intensive training from January to March and there after spend the rest of the year in schools working with teenagers around the issues of HIV and AIDS.
- Apart from our local volunteers, Youth for



Christ is privileged to have international volunteers who also serve in our projects. This project, called the Youth Development Centre provides international volunteers an opportunity to experience our culture and have an opportunity to serve young people in our projects alongside a South African staff person. For many of them, this is a life changing experience. On average we have 10 volunteers a month volunteering in our projects, with the longest service being 12 months and the shortest 1 month.

Without the interns and international volunteers, our projects would suffer, for not only would we lose man power, we would also lose the fresh ideas, creativity, and energy that these young people bring. It is for these reasons that in this newsletter we celebrate our interns and international volunteers, and thank them for all their hard work!!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

SALLY MANN

Sally has been involved with YFC/KZN since 1992, serving in various roles. She now works part-time coordinating the YDC programme and spends the rest of her time being a wife and mother to her two girls.



MUNTU NHLENGETHWA

I have been with YFC/KZN since 2002. Currently I'm serving as a Yazini program coordinator (Durban). I enjoy my work because I have developed so many skills I did not think I had in my career. I will always thank YFC for giving me the opportunity to dig out the diamond that is within. I'm single with my two handsome boys, age 9 and 2 years. I have adopted a girl child with the name of Toyota Tazz. Together we make a happy family.



PHILI CHAMANE

No doubt, I'm ON PURPOSE. Joining the family of YFC, I found my seed of success. I started at YFC in 2002 as a Volunteer in Thembelisha Job creation Project and I served there for two years. In 2004 I was appointed as School Facilitator in Yazini. In my journey with YFC, Gods' Word is getting fulfilled everyday. My current assignment is to coordinate Yazini (PMB). I'm a single parent to a lovely 12 year old girl, and my sisters' cute 10 year old girl. I describe my kids as a "Perfect Gift" from Perfect God. I treat life as a journey, and I greet it with a smile every morning.



NKULULEKO MALAPANE

I started with YFC as a volunteer in 2005 and came back as a volunteer in 2006. In May this year I was employed as the Internship (local volunteer) Program Facilitator. I work with YFC 3 days a week and am busy studying for a B.ED degree at UNISA. I'm a dedicated Christian who loves God.



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Internship
LOCAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

CHANGE AGENTS
DELIVERING HOPE THROUGH HIV AND AIDS EDUCATION

Khayaletu
PROJECT FOR YOUTH AT RISK

L'Abri
OUTDOOR CENTRE

Tennison House
SERVING HOMELESS GIRLS

YAZINI
LIFE SKILLS IN SCHOOLS

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME