

The Partnership

Khaya lethu + The Bridge Project



The Partnership is one of the key communication platforms we use to make sure that our funders, friends and stakeholders are kept informed with the work of Youth for Christ KwaZulu Natal. In making sure that we provide enough information on our different projects, we now produce the Partnership in a way that covers specific projects each time. In case your project of interest is not covered in this Partnership, don't worry it will definitely be covered in one of the upcoming Partnership Issues.

In this Partnership we will be covering two projects, Khaya lethu and The Bridge Project. Khaya lethu is one of the longest strong standing pillars of YFC/KZN's work. The name itself Khaya lethu (Our Home), has lived up to its meaning as it implements activities that create a home for the most vulnerable children and youth in our city uMsunduzi. This project is one of our key programs as it addresses a huge challenge that our City of Choice - Pietermaritzburg is facing increasing number of street children and youth. Our current Mayor, his worship Honourable T. Njilo, has his heart in making sure that we solve this challenge of increasing children and youth in the streets. This problem has created a huge challenge to businesses operating in the central city. Khaya lethu is one of the few projects that is working very hard in making sure that this issue is being addressed.

The Bridge Project is one of the new funding opportunities that YFC/KZN received to bring change in the lives of vulnerable children and youth in the eThekweni West Area. This program was launched in October 2017 and it's reaching more than 13 000 children and youth with different services which improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable.

- Tineyi Chigunduru YFC/KZN Regional Director

The Bridge This Project aims to improve the lives of vulnerable children and youth in eThekweni West. The team is well equipped with tools and skills to meet the objectives and goals of the project which contribute towards achieving the ultimate mission of the organisation.

In order to improve a child's life, the Bridge Project also works together with schools, communities, parents and other caregivers. One of the big topics

The Bridge Project wants to address is HIV and AIDS. For this, the organisation provides HIV and AIDS testing in schools and communities together with the MaTCH Systems and our sister organisation Community Care



Program. The Bridge Project wants to raise awareness and make people understand that it is important to know your own status.

In order to provide the best possible service they recently had a training held by the organisation called Health and Education Training and Technology Assistance Services (HETTAS). They were conducting the Vhutshilo 3 facilitator training. The aim of the training is to educate everyone about the stigma of HIV infected individuals and try to minimise all the myths and assumptions associated with the virus. Training like that helps a lot with the work of Bridge as it is still a new project. It is important for HIV infected children and youth to know that they are still who they were before the virus, they can still achieve everything they want they still deserve love and friendship. It is a very difficult topic to address in communities and with HIV positive beneficiaries but it is so important to show children how valuable they are and that they can pursue their dreams.

The Bridge Project also offers youth economic strengthening to in and out of school youth and not forgetting the caregivers. The team is dedicated to delivering quality assured programs that include; Financial Capability, Employability, Entrepreneurship and Support to Access Tertiary Education. All this is done to promote economic sanctuary to our beneficiaries.

Unemployment of young people is a big problem in South Africa that's why the Bridge Project is focusing on Youth Economic Strengthening (YES). Part of that program is to show the beneficiaries how to budget even the small income they or their family receive and how to make the most out of it. Often young adults tend to spend their money irresponsibly and only worry about today and don't think about tomorrow.

The YES Program wants to empower young people to pursue their dreams and never give up. If you are working hard and you focus on your future everything is possible. That's when the entrepreneurship skills they gain from the Bridge Project become important. It teaches the out of school youth how to start a business and how to sustain a businesses. It gives them the clear view that not all the businesses that are out there need a big capital to start "With the little that you have, you can make something big. You don't need a big budget to start, with only R50 you can get the muffin flour mix and bake them. Before you know it you'll be having a daily income." says Bonganathi Ncala in the group sessions they were conducting with Muzi Mzimela.

A part of the program is also to educate them on the drafting of a business plan and how to get funding or investments in your business.

The Bridge Project also believes that it is important for every beneficiary who wants to be part of the YES program to first be part of the Vhutshilo Program, which educates them about life skills and makes sure they are in a good state of mind and in a stable family structure.

The two groups, The Conquerers and the Successors, have completed all sessions and the training of our program. They have enrolled, attended and completed the Financial Capability and Entrepreneurship program. The young adults come from the areas called Maphetheni and Savannah Park. The beneficiaries have done so well, they have already made progress in life and are even able to support their families.



On the 16th March, the Bridge Project organised a graduation event for all the beneficiaries that have successfully completed the program. Certificates were handed out to them and although they are not a substitute for any qualification nor matric, it gives more value to the Curriculum Vitae.



"We are very proud of the work that we have done on the ground and are hoping that what we have achieved here today will greatly improve the lives of our beneficiaries. It does not end here, we are willing to go an extra mile by supporting them with job hunting. We don't just train, we also mentor the young adults and encourage them. As we continue to do the Financial Capability and Entrepreneurship Programs, we are aiming to have more beneficiaries getting jobs, internships or any other sort of income they can get." Said Mr Skhumbuzo Khoza.

In the other areas, the Bridge Project is also training the community care givers which includes elderly and single parents. By doing this we bridge the life of the adolescent and the parent. It gives more impact on training them both in the same household so that they will be able to embrace, grow and mature the skills that are already given to them by the facilitators.

Our beneficiaries are now the fruit of the great work and determination planted in the manuals we are using in serving them every day. We strive to see them become more than they hoped and dreamed for because only their mind can limit them in their dreams and ability to be someone better, important and successful in life.

"If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl, but by all means, keep moving forward." Dr Martin Luther King JR. These are words said to encourage and motivate the black Americans in a hard time of oppression by white Americans. We are now saying it to the beneficiaries to give them hope that even if it all looks dark and with no future today, tomorrow is a new day with new chances and new motivation.

The Bridge Project is motivated by new challenges and tasks and is happy to have successfully launched a new Project with the help of the new funder FHI 360.



more on the schoolwork. After some time he even started assisting the younger Beneficiaries from the Shelter with their homework.

During his time in the Shelter, the Family Care Unit started to do family investigations and building a relationship with his father and grandmother. KCH arranged for Sbonelo to go and visit his family once a month so that they can start building trust and develop a new relationship. The young man was very happy to have contact with his father and grandmother again.

In 2013 Sbonelo was then reunited with his grandmother after his father was deceased. The grandmother was very happy to be a primary care giver for him. She was very old but had so much love for Sbonelo. While he was living with his Granny, he was placed in a school near by. The school was very supportive towards KCH and Sbonelo. Unfortunately his Grandmother passed away at the end of 2013 and it was close to final examinations for him. This was a very tough time for Sbonelo, but because of his strong will and the support from the Aftercare Team he did not return to the street as many children would have done. Mentorship was given to Sbonelo by the Aftercare Program despite the huge cost involved.

- A big support in that case was the individual Sponsor that came on board to partner with KCH to shape and develop the life of this young men -

Khaya lethu (KCH) works with homeless children directly on the streets in Pietermaritzburg. The ultimate aim of the homeless children project is to provide early intervention and prevention initiatives for children, youth and their families from at-risk communities struggling with poverty and unhealthy lifestyles such as life on the streets. The project's intention is to reunite children with their families and to strengthen families within communities, so they are able to stay together. However after the reunification, our work is not done. Some beneficiaries are referred to the Aftercare Team by the Community Outreach Team because they feel like the child and family are still going to need assistance. The assistance the Aftercare Unit provides is financial i.E. paying transport fees, books, or school uniform and mental i.E. finding a mentor in the community and regular visits to the family.

Following you will hear the story from one of our beneficiaries, his journey with KCH and his current situation as part of the Aftercare Program. (Name has been changed)

Sbonelo Mthembu came into contact with KCH in 2011 because he was living on the street and was identified as a beneficiary from the Outreach Team. Khaya lethu then conducted intensive work to start giving hope to this young man. Part of this work was to develop an individual development and care plan for him.

After some time Sbonelo was then placed in the KCH Boys Shelter where he first had to adjust himself to boundaries and rules as he has been on his own for a long time while living on the street. As part of the Residential Program he was then placed back in school, he started in Grade 9 at Sobantu Secondary School. It was not an easy situation for him to be in a new place and new school with new people but with the support from our Social Worker, Sbonelo easily found new friends in school and in the shelter. He started to see education as his big chance and focused more and

All educational needs such as school uniform, books, transport fees and groceries were able to be covered by the support of an individual. After his Grandmother passed away the Aftercare Team organised a place for Sbonelo to stay. He never looked back although there were difficulties in his family and successfully passed Grade 11. Together with the school, targets for each subject were formed, and he also received some extra lessons, so he was able to then pass in the following year.

Due to the financial and family situation he didn't further his studies but went out to look for job opportunities. He was getting little jobs in Pietermaritzburg and with it he was also able to buy food for his other siblings. Towards the end of 2017, the KCH Aftercare program gave Sbonelo the opportunity to return back to school to the FET college. He was very excited but explained that he does not have money to pay for all the activities. The Aftercare Unit supported Sbonelo with the application process for NSFAS and were very happy to see that his application was successful. He started his N4 Course in Management Assistant this year and he has not yet received any financial support from NSFAS although the application has been approved. So that Sbonelo can study YFC, with the help of the Sponsor, has been making sure that he has clothes to wear and money for the transport fee.

Sbonelo's dream is to one day become a lawyer specialised in Family Law, so he can help children that are in a similar situation he was in. He wants to be a good example that even through difficult times you can be focused and determined about your future. Without the financial support of the sponsor his life might have taken a different direction.

Help us give Hope to Children and Youth and become a Sponsor for only R4000 a Year

We are in urgent need of People who are willing to change a child's future for the better.

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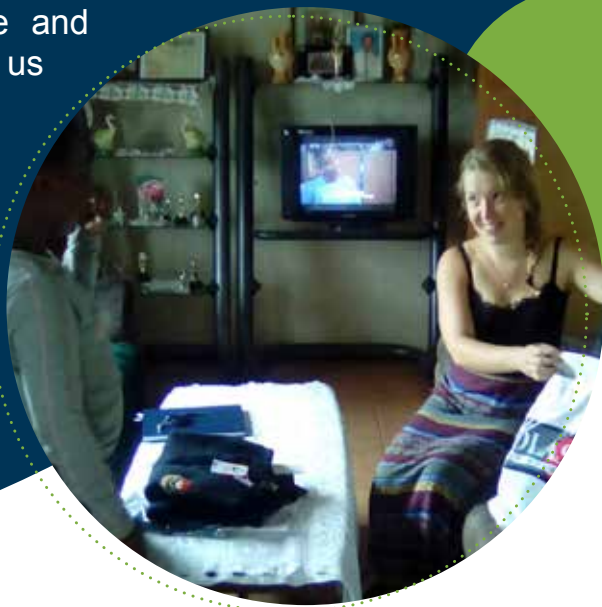
Education, School uniform, books, stationary and possible other needs

Throughout the year you will receive progress reports on your sponsored child.

Should you be interested in the Aftercare and Sponsor Program please feel free to contact us on 033 345 2970 or send us a mail on info@youthkzn.co.za

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

(If you are only able to provide a part of the Sponsorship Amount please also contact us we are happy to find someone to provide the other part)



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