

Programme Report: October 2025



Introduction

One of the main highlights for the month of October 2025 is the holiday programme hosted at the YOSA Centre. The other key activities included the engagement of learners through psychosocial support, and curriculum empowerment through learning support. Collectively, these activities reflect YOSA's ongoing commitment to providing holistic support, fostering learner wellbeing, and enhancing school engagement. Our friends from Australia paid us visits that left us in much better place, because they supported our programmes financially.

Holiday programme

The October holiday programme provided learners with safe, structured, and engaging environment when the schools closed. During the holidays we had ample time with learners strengthening their life skills through educational, team-building, and recreational activities. We keep learners positively occupied by running programmes that enhance their self-esteem, communication, and leadership skills. We also provide psychosocial support through individual interventions, focused group discussions and behavioural mentorship. Our games and sporting activities are designed to develop critical thinking and physical activities. Our learning support programme helps learners with curriculum content coaching including remediation for those who would have fallen behind in their studies.



Programme activities during the holiday programme

YOSA FCA

Rachel and Ethan from YOSA Friendship Circle in Australia (YOSA FCA) visited us during the month of October. They brought valuable donations of clothes and school stationery and actively supported us in our programmes, interacting with staff and children. Their financial support towards the installation of internet to one of our high schools' computer laboratories was effectively transformative. The new computer laboratory will service a high school with 1456 learners and 52 teachers. The young people from the local community will also access the lab for personal development and participation in the digital economy.



Rachel and Ethan handing over donations to YOSA staff and interacting with learners

Digital transformation

YOSA is committed to roll out ICT infrastructure (computer laboratories) including internet connectivity and providing digital devices to learners in the underserved communities. The legacy of apartheid in South Africa is the neglect of the township communities. Under resourced schools and ill-prepared teachers compromise education in schools. After decades of socio-economic marginalization people in townships still endure the effects of the digital divide. Teachers lack basic digital skills. They cannot function on collaboration platforms like Teams, Zoom and others. The situation is worse for poor learners without digital devices and cannot partake in online learning. There are poor academic pass rates, worsening poverty and unemployment. Beyond high school, most learners cannot cope with digitally intense tertiary training. Anecdotal evidence is that most of these learners drop out of tertiary institutions because they fail to match the requisite digital skills. Without any introduction to the digital world, teachers and learners are locked in traditional pedagogical systems that are well behind the rest of the world.

YOSA intervention

Our intervention is premised on helping township schools to address digital exclusion and enabling skills



training for teachers and learners. YOSA provides training for transformation. We are enabling equity by targeting needy township school communities then set up computer laboratories with internet connectivity. We train local unemployed youths and provide each school with a lab technician to train staff and learners while taking care of the computers/devices. To create ripples of impact, we equip lead teachers and learners with training for trainer's courses, motivate and mentor them to train their colleagues. The computer laboratories are turned into digital learning centers where teachers and learners conduct research, engage in independent learning and online collaboration.

We equipped a computer lab with 36 desktops in one high school, trained 12 heads of departments and the principal. They in turn trained the remaining 40 teachers. We also trained 150 learners in digital skills, exposed them to learning platforms and they also trained other learners. Every trained learner trained the next until all 1303 learners in the school were covered. Access to information and technology improved pass rates from 73% in 2023 to 91% in 2024. The sponsorship towards internet connection given to our new laboratory by Rachel and Ethan will go a long way in transforming education in this school.



Rachel and Ethan interacting with our learners in the computer laboratory

Book Club Launch and Library

A new book club was initiated in one of our high schools to promote literacy, reading motivation, and constructive peer interaction among learners. As part of this initiative, a new library space was opened to provide better access to reading resources and create a supportive environment for independent learning. The sessions encouraged reading for enjoyment, improved comprehension skills, and created opportunities for learners to share ideas and support one another academically. This activity initiated by YOSA curriculum coaches plays a key role in developing a positive reading culture within the school. We are appealing to well-wishers for reading books to stock this new library.



The new library that still needs to be stocked with reading books.



Granny Support Programme

The grannies support group is conducted once a week to engage and support the elderly caregivers of school going children in the community. The group's activities include physical activity sessions to help keep them fit. The grannies sew, bake and knit items to sell and subsidize their social grants. The programme promoted intergenerational interaction, creativity, and social support, while providing participants with practical assistance and an opportunity to connect with the youth in a meaningful way. In October the grannies were provided with clothes for their families, and they were excited to drag suitcases home. The clothes and cases were donated by YOSA Friendship Circle in Australia.



Grannies' support group and the distribution of clothes.

Acknowledgements

YOSA is eternally grateful for the support from **FNZ**, a global financial services and fintech company supporting us from their Africa headquarters in Sandton. The support provides the back born for us to run our programmes. We also received financial donations from **Karen and Richard Muller** and, donations in kind from **Karen and Trevor, Donna, Louise, Sarah, Donna, Simone, Jay** and a generous supply of programme uniforms from **Barker College** in Australia. The growing number of participants on our programmes is well supplied. We have been receiving the uniforms almost once every month, thanks to Karen and Trevor for organizing transportation.

Conclusion

The YOSA Centre has proved to be an effective safe space for young people in the community that it serves. YOSA is bridging the digital divide for the poor communities we serve by revamping computer laboratories in township schools. It is also providing learning support focusing on critical mathematics and science subjects and providing psychosocial support for learners facing social challenges. With support from our friends, we are facilitating effective learner participation in education. We are grateful to our supporters who provide the resources for our programming.

