



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES SOUTH AFRICA

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Programme Report: June 2025



Introduction

Digital innovation, psychosocial and learning support are the flagship projects for YOSA in the township schools it serves. The month of June was mainly dedicated to running our psychosocial support and learning support programmes. Our digital learning centers were equally busy as they are part of our learning support programme.

Digital Learning Centers

Bridging the digital divide in township schools is a key programme for YOSA. With the support of FNZ we provide desktops and revive the Gauteng Online laboratories, train teachers and learners in computers. Our computer laboratories are fast turning into digital learning centers. The internet connected laboratories are hubs of academic innovation, empowerment, and inclusion — designed to close the digital gap faced by learners in underserved communities. Learners across multiple YOSA-supported schools used digital learning centers for:

- Researching science expo topics and participating in prestigious events
- Practicing mathematics with digital tools
- Preparing university applications
- Accessing learning platforms and career resources

This impact was made possible by the generosity of FNZ, a global financial technology company committed to and supporting educational equity in our underserved communities.



YOSA digital learning centers in operation

Psychosocial and Learning Support

A combination of psychosocial and learning support activities has proved useful in assisting learners develop the love for reading. This is significantly improving their vocabulary through engaging in activities that educate them while they play. Teachers have reported that learners participating in our programmes have significantly developed literacy skills including scoring high on spelling tests. Our programme helped learners with preparations for their June tests.



Learners in reading and writing activities



Learners in art and recreation activities

Our psychosocial support activities also help to address learners' behavioral issues. We get to understand learners' behaviours as informed by their social experiences. We identify potential and support development.



Learner leadership development

We gathered learner leaders from four different schools for the leadership course. We helped them with planning for leadership impact including helping with addressing learning barriers that include late coming, substance use and violence in school communities. Teachers are reporting significant improvements in learners' attitudes and conduct towards education.



Learners attending the leadership course

Partnership Visitors

We received the staff from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and the University of Pittsburgh in the United States of America. YOSA is contributing to the development of the social work profession through hosting university students on field placements. Our programme implementation model is unique and is attractive to universities that place students with us. We have also received an inquiry for partnership from the Southern Cross university in Australia. We are currently engaged in partnership discussions. We will thus be interested in receiving international students for placement too.



YOSA social Worker with learners, Wits and Pittsburgh universities lecturers and YOSA staff

Granny Support Group

The YOSA granny support group meets on Thursdays with grannies knitting and sewing items for sale to support their dependance. The grannies host school going grandchildren whom they support with their social grants. The grants are increasingly losing value hence grannies are supplementing their incomes through self-help projects at YOSA.





Grannies support group discussing their marketing strategies

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 are also exceedingly grateful for the sustained monthly debit order contributions made by **Jennifer Van Oerle**. This is significant to support our learning support programme. We also received donations in kind from **Brolin, Karen and Trevor, Karen and Richard, Donna, Simone, Emmanuel College, Susy and Greg, Louise, Andrea, Kylie, Linda, Abbie, Nicole, Rachel, Sarah, Marty** and a generous supply of programme uniforms from **Barker College** in Australia. The growing number of participants on our programmes is well supplied. We are truly grateful to Qantas Airline crew who bring lots of donations-in kind to support our work. The material and financial support from these friends were significant in driving our programme implementation. We are grateful to Karen and Trevor for buying dignity packs for our girls to enable them regular attendance in school.



YOSA staff sorting donated clothes for distribution to needy children and families

Significant donations of gadgets have also been received during the month of June. The gadgets are used by YOSA staff and some are given to high school graduates who are going to universities and colleges. We also reward school going learners who excel in our curriculum coaching programmes like maths, science and digital skills development with gadgets to improve their performance. Donna, Karen and Trevor have immensely helped with gadgets during the month of June. Pre-loved phones, watches, and laptops are very helpful in getting our young people to the next level. Our learners were very motivated to receive valuable prizes for excelling in their studies during the second term. We are truly indebted to Emanuel College and Simone for the wonderful donations of macbooks that are currently being used by our staff in our underserved schools to help learners to apply for further education. Young people in our communities have no connection to the global world due to lack of computers and other gadgets to connect to the internet. Donations of gadgets are life transforming for YOSA and its communities.





Our staff admiring their gadgets donated by Donna



YOSA staff testing and installing hard drives brought by Donna

Conclusion

While township school communities experience huge challenges of substance use, violence and teenage pregnancies, those supported by YOSA are privileged to experience significant positive developments. Learners in our supported schools are focused on learning with many of them qualifying for university enrollments. The computer labs furnished by YOSA have turned into community resource centers where learners are using the internet to study Maths and Science. Our after-school programmes are breeding a new culture of social cohesion around education. Learners that are participating in YOSA programmes are distinct by their conduct as they strive to model purpose-driven lives. YOSA is now a preferred placement agency for social work students from three universities. We are pleased to maintain our partnerships with Wits, SACAP and UP universities. We are truly grateful to our supporters for availing resources for our programming.

