

## Programme Report: July 2025



### Introduction

The month of July was exciting due to the engaging holiday programme that was graced by YOSA friends from Australia. A dynamic learning-support programme was conducted in all the supported schools. Our psychosocial support and digital skills development programmes have significantly transformed learners' participation in education. Attending learners' social and emotional needs has caused notable improvements in the teaching and learning environment.

### Schools based Activities for the month

#### 1. Learner Leadership development

Learner leadership development is a major transformational programme for our organization. We have mainstreamed learner leadership in most of our activities. This way we see a ripple impact of our programmes. Learner leaders are taught and mentored to take effective leadership roles. Positive leadership is glorified in the schools we support. We have seen that learner leaders are most selected among YOSA participants in all the schools we support. Thus, participating in our programmes is very empowering for young people. Through learner leadership development we turn our beneficiaries into agents of change.



**Transformational learner leaders trained and supported by YOSA**

## **2. Psychosocial Support**

YOSA psychosocial support programme assists learners through improving their academic and social competencies. The programme promotes school connectedness, love for reading and improving learners' vocabulary through engaging activities. Our developing library facilitates learners' literacy skills development and YOSA staff were actively helping coaching learners on study skills and exam techniques.

It is through our structured psychosocial support activities that a YOSA child is developed. This programme supports learners with behavioral issues by understanding that behavior stems from young people's social experiences. YOSA staff coach learners on positive behavior and identifies potential and encourage participation.



**Subject selection, study skills and exam techniques series for grade 9 learners by YOSA social workers**

## **3. Digital Skills Development**

YOSA is exceptionally grateful to be supported by FNZ in availing computers to schools and digital skills development for the underserved school communities. Internet connections for the computer labs are adding a valuable layer of learning support and independent learning for the young people in schools. We are currently pursuing partnerships with Vuma Tell and Cool Ideas that are supporting schools with free internet fiber connections. This service helps to bridge the digital divide, improve quality of life and support economic growth in township communities.

One of our schools has been connected to free internet fiber. We trust that all the YOSA supported schools that have computer labs will also be connected. Computer labs are turning to be serious and widely used medium of learning and teaching. The young people in communities around the schools are also utilizing the labs to



look for jobs or to apply for further education. YOSA is driving community development through digital innovation.



**Learners and the lab technician using the lab for studies**

#### **4. Centre Based Activities**

##### **School Holiday Programme**

The school holiday program has a profoundly positive influence on learners. By keeping children academically active during extended breaks, particularly in critical aspects like reading, writing, and mathematics, we prevent learning loss. After the holiday, YOSA children go back to class with greater self-assurance, concentration, and readiness for the upcoming term. Holiday programs foster social and emotional growth in addition to academic gains. Through group activities and games, learners acquire important life skills like communication, leadership, and teamwork. Our Centre offers guided and stimulative play, security, and motivation for learners to achieve. Our programs provide wholesome emotional support, and positive role models for all our young people. In June Holiday we hosted 75 learners ranging from grade 6 to grade 11.

Trevor Lunney, a church minister and friend of YOSA came all the way from Australia to join our holiday programme. Trevor presented the much-needed programme diversity and was our companion in delivering most of our psychosocial support activities. Trevor and Karen helped us with resources to run the holiday programme while Trevor was always there to support our learners and staff.



**Trevor addressing a group of 75 learners during the holiday programme**





**Group activities for learning and playing**



**Our group discussions are geared on promoting critical thinking**

**b. Staff Support**

Our professional staff are always busy with supporting learners and social work interns. Their roles require a lot of emotional investment with very little time for themselves. Trevor sponsored the YOSA staff group to take a recreational moment at the Johannesburg Zoo at the tail-end of the holiday programme. This team-building experience offered staff members an opportunity to relax, bond, and reflect in a natural setting away from the regular work environment. The outing helped to strengthen interpersonal relationships, boost morale, and reinforce a sense of unity and mutual appreciation among the team. These moments of connection are vital for maintaining a positive work culture and sustaining the energy and commitment needed to support our learners effectively.



**Trevor meeting with YOSA management and the visit at the Zoo**



## YOSA Vehicle

YOSA staff and children are very grateful for the vehicle acquired for us by the YOSA board and partners. The 7-seater vehicle is exceptional divine in transporting staff and small groups of learners to project activities. Our humble gratitude to our board members and the YOSA Friendship Circle in Australia.



**YOSA Vehicle finally arrives at the Centre**

## 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 donations in kind from **Brolin, Karen and Trevor, Karen and Richard, Donna, Susy and Greg, Louise, Andrea, Kylie, Linda, Abbie, Nicole, Rachel, Sarah, Donna, Simone, 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 have been receiving the uniforms almost once every month, thanks to Karen and Trevor for organizing and transportation.

## Conclusion

The engagement levels from learners, teachers, and parents are always on upward trajectory. Our partnership with the communities we serve is forever growing. Our holiday programming is drawing parents to our Centre as they seek to enroll their children on the programme. The ripples of YOSA impact in the served communities are evident. Our young programme participants are competent socially and academically. They are confident and easily connect with others through positive influence. School holidays are perfect windows to amplify our impact.

