



Thuto Yokuthuthuka.org

Education for Transformation

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Progress Report 31 July 2017

Introduction

This report summarises our activities for the first seven months of this year, 2017. It highlights the project's contribution to unemployed young people, our networks and eventual preparation for youth socio-economic freedom. We are continuously reviewing our mission, implementation modalities and networks. Feedback from schools and the interaction with mentors/trainees during supervision and debriefing sessions helps to continuously improve our project offering.

Youth in Training

Our training programme has improved overtime and our young trainees are conspicuously transformed. Our trainees have become wonderfully motivated young people. At enrolment in January 2017, most of them had lost hope of making it in life. They now have broader horizons through involvement in productive community activities. Our training programme and the placement of the young people in schools to support learning and teaching swung them from hopelessness to purpose-driven lives.



Our methods of instruction include structured content teaching with story-telling, motivational presentations, out-door activities, team building exercises and learning excursions. We have also shared meals to break the barriers among trainees. We have built a community of practice, as the young people regard each other as resources. They consult each other and support one another in difficult and ambiguous circumstances.



We are confident the young people have significantly matured professionally and can support students learning in schools. We are delivering an intense programme on tackling behavioural learning barriers such as substance abuse, violence, teen pregnancies, gender based violence, HIV/AIDS and motivating learners to achieve. We are closely monitoring our impact in mentoring and coaching of learners in schools just as we are happy to see trainees changing from being a burden to society to becoming change agents. Our dream of building a community of focused and inspired young people is being realised.

Networking

From 17 to 20 July 2017 the young people reached a crescendo in networking when they attended an education forum at the University of the Witwatersrand called the 'Axis Summit 2017', organised by the Global Teachers Institute. The summit was held on the theme; 'Liberating Learning'; featuring aspiring and experienced educators. Our young people found themselves at peace and actively engaged in dynamic conversations with other attendees, and creating new platforms and initiatives to drive education transformation. They rose to the occasion and their articulation of issues affecting learning astonished many. With confidence, they even took to the dance floor during interlude social occasions and whenever it was necessary. *See following pictures.* We are currently drafting our Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the implementation of education support projects with the Global Teachers Institute.



Project Exit Process

Our young trainees are fast becoming work-ready. We are using their mentoring and coaching services in schools while on the other hand we are actively engaging with potential long-term employers and further training institutions for their exit arrangements. So far, we have had fruitful network meetings with the local offices of South African National Defence Force, two universities, South African Police Services and the South African Fire Services. We have planned to meet with Gauteng and North-West Provincial Government departments to further discuss how the young trainees can be gainfully engaged to make a difference in their local communities.

One of our participants, a young man whose both parents died and is currently staying with his grandmother, has secured a place for a Bachelor's Degree in Education and is looking for sponsorship. He is due to commence the programme in January 2018 hence we have taken to supporting him in appealing to well-wishers for assistance with such a deserving sponsorship.

Observations

We note that ordinary people can be coached to perform extraordinary tasks! Training in Community Development, Mentoring and Coaching, placement in schools and networking has presented youth with exciting challenges. This journey from redundancy at home to becoming change-makers has placed our trainees on a psychosocial rollercoaster with mutually exciting results.

We are carefully monitoring the mentoring and coaching programme in schools. School management teams are expectant of this new venture. The mentors are excited with a unique opportunity to make a difference. They are well accepted and their peers/learners are engaging. We are observing!

We can safely say, *‘training is empowering; anyone can be trained for change; anyone can change and; anyone can be a change agent. There are limitless possibilities when youth are inspired and motivated for change.’*

Compiled by: Astonishment Mapurisa