

# Annual Report 2017



**eThembeni**

PLACE OF HOPE



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**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

CMD Usizo Aids Trust IT 2077 / 2004  
Affiliate of KZN CMD NPO-009-231

**WE DREAM** OF HEALTHY, SUPPORTIVE AND GODLY LIFESTYLES  
ESTABLISHED IN THE BROKEN AND FRACTURED COMMUNITIES  
OF KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA

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eThembeni works in KwaZulu-Natal's rural and often marginalised communities; bringing wholeness, health and hope to all generations.



eThembeni runs six capacity-building programmes, each addressing the needs of different communities.



eThembeni's key strategy is to build self-supporting projects that are fully sustainable into the future, partnering with various organisations to jointly provide services, support and training to local communities.



# reflection

## CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

*It is awesome to be part of a unique energy-generating wave of humanity in this country, crossing political hate-based discourses, uniting across boundaries to serve and make a substantial difference.*

While preparing the 2017 annual report I was reading Sarah Mosoetsa's book "Eating from one pot: The dynamics of survival in poor South African households" (Wits University Press, 2011). Her research reveals, amongst many others, two highlights relevant to me.

The first is the important role of women in keeping the fibre of the increasing impoverished poor intact amidst a dysfunctional welfare state, growing youth unemployment, male gender abuse of women in households and impoverishing global corporate economics. The second highlight is the huge role played by Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) and churches in supplying a support basis to these ladies.

I think she is spot on.

eThembeni gratefully finds its place amongst those FBOs who are strengthening the hands of those women who hold the fibre of poor households intact. In 2017 we also excelled in giving thousands of youth hope and dreams for a better future.

*This remarkable report reflects on sacrifices made by dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters. For this commitment we honour God.*

As you read through this report many stories will unfold of dreams, hopes and love.

It is awesome to be part of a unique energy-generating wave of humanity in this country, crossing political hate-based discourses, uniting across boundaries to serve and make a substantial difference.

Here at eThembeni we cross many racial and language barriers, tapping into diverse resources, serving and building capacity where it is needed. This makes eThembeni unique and effective.

I hope you will feel carried away on a new wave of hope-generating service here in KZN as you read this report.

*Dr. Laurens Schoeman, Ladysmith*



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**OUR MISSION IS TO STRENGTHEN AND EQUIP MARGINALISED RURAL WOMEN AND YOUTH SO THAT THEY ARE EMPOWERED TO BECOME ACTIVE CONTRIBUTING PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND ARE DIGNIFIED THROUGH THEIR CONTRIBUTION.**

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# about

## OUR VISION OUR COMMITMENT

### OUR HISTORY

In the 1980s HIV and Aids caused many deaths, family disruptions and orphaned children in South Africa, with sick people coming home from the cities. This was particularly prominent in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Aids was soon seen as a poverty-related social crisis that needed holistic intervention.

Two branches of the church came together to address the pandemic impact of HIV and Aids in a more "whole-istic" way - i.e. addressing the whole person in the context of their family and community - in the Msinga Municipality and uThukela District (which included Mnambithi, uKhahlamba, Mtshezi, Mpofana and Ndaka).

Christelike Maatskaplike Dienste is the Christian Social Services arm of the Dutch Reformed Church.

Usizo is the Zulu Church's arm of compassion.

Together, the two church outreaches started the CMD Usizo Aids Trust.

Multiple partners came on board, including organisations like the Red Cross, churches from the Western Cape, Tygerberg Medical Students, Scripture Union, Farming God's Way (Foundations for Farming), ACAT, Sinamandla, Bijzondere Noden from the Netherlands as well as local businesses.

*Today the CMD Usizo Aids Trust is known locally as eThembeni which means "Place of Hope" in the local Zulu language.*

This partnership of churches, government, hospitals and different organisations has grown to be a strong community-based structure which strengthens the weak and the affected.

Today eThembeni is a vibrant non profit organisation which actively contributes to local communities in KwaZulu-Natal. Offering support, resources and skills development, eThembeni proactively empowers communities to look after themselves.

**OUR VISION IS HOPE-FILLED, WHOLE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.**

### ETHEMBENI IS COMMITTED TO...

- CLOSE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS
- MANAGING OUR YOUTH AND AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRES WELL
- TRAINING LOCALS TO BECOME TRAINERS IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES
- FUNDRAISING TO UNDERWRITE COSTS OF TRAINING COURSES WE OFFER
- FORMING VIABLE NETWORKS LOCALLY & INTERNATIONALLY
- ESTABLISHING GOOD STEWARDSHIP IN MANAGEMENT
- ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTABLE MENTORING & EVALUATION PROGRAMMES
- REGULAR REVIEWS OF ALL OUR PROGRAMMES & OUTREACHES
- COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT
- ADDRESSING THE WHOLE PERSON IN CONTEXT OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY
- CAPACITY BUILDING OF INDIVIDUALS & COMMUNITIES

# reach

## ALFRED DUMA MUNICIPALITY



Alfred Duma Municipality is a Category B municipality in the uThukela District within the region of northern KwaZulu-Natal. It is one of three municipalities in the district, making up a third of its geographical area. It was established by the amalgamation of the Emnambithi/Ladysmith and Indaka Local Municipalities in August 2016.

The municipality features the uThukela River and the Greater Drakensberg Mountains. It comprises a range of settlements, from urban to municipal service centres, agricultural landscapes, industrial and semi-rural residential settlements, and areas that are predominantly rural.

In terms of the macro socio-economic context, the municipality is midway between the national primary nodes of Johannesburg and Durban. To the west of the municipality lies the Free State Province and to the north the Mpumalanga Province. The presidential prioritised railway corridor, which links the areas of Durban and Johannesburg, runs through the municipality.

In some parts of the municipality, the community access roads are in very bad condition; some only exist as tracks. The rural nature of those parts means that it has severe backlogs in infrastructure and communities are characterised by much poverty.

**Area:** 3 764km<sup>2</sup>

**Cities/Towns:** Colenso, Ladysmith, Van Reenen

**Main economic sectors:** Agriculture, mining and quarrying; manufacturing; water; electricity; construction; wholesale and retail trade; tourism.

**Population (2016):** 356 274, of which 37% are under 15 years old and 4% are over 65.

**Education (adults 20+):** 7% have no schooling, 35% have a matric, 6% have a higher education qualification.

**Household services:** 84% of homes have electricity, less than 44% have access to piped water, refuse removal or a flush toilet.

**Household dynamics:** 52% of households are female-headed, 70% of adults (15-64) rely on family members for economic support.

\* Source: [www.municipalities.co.za](http://www.municipalities.co.za), 2018



*It's rural nature means that Alfred Duma Municipality has severe backlogs in infrastructure and communities are characterised by much poverty.*



# out

## MSINGA MUNICIPALITY



# Msinga

Local Municipality



Msinga Local Municipality is an administrative area in the Umzinyathi District of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. Msinga is a largely rural area with 70% of its area being Traditional Authority land held in trust by the Ingonyama Trust. The remaining 30% of land is commercial farm land, all of which is located to the north of Pomeroy.

Due to the rural nature of the municipality, approximately 99% of the population lives in traditional areas. The municipality is in the south western part of the district municipality area.

The nature of the topography is such that Msinga is largely located in deep gorges of the Tugela and Buffalo Rivers. This effectively isolates the area from the immediate surrounding municipal areas. Msinga is accessible via the R33, linking it with Dundee, Ladysmith, Pietermaritzburg, Kranskop and Weenen.

The population dynamics result in a growing rural area and a declining urban area in Msinga, contrary to most other areas in the country. This can be attributed to the fact that the urban areas of Msinga are very small and are unable to provide the normal range of goods and services provided in urban areas. As a result, the population utilizes the neighbouring areas of Emnambithi and Umvoti for urban services.

The strong traditional culture prevalent particularly in Msinga is a valuable asset that must be preserved and valued. These traditional areas provide support mechanisms for the communities, as well as living custodians of the culture.

Msinga Municipality has the lowest levels of basic services when compared with the rest of the municipalities within this district. There is a heavy reliance on government grants to provide infrastructure.

- Area:** 2 500 km<sup>2</sup>
- Cities/towns:** Pomeroy, Keate's Drift, Tugela Ferry
- Main economic sectors:** Community services (64.6%), trade (14%), construction (8.4%), transport (5%), agriculture (3.7%)
- Population (2016):** 184 494
- Education (adults 20+):** 37% have no schooling, 19% have a matric, 6% have a higher education qualification.
- Household services:** 48% of homes have electricity, less than 2% have access to piped water, refuse removal or a flush toilet.
- Household dynamics:** 67% of households are female-headed, 88% of adults (15-64) rely on family members for economic support.

\* Source: www.municipalities.co.za, 2018

*Less than 2% of all households have access to piped water, refuse removal or a flush toilet.*



# projects

## ETHEMBENI'S PROGRAMMES

### HOME BASED CARE

eThembeni offers quality home-based care services to families caring for the sick at home. eThembeni also assists several community based care centres who employ, monitor and mentor trained volunteers doing home-based care in the area. Teams work to ensure that more families have access to quality medical services in remote areas where transport is difficult and income is often marginal.

Home Based care givers were integrated into government programs, where they play a good role in Mhlumayo, Limehill and Keate's Drift. ARVs made the need for direct care for HIV less urgent, but cancer, diabetes and TB still demands hands on caring services.

**More than 150 families were assisted**

### FAMILY PRESERVATION

Family disintegration is a real problem in communities where gender abuse, lack of employment opportunities, lack of social security nets and disintegration of value systems go hand-in-hand with health issues, lack of skills and schooling, substance abuse and unhealthy sexual behavior. All these traumatic issues are interlinked with severe poverty.

Family preservation outreach is done through the CMD offices by a team of social workers and social auxiliary workers. Families are supported to uplift their functionality through home visits, group sessions, joint decision making, and interventions attempting to identify the inner assets within families which can assist them to move forward.

**75 families participated in family preservation outreaches**

### STATUTORY WORK

eThembeni Trust supports the CMD offices in Ladysmith and Pomeroy to deliver statutory services. The focus of these offices is assisting families in marginalised communities to function better. Intervention is done through assisting with access to government social grants, family group sessions, placement of children in places of safety and follow-up visits, as well as supporting families in crisis. Often the families consist of single parent mothers and children. Short term relief through food parcels and clothing donations is also often a big need as families struggle to get onto their feet again.

In the Ladysmith office, three professional social workers, an admin officer and three social auxiliary workers delivered statutory services to Ladysmith and Mhlumayo. In Pomeroy one social worker, an admin officer and two social auxiliary workers delivered services to the Majazi tribal area.

**300 families were assisted through statutory work outreaches**

### UMAZISIZE RURAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

This programme empowers women to support their own families, build good support systems in their communities and become politically relevant role players within their regions.

**Women's groups reached out to 1799 women this year**

### TRANSFORMERS YOUTH

The Transformers dream is to see young people who have challenging backgrounds learning to stand up, find healing from wounds and become change agents in their communities.

Transformers works on a project-by-project basis, facilitating school visits with focus on life choices, weekend camps, youth gatherings in the communities over school holidays, and identifying and supporting positive peer change agents in the schools.

**1100 children and teens participated in camps**

### BUILDING MORE CAPACITY

eThembeni has a multi-pronged approach to capacity building...

#### Projects

Local, provincial, national and international support is being sought for the running and improvement of projects. Networks are being built with donors and supporting organisations like the South African Learning and Transformation Alliance (SALT).

#### Services

Like-minded partners are also invited to add value to existing services. Just two examples of these partnerships include Eden Foundation who assisted with soy processing and planting training, and Street Biz who provided entrepreneurial mind-set development and training in listening skills.

#### Linking local business to communities

eThembeni also links with local business leaders to assist communities to become more entrepreneurial thinkers.

#### Training material

Materials are collected and assimilated into the projects for practical application across different programmes and target audiences.

#### Finances

eThembeni has several income-generating projects (including renting out infrastructure) to ensure its ongoing sustainability. Vehicles are kept on the road with good maintenance plans and funding for running costs. A fundraising team also works on proposals and donor drives to secure ongoing income for the organisation.

# team

## GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

### ETHEMBENI'S BOARD

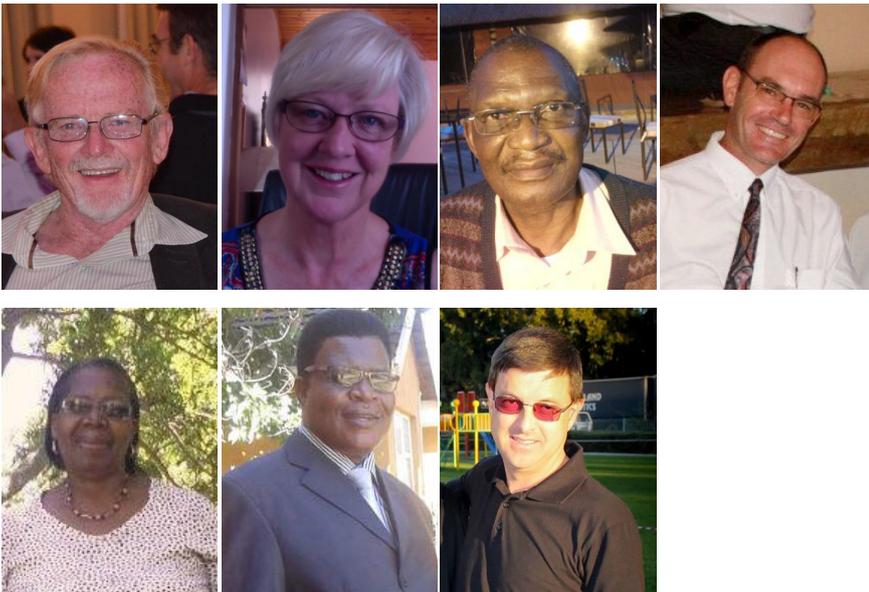
eThembeni relies on the input and wisdom of its Board of Directors. In all things prayer, transparency and interdependency are emphasized.

#### Top:

Dr. Lourens Schoeman (Chairman)  
Mrs. Alta Pollard (Finance)  
Rev. Simon Mnisi  
Ds. Gerhard de Lange

#### Bottom:

Mrs. Constance Moloi  
Rev. Isaac Ngema  
Ds. Gerhard Botha



**UMAZISIZE  
RURAL WOMEN  
EMPOWERMENT**  
Mrs. Maureen Makhaya

**FAMILY  
PRESERVATION  
& COUNSELLING**  
Mrs. Nancy Khumalo

**ADMINISTRATION**  
Mrs. Constance Moloi (Monitoring & Evaluation)  
Mrs. Sanet van Niekerk (Finance)  
Mrs. Simangele Siwela (Office Administrator)  
Mrs. Masesi Hadebe (Administrator)



**TRANSFORMERS YOUTH**  
Mr. Nkanyiso Dlamini - Ladysmith Coordinator  
Mr. Sihle Madonsela - Msinga Coordinator  
Mr. Sthembiso Mdakane - Ndaka Coordinator



**COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING**  
Rev. BT Sithole - CABSA Facilitator  
Rev. ST Zuma - CABSA Facilitator  
Mr. Nkosikhona Masondo - Capacity Building (CBOs)

# umazisize

## UMAZISIZE WOMENS PROGRAMME SELF HELP GROUPS

**All over the uThukela District and Msinga, in the most remote rural communities, almost 2000 women meet in 94 different groups. Weekly they save R2.00 (i-pondo) each, building up a little banking system where they can loan, grow capital, access funding and become financial independent.**

Through this project, rural women, traditionally excluded from the economy and previously depending on “loan sharks” for immediate cash, now can form their own little banks. They are well trained in the administration of loans. The book keeping system is user friendly and effective.

*Women now have a say in their future, becoming independent entrepreneurs, proud spouses standing next to their husbands, taking dual responsibility for domestic expenses.*

This programme, however, is about more than money. It is also about women coming together, supporting each other socially and emotionally as rural women within their communities. In the groups the women also learn skills, making life better for themselves and their families.

In total these ladies care for more than 8 000 children in their homes, many as single parent mothers and grand mothers caring for orphaned grandchildren.

*The Umazisize project helps these ladies to help themselves.*

### SEWING & HANDCRAFT

Local business Durban Overall presented training in basic sewing in the first quarter of 2017. As a result three young girls were employed and 11 older ladies assisted in basic sewing skills. Off cut material is transformed in the most beautiful ethnic festive garments.

Beadwork is a natural skill, with 1,100 bracelets supplied to our Dutch partner Bijzondere Noden, who use the bracelets to encourage their youth in the Netherlands to express their faith as a witnessing community. The beads are made in the colours that summarise the basic Good News of the Bible.

The Bergville ladies also received training in embroidery artwork and are selling their products to make an income.

### FOOD SECURITY

We are so excited about the new soy processing machine that Eden Foundation installed at Jabulani Camp Site. It is used to illustrate soy dietary values during all camps and trainings run at Jabulani.

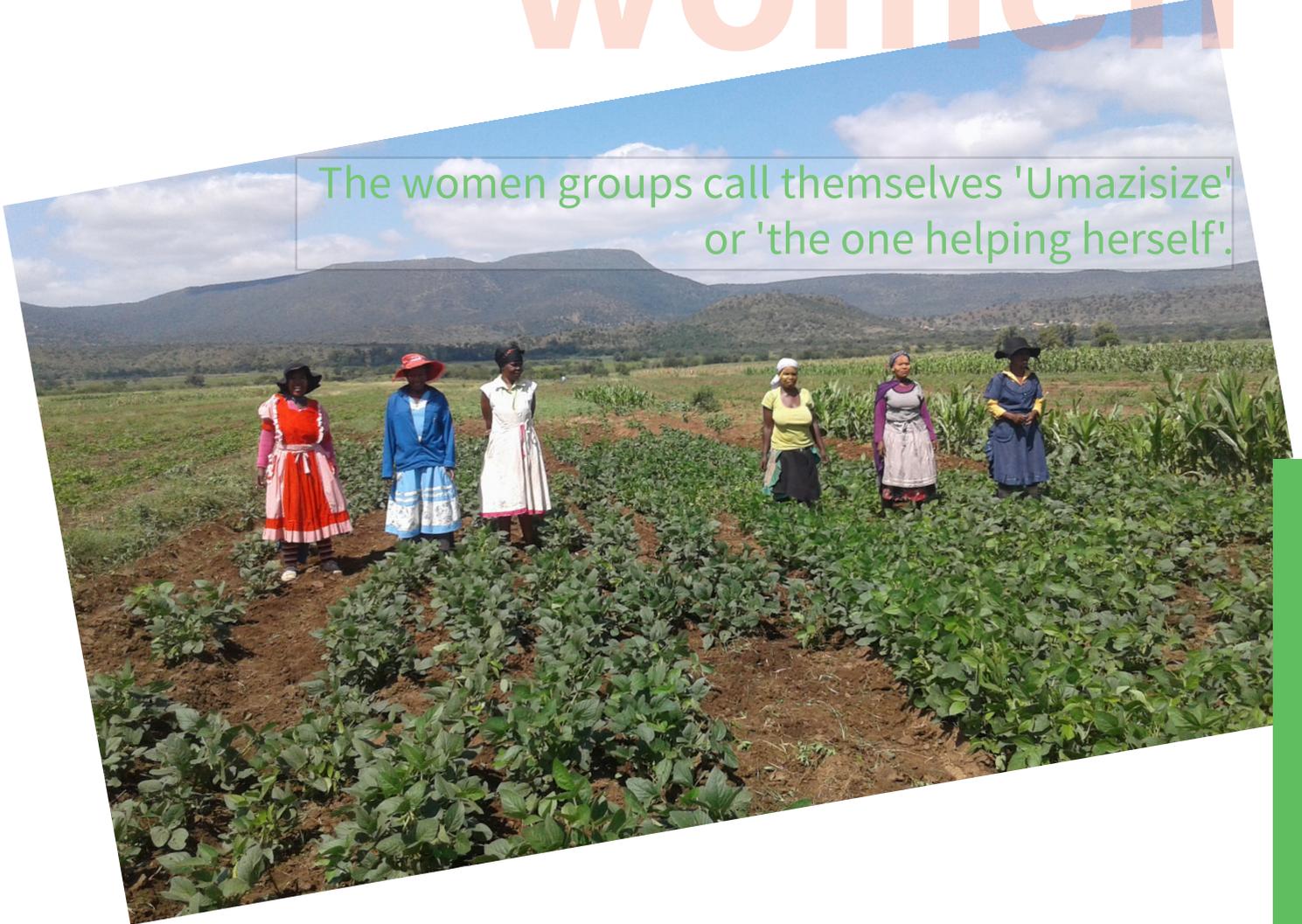
The Hlathi ladies are almost ready to apply for their own processing machine to make soy products in their own community. They are already processing soy on a smaller scale in their kitchens and are often invited to supply soy yoghurt at community meetings. We trust they will soon generate a good income with this skill.



The Bergville ladies show their beadwork

# women

The women groups call themselves 'Umazisize' or 'the one helping herself'.



## ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING

Entrepreneurial training is a standing item on the annual training programme. This creates many small businesses that flourish in otherwise disadvantaged communities, circulating the money within the community and generating profit, rather than spending income in shops where big cooperatives already make a lot of profit.

This is one of our most well-attended training programmes and the content of the course has expanded to include "Bulk Purchasing" as a new training module.

Through a USAID initiative the team attended a panel on Women's Entrepreneurship and Value Chain Linkages.

eThembeni also networked with Dr Nico de Klerk of StreetBiz, who conducted a very motivational workshop on self-employment in a challenging economic climate.

## YOUTH EDUCATION

Where the ladies form bigger community clusters, one of their focus areas is education for the youth. A big priority is put on Early Childhood Development (ECD).

The construction of the Bergville Creche/Care Centre/ECD Centre was completed and the Centre will officially be opened in 2018.

The Sahlumbe ladies have already acquired a piece of land and are busy fundraising to build a functional building for an ECD centre of their own. Their plan is to purchase the cement blocks from their local women's cluster, and, in so doing, generate a good kickstarter transaction opportunity.

## COURSES RUN THIS YEAR

- BASIC BOOK KEEPING
- CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN GROUPS
- MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT
- PARENTING TEENS
- MICRO BUSINESS SKILLS
- PLANTING VEGETABLES WITHOUT SOWING
- PLANT STATIONS
- PLANTING / PROCESSING SOY AS A PROTEIN SOURCE

At Nazaretha the ladies facilitated a prayer and motivational talk with pupils who have completed their academic career and who are planning for a better future.

These ladies also assisted the local creche to hold a graduation ceremony for preschoolers leaving for the "big school". It was well received and the children were thrilled with the special day.

# umazisize

## THE DIGNITY CAMPAIGN

In July, through SALT Alliance's intervention, key members of the Umazisize team attended a very inspiring workshop addressing the restoration of dignity to girls and women.

The Dignity Campaign trains up "dignity facilitators" who uplift girls and women with life skills at a Dignity Day, following up through Cherish Dignity groups.

Dignity Facilitators are equipped to create safe spaces for girls and women to learn about their identity, uniqueness, value and purpose in life as well as topics that are often culturally taboo (like body functions, sexual relations, intimate health and more).



The first Dignity Day was launched in eMnambithi at the end of 2017 with our own Dignity Facilitators Mrs Simangele Siwela and Mrs Maureen Makhaya.

This was a full day event with a focus on creating awareness regarding women's identity, belonging and purpose in God. Through group discussions and creative activities participants evaluated what they believe about themselves, identified the voices they are listening to and made a choice to embrace their God-given identity. Participants looked at their uniqueness, the value of being part of a 'Sisterhood' and the purpose they have as women in this world. Part of the event was a session on the body and menstrual management and hygiene. Participants were also introduced to the use of the menstrual cup and washable panties and pads.

There are planned follow up campaigns in 2018 involving local church Sunday schools and the local ecumenical Thukela Amajuba Mzinyathi Christian Council under the management of Rev. Sonto Thusi.

*"Standing out from all the good stories is that in the poorest most rural community, community leaders recognise these (Umazisize) ladies as change agents with whom they would like to partner in lifting their communities up to be more functional, employable and hope-generating." - Mrs Maureen Makhaya*

## NETWORKING

- Early in 2017 our coordinator was invited to assist our Dutch partner Bijzondere Noden with training of 20 Malawi women in the Self-Help concept. The training added value and was much more affordable for delegates as it was run in Africa by an African organisation. For our coordinator it was also very empowering.
- Mrs Makhaya was invited to do training in food security at Encwadi, near the south coast of KZN. The training was facilitated by Foundations for Farming. A follow up visit was also arranged.
- Mrs Makhaya attended a USAID workshop in Gauteng in April. Flowing from this network, she was invited to a workshop in designing and facilitating training in women development. This is planned to take place April 2018 in Washington DC .
- The Umazisize team is also regularly invited to our founding partner in KZN, Sinamandla, who also assisted with the bonuses to our community facilitators.
- Together with most of the eThembeni staff, the Umazisize team attended training in Narrative Therapy which assisted us all in

developing better listening skills and respecting people's stories. Great appreciation to Mrs Welly Den Hollander for the excellent training presented.

- Umazisize groups were invited to attend government-initiated community awareness sessions; the ladies made valuable contributions.
- We also became visible in local community database capturing happening at local community level.
- eThembeni's partnership with Trans World Radio KZN is also still in place, with planned follow up visits in 2018. TWR is supporting the Sahlumbe ladies.
- Dr Nico de Klerk from Streetbiz is assisting in building networks with bigger co-operatives in the cities.
- eThembeni is investigating networking with the local Department of Economic Development to assist ladies to get themselves legally organised to access government funding for business development.

# women

## WATER

Through Franklin Wells for the World Foundation, we applied for assistance to drill boreholes to supply water to community gardens. As an experiment they assisted with the supply of a solar pump at Jabulani Camp Site. Unfortunately the panels were soon stolen!

We are still looking at creative ways to secure solar panels at Jabulani, and also learning how to secure solar panels for rural community gardens. Unfortunately our local communities, unlike communities outside South Africa, seem to display less community ownership of development infrastructure.

eThembeni facilitated an assessment of water needs at different community gardens in 2017. The following areas of need/concern were highlighted and will be lobbied for action with local government representatives:

- Next to the beautiful Woodstock dam, communities cannot access the water for agricultural need. The community rely on weak handpumps for domestic use, queuing for a few buckets of water a day. The lack of infrastructure development amplifies the current water crisis in SA.
- Although a project to supply water was started, it has never been completed. Why must these communities rely on weak handpumps and water trucks delivering water?
- The soil next to the Woodstock dam is good yet local community have no farm land. Neighbouring commercial farmers yield good crops.
- The Sahlumbe ladies are right next to the mighty uThukela River, but need infrastructure to pump the water into their fields. So close, and yet so far! A mobile solar pump will make all the difference.
- At Hlathi/Somshoek/Nazaretha the Namakazi River ran dry in the drought of 2017. Water trucks delivered irregular domestic water.
- The Watersmeet community water source has been under pressure during the drought; the community relied on water trucks for domestic use.

## CARING FOR COMMUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT

Umazisize groups are involved with the environment and general community issues.

The Ubuhle Bembokodo Cluster at Nazaretha launched a huge clean-up project in their community, gathering waste and getting rid of it in an appropriate manner.

Each of the women groups are also involved in community campaigns. The "16 days of Activism" was one example of how the ladies became part of an answer to local needs in their own communities.

## CLUSTERS

The women's groups become visible when they form clusters in communities. These clusters start communicating with local authorities and lobbying for basic services to the community.

Many good stories exist of women who have successfully lobbied for water, electricity, pre-school and school services.

Eight clusters are successfully functioning and will, in time, take the project over from eThembeni and form bigger regional associations. The project has a definite out-phasing agenda.

## FAITH SUPPORT GROUPS

The women are a very important support group to one another with regards to faith. Although they all belong to different churches, they pray together, do Bible studies together and support those in need.

Through a donor the ladies groups were supplied with their own Bibles. For those who are illiterate or sight-impaired, solar-powered and wind-up Audio Bibles provided a way to hear the Word of God and strengthen faith through good teaching programmes.



The Sahlumbe ladies planting after the drought broke, celebrating the first good rains in this area for four years.

# umazisize

## PLANNING FOR 2018

At the end of 2017 a strategy session was held and the following key projects were planned for 2018:

- Reaching out to girls and women through Dignity Campaigns is a high priority in 2018. Facilitators will also be trained in the communities.
- Training in entrepreneurial skills and linking ladies with the local Department of Economic Development who can assist in getting the co-operatives registered by government.
- Continuing to be part of annual “16 days of activism”, women empowerment days and HIV awareness campaigns.
- Expansion of the food gardens project.
- Soy production: we hope to see the planting season of 2018 starting with more and bigger soy fields in the community, planting by using the no-tilling method. The 2017/18 rainy season was exceptional good and the soil is moist. We hope for a good season in 2018/19.
- Building more capacity into our community facilitators.

## HOW IS A SELF HELP GROUP STARTED?

Mrs Maureen Makhaya explains how a group typically starts, using the example of a new group at Roosboom:

*“When we come to a community, our team has a formula by which we can identify the most needy in a community. After identifying these families, we start visiting them one by one.*

*At Roosboom, we visited 60 families. Thereafter we established two groups of 15 people each. This was determined by accessibility, willingness and motivation of the community to join. Then we started the introduction of the concept and the community facilitator began the initial training. As soon as the groups were established they received training in Soy cultivation and Soy processing for domestic use.*

*The groups became self helping and self supporting; the ladies now meet regularly and are starting their own small businesses to supplement household income.”*

SIYABONGA / THANK YOU / BAIE DANKIE

The Rural Women Capacity Building programme is a huge blessing and has empowered many single parent mothers/ grandmothers. This is only possible due to ...

\* Abundant blessings from Above. We firmly believe that God loves these women and wants to see them prosper.

If a women prospers, her whole family prospers!

\* Our dedicated staff and community facilitators.

They are the stars in this story!

\* Our committed supporters : local community leaders, Bijzondere Noden, Sinamandla, Durban Overalls and the SALT Alliance.

## THE UMAZISIZE TEAM

Many thanks to the dedicated champions of Umazisize for all their hard work, perseverance and their love for their groups.

Coordinator: Mrs Maureen Makhaya

Community Facilitators:

- Dudu Ndlovu - Bergville KwaDukuza
- Thabile Hlongwane - Bergville Woodstock area
- Nomusa Dladla - Sahlumbe, Weenen
- Ntombifuthi MaZwane Ngubane - Mhlumayo/Mjindini
- Lungile Hlongwane - Nhlalakahle, Mchunu area
- Celiwe Langa - Hlathi, Sonshoek, Nasaretha
- Welile Ntshangase - Roosboom (Ladysmith)



# women



## SUPPORTING THEIR FAMILIES, BENEFITTING THEIR COMMUNITY

Masithandane is a women's group in Nazareth, formed in July 2013. The group strategised and started an Income Generating Activity. The women used R4,000 of their savings to invest in cooking pots in order to hire them out for cooking at different community functions. They charge R300 per function for hire.

They also contributed money from their earnings on the construction of a crèche that they started in their community; the monies went to bricks, fencing and cement.

### 2017 STATS FOR UMAZISIZE...

- 6 NEW GROUPS STARTED IN 2017
- 120 WOMEN IN NEW GROUPS
- 30 FOOD GARDENS ESTABLISHED
- 2 ECD CENTRES BUILT BY GROUPS
- 3 SOYA YOGHURT BUSINESSES STARTED

98

WOMEN'S  
SELF HELP  
GROUPS  
IN OPERATION

1799

WOMEN  
ACTIVE  
IN THEIR  
GROUPS

7

COMMUNITIES  
IMPACTED  
BY UMAZISIZE  
LADIES



*In Exodus 4:2 we read that the Lord asked Moses "What is in your hand?" Moses answered 'A staff.' We ask our groups to consider the same question and have been amazed as they have identified creative ways to uplift their communities and establish liveable incomes.*

# transformers

## TRANSFORMERS REACHING OUT TO YOUTH



The Transformers Project reaches out to young people in the districts of uThukela, uMzinyathi and Ndaka. The teams work in local primary and high schools and teach life skills to learners, facilitating small groups where difficult topics can be discussed, questions can be asked in safe spaces and individuals can be supported within the group.

Where further counselling or referral is required, the Transformers coordinators work closely with the schools and social workers.

Transformers also hosts and facilitates youth camps.

Twenty volunteers assisted with the running of camps in 2017; some were appointed for specialist camp functions, like photography, information, social network communication, financial administration, reporting and catering. The volunteers were all unemployed youth who gained good work and life experience by volunteering.

### LIFE SKILLS MODULES

- SELF ESTEEM
- VALUES & BELIEFS
- DECISION MAKING
- BUILDING CHARACTER
- GOAL SETTING (THINKING OUT OF THE BOX)
- ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE
- JOINING THE A-TEAM
- MISSION POSSIBLE
- CARING AND SUPPORT
- TYING THE KNOT (MARRIAGE)
- BEAT BULLYING
- ABSTINENCE
- SEXUALITY & GENDER ROLES
- HIV, AIDS AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES
- BAD BUDDIES
- MAKING MONEY LEGALLY



### TRANSFORMERS TEAM

Transformers has four project coordinators:

- Nkanyiso Mlungisi Dlamini - uThukela District (Ladysmith)
- Sthembiso Sandile Mdakane - Ndaka District
- Siphesihle Peacemaker Madonsela - uMzinyathi District (Pomeroy)
- Khanyisani Matha - uMzinyathi District (Nhlalakahle)

Each coordinator runs a team of volunteers, mostly unemployed youth who benefit from training and work experience.

Partners include Scripture Union, the US Peace Corps and the Mot McDonald Foundation.

# youth

## JABULANI CAMP SITE A RESOURCE FOR ALL

### THE JABULANI CAMP SITE

eThembeni uses Jabulani Camp Site for their youth camps. Jabulani is located on a farm near Ladysmith and has the advantage of being an affordable and well developed safe space with limited external interference.

Currently the old camp site is used and has accommodation for 96 people. Jabulani also has a dam, soccer grounds, food gardens, a farmhouse and administrative centre. Livestock on the property include horses (part of a programme to reach traumatised youth) and chickens, which supply eggs for camp and are used to teach farming skills.

### YOUTH CAMPS

Youth camps typically run from Friday to Sunday. Focus is placed on fun, group interaction, teamwork, life choices, self esteem and goal setting. We do Bible study in groups.

Teenagers from under-resourced communities are sponsored for camps through generous support from the community and donors who carry all costs for transport, catering, electricity and gas. This is amazing. Teenagers from more affluent communities pay their own costs which are nominal.

### RENOVATIONS & EXPANSION

In 2017 eThembeni was blessed with a huge hall that can accommodate 500 people. It was built from prefabricated material and dismantled and re-erected at Jabulani. Despite challenges like huge wind storms and fire, through a lot of grace and the support of the community the hall is now functional and in full use. The original smaller hall will be converted into additional sleeping quarters in 2018.

Two additional dormitories were also erected from prefabricated material. In total these will accommodate 60 people on stack beds. We still need to complete the plumbing, electrical work and structures for beds; this will happen in 2018.

A further dormitory is also waiting to be erected at an estimated cost of R150 000. This building will accommodate an additional 60 people. When completed Jabulani will be able to accommodate up to 250 people, reducing the number of camps eThembeni runs by reaching more people per camp. The camp site should also then be able to generate an income by renting out its facilities to other organisations.

### THANKS

We are deeply thankful to Ladysmith Construction and Mr Brian Cunningham who constructed all concrete floors for the hall and the new dormitories, free of charge, believing that an investment in the youth of this country is money well spent.

Wells for Africa assisted in upgrading the water supply at the Jabulani Camp Site. This will also facilitate food production in the gardens at the camp site.

A heartfelt "thank you" to the many volunteers and dedicated staff members who helped with the building and have worked on-site during the renovations.

### FOR THE COMMUNITY

Jabulani Camp Site is an affordable and sustainable asset and an investment not only to our youth, but also to the wider community. We look forward to completing the renovations in 2018 and reaching even more individuals through camps and training times.



# transformers

## TRANSFORMERS MNAMBITHI/LADYSMITH

### SUMMING UP 2017

Transformers ran seven camps in 2017 in Mnambithi/Ladysmith, reaching a total of 414 youth from local schools. There was good feedback from teachers after the camps where teachers noted that young people had made significant life changes.

### TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CONTEXT

Young people came from very different communities, and the context of their upbringing and communities had to be taken into account when dealing with the youth at camps:

In 2017 Transformers ran some camps for teenagers who were town-based and financially well-provided for by parents who earned good salaries. It was interesting to note that these teens showed a remarkable lack in balanced, focused mind-sets. It was a challenge to work with teens who think they have it all, but lack basic values and life orientation.

Transformers also ran a camp for Sidingulwazi School which is situated in an informal settlement on the outskirts of Ladysmith. Families here live in structures erected with materials acquired on a very low budget. The school is also a basic structure and was built by the community. Many adults in this community are unemployed and came to town to find a better living. Unfortunately, they didn't. Sexual choices in the settlement are often random and unsafe; this is a difficult context for teenagers to grow up in.

*When we start talking about life skills there are many myths in peer groups and communities that harm youth. These have to be unmasked and replaced with truths.*

### HOLIDAY CLUBS

Three holiday clubs ran hosting children from Msinga and Wasbank area with the churches from the Western Cape who ran June school holidays short term outreaches in the area.

### YOUNG MEN MENTORSHIP CAMP

In November 2017 eThembeni ran its first camp for men, focusing on Christian perspectives on what defines a man without ignoring other aspects such as culture and tradition. The men enjoyed the camp and more camps are planned to reach this important group.

*"The camp enlightened me about many things that help and improve the attitude and understanding of a man, helping to break down gender stereotypes and other misleading information." - Camp attendee*

### SCHOOL CHRISTIAN GROUPS (SCGS)

At Harvest High School thirty learners were involved in a School Christian group. They met together to pray and share the word of God. The project coordinator was part of the group as a mentor and helped to answer spiritual questions.

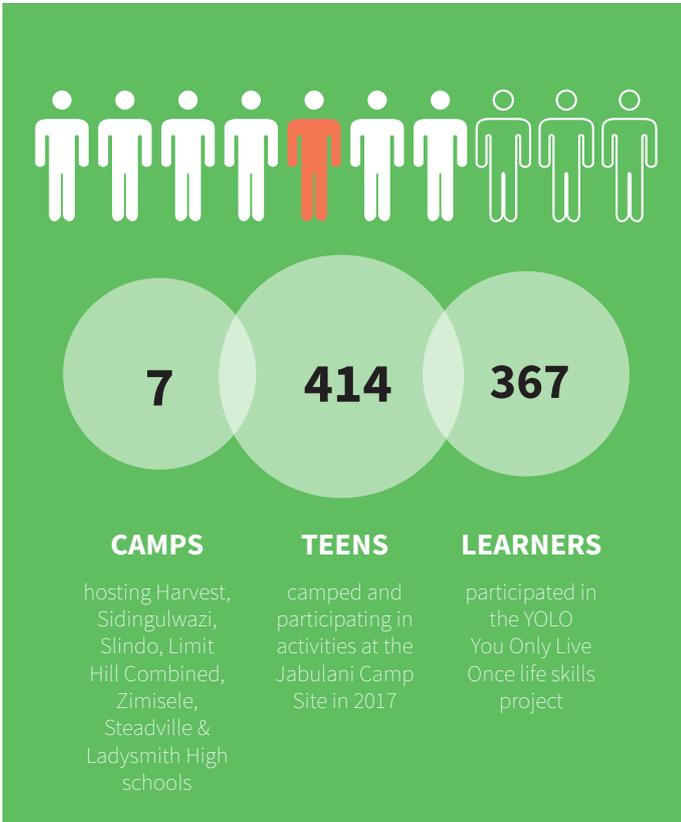
### HARVEST HIGH SCHOOL GRADE 8 CAMP



*'The Grade 8s have been on camp with the Transformers creating great memories and having fun. They also spent time discussing issues around self-control, self-esteem, character building and many other important topics. We pray that what they have learnt will be a foundation for them in the future. Thank you to NKanyiso and the Transformers.' - Harvest High School*



# youth



## TEAM LEADER FEEDBACK

Nkanyiso Dlamini reports:

*Our work load was easier this year because the team was dedicated and they gave all their best in the work done. Many young people who said they wanted to change their ways of wrongdoing to focus on building their lives and shaping their future.*

*We received good news from the schools we have been working with: young people are starting to be better with the way they think and the way they react to some of the circumstances. Teachers comment on the difference that people coming from the outside can make when they teach the children.*

## VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK

- *Serving my community has been my dream. eThembeni has given me an opportunity to serve my community and implement strategies that I've been thinking of that will help my community grow in so many things.*
- *Through eThembeni I have learnt that giving back to the community also benefits me in so many things. THE DECISIONS I TAKE TODAY WILL AFFECT MY LIFE TOMORROW.*
- *eThembeni has helped me realise that life spent giving back to the community doesn't belittle me but it builds and encourages people my age to finish school, work and be successful in life.*
- *I got a chance to get closer God, to understand how to live my life as a God-fearing woman.*
- *You do not shape only young people's lives but also you get a chance to shape yours as well so that young people can see you as a role model to them... the team is giving their best in this work so that they may grow as well.*

## PARTNERSHIPS IN 2017

The Mot McDonald foundation funded life skill camps for 300 teenagers, with focus on YOLO (You Only Live Once) material and Zazi training for young girls. We hope this partnership will continue in 2018! Thank you to Sithembiso who was facilitating this partnership.

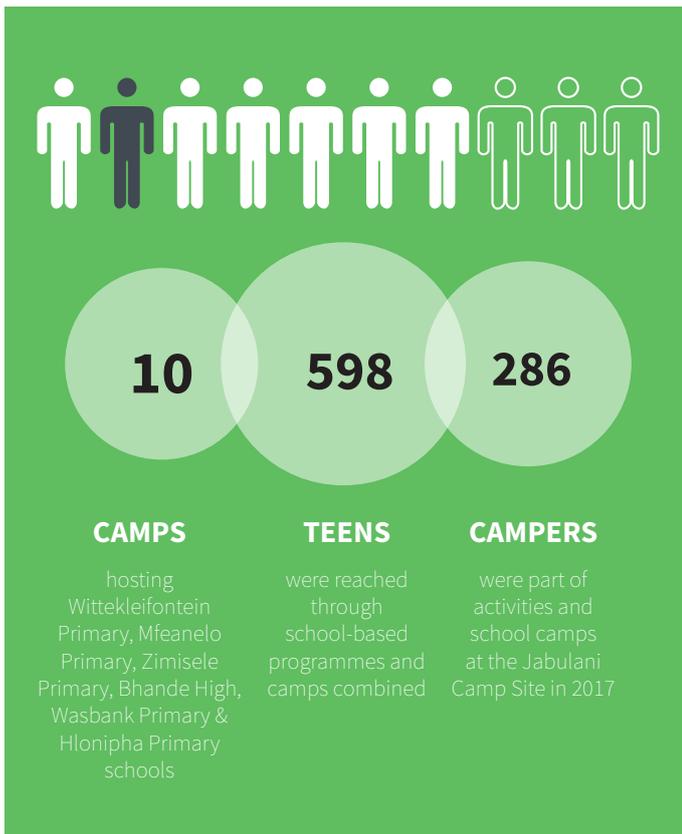
Our partnership with Scripture Union was redefined to be more an independent partnership of loose affiliation. This gave eThembeni space to grow as an independent community-driven structure.

The American Peace Corp assisted with providing a community based worker who added great value to the youth project

We had an agreement whereby eThembeni is supplying support for one of the volunteers based at Morester Child and Youth Care Center. Siya Dlamini is doing a great job there.

# transformers

## TRANSFORMERS INDAKA



### INDAKA REPORT

The learners grasped the life skills information with an intention to apply it in their day-to-day lives and linked the new information with their experiences. Learners showed a positive attitude towards life skills modules which were relevant to their lives. The teachers also attended camps and assisted with the discipline which was a great help. Schools encouraged us to return in 2018 and continue our programmes.

*We have built good relationships with schools.*

The schools invited our leadership team to attend functions and be motivational speakers. This motivated us, because we saw that we added value to the holistic education process in our community.

*68 girls participated in ZAZI (Know Yourself) workshops, a campaign developed by the Department of Social Development which provides young women an opportunity to take charge in the prevention of HIV, draw on their inner strength, and define who they are.*

### TRANSFORMERS FEEDBACK

A young man came to me (Nkanyiso) after hearing me talking at an assembly about a book found in the Bible (Matthew 8:1-4) and asked me: "Nkanyiso, how can I be saved and how can Jesus wash away the sickness of me being stubborn and disrespecting to teachers and my fellow students?" We started to chat and he invited his friend over. We talked about it and now we are reading a book called "Closer to God" together during break time and looking forward to sharing this time with a bigger group of young men who can be washed and saved by Jesus in their lives. The boys now individually want to have their own "Closer to God" books to continue reading at home.

"Sir thank you. About the training you ran for us - I was inspired the way you explained it and showed us the way taking care of the youth in our communities. Sir I would like to inform you that I have just found someone I want to get married to. I beg you to be my Advisor and counsellor on this big step I want to take in my life."

"One of the good things that is happening to us now is we don't go out to find schools. Schools are now recognising us as a working NGO, that our services are good for young people and they are relevant to the challenges young people are facing in their lives. We hope our relationship is going to grow stronger and other schools are going to benefit out of what we are doing as an organisation that has been sent to teach young people on how to walk with God in their lives."

"The Volunteers themselves are growing spiritually and as leaders we are moving into a new dimension of seeing the wonders of God in our lives and we are experiencing happiness in the choice we have made."

"The Ladysmith team is showing togetherness as they go to schools and the commitment is very high as they will always ask "how can we do it better, when are we going to school... which school can we go to... they suggest training they need to help them practice better in the field of being change agents."

"Yes the Bible is sometimes hard to follow and I don't like the church but since the camp I have decided to start by knowing myself first and apply a couple of values in my life which I have learned from the cam. In my community we don't have people telling us of such things but from this camp I have learned to see someone out of my family range as a brother not an enemy and I have learned and taught to love them as my brothers and sisters. But I also ask the team of TRANSFORMERS to go with us an extra mile because we are going back to our community. Maybe we will forget but when they are next to us they can encourage us to stay on track... I am not a Christian yet but what I am taking home are values that I have learned in life through our camp".

# youth

## TRANSFORMERS IN OTHER DISTRICTS

### **MSINGA / POMEROY**

Transformers worked with Lotto Primary School and Pomeroy State Aided Primary School, presenting life skills group sessions to the Grade 7 learners. Ninety teenagers participated in the sessions with learners displaying interest to learn more and growing in their personal decision-making skills.

### **NHLALAKAHLE/ MCHUNU AREA**

Transformers held life skills sessions at three schools in 2017: Mahlahlamela Combined School, uMhlumba Primary and Mnamathi High School. A total of 393 teenagers participated in life schools sessions facilitated at the schools, and 221 teenagers from Mnamathi High participated in Life Skills, ZAZI and YOLO (You Only Live Once) camps.

The school principals invited the teams back in 2018 and the Nhlalakahle matric results were much better at the end of 2017 after the Transformers teams worked with learners to help them to make better life choices.

*'It's amazing when we look back - a total of 1448 teenagers engaged with face-to-face life skill training and 921 teenagers participated in camps held at Jabulani Camp Site in 2017!'*



# learning

## NETWORKING & ENCOURAGING SALT ALLIANCE CHANGE AGENTS IMBIZO



In May eThembeni hosted a SALT Alliance Imbizo at Jabulani Camp Site. Change Agents from Nakekela, Mfesane, Trans World Radio, Thembalethu Nkomazi, eThembeni and Thembalethu Christian Community Association gathered for three days of training and networking.

On the first day the different organisations were introduced and representatives shared information about the programmes they ran, discussed challenges Change Agents face and also their own personal challenges. The Change Agents quickly realised that challenges like transport, finances and unpaid volunteerism are experienced by all the organisations.

Sessions were held on practical ways to reach out to youth, encouraging quieter children to engage in activities, ice breakers, getting parents involved and dealing with teachers and school principals.

Cleopas Maseko from Thembalethu Nkomazi brought a timely teaching on the value and role of Change Agents and what is required of Change Agents in terms of character as well as actions, roles and responsibilities.

The Change Agents also visited Zimisele Primary School and Wettekleinfontein Primary School where Transformers has been facilitating sessions on self esteem. The learners loved hearing the words "You are Unique, Special and beautiful" said in different South

African languages from the SALT Change Agents as they were greeting them.

This time was a real eye opener to our eThembeni coordinators of the Transformers project in Ladysmith, Indaka and Msinga.

As common challenges were identified support groups were formed for all the Change Agents.

One of our new youth Change Agents commented:

*I am starting with me, to be the change I want to see in others and approach things with a different attitude, and with all this information and this new network there is no going back, the exposure was great for me because I've just joined the Youth Development team so now I feel more confident because 'When the root is deep, the is no need to fear the wind'*

We look forward to seeing these new friendships being strengthened as representatives from SALT members in different parts of South Africa stay connected. We also value the conversations held among all our youth Change Agents.

May iron sharpen iron.

# training

## EQUIPPING & EMPOWERING UPLIFTING COMMUNITIES

### PLANTING GOD'S WAY

In November 2016, twelve farming cooperatives participated in a three-day course called "Planting God's Way", one of Foundation for Farming's modules. The hands-on training included planting soya and maize, composting and creating well-water gardens.

In February 2017, three months after the course, we returned to the community to see how they were doing and whether they had implemented what they had learnt.

We were encouraged to see that the cooperatives had planted potatoes, mealies, butternut, soya, onions, cabbage and beans. The crops were being used by the farmers and their families, and the cooperatives were selling surplus produce to members of their community.



### TRAINING IN MALAWI

Mrs Maureen Makhaya travelled to Malawi to train delegates from Lizulu Orphanage how to start a self-help group programme in their communities and how to identify potential income opportunities for the groups.

The Lizulu Orphanage Care Directors and Board members welcomed all of us. They have a soft heart which is what Jesus wants.

Mrs Makhaya taught 20 women who eagerly learnt about compost making, how to set up self-help groups and also identified possible opportunities to strengthen their communities. The ladies participated in all the activities, and, while most spoke English, an interpreter assisted to ensure everyone could fully engage in the training.

All the participants went home and shared what they've learnt. Many have formed self-help groups. They are now encouraging children who stopped school to go back to school and teaching their communities how to make compost and start new businesses.



# fundraising

## FUNDRAISING

### 2017 ANNUAL GOLF DAY

#### THIRD ANNUAL GOLF DAY

eThembeni hosted its third Golf Day at Ladysmith Country Club with fifty players competing hard for a prized first place win on the day.

This annual event raises funds for eThembeni and also provides an opportunity to connect with local business people, share about the work that eThembeni is doing in local communities and thank individuals for their support.

All the participants thoroughly enjoyed the good weather and festive atmosphere with lots of competitions and prizes to be won.

A special thank you to Retief Marais and the Ladysmith Country Club for their generous assistance and support.



# support

## INVESTING IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES GRINDROD BANK BERG & BUSH MTB RACE

### SUPPORT DRIVERS

The gruelling Grindrod Bank Berg & Bush race takes mountain bikers from the top of the Drakensberg escarpment near Harrismith and drops down into Kwazulu-Natal, negotiating technical world-famous single track down to the bushveld below and into Winterton. The Race organisers highlight the area and invest back into local communities wherever possible.

*It has been eThembeni's privilege to be associated with the race for several years.*

A team of twenty drivers from eThembeni's staff and volunteers played a vital support role in ferrying competitors' vehicles from the start at Little Switzerland Hotel to the race finish at Emseni Campsite close to Spioenkop. The finance raised through this outsourced service went directly to eThembeni's programmes.



"There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."



# finances

## BUDGET OVERVIEW

## ETHEMBENI'S 2017 INVESTMENTS

### INCOME STREAM

eThembeni has been fortunate to have a steady income for 2017. A once-off donation towards youth camps made a significant impact on the number of camps that we were able to host in 2017 and also contributed to the upgrades to Jabulani's facilities.

It must also be noted that eThembeni's strategy of renting out facilities to local communities and businesses has proved an excellent income

generating stream which has provided funds for other programmes and enabled eThembeni to provide a stipend for the many volunteers who give up their time to assist with programmes.

Unfortunately the bee-keeping project took a big knock with fires destroying hives and a continuing drought in the area. Some hives are still operational but it will take time to rebuild this project so that an income can be generated from honey sales.

INCOME	AMOUNT	% TOTAL INCOME
Rent	894 600	43
Donations	598 908	29
Fundraising	82 608	4
Catering	241 260	12
Donation - youth camps	247 824	12
<b>TOTAL INCOME FOR 2017</b>	<b>ZAR 2 065 200</b>	<b>100 %</b>

### EXPENDITURE

eThembeni was able to increase its youth programme to reach out to even more young people in 2017. eThembeni was also able to sow generously into youth work in Pomeroy to assist with a shortfall in budget.

We were pleased to be able to continue offering family preservation and

much-needed statutory services in partnership with local government within the municipalities and communities surrounding Ladysmith.

Our rural women's empowerment programmes have also seen significant growth this year.

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	% PROJECT BUDGET	% TOTAL BUDGET
Capacity building	578 256	100	28
Family preservation & statutory services	330 432	100	16
Women (salaries, stipends, training)	229 932	100	11
Youth	616 800	100	30
Salaries: staff	182 000	30	
Stipends: volunteers	18 000	3	
Training	20 000	3	
Youth camps	266 800	43	
Assist Pomeroy	130 000	21	
Other (fundraising, rent, catering)	309 780	100	15
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2017</b>	<b>ZAR 2 065 200</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Please note: Audited annual financial statements are available on request.

# thanks

## DONORS, FUNDERS FRIENDS & PARTNERS

**THANK YOU  
TO THE MANY  
WHO PARTNERED  
WITH ETHEMBENI IN 2017.**

**YOU HAVE STRENGTHENED  
AND EQUIPPED  
MARGINALISED RURAL  
WOMEN AND YOUTH  
SO THAT THEY COULD  
BE EMPOWERED  
TO BECOME ACTIVE  
AND CONTRIBUTING  
PARTICIPANTS  
IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

**THEY HAVE BEEN  
DIGNIFIED  
THROUGH THEIR  
CONTRIBUTION.**

**“SIYABONGA”**

### **INTERNATIONAL**

ADEN  
American Peace Corps  
Bijzondere Noden  
Favre de Klerk  
Gloucester Trust  
Prisma  
USAid

### **NATIONAL**

ACAT KZN  
Department of Social Development  
CMD KZN  
Coaching for Excellence  
Edamame  
Eden Social Development Foundation  
Family Impact  
Foundations for Farming  
Heartlines  
Kommissie vir Getuienisaksie  
Msinga Partnership  
SALT Alliance  
Sinamandla  
Scripture Union Pietermaritzburg  
Street Biz  
Trans World Radio: Bothas Hill, KZN  
Tygerberg medical students  
Usizo: URCSA Diaconal Services in KZN

### **LOCAL PARTNERS**

CMD uThukela  
Durban Overall  
Harvest Combined School  
Jabulani Trust  
Ladysmith Construction  
Lourens Elektries  
Paradise Gas  
Qhakaza Mbokodo Research Clinic  
Local churches

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