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February 2023 Report

Introduction

The month of February presented us with many programming opportunities that included Centre-based activities and in schools. The activities included preparing for and sending off our university students, Academic Merit Awards and excursions to expose our learners to digital innovation. We also received a group of 10 social work students placed in our YOSA for professional mentorship.

YOSA University Students

The month of February opened with us preparing our university students to return to their respective colleges. We later took some of the university students for a send off dinner sponsored by Sherwin, our friend from the Qantas Airways.



Astonishment at dinner with some of the returning students

Annual Academic Merit Awards

YOSA was one of the sponsors of the District Annual Merit Awards Ceremony hosted in February. We are certainly grateful to our supporters for enabling us to provide well-deserved incentives for the learners who excelled under our programme and the educators. Our collaboration with the Johannesburg Central District Office has raised our profile in providing follow-through services to effectively support our beneficiaries.



Astonishment presenting awards to the best educators in subject areas and some of the learners who excelled



The District Director addressing the educators, parents and learners during the ceremony

Grandparents Support Group

The grannies support group meets once a week. YOSA staff were grateful for a visit by Ntombi Mzalisi and Mikateko Zonke from FNZ. Ntombi has been nominated to sit on YOSA Board of Governors starting 2023. They both had the opportunity to meet with the social workers who were being oriented at the Centre and the grannies during their support group. Interaction with Ntombi and Mikateko was a gift to YOSA staff and beneficiaries.



Grannies support group expressed their joy on meeting with Ntombi and Mikateko

Social Workers' Orientation

The motivated group of social workers was orientated together with the IT Lab Assistants and the Mentors. Ntombi and Mikateko encouraged our staff on their collective calling and selfless services to the vulnerable beneficiaries.



YOSA staff meeting with Ntombi and Mikateko

Sports and Recreation

The donation of new netball goal posts by Janine East our friend from the Qantas Airways has become a life-changer for the young people we support. We assembled the goal posts and learners used them immediately after. Since then, the posts have been used every school day and during our weekends' activities.



Astonishment and Yonela assembling the newly acquired netball goal posts



Learners took to the ground as soon as the netball goal posts were assembled

The YOSA after school programme is popular with learners because it combines learning and playing. Learners have even set up their dance clubs that compete during the afterschool programme.



Learners enjoying dancing competitions during the afterschool programme

Global Hackathon

The major highlights of YOSA programme in February included the participation of learners from Soweto in the prestigious Global Hackathon at Redhill School in Sandton. The learners were involved in competitions for building websites and mobile applications to address some life challenges in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our learners were exposed to working in multicultural groups during the three days of these competitions. Two of our learners participated in a group that came first and excelled to international competitions. Their group later emerged third in the final Global competitions. This has further promoted the use of the computer lab installed in their school with the support of FNZ. The lab has become a rallying point for learners during breaktime on every school day.



Learners departing their school in Soweto and arriving at the Redhill School in Sandton with Nozipho(educator) Yonela(Social Worker)



Learners taking part in their respective groups at the Hackathon





Meals were provided and learners enjoyed multicultural collaboration



Adjudicators at the Hackathon

Conclusion

Ongoing YOSA partnership with Wits University has seen the placement of a group of 10 social work students with us this year. The students appreciate their placement with YOSA for professional mentorship, while our beneficiaries enjoy their valuable services during the same period. The month of February has also seen the focusing and deepening of our afterschool activities and the enhanced usage of the computer laboratories. Due to the learners' interest in information technology, we anticipate many learners applying to study digital related courses in universities this year.