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April 2023 Report

Introduction

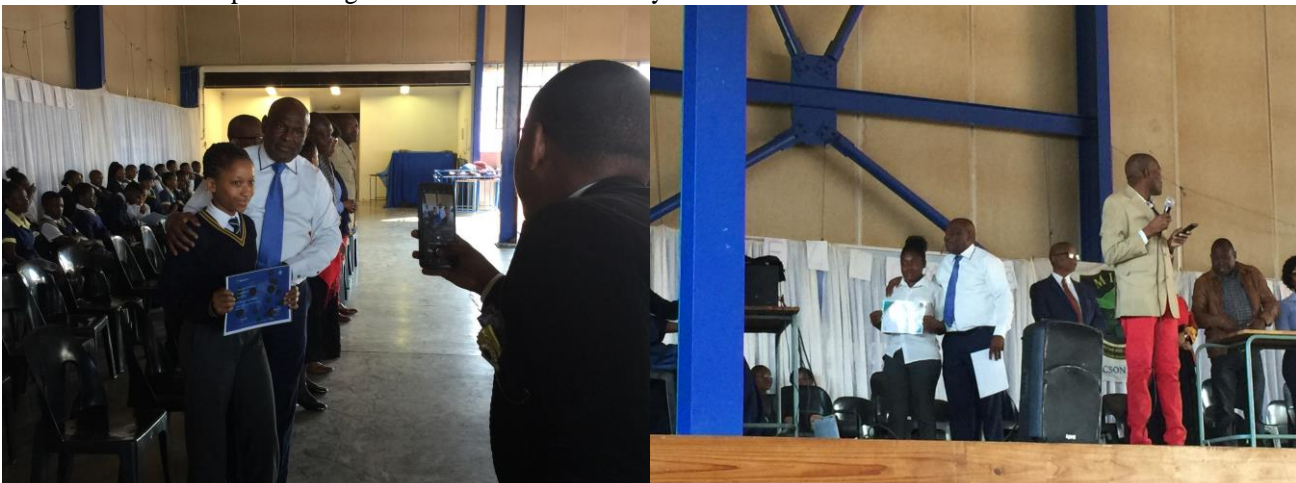
The major highlight for the month was the awarding of prizes to learners who had excelled during the first term. The month of April also witnessed several philanthropic visits to YOSA, and we received lots of material donations for our programming. Our primary school gaming learners also excelled in the Nintendo School League. The YOSA afterschool programme is also getting even more dynamic.

High School Merit Awards Ceremony

Learners in Morris Isaacson High School are rarely appreciated or motivated to improve in their academic and social performances in the school community. Such is the situation in most of these township schools. Learners just collect their report books and head home. At home parents may even lack appreciation of their children's performance, or there are no parents and significant adults to acknowledge the learners' efforts in school. The financial support from FNZ and Compassion 4 Humanity enabled YOSA to host the first Merit Awards Ceremony in the memorable history of Morris Isaacson High School. Ms. Madonsela, the Head of Department for English subject said, "I have been teaching in this school for the past eighteen years and I have not seen such an event where learners and educators are acknowledged for their hard work." Ninety-four learners and fifteen educators received awards of excellence. Learners were awarded for scoring 70% or more in any subject while educators were awarded for attaining 100% pass rates for learners in the subjects they teach.



Learners called it a trip to the stage to receive the awards. They cherished the moment.





Educators receiving their awards for the first time in memorable history.



The awards displays were very inspirational for the whole school. The school's attitudes towards passing have shifted positively.

Afterschool Programme

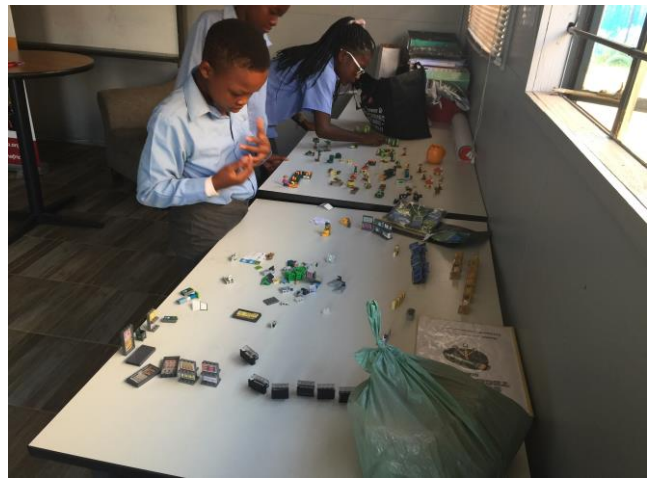
During the month of April, the afterschool programme received tremendous support from our Board Chairperson Jennifer, Compassion 4 Humanity and other friends from Australia including Maddi, Leigh, and others. Chess sets, lego pieces, customized gaming equipment, reading books and stationery have transformed our programming. Helping learners to think, is an existential goal for YOSA. Thanks to Jennifer and Janine for bringing lots of chess sets and lego pieces. A very big number of our learners are nearing competition level in leg. The passion is just palpable!



and

Yonela during a captivating social discussion and George coaching gaming during afterschool programme

Computer gaming, lego and chess are some of the activities occupying our learners' time during our afterschool programme. All these games are novel to learners in township settings. The Nintendo School League has occupied all our learners' spare. They come for practice whenever they have a moment to spare. We are receiving some learners outside our catchment area requesting to join our programme



Lego players at it

Maddi and Leigh were exceptionally interactive with our learners. Their friendly communication and indeed accessibility drew the attention of our learners, most of whom had never interacted with white people. The two have left very vivid memories in the lives of these young people. They always ask about when they will come back.



Maddi and Leigh from the Qantas Airways, Australia entertaining learners

YOSA Programme Support

YOSA is eternally grateful to FNZ for providing the much-needed financial resources to enable us to acquire the services of a devoted staff group. Thus, FNZ support provides the backbone of YOSA programming that includes staff costs, property repairs and maintenance, travelling and others. Our team of social workers relies on FNZ support in our programming.

We are also exceptionally grateful to Karen Glass, Janine and Maddi for supporting their programmes with dignity packs for the girls. The supplies will go a long way in retaining vulnerable girls in school.



YOSA social workers and learners celebrating their friendly donations.



Maddi and Leigh handing over clothes, toys and stationery to Yonela and Yolanda



Janine and Maddi handing over three new sewing machines to the grannies' support group.



Grannies broke into song and dance after receiving the sewing machines.

It's hard enough parenting for the first time. It is even harder for these grannies who are parent for the second time. They lack resources and some of them, their health is failing them, yet they are caring for school-going grandchildren. The sewing and knitting activities have rejuvenated them. Most of them are learning these skills and using this opportunity to provide clothes for children during winter and improving their household incomes.

Janine also handed a cash donation to each of the grannies. One granny shed tears of joy as she explained the dire situation she had left at home. Thanking Janine on behalf of the grannies Yonela said, “Some gestures are too good for words.”



Grannies upon receiving their envelopes from Janine and Yonela thanking Janine on their behalf.

Conclusion

At YOSA every month is different. Yet, every month seems to be better than the one before it. We are exceptionally grateful to our friends and supporters for providing for our programming needs. The merit awards ceremony, kids’ gaming and the grandparents’ support group would all be unrealized dreams were it not for the support from FNZ, Compassion 4 Humanity, Jen, Janine, Karen and Maddi.