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## May 2023 Report

### Introduction

The month of May has seen improvements in infrastructure and programming. The support provided for paving by Maddi and Janine will soon transform YOSA outlook and provide the necessary space for outdoor activities with learners. The partnerships with FNZ, Compassion 4 Humanity and some of our individual friends had a huge impact in the way we delivered our programmes in May. Conducting our activities with our corporate partners scaled up the support given to YOSA and opened the young people's horizons.

### Paving

The paved area for outdoor activities had become too small for the learners who come to attend YOSA activities. Maddi and Janine intervened and funded the extension of the paving. Workers are on the ground, and we can envision the completed space in the second week of June.



**The before-and-now of the land scaping and paving in progress**

### Teenage Mothers

The challenge of teenage motherhood is decreasing as we intensify programming around it. Coaching and empowering teenage mothers to share their experiences with other girls is transforming perceptions on teenage pregnancy while promoting delayed sexual intimacy among learners. The timely provision of baby clothes including warm jerseys by Maddi, Janine, Donna and Karen changed the young mothers from victims to progressive learners as they are able to focus more on their studies. They have less worries of babies' comfort.



Yolanda and Yonela sorting clothes and teachers distributing to teenage mothers at one of the schools.



**Teenage mothers share baby shoes and clothes at another school.**

Material support to these young mothers relieves them of emotional pressures and helps them focus on education.

**Computer Training and University Applications**

Learner orientation to technology remains one of the main YOSA deliverables. Nearly all the learners are using computers for the first time in their life. YOSA Lab Assistant runs computer training for learners. The Social Workers assist learners with career guidance, courses selection and application to universities. This has become a daily activity because some universities will soon close the application process.



**Khensani, George and Yonela assisting learners with university applications.**

**Afterschool and Weekend Programme**

The after-school programme for primary and high school learners intensified during the month of May. The activities were mainly learning support, sports, music and dance sessions. Jen, YOSA Board Chairman introduced and bought seven Chess sets, and these have become handy for indoor games. Ntombi, Mikateko and Khumo from FNZ brought refreshments for two days and gave exceptional motivational talks. They left our kids truly on fire. Work relations have completely transformed. Learner motivation is all-time high. This left learners reciting concepts like; “I am somewhere in the future, and I look much better than I look right now” and “Success will not always be linear.”



**Primary school learners showing off their soccer shoes and high school dance group in action**



Ntombi, Mikateko and Khumo addressing meetings with learners.



Grade 8 learner had unforgettable one-on-one coaching with Mikateko, others enjoying game coaching by Jen.



Khumo and Lali coaching Chess

The most interesting aspect about chess was how the kids realized that it requires critical thinking and scenario mapping. YOSA staff members are excited at how much learners can associate and apply the same thinking skills in everyday life. Learners can now easily identify YOSA space with critical thinking for personal transformation.

YOSA commits significant effort and resources in running afterschool and weekend activities with learners. Learners flock to YOSA at the slightest opportunity. Our staff use every opportunity for learner character building. We have witnessed that character is the foundation on which effective learning is built. Interaction with corporate and international visitors has proved to broaden learners' horizons and inspired them to dream beyond their immediate environment.



**Yonela and Bridgety with high school learners at the Centre and Maddi with primary school learners**



**Maddi interacting with YOSA dance group at the high school.**

### **Grannies' Support Group**

Since Janine bought the sewing machines, knitting and crocheting needles the grannies are in a very exciting space. They have used up all the wool bought by Janine and Karen. They are so happy that they are working in an environment where they uplift one another. The activities at YOSA give them purpose for living. During the month of May we fitted them in our weekend programme so they attended to their programme every Saturday for a whole day.



**Grannies knitting and resting for lunch.**

Granny Elizabeth celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday at YOSA during the programme. Luckily Ntombi brought adequate refreshments for children, grannies and staff. That was a befitting celebration for granny Elizabeth. This was a fun-filled day as Ntombi spend much of the day exchanging knitting patterns with grannies.



**Granny Elizabeth's birthday and Ntombi sharing knitting patterns with grannies.**

### **Social Work Interventions**

One typical example of social work interventions is that of Kamo (not her real name). Kamo was sexually abused by her boyfriend in a transactional relationship. The adult boyfriend was providing support for Kamo, her unemployed mother and five siblings. The boyfriend just stopped supporting Kamo and her family leaving them without food. Kamo realized that she was driven into deeper trouble having been left with no food but an additional mouth to feed. Kamo's baby is now one year old and survives on leftovers that Kamo brings back from the school feeding programme. The family's food shortage situation is so dire that they go for days without a decent meal. Kamo's uniform condition at school is evidence of her desperate family circumstances. Even her school bag is torn, exposing her to bullying in the school. With social work support, Kamo has adopted emotional resilience and she never misses a day in school.

### **Acknowledgements**

The remittances from FNZ, Compassion 4 Humanity, Sally and Susy, Karen and Trevor, Maddi, and Ntombi have safely seen us go through the month of May with minimum challenges. We are truly humbled by their sustained timely financial support to our programmes. Jen, Ntombi, Mikateko, Lali, Khumo and Maddi helped to facilitate various programmes with learners. They conveniently broke the monotony for our staff and learners.

### **Work-in-Progress**

We are looking forward to hosting a merit award ceremony for one of the high schools in early July 2023. The merit awards ceremonies have proved to be very motivational for township learners and this is improving their academic performance. Support is humbly requested in this area. Additional wool and sewing materials are also needed as grannies are hard at work knitting and sewing. We would also appreciate financial resources to put food on the table for many vulnerable children we support. This includes support towards YOSA afterschool and weekend programme that provides meals for vulnerable learners. We also look forward to the completion of our paving project in the second week of June 2023. We are grateful that the paving project is fully funded by Janine and Maddi.