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## August 2023 Report

### Introduction

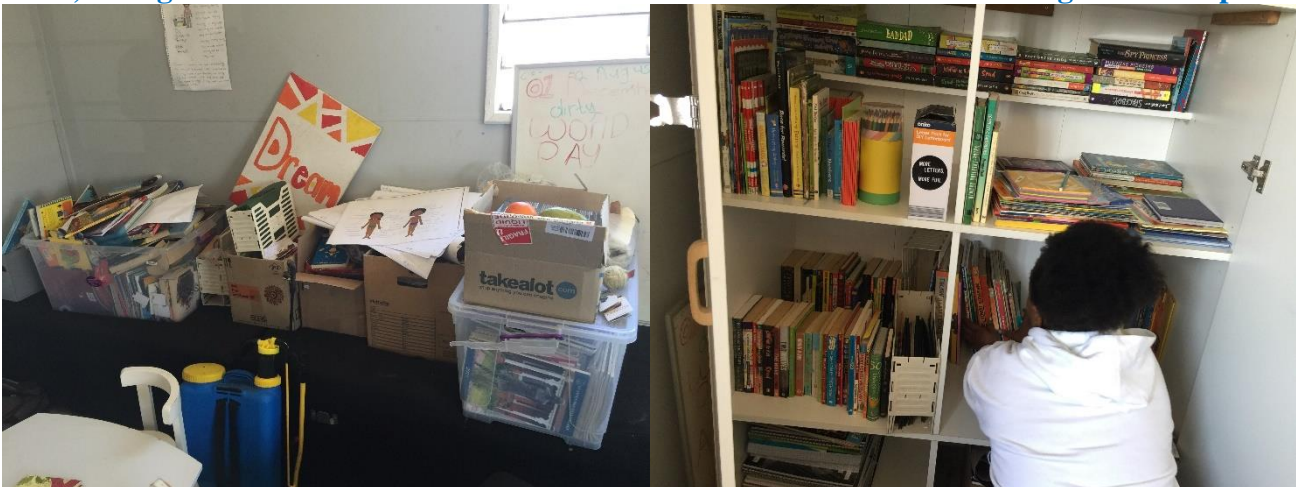
The computer gaming has gained momentum with our primary school learners winning games at national competitions level. The spirit of the Merit Awards ceremony lives on as most learners are showing commitment to succeed in their studies with high marks. The social workers and Wits University students are conducting weekend extra lessons that are being attended by grade 6, 7 and 8 learners. This programme is instilling the culture of hard work in learners. The reading programme for primary school learners at the YOSA Centre has received a boost of carboard and book shelve that made the reading space child friendly. The granny programme is also effectively transforming into a money-making venture through selling their knitting and sewing products.

### Carboard and Book Shelve

We are exceptionally grateful to Mike van Oerle for buying and fitting the lockable book carboard and shelve for storing our learners' reading books. The special gift has provided additional child friendly spaces to use at the Centre. Storage and packing of books is no longer a nightmare for our staff.



**Mike, fitting the carboard and book shelve and Yolanda and Ntombi admiring the developments.**



**From containers to neatly packed books in the carboard: Yolanda packing reading books in carboard**

### The YOSA Centre

The Centre is the most preferred space for the young people to play in. It allows for a wide variety of games, sporting activities and friendly learning environment. Since the month of June, the Centre has hosted children and youth for afterschool activities, weekends and school holiday programmes.



**The Centre is about playing games, sports and Learning: keeping the young minds alive and thinking.**

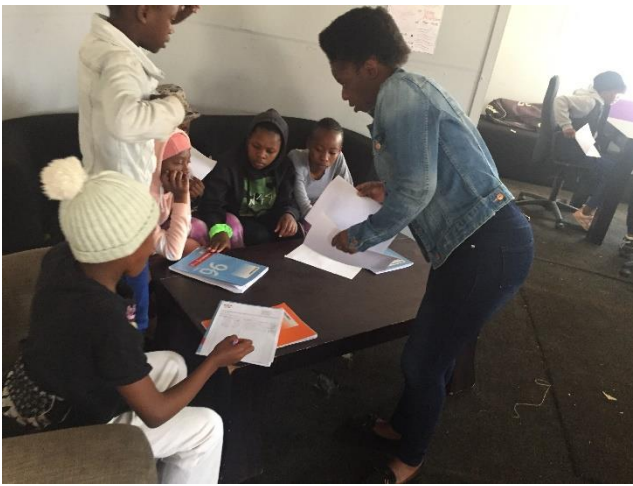


**Holiday and afterschool activities**



**Sammy paying for refreshments for the children and preparing children's lunch at the Centre.**

Sammy is our divine friend, a regular visitor to YOSA Centre and she is always an extra pair of hands whenever she visits. Our children are so familiar with her that they miss her until her next visit. We praise God for her multiple-talents and outpouring of love. Our beneficiaries have very little or no opportunities to go out of their township life, hence visitors like Sammy present opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration.



**Kresenzia and Sammy on small group maths mentorship for primary school kids**



**Nokuthaba and Sammy in conversation with learners.**

Creating connections and bonds among young people and significant adults provides valuable positive trajectories for our youths. Sammy's involvement comes with very effective cultural exchange for adolescents.

### **High School Mentorship**

Our partnership with Wits University brings social work and accounting students to our township communities to mentor high school learners in critical subjects such as maths and science and it infuses behavioural modeling.



**Steve and Chichi (Wits students) on curriculum coaching.**



**Palesa and Praise hosting class-based workshops for learners.**

During the month of August, we ran a drug prevention intervention in our high schools. We held a series of class-based workshops. We also invited motivational speakers and recovering addicts to share their experiences.



**Nomali and Rorisang conducting class-based workshops on substance use and violence.**

### **Afterschool Cultural activities**

In August we held cultural concerts for learners in high school. Learners made speeches about their cultures followed by different cultural groups presenting their music and dance to the whole school during the afterschool programme. This has helped to build cohesion among the learners and educators as well as promote unity in diversity.



**Learners entertain the whole school through cultural music and dances.**

### **YOSA Peacekeepers training**

The substance abuse and gangsterism that obtain in the Soweto Communities also manifest on the schools' premises. YOSA trains and promotes the work of learners as peacekeepers within the school community. We

promote a culture of respect, empathy, and kindness amongst learners. Our programme is therefore identified with unity in diversity, purpose-driven life and a drive for continuous personal improvement.

### **Donations in-Kind**

During the month of August, we received many donations in-kind. These included clothes, shoes, watches, cell phones, stationery, books, toys and games. The donations in-kind have proved to be very essential for our programming. Our acknowledgement goes to Mike and Jennifer Van Oerle, Trevor and Karen, Sammy, Donna, Courtney, Janine and Simone Francis.



**Yolanda receiving a bag of clothes from Summy and inspecting the new clothing items.**

### **Granny Support Group**

The support from Karen, Trevor and Janine has inspired the grannies to knit and sew for the market. They have graduated into a local club that is fundraising to live beyond the social grant. This has given grannies a new lease of life as they discover their potential and work to supplement their family incomes. There is definitely dignity in labour. The club has preserved unit among the grannies and enhanced their capacity to provide for their grandchildren most of whom are school going ages. The support from Trevor and Karen has helped the grannies to commence the sewing and beading activities. The motivation is very high now that grannies have discovered their potential.



**Grannies displaying their knitted products.**

### **Conclusion**

YOSA remains committed to improving the lives of the underserved communities. The economic upliftment of grannies will ensure that children in their care access education and turn around their circumstances. We are truly grateful for the support received from our corporate and individual funders. We are truly humbled by the fact that FNZ has been particularly key in meeting our staff costs and digital skills development. We are currently working hard to secure additional funding to scale up our project.