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September 2023 Report

Introduction

The digital literacy programme is reaching a crescendo with our four primary school learners qualifying to participate in the prestigious RGB Splatoon League at the Nasrec Showgrounds hosted by Nintendo and Comic Con. In September, there was also an increase in the number of international friends who visited YOSA. The Grannies' Support Group and after-school programme with learners constituted the month's dominant activities.

RGB Splatoon League

YOSA is very grateful to Vivian and Scadco for exposing our learners to computer gaming and the prestigious tournament that included a lot of other Minecraft education. The learners were exposed to mind-blowing generative AI. The contest was attended by a lot of upmarket schools and ours were the only team from the township community. Our learners were excited to win some of their games and they enjoyed the cultural exchange. They are fast catching up with digital innovation!



The learners enjoying their AI depiction of their possible futuristic transformation.

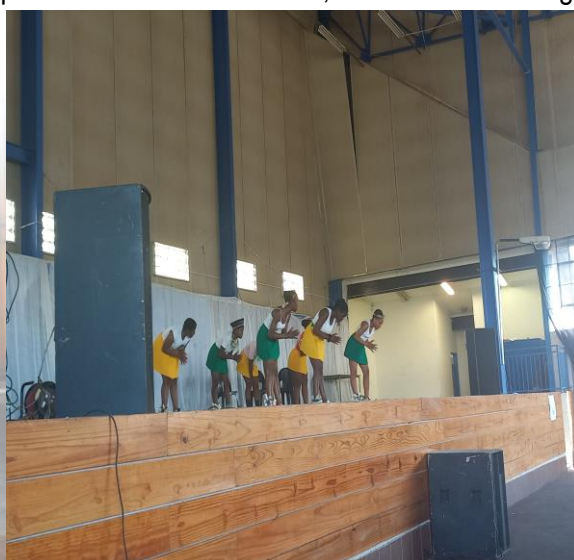


Learners enjoying their projections on Extrapolate.

YOSA is very grateful to FNZ holdings and Scadco for taking our programming into the 21st century. The training of teachers and learners on digital literacy skills is mainstreamed in our programming. Learners have realized the value of internet connection and are using computer labs for research and communication. Digital innovation, AI, websites and computer applications design are some of the activities occupying our learners. These would never have been common activities in township schools were it not through FNZ support. The support has leveled skills between poor and affluent schools. Scadco has also been very helpful in delivering digital awareness among schools' management teams and educating teachers so they can pass on the digital skills to learners.

Heritage Day Celebrations

During the month of September our high school learners ceased with Heritage celebrations. Various cultural groups engaged in music and cultural dances. This occupied a huge part of our afterschool activities, and we took the opportunity to run a lot of moral regeneration activities. Our programming covered topics such as substance use, violence and teenage pregnancy.



Learners preparing for their cultural dance and performing before other learners and educators in the school hall.

Resource Centre Activities

We were pleased to welcome our friends from the Qantas Airways (Australia) who visited us and spent the whole day working with our grannies, primary and high school learners. They bought refreshments and dignity packs for girls, and together, we proceeded to the Centre where we had an exciting working day. Our staff, learners and grannies will remember the day for a very long time.



Qantas staff, paying for YOSA provisions and dignity packs for girls and meeting at the Centre.



Girls, performing for our visitors after receiving their dignity packs.



Kim, Courtney, Georgia taking Photos with staff and proceeded to meet High school learners



Our friends, observing staff and learners' activities during break time.

Neen, also a Qantas staff member, arrived to spend a full day at the Centre with grannies. As usual she did grocery shopping for all essential food and cleaning materials. Our friends Candice and Veli also came through and we spent the day together preparing meals and cleaning. There were lots of chuckles with the grannies and admiring their knitted items. Janine also brought lots of cutting and designing materials for sewing and the grannies got busy with cutting their materials for sewing. Janine also proceeded to give an envelope containing cash to each of the grannies. This kind of support is helping to propel the grannies' project into self-sustaining income-generating project.



Janine buying provisions for YOSA and meeting with our friends Candice and Veli



Grannies, cutting materials for sewing and displaying their knitted items.



It was an emotional moment as Janine handed over envelopes to grannies, some of whom had skipped social grants.

Donna and Kirsten

Some of our friends may not always find time to visit the Centre, but they always remember to bring donations in-kind for YOSA. Donna and Kirsten were some of such friends who arrived at the hotel and called to pass on their thoughtful donations for the children and families who access our Centre. This was one of the initial funders of YOSA at its inception and this was first return to Africa after Covid.



Africa Climate Week

YOSA observed Africa climate week supported by Microsoft Education and Scadco. They bought trees for planting at YOSA, and their staff came over to address the children on Africa Climate Week. The interaction with children was very useful and the discussions centered around climate change and saving the environment. The teachers were also engaged because the issues addressed were relevant to the curriculum content that they teach in primary school. The children were so thrilled to be working with white facilitators. The Microsoft staff also brought snacks and drinks to share with staff and children.



JP Joubert of Scadco preparing the hole to plant the tree and children listening to discussion.



Microsoft staff addressing learners and later sharing snacks and drinks.

Mid-Term Statistical Evaluation

In September we set out to measure our evidence-based programmes with evaluations of outcomes to understand YOSA effectiveness. We did this by measuring the relationship between programmes and their intended outcomes. Our programmes are evidence-based because evaluations have

shown that we are producing the expected positive results, that can be attributed to our interventions rather than to other extraneous factors or events and, we have also roped in post-graduate students to conduct studies in our organization for peer review purposes. As such we compile statistics for all our interventions and track our youth beneficiaries through a cradle to career approach. The following statistical information sums up our interventions' numerical impact from January to September 2023:

| Intervention | beneficiaries |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Digital literacy | |
| Learners | 1300 |
| Educators | 30 |
| Individual interventions (casework) | 161 |
| Family interventions | 33 |
| Scouts | 50 |
| Academic support | 232 |
| Public Speaking clubs | 42 |
| Reading clubs | 71 |
| Group therapy | 96 |
| Class-based interventions | 463 |
| Parenting workshops | 351 |
| Prize-giving ceremonies | 302 |
| Total number of beneficiaries | 3 131 |

As indicated above the total number of beneficiaries reached by YOSA as of 30 September 2023 was 131, with digital literacy being the most subscribed programme. Some of the interventions were once off while some lasted for eight weeks. However, 1463 participants enrolled in programmes such as digital literacy for learners, scouts, public speaking and reading clubs have a long-term commitment to YOSA activities. They meet once every week and we expect deeper sustained change throughout the learners' education.

Conclusion

YOSA is very well received in the school communities that we serve. Learners believe that once a YOSA always one! Our evidence-based interventions have improved the teaching and learning environment. The digital literacy training has taken the schools by storm. Learners and educators are discovering a whole world they had never thought of. We are exceptionally grateful to the transformative support that FNZ has extended to the underserved communities through YOSA. We are also grateful to Scadco for the networking opportunities in the digital space. We are also grateful to our international visitors for the programming resources as well as their presence as confirmation of YOSA as a multicultural developmental space.