



Raphael News 2020-5 (4th Quarter 2020)

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Funding: During this fourth term, the Raphael Centre has had an income of 376,065 Rand. The **University College of London** granted 247,402 Rand to our new SHAER Makana project 2020/2021, and the **Soweto Connection** gifted 65,864 Rand. The **Emthonjeni Trust** donated 40,114 Rand toward our 'Khanya' project, **Gavin Marshall** generously gave 7,190 Rand, **St Cuthbert's Church** contributed 3,225 Rand and we were given 1,620 Rand by our local **GBS Mutual Bank**. Also, we received monthly individual donations from our **anonymous donor**, **Mrs Clarke** and **Revd. Denise Herbert** of altogether 10,650 Rand during this reporting period.

Donations in kind: During the entire fourth term, four Rhodes University student volunteers assisted in the facilitation of the weekly child and youth tutoring and life skills session! We wish to thank: **Akhanya Siyanda Fani**, **Usiphile Ndubula**, **Sinazo Mbekela**, and **Anathi Mgijima** for the extraordinary commitment and support!



**Soweto
Connection**

emthonjeni trust

Siya Sonke Programme 2020: While COVID-19 impacted society and economy at a global scale and in South Africa, caused hardship and loss among families, uncertainties in many of our individual lives it also has been a year of having to think out of the box, pushing comfort zones, learning, hard work, and accomplishments. We have witnessed stories of humanity and handling crisis sprouting everywhere.

We facilitated what we could do remotely via phone and WhatsApp, throughout this year. It concerns all Siya Sonke family engagement activities, Child and Youth Development (CYD), and entrepreneurial group mentoring. At the beginning of National Lockdown, Nomaxabiso developed emergency budgets together with each of our partner families and groups and assisted with amending individual development and future plans in a way which accommodated a purpose driven living under severe and unfamiliar restrictions.

We thank **Masifunde Learner Development** in Port Elizabeth and **Access to Music Project (AMP)** in Makhanda who generously shared their COVID-19 manuals with us and therefore gave Raphael Centre guidance in adapting its' operations accordingly!

The Siya Sonke partners have absorbed this challenging time with incredible resilience which – in many cases – also brought to life the discovery of new paths, new passions, learning of new skills, deepening knowledge and strengthening self-reliance. Nomaxabiso says that our partners used this time to reach out to stakeholders, mobilize clients and used other marketing strategies such as social media to expose their businesses to the community.

With this final 2020-Newsletter, we would like to share some of their stories featured under "Strengths Developed Behind the Mask". This title is not Raphael Centre's idea but was inspired and adopted by a Seminar which we attended at the International Conference for Asset-based Citizen-driven Development earlier this year. We would like to give credit to Meble Birengo (Kenya), Marie Lamboray (Belgium), and Marlou de Rouw (France) who have drawn our attention back to stories of strengths, ubuntu, and to breaking through old barriers!

“Strengths Developed Behind the Mask”

Ntombizanele’s story:

I used to work for the Community Work Programme (CWP) and received a stipend. But during COVID 19 level 5 to 3 the project stopped, and our work ended. But I love sewing and beadwork and have been volunteering for Disabled People South Africa (DPSA) for a long time. I have been teaching how to do sewing and beadwork there. During Lockdown, I taught myself how to design and produce face mask and luckily I could sell some to local pre-schools and our churches. Also, there is my food garden. So, established a vegetable stand at my home and have sold some of my fresh produce. Also, I added some other small things to the sell, such as sweets.



Lungelwa’s story:

Actually, I am in woodwork business, but then Lockdown came and has not been in favour of it. So then, I started making and selling cleaning detergents and hand sanitizers, because I saw that people needed it to adhere to COVID-19 regulations, and it has helped me to generate an income. I have used WhatsApp and Facebook for marketing and receiving orders from people. I also have arranged the delivery of the goods. Also, I started a food garden to save money when doing groceries.



Vathiswa’s story:

I have worked as an Early Childhood Development (ECD) Practitioner for some years and became a qualified Grade R teacher in 2019. My other passion is cooking, and my vision is to have a catering business one day too. I started working toward this vision, but then COVID- 19 lockdown seemed to put breaks on my plans! But I didn’t give up and was able to come up with a solution which was to do packed lunch packs for sell! Also, I have assisted people who couldn’t go to shops during their quarantine periods with groceries and other errands in town.



Mama Mdaka’s story:

I worked for CWP for some years. But luckily, my family and I have started farming and I (re)started my food garden this year. We kept money aside from the income from our livestock so that we could use the savings to buy a Bakkie this year. We have used it for hiring it out for transport of goods and furniture, and it has been going well!

