

NELSON MANDELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Nemato Change a Life in lockdown

Nemato Change a Life in lockdown



We have been in lockdown for three months, our centre is quiet.

Unfortunately, despite the very slow start of the spread of the coronavirus in South Africa, the lockdown has not controlled it. Forced by hunger and economic collapse, most sectors of the economy have been opened now, at a time that the spread of the virus is in dramatic exponential growth. It's not looking good. The South African healthcare system is expected to run out of capacity to deal with the disease soon, and our Eastern Cape province has been particularly hard hit.

Stuck between the arrival of the virus in our community and the opening of most of the country, we are trying to find a balance between minimising risk and offering some essential services, mostly for education and career development.

Now that it is clear that the virus mainly spreads by aerosol from speaking, we focus on ways to reduce aerosol contact. We keep most of our activities on hold, use internet for communication and keep air circulation in our centre.

At the same time we are looking at the future. What can we try to do to help to get our community and country back on its feet when the pandemic is over?

food parcels



After closing our centre for the lockdown, we had to stop serving meals to our members. The lockdown also made it much harder for many families to generate income for food. With the approval of KFC Add Hope, we now use their funding to deliver food parcels to the homes of our most active members.

The challenges during the lockdown were not limited to our members. A large portion of our community was faced with hunger. We started helping the local lockdown support group with fundraising and daily distribution of food parcels. In total over 5000 food parcels were handed out in our communities.

Now, with the ease of the lockdown, the focus is shifting from emergency food parcels to sustainable food gardens.

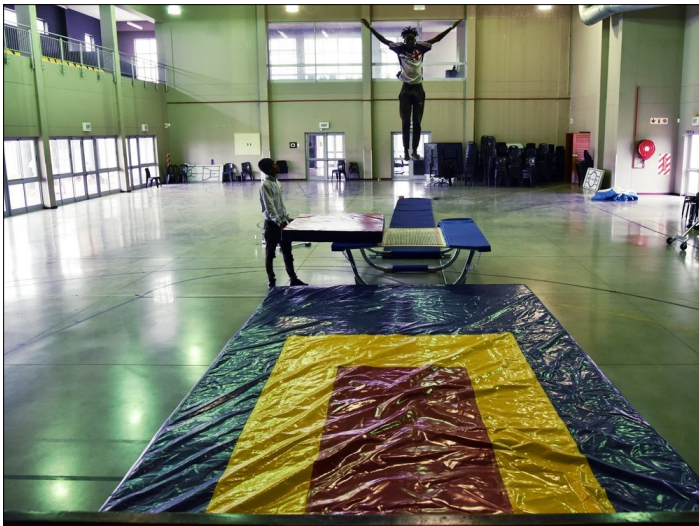


extractor fans



Under strict conditions we allow the use of our computers for study and career. To reduce the risk of infection through aerosol, our manager Ashley applied his engineering skills and installed powerful extractor fans.

Titi Jonas Community hall

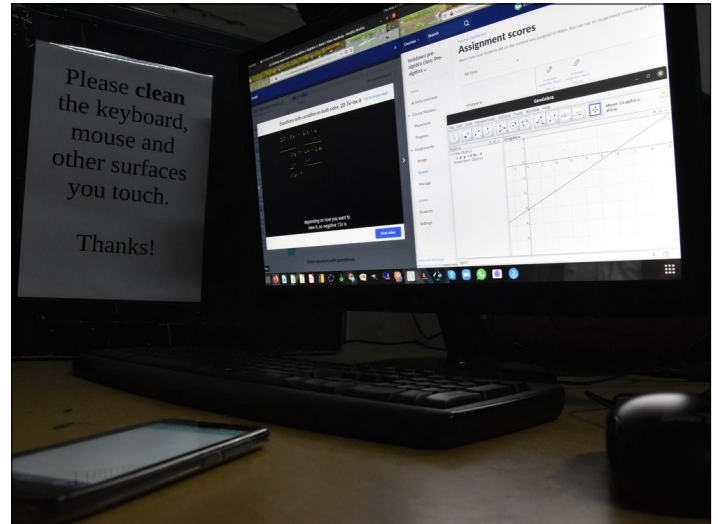


We don't have access to a hall, so our gymnasts are jumping in a backyard on a top trampoline that is not designed for outdoor use. Wind and rain limit the training of our gymnasts. Our handball and fencing is done on the street.

There are three community halls in Port Alfred. All are used for funerals, none for youth or sport. With the lease of the Titi Jonas Centre coming available soon, we want to apply for the lease of the hall. The lease of the foyer and the offices can go to the local radio station, currently using that part of the building.

By offering gymnastics, handball, fencing skate boarding and a gym at the hall, we'll bring many daily activities for the youth to this underutilised community building. We also expect a strong growth in the number of youth benefiting from our empowerment programme when we offer activities in this hall.

maths class on internet



For a selected group of members, we reopened our maths class on the internet. We are using Khan Academy.

The high costs of data for internet was undermining our class, but through a cooperation between The Learning Trust and Vodacom, we have been offered data at a much lower cost, for the duration of the pandemic.

job creation



Youth empowerment without jobs has limited impact. But if we can reduce youth unemployment at the same time as we empower youth, our future will be bright. For this, we are working on two concepts that we hope to get going.

Nemato Youth Park: This sports facility will lift our sports to international top level and attract much needed off-season tourism to Port Alfred.

Nemato Fish Farm: This will contribute to job creation and food security and will help to address overfishing of the ocean.

CONTACT DETAILS

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930033563 (Section 18A Public Benefit Organisation: South African donations are tax deductible)
Level 1 B-BBEE contributor (highest level Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment certificate)

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