

NELSON MANDELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Nemato Change a Life

Nemato Change a Life offers a ‘cradle to career’ youth empowerment programme for disadvantaged youth from the townships in Port Alfred: Nelson Mandela Township (Nemato), Thorn Hill and Station Hill. We help our youth to get the mindset, knowledge, skills and support to escape from poverty: *success in life – for youth, by youth.*

new computer



Our administrator Sipiwo is installing a new computer, made possible by our IT grant from Telkom.

handball in Gauteng



Lifa was invited to Gauteng as a referee for the Eco Trails handball tournament. This was in recognition of the strong handball skills he has acquired over the years.

SABC filming



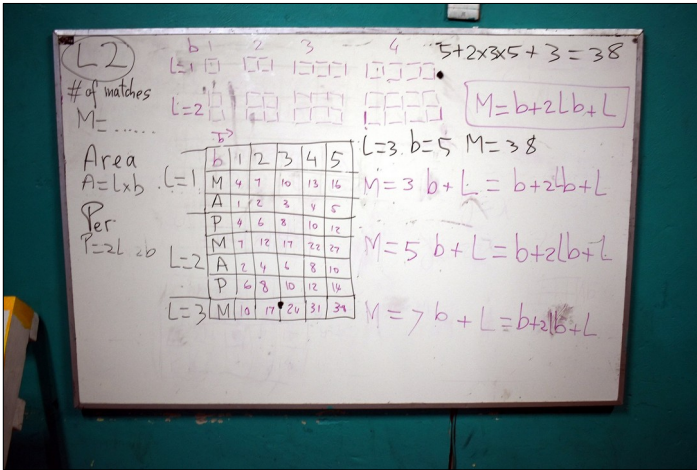
SABC filmed at Nemato Change a Life for the second time in a few months. We’ll be on Behind the Rainbow, but the date of broadcast is not yet confirmed.

river swimming



With the help of an experienced lifesaver, we took our swimming lessons to the next level. We are now swimming in the river.

maths class



Some years back, one of our members got the opportunity to experience working in an office in town for two weeks. Something fell off the wall, he took a drill and sorted it out. There was no bookkeeping system, so he took our system and adjusted it for the company. He built a website and made business cards. He had a wide range of skills that nobody else had at that office. He got all those skills at Nemato Change a Life. His two weeks became a permanent job.

It's nice that our programme helped him, but why are we needed? Why are useful skills not taught during all those years at school? Yes, reading, writing and counting are important skills, but what else that you learn at school is practically useful?

At least maths teaches you an important skill: logical thinking. But does it? In our maths class we see something else: School teaches tricks to pass maths tests. With very little understanding of what you are doing and why it makes sense.

We are lucky in our maths class: we don't have to worry about passing tests and finishing books. We can take time to make maths real and to challenge our logical thinking.

We did a nice exercise: building rectangles with squares made of matchsticks. For the area of the rectangles we counted the squares, for the perimeter we counted the matchsticks going around. From there we could see how the formulas make sense: Area is length times breadth ($A=lb$) and perimeter is length plus breadth plus length plus breadth ($P=2l+2b$).

We were wondering if there is a formula for the total number matchsticks of our rectangles? Google had no answer, so we took the challenge. After two lessons of playing around we found the answer: $M=l+b+2lb$. We went back to our matchsticks rectangles to see if the formula made any sense, and it did: It's the number of matchsticks of two sides, plus two matchsticks for each square. (You are welcome to test it with matchsticks.)

We pushed our logical thinking and 'discovered' maths at the same time. How nice is that!

glass recycling



Phelo and his team started glass recycling at Nemato Change a Life. In many ways it's a very exciting development. It's income generation. It bring money into our community. It cleans up our township. It keeps glass out of the landfill.

In just two weeks they collected five cubic metres of crushed glass. When they have 10 cubic metres the truck from East London will come and fetch the glass.

Over time the recycling will grow into a buy-back centre for many different recyclables, offering an easy way to anybody to make some pocket money.

Upcycling is also in the planning, so that more people can make a living from the waste.

For now, if you are in Port Alfred, you are welcome to drop off your glass at Nemato Change a Life or for large amounts whatsapp Phelo at 0651698631 for collection.

skills



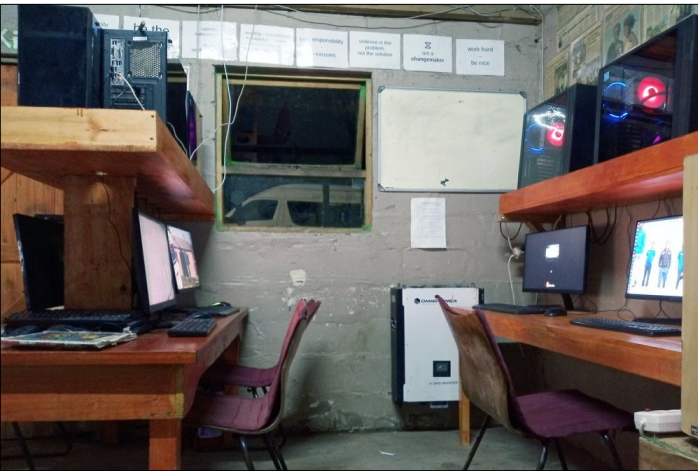
During weekends and holidays our members can get a wide range of skills: learning by doing. From carpentry to coding and anything in between.

In the picture, members are learning how to put connectors on network cables to connect our computers to internet.

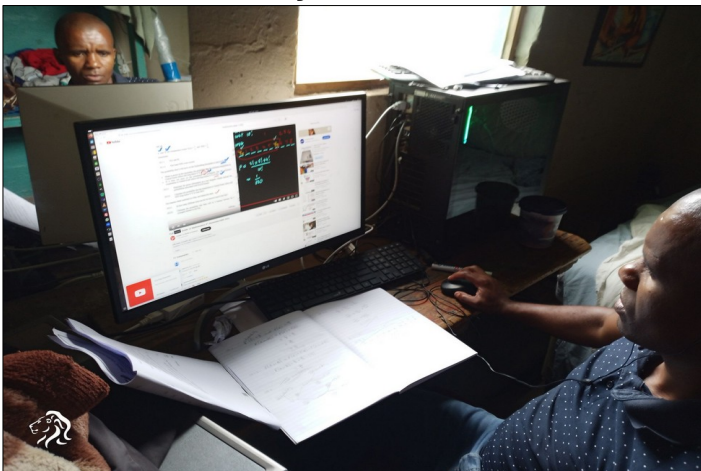
computer tables



With the new computer from Telkom and our upgraded existing computers, our small office was running out of space. We decided to push our engineering skills and built new tables with a 'second floor' for the computers. We are happy with the result: it's strong and our office looks better!



study at Nemato



During school hours our office is open to the community for study and career development. Max is grabbing this opportunity with both hands. You can find him here almost every morning, studying maths on Youtube, to upgrade his matric result.

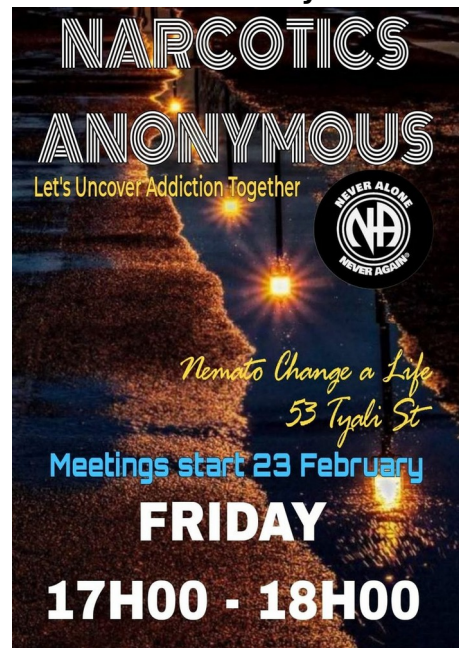
herbs



Our tiny herbs garden has become a green oasis at our centre. Products from the garden are for sale at Jo's shop opposite the Mypond Hotel in Port Alfred: basil and amaranth (super-food) plants and organic fennel seeds.



Narcotics Anonymous



Narcotics Anonymous is now offering weekly sessions in the township for people who want to overcome addiction. The sessions take place at our centre.

students



Three Nemato members are currently studying. Anathi (on the left in the picture) is in his second year engineering at the False Bay College in Cape Town and Athule is doing his first year engineering at the Eastcape Midlands College in Graaff-Reinet. Sino is doing her final year in tourism with practicals at the Royal St Andrew's Hotel in Port Alfred.

Our Matinyana Bursary Fund is supporting the students Asemahle (education at Rhodes University), Unam (education at Walter Sisulu University) and Phumelela (Honours in Humanities at Rhodes).

ergo



We have a growing number of rowers, more than in many years. A challenge is outstanding maintenance on our boats, so most sessions are currently on our ergos. In small steps we are getting our boats back in good working condition.

mattresses



We received a large donation of mattresses from Super Group. Many thanks!!!

gymnastics



After a quiet time, our gymnastics club is open again. We still have a few spaces for youth to join us.

fencing in Gqeberha



We attended a training session and a small inter-club fencing competition in Gqeberha. Our fencer Emihle won the competition.

CONTACT DETAILS

Nemato Change a Life

Registrations 220-298 NPO (Nonprofit Organisation)
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)

Address 53 Tyali Street, Nelson Mandela Township (Nemato), Port Alfred, 6170, South Africa

Bank Account FNB Port Alfred, branch (sort) code 210917, swift code FIRNZAJJ
Shop 6 & 7, Heritage Mall, Gluckman Road, Port Alfred, 6170, South Africa
Nemato Change a Life, account number 62256659461, cheque account

Website/Facebook nemato.org.za

Leadership

Amalinda Nikelo	Chairperson	071 718 0986	amalindanikelo@gmail.com
Mthandazo Nobebe	Secretary		
Bongani Mangi	Treasurer		
Sipiwo Makeleni	Administrator	063 934 3904	makeleniaphellele@gmail.com
Jan Blom	Founder	073 505 9168	info@nemato.org.za

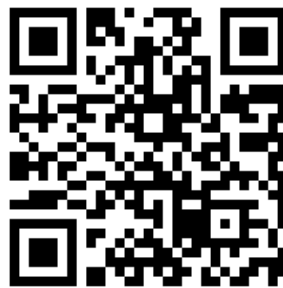
Board of Governors

Bunie M Matlanyane Sexwale	buniems@gmail.com
Lesley Lambert	lesley@wisenet.co.za
Athenkosi Hlekani	athenkosihlekani@yahoo.com
Simlindile Veto	simlindilehumphrey@gmail.com

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