



Nemato Change a Life
success in life – for youth, by youth

newsletter

April – June 2024

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.*

SA Development Team



At the South African Championships Agcobile was selected for the national development squad. He is the only rower selected from the Eastern Cape.

business course



Nemato members participated in a week long business course at the Sunshine Life Centre in Port Alfred. It helped participants to turn a business idea into a business plan.

Tesla



Work hard and dreams can come true. At work Siyanda met Hilton Musk (yes, family of Elon Musk) who offered him a ride in his super-fast Tesla Model X, the only one in South Africa! Siyanda: "It drives like a rocket!"

Nemato in the news



The local newspaper Talk of the Town published a nice article about our gymnastics. You can go to our website to read it: nemato.org.za/ncal-media.htm.

Learning Organisation



Have you heard of Balanced Score Card, SWOT Analyses, Theory of Change and all those business tools? We have done them all. We have made manuals for different elements of our programme. Many long hours of thinking and writing how to run the best programme in the world.

Guess what... we are not using any of it.

Maybe those things are nice for boardrooms. Not for the dust and the mud of an impoverished township. To survive here, from a young age you learn to fight for food or go hungry, to bully not to be bullied. Stealing depends on risk, not morals. Pulling people down eases the pain of being traumatised and pulled down. So do alcohol and drugs.

But at Nemato Change a Life everything is different and everything is better. Actually, no it isn't. Members bring in the burden of growing up here and there are no quick fixes. We go from challenge to challenge.

If it's so hard, why don't we move to an easier community? Or why don't we focus on the top achievers and let the troublesome members go?

Let them go where? The street, the violence, the drugs, prison, death? Raw reality!

Manuals and blueprints don't work here. We try and fail, try again and fail again. Try and fail better, as Samuel Beckett put it. Look back and ask the question: Where would this member be without our 'failing'? ... and we know that what feels like failing is in fact success, so we keep going!

As research in Asia by former Harvard Business School Professor David C. Korten has shown: the most successful organisations helping communities overcome poverty are community based. They don't use blueprints; they constantly try, learn and change. He called them *learning organisations*.

We are proudly a Learning Organisation and we'll keep changing lives!

no internet

Our internet is down. Our old supplier optimised its systems from a business perspective but not from a client perspective. Besides slow internet, managing the large number of internet users at our centre became impossible. Luckily Telkom extended its IT grant to Nemato, making it possible to move to wireless at fibre speeds!

18th birthday



We celebrated the 18th birthday of Nemato Change a Life on Youth Day with a treasure hunt and a braai at the beach.



Carnival



Reward for high commitment to our programme: our gold members visited the Sunshine Carnival in Port Alfred.

centre upgrades



The flooring of our classrooms gets done thanks to a generous donation by the Royal St Andrews Hotel!

Cheering up our office with some happy colours. Thanks to Malibongwe for taking the initiative!



enterprise development

With a weak economy and sky high unemployment, we can't just do youth empowerment and hope all will be fine. We desperately need business development to grow the economy and create opportunities for our youth.



Onele started offering tourism services. The first event was a beach hike. His services are currently limited to the holidays as he has a job during the week.



The upgrade of our fish farm is completed: much more space for the fish and a bigger water filtering system. Congratulations to Jester for tackling this challenge! With this small fish farm we are getting hands-on experience in fish farming. We are combining it with fly farming: recycling waste food into fly larvae to produce fish feed. Our aim is to find ways to scale up to a commercial fly and fish farm for jobs, income generation, food security and to help protect the oceans.



Herbs gardening is another way to get our hands dirty and get skills that can be turned into income. We harvested our first luffas. They are now for sale as body scrubs at The Market Traders Store (Jo's shop) in Port Alfred.



rowing



Our rowers were at the South African Championships at the Roodeplaat Dam north of Pretoria. Chris joined an Eastern Cape team and won a medal, and Agcobile was selected for the national development team based on his strong performance in the single scull.

We also went to a fun competition in East London. We had never rowed in an octuple (an eight with 16 blades) before, but we still won gold!



gymnastics



Asithandile won gold at the Eastern Cape Gymnastics Trials, in the picture with coach Phelo left and coach Siphamandla right.



We got a new blacktop trampoline. No matter the rain, we'll jump on it all day!

handball



Handball doesn't have a set competition calendar like our other sports. That makes it difficult to find events for our handball team. Not good for the motivation of our players. Then came the good news: we were spoiled with a three-day tournament in Kariega (formerly Uitenhage) during the winter holiday.

fencing



At the Eastern Cape Championships here in Port Alfred, our fencer Lebu was crowned Eastern Cape Champion in the Under-17 age group.

CONTACT DETAILS

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930033563 (Section 18A Public Benefit Organisation: South African donations are tax deductible)
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