



Nemato Change a Life

success in life – for youth, by youth

newsletter

January – March 2025

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.*

shredder



We took a big step forward with our recycling project: we received a shredder donated by the Cacadu Development Agency. The shredder was built for us by Crutchfield Engineering in Johannesburg.

Zanzibar



Awonke was selected for the SA Youth Beach Handball Team to travel to Zanzibar, Tanzania, in February for the African qualifiers for the World Championships. Sadly, the federation had to cancel the trip due to a lack of funding.

Change a Life



In a meeting at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, our main funder, the Mike Thomson Change a Life Trust, informed us that they will continue their generous support! Many thanks to the Change a Life cyclists, who are the donors of the trust!

social media

Page overview		Create post
Last 28 days		
Views	79,729	
Reach	32,963	
Content interactions	1,696	
Follows	58	
See more		
Top content		See all
Last 28 days		
Boost this post to reach up to 3728 more people with every ZAR 350 that you spend.		
	Fantastic achievement by Awonke! She has been selected for the SA Youth...	Views: 26,981 Reach: 14,975 Interactions: 347
Published by Jan Blom		

Many people follow us on [Facebook](#) to stay up to date with what’s happening at Nemato Change a Life. We have over 8,000 followers and received nearly 80,000 views in February. We’re also on [LinkedIn](#). You are most welcome to follow us!

recycling



For our recycling project, we collect glass, plastic, and aluminium cans. You can drop off recyclables at our centre in Nelson Mandela Township or at the Market Traders Store (Jo's shop) in Port Alfred. We crush glass into large 1-ton bags for transport to the glass factory in Cape Town.

In March, we received a plastic shredder built for us by Crutchfield Engineering in Gauteng. It was donated by the Cacadu Development Agency, with support from the Royal St Andrews Hotel in Port Alfred.



With this shredder, we can now process the plastic we collect: wash it, dry it, and shred it. This is the first step in upcycling old plastic into new products. For now, we plan to sell the shredded plastic, but in the future, we aim to create our own products from it.

We're currently fundraising for machines such as an injection moulder and a sheet press, which will allow us to turn shredded plastic into new products. This means we can produce small-scale, unique plastic products locally, instead of sending everything to a large factory in Cape Town. We also hope to buy a kiln to melt old glass and make new glass items.

With our upgraded solar power system, we're now double green: processing waste using clean, free energy from the sun.

Artificial Intelligence



We've started using Artificial Intelligence (DeepSeek, Manus, and ChatGPT) in our maths class! You can ask it to generate practice questions, request hints, and see the full calculations and answers. Now, you can master any subject with the help of your personal AI teacher. For free!

Apart from text editing, this newsletter is still handmade, and the pictures are real. Not AI-generated. The newsletter and website that Manus created for us weren't quite strong enough yet to replace our handmade versions. But the fact that it can already generate a full newsletter and publish a website just by pulling information from the internet shows where we are headed.

Just a thought: Seeing the power of AI, shouldn't education shift dramatically from memorising and answering questions to learning how to ask the right questions? Maybe we should change our coding lessons from writing code to learning how to instruct DeepSeek to code. Or perhaps we should keep coding, since it's a great way to develop logical thinking, an essential skill for using AI effectively.

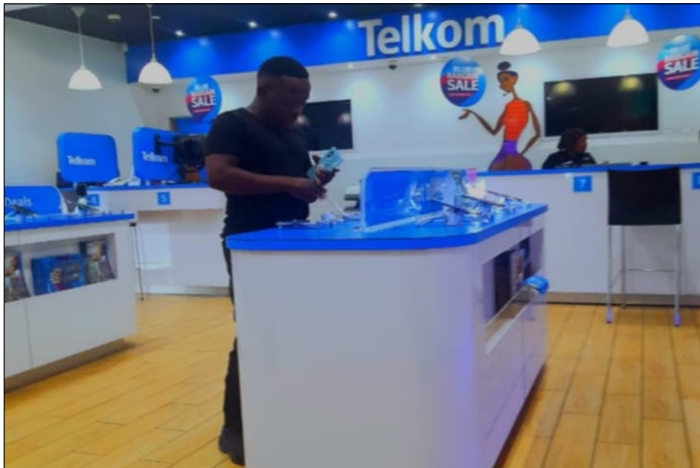


Four members completed the Tanks coding course by Nelson Mandela University and one member completed the next level: our kTurtle coding course. They received their certificates.

success in life

In our country, where youth unemployment is extreme, it's always great to see our members finding jobs.

We congratulate the following members:



Lifa got job at Telkom, our IT sponsor.



Sheldon became the grounds manager at PJ Olivier High School and the head coach of Rhodes University Rowing Club.

Simlindile's temporary job as an administrative assistant at the National School of Arts has been made permanent, and Malibongwe got a job as a lifeguard after passing his scuba diving course.

Phumelela, who was supported by our Matinyana Bursary Fund, graduated with distinction.



business course



Five Nemato members attended a workshop in Makhanda on the Global CleanTech Innovation Programme by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation. The programme focuses on ideas and support for business development that promotes a sustainable economy and green jobs.

herbs garden



Our tiny herb garden is turning into a small, dense forest. Nature doing its own thing, pure and natural, with no fertilisers or pesticides. You can buy our products at the Market Traders Store (Jo's shop) in Port Alfred. At the moment, we've got nasturtium capers, basil hydrosol and tea, fennel seeds, and luffa. You'll also find Asonela's beeswax and recycled candles at Jo's shop.



retreat



Towards the end of the summer holiday, we had a five-day retreat. We tackled the 'heavy stuff' to help us process loss and trauma, as well as to prepare for a successful 2025. However, there was also time for fun activities.

gold members meeting



We revived our Gold Members' meeting. Our most active members are given gold membership status, which grants them voting rights in our organisation.

Buffalo Regatta



Our rowers competed in the Buffalo Regatta in East London, one of the largest national rowing competitions in the country.

Eastern Cape Open



Our fencers competed in the Eastern Cape Open at the Old Tramways Building in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth).

coaching course



Three Nemato members were invited to attend a gymnastics coaching course in Gqeberha.

trampoline mat



The kids are jumping again on our blacktop trampoline, day and night! The jumping mat had worn out and needed replacing. The new mat has arrived. We're keeping the old one for spare parts and repairs. Jumping is back! And the sandbag walls of our workshop are ready for plastering. Progress!

CONTACT DETAILS

Nemato Change a Life

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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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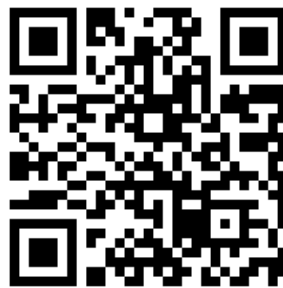
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