

MASIKHULE

we are growing



Masikhule News: December 2022

We look forward to sharing the highlights of the last few months – and year!

LWANDLE MIGRANT LABOUR MUSEUM: UBUNTU AWARDS 2022



Masikhule is truly honoured to be the recipient of an Ubuntu Award this year for work we do in the community. The spirit of these Ubuntu Awards is recognizing those who give and make a difference without expecting anything back – and we are very grateful for this heartwarming acknowledgment by the community.

We all know you cannot teach a hungry child – so we were devastated when the partner we worked with discontinued their free nutritious porridge in early 2022. However, after our last newsletter, we were stunned to receive an email from one of our largest funders in the UK asking for a proposal for funding for this porridge.

With their guaranteed support, we have now been able to reintroduce ForAfrika porridge and will be able to feed up to 2 000 children for a whole year and for this we, the ECD staff, the children and their parents are immensely grateful – thank you Upside Trust!

Our other, much-appreciated partner in Nutrition is Pebbles Project Kitchens. Children attending community-based ECD Centres received over 7500 tasty, well-balanced meals during the year thanks to this partnership. Thanks also go to Golden Sunbeams e.V. for part-funding this project on a monthly basis.

NUTRITION



TRAINING



Groups E and F have continued with our Early Learning Program (ELP) training every two weeks this year. We have now trained ECD staff at 23 ECD Centres and we are seeing great success in the implementation of our holistic program.

The digitization of this ELP – **Masikhule LEARN** – is going well. We now have 22 themes available and the number of people interacting with our online platform is growing steadily. Please have a look and share this free-to-access resource: <https://learn.masikhule.org/> We also presented four Teacher Enrichment Workshops (TEW) during 2022 with 32 attendees at each. Topics covered were Gross Motor Skills, Fine Motor Skills, Basic Concepts and Observations and Report-writing.

We have continued to mentor the 70 ECD Centres we work with through contact visits, WhatsApp and email communication as well as in-office visits. Added to this has been the on-site Occupational Therapy group work at 3 Centres. This includes regular screening to establish the effectiveness of ELP and TEW training and the OT input.

Our OT said: *"My main goal is to increase the knowledge base of the educators/caregivers regarding pre-school motor development, visual-motor integration, perceptual and emotional development. I feel that they have developed a better understanding of child development and can identify issues that require attention."*

MENTORING AND OT GROUPS



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Registration Project



Masikhule provided regular and professional assistance to nearly 80 ECD Centres with regards to legislative requirements and compliance matters through our partnership with the WCED. We were able to successfully renew the WCED Registrations of 11 ECD Centres.

Our teachers' resource library continues to support and enhance training and implementation. Here are some of the statistics for the year:

Members: 43 (of which 76% have been members for over a year)

Theme bags issued: 523 (which include 12 720 items)

Book bags issued: 382 totaling 3 820 books (92% of centres indicated this encouraged reading with the children)

Deliveries/Collection: 479 (96% of centres indicated this service has positively impacted them).

Well done to our Resource Library team for ensuring this enriching project is run so efficiently – and a huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers who support them with great dedication!

Early Learning Resource Library



Playboard Project



Thanks to many wonderful donations, Masikhule installed playboards (blackboards that are at a height for children to play and learn on) at 19 ECD Centres. Playboards are a fantastic way to encourage creativity as well as drawing skills, large arm movements, visual tracking, crossing the midline, eye-hand coordination and fine motor skills. These were installed together with activity ideas provided by our OT.

Early Literacy

Book Dash donated 8 700 of their vibrant and engaging children's books to Masikhule this year. These colourful and relevant books were supplied in Xhosa, English, Afrikaans and wordless so that we could pack and send 3 language-appropriate books for each child in over 60 ECD Centres in the marginalised communities we work with.

What a gift for each of these children to take home with them and share with their families and read together – thank you!



EVENTS



This year we were very grateful to be selected by Felicity Gallagher as her beneficiary in the **Sanlam Cape Town Marathon** – thanks to Felicity and to all those who sponsored her.

Our **Mandela Day Cast on 4 Kids** was heart-warming with so many wonderful donations. Our sincere thanks to everyone who made it possible for us to distribute so much joy to the children in 25 ECD Centres. Next year we are looking forward to getting back to knit together – we have missed you!

In November we took part in the **Balwin Charity Hat Walk** which was tremendous fun and we were delighted to be one of the charities selected to receive a whopping donation of R50 000! Thank you to all who joined us on the day.

THANK YOU!

Our sincerest thanks to all our funders – big and small, once-off, ongoing and monthly. YOU are the reason we can keep doing our projects and YOU make this all possible. Together we can do so much.

(Reminder to local donors that we can issue you with a Section 18A tax certificate should you require one.)



MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

We as a team continue to be amazed and inspired by the resilience and courage of the women we work with in the ECD community. We are stronger because of them and we are ever grateful to our many donors and supporters for enabling us to continue on this journey of collaboration and empowerment. Receiving the Ubuntu Award – nominated and selected by the community – was endorsing indeed!

Thank you to our Advisory Board members (Greet De Wulf, Else de Jong and Naomi Malebo) and to our Masikhule team of Jeanine Andro, Amanda Bangani, Karen Bufé, Anjo du Preez, Sandy Immelman and Coreen Vlok for giving so selflessly and generously to Masikhule and our beneficiaries. We look forward to continuing to make a meaningful difference together.

May the holiday season be a time to rest, relax and recharge.

In gratitude, Léanne Keet



Ways to Give

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www.masikhule.org

