

## PHAKAMISA NEWSLETTER

December 2022

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. We are approaching the end of 2022 and the Lord has kept His word to us, we are indebted to Him for such a saviour.

At the beginning of the year, when we re-opened the offices in January, Pinetown Methodist Church and Phakamisa staff had a dedication service.



On March 3rd, Phakamisa held an official opening service that collaborated both ECD (early childhood development) teachers and grannies. The scripture that was read was **2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel chapter 9 vs 1 to 13**, the theme for this service: **"When Grace locates you"**. This service had a huge impact on changing people's lives. As a result, some younger people were employed by companies and for some of the grannies, their lives at home changed for the better. We can only thank God for the seed that grew and manifested in people's lives.

The year began on a high note as we had huge numbers for both ECD teachers and grannies for economic empowerment.

1<sup>st</sup> quarter went very well until April 11 – 13 when we were affected by severe floods caused by heavy rainfall that left many without homes, some lost their family members, most infrastructures: roads, health centres, schools were damaged. The situation disturbed the smooth running of the office and programs as the community we work with were also affected by this.

We had a campaign of collecting essential needs to assist those who were affected: food parcels, blankets, clothes etc.

We had about 165 students this year for both child minder and Edu-care courses. We are grateful for this response. Year 2021 had many challenges in this department due to the fact that ECD was migrating from the Department of Social Development (DSD) to the Department of Basic Education (DBE). The DBE has certain criteria that a teacher should have in order to educate in an ECD Centre.

Due to these criteria, ECD teachers did not want to enrol in doing ECD course but instead, wanted to jump and do LEVEL 4 which is an accredited course for ECD. We then had to do research and inform our students about this transition and the importance of ECD as the starting block for a child's future and an opportunity to bridge the inequality gap in South Africa.

We therefore saw a need to bridge the gap and we negotiated with Phakamisa Board members and The Love Trust (accredited Teacher Learning Centre) to bring the Level 4 course back. The whole purpose was for Phakamisa to be recognised as a centre that can meet the needs of the ECD Centres and provide the essential education to all the ECD Centres. We have managed to do that and the two year course began in September and is running smoothly.

We have recently had a graduation for 130 students for both Child minder and Edu-care courses.



### What is Level 4?

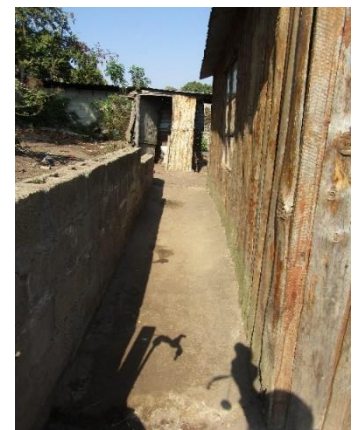
- Level 4 – is a Further Education and Training Certificate: Early Childhood Development. It is an accredited Certificate which allows practitioners to further their professional development in ECD by providing access to higher education and training qualifications and/or to specialise in aspects of ECD practice (e.g. GRADE R) or specific roles (e.g. managers, trainers etc.)
- This qualification will develop ECD practitioners to provide appropriate education, training and development services in ECD sub-field, e.g. home-based, centre-and school-based practitioners including GRADE R, family and community ECD motivators, fieldworkers, facilitators, trainers and managers.

In February, students who started this 2 year course in 2016 were able to graduate. The graduation went very well and it brightened up our faces with something positive after Covid 19 pandemic.



### Wandering School Centres

Wandering schools are at the heart of this office, as they offer a better start in life to vulnerable children. The children are given a free education to equip them for future and they are also nurtured and receive the love and attention they really deserve. Floods in KZN in particular affected us as well. One of our wandering school was damaged due to these floods, the other 2 wandering schools survived even though they were affected as well. This did not stop us from achieving our main goal of educating, playing with, loving and caring for these little ones.



Wandering school at Village/ shallcross

damaged by floods

revamped

We held our Christmas party on December 1<sup>st</sup>, which involved gifts and also heading to the swimming pool afterwards

Poverty still remains a main factor within the communities that we serve. Introduction of the porridge drive assisted greatly in our Wandering schools after several cases were reported by our ECD Teachers during our team meetings. We thank Pinetown Methodist church for a constant support in this. Still today, Phakamisa serves the porridge in the morning to Wandering schools.



Maize meal porridge



serving fruits after porridge

## **BUILDING PROJECT**

After the floods in April we took the initiative to check around the community (amongst grannies, teachers), Wandering schools and even staff members. We discovered that in one of the Wandering schools, a child called Pumba and her granny were severely affected. They were living in a shack that was made out of sack and sails but after floods, the situation was worse than before. MaLuthuli is 62 this year and Pumba is 6 years old and she has started a big school this year. We also discovered that granny MaLuthuli was not receiving a pension grant because she does not know how to go about doing it. We then started a process of assisting her with documentation with D.S.D (Department of Social Development) through Nomalanga (Wandering school teacher). She is now receiving her pension grant.

We received some flood relief funds from WDR (Irish Methodist World Development & Relief) which we knew would make a huge impact in our community. We decided to build a house for MaLuthuli and her grandchild to give them dignity, security, self-esteem and protection.



Food parcels



previous house



new house

**GRANNIES GARDENS:** Our gardens were severely damaged after the floods and the grannies are still trying to revive them. The challenge we are facing now is a shortage of space around the areas we serve. We encourage the grannies to use their own backyard so that they are still able to sell and also to eat fresh vegetables from their gardens.

**SEWING** is a skill that grannies acquire as a tool to make a living. It creates job opportunities and puts food on the table. Amongst the things that they sew are pillow cases, pillows, aprons, ironing board covers, cushions and many other things. They have excelled in these skills and we are proud of what they were able to accomplish.

### **COOKING & BAKING**

We changed the menu slightly in order to teach items that will be able to generate income. The Covid 19 pandemic, unrest and floods, have caused the SA economy to depreciate drastically and as a result the food market prices have drastically increased, making life very difficult for some. So many have been able to establish businesses just by baking and selling at schools, in the community and cooking on special occasions.



**BEADWORK:** Craft beaded work has improved and changed lives for many years. This handiwork has grown a lot in the past year. A number of grannies who attended this course are now able to feed their families because of job opportunities created by this course. Some grannies formed groups in their areas as part of the teamwork group to make and sell their products mostly to visitors and they also make these beads for hiring on special events.

**EVENTS** On August 31st we celebrated women's month with the grannies and ECD teachers. We made history, when grannies were the ones giving us a word. This event collaborated with empowerment of women and awareness of Gender Based violence.



**SUZUKI ERTIGA** : We are so grateful for the new vehicle that arrived in July just before we opened for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term. It came just in time when we needed it the most. We are able to go an extra mile and it just made our lives much easier for the office. Thanks to our supporters in the UK for such a marvellous gift.

*Thank you all for the support that you continuously give Phakamisa. The year had its ups and downs with God's grace we managed to pull through. May our good Lord bless you all.*

**Psalms 103 verses 1 to 5**

**Miss Ntombizethu P Kuzwayo**

**Phakamisa Director**