

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EMPOWERMENT



Testimonial by Basetsana Mampana

Background and Initial Situation

Growing up in a rural, disadvantaged area, my life was confined to the boundaries of my small village. I had little exposure to the possibilities beyond its borders. Public speaking, goal setting, and self-confidence were significant struggles for me, compounded by my low self-esteem. With an older mother, I often felt alone, misunderstood, and unsupported. Mathematics, in particular, was a source of great sadness, as my efforts to improve my marks seemed futile.

Experience with Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation

My experience with the Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation was nothing short of transformative. For the first time, I felt welcomed, understood, and seen. The tutoring program significantly improved my academic performance, particularly in mathematics, and the various activities boosted my self-esteem and confidence. The unwavering support from the Foundation's members made me feel capable of conquering any challenge. Their assistance extended beyond tutoring, helping with my university applications and fees, which is why I am now studying at a higher education institution. The vision boarding event was particularly eye-opening, showing me a world beyond the confines of my village and inspiring me to strive for more.

Transformation and Impact

Today, I no longer seek validation from the outside world. I am confident, love myself, and proudly embrace who I am. The day the Foundation first reached out to us remains a vivid memory. It was an emotional day as I felt chosen, seen, and appreciated for the first time. Their visit made me feel truly loved, a love not born out of obligation but out of a genuine desire to empower and uplift. Initially, I feared it was too good to be true, but their consistent support proved otherwise. The first speaker at the vision boarding event on January 29, 2023, left a profound impact on me, making me realize how fortunate I am and inspiring gratitude for everything I once took for granted.

Current Life Status

I am currently studying Nursing at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, a path made possible by the Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation. In the wards, as I assist patients, I feel the Foundation's presence, knowing they paved the way for my success. Recently, I was awarded a prize for being the second in my class for Anatomy, and I consistently achieve distinctions in most of my modules.

Personal Reflections

I am immensely proud of myself. I have achieved the right balance in my life, finding my place and purpose at the right time. The greatest gift the Foundation has given me is my life back. They helped me overcome insecurities, negative self-talk, and low self-esteem, enabling me to believe in myself again.

Future Aspirations

My goal is to bring about positive change in my community. The Foundation has shown me the profound impact of reaching out and making a difference in people's lives. Once shy and isolated, I am now more outgoing and open to socializing. I have found my voice and can confidently stand up for my beliefs.



Advice and Recommendations

My advice to others is to love themselves wholeheartedly. True happiness comes from within, and the relationship you have with yourself sets the tone for all other relationships in your life. Remember, you are worthy of the love you give to the world. For those in similar situations, know that someone cares for you and that you matter.

Personal Connection

I remain in touch with the Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation through phone calls. They regularly check on my progress, and the bonds formed with the Foundation's members are lifelong, transcending distance and time. The Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation will always be cherished for its invaluable presence in our lives.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024

Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation recognises the below students from Rathlahana Secondary School for their achievements in the Mmametlhake Circuit for Term 1 of 2024.

These students are part of the Girl in the Mirror Mentorship program. We are immensely proud of their achievements


CIRCUIT POSITION 1
ACHIEVEMENT 86% & MATHEMATICS
ACHIEVEMENT 90%

AWARD

TERM 1 2024 | MMAMETLHAKE CIRCUIT

KAMOGELO SEAKAMELA
RATLHANA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Congratulations on your well deserved award. Your hard work and dedication is paying off and may you continue to achieve



CIRCUIT POSITION 5
ACHIEVEMENT 80%

AWARD

TERM 1 2024 | MMAMETLHAKE CIRCUIT

SEBOTHOMA MAHLATSI
RATLHANA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Congratulations on your well deserved award. Your hard work and dedication is paying off and may you continue to achieve excellence.




CIRCUIT HISTORY
ACHIEVEMENT 88%

AWARD

TERM 1 2024 | MMAMETLHAKE CIRCUIT

TSHABALALA BOIKHUTSO
RATLHANA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Congratulations on your well deserved award. Your hard work and dedication is paying off and may you continue to achieve excellence.



**CIRCUIT POSITION 6
ACHIEVEMENT 79%**

AWARD

TERM 1 2024 | MMAMETLHAKE CIRCUIT

MATOME ITEBOGENG
RATLHANA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Congratulations on your well deserved award. Your hard work and dedication is paying off and may you continue to achieve excellence.



**CIRCUIT BUSINESS STUDIES
ACHIEVEMENT OF 81%**

AWARD

TERM 1 2024 | MMAMETLHAKE CIRCUIT

NKOANE BOIKHUTSO
RATLHANA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Congratulations on your well deserved award. Your hard work and dedication is paying off and may you continue to achieve excellence.



**CIRCUIT BUSINESS STUDIES
ACHIEVEMENT 81%**

AWARD

TERM 1 2024 | MMAMETLHAKE CIRCUIT

MALOKA ORATILE
RATLHANA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Congratulations on your well deserved award. Your hard work and dedication is paying off and may you continue to achieve excellence.



MEET THE TEAM - A JOURNEY OF GIVING BACK AND MAKING AN IMPACT

Lesego Gwebu shares her experience working with Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation.

Background and Experience

Growing up in a township with access to diverse resources and education, I've always felt a call to give back to communities less fortunate. Despite having no prior volunteering experience beyond occasional church activities, the opportunity to co-found Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation was deeply fulfilling. It stemmed from a conversation with my sister about the joy of supporting girls from disadvantaged backgrounds, igniting a passion to make a tangible difference.



Role and Responsibilities

As the PR and Marketing Director for Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation, my days are dynamic and often extend beyond standard work hours. Virtual team meetings are crucial for aligning on ongoing projects, upcoming events, and overcoming challenges. I manage our social media presence, crafting compelling content that amplifies our impact. Reporting to stakeholders on our marketing efforts and outcomes ensures transparency and accountability.

The most rewarding aspect of my role is witnessing the transformative effect of our initiatives on the community. From improving educational opportunities to empowering young women, every success story reaffirms the significance of our mission. Collaborating with dedicated colleagues and partners who share a commitment to rural development is both inspiring and motivating.

Personal Insights

My journey in the nonprofit sector is driven by a profound belief in the power of education to uplift marginalized communities. Seeing firsthand how education breaks barriers and unlocks potential fuels my dedication. Balancing responsibilities between my role at Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation and other commitments demands meticulous time management and prioritization. Securing sustainable funding remains a challenge, met with proactive relationship-building and relentless pursuit of opportunities.

Goals and Aspirations

Looking ahead, my PR and marketing goals for Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation focus on enhancing brand visibility and expanding our digital footprint. I aim to innovate communication strategies that resonate with diverse audiences, reinforcing our commitment to quality education and community empowerment. Personally, I aspire to introduce innovative campaigns that drive organizational growth and witness measurable impact in the lives we touch.

Fun and Personal Interests

Outside of work, I cherish moments spent on road trips with my family, exploring new destinations and creating lasting memories. Reading is a passion that allows me to unwind and broaden my perspectives. Experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen fuels my creative spirit, reflecting my entrepreneurial drive beyond nonprofit work.

Advice and Tips

To fellow nonprofit professionals, I emphasize the importance of celebrating successes, no matter how small. Setting clear goals and maintaining a healthy work-life balance are essential for sustained motivation and productivity. Engaging with inspiring stories and networking within the sector keeps innovation alive and fosters continuous improvement. Above all, self-care and resilience are key to navigating challenges and staying dedicated to our shared mission of community empowerment.



MQHELE YEZIZWE CALENDAR



WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS?

Donate

To ensure our initiatives are a success, we are relying on the generosity and support of donors like you.

Your contribution, no matter the amount, will directly contribute towards education initiatives (tutoring, school shoes, career expo) for learners in underprivileged communities.

Volunteer

We are looking for dedicated volunteers to sign up to assist with any of our initiatives to make a positive impact in the lives of the Young learners.

You could volunteer to:

- Be a mentor in our 10 month #girlinthemirror mentorship program
- Assist learners with applying to tertiary institutions and applying for bursaries
- Assist the foundation in collecting dignity packs from individuals, organisations and the community for the HealthyU campaign

Whether it's an inspiring story, a shout-out, educational books, or a personal or educational milestone you or a colleague have achieved – we'd love to hear about it and share your news to highlight the positive impact within our community

Email: info@mqheleyezizwe.com

Contact: 081 248 3250

