

Chest Chat

Electronic newsletter of Lusa Community Chest



In the autumn 2022 issue:

**Cheering our
Champions!
Special
Recognition
Awards to
our stalwart
donors.**



**Developing
NPO's,
ECD's
and
Civil
Society
Leaders**



***Community
Projects:
Renovating
and
Securing
Letsoho La None
Centre for the
Aged***





Cheering our Champions!

Special Recognition Awards to our stalwart donors

Lusa Community Chest and our beneficiary Non-profit Organisations have experienced difficult, challenging times and economic constraints since Covid hit us during 2020.

We want to bring Special Recognition to our stalwart donors. These are companies who remained committed to their CSI Vision of making a difference to their stakeholders including, the greater community, for the greater good.

Purpose driven organisations who see the bigger picture and continue to make an impact in their communities are worthy of recognition and support. This is the true Spirit of Ubuntu and makes complete financial sense as well!

Thank you from our hearts. We could not be who we are, or do what we do, without you.



Anna-Marie de Lange from Safripol received the Corporate Investor of the Year Award for Corporate Social Investment in Socio Economic Investment in the Community.



Jaco Janse van Rensburg receiving a Special Recognition Award for Almamet South Africa (Pty) Ltd for Community Upliftment through CSI for Socio Economic Upliftment from Veronica Cronje, Lusa Community Chest



Henk Human from Rejuvenation Community Trust received a Special Recognition Award for Community Upliftment from Veronica Cronje, Lusa Community Chest



Sifiso Ntamane receiving a Special Recognition Award for BSi Steel for Community Upliftment through CSI for Socio Economic Upliftment from Diane Wilder, Lusa Community Chest



Corne Bierman and Sonica van Rooyen from Indgro Outsourcing receiving their Special Recognition Award for Community Upliftment through CSI for Enterprise Development and Socio Economic Development from Diane Wilder, Lusa Community Chest



Amanda Nel from Staro Process Control receiving their Special Recognition Award for Community Upliftment through CSI for Socio Economic Development, Supplier Development, Enterprise Development and Skills Development from Diane Wilder, Lusa Community Chest



Mbulelo Mpemvu from Hollywood Bets receiving their Special Recognition Award for Community Upliftment through CSI for Socio Economic Development from Phil Zwane, Lusa Community Chest.



Pule Pitikoe from RandWater Foundation receiving their Special Recognition Award for Community Upliftment



Developing NPO's, ECD's and Civil Society Leaders:



Making a difference through Community Development

Community development is vital because it provides the foundation to improve the lives of its citizens. When implemented properly, it creates strong, diverse communities with shared responsibility for the growth and prosperity of their communities. When community development is effective, needs of the communities are addressed often times resulting in less disparity

between residents. It reduces crime and more jobs become available. Community development doesn't necessarily eradicate the problems in our towns and cities but it does help reduce problems and increases opportunities for community and economic growth.

Successful community development takes collaboration among stakeholders and thanks to sponsorship from Staro Process Control and Almamet, Lusa has been able to facilitate training to 7 students for a National Certificate: Community Development. The NQF5 curriculum covers 19 unit standards (147 credits), facilitated over a period of 12 months and includes completion of comprehensive assessments. On successful completion, the students will receive statements of results declaring competency from ETDP SETA.

Lusa is excited to be facilitating this full qualification with our first cohort of students and remain dedicated to making a difference in our communities through empowering community development champions.



NPO Toolkit Training

28 Newly established NPO's enrolled in the NPO Incubator Training which started in March 2022, sponsored by SASOL. The program aims to empower new and existing NPOs in the Metsimaholo and Vanderbijlpark area over a period of six months. A pre-assessment is done on every NPO to determine the gaps and to identify the training need. On completion of the program, a post-assessment will be done to determine the impact of the training. Gaps identified includes the need for training on risk management, succession planning, strategic planning, various organisational policies, financial management,

business plans, HR management, roles and responsibilities of Board members and Volunteer management. Additionally, the NPO's are also trained in proposal writing, networking, marketing, leadership and personal development, creating a comprehensive training program that will assist these NPOs in establishing and ensuring successful and sustainable organisations which will effectively meet the needs of their communities.



Building stronger foundations

Effective teaching requires education and care to be integrated; with learning, development, and experiences for children inter-related. Well-developed ECD programs such as the Gr8Start program provide just such integrated learning. The program explores activities that equip teachers to stimulate, develop and test the social, emotional and physical intelligence of young children. It enables teachers to monitor and evaluate motor development, hearing and

listening skills, eye movements and visual processes as well as the gross motor and fine motor skills in pre-school children to prepare for and ensure school readiness.

In addition, the program assists the early childhood educators to change educational practice, beliefs, understanding, and attitudes with regards to the vital role they play in developing well balanced, school ready children by creating an environment conducive to learning.

The facilitation of the Gr8Start Program occurs over 5 days as a hands-on, practical and interactive course during which early childhood educators are up-skilled with the tools and techniques required to implement and manage an effective ECD program. The educators are taught how to use recyclable materials to prepare teaching aids and testing instruments for use in their lessons as well as to enhance their classroom environment to create a stimulating surrounding that awakens creativity and learning. The educators are supplied with learner manuals and a basic start-up kit of materials required to create all the essential teaching and evaluation aids.

Fourteen educators from newly established and prospective ECD Centre's attended this programme. An overwhelming positive response was received from the participants about their learnings in the programme:

- As an educator I have to provide a strong foundation according to their basic needs. I need to support them by working with parents in order to balance their life-long development. A good foundation builds a better outcome for both the child and surrounding community.
- I feel enthusiastic, empowered and determined to make a success of my new ECD Centre. I have learned so many different approaches to ECD training together with the knowledge to implement solutions to problems that may arise.
- Passion, patience and caring is very important in an educator. We are the problem solvers and equalizers. Throw favouritism out the door as it is discouraging the learners.
- Mind-set is of the utmost importance to work in this environment and that children have skills that we need to develop. I have learned how developing myself impacts on the development of the children as I am an example to them. This training has shown me different ways to simplify my work and get greater results.
- The training was knowledgeable as an educator and it taught me the role that I have in the learners development. It has changed me personally and brought light to my understanding of ECD.
- The course was an eye opener and I would recommend this training to all ECD teachers. It was amazing and helpful!
- The training helped me understand my own strengths and weaknesses regarding running an ECD centre. It was an amazing facilitation to bring practical knowledge together with theory and useful ideas.

Early Childhood Development students creating their own kit of visual aids and assessment instruments from recyclable materials during the Gr8Start ECD Programme.





Renovating and Securing Letsoho La None Centre for the Aged

The elderly club situated in Zamdela, has more than 20 members who gather a few times a week for various activities. Unfortunately, the centre had been victim to repeated burglaries and it became evident that the security needed upgrading. Lusa installed an alarm system and a solid locking system on all storage cupboards and doors of the building. With these increased security measures in place, we can now assist them with necessary equipment and provisions resting in the knowledge that the property and contents will be safer.

