



Starting Strong in 2019!

"A popular saying we use in our office is "the only Kraal that is clean is the one in which there is no cattle". Although we are in our second year of operations, we are still putting a lot of structures in place. The pursuit of accomplishing last year's achievements and building on that to reach new heights, often leaves us with a dirty kraal, but that is the whole point." - Philip Jonker

New addition to the team: *Bhekisisa Hotyo*



We are excited to welcome Bhekisisa Hotyo who joined our team this year.

In 2016, Bhekisisa (also brother of our computer mentor, Zimasile) took part of the gap year programme that started in Zithulele.

After completing the programme, he went to study HR management in Mthatha.

Bheks at Sihamba Sonke:

He has now returned, after finishing the theory part of his studies, with a passion and desire to walk a road with the youth. Realising that he has big shoes to fill from previous gap year programme leaders, he took on our new gap year programme, "Sakha Ikamva", whilst completing the practical part of his studies and providing support in our chess and mentoring programmes.

Thus far, Bhekisisa has shown amazing growth in his leadership skills and character and that he is learning what it is to be a true mentor.



Team braai after a good first term.



The team celebrating a new engagement

January - July Highlights

New and improved recipe; same amazing taste! We are delighted to reflect on the growth experienced over the past few months, all the while bending the tree to be in line with the Sihamba Sonke vision and values. Have a look at some of our highlights over the past year:

Agriculture & Sakha Ikamva

"The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing."

- Stephen Covey

Agriculture

We are already enjoying the fruit (or rather vegetables) of this programme. This is largely thanks to Sinethemba's leadership when farming with the gap year students. Her love and passion for farming has also inspired many people from our community to join in and learn.



She covers practical skills like developing seedlings, mulching and composting; based on the material Foundations for Farming. This programme has a lot of potential in the area, especially as most of the local community are farming themselves. We foresee that good teaching from Sinethemba will have long-lasting effects and lead to more sustainable farming in this area.

Sakha Ikamva

We officially took over the men's gap year programme (formerly known as Jumpstart) from our neighbouring NGO, Jabulani. One of our employees, Sipehelele Mqwashela, was the person who suggested the new name, Sakha Ikamva, which means "to build our future" in Xhosa. There are nine young men currently taking part in this nine-month long programme.

Sakha Ikamva consists of four main segments namely: social development, physical development, business/academic development and skills development. We are also excited to announce that after six months of preparing and training, these young men are taking part in the famous White Clay 21 km half marathon on the 31st of August. We wish these men good luck and will be cheering them on all the way to the finish line.



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Chess (The Game of Life)

Our afterschool chess has been attracting over 120 children from the community to attend sessions on a voluntary basis. Our mentors have not only been working hard at teaching these students how to play chess, but have invested a lot of time into teaching them the values each piece represents.

On the note of chess values, our team is putting time into finishing our very own chess curriculum. This curriculum links different chess theories with different values and stories, which will enable a stimulating and educational experience for schools or organisations who use it. This curriculum outlines what our team has been practising, with many trials and errors, and with children attending our chess sessions.

Another highlight for two special chess players, was the opportunity where Bonile (age) and Vusikhaya (age) (our chess youth leaders) got to attend a chess tournament in East London. Two of our mentors, JV and Zimasile accompanied them and also participated in the tournament. Sihamba Sonke also hosted its very own mini chess tournament with over x children from surrounding communities attending.



We also handed out chess boards to all of our regular students. This enables children to keep themselves busy and practise chess not only over weekends and holidays, but also when they are not able to attend our afterschool sessions due to responsibilities at home or transport issues. In rural communities, many children travel far to attend school. Our aim with providing these chess boards is that they will introduce and teach chess to their own friends from their community's and link it to the values that we challenge them to live out.

Cool chess story: Philip (Operations Manager) now finds himself in the position where his neighbour, a student who also received a chess set, comes over regularly, and challenges him to a game of chess.

"Chess is the gymnasium of the mind."

- Blaise Pascal



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Education & ICDL

2019 First Semester Achievements

Our education support programme aims to enable and support our mentors to study a course that aligns with their career goals. This enables them to still be present in the community, while working and living out the Sihamba Sonke vision and mission.

Congratulations to these mentors for passing the following modules:

- *Ntlahla* (Head Chess mentor) – passed his first SATS exam.
- *Nicole* (Marketing and Finances Manager) – passed her first semester of Honours in Marketing Management at IMM
- *Zimasile* (Head Computer Training Mentor) – qualified ICDL trainer.
- *Bhekisisa* (Gap Year Programme Mentor) – finished his HR Management course (theory) and will be doing his practical alongside our management team to finish his qualification.

ICDL (International Computer Driving Licence)

We have continued our computer night classes with our Computer Training Mentor, Zimasile Hotyo, who has shown great leadership this year. He has hosted two groups of evening classes so far and is currently busy with his 3rd group. These groups of people are members from the community, who seek to equip themselves in computer literacy, which is a rare and invaluable skill in the modern study- and working environments.

Recently, due to word of mouth, highly regarded members from a nearby village contacted Zimasile requesting training in their area as well.



"An investment in knowledge pays the best interests"

- Chinese Proverb



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Driver's License & Touch Tigers

"The only impossible journey is the one you never begin"
- Tony Robbins

Driver's License

We also cannot forget to mention that our head chess mentor, JV, received his driver's license a few weeks ago. After many trials and errors, failures, practising and praying, we are honoured to celebrate this victory with JV. He has been practising for the past two years, and also travelling far for lessons and bookings. We want to wish you many safe kilometres, JV!



Touch Tigers

The Zithulele community was in full swing celebrations when our very own touch rugby team came second in the Senior IPT tournament in Johannesburg. Well done to our Touch Rugby mentor, Sipehelele, for the mental and physical backbone he drilled into these rugby players. (insert photo). Our junior touch rugby team is excited and technically prepared to go down to Cape Town for the JIPT. However, even with their fundraising initiative of washing cars in the community, we expect a shortage of funds for the tournament. Transport, accommodation, touch rugby kit and food, are all costly, even when budgeting wisely. If you would like to support this team through donating, or even find yourself in Cape Town and want to go support the tournament, please contact us or see banking details below for any donations (please use specific referencing).



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Building & Donations

Building

In an area with few service providers (and immense costs!), we decided to go all-out DIY on our accommodation needs! This is a big need in our community, especially for young people coming to work for the NGOs over here. Hence, we partnered with our neighbouring organisations, Axium and Zithulele Independent School, to gather funds and start with this building project. This project, however, goes much further than just building houses, because we use it as a skills development platform for our employees and Sakha Ikamva participants.

We sent our operations manager, Philip, to East London with a volunteer and old gap-year programme participant, Sihle, to an apprenticeship programme. There, the two learnt various skills, which they brought back with the aim to transfer these skills and commence with the building of the staff houses.



Tools Donation

Starting the building project required a lot of resources, which we did not have, and are expensive to acquire. Near the beginning of the year a relative of a Sihamba Sonke employee was kind enough to donate boxes of tools and materials, which are coming in quite handy as the project progress. We did have to fetch them more than a 1000 km away, but as our director, Ruan Cilliers, would often say: "It is a no-brainer." Many thanks to this generous donor!

"Great buildings, like great mountains, are the work of centuries."

- Victor Hugo



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Community & Outreach

Outreach

We were fortunate to partner with a group of Stellenbosch students for an outreach in Zithulele. The Sakha Ikamva participants joined these students for a week, where they had spent time together hiking, cliff diving, and building; all the while learning from each other's faith, culture and experiences. Together they also watched the movie, Beyond the River, which provided much truth and laughter (it is so often that these go together).



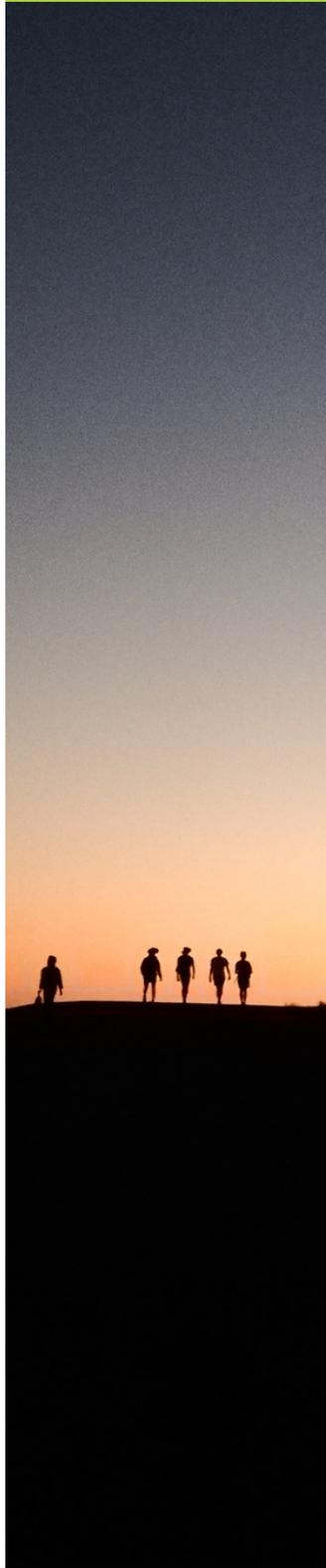
Chief Meeting

Sihamba Sonke was one of the seven NGO initiatives in Zithulele who presented their respective visions and community programmes to the chief and tribal leaders. It truly is a privilege to be in partnership with the other NGO initiatives, all working towards improving life and circumstances in this community. This was the first meeting of its kind. Our hearts were filled with a warm, deep gratitude when the chief endorsed the work of Sihamba Sonke while closing the meeting. He mentioned that he values our contribution to the community, with our focus on local leaders.



"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

- Margaret J. Wheatley



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Youth day, Engagement & Ballet classes

Youth Day

The Sihamba Sonke Mentors hosted fun filled activities as a contribution towards Youth Day. Here in Zithulele we had chess and touch rugby tournaments for the children. The day can be regarded as very successful with ### children participating in total.



Ballet

Slightly aside from our main Sihamba Sonke platforms, is our Finance and Marketing manager, Nicole, who started teaching ballet to young girls from the community. Young girls between the ages of 3 and 16 have joined these ballet classes, which give them the opportunity to connect with peers and take part in a stimulating extracurricular activity. Well done, Nicole for leading and investing in these girls. Our community is now 20 ballerinas richer!



Engagement

We would like to congratulate the two Sihamba Sonke managers, Philip and Nicole, with their engagement! They have been dating ever since last year June, when things were made official here in Zithulele. Although Philip has been around since the beginning of 2018, Nicole moved to our village at the beginning of this year. They now work closely together on various management and administrative tasks. We are excited to have this couple as part of our team!



"Alone we can do so little; together, we can do so much."
- Helen Keller



Join us on the Journey

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples"

- Mother Theresa

Spread the Word:

Social Media Campaign

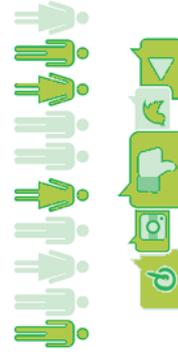
With a whole year behind us, it is such a privilege to see our mentors grow as they are empowered to be the drivers of community transformation through our skills & character development initiatives. Help us to scale our the impact by sharing our website, Facebook & Instagram page.

Website: www.sihambasonke.org

Instagram: www.instagram.com/sihambasonke

Facebook:

web.facebook.com/sihambasonke.walkingtogether



Funding:

18A Tax Certificates

Due to the massive amounts of growth, we are stretching our capacity and finding funds remains a challenge. If you would like to contribute or know of funding opportunities, don't hesitate to contact us. Note we are 18A registered, so you will get a tax deduction for your donation. A great win-win! :-)



My School - My Village (www.myschool.co.za)

An excellent funding opportunity that will cost you nothing is the MySchool MyVillage initiative. Just swipe your MySchool card at Woolies and THEY will contribute to our project. All you have to do is to follow this link, bit.ly/myschoolform and e-mail the completed signed copy to myschool@sihambasonke.org if you want to apply for a MySchool Card. Note: You can support up to 3 beneficiaries with your MySchool Card. Just complete the form with your card number and add us as a beneficiary.



Volunteer:

Be a rural skills development pioneer

If you are passionate about pioneering, skills development or education, we have the perfect volunteer opportunities for you. Join us on this journey by volunteering your skills.



Thank you that you are truly on this journey with us to "Walk Together". 2018 is was an amazing year and we thank those who joined us on the journey to help us raise value-driven, purposeful leaders for the future of our beautiful country. Join us in 2019 to go from strength to strength!