

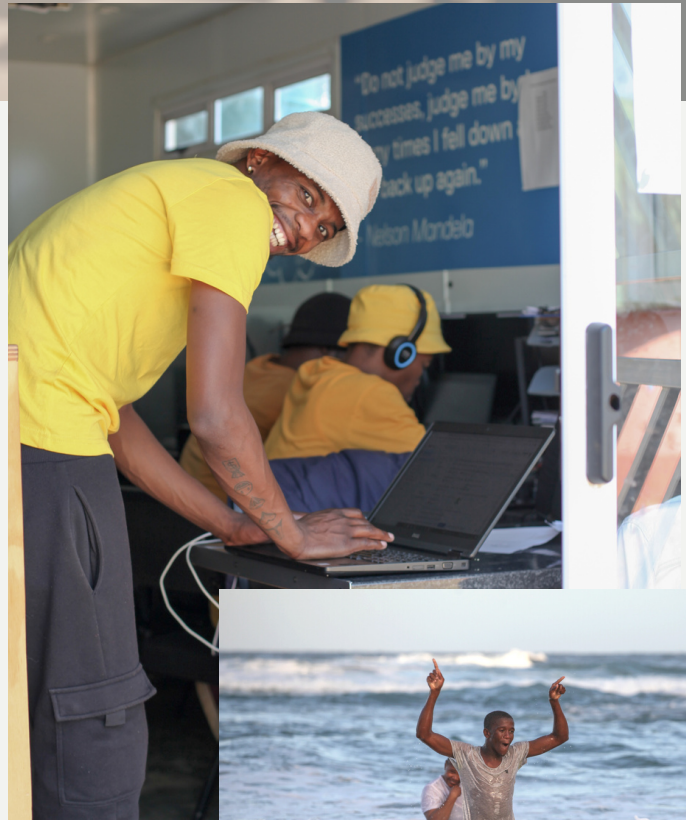
Sihamba Sonke

STORIES OF HOPE

Written by Nicole Jonker
Marketing & Finance Manager

We are excited to share some highlights from these past 2 terms. It's been filled with fun activities such as tournaments, planning, visitors, and learning lessons together as a team!

We welcome you to come on this journey with us as we reflect on the past 6 months of special memories, impact and growth.



Please spare us 5 minutes to read what we have been busy with in our beautiful Zithulele community. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or if there are any programmes that you personally would like to support. We thank our amazing funders for believing in us and who have supported us from the start, the new ones and the ones who are supporting us in a non-monetary manner too. We value you more than you can think. Enjoy!

Chess programme



CHESS PARK FACE LIFT

Written by Julian (Chess Coach & Operations Manager)

After a few phases of building, and the hard work of many volunteers over the past couple of months, the rebuilding of our chess park is finally complete. This space is now safer, more user-friendly, and can be used come sunshine or rain. It has already become a place that our learners flock to after school and are able to enjoy a game of chess together. We want to say a very big thank you to everybody involved and every contribution made, whether physically or financially!

SCHOOLS LEAGUE

Written by Julian (Chess Coach & Operations Manager)

The Schools Chess League is a new addition to our programme which we only started in 2021, but it had such major impact in promoting chess in our community and drawing in new chess players that it has quickly become the students' favourite part of our programme. In our Schools Chess League, each of the 4 local schools we serve form a team of 6 players, and then have weekly matches against each other to decide who the top school is. We are currently 4 rounds into our programme and it is without a doubt one of the students' weekly highlights every week! We look forward to crowning our champion for 2022!





CHESS TOURNAMENT (GRAHAMSTOWN)

Written by Julian (Chess Coach & Operations Manager)

On the 30th of April 2022, we gathered a team of all of our best local chess players from all different age groups, and had the privilege of travelling all the way to Makhanda (also known as Grahamstown) for the first major tournament of the year. For a number of our young players it was their first time ever leaving our region, and almost everyone's first tournament where they were able to take on players from all over South Africa. Our players stood their ground and achieved amazing results, especially our young players in the development category. The exposure that these trips provide to our rural youth is priceless and will be remembered for a long time!

YOUTH DAY

Written by Julian (Chess Coach & Operations Manager)

On 16 June 2022, Sihamba Sonke hosted its first ever nationally rated (Chessa) tournament, attracting more than 100 chess players from all over the Eastern Cape. While we frequently host local tournaments, it was an entirely different experience having chess players from outside here, and it was a great opportunity to showcase what we are doing in our community. Our chess players proudly represented our local club and achieved amazing results. We look forward to going even bigger next year!





WORK 4 LIVING

Written by Siya (IT Coach & W4AL facilitator)

During the month of May, Siya and Sinethemba led a 2 week W4AL course for 50 participants who were all applying for job positions at a local neighbouring NGO.

“It gives me so much joy when I see 25 people of the participants being employed and the conversations that continue till today and how grateful people are about the training and for having had an opportunity to be part of such great training. Participants claim that their world was opened to endless possibilities and their worldview was challenged in a positive manner”.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Written by Andre (Social Enterprise Manager)

We are proud to introduce the Social Enterprise division of Sihamba Sonke. The aim of this new venture is to explore and pursue economic and commercial ventures for the community to gain commercial exposure and to work toward financially independent projects.



Agriculture Programme



AGRICULTURE

Written by Sinethemba (Agriculture Coach & W4AL facilitator)

The Agriculture team has worked hard to restore their garden after heavy rain damage and has managed to grow healthy spinach, tomatoes, lettuce, and cabbage. Most of the harvest is sold to community members. Students that attended the Wired for Business course made use of similar principles our Agriculture team is using to grow their own gardens as a means of business development.

NEW LAND

Written by Andre (Social Enterprise Manager)

We are currently looking for land in the area to further explore the commercial potential of the area in conjunction with our new Social Enterprise programme. We believe that family-owned land can be an asset, and we are looking for sustainable ways to pursue small scale agriculture.



Photo taken from Zithulele Clinical team Facebook page



IT Programme



INTRODUCING SKILLWISE

Written by Siya (IT Coach & W4AL facilitator)

We found that ICDL is a challenge to pass the first time, in our local community, mostly because of the level of English and the fact that you have to remember a whole model with a timed test. We are therefore piloting, Skillwise, which is developed for a South African context, to focus on mastery with smaller modules, growing the students computer literacy skills over time, rather than just giving students another course that they will fail in. We are excited about the pilot and hope we can find a good computer literacy fit for our context. Watch this space!

IT LAB

Written by Siya (IT Coach & W4AL facilitator)

Our computer labs have served our community in multiple ways this year. From students coming to do research for school projects, to the community using our internet cafe facilities which includes logo designs and church programmes. We have also partnered with our neighbouring NGO, Axiom, to provide ICDL DC Plus classes to their Grade 7 after-schools group.





Sakha Ikamva



TRIALS AND GROWTH

Written by Pieter Truter (Skills Year Coach)

Our two Skills Years participants have returned from Heartwood Homestead where they learned valuable skills training in agriculture and homesteading. With the focus this year on personal and business development, the participants are working alongside the Social Enterprise programme to learn more about small business development in our context. We are currently reviewing the programme to see how we can continue on a more practical basis when teaching new skills. This year's participants have already started to make some money from their business sales. This is hugely encouraging and we hope to build on the success of the programme!



Outreaches & Visitors



EVERY NATION STELLENBOSCH

Written by Nicole Jonker (Marketing & Finance Manager)

A group from Every Nation Church in Stellenbosch spent the week helping with physical tasks such as chess park maintenance, planting poles for fencing, etc. They offered kids club to the wider community and hosted babysitting nights for some of the working parents. Giving time is sometimes the biggest gift and this group brought their energy and time to serve our Sihamba Sonke team and wider Zithulele community.

ALL PEOPLE'S CHURCH

Written by Nicole Jonker (Marketing & Finance Manager)

The APC team visited us for the 4th consecutive year and this time extended their visit to help finish our chess park, support in programmes, and host team reflection sessions. We value our partnership with this group and look forward to the next visit!



POINTMAN LEADERSHIP

Written by Nicole Jonker (Marketing & Finance Manager)

We welcomed the PML team for the 5th consecutive year and what success as always. Participants spent a whole day learning and applying valuable leadership skills through group activities and strategic conversations led by the PML crew.

Want to support?



We are 3/4 into the year and incredibly thankful for everyone who has helped carry us this far.


There are a few specific events that still need to be financed:

Funding Opportunities to Expand & Sustain our Impact:

- Chess Tournaments (Nationals up next)
- Internship/Skills year stipends (Help to give more local youth the opportunity to gain employability skills)
- Agriculture/Social Enterprise Programme (Help with fencing of local gardens in the community)

www.sihambasonke.org

More information :

 info@sihambasonke.org

Swipe your MySchool card or link your Woolies Card to Sihamba Sonke and THEY will contribute to our project. Just go online on your MySchool or Woolies profile to activate up to three beneficiaries. If you want to apply for a MySchool Card, all you have to do is to follow this link, bit.ly/myschoolform, and e-mail the completed signed copy to finances@sihambasonke.org



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