

Q&A with Jenny

Jenny is Sihamba Sonke's first female employee and will be joining full time in 2019.

What are you currently studying and why?

After deciding to move to SA long-term, I completed my Bachelor of Community Development degree through UNISA. As I have a heart for people, this has really supported the line of work I do in the NGOs I have been involved with.

Where did your passion for people come from?

After my first volunteering mission to KZN, I fell in love with the children. While I was doing youth ministry in Germany before, I began to realise that I wanted to work with people more full-time. This was a 180° turn from my initial wish to study engineering, but I don't regret that at all!

How long do you plan to stay in Zithulele?

My husband and I are planning on staying as long as God tells us to. For now, I think we're going to stay here a while.

What is your favourite aspect of Sihamba Sonke?

I love Sihamba Sonke's engagement & close cooperation with the community. The fact that young people from the community work as mentors is really great.

Finishing Strong in 2018!

2018, Sihamba Sonke's first year was an amazing year of growth and establishing our roots. We are excited to celebrate last year's highlights with you and are grateful for an inspiring team who helped us to finished 2018 strong! Before we share the highlights in the rest of the newsletter, we are excited to introduce the addition of three new team members. Significantly, they are Sihamba Sonke's first female employees. Go girls!

Sinethemba Beja

We are proud to say Sinethemba is breaking ground as the first local female mentor, where she will serve the youth in our various mentorship programs. Sine will also continue her studies in Life Sciences & Physical Sciences.



Jenny Michell

Sihamba Sonke is excited to partner with Jenny who is spearheading a gap year initiative for girls in our community. Jenny also assists in our finance department.



Nicole de Wet

Nicole will be taking charge of media & communications and general managerial responsibilities.



Starting Strong in 2019!

To start 2019 strong, the team took time off at Hluleka Nature Reserve (16-19 November) to spent time reflecting on 2018 and focus our energy on strategic planning for 2019. From the famous quote by Peter Drucker, "*Culture eats strategy for breakfast*", the main sessions therefore revolved around our culture, how it was shaped, and what needs to change in the future.



2018 Highlights

"A good beginning makes a good end."

- Louis L'Amour

Jumpstart Epic Trek

Jumpstart reached it's peak when the participants set off on the annual 158 km Epic Trek, to end their gap year programme on a high.



Starting at Kei Mouth, eight men took to the hills and hiked 158 km over the span of 7 days. Every day a new challenge was presented to them, which tested and built their character on the journey and gave the guys a chance to apply what they learned throughout the year. The trek ended in Zithulele with a warm welcome from the community as the guys were honoured with a send-off ceremony.

Special thanks go to David Smith and Roger Galloway for making the trip possible and providing support to the men.

Jumpstart Graduation Dinner

The Jumpstart programme ended by celebrating a very successful year with a graduation dinner in the Zithulele Community Centre. The Jumpstart participants each received a certificate of completion of the programme, including their computer course ICDL (International Computer Drivers License) certificates accredited in more than 150 countries world wide. It was an exceptional night made more special by the community's support and involvement. All the guests were thanked by receiving traditional bead necklaces made by the Jumpstarters.



Touch Tigers & Chess

Our Touch and Chess programmes were taken to the next level as the boys participated in various tournaments across the year.

Touch Tigers Tour

Siphelele displayed exceptional leadership and organizational skills by successfully organizing multiple local tournaments throughout the year. He also coached and traveled with the local u/15 team to Johannesburg where they participated in the national touch tournament hosted at Reddford College. Well done Siphelele for doing an excellent job this year!



Chess (The Game of Life)

Chess is one of the programmes that has seen the most growth in the year. We saw a sharp increase in chess attendance once a new strategy was implemented: Taking the afternoon chess classes to the schools instead of inviting kids to come and play at the local library. This is very exciting and indicates how small changes can make massive difference.



A massive highlight was when our mentors selected a local team from all the schools and travelled to East London to participate in a chess tournament. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions were claimed by our team and next year the boys will be participating in the 1st division. Well done to the guys and we are excited to see where this will lead to in the future!

"In life, as in chess, forethought wins."

- Charles Buxton



ICDL and Community

ICDL boasted as one of our most successful programs this year. It was driven by the need and excitement for computer training in the community.

Graduation

The ICDL class from the community finished the digital citizen plus module and celebrated with a graduation evening. Each received an ICDL certificate of completion, marking their achievement. The ward counselor also formed part of the class and is acting as an inspiring force to the rest of the community.



The graduation gowns were locally sourced providing a source of business to local dressmakers. The evening sparked a new era of community integration and the road ahead is very exciting.

Board Meeting

The first local board meeting was held in November. Sihamba Sonke places a lot of value in getting input and feedback from the local community. We hope to achieve this by setting up a local board. Each of the representatives forms part of a different community group. At the moment we have a representative for each of the following groups: Taxi drivers, nannies, NGOs, security guards, the youth, and community leadership. The long term vision is to have one of these meetings every 3-4 months to get an idea on how Sihamba Sonke is doing in the eyes of the community, get new ideas and therefore scale our impact.



"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime"

- Chinese Proverb



Sihamba Sonke: Walking together to raise up value-driven, purposeful leaders driving rural community transformation.

Education

As part of our investment to develop skills, our mentors get the opportunity to study a course that aligns with their career goals. We are very excited to announce the following mentors's well-earned results:

"The only impossible journey is the one you never begin"

- Tony Robbins

2018 Achievements

Congratulations to these mentors for passing the following modules:

- * Ntlahla Nqwili (Higher Certificate in Economics & Management Sciences)

- Business Management

- Elementary Quantitative Methods

- * Lindile, Zimasile, Ntlahla and Charl completed the year long ALS (African Leadership School) certificate focused on raising up leaders in Africa.

- * Siphelele completed his First Aid Course in November.

- * Zimasile passed his Word and Computer Essentials ICDL Course.



2019 Study Goals

We are also excited for some of our team members to commence with the following studies in the coming year.

Siphelele: Higher Certificate in Education

Ntlahla: Higher Certificate in Economics and Management Science

Sinethemba: Matric Physical Sciences and Life Sciences

Nicole: BPhil Marketing Management

Philip: Building Apprenticeship

We wish them all the best as they set out on this journey.



Join us on the Journey

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



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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.



GoGetFunding Campaign

We launched a GoGetFunding campaign to help us create work in the community and transfer building skills through a building project to help us accommodate our volunteers, staff & mentors. Please help us by sharing the following link: gogetfunding.com/sihamba-sonke-walking-together



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!