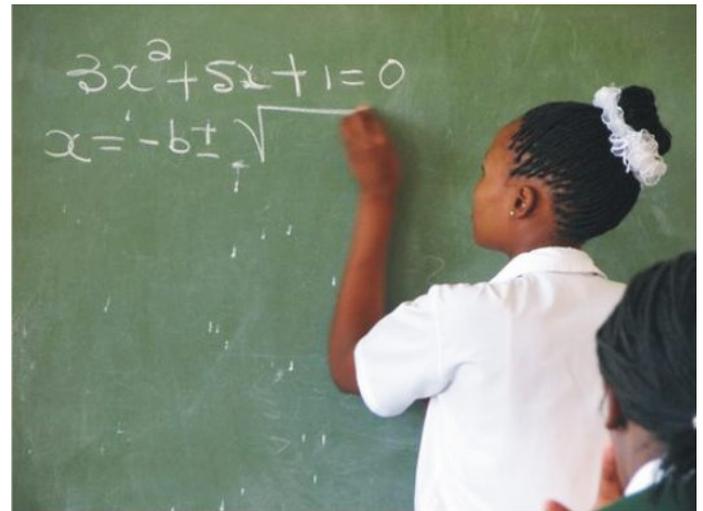


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STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

As the work of Jabulani has grown and evolved, and as development and improvement at the hospital has become evident, there has been a growing desire amongst the community here to see Zithulele develop as a centre for excellence. We are beginning to see this already at the hospital with patients travelling from Mthatha to Zithulele to seek medical attention, research students coming from all over the world to conduct their academic research, and elective students from South Africa and abroad seeking out opportunities at Zithulele to expand their knowledge and experience. It is encouraging to know that a positive impact is being made! However, for Zithulele to be known as a Centre for Excellence, a lot more work needs to be done, particularly in the area of education.



Learner shows how it is done

While it is widely known and accepted that the standard of education in the Eastern Cape, and particularly in this area, is poor, this became a lot clearer through the recent experiences of two UCT Education students who came to do their teaching practical in two of the local schools. They were prepared to face serious challenges (imagining themselves taking lessons under trees to find shelter from the sun while using sticks in the sand as a blackboard), but the ones they met were different from those imagined. Instead of classes under the trees, there were proper buildings and classrooms (albeit in significant need of maintenance) and even storerooms bursting at the seams with government-sponsored textbooks! Unfortunately most of the books have never left that storeroom, and many were still in the packaging they arrived in. While teachers are not incapable of doing their jobs, being faced with classes of 100 students has become an insurmountable challenge, and often not a lot of time is spent teaching.

10+ kilometres to be at school, ready to learn in their only set of school uniform, washed daily. To see how far some of them have come in spite of all the challenges that face them here, some even giving up their weekends to work with Axiom, a dedicated local educational NGO that you will have read about in previous newsletters, is just an indication of how much potential there is. There are bright minds, hopes and dreams yearning to be fulfilled.

Despite this, the students polish their shoes and walk

Zithulele Hospital has shown how service delivery issues in the health care sector can be overcome by inspired individuals who are more concerned with action than rhetoric. With a start being made with the Jabulani Pre-school and Library, the facilitation of SETA training for Grade R teachers, together with the work of Axiom Education, our vision is to build on this until we see the same happening in the education sector.

ON A MISSION LIKE MADIBA

On a perfect Transkei winter day, with the sun shining and sense of occasion in the air, an intrepid group of runners got together to run 32km along the route that Mandela used to travel from his home to his closest clinic. The Madiba Mission run highlights, and aims to

create awareness about, the challenges that people in the former Transkei face when trying to access healthcare, often having to travel long distances over difficult terrain.

ON A MISSION LIKE MADIBA cont

This yearly run started in 2009 with just 29 runners and this year saw about 50 turning up to test their mettle and running shoes on the rough, gravel roads. The Zithulele community made up almost half this number, with doctors, therapists, pharmacists, peer educators, family members, research students and Jabulani staff and volunteers all coming together to show a united Zithulele force. Sporting Jabulani and Zithulele T-shirts and even a few eyebrow-raising costumes, they lent a

special energy and vitality to the race. It certainly was a fun-filled day that left everyone hot, hungry and dusty but with a tired sense of satisfaction and achievement.

This year's race was the third running of what the race organisers hope will become an iconic South African event to rival the Comrades! So, if you are interested in joining us next year, keep an eye on the Jabulani website for further details.



Mission Accomplished



Jabulani & Zithulele Hospital runners

THE POWER OF SPORT



Special Olympics volunteers and participants

Through South Africa's experiences in the international sports arena, we are well aware of the power of sport to bring strength and unity to communities as well as develop individuals and groups. This power was witnessed closer to home when Zithulele Hospital's therapy department along with medical students and Jabulani volunteers, played host to the second Special Olympics day of the year.

face many challenges such as misunderstanding, stigma, sexual abuse, lack of specialised schooling and high demands placed on their caregivers. To help increase the underestimated potential of these people, Zithulele Hospital's therapy department and multi-disciplinary team have developed a programme of service delivery that utilises educational groups, sports, and other activities. Enter Special Olympics.

People with intellectual impairment living in rural areas

Special Olympics is an international organisation that

THE POWER OF SPORT cont

officially launched in the Eastern Cape this year. The mission of Special Olympics is "to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disability, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community."

The July Special Olympics day saw intellectually impaired adults and children from the area coming together to partake in a variety of activities from team sports to obstacle courses and basic ball skills, catering for all levels of ability. Opportunities like these provide a very useful tool for increasing awareness (amongst athletes, families and the broader community) of the potential of intellectually impaired people in sports and in life...and they are an immense amount of fun too!



Having a ball at Special Olympics

AT A GLANCE

- **Ikhaya Lencwadi (Home of the Books)**
- **'Fokus' on Zithulele**
- **Revolving Doors**

Ikhaya Lencwadi (Home of the Books)

With much excitement and enthusiasm we are moving ever closer to officially opening the Zithulele Library to the general Zithulele community. The library is already being used by the preschool children for story time every week but with recently built bookshelves, an incredible donation of Xhosa books, a newly appointed Librarian, and funding towards the purchase of reference materials as well as tables and chairs, we are just about ready to officially open our doors. Mandisa, our new Librarian, has returned to Zithulele from her studies and work experience in the city to be closer to her family and to plough back into the local community. Her passion to see education in Zithulele improved rivals our own and we are delighted to have her as part of the team.



Story time in the library

'Fokus' on Zithulele

In August, as part of a wider focus on the strides made at Zithulele Hospital by the ever growing multi-disciplinary team, Jabulani was featured on SABC's Fokus programme. This was in addition to the recent

Zithulele Hospital article featured in Discovery Health magazine. It is quite surreal to reflect on how much media exposure our little rural village in the middle of the former Transkei actually receives.

Revolving Doors

As we near the end of another action packed year, we would just like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who have given their time to the work of Jabulani this year. Thank you Elisabet, Julia, Mia, Alastair, Frederik, Carla, Katy, Gillian, and Kayleigh for all your hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm. A special thank you to Tom for your invaluable 18 months

contribution. You will all be missed.

As we say goodbye to outgoing volunteers it is also an opportunity to welcome new volunteers who arrived in the last week of August. Welcome Cara and Helen, the new Project Trust volunteers who will be with us for a year, and Linnea, a Swedish International Development graduate volunteering with Jabulani for four months.