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EMPOWERMENT IN EVERY HIVE

The training for participants has concluded, with the initial hives established and bees now settling into their new Jabulani Homes! February 2024 marked the launch of Jabulani’s beekeeping project. As a component of the broader national Ubuntu Beekeeping Initiative*, this project aims to empower women by imparting beekeeping and small business skills. The initiative is designed to tackle socio-economic issues faced by women in rural regions while raising awareness of bees' crucial role in our ecosystem.

At the heart of the Ubuntu Beekeeping Initiative is the goal of providing women with hands-on beekeeping knowledge, enabling them to establish businesses, sustain their families, and bolster their self-esteem. This approach promotes independence and alleviates household pressures. Alongside this, we intend to inform the community about the ecological advantages of bees, fostering a stronger sense of environmental care and respect. By shifting perceptions of bees and highlighting their ecological impact, we hope to encourage the cultivation of varied plants. Local honey production will enhance access to nutritious food for households and stimulate local trade.

Despite initial concerns due to cultural beliefs surrounding bees, the enthusiasm of participants to engage with the project has been uplifting. Initially, interest was shown by 20 women, with 13 remaining dedicated throughout the training period. A few participants had previously obtained experience from a nearby, now-defunct beekeeping initiative; Jabulani's project has reignited their aspirations in this field. A significant moment in the early training included setting up hives and receiving personal protective gear and beekeeping tools. A visit to one participant's home illustrated effective hive placement and fostered a sense of camaraderie and collective purpose among the women. The aspirations for this project vary among the participants; while one seeks to reinvigorate her life, others aim to connect with the youth, hoping to motivate and educate them about



beekeeping. All are filled with anticipation for producing and marketing their honey and crafting products from beeswax, with one participant expressing that being involved in such an initiative in a secluded village like Zithulele makes her feel as though she is “part of a historic movement!”

Future community meetings are set to take place, but initial interactions with local leaders have shown promise. The backing of these community figures is essential for ensuring the project's long-term viability and the safety of the hives. Engaging the community will also emphasize the successes and advantages of beekeeping to motivate youth involvement. We observed that, although younger women initially expressed interest, the level of commitment required

for training dissuaded some, showcasing the dedication present among older women.

*This initiative is made possible through funding from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and its South African partner, Ripples for Change. The JDC's "Imagine More" Women Economic Empowerment Programme seeks to support women in low-income areas, offering resources and assistance to help them navigate socio-economic obstacles.



TOGETHER, WE CAN TRANSFORM LIVES

At Jabulani Rural Health Foundation, we believe in the power of community to drive meaningful change. We work to uplift and empower our community through comprehensive development initiatives. But we can't do it alone. There are a variety of ways in which you can help; we encourage you to find the option that matches your time, resources and location and take reading this newsletter one step further.

While grants from organisations, foundations, or trusts enable widescale activity, there is great power in individual contributions. In our previous newsletter, we emphasised a feature some companies provide within their corporate social responsibility strategy, that involves matching personal donations made by employees. This effectively doubles the contribution received by us. But this is obviously not an option for everyone.

A single contribution can immediately meet our urgent needs, and any amount can be designated for a critical purpose. By committing to a monthly donation, you help create a reliable funding source, enabling us to plan and execute sustainable, long-term projects with assurance. Additionally, donating items we need can have a substantial impact, so please contact us if you think you might have something useful. You might also consider launching a personal fundraising initiative—perhaps for a birthday or a challenge event — sharing this with your friends and family can greatly enhance your influence. Furthermore, promoting Jabulani, participating with us on social media (we are actively working on boosting our online visibility), sharing our narratives, and encouraging others to

subscribe to our newsletter via our website can significantly increase awareness of our projects, potentially leading to new partnerships that we can only dream of right now.

Your contribution is crucial and can inspire others to offer their support as well. In March of this year, we held our first event in the United Kingdom (UK). Even though Jabulani has been a recognized charity in the UK since May 2008 and has previously received some grants and donations (sometimes through individuals organizing events on our behalf), this marked our first foray into direct supporter engagement. We owe a heartfelt thanks to Tom Withington for coordinating with his employer, Stonehage Fleming, to host us at their central London office, where guests enjoyed drinks and delightful canapes. Though modest in scale, it was encouraging to finally take the first step. The gathering primarily centered on long-time friendships and enhancing connections with former Zithuleleans from South Africa and the UK now residing in Britain.



With many of our initiatives, our goal is to leverage the strengths and resources present within the community, as this method has proven effective in promoting sustainable growth and progress. Just as Tom approached his employer to facilitate our event, we encourage you to consider the resources you possess or can access and how they might assist the endeavours of Jabulani (or any other organisations you support!). Your backing for Jabulani transcends financial aid, donations of items, or the time you dedicate to us; it's an investment in the future of the communities we serve. Together, we can bring about meaningful and enduring change. Thank you for being part of our community.



Find out more about [Supporting Jabulani](#)

It was so lovely to see Ben, meet people I have heard of and catch up with some Jabulani news! So much happening. So incredible. What amazing work you've been doing.

AT A GLANCE

SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

It has been a little over 18 months since Jabulani's first social enterprise, Siyabulela Coffee Shop, first opened its doors, and it has since gained two sibling enterprises, namely our Buyisithemba Second Hand Clothing store and Ubomi Print & Parcel. Our social enterprises have made significant strides since inception, and our Imbewu Livelihoods Access Centre, where they are all based, has become a vibrant hub of the community and a place that does not only showcase entrepreneurship, growth and initiative, but fosters it as well.

The heart and vision behind Jabulani's social enterprises are twofold: to provide our community with access to goods and services which are otherwise often unattainable, or unaffordable, due to transport costs and accessibility to cities, and also to empower individuals in our local community through creating jobs, a shared marketplace, teaching skills, and hopefully one day soon offering vocational training. Siyabulela Coffee Shop has seen an increase of more than 50% in average monthly sales for 2024 so far, and isn't showing any signs of slowing down. Ubomi Print & Parcel has likewise managed consistent growth in monthly sales since inception, and while our Buyisithemba Second Hand Clothing store is a very popular addition to our centre, maintaining a consistent level of quality stock has proven to be a challenge and sales have fluctuated according to stock levels. We are, however, in the process of exploring different avenues of procuring second hand clothing in order to not be entirely dependent on donations.

We are excited for what the future holds and looking forward to firmly establishing Imbewu as a marketplace and economic hub for all of our community to benefit from.

