

UKUWELA IINDABA QUARTERLY IMPACT SEPTEMBER 2024

“Spring is the time of projects and plans’.

Leo Tolstoy

Indeed so, Mr Tolstoy! It’s as if the great Russian writer could read our minds and our latest newsletter!

Ukuwela dived into the third term with an exciting skills training course by Michelangelo Hair Academy. Our senior girls were trained in scalp massages, pedicures, leg massages and mini-facials. Bringing industry-specific skills to the school not only enriches our curriculum, but also contributes to our learners' employability. As always, the trainers from Michelangelo were amazing, leaving our girls and teacher Maryna upskilled and inspired!



**ABOVE: YOZELDÈ FROM MICHELANGELO
DOING HER MAGIC!**



**TOP RIGHT: CHRIZETT SHOWING HER MINI-
FACIAL SKILLS**



RIGHT: LOOKING GOOD LINDY-ANN!

A brand new adventure started for senior Carpe Diem learner, Kokektso AKA Junior, when he commenced his job shadowing journey at KFC York Street on the 21st of August 2024. Big thank you to Riane Kunkel, MC and Lynette for knocking and opening the door! Our man Junior is learning so much and loving every moment! Well done also to senior learners Riley Cupido and Onele Yona for staying committed at McDonald's Courtney Street where they attended job shadowing as part of the JobAbled project. Ukuwela Facilitator, Asisipho Ndzoto, not only facilitate and support these opportunities but also facilitated the participation of our senior boys and girls at Geronimo Spur and Kraaibosch Express Spar respectively. These learners got real crafty in the kitchen - we've totally got this hospitality thing covered!



ABOVE LEFT AND RIGHT: WORK EXPOSURE WAS ALL ABOUT GETTING CRAFTY IN THE KITCHENS AT KRAAIBOSCH EXPRESS SPAR (LEFT) AND GERONIMO SPUR (RIGHT)

LEFT: OUR MAN, JUNIOR, IS ALL SMILES AT KFC, YORK STREET

Ukuwela is always exploring new concepts while addressing needs and we like to coin new terms for our adventures as we go along. This term we coined 'skills sampling' following the different skills to which we exposed our senior learners with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). These include recycling, washing windows and peeling and chopping vegetables (under the watchful eye of Teacher Lizzie, of course!). We will conclude this adventure by analysing the different activities and how they could be used therapeutically to address the challenges people with ASD face.

This Spring we are celebrating Andrè Leen who started his employment journey at Africorp on the 7th of August 2024. Andrè works as a cleaner at Africorp and received support from the newest Ukuwela recruit (and Carpe Diem old-timer) Elspeth Hoffmann. Thank you Elspeth for re-investing your knowledge and skill! Special thanks to Elizma and Bukelwa from Africorp for a great working relationship! Africorp has been on the journey with Ukuwela through many seasons. Thank you for staying committed to the cause!



**WORKING TOGETHER TO SORT
RECYCLING. WAY TO GO!**



**ANDRÈ WITH HIS TEAM, ELIZMA
(LEFT) AND BUKWELWA (RIGHT).
CONGRATULATIONS ANDRÈ!**

Congratulations also to Justin Barnard who is currently in his 4th month of employment at Hartenbos Pick and Pay! We are in the business of celebrating the small steps because we believe they will become long and meaningful journeys.

Ukuwela was recently reminded of this when we collected footage for a video and we checked in with Ukuwela old-timers Linwill Nel and Bradley Roelfse who have both been employed for more than five years respectively!

(Sidenote: we promptly decided to establish an award for the candidates who reach the five-year mark. We're still pondering the name of such a prestigious award...). The video was showcased at our annual Umbulelo Breakfast hosted on the 4th of September 2024. This is Ukuwela and Carpe Diem's chance to thank the individuals, businesses and companies who support us. The event turned out to be a glorious morning and we were so proud of our Carpe Diem learners for running the show, from the entertainment to the announcements! Special mention to Rudy de Bruyn from the Blacksmith Coffee Movement for great coffee and fantastic service. Ukuwela candidate, Libhongolethu Mjijwa, was called on as fellow Barista for the morning. We could not be prouder of this champ!



The successes of our candidates and learners resonate with the recent online article written by Dr Madri Engelbrecht in the Daily Maverick (4 September 2024) where she highlighted the abilities of youth with disabilities but also states that 'Youth with intellectual disabilities are excluded from work opportunities due to the world of work's ignorance about this group's abilities'. Yes, we need to change mindsets and attitudes!

LIBHONGOLETHU IN ACTION AT THE UMBULELO BREAKFAST

If you are a reader from the northern hemisphere (wink at our supporter Marcus) or the weather does not indicate signs of Spring, we greet you with this quote from Lilly Pulitzer:

'Despite the forecast, live like it's Spring'

Greetings,

The Ukuwela Team

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