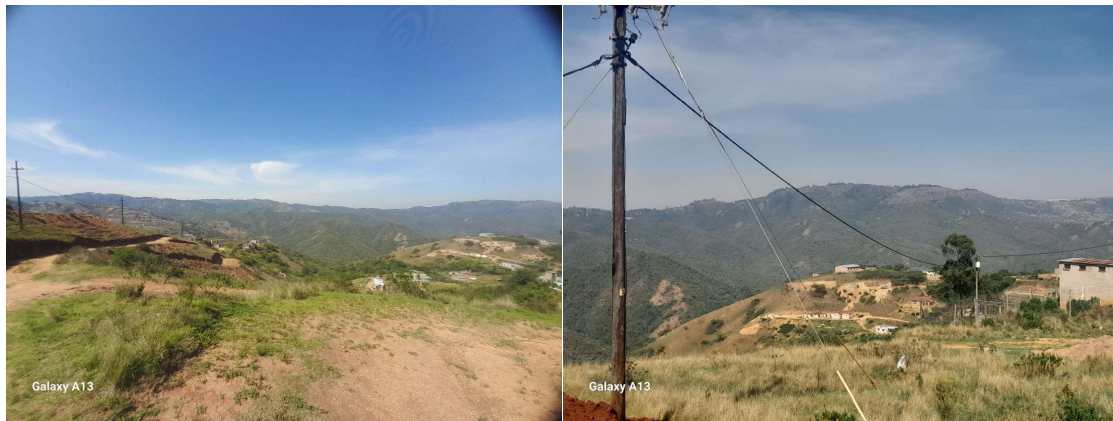




the future's getting **brighter**

THIS REPORT IS FROM **AUGUST – NOVEMBER 2023**

- ❖ ikusasaLethu Life Skills Programme is registered with the Department of Social Welfare as a **Non-Profit Organization. Reg. No.123-446 NPO.**
- ❖ ikusasaLethu Life Skill Programme is registered with SARS as a Public Benefit Organisation. **PBO NO. 930049567.** We are able to issue **S18A tax** certificates to donors on request.
- ❖ Donations entitle the contributors to **BBBEE points** in the socio-economic development category of the scorecard.



Our vision is to create a world where every disadvantaged young adolescent living in the community has equal access to opportunities, resources, and support systems - regardless of their background. And to help those who are vulnerable to poverty, sexual abuse, HIV/AIDS and violence.

This is done by building and developing the knowledge-base of young people - their values, attitudes and self-confidence - empowering them to make informed, assertive and responsible decisions in order to take intentional and appropriate actions for their lives.

OUR PROGRAMMES

School Based Programmes

1. Goal Pro Solutions – a life coaching and goal setting program run in schools during class.
2. Youth Club – activities taking place at schools after class.
3. School Assemblies – activities taking place in schools before class.

Community Based Programmes

4. Young People for Change – weekend activities in the Embo community.
5. Sport – after hours and weekend activity - soccer and netball in the Embo community.

Skills Development Programmes

6. Barista Training – Training young adults at Hillside Coffee Shop.
7. Computer Skills – Training young adults in the iKusasaLethu Training Room.

Events

8. Parent and Child Workshop.
9. Refined by Fire Experience
10. Passed Thru Fire Experience
11. Wild at Heart Experience.
12. Young Women Empowerment.
13. Boys Camp

SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMMES

1. GOAL PRO SOLUTIONS

We are in the 3rd year of the programme Goal Pro Solutions, which is a life coaching and goal setting programme. It is designed to empower Grade 8 learners in 3 high schools in the Valley of 1000 Hills; we work with over 550 learners with our current team. The aims include - equipping students with essential life skills, enhancing self-confidence, fostering a positive mindset, improving academic performance, and promoting positive relationships. The programme consists of orientation and goal setting. Expected outcomes include improved goal-setting skills, increased self-confidence, enhanced academic performance, improved communication skills, and the development of resilience.

Learners find purpose for their existence and their personal value, and we have personally seen positive behavioral change in the classrooms. Teachers and principals have sent messages endorsing the programme and confirming the value of the programme to the learners.



2. YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club After-School Program is running in the same 3 high schools, with over 150 learners in regular attendance. We provide snacks and refreshments to bridge the time between school and home. Our aim is to provide a safe and engaging environment for students to develop skills, foster positive relationships, and promote personal and academic growth. The meetings are spiritually uplifting, personally empowering and provide a safe space for the youth to be vulnerable and to stay true to their goals.

Learners have been taught to be disciplined to study and many have achieved good school marks that have enabled them to obtain bursaries to go to university or college.



3. SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

IkusasaLethu continues to participate in the morning assemblies at five schools to assist with developing unity and a positive school culture. 4500 pupils of the 2 high schools and 3 primary schools are impacted by messages teaching about their identity in Christ, and hope for the future. Starting the day with good news has had positive results.



COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMMES

4. YOUNG PEOPLE FOR CHANGE

We continue to gather with about 44 children in the Embo community on Saturdays.

The time is spent sharing the gospel, providing guidance and assisting with schoolwork. The gatherings provide a safe place where healthy community is built. Volunteers from different walks of life also participate by reading books and spending time to instill values.



5. SPORT

The Embo Community Sports Ground continues to provide a space to successfully engage and empower over 70 young people through soccer and netball activities. The program includes weekday practice sessions and weekend games, attracting both boys and girls from the Embo

community. The participants have the opportunity to develop their skills, teamwork, and physical fitness during the practice sessions. The program has a positive impact on the youth fostering a stronger community.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

6. BARISTA TRAINING

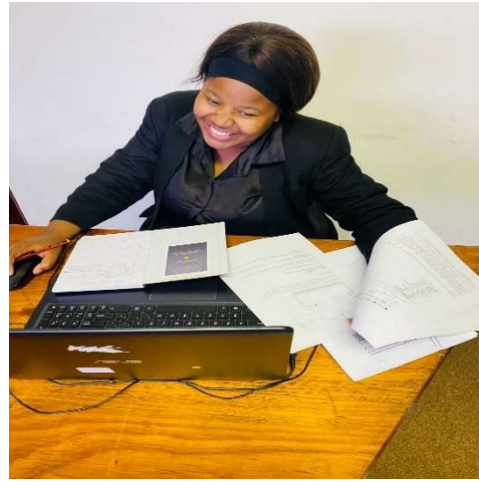
This program is aimed at empowering and upskilling unemployed youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. The program continues to provide skills that enable the candidate to find employment in popular coffee shops and dealerships. It is run twice a year in the Hillside coffee shop.



7. COMPUTER TRAINING

On the 4th of August 2023 to October 2023, members of the IkusasaLethu team Andile Mkhize and Sam Gumede were upskilled when they attended a Microsoft Excel Basic computer course.

This training has now given the trainees an opportunity to perform more administration tasks and grow in confidence.



EVENTS

8. TITLE: PARENT AND CHILD WORKSHOP

DATE: 05 AUGUST 2023

AIM: To foster healthy relationships and deeper connections between parents and their children and build stronger family connections.

On Saturday the 5th August 2023 The Nation Changers initiative enabled the partnership between IkusasaLethu and The Presbyterian Church to organize a highly anticipated 'Parent and Child Workshop' at Gwadu Zenex Primary School in Embo Community. An impressive turnout of around 200 parents and children attended. There were different topics covered that day and Mr Siphiso Madlala spoke about Values and Communication, and Mr Mpendulo Shoba spoke about Identity and Declaration. The topics were addressed differently according to which group they were talking to at that specific time, both parents and children, ensuring that every participant felt heard, valued, and involved.

The event featured a diverse range of activities, including interactive group discussions, games and exercises. It strengthened the relationship between the parent and child.

Outcome: The event served as a testament to the importance of investing in parent and child relationships, and providing families with the tools and support they need to thrive.



9. REFINED BY FIRE EXPERIENCE

DATE: 17 - 20 AUGUST 2023

IkusasaLethu members had an opportunity to participate in the RBF experience, and it was a remarkable and positive experience. It was organized by a local NGO [Heartland] at Zandrivier Lodge. IKusasaLethu members were volunteers, and also learned through the process.

AIM: The Refined by Fire Experience is a mentorship program designed to create a safe and supportive environment where dads and their daughters can engage in meaningful and impactful interactions.

The event was specifically designed to bring together dad's and daughters from different backgrounds to connect and build a stronger bond as well as a renewed sense of love and respect. It also provided a space of fellowship in Christ and space for open dialogue, sharing experiences to help validate and acknowledge the challenges that individuals face.

OUTCOME: We see the sense of togetherness within everyone. This program brings people together from diverse backgrounds, working together towards bringing change and working towards a better future.



10. PASSED THRU FIRE EXPERIENCE

DATE: 05 - 08 OCTOBER 2023

This event was organized by the local NGO (Heartlands) and it was held at Zandrivier lodge where dads and their sons from diverse background came to connect and improve relationships.

AIM: The aim is to create a supportive and engaging environment, the program sought to breakdown communication barriers, build trust and equip participants with valuable tools and skills to strengthen their relationships.

OUTCOME: The event enables participants to voice their experiences, validate their feeling and work together in building stronger bonds.



11. WILD AT HEART EXPERIENCE

DATE: 26 – 29 OCTOBER 2023

AIM: To connect, be equipped to be better men and bring true masculinity to the community.

Wild at heart is a place where men gather to discuss issues that affect men's hearts, share their life experience and have intimacy with the Father. It is where a man's heart is healed and relationship with the Father is restored.

OUTCOME: To become a man that Father God intended them to be. To truly live as an example to those around them and to show the Father's love.



12. YOUNG WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

This inspiring event took place in Embo at the Church of Hope International on the 30 September 2023.

Aim: To positively impact the lives of disadvantaged young women in the community by installing hope and confidence. We had a good turnout of 30 attendees.

IkusasaLethu organized this event in order to talk to young women about the challenges they face now, and possibly that they will face as they grow up. Also to equip them with the knowledge on how to overcome all they may face now. Sam Gumede spoke about Self Care and Andile Mkhize spoke about Identity and how to "Be You". Our guest speaker, Mrs Thandeka Mdluli, a nurse from a local clinic, gave an incredible talk about the importance of taking care of one's health and setting healthy boundaries to protect one's well-being.

Our presented topics were to implement the significance of self-love, confidence, values, boundaries and the importance of embracing our uniqueness; these aspects are crucial in order to live a fulfilling and empowered life, and can cultivate a strong foundation for personal growth and relationship building, ensuring a path of love, compassion and purpose.

Outcome: The event had a significant impact on the participants through the various session and they gained new insights and confidence.



13. BOYS CAMP

A boy's camp was held at Hillside Church premises from November 24th to 25th, with a total of 12 boys attending.

AIM: To provide a supportive and empowering environment for young boys to learn and develop the values and principles that contribute to becoming responsible, compassionate, and respectful individuals.

The IkusasaLethu team organized the boy's camp. The boys arrived in the afternoon at the Camping Site. The camp counselors welcomed them and outlined the schedule for the next two days. As evening approached, the first topic raised was about Integrity, which was presented by the camp counselor Mr Lindo Mthembu. The second topic was covered by our guest Mr Mpendulo Shoba, he spoke about setting goals and understanding the purpose of one's existence, this was held around the campfire following a nutritious supper. On the last day camp counselor Mr Sipho Madlala woke them up and chatted about the topic Identity.

OUTCOME: The camp was a resounding success; attendees left the camp with increased self-awareness, a clearer vision for their future and a stronger sense of their own identity.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Heartland team for their exceptional support and generosity towards the boy's camp. It is with great pleasure and gratitude that we acknowledge the invaluable contributions they made.



Thank you for considering us for your donation. Your generosity will help us make a difference in the lives of those in need. We appreciate your kindness and support.

Donations of sport equipment, funds for refreshments and training materials would also be a great blessing.

BANKING DETAILS

Bank: Standard Bank

Branch: Hillcrest Code 045726

Swift Code: SBZAZAJJ

Name: ikusasaLethu

Account Number: 058098992

This report was compiled by the iKusasaLethu Team:



Left: Mr. Lindo Mthembu, Miss Samkelisiwe Gumede, Miss Andile Mkhize and Mr. Sipho Madlala