



Afrika Tikkun
Developing Young People
from Cradle to Career

MY AFRIKA MAGAZINE

Issue No - 02 of 2017



Save a family, Save a community

SPELLING BEE CHAMPION NTHABISENG

social media and getting a job

Rising writers investigate burning issues



MARIMBA WOW!



CYBER-BULLYING



RISING FEMALE LEADER



PLAY EVERY DAY



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HOMELESS PEOPLE'S OLD CLOTHES INTO NEW ONES "

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WELCOME

by PATRICIA LEDWABA
PHUTHADITJABA CENTRE, ALEXANDRA

Welcome to our 2nd My Afrika Tikkun Magazine of 2017. I am thrilled that Phuthaditjaba Centre is presenting this magazine at this moment in time.

In this second issue of My Afrika Magazine we've covered the triumphs of all the programmes within Afrika Tikkun's five centres and the social problems encountered in our communities.

As we try to carry on in our epic quest for excellence, I am happy to say that we are getting better as individuals and also as a team on building the credibility of the organisation. I would like to appreciate everyone who is part of the Afrika Tikkun team, including our beneficiaries, their supporting families and our community stakeholders. It is because of you that we have stories to tell today.

With our excellent culture of innovation and eye for the spectacular, we will continue to support the community through our supportive programs.



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NEWS FROM THE 5 AFRIKA TIKKUN CENTRES



ABOUT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Afrika Tikkun centres' have Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes that provide safe facilities for children to learn and play during their early years and give children the opportunity to develop numeracy and literacy. The health and well-being of children is also improved through social, nutrition and health support services. To find out more about ECD, **contact Vanessa Mentor 072 921 9481 or vanessa@afrikatikkun.org**

MARIMBA WOW!



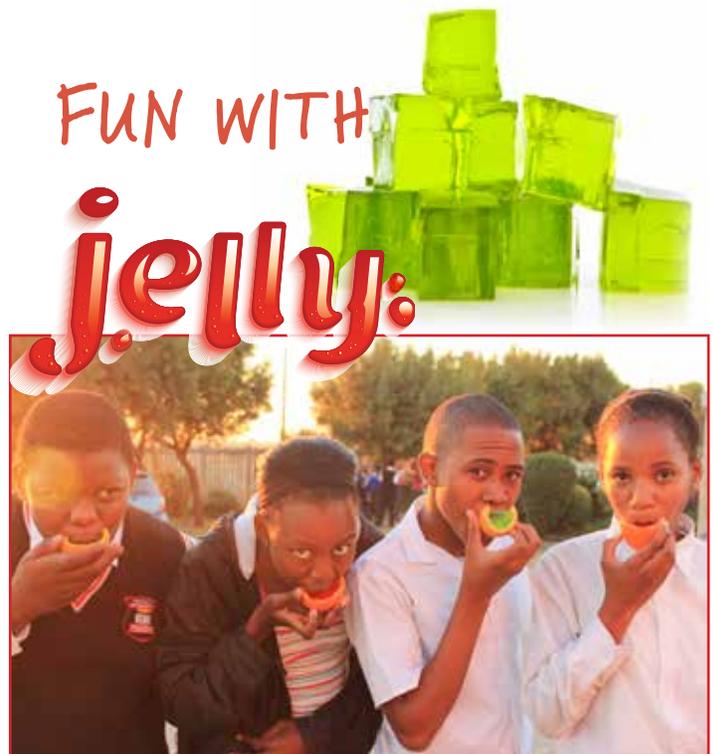
Thanks to the Marimba Programme, the children of Uthando's ECD are brighter and more confident, reports Principal Thuli Mvala.

Through the programme children learn to play the marimba and the drums, but it also develops communication, thinking and writing skills. "We have seen an unprecedented change in our children's ability to express themselves", says Thuli. Although there is still a long way to go, it has started so well that she believes, "it could be used across all ECD programs in South Africa".

Each programme session begins with a story told by the teacher using a storybook and soft toy puppets. After telling the children the story for the first time, half of the class are given marimbas while the other half are given drums. Then the teacher tells the story a second time and the children use their instruments to take part in the telling of the story with music. Its a wonderful way to learn to express yourself, grow your imagination and your listening skills.

Recently, the Uthando ECD children were invited to attend a 'Gruffalo' Show at Nelson Mandela Square Theatre in Sandton. Thuli stated, "through this experience, we recognized the excellent work being done through the Marimba programme". Children were able to recognised the animals on stage such as the wolf, mouse and snake; and best of all, were able to engage confidently in English.

The Marimba programme is currently available across all Afrika Tikkun ECD Centers. Ms. Mvala believes that it is preparing Grade R children for school. The ECD programme hope to graduate all 340 bright and ready Gr Rs this year. All are working hard to be ready for big school. Parents can help them make their next big step by reading books to them in the evening. The Marimba Programme has inspired a love of learning in the Grade Rs; something that's going to hold them in good stead for the next twelve years of school.



Jelly - its cheap, fun and ngca!



1. 4 large oranges, halved.
2. x2 packets of jelly. Make sure the colours are different.

With a sharp knife, remove the inside flesh of the oranges and carefully scrape out the membrane, taking care not to make a hole in the skin of the oranges.

Make up the jelly but follow the instructions using only half the amount of water as you will need a more concentrated jelly to hold its shape.

Fill each of the hollow orange halves with jelly right to the top.

If you like, you can place them in muffin trays to keep them steady. Refrigerate until set and then trim the orange halves so that the skin of the oranges is level with the jelly.

Cut the oranges in half again with a sharp knife.

MY DAD USED TO BE RICH, THEN HE MARRIED MY MOM

Old people have really big CD's that they call records

I wonder sometimes if we ever give God a headache



Itumeleng (boy pictured in the middle) is in the Whale Class for Grade Rs. When he first arrived he didn't talk much and kept to himself. Itumeleng's teacher noticed however that he was very clever. To help Itumeleng get acquainted with his class, his teacher **Mam Tiny played a game with the class where they would say something funny about themselves.** After

the game, Itumeleng started making friends and has since been participating freely in class. He is good at drawing, counting and puzzles and often helps his peers. "He just needed to be comfortable with the new environment and his classmates. I look forward to helping him reach his full potential and getting him ready for school," said Mam Tiny.

OYENA HAS HEROES FOR CLASSMATES

Five-year-old Oyena Platjie is a young girl at Zolile Malindi ECD centre in Cape Town. She lives with her family of five and has a non-verbal learning disability, she cannot speak or hear well. Her parents struggled to find a school that could accommodate her condition. Then, early this year, she was welcomed at the Grade R Aeroplanes Class at Afrika Tikkun.

At first Oyena would keep to herself and not engage with other children because she could not speak or hear them well. But that changed soon thanks to her classmates! Within a few weeks they had made friends and started helping her with her tasks. They found a way to communicate and play with her. This took Oyena out of her comfort zone, but that's what her confidence and self-esteem needed.

Her teachers and family can now see a big difference in her development at school and



Oyena in the middle

socially. "**Oyena's classmates have truly helped her develop into a bubbly and confident little girl.** They make sure she has her pencil or crayons, and will notify me on her behalf if she doesn't have any", said Mmopa Lebakeng, Oyena's teacher.

Oyena has also found a way to communicate better with her teachers. Her mother, Neliswa, is very happy and proud of the Aeroplanes heroes and their teachers for helping Oyena to go beyond her limits.



PLAY EVERY DAY GOOD FOR THE KIDS, GOOD FOR THE PARENTS



Afrika Tikkun in partnership with the Sesame Foundation, the LEGO Foundation and Play Africa are carrying out a project called "Play Every Day". Play Every Day equips parents with skills to play with their children.

Play supports children's early development and lifelong learning. It is essential to helping children reach all their developmental milestones.

In April, Afrika Tikkun hosted four play workshops. A play workshop is a community event that brings together caregivers and children to participate in play activities and discover the benefits of learning through play. The objective of these workshops were to support children to play alone and with others including adults.

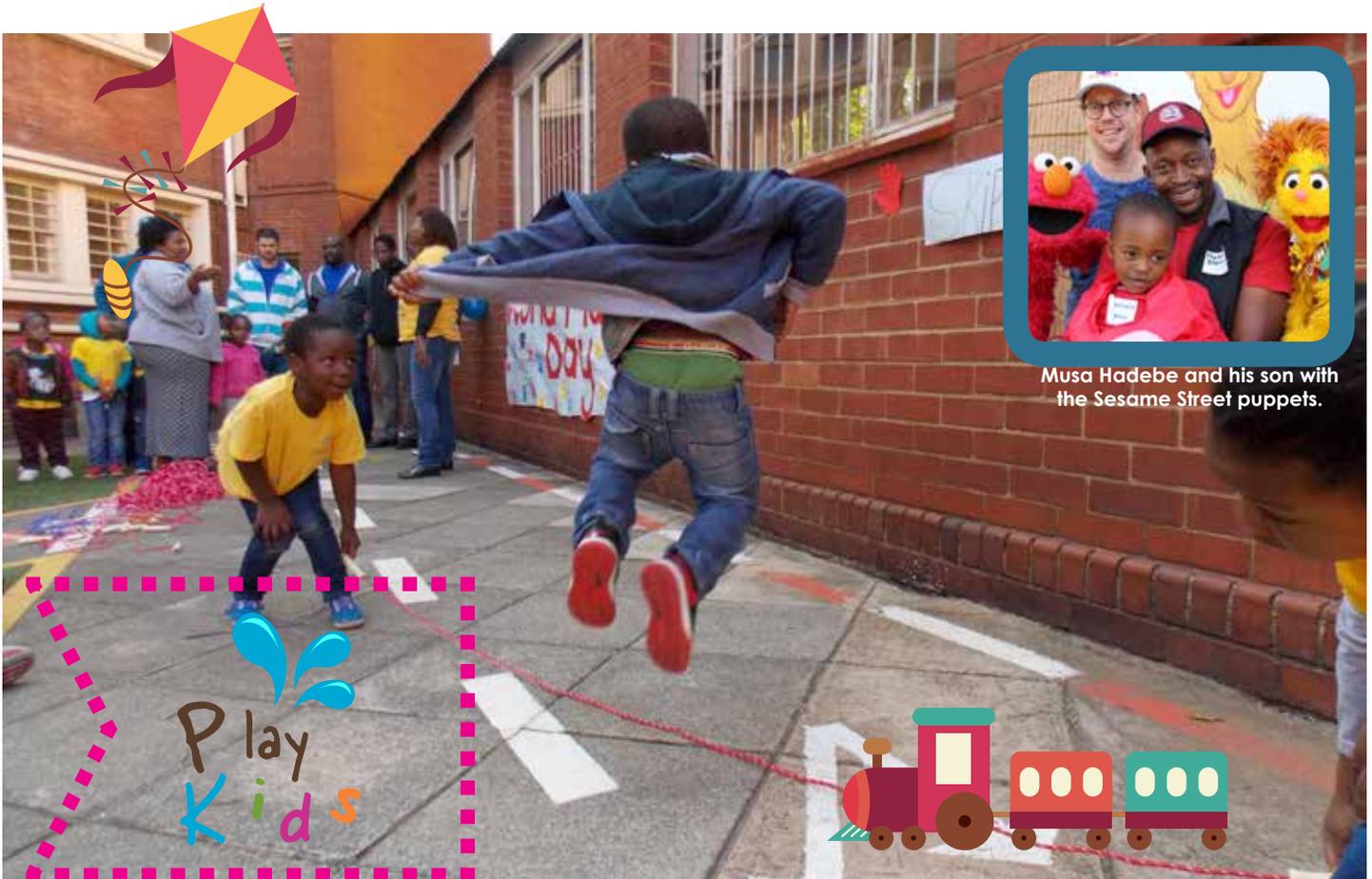
The facilitators from Play Africa were responsible for the workshops coordinated by Vanessa Mentor, ECD Subject Matter Expert (SME), Afrika Tikkun.

"We worked with 35 parent-child pairs in Orange

Farm. During the workshops families did activities such as making and building, imagination exploration and enacting the role of someone in social environments using role play" said Fortunate, Arekopaneng's ECD Principal.

At the end of the workshop, parents together with their children were awarded with certificates of participation and play goodies to continue practicing play at home. **"These workshops were an eye-opener, and have taught me to reach out to my child and engage with her through play"** said Mpho Khazi, one of the parents in the ECD.

Parents came away from the training realising that in playing with their children they were not only helping their children develop all their skills. In fact, as many parents testified, it is a wonderful way to relieve stress. So parents if you are stressed from a long day, try playing with your child! Its good for the whole family.



Musa Hadebe and his son with the Sesame Street puppets.

Play Kids



CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN ENGAGE IN AFTER-SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING:

- Active citizenship and leadership development.
- Career guidance, mentorship, and introduction to career pathways.
- Health and physical education activities.
- Learning support, including computer skills, study methods, and Saturday Schools.

Beneficiaries receive nutritional, social and health support. To join this programme **contact David Silva on 081 537 9769 or davids@afrikatikkun.org**.



ESCA NDONGO OUR CYD PROGRAMME RISING STAR!



Esca Ndonga has been part of CYD at Uthando Center for over three years and is already becoming our rising star. Esca has been nominated for several scholarships including Oprah Winfrey Schools for Girls, Holy Family School, JP Girls Kensington School and Dominican Covenant School in South Africa.

Recently, she was elected the General Secretary for the Uthando Student Representative Council. According to Ms. Precious Machira the CYD Manager, Esca is a promising young lady and is determined to overcome any challenges life faces her and her family.

According to Ms. Machira, her principal also commends Esca as an exceptional scholar and strong-minded young girl. She added that it is imperative for local schools to join hands with Afrika Tikkun in order to provide opportunity for children like Esca to



pursue a brighter future.

Esca's achievements are a testimony to Afrika Tikkun's belief that **young people deserve the opportunity to be the best they can be**. One day, Esca hopes to become a medical doctor in order to save lives. Her motivation comes from her mother, who encourages her to be determined, have good values and work hard.

Esca is also an activist for women's rights thanks to the Empowerment Programme, which develops knowledge about Human Rights and provides a platform for learners to be agents of change in their communities. Afrika Tikkun is proud of Esca, her achievements and her vision for her life.





**BE A READER,
BE A WRITER,
BE A PROBLEM SOLVER...**

Many children from different schools come to the centre unable to write, spell and speak English. The Spelling Bee Competition is a fun educational initiative that we introduced to improve the English vocabulary of all our beneficiaries.

Nthabiseng Mabe joined Afrika Tikkun in 2011. She has grown and developed with Afrika Tikkun into the fine young woman she is today. And she is an excellent speller. In May, Nthabiseng made it to the finals in a Spelling Bee Competition between her school and other local schools in and around

Alex. **She won the competition and was awarded a certificate.**

"Spelling Bee at Afrika Tikkun has taught me a lot. It encouraged me to read novels and always refer to the dictionary. I have learned the meaning of words, synonyms and my creative writing has improved enormously."

"Thank you Afrika Tikkun for giving me the platform to learn and improve my performance at school", concludes Nthabiseng Mabe.





ABOUT 45 AREKOPANENG'S CYD BENEFICIARIES HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE APARTHEID MUSEUM ON SATURDAY THE 1ST OF APRIL 2017.

VISIT TO THE APARTHEID MUSEUM

The Apartheid Museum is a beacon of hope helping South Africa come to terms with its oppressive past and work towards a future that all South Africans can call their own.

The purpose of the visit was to expose learners to the history of apartheid. **"We have been educating them about their rights and responsibilities.** We did a lot of fun activities to emphasise this theme. This visit was arranged to make them understand what apartheid in South Africa was really like, and the importance of human rights today," said Xolani Sampies, CYD Manager.

After the trip, they all had a story to tell about their experience and what they learned. Nombuso Mthethwa was touched, "I was shaken to hear the number of black people who lost their lives during the apartheid era and I took note of Nelson Mandela's quote about courage. Courage was not the absence of fear but the triumph over it", Nombuso said.

"It was well worth it to see our children taking this opportunity to learn with open hands. We are proud to be giving children the opportunity to learn in all aspects of their being" Sampies concluded.

RISING FEMALE LEADER

Lebohang Nkhatau is a 15-year old beautiful, confident, strong young woman. Raised by her grannies on the dusty streets of Orange Farm, she was 11 years old when she walked through the gates of Arekopaneng Afrika Tikkun Centre.

Lebohang became a dedicated participant in the CYD programme, and through many different interventions and learnings, she grew to become one of the toughest debaters we have at Afrika Tikkun. As a young woman at the age of 13, she was involved in the Young Urban Women programme. This is where her leadership qualities really shone. With a careful guidance, she led group debates, and dialogues on issues of Sexual Reproductive health, advocacy, human rights and GBV related topics.

Now doing her grade 10, Lebo is the Chairperson

of the SRC committee and a Peer Educator. She recently represented AT in the dialogue that was hosted by Love Life, teaching and sharing her own perspective on the definition of well-being as a young woman in a community where many girls are very vulnerable.

She is an ambassador and an example of what Afrika Tikkun seeks to achieve.



DIEP TYRES

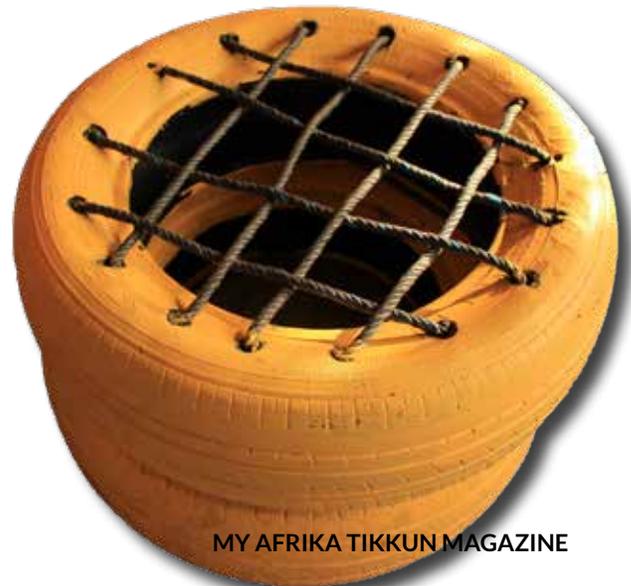


Khutso Ngwape (16) changed his entire life when he asked a simple question ***“what is happening there?”***

That's the question he asked his friend one day as they were walking passed the Diepsloot Wings of Life Centre. His friend answered that if he went there, he could go to camps. "I must admit I came to the centre because I wanted to go to the camps I heard my friend mention" giggles Khutso. What happened next was something Khutso did not expect.

Khutso stays in Diepsloot with his uncle and grandmother who are both unemployed. His uncle and grandmother are his only guardians since the passing of his mother in 2016. Since being a beneficiary of AT, Ngwape was exposed to opportunities that made him look at his life differently. He now realises that his background cannot determine his future. Visiting prominent schools such as the African Leadership Academy unearthed the desire for Khutso to follow a career in Mechatronics Engineering.

What excites Khutso the most about Afrika Tikkun is the new pillars that are introduced under the CYD Programme, because now the centre is not about having space to do homework and group/peer learning, it's also a place for young minds to meet and collaborate on greatness. This is why after noticing that all CYD beneficiaries at the centre do not have chairs to sit on during lunch, **Khutso and his friends were inspired under the pillar of “Innovation” to come up with the idea of making chairs from old tyres.** They call the tyres Dieptyres. Once completed the chairs will be used by CYD beneficiaries during lunch.



BURNING ISSUES

Burning issues is the section where we hear from our beneficiaries about the issues in their community affecting them the most at the moment.

SAPS WARNS MFULENI RESIDENTS OF SAFETY THIS WINTER

The winter season in Cape Town brings with it longer nights and short days with the sun setting as early as 18h00 and often foggy mornings. For the residents of Mfuleni and other townships, this poses a safety threat to those walking to and from work and schools. It is in this season that the crime rate in this community increases with many cases of robbery and rape.



SAPS Communications Officer, Captain Nomathemba Muavha, advised residents to keep safe and take precautions this winter with the following tips:

- Avoid dark and lonely places
- Walk in groups when walking at night or early mornings
- Avoid foot paths, rather use main roads as they are busy
- Do not walk with earphones on as this may attract robbers to you

Captain Muavha also urged parents to take extra caution with their children: ***“We urge parents to not let their children walk to school alone. Rather form walking clubs where elders take turns walking kids in groups to school. Also, we ask that parents should attach their contact details onto the kids’ school bags or clothing as this may be very helpful should the child get lost.”***

POOR SERVICE FROM TAXI DRIVERS



Like most communities, Orange Farm is affected by taxi drivers who mistreat them. Arekopaneng SRCs went out to the streets to ask community members about their experiences using public transport.

Most of Orange Farm’s commuters are not pleased with taxi drivers who are somehow in a competition with each other, “they fight over us, driving recklessly so as to try and get more people than the other drivers” said Maki Mathe*, a community member.

Apart from them competing and most of the time leaving commuters confused as to which taxi to get on, commuters have also witnessed some taxi drivers

transporting them while drinking alcohol. “It is a concern because we are always taught not to drink and drive, yet we see them practising that with people’s lives in their taxi”, Lebohang Nkatau, SRC chairperson added.

The Young Urban Women and Arekopaneng have seen this as a serious social issue affecting them as community members and as commuters. They are on a mission to create awareness to the Centre’s beneficiaries, their plan is to educate learners to speak out and be courageous to report such behaviours and also to refrain from using taxis with drivers under the influence of alcohol.

WHAT **NOT TO DO** WHEN YOU THINK YOUR FRIEND IS **GAY**

There is still so much homophobia in our communities. It's regrettable, it's heartless and it's immoral. Sometimes, people are teased and bullied from an early age if they are even suspected of being gay. They are condemned before they themselves know what sex or sexual orientation is.

South Africa has a complex and diverse history regarding the human rights of LGBTI people and their acceptance in the family and community. The legal and social status of over 2 million lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersexual and gender non-conforming South Africans has been influenced by a combination of traditional South African morality, colonialism and the human rights movement.

According to the South African Human Rights Commission, alarming levels of homophobia and unacceptably high rates of

attacks on individuals who are suspected of being homosexual have persisted, even though the country's legal system has done its best to defend them.

In Alexandra, homophobia or the fear of homosexuality has resulted in the widespread belief that homosexuals are un-African and un-Christian, as well as in "corrective rape".

One SRC Member in Alex is a young man who enjoys the friendship of girls. He started playing with girls from a very young age. Boys started calling him names and making fun of him, saying things like 'she's a man'. Preferring to playing with children of the opposite sex however does not mean someone is homosexual. As a result he has had to fight discrimination for most of his life.

"Being a peer educator at Afrika Tikkun has been a challenging journey because whenever I

facilitate, the learners would not pay any attention to me or show interest in whatever I say or do, they would call me names. Even at the camps they would gossip about me. I wish they could stop because it hurts me and lowers my self-esteem and it has a negative impact on my psychological well-being".

Afrika Tikkun empowers children, youth and their families to actively pursue their human rights across all our core programmes. Through the empowerment programme, this young man has learnt how to deal with discrimination. He's now confident and the learners at the centre have learned to respect him.

What do YOU think?

*What **should** you do if you think your friend is gay? Let us know. Email: media@afrikatikkun.org*

TEEN SUICIDE

The Uthando Student Representative Council decided to embark on the **burning issue** of 'Teenage suicide' for the Hillbrow community and schools. However, the subject is not spoken about in our homes or streets. Teenage suicide is seen as a shameful and taboo act in black communities. The South African Depression and Anxiety Group report that the suicide rate for children aged 10-14 years old has more than

doubled over the last fifteen years. The problem is real, some of us have lost friends and family to suicide. In fact, South Africa has an average suicide of 17.2 per 100 000 (8% of all deaths). The Uthando SRC decided to investigate teenage suicide awareness in local schools. The team asked questions to their peers, who we will not name due to confidentiality of the survey.

"Nomsa"

Why do you think teenagers commit suicide?

"One of my friends had thoughts about committing suicide due to her unwanted pregnancy. She knew that her parents would disown her as soon as they find out that she is pregnant. It was a miserable time for her and she had to find help for her as soon as possible."

"Kodwa":

Why teenagers don't reach out for help when they have suicidal thoughts?

"Most of the teenagers are afraid to



talk to someone because they may feel ashamed about their reasons that put them into suicidal thoughts and some parents or community can push a student to commit suicide."

"Sibo":

How can you be helped when having thoughts of suicide?

"I will always trust a friend or someone that really means to support me and keeps my matter very confidential up until I get a professional help."

Other studies show that the major risk factors involving teenage suicide are mental illness, especially depression, conduct disorder, alcohol and drug abuse. In South Africa 60% of people who commit suicide are depressed. Often suicide victims have tried to commit suicide before. Having a firearm in the house increases the risk of death from suicide.

The Uthando SRC want to reach out to teenagers who are depressed and thinking about taking their lives. Its important to know the **danger signs**:

1. People who commit suicide have previously attempted suicide.
2. People who commit suicide often talk about it directly or indirectly.
3. Most suicidal people are depressed

How do you intervene?

Be concerned about depressed persons if you observe their mood is heavy, there is a change in sleeping patterns, or change in appetite or weight. Depressed people move with unusual speed or slowness, have fatigue or less energy, have feelings of worthlessness, self-reproach or guilt, thoughts of death or suicide, extreme anxiety, agitation or enraged behaviour, and excessive drug and/or alcohol use or abuse. In addition, further studies show that 75% of all suicides give some warning of their intentions to a friend or family member. All suicide threats and attempts should be taken seriously.

What do you think?

Did someone come to mind as you were reading this article? If so, talk to the social worker in your Centre, talk to a peer educator or email: media@afrikatikkun.org.

CYBER BULLYING

"Sibongile" is 16 (not her real name). Recently she received a friend request on Facebook from a young man she did not know. She thought it was another friendly request until this person began messaging naked and explicit pictures. He went through her profile, liked all her personal pictures and began requesting photos of her naked. Then he began calling her on her mobile phone. He became aggressive and bullying, calling her degrading things. She reported the matter to her parents and Facebook, and they taught her how to block someone.

The internet has made things very easy, especially in the fast-paced world that we live in, but it has its disadvantages. Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place using cell phones, computers, and tablets as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat, and websites. Examples of cyberbullying include mean text messages or emails, rumours sent by email or posted on social networking sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos, websites, or fake profiles, this mostly affects teenagers.

Effects of bullying include:

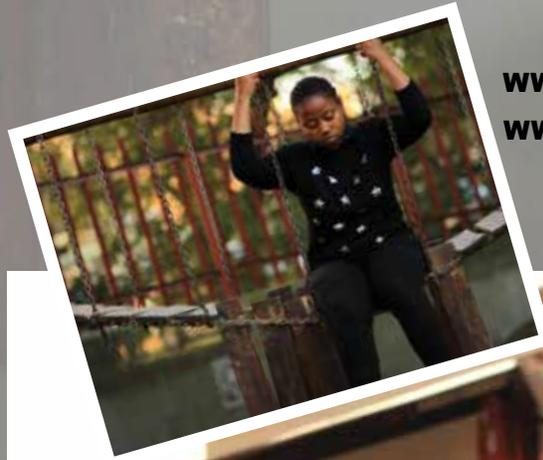
- Use alcohol and drugs
- Skip school
- Being unwilling to attend school
- Receive poor grades
- Have lower self-esteem
- Have more health problems

Below is a list of measures teens can take to prevent cyberbullying.

Educate yourself: Make sure you are aware of cyberbullying, as well as how and where it is most likely to occur.

Protect your password: Safeguard your password and other private information from prying eyes.

Keep it "PG": Before posting or sending that sexy image of yourself, consider if it's something you would want your parents, grandparents, and the rest of the world to see.



WWW.STOPBULLYING.CO.ZA

WWW.CONNECTSAFELY.ORG

Never open unidentified or unsolicited messages: Never open emails, text messages, Facebook messages, etc. from people you don't know or know are bullies.

Log out of online accounts: Don't save passwords in form fields within websites or your web browser, and don't stay logged in when you walk away from the computer or cell phone.

Pause before you post: Do not post anything that may compromise your reputation. People will judge you based on how you appear to them online.

Setup privacy controls: Social networking sites offer you the ability to share certain information with friends only. Use this to protect yourself.

"Google" yourself - Regularly search your name in every major search engine. If any personal information or photo comes up which may be used by cyberbullies to target you, take action to have it removed before it becomes a problem.

Don't be a cyberbully yourself: Treat others how you would want to be treated

Afrika Tikkun raises awareness of all types of bullying through the social club **AV Buddies**. The purpose of the clubs is to address violence in schools through dialogues among learners. To become an AV Buddy one needs to pledge to lead a violence-free life in and out of school. **Join AV Buddies, talk to a facilitator.**



YOUTH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMENT

Skills training is offered to matriculated youth, age 19-35. It is geared for maximising effectiveness in the world of work. Graduates of the programme are loaded onto an ABSA database and Afrika Tikkun's database. Tikkun then facilitates the placement of graduates into entry level jobs and learnerships. To enroll on this programme **contact Talib Salim 083 953 6334 or talibs@afrikatikkun.org**



SOCIAL MEDIA & GETTING A JOB

Once it hits the Internet, it will always be there! We hear it all the time from teachers and employers about just how dangerous social media can be when trying to apply and get hired for a job in your respective career. We all have had those moments in life that we're not too proud about and about 95 percent time your friends know about those moments because of social media. It's where we post videos, photos and details of our personal lives for everyone to see including those we might not want to see like prospective employers.

Many companies even require their prospective applicants to have a strong online presence to promote the company they're applying for. They also use those profiles to check if the applicants is a correct fit for the company.

A lot of things that we do on social media could hurt your chances of getting that job.

Here is the list:



Photos and Videos

Check if your pictures or videos are of questionable behaviour that could be labelled as illegal. Using profanity or vulgar hand gestures gives employers a sense of your attitude about life in general. They're less likely to consider you for a position if many of your photos or videos show you using your middle finger or dropping the 'F' bomb.

Rants and Raves

A number of employers have turned down offering jobs to prospective employees because they've actually went on rants about how much they hated their last career or boss. For employers it shows immaturity to be able to work in a professional environment and work with those you might not always agree with or get along with.

environment and work with those you might not always agree with or get along with.

Friends Lists

As the famous saying goes, "birds of a feather flock together". This section of our social media profiles doesn't hold as much weight as pictures or our tweets/statuses but it gives an employer a chance to see whom you associate yourself with. A persons group of friends shows an employer how diverse you are and if you could work in a culturally diverse environment in their company.

Info Section

If for example you're a 25-year-old graduate, employers expect to see a sense of professionalism when it comes to promoting your brand or image on social media. Doing things in your info section that show lack of professionalism, will put you below other applicants in the job market.

Here is a list of things you can do to fix your social media image

Privacy Settings

If you feel the need to keep the same material on your social media profiles as you start your job search, make sure you're protecting your profile and keeping it out of reach from job employers. However, other more professional profile pages like your LinkedIn should be searchable and visible for employers. These types of profiles can serve as an expansion to your CV showing business connections, organizations you belong to and even reviews your fellow co-workers and former employers give you.

Cleaning Up Your Act

Dig deep into your account

and delete any pictures, videos, comments and updates that detracts your overall image.

Google Yourself!

Personal online hygiene is very important. This is a really great way to see what material you have on the Internet that you've published from your multiple social media platforms so you know what to remove.

Stay Professional

Once you have the job do not go back to your bad posting days, ask yourself before you post on Facebook or Instagram, will this hurt my chances of getting a job in the future or ruin the relationship I have with my current employer?

Tips for using LinkedIn to find work.

Complete and Update Your Profile – the more information you have, the more you will be found.

Find and Use Connections – this betters your chances of finding someone to help with the job search.

Use Recommendations and Referrals – request a referral from a contact.

Follow your dream companies – this is a good way to find more information about the company you are interested in.



MEET AN AFRIKA TIKKUN STAFFER

Stephen
Mohapi

Stephen Mohapi is a young man from Thaba Nchu, Free State. After matric, he attended Central Johannesburg College to study mechanical engineering, but in 2013, he had to drop out because his mother lost her job and could no longer pay for his fees.

"In February, I heard about a programme called Career Readiness on local radio station, Alex FM. I decided to register for the YSDP. That is when my life changed for the best. I was also privileged to get the Learnership for the Child and Youth Care Programme.

"I did my best and got to be the male valedictorian of the YSDP programme. Then I heard about the Afrika Tikkun cycling hub so I joined", says Stephen. In 2015, Stephen was one of the beneficiaries who was given the opportunity to go to

London to represent Afrika Tikkun at the Spirit of Belron Challenge triathlon. "It's like a dream come true for me as a township boy to get an opportunity to go overseas, because I never thought that one day I will be able to compete outside South Africa. It is not easy for us as black children and youth to get an opportunity like this. This will open more doors for other children/youth who will be looking up to us and love running/cycling.

Stephen Mohapi has been helping in the Phuthaditjaba Sports Department for the past four years. He was not sure which career path he should take. He spoke to the SME of Sports at Afrika Tikkun who suggested he enrol in short courses in sports and build up his career from there.

Now, he is busy studying Development and Organised Sports.

"I am very pleased that Steve Mohapi took this opportunity to learn more in this field and we are hoping it will open many opportunities for him in the future," said Thomas Taole, Afrika Tikkun Sports & Development Manager.

"I hope and know that many more doors will open through Afrika Tikkun that will help and develop young people in Alexandra", concludes Stephen.

Who is your favourite facilitator?

Tell us why: media@afrikatikkun.org

LEARNERS TODAY LEADERS TOMORROW



On the 7th of April, we took 22 of our graduates to a workshop where ABSA was introducing the new 'Ready to wear' initiative. The learners were taught about how to look presentable when going for interviews, how to conduct themselves during the interviews, time management and doing research about the companies that they will be applying for.

Then they were given formal clothes to fit and each learner received new clothes to wear when going for interviews. The aim was to assist those who do not have the

necessary clothing for interviews.

Afrika Tikkun's Ready to Work programme is conducted in partnership with ABSA Barclays. Within the programme the learners are developed holistically, and are taught computer lessons, people skills, finance management and entrepreneurial skills. This programme prepares young people for entry-level jobs and gives them an opportunity to be placed into learnerships. Graduates of the programme are registered onto the ABSA and Afrika Tikkun database.



"It is like a dream come true, I've never had any formal clothing before. For the first time I had an opportunity to wear a formal shirt and I felt like a businessman. I am encouraged to look for a job because I have acquired the skills and suitable clothing to go for interviews."
Lebogang Sediane

SAVE ONE FAMILY SAVE THE COMMUNITY

We believe that supporting the whole family is important if we are going to transform our communities, and our country. These two stories show us why.

We want to hear!

We care about family. Tell us about yours and what Afrika Tikkun means to you!
media@afrikatikkun.org

Finding a school for Mihlali

Mihlali Mguli is a 6-year-old boy diagnosed with moderate intellectual disability (a learning disability). He graduated from our ECD programme in 2016. Pheliswa, his mother, is unemployed and receives a grant that the whole family depends on.

Pheliswa, who was referred to Afrika Tikkun by a neighbour, is now being supported by the social worker. The social worker made an appointment with the Department of Education on her behalf and accompanied her to register for a special school for her son Mihlali. *"We were disappointed on many occasions by the Department saying they do not find the child's name on the waiting list for the school. I then encouraged Pheliswa to register Mihlali at a mainstream school nearby and assisted her with the process. Mihlali was accepted and registered at one of the local primary schools and is doing grade 1,"* shared the social worker.

A week later Mihlali's class teacher informed Pheliswa that her son needs a special school. So Mihlali was again back at home without a school. But the social worker continued to assist Pheliswa and returned to the Department of Education for assistance. They advised her to take him to the Khayelitsha Special School, where he had been on the waiting list for a while. Mihlali has since been accepted into the school. Today he is much happier and is adjusting very well.



A MOTHER WHO CARRIES THE HEARTBEAT OF HER COMMUNITY



Utilia is a mother of 5 children from Diepsloot. Her youngest child is 12-year-old Giff, who was born with Cerebral Palsy.

Utilia first came into contact with Afrika Tikkun in 2005, after she was abandoned by her husband for having a child with a disability. Afrika Tikkun built her a shack and allowed her to volunteer in the kitchen, dishing out food for the community at different spots.

From 2007 to 2014, Utilia was permanently employed as a cook at Wings of Life Centre in Diepsloot. In September 2014, Utilia applied for a post under the Empowerment Programme and got the job as a Case Administrator. She is grateful for the training that she has received, "I am now an empowered person, and I am a very different person from what I used to be. Before coming to Afrika Tikkun, I felt like I was alone in this world as if I was a laughing stock." Utilia goes on to explain her challenges, "when we took public transport I would make sure that I cover him with blankets so that people do not look at him".

"Coming to Afrika Tikkun was a relief. I got a family who gave me and my son love and acceptance. I am now empowered and stress-free. Now I can walk around with my son unashamed and I can even help parents in the same situation as mine".

Utilia says ever since the Empowerment Programme

was introduced, the attitude of the community towards disability has changed a great deal. The community "now supports and accept our children". Through awareness campaigns that Utilia and her team are doing in clinics, nurses treat children with disabilities better than they used to before. She remarks that even at the police station "they now take us seriously when we report cases of child abuse and thorough investigations are done". Creating relationships with stakeholders has made it possible for Utilia to refer children to relevant service providers without any difficulties. Most children now access services that they were previously denied, such as education, justice, and health care and care dependency grants. Utilia's wish is to start her own daycare centre for children with disabilities, and to continue helping affected families overcome the barriers they face in their day-to-day lives.



ZERO DEATHS

The Primary Health Care programme provides various health services to the residents of Mfuleni; from home-based care, support to HIV/AIDS and TB clients, and from health awareness to CDU medication distribution. We recently received a congratulatory email from the local Ivan Toms clinic on a job well done for 0 deaths recorded at the clinic between November 2016 and April 2017.