

Community Development begins with you

Report and images by Vusi Shabalala

Community development practice has arisen from a variety of sources and settings. In today's world it is actively used in deprived or underdeveloped urban and rural settings in the Province. Furthermore, it is a response to the perceived disintegration of society due to rapid technological change, economic dislocations, disruption in traditional family and community structures and the extension of government and commercial services into personal and family life, with negative impacts on personal effectiveness and community ties.

This all began in a dream then later transformed into a reality when Mr TA Mkhize, the Head of Adams Mission Depot (one of Public Works' offices operating under the eThekweni District Office) identified ways in which he could assist the Adams Mission community to develop towards changing their lives for the better. It was Tuesday the 3rd of November 2015 when the *Communication Team* paid a special visit to the Adams Mission Depot, in Durban.



Above is Mr Anesh Orrie from Public Works' Supply Chain Management (left) and Mr TA Mkhize the Head of Adams Mission Depot with one of the computers at the handover ceremony

Mr Mkhize has through constant cordial interactions with his colleague, Mr Naresh Mudhai from eThekweni District Office, initiated the '*dream*' as mentioned above to Mr Anesh Orrie, another colleague employed at Public Works' Head Office within the Directorate Supply Chain Management. His dream was to create innovative solutions that would address community challenges and build strong, equitable and sustainable

Adams Mission community through education engagement and collaboration. Amongst his dream's efforts was the identification and utilization of disposed computers by the department's Supply Chain Management component. Through positive and successful relations, a set of ten computers were handed over to Adams Mission Depot for use. To date, the computers are used by members of the Adams Mission community who pledged their devotion and urge to learn computer literacy. Currently ten (10) community members, with seven women and three men, were fully trained in computer literacy and the same group has set for the 2015 academic year end examinations. One must also acknowledge and complement Mrs Nzimande the Principal and Mr Brightness Chakane the computer class facilitator, both from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, for their utmost role of support and being on board with the project since day one. Their commitment and continued involvement has been tremendous and this gesture has confirmation that *'community development begins with you'* indeed.

The initiative has really added value to peoples' lives, especially those at Adams Mission. In today's economic market a brand new personal computer price (desktop and monitor) may cost approximately R6000.00 with a three year warranty for usage. On receipt of the equipment, Mr Mkhize and his colleagues (a staff complement of 32) have arranged proper classroom facility for the installation and effective utilization of the goods. The property is currently air-conditioned, has a new printer installed and connected to all computers, furnished with appropriate tables and chairs and all security features upgraded such burglar doors and burglar guarded windows. It is without doubt that the number of participants in the coming years will increase. This project also bears its financial turnover which projects a long term sustenance of education towards the poor and disadvantaged.

Mr Mkhize has expressed his gratitude to the Department and in particular to Mr Naresh Orrie and the Head Office Asset Management team who heeded his call and thereafter made all the efforts to making sure that his dream came true and remained a reality. In conclusion, Mr Mkhize pleaded that before his retirement, he would wish to see a proper road structure leading towards the center be constructed. All that is well always ends well.



Above here is Mr TA Mkhize with one of the computers