



ROTARY CLUB of KONA SUNRISE
P.O. Box 2343
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

The international relationship between the Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise and the Rotary Club of White River in South Africa has been ongoing for several years. We have collaborated to support students at Fundinjobo High School, located in an area of Mpumalanga suffering extreme poverty and limited resources. This support has been most notable in establishing a vibrant Interact Club. This year, the Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise applied for and received a District Simplified Grant, which funded several leadership projects for the Interact Club of Fundinjobo, including their hands-on support of a local orphanage, and an extremely well-attended RYLA camp. Our ongoing relationship has also resulted in a measurable increase in high school graduation, college application and college acceptance rates.



Zwelisha Aftercare center



Sthembiso, an Interactor participating in the Zwelisha Aftercare center project

But as successful as this partnership has been, a serious problem became apparent. The students, having attained acceptance to university, were dropping out. In fact, a staggering 90 percent of the university students from rural townships are found to be dropping out.

Why?

Fundinjobo High School is located in one of the poorest communities of Mpumalanga Province. Families with four children and two adults are trying to survive on 1200 Rand a month which is equivalent to \$103.00. Students from this area struggle to find the \$10 to apply to university, and once they are able to apply, they must then also apply for a National Financial Aid Scheme, a government loan, to pay expenses.

The problem is the timing of the loan. The school term begins in January, but the loans do not come through until three to six months later. Students are left to launch their academic year with no funds for student fees, books, housing or food. Even the most brilliant student cannot get by, let alone study, with no money to eat.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GRANT

To remedy this problem, the Educational Support Grant was created. Initial funding of the project was made possible by the Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise. Last year, the Rotary Club of North Hawaii and the Rotary Club of Kona Mauka joined as partners, which allowed for full funding for the 2015 scholarship recipients.

The annual award to Fundinjobo students is based on national exams, university acceptances, and high school matriculation in December. The funds are kept in the Rotary of White River bursary committee's care, to distribute as soon as a student enters university.

This project has a huge impact for young people, who will soon be paying it forward to their communities and to the next cohort of high school graduates to ensure their success. In 2016, the Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise Scholarship Committee awarded eight graduating seniors awards totaling \$7,000.00. We have raised over \$6,000.00 of support to date, which includes private donations, along with contributions from the Rotary Clubs of Kona Sunrise and North Hawaii, and internationally from the Rotary Club of Nagoya South, Japan, our sister club, and the Rotary Club of Taipei, Taiwan. Please be assured that this project is going to make a great difference to not only these young people, but also the communities that they strive during their lifetimes to benefit.

Some heartfelt words of gratitude from two of our 2016 ESG awardees:

Silbusiso Michael Nkosi, Teaching, Tshwane University of Technology.

I grew up in a rural area in Mpumalanga called Zwelisha and I never had the stability of a family. My life was so terrible because I had no one to look after me when I was doing my lower grades.

(T)hrough my hard working towards my education I did manage to pass (high school) with good marks and with the help of Rotary I did manage to apply to higher institution to further my studies. I am (learning about) teaching currently. In my first year I was using NFAS (National Financial Aid Scheme) for my tuition and with the support of (the rotary), I also passed my first year with good results.



From the bottom of my heart I really appreciate your support towards my education and my future including the future of the coming generation that I will be teaching and to improve the standard of living all over the world. Your support to me is a blessing (...) leading me to success and to be a dedicated teacher. I will make you proud by progressing in my studies and becoming a positive influence to the community at large. Words will not be enough to give the thank you that will show my gratitude for your support and the things you have done for me.

Sphamandla Mabunda, Accounting, University of North West, Mafeking.

I come from a disadvantaged family in Zwelisha. I am the first child from my family to go to university.

At (high) school I worked hard and received a good result for my matric exams. I received an award for being second in the SAICA Accounting Mpumalanga Regional Olympiad. I also obtained the top accounting mark in the 2012 Matric results in the Enhlazeni District. I was fortunate to attend a Leadership camp at Kwamadwala Lodge, sponsored by



Penryn College. I also was selected to be part of the JASA program for Entrepreneurship sponsored by Investec, which I found really inspiring.

I also enjoyed the friendships and socializing in the (rotary supported) Interact Club. We had meetings almost every week to discuss the way forward and to make sure that the children of Zwelisha benefitted from our input.

I am absolutely determined to succeed at university. Upon completion of my accounting degree I would like to become a chartered accountant, specializing in auditing. One day I hope to have my own company. I want to invest in my community as I have already taken the first step by involving myself in this newly formed NGO that aims at providing funding for children who have done well in their matric exams and been admitted to university but cannot afford university fees.

For additional information, please contact Ann Goody, PhD at animals@threeringranch.org.