



Issue 1 Winter: August 2024

CONNECTION

Department for Education Innovation
Unit for Community Engagement



PREPARE
before site
activity

ENGAGE
site activity

CONSOLIDATE
after site
activity

Orientation
Formative assessment

Ethical practices

Reflection
Feedback
Evaluations /
Impact assessment



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Abbreviations and acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CBO	Community-based Organisation
CE	Community Engagement
CCE	Curricular Community Engagement
CPF	Community Policing Forum
EASA	Education Association of South Africa
ECD	Early Childhood Development
HSOM	Historical Society of Mamelodi
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
MYDO	Malusi Youth Development Organisation
NPO	Non-profit Organisation
OT	Occupational Therapy
SAHECEF	South African Higher Education Community Engagement Forum
SAPS	South African Police Service
SMMES	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises
UP	University of Pretoria

Circle of Life Community Support



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Mission and purpose of Circle of Life Community Support

To support those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and other related diseases and to promote awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS in our communities. To screen for TB, STIs, COVID-19 and other life-threatening conditions. To ensure those infected take proper actions to seek medical help and adhere to treatment.

What specific services does your organisation offer to benefit the community?

We provide support to people living with HIV/AIDS through health talks, bible studies and food parcels. We assist children not attending school. We visit homes to assess the needs of households. We assist bedridden patients at home. We provide HIV testing and counselling, screening for tuberculosis (TB), sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and COVID-19.

What are some notable achievements of your organisation?

Community members acknowledge the work Circle of Life is doing in the community. The home visits brought our attention to the number of children eligible for preschool, primary and high school who are not attending school. Parents struggling to obtain child grants were assisted by being referred to social workers.



Community challenges

The biggest problems in the community are unemployment, substance abuse and other social issues. Children are not attending school. Elderly grandparents are being victimised by their grandchildren.

Describe your experience working together with UP students on a community engagement project.

The Unit for Community Engagement has linked us with various departments at UP. Third-year students from different departments, such as radiology, psychology and physiology, are deployed to conduct community practical studies. Circle of Life gains much knowledge from different studies and the community benefits from this. The beneficiaries are uplifted by knowing what the

different treatments and studies mean and how they are used.

Are there any upcoming events or initiatives the University should know about?

We are currently working with the District AIDS Council on developing multi-sectoral plans for HIV/AIDS, TB and STI responses.

How can students actively engage and support the work of your organisation?

I think more can be done to assist with career planning for matriculants and ongoing visits to schools and community organisations to encourage educational interventions and self-development. Working hand-in-hand with community stakeholders can lead to better living conditions.

Historical Society of Mamelodi



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The University of Pretoria's (UP) Mamelodi Campus and the Historical Society of Mamelodi (HSOM) are collaborating on a research project aimed at digitally preserving the stories and history of Mamelodi.

This multifaceted initiative comprises five key components: training community members in creating personal digital stories using cloud-based video editing software, conducting interviews with senior citizens, developing an ArcGIS story map with students, empowering secondary school learners to create their digital stories and compiling story maps highlighting significant events and individuals within the community. This project bridges UP and the community, fostering collaborative efforts to capture and preserve their rich narratives.

The project started in November 2014 and aims to empower the community by encouraging individuals to share their stories. Through this process, we strive to promote healing and cultivate a stronger sense of community among people. The organisation is led by a dedicated team of five active members who oversee its operations. In addition to this core team, the organisation has a membership of over 75 individuals connected and organised via a WhatsApp group. HSOM provides training sessions on

WeVideo and basic research skills during the University's vacation periods. These sessions cater to a diverse audience, including senior citizens and high school learners, offering valuable skills to participants.

Our most significant achievements to date include presenting a paper on digital storytelling at the Education Association of South Africa (EASA) conference held from 14 to 17 January 2024 at Mount Grace Hotel in Magaliesburg as well as the University of Rhodes Community Engagement Conference held from 14 to 16 May 2024. Additionally, our annual Mamelodi tour, for the honours students from UP, stands as another noteworthy accomplishment.

From HSOM's perspective, the core community challenges derive from various forms of brokenness. Thus, fostering a strong relationship with the Mamelodi Campus has proven advantageous, allowing us to address these challenges effectively. We are dedicated to cultivating similar relationships with other campuses, including the Hatfield Campus, to extend our impact and reach.

Presently, our collaborations extend to BScHons students from the Department of History and Heritage Studies and the Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and



Meteorology, who are engaged in developing story maps. This collaboration serves as a learning journey for both parties, exposing the students to township environments and challenging any stereotypes they may have.

The HSOM is crucial in enriching the academic experience of honours students by providing informative lectures, often delivered in collaboration with Dr Martina Jordaan. Following these lectures, students embark on research projects, creating videos and story maps that explore various aspects of Mamelodi's history. Their tasks include sourcing and documenting community stories. Additionally, we organise an annual lecture where the students gain more understanding of our community.

Mamelodi is home to a network of community organisations with which we proudly collaborate, including Urban Studio, Thandanani Drop Inn Centre, and LifeLine.

Love Circle Senior Club and Eersterust Golden Football Club



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Love Circle Senior Club's mission and purpose

Bringing the elderly together to socialise, discuss important issues in their lives, do handwork and learn new skills. The purpose is to ensure the elderly come together, do things together, engage in fitness training, and stay fit.

Services organisation offers to benefit the community

We offer get-togethers like Mother's Day and Women's Day events with motivational speakers and refreshments. We also offer fitness training and football training three days a week.

How many staff members and volunteers are involved in running the organisation?

Five volunteers run the club.

How many beneficiaries are there?

We have 15 beneficiaries, such as crèches and schools.

What are some notable achievements or success stories of your organisation?

Our top-rated training sessions have received much praise for the football programme and our fundraisers.



Describe community challenges observed by your organisation.

Our own meeting place is still a challenge. Many children in the informal settlement are not attending school due to poverty, drug abuse, and load-shedding.

What kind of partnership does your organisation have with the University of Pretoria (UP)?

We mainly partner with the Faculty of Health Sciences but are not limited to that.

Describe your experience working together with UP students on a community engagement project.

The students were great, but we had them with the project for a very short period. The best project was a knitting project we had a few years ago.

Which other community organisations do you collaborate with?

Tshwane Elderly Golden Football League, Eersterust Community Policing Forum (CPF), Poort FM, and the Eersterust Football Association.

How can students actively engage and support the work of your organisation?

We need students who can assist us with fundraising because we lack in that department. We need a student who can guide our Treasurer in keeping the books. We also need blankets for the elderly and advice on how to deal with the challenges of the burden of their children.

Malusi Youth Development Organisation (MYDO)

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Mission and purpose of Malusi Youth Development Organisation (MYDO)

Malusi Youth Development Organisation was established on 20 February 2015 and registered with registration number 152-983 NPO by a visionary youth team in Malusi informal settlement, Booyesen Pretoria.

The organisation was established after realising that most youth in impoverished communities, especially informal settlements, struggle to continue or complete their education and have a positive sense of self and place in the world.

Since youth in informal settlements are most vulnerable, the Malusi Youth Development Organisation has been working towards changing the environment in which young people live to facilitate their emotional, intellectual, physical, mental, and social development growth.

To accomplish this goal, young people must be in a caring, inclusive learning environment that promotes their best effort and reinforces personal respect.

Malusi Youth Development Organisation provides various programs for youth in Malusi

1, 2 and 3 in Booyesen Informal settlement and the surrounding areas. The organisation has partnered with local schools, clinics, police stations, and other community-based formations to unite for the youth's goal.

The organisation wants to encourage young people to promote pro-social friendships and strong interpersonal skills and reassert a sense of hope for the future. Only through personal relationships can a sense of individual responsibility be re-established, giving

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youth the commitment to follow through on the path to adulthood with a sense of pride and accomplishment. MYDO's four focus areas/programmes are (1) education - after-school care. (2) Feeding Scheme (3) Sport and Art (4) Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Programme (Skills development, training, life skills programs, jobs placements, tertiary applications, and bursaries applications, to mention a few).

What specific services does your organisation offer to benefit the community?

- Education - after-school care
- Feeding Scheme (food gardening)
- Sport and Art
- Youth empowerment and entrepreneurship (Skills development, training, life skills programs, job placements, tertiary applications, and bursary applications, to mention a few).

The organisation also serves as a linkage between various institutions and organisations, including the local South African Police Service (SAPS), Clinics, non-profit organisations (NPOs), the University of Pretoria, the City of Tshwane, and various government departments to engage with the community on several projects and services.

Beneficiaries

The organisation has nine full-time staff members and 12 volunteers. After-school care has 361 beneficiaries, and the skills programme has engaged over 500 beneficiaries.

What are some notable achievements of your organisation?

- Through partnerships and collaborations, the organisation has moved from a one-room structure to a multimillion youth centre facility.
- The organisation has become a one-stop shop for community engagements
- School grades results have improved
- Assisted learners with bursary opportunities
- Minimised local unemployment rate through job opportunities
- Helped youth to establish Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs)

Describe community challenges observed by your organisation.

- Poverty and food security
- Youth unemployment
- Lack of skills/skills gap
- Shortage of basic services

Describe your experience working with the UP students on a community engagement project.

MYDO worked with the University of Pretoria since 2016. Students from various departments, including architecture, Occupational Therapist (OT), Dentist, and Engineering. Among other projects, we did include a vegetable garden and Architecture students built a shade. We presented dietary and OT workshops with community members, and dieticians weighed children at crèches.

Which other community organisations do you partner with?

We work with various organisations, such as Rata Social Services, Doctors Without Borders, Well-Being Africa, Beth Shan, Daspoort Clinic, Hercules SAPS, City of Tshwane, Future Families, Community Media Trust and Entrust Foundation.

Are there any upcoming events or initiatives the University should know about?

The organisation will be hosting a Heritage Day Event at the centre. The event is about embracing various cultures and heritage and enhancing social cohesion in the community. The event will be attended by various community cultural groups providing entertainment.

How can students actively engage and support the work of your organisation?

We need the Faculty of Education to be more involved by supporting our after-school care programme, especially afternoons, and collaborating more on food security projects and Sport programmes.

Mamelodi Old Age Home



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Introduction

Mamelodi Old Age Home has been a cornerstone of the community since its inception in 1962. Dedicated to upholding the rights of the elderly through funded resources, the organisation prides itself on its unwavering commitment to providing compassionate care to its residents. This report outlines the mission, operations, challenges, and partnerships of Mamelodi Old Age Home.

Mission and purpose

The primary mission of Mamelodi Old Age Home is to rescue and uphold the rights of the elderly by providing them with comprehensive care and support. The organisation is driven by a passion for connecting the elderly with capable hands that deliver services with compassion. This commitment remains unwavering, ensuring the well-being and dignity of each resident.

Operations

Mamelodi Old Age Home operates as a vital resource for the community, offering both care for the elderly and employment opportunities. The organisation efficiently manages its day-to-day operations with a team comprising eight volunteers and 32 staff members, including nurses, drivers, laundry attendants, kitchen staff, office administrators, security personnel, and cleaners. The dedication of these individuals has enabled the home to provide



consistent care for the elderly over the years.

Challenges

Despite its invaluable contributions to the community, Mamelodi Old Age Home faces several challenges. One significant issue is the lack of familial involvement, as family members often fail to visit their elderly relatives regularly. Additionally, there is a prevalent misunderstanding within the community regarding the organisation's role and significance. Addressing these challenges is crucial to ensuring the well-being and happiness of the residents.

Partnerships

Mamelodi Old Age Home has partnered with various entities to enhance its services and support. Collaborations with Occupational Therapy and Psychology students from the University of Pretoria have provided enriching experiences for the elderly residents. Furthermore, partnerships with Social Development agencies have enabled the home to receive vital subsidies, ensuring financial stability. Generous donations

from corporations such as Ford and Merseta further augment the resources available to the organisation.

Monthly celebrations

As part of its commitment to fostering a sense of joy and belonging among the residents, Mamelodi Old Age Home hosts monthly birthday celebrations. These events serve as opportunities for residents to come together, celebrate milestones, and enjoy each other's company, further enhancing their quality of life.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Mamelodi Old Age Home plays a vital role in the community by providing compassionate care to the elderly and creating employment opportunities. Despite facing challenges, the organisation remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of the elderly residents. Through strategic partnerships and unwavering dedication, Mamelodi Old Age Home will continue to serve as a beacon of hope and support for future generations.

Moja Gabedi

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Moja Gabedi plays a significant role for the University of Pretoria (UP) and the surrounding local communities because it provides a space for community engagement (CE). Moja Gabedi is an innovative space for transdisciplinary CE and research. Several faculties collaborate in CE initiatives at this site, such as Engineering, Built Environment and IT (EBIT), Health Sciences, Humanities and Natural and Agricultural Sciences (NAS).

The community also visit the site to enjoy its therapeutic environment and also for photoshoots. Occupational Therapy students offer their services to the community, including the homeless people who have been placed at Reliable House. Students pursuing degrees in Agriculture conduct their research on food production in the garden.

Moreover, homeless people have been greatly assisted, and some job creation opportunities have emerged. The garden also provides a healing space for visitors. The beautiful space created by Moja Gabedi has significantly added value to the local community.

The community should know this about Moja Gabedi

The Moja Gabedi project began towards the end of 2019 and became fully functional in 2020. Previously, the place was used as a dumping site for many years, leading to its occupation



by homeless people and drug users engaging in illicit activities such as drug dealing. The Unit for Community Engagement took the initiative to adopt the abandoned site, effectively rescuing it through the excellent intervention of relocating homeless individuals to the Reliable House Shelter.

Through collaborative efforts between students and the immediate community, the University of Pretoria's Unit for CE took responsibility for

the site and removed 3,000 tons of garbage in 2020. It was used for student CE and practical work during the COVID-19 lockdown to prevent criminals from returning to the site, ultimately transforming it into a meaningful garden.

What changes have you seen since being part of Moja Gabedi?

We have so far witnessed many changes at Moja Gabedi, ranging from the regeneration of the degenerated

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Delegates from the University of Leeds visit Moja Gabedi



From left: Dr Marisol Morales (Executive Director: Carnegie Elective Classifications), Mr Pontsho Masele, Ms Kanye Rampa, Prof Darren Lortan (Chairperson: SAHECEF), Dr Martina Jordaan and Mr Innocent Chauke

space to transformations in people's lives for the better. Another notable achievement is the community's 100% organic vegetables and fruit production. Highlights include witnessing an increase in students using the space for curricular community engagement (CCE) initiatives and studying purposes. Moreover, there was a bumper harvest of grapes in 2024.

The changes that we have noticed as UP employees are significant. The Hatfield precinct has become cleaner and safer, with a notable decrease in the criminal activities that previously plagued the area. Crime rates have dropped significantly as a result. The homeless individuals who used to occupy the site have been relocated to a nearby shelter called Reliable House.

Furthermore, national and international visitors admire the social impact of UP's community projects whenever they visit the site. Recently, six delegates from the University of Leeds visited and were highly impressed by the CE projects implemented by UP students. The community is now enjoying the fruits

and vegetables grown in the garden, and the beautification of the area has also been noticeable.

What is Moja Gabedi's future plan?

The future plans and vision for Moja Gabedi are for it to become a model for the regeneration of degenerated spaces in the local surrounding communities and beyond.

Through collaborative CE initiatives, the University and community can transform other degenerative spaces and make them places of meaningful engagement. The UP community (staff and students) is truly appreciated for their huge contribution to making Moja Gabedi what it is today, and we still require their ongoing support in making Moja Gabedi an effective place for CE.

We want the UP and the surrounding local communities to know that Moja Gabedi provides a true healing space where individuals can communicate with nature, and lavender and rosemary ginger provide a sweet-smelling aroma for the therapeutic garden.

We also pride ourselves on the availability of an outstanding stage for performance arts, which both the University and the community utilise. Moja Gabedi has been significantly developed and admired by local and international community partners.

The recent positive feedback from visitors from the University of Leeds affirmed our commitment and dedication to making Moja Gabedi accessible and supportive for CE projects.

We plan to raise awareness about the site so that many CCE projects can be implemented here. We also aim to provide communities with opportunities to host events such as:

- Educational tours
- Workshops
- Photoshoots
- Marketplaces
- Product promotions
- Exercise classes

Students should continue conducting CE projects, research, and studying on-site.

Phyllis Robertson Home

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although they are modest compared to other private facilities.

What kind of partnership does your organisation have with the University of Pretoria?

Several departments send their senior students to us for familiarisation with disabled persons and practical experience. We mainly work with the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Describe your experience working with the UP students on a community engagement project

Working with the students allows us to "provide" services we could not afford otherwise. It also offers a new perspective on old challenges and provides fresh thinking.

Which other community organisations do you collaborate with?

The Helplift Network South Africa also provides us with services from volunteers and occasionally provides items on our wish list.

Are there any upcoming events or initiatives the University should know about?

We regularly host social events for our residents, their families, and interested members of the community on our premises.

How can students actively engage and support the work of your organisation?

Our residents run a project to create eco-friendly firefighters from waste material and wax. A marketing strategy for this product would be helpful. This project aims to provide a sense of accomplishment to our residents who cannot otherwise be economically active. It should also provide a sustainable (if low) income to grow the project and a small stipend for the participants.



Mission and purpose Phyllis Robertson Home

Phyllis Robertson Home is primarily a residential care facility for adults with disabilities. Our mission is to give the families of the persons entrusted to our care peace of mind, knowing that their disabled family members are well cared for and enjoy living life in full colour according to each one's capabilities.

What specific services does your organisation offer to benefit the community?

We provide single-room accommodation and, where necessary, assistance with tasks of daily living, three balanced, wholesome meals and three snacks per day, cleaning service, laundry service, and medication management from collecting and packing to dispensing the right prescribed dose to the correct recipient at the specified time. We

also create awareness around disabilities and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.

What are some of your organisation's success stories?

Success in an industry where people cannot be "fixed" or "cured" is difficult to show. However, when you have people who have been residents here for more than 50 years, and their families are still satisfied that this is the best place for their loved ones, it illustrates that we are living our values, and it works.

Describe community challenges observed by your organisation

The omnipresent challenge of a lack of funding from the private sector and state department prevents us from serving the majority of the population who cannot afford to pay our fees,

Take Action Ministry NPC



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Mission and purpose of Take Action Ministry NPC

Take Action Ministry is a Non-Profit Company intended to give structure to and provide a vehicle for mobilising people who want to express their faith through acts of kindness – bridging the gap between those in need and those with the hearts, time and material resources to help.

Our mission: To transform communities by equipping local partners to impact the lives of disadvantaged children.

Since 2011, we have been involved in various projects in the impoverished rural communities of Hammanskraal and Maubane. We work to equip key individuals and organisations to bring transformation to their communities by impacting the lives of children attending early childhood development (ECD) and after-school programmes.

What specific services does your organisation offer to benefit the community?

We walk a road with our partner centres, the caregivers and the children in their care. We meet with them frequently and assess where they are at in their growth process, using the analogy of the tree (as seen in our logo):

Partnerships with other non-profit organisations (NPOs)

We are always looking for organisations that are already solving

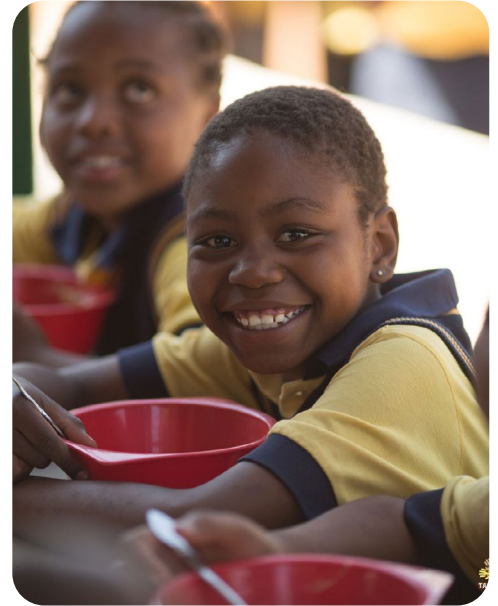


a specific problem and finding ways to work in partnership with them rather than duplicating services by going our own way.

We also endeavour to work with relevant government departments to make sure that the centres we partner with operate within the norms and standards prescribed for them.

This ensures that centres operate safely and legally for their own protection and the children in their care. Working within the parameters of the government departments also increases the eligibility/likelihood of a centre receiving funding for its programme.

We have six staff members a board of five members. The centres have 17 ECD and After Care Centres with 1000 children. We partner with various other organisations that go



out regularly to volunteer and bless the children in the community. The volunteer number varies, but on a more permanent basis, we have around 35 volunteers.

What are some notable achievements of your organisation?

Just this last year, we have done the following:



FEED 1000 CHILDREN DAILY



SUPPORT 53 CARE GIVERS



17 CENTRES



RUN 10 PROGRAMMES

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Describe community challenges observed by your organisation

Our primary needs within our centres are the following (but we have a detailed needs list for each centre that we can provide on request): Food (mainly fortified porridge from Africa), clean water, working toilets, study programmes, tables, chairs, centre maintenance, upgrades, stipends for centre staff and funding for health certificates.

Which other community organisations do you partner/ collaborate with?

We have various partners, such as Fundanani Afrika, focusing on period wellness, entrepreneurship, and teen pregnancy programmes. We also partner with Bidvest Protea Coin, One Hope, The Junior City Council, Ultima Financial Planners, The Butterfly Foundation and various churches. We

partner with Food Forward and for Africa for our feeding fund.

Are there any upcoming events or initiatives the University should know about?

Yes, our programmes run throughout the year. We have Action Days, during which we take volunteers to one of our centres for maintenance work. We also have ECD Fun Days, where we play with the children and present educational programmes.

We have our annual fundraiser event that is coming up in October, and we encourage people to purchase tickets for the tables in order to help raise funds for our feeding fund.

Then, we have our big year-end drive during November and December, during which we gather finances from our donors and friends to buy school

supplies for the children for the new year. Then we have Extra classes where we help Grade 10, 11 and 12 learners prepare for the Year End exams. Please contact us should you require specific dates at rebecca@takeaction.org.za

How can students actively engage and support the work of your organisation?

It would be wonderful if students could help with the Extra classes for the learners (English and Maths) on Saturdays during October.

Alternatively, they can arrange with us to do an Action Day or ECD Fun Day at any one of our centres. A big help would be if they could take part in helping us raise funds for the Christmas Drive, where we collect funds for the stationery for the learners' new school year.



Thandanani Drop Inn Centre



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Mission and purpose Thandanani Drop Inn Centre

To assist the vulnerable in such a way that we reintegrate them back into the community and restore their dignity

What specific services does your organisation offer to benefit the community?

- Nutritional support
- Counselling
- Family reunification
- Referrals to rehabilitation centres
- Aftercare for children
- Aftercare for recovering drug addicts
- Skills development
- Job opportunities

What are some notable achievements or success stories of your organisation?

- A young, driven NPO that has a shelter in Mamelodi
- Taking people to rehab and offering them job opportunities
- Successful family reunification

Describe community challenges observed by your organisation

- Illiteracy
- High rate of drug users and crime
- Lack of recreational spaces
- Demoralised youth and mentors
- Lack of committed community builders



Which faculties have you partnered with at the University of Pretoria?

We had a wonderful experience collaborating with UP on community engagement. We have mainly collaborated with the Health Sciences, and Theology and Religion Faculties.

Which other community organisations do you partner/ collaborate with?

- Second Chance Recovery Centre
- Churches
- Entokozweni Early Childhood Development Centre
- Vhathu Phanda
- Community Policing Forum (CPF)

Are there any upcoming events or initiatives the University should know about?

- We will host our annual Drugs Must Fall movement on 16 June.
- We also do clean-up campaigns.

How can students actively engage and support the work of your organisation?

- Offering their knowledge
- Actively engaging with beneficiaries
- Helping us with research and solutions

Additionally, could you highlight any specific community needs students could help address?

- Study resources

Urban Studio

Tinyiko Ndaba (Co-ordinator)



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The Urban Studio is a partnership project between the Centre for Faith and Community at the Faculty of Theology and Religion and the Tshwane Leadership Foundation. The project has been running in the City of Tshwane and Cape Town for several years. One of the sites is the Urban Studio Mamelodi East at the University of Pretoria.

Here, we collaborate with various community-based organisations in and around Mamelodi, Eersterust and Nellmapius. The townships are vibrant urban spaces with strong connections to one another; thus, one cannot work with Community-based organisations. (CBOs) in Mamelodi East and not engage with the ones in Mamelodi West, Eersterust and Nellmapius. These communities are extremely connected and almost share the same challenges and opportunities, as well as contextual differences.

Currently, we have a database of over 100 local change makers working in different focus areas. The main focus of the Urban Studio is to walk alongside these CBOs as we think through 'healing urban fractures' which perpetuate vulnerabilities in our communities. We acknowledge CBO efforts within the township and consider all organisations to be local assets and research partners. They contribute beyond measure to our society's well-being and resilience. They reflect the Urban Studio's goal: to realise Just Cities and Thriving

Communities. The Urban Studio strategy is focusing not on deficits, which are usually apparent, but constantly reflecting on the various assets within our townships, our expertise and capabilities, and how these can be better coordinated instead of working in silos. This breathes life into our research component, where we grapple with the broader question of how a network of CBOs can contribute to the well-being and regeneration of neighbourhoods. This also leads us to explore how CBOs can be supported to do what they do best, considering the gaps they bridge and their impact on the lives of many in these areas, even with limited resources.

We work on the ground with CBOs to build capacity and establish and maintain bonds for sustainable relationships. The Center for Faith and Community offers support through the various capacity-building programmes offered to community leaders working in the diverse areas within our townships. On the other hand, CBOs contribute knowledge and various resources which feed into projects we embark on. We have worked on different projects with CBOs, such as the Tshwane homelessness count (https://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-theology-and-religion/news/post_3111674-counting-those-who-for-many-do-not-count-for-much) and the mapping project which the product is utilised by various other organisations

and entities as a resource for both organisational and research purposes. We strive to highlight the work done by CBOs. Our annual event, the Mamelodi Expo, is one of the events where we create a space to celebrate CBOs' resilience and create awareness in the community about social justice issues and local resources available to the public. This year's Expo will take place on 16 August.

The Urban Studio has collaborated with various UP faculties and departments. We have recently worked with students from the Theology and Religion, Health Sciences and Humanities faculties, mainly the Practical Theology, OT and Psychology departments. However, we usually prioritise the needs of various CBOs within the network by matching their requests with students' proposed projects. For instance, members of the elderly forum in Mamelodi have requests related to training on safe exercises and healthy nutritional plans, among other things.

Another CBO has requested the establishment of safe and hygienic sanitation stations for their ECDs. We have as many requests as the number of organisations on our database. Some requests are research questions, which are too many to list in this article as they also change over time. We usually share these requests and research questions with students interested in working on a specific topic. We find it impossible to find students to work through all the requests, but we appreciate the efforts. The Urban Studio recognises the CBO/Faculty collaborations' impact on sustaining local projects and co-creating short to long-term solutions to local problems.

Ushindi Foundation



Rudy Schiel (Chairperson)

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Background

Ushindi Foundation is a youth development organisation based in Eersterust, Pretoria. The organisation was established in 2020. As of 2021, it was registered as a non-profit and public benefit organisation.

Vision

Our vision is to empower as many as possible youths from disadvantaged communities in South Africa and beyond.

Mission statement

Education of our youth is our responsibility to equip them for the fourth industrial revolution.

Core activities

- Youth development
- Social programme
- Skills development
- Entrepreneurial skills
- Transfer of trades



Viva Foundation of South Africa



Meleney B. Kriel (Chief Executive Officer)

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The mission of the Viva Foundation of South Africa is to establish service hubs within communities as a platform from which services can be rendered to underprivileged and vulnerable beneficiaries by our partners and us.

Our vision is to be instrumental in transforming the lives of children and families in informal settlements and other high-priority poverty areas and encourage safe and stable neighbourhoods that provide all its members with education, employment, business opportunities, and recreation.

We endeavour to meet the felt and expressed needs of the community by creating long-term solutions to poverty and addressing the immediate symptoms thereof. Viva Foundation has been operating since 2007 and is currently based in Mamelodi. The organisation offers the following services to the community:

Children

Quality and equality in education through early childhood development, independent education, and youth development.

Poverty alleviation

Food security, training and facilitating access to the economy, plus integration of orphan care into our programmes.



Development of the Arts

As part of the curriculum and extra-curricular activities of the Viva Independent Schools, we offer music tuition, singing, choir and art.

Sexual violence prevention and response

Training in Community-based prevention and response measures, activism, advocacy, and awareness.

What are some notable achievements of your organisation?

Viva responds very well to the needs of the communities it serves in

crises. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the organisation increased its feeding scheme from 165 000 (one hundred and sixty-five thousand) meals per year to over two million from March 2020 to the end of 2021.

During the July 2021 unrest, the feeding scheme expanded to 19 distribution points with the assistance of partners. Viva provided the food parcels, and local organisations and volunteers in Tshwane and the Johannesburg metro distributed them.



The organisation has received several awards for its programmes, including being mentioned twice among the top 10 non-profit organisations (NPOs) in South Africa.

The true stories are the individual children in the informal settlement around the Viva Village Independent School that receives quality education. Our learners achieved top accolades in the Mathematics Bee this year, with our top mathematics learner representing the district in the Tshwane district competition later this year.

With great success, our choir toured Germany and Holland in December 2019 and in December 2023.

Community challenges observed by your organisation

Abject poverty and inequality come together in the informal Settlements of South Africa, where it has its worst impact. Crime is rampant, and police officers do not respond to calls, even serious ones. Our organisation has been targeted several times by criminals, with break-ins, armed robbery and the attempted murder

of our groundsman, who was stabbed 21 times. The community is under-served in municipal services, and shack homes are vulnerable to flooding, fire, and extreme temperatures.

What kind of partnership does your organisation have with the University of Pretoria (UP)?

Viva has partnered with the University of Pretoria's Community Engagement Department since its inception in the Mamelodi community in 2009. Several faculties have been involved in the past and are currently involved, namely the faculties of Engineering, Built Environment and IT (EBIT), Education, Health Sciences, Humanities, Natural and Agricultural Sciences (NAS), and Theology and Religion.

Describe your experience working with the UP students on a community engagement project.

Viva welcomes the UP students with open arms. Invaluable mapping has been done by the geology students, theology students, and nursing sciences students who have gone door to door on outreaches; art students

transformed our hall after an armed robbery with young learners took place in that hall.

Architecture and Building students raised funds for a hall and assisted in erecting it. So many collaborations and interactions have taken place and have been instrumental in Viva's impact on its communities.

How can students actively engage and support the work of your organisation?

- Building of new classrooms
- Engineering and building of a fire escape at the Refilwe Campus
- Extra-curricular activities such as sport training, chess club and art
- Computer training
- Feeding Scheme – vegetable gardens
- Drama and music – choreography for our choir, vocal training and assistance with the choir's preparation for its European trip
- Building of an interactive and sensory play area at both campuses – indoor and outdoor
- Solar installations and clean energy management.
- Viva can host research students.

Community Engagement Forum Members 2024



Community Engagement Forum Members 2024



Representative/Secundus	Faculty/Department
Prof Gerrit Stols	Director Department for Education Innovation
Dr Rejoice Nsibande	Deputy Director: Academic Development
Dr Eugene Machimana	Head: Curricular Community Engagement Department for Education Innovation: Unit for Community Engagement
Faculty support: Department for Education Innovation - Unit for Community Engagement	
Ms Kanye Rampa	Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology (EBIT)
	Humanities
	Veterinary Science
Mr Albert Matlheketha	Health Sciences
	Law
	Theology and Religion
Ms Londiwe Mahlangu	Economic Management Sciences (EMS)
	Education
	Natural & Agricultural Sciences (NAS)
Community Engagement Faculty Representatives	
Prof Natasja Holtzhausen	EMS
Dr Susan Thuketana	Education
Prof Lelanie Smith	EBIT
Ms Bonolo Mokoka	
Dr Christa Ellis	School of Health Care Sciences (SOHCS)
Dr Ahmed Bhayat	School of Dentistry
Mr Mahlatse Moropeng	School of Health Systems and Public Health (SHSPH)
Dr Felistus Ndamba	Humanities
Mr Eddie Hanekom	Law Clinic
Ms Karabo Ozah	
Prof Nerhene Davis	NAS
Dr Hanri Taljaard-Swart	
Mr Lance Thomas	Theology and Religion
Ms Irene Thomas	
Dr Alfred Kgasi	Veterinary Science
Support departments	
Dr Martina Jordaan	Mamelodi Campus
Mr Edwin Smith	
Mr Rowan Watson	Security Services
Mr Rikus Delport	Institutional Advancement
Ms Isabel de Necker	
Mr Juan-Pierre van der Walt	Ms Bhaviksha Ramouthar
Ms Veronica Israel	Student Affairs (DSA)
Ms Khanyi Mahlangu	Student Representative Council (SRC)
Mr Kamva Diko	
Mr Abe Mathopa	Department of Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Education
Ms Christine Nel	Library Services
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From left: Mr Albert Matlheketha, Ms Kanye Rampa, Dr Eugene Machimana and Ms Londiwe Mahlangu