

REFLECTIONS FROM THE QUARTER



As we reflect on the past quarter, we're filled with pride and inspiration as we think about the young learners in our community who are already showing remarkable leadership potential. Through our initiatives, we're not just breaking barriers – we're building future leaders.

In this past quarter, we were proud to have hosted several initiatives that showcased our commitment to empowering the next generation.

We provided school shoes and hygiene packs to learners in need, alleviating poverty and promoting education for both girls and boys.

Alongside the dignity/hygiene packs, we delivered crucial sexual health education, equipping our young beneficiaries with the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

Additionally, we hosted a leadership development workshop for top-achieving learners, equipping them with the skills and confidence to become future leaders.

We take a look back at the impact the foundation has had on a prior mentee – a powerful testament to the difference our work can make. Through their story, we see the ripple effect of our initiatives and the potential for lasting change.

These initiatives are more than just programs – they're investments in the potential of our beneficiaries. As we continue to support and empower them, we're building a foundation for a brighter future.

We hope you'll join us on this journey and be inspired to make a difference with us.

TRANSFORMING LIVES, ONE GIRL AT A TIME

Testimonial by Itebogeng Faith Matome

Surrounded by Love and Strength

Itebogeng grew up in a loving environment in Mpumalanga Masobye, where her maternal grandmother instilled in her the importance of independence, respect and kindness. She learned to stand up for herself at an early age, while her grandmother's guidance shaped her into a compassionate and determined individual.

However, her academic journey was marked by challenges, particularly in her high school years. She struggled with procrastination and lacked confidence in her abilities, often feeling overwhelmed by certain subjects. With the guidance of her teachers and mentor, she began to shift her mindset and develop strategies to overcome her academic hurdles.



Finding Support and Guidance

When Itebogeng joined the Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation's mentorship program, she was seeking help with setting attainable goals and choosing a career path that aligned with her passions.

Her mentor provided her with the support and guidance she needed, helping her to identify her strengths and interests.

The program also offered one-on-one sessions with a volunteer of the foundation, who helped Itebogeng discover align suitable career options with her strengths and gain valuable insights into the university application processes.

The year-end award ceremony was one of her highlights of the program, leaving a lasting impact on her. A quote from the key-note speaker, "If you can't figure out your purpose, figure out your passion, for your passion will lead you right into your purpose," resonated deeply with her and her self-discovery journey.

Breaking Down Barriers

With the mentorship program's support, Itebogeng was able to overcome her academic challenges and achieve remarkable success.

Among her many proud moments in the mentorship program, was being recognized with quarterly awards in the Mmametlake circuit for her outstanding top 10 academic achievements, and winning three awards at the Ziqhenye Awards Ceremony including being in the top 3 highest achieving learners.

The recognition she received during the year-end function further boosted her confidence, making her feel appreciated and valued.

Itebogeng's experience with the mentorship program taught her valuable lessons that extend beyond academics.

She learned the importance of managing time, being accountable, and not being hard on herself. She vividly recalls how the program's holistic approach not only supported their academic growth but also fostered personal development.

A key takeaway for her was the program's four pillars (Zazi, Zimisele, Zithande, Ziqhenye), which came to life through her vision board.



It served as a powerful reminder to stay focused on all areas of her life, motivated and driven to achieve her goals. She also discovered the value of teamwork and sisterhood, which helped her build strong relationships with her peers.

Reflecting on her experience with the Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation, she conveys a heartwarming dedication,

“To Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation, continue doing the great work you are doing, you don’t know how much it means to us, you are chosen by God to bring change in the world. You are the Proverbs 31 women!

To my mentor, thank you for being such a caring, loving, soft-spoken and understanding woman, without you I wouldn't have been able to achieve the things I have achieved. Thank you for believing in me when I was losing motivation, thank you for supporting me and making sure you I make good decisions, may God bless you with everything you wish for because you deserve it."

Led by Purpose

Today Itebogeng is pursuing a Bachelor of Education, with the intention of specializing as a science teacher. She is driven by her passion to make a positive impact in the lives of others. Her advice to others is to focus on their goals and passions, be proud of their achievements, and use their background as motivation to strive for a better future.

Her journey serves as a powerful reminder that with determination, hard work, and the right support, anyone can overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

EMPOWERING YOUNG CHANGE-MAKERS

Leadership development is a crucial aspect of empowering young people to reach their full potential. By equipping them with essential leadership skills, we can help them become confident, capable and influential leaders in their communities. This is particularly important for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, who often face unique challenges and barriers to success.

In partnership with Roughneck Enterprise Consultancy, the Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation recently hosted a leadership development workshop. The workshop provided 20 participants from the Pankop community with a unique opportunity to develop their leadership skills, gain confidence and build their capacity to make a positive impact in their community.

During the workshop, participants engaged in interactive activities and discussions focused on self-awareness, leadership styles and the key characteristics of leadership – identifying essential traits and qualities of successful leaders.

The success of this workshop highlights the value of partnerships for non-profit organizations. Through collaboration, Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation was able to leverage expertise and resources to deliver a high-impact program that might not have been possible otherwise.

This initiative aligns with the foundation's broader mission to build future leaders and promote education, helping to create a brighter future for its beneficiaries and their communities.



Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation recognises the importance of strong governance and compliance practices in the non-profit sector. That's why we're committed to sharing knowledge and resources with fellow non-profits



The non-profit sector in South Africa is experiencing significant changes, driven by evolving regulatory expectations and socio-economic shifts. Here are some key trends and research findings:

Compliance and Regulatory Framework

- **New Online Registration and Monitoring System:** The Department of Social Development has introduced a new online system for NPO registration and compliance monitoring, strengthening oversight and compliance within the sector.
- **Increased Emphasis on Anti-Money Laundering:** South Africa's greylisting by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has led to increased scrutiny of NPOs, with a focus on preventing money laundering and terrorism financing.

Challenges and Opportunities

- **Compliance Risks:** NPOs face various compliance risks, including regulatory non-compliance, financial mismanagement, and data protection breaches.
- **Importance of Governance:** Effective governance is critical to NPO success, with a need for clear roles, responsibilities, and oversight to prevent mismanagement and reputational damage.
- **Digital Transformation:** NPOs are leveraging technology to enhance compliance, improve efficiency, and increase transparency

Best Practices

- **Establish a Compliance Framework:** Develop a comprehensive compliance framework outlining legal and regulatory requirements.
- **Measure and Evaluate Impact:** NPOs should regularly measure and evaluate their impact using frameworks that quantify and validate their contributions, ensuring transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in their programs and services.
- **Strengthen Governance:** Ensure board members are well-versed in their roles and responsibilities, with regular training and capacity-building initiatives.
- **Enhance Financial Controls:** Implement robust financial controls, including regular audits and financial reporting



LACE UP FOR LEARNING - A STEP TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE

In a heartwarming display of community support, the Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation recently organized a school shoe handover at Ratlhahana Secondary School. This initiative is aimed at providing school shoes to students in need, ensuring they can attend school with dignity and confidence.

South Africa faces a pressing issue, with over 7 million children lacking access to school shoes, forcing many to walk long distances barefoot or in inadequate footwear. Although our foundation's recent donation brought immense relief to 30 learners, it's clear that much more needs to be done.

We urge corporates, government, individuals and communities to join forces to address poverty. Donations, corporate social responsibility initiatives and community-driven initiatives can help alleviate poverty and ensure that learners focus on unlocking their potential through education, rather than struggling to meet basic needs.

The Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to our donors and supporters who continue to make this initiative possible.

Your kindness and generosity will have a lasting impact on the lives of these young learners.



BEYOND THE STIGMA - A SAFE SPACE FOR SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION

In partnership with Sisonke Gender Justice, the Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation hosted a #HealthyU Sexual Health Awareness Day for Grade 11 learners at Ratlhahana Secondary School on 27 August 2025.

This initiative aimed to provide comprehensive education on sexual health, encompassing topics such as sexual responsibilities, reproductive health, sexual health risks and prevention, sexual violence and abuse and hygiene.

Young people in rural communities are disproportionately affected by sexual health issues due to limited access to information and resources. According to various studies, adolescents in rural areas are more vulnerable to unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.

By providing sexual health education, we can empower young people to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.



During the event, learners received education on various aspects of sexual health, enabling them to understand their bodies, relationships, and reproductive health.

The initiative also provided dignity packs for girls and hygiene packs for boys, ensuring that learners have access to essential resources for their health and well-being.

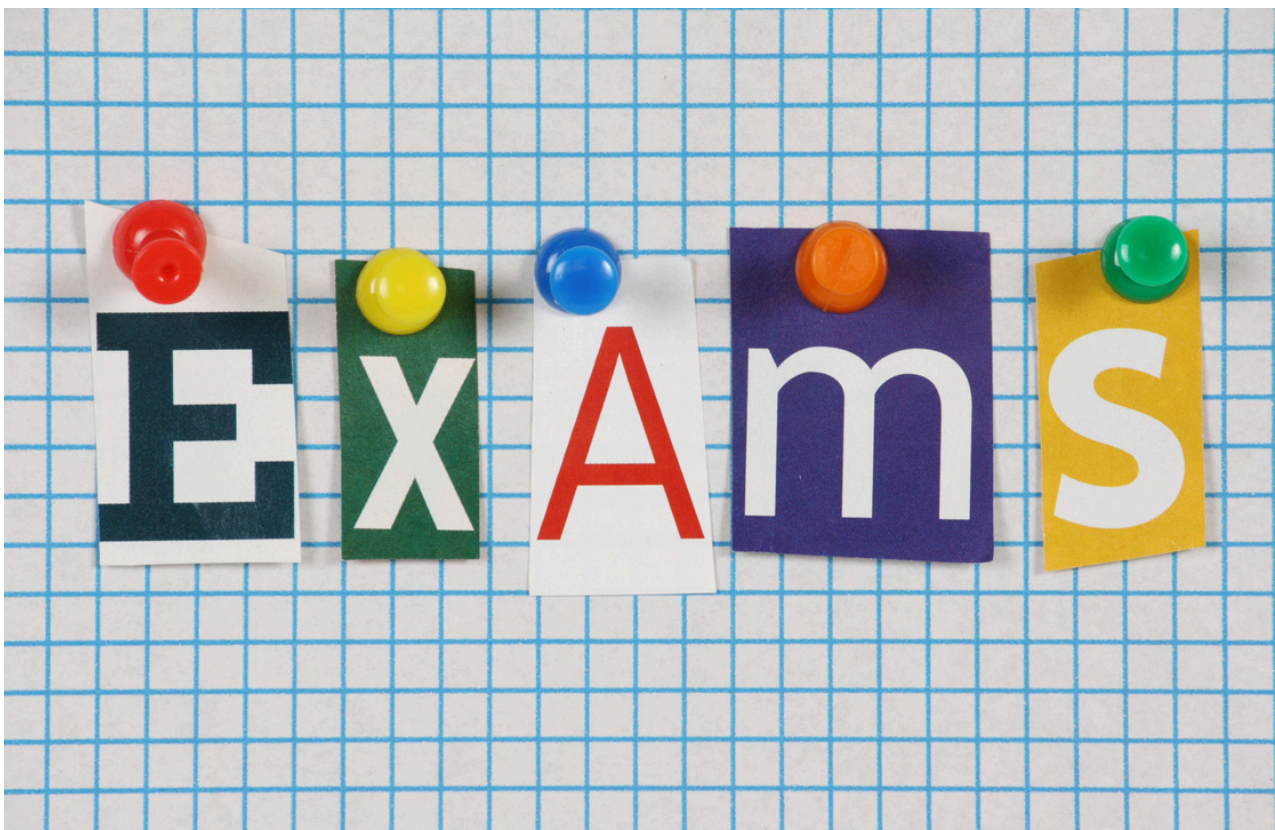
THE FINAL STRETCH, 20 DAYS UNTIL MATRIC EXAMS!

As we begin October, it marks a crucial time for our Grade 12 beneficiaries who start their final exams this month.

This moment represents the culmination of years of their hard work and dedication.

As matriculants prepare to showcase their knowledge, we want them to know that they are not just representing themselves, but also their families, schools and communities.

All the best, your hard work will pay off!

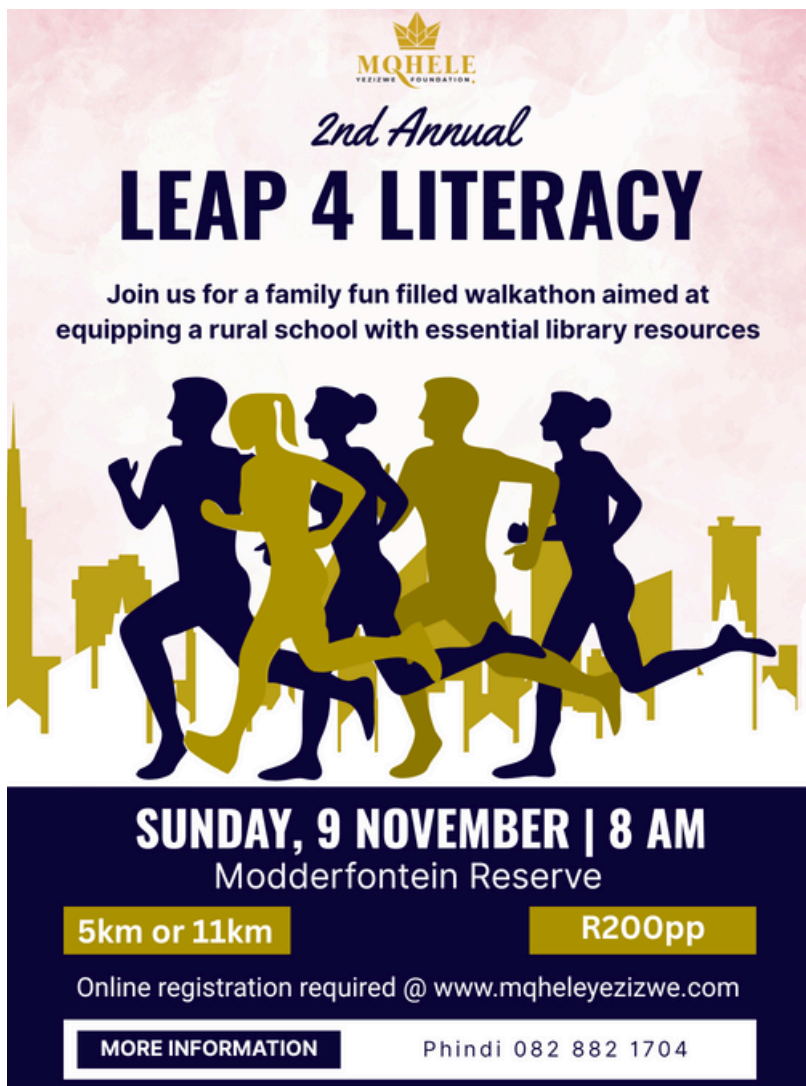


LITERACY LEAP WALKATHON

Join us for the Literacy Leap Walkathon on 9 November 2025, a fun-filled family day dedicated to promoting literacy and empowering young minds!

In 2024 we successfully collected and donated books to Ratlhahana Secondary School, sparking a love for reading in the hearts of its students. This year, we're taking it a step further by raising funds to equip the school's library with essential resources.

Bring your loved ones – all ages are welcome – and enjoy a leisurely walk together while making a difference. There is a picnic park available, so pack a basket and join us for a day of fun, connection and community spirit!



MQHELE YEZWE FOUNDATION

2nd Annual

LEAP 4 LITERACY

Join us for a family fun filled walkathon aimed at equipping a rural school with essential library resources

SUNDAY, 9 NOVEMBER | 8 AM
Modderfontein Reserve

5km or 11km **R200pp**

Online registration required @ www.mqheleyezizwe.com

MORE INFORMATION Phindi 082 882 1704

Library resources required

- **Bookshelves and storage units** – organize and display books, making the library more functional.
- **Reading tables and cozy reading nooks** – create a reading environment and encourage students to read and relax.
- **Library software and management systems** – help track books, manage inventory, and streamline library operations.
- **Printers and scanners** – support printing and scanning of educational materials.
- **Library cards and bookmarks** – To promote reading and track borrowing.
- **Library decorations and motivational posters** – To create a visually appealing and inspiring environment.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE M.Y. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS?

Donate

To ensure our initiatives are a success, we are relying on the generosity and support of donors like you.

Your contribution, no matter the amount, will directly contribute towards education initiatives (tutoring, mentorship, school shoes, career guidance) for learners in underprivileged communities.

Volunteer

We are looking for dedicated volunteers to sign up to assist with any of our initiatives to make a positive impact in the lives of the Young learners.

You could volunteer to:

- Be a mentor in our 10 month #girlinthemirror mentorship program
- Assist learners with applying to tertiary institutions and applying for bursaries
- Assist the foundation in collecting dignity/hygiene packs from individuals, organisations and the community for the HealthyU campaign

Get in touch

Whether it's an inspiring story, a shout-out, educational books, or a personal or educational milestone you or a colleague have achieved – we'd love to hear about it and share your news to highlight the positive impact within our community

Email: info@mqheleyezizwe.com

Contact: 0828821704



www.mqheleyezizwe.com