



ZISIZE



Newsletter - December 2023

Dear Supporters (Past & Present), Friends & Family,

With so many problems in so many countries in the world, it is natural to be overwhelmed and, feeling powerless, close one's eyes and do nothing. The newspapers are full of tragic stories - they say good news doesn't sell newspapers! But there *is* good news! Around the world individuals and groups *are* making a difference, alleviating suffering, and changing lives for the better. At Zisize we have always said "It is better to light a candle than to complain about the dark". Each of our supporters is a light giver and we appreciate each one of you. So this newsletter will just give you the good news 😊

Our own very bright candle is Hlengiwe, our director. Here is just one example of a life she has touched and changed.

"I'm the only one at home who reached matric out of 7 siblings. Others dropped out in primary school because of all the obstacles we were facing at home. We were the poorest of the poor in my community. Zisize identified me to work under EPWP (a government job creation initiative). I was a mentor and I thought my way forward had ended there, when the placement ended, but I got encouraged and motivated by Zisize's director. She was interested to know about my background, because she could see I was suffering. The organization started assisting us with a food parcel after the EPWP contract ended. I appreciated that she gave herself time to listen to me, not just once, but whenever I needed a shoulder to cry on, she was there for me. She encouraged me to register with UNISA because I loved teaching. She went through the whole process with me and recommended me for funding from a Trust until I finished my degree. My family couldn't believe that I was graduating. I couldn't afford an academic gown, so decided I would just collect my degree certificate at a later date but when I told her this, she insisted that I go to the graduation ceremony, and she would accompany me to my special day. Zisize provided all the things needed for the day. I thought she had done enough but she was still my supporter, even after graduation. I do hope I'll get a job, build a house and help others who are from the same background as me. My mother cried when I wore my academic gown on the following day at home, she could not believe her eyes, I cried with her as well "Thank you so much Zisize and all the sponsors that fund Zisize Educational Trust"



Thulisile Nsibandé

The Careers office at Zisize reaches thousands of young people both face to face in high schools and at Zisize, but also via Maputaland Community Radio. While those academically able are assisted with applying to universities, TVETs and for NSFAS funding, many less able who either did not complete matric or did not do well, have been encouraged to consider volunteering with local builders to learn skills on the job.

“I couldn’t go to Technical Vocational Education & Training College, because I left school when I was doing grade 7, due to illnesses, so never entered high school. It helped me to do voluntary work under a local builder through the advice I got from Zisize careers office. Today I can build a house from scratch until completion. People have already started requesting me to build small houses like a rondavel for them. I’m proud of myself when I look at something done by me! I thank Mr Mabuyakhulu for teaching me so well.”



Zisize has trained many primary school teachers over the years in how to encourage children to read and enjoy. Focussing only on the good news, 😊 some schools have retained teachers and/ or the knowledge gained from Zisize training, with the result that parents, who can ill afford it, pay for transport to enable their children to attend one of Zisize schools rather than one nearer home that has not been part of the programme.

“I do not blame myself for paying for transport monthly for my child to go to Mayaluka Primary School, because children there start reading books in grade R. When I asked why our community school is not the same as Mayaluka school, they told me that their teachers are trained by Zisize” said a parent at the school’s closing function, talking on behalf of the parents.

A grade 7 child in one of Zisize partner schools represented the KZN province nationally in a reading competition. She came first in both the district and province competitions for book writing. The school commended Zisize for the reading promotion programme and training which the teachers had received. The education manager asked if Zisize could include more schools in its reading promotion campaign because of seeing the good performance in schools that Zisize works with. Zisize’s reading activities that encourage and motivate reading will be planned with UMkhanyakude district next year 2024 and its Mountain of Sounds will be rolled out to Grade R classes, thanks to an injection of funds from The French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust.

Victoria Freudenheim has been a friend to Zisize, almost since its inception. Her generosity and that of the trustees of the Trusts with which she is associated have meant Zisize now has its own tractor and is able to loan it to others, so more can be productive and self-sustaining. The food gardens have been a huge success this year with no dramatic weather in Ingwavuma, thankfully! This lady's comment is typical:-

"I had to buy very little food this year. I had beans, mealies, chicken food, tomatoes, cabbage and onions. We grinded mealies, to make mealie meal, samp and mealie-rice. We have a tractor to help after so many years."



The Kavod Trust has covered the private education for all of Ekukhanyeni's high school age children at Advent Hope School or Richards Bay Christian School. This is a huge financial outlay and the children and Zisize are extremely grateful. It is so wonderful to read the reports of Thembalihle, who has been one of our foster children since infancy, and Andiswa, the daughter of one of Zisize's original orphans, who the trust is also helping. They are excelling academically, but also are stars of the school's choir. They have a wonderful opportunity to visit Malaysia and perform in several churches and to perform at the School For Impacting Youth. We are seeking sponsors for them.

There is a hope that Ekukhanyeni can be registered as a Child & Youth Care Centre (a step up from the current cluster foster home) if we can raise funds to build a dining room - a requirement of the Dept of Social Development. If we succeed, the Department will cover all salaries, food, clothing, utility bills and take a huge weight off Zisize. The Heaton Lee Memorial Trust has committed one year's gift aid so we are 1/10th of the way there! If you know anyone else able to contribute, please let me know.

As ever, none of the above good news stories would have been possible without your help.

Zisize The Heaton Lee Memorial Trust in UK would like to thank Action for Ingwavuma and its supporters, The French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust, UNISON branches, Just Trust, Network for Social Change, Medway Towns Soroptimists, schools, churches and more than 100 individuals.

Zisize Educational Trust wishes to thank those above and also Book Dash, Dept. of Social Development for social work salaries, materials for the women's development group; Dept of Education for ECD mentor salaries and the mobile creche, D.G. Murray Trust, ELMA Foundation, JHS, Kavod Trust, Solon Foundation, Starfish Greathearts for the Wellness Wagon and some salaries, Victoria Freudenheim, and several generous South African and Australian individuals who donate monthly, annually or on an ad hoc basis

May I leave you with the words of Diana Ross " Reach out and touch somebody's hand, make this world a better place, if you can" and take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy and joyful New Year on behalf of Zisize in both South Africa and Wales and thank you for making a difference to our children's lives.

Siyabonga, Thank You, Diolch yn fawr

Niki

On behalf of Zisize's Trusts & Children

ZISIZE - The Heaton Lee Memorial Trust,
c/o David Cooper, Trustee, The Garden House, Trellech, Monmouth NP25 4PA.
Reg. Charity No. 1085470 Email niki@zisize.org.uk

&

ZISIZE (Ingwavuma) Educational Trust, PO Box 232, Ingwavuma 3968
Reg. nos. 048-137-NPO; IT/346/PMB & PBO no. 930018601 Email Niki.Lee@zisize.org.za or
Hlengiwe at director@zisize.org.za