

Platfontein Youth Empowerment

Completion of Programme at Hilltop Empowerment Centre THE STUDENTS OF PLATFONTEIN

Project Manager:

Rommel Roberts

Assistant Manager:

Robin Roberts

Office Administrator:

Melvina Smith

Trainers:

Daniel Boyles

Jolin Oktober

Nozuko Mgwebi

Wendy Alexander

David Ngetu

Noluthando Cakwebe

Platfonteiners:

Annamie Dorcas Beregho

Arnesto Kabiyo

Augusto Andratte

Ghumba Katchorro

Louis Karupangwe

Makena Tjebara

Maria Madara

Maria Muronga

Namitchana Chicamba

Nepa Katombera

Ria Reen

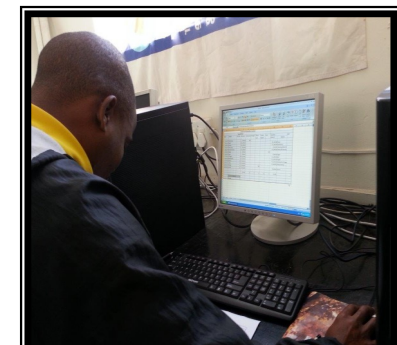
Rosivita Kativa

Volunteer from Switzerland:

Alexandra Müller



Revision and Preparation for Final Tests with Noluthando Cakwebe



Final Test Results

All students passed the courses with very good results and some excellent marks.

Computer Literacy class average 90%

IT Maintenance class average 85%

Bookkeeping Fundamentals class average 75%

Pre-Graduation with Wendy Alexander and the proud students on their successful achievement in Bookkeeping fundamentals, an impressive milestone



A joyful departure from Hilltop back home to their community in Platfontein



Platfontein planning meeting with community leadership and contractors for the renovation of the New Computer Centre on August 25th, 2015, with the company of some of the Platfontein students in their blue Hilltop uniforms



CLOSING REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

Since the acceptance of our proposal and budget proposal we have over the last 6 months achieved our objectives in the training and development of young leaders of Platfontein. There is still one task outstanding which is the completion of the computer centre and the full installation of computers and various components to enable a fully functional centre to operate as per the training carried out here at Hilltop.

Implementing Challenge

The programme carried out during these last 6 months has been very challenging as it required taking young adults away from their home base, their very undisciplined life style and transforming this into a skilled and productive form demonstrated by each trainee so that upon their return their community can see a significant change that translates into meaningful service that benefits everyone in Platfontein.

Objectives Achieved

1. Development of the personal skills of each trainee in terms of life skills, communication, proficiency in English from a point of translation required at lectures and practical to a point of no translation required.
2. Attaining of technical and software skills in IT and translating this into a practical demonstration of its application to a very high standard. The students and our training team are all very proud of their achievements. They will be graduating on the 12th of November this year at Platfontein.
3. Development of the basis of business application through the achievement of a business and basic accounting course with practical application of the excel programme.
4. Implementation of very practical agricultural skills as applied in a productive manner through the implementation and management of our small market garden together with the actual sale of products to an exclusive market – such was the high level quality of the products produced – upmarket organic restaurants like Toast, Mediteraneo Cafe, Lavender Blue and others are now regular customers of their products and will continue long after they have left Hilltop.
5. The introduction and use of the internet and basic research has already increased their horizons dramatically and raised awareness of the many practical uses and research capabilities of the internet, their lives will never be the same.

Evaluation Results

A series of evaluations undertaken has produced some interesting aspects. As part of the training and development programme there have been various forms of evaluatory tasks undertaken during the course of the 6 months which have included the following:

1. The practical tests on a regular basis up to the final tests.
2. Regular one-on-one sessions with each trainee which was carried out by Robin and included opportunities to share very personal matters as well - the last sessions were an intensive evaluation conducted on the basis of personal reflection on their time at Hilltop, their likes and dislikes, their hopes and dreams after the training, what they would each like to focus on.

What did emerge was the following:

- The students' appreciation of their time at Hilltop was so overwhelming that they absolutely ignored the times when they were a bit stressed and found some of the disciplines a bit difficult. All aspects of their training was viewed in such a positive light, making it almost unbelievable if it was not for the fact that when we visited them at Platfontein shortly after their return from Hilltop, the group arrived at the central part of Platfontein to welcome us. They immediately greeted myself and Robin and said how much they missed Hilltop and could now appreciate just what they had experienced and how they were desperate to get on with demonstrating their skills. They had already actually searched the community and found nine broken computers in the school and surrounding offices for repairs and gave us a list of some components needed. This told us in no uncertain terms that these young people had changed and are now motivated. This of course represented for us the challenge to ensure that this motivation is nurtured and supported and hence our gratitude to all who continue to be supportive to ensure that their dreams of a new computer centre is now rapidly becoming a reality.
- In short the general theme of the evaluations was so positive that it left us all stunned, as we were used to various negatives but everything was so positive in their feelings and expressions even when challenged about our sometimes rough treatment of them in enforcing disciplines, their response: " We did not mind this at all even when we complained as we knew that you really cared about us and wanted us to do well".

Some personal comments from the final evaluation on the students' experience at Hilltop

Annamie Dorcas Beregho

"I enjoyed computer literacy and the technical training the best, I learned a lot. Hilltop has taught me a lot about myself, teamwork and learning from other people. You are like parents and looked after me even when I was sick and even rude, you still made me feel at home and you gave me natural medicines that healed my ulcer. The Hilltop training was the best thing that could happen to anyone and you did a great job."

Arnesto Kabiyo

"I enjoyed the agriculture, IT technical, repairing computers and growing and caring for the vegetables. I learned more about life, the computers and growing my life. I can teach the skills that I have learned. Thank you and may God bless you."

Augusto Andratte

"My biggest improvement is my English from beginning to end. The second biggest improvement is my future, my family my community; everything is very good. You and Rommel were helpful and positive and I can now see how I can help the people in Platfontein. I can get a job and get paid from the skills I learned at Hilltop and agriculture was good for me. May God bless your good work."

Ghumba Katchorro

"I enjoyed the computer repairs and computer literacy programme. I feel like I know everything now and going back to Platfontein as a qualified technician. My time at Hilltop was great. I see myself and understand that I need to learn more."

Louis Karupangwe

"I liked the IT maintenance and the literacy and this training changed my life as previously I was a very shy person. I improved very much in my English, social skills and confidence. I am going to make my life as changed and not the old Louis, shy and alone. I am thankful to Rommel and Robin who are great managers and their staff."

Makena Tjabara

"Agriculture and English was the most learning experience for me. Hilltop changed my life and I will be speaking English more. I will not forget you and Rommel or the trainers and you made a big difference in my life."

Maria Muronga

"I liked all the training and my future is bright for me, my family and my community. I learned about respecting people and troubleshooting, ram sizes and now I know everything including English and am confident. I feel happy that I have learned more and have the ability to change the condition in Platfontein, about how I feel, speak about hate, bringing back life and join hands. One people One family."

Maria Madara

"I liked troubleshooting the best and did not know the computer and am happy with myself, feeling good and fine. You are like a parent to me as I have lost my entire family and only have one 18 year old son. Rommel, Daniel, Jolin and Nozuko are all fine. The training program makes me and all of us better."

Namitchana Chicamba

"The computer training and fixing computers was my highlight. I learned a lot and am a better person and am very pleased at my English speaking and writing words. I learned about what is right and what is wrong and doing things better. This program was good for me. We are all the young people and have learned to do something with love. One team One group."

Nepa Katombera

"I enjoyed the Computer Literacy and Oral Presentations and impressed by myself to be able to do excel and calculate. My English was very poor but and now I am able to speak it and I know how to repair computers. I thank God for Susi, the sponsors and Hilltop to help the youth and community of Platfontein and appreciate it from my heart."

Ria Reen

"I liked all the training most. It was different and I was afraid to mix with the group but found all the people were nice. I had a great time and everything was fine."

Rosivita Kativa

"I enjoyed the entire program. At first I was very shy at speaking English, but am now very confident and very proud of myself. This training was not a waste of time and will help me in the future. Thank you Rommel and Robin. I never met people like you; to get strong and respecting others to stand on their feet even if it was hard."

Valuable feedback and suggestions from the students regarding the future development of Platfontein

Most of the students felt that the way to Platfontein's success is through the youth and children.

Several students suggested that there will be more possibilities for the growth and development of the community if Rommel met with the elders from both tribes as he has conflict mediation and resolution skills as they have experienced. Speaking with the elders of both tribes to establish acceptance and changes in the historical conflict, currently still a concern in Platfontein.

All of the students believe that they can be positive role models to the youth and children for the growth and development of Platfontein.

The children have a hunger and a thrust to experience peace and progress in the community and be able to be taught the differences between right and wrong.

Educational and youth programmes and discussions, even a library will help to redirect the children in positive ways.

It was suggested that there should be a Hilltop trainee from the two different tribes, in each project or centre.

A computer centre in the community will be a huge benefit and uplifting.

The students thoroughly appreciated the program and thought that the trainers were wonderful.

The Final Stage

The project will only be complete once the centre is done and the graduation fulfilled as the total affirmation of these young people's achievements, which will happen on the 12th of November this year, when we expect many dignitaries to be present and of course the Swiss contingent.

The last stage of what is planned to be an ongoing process, includes:

1. The completion of the renovation of the centre which started on the 25th of August with the final implementation meeting and site inspection of tasks and community participation.
2. The installation of all the computer and related resources.
3. The start of the school computer classes and later community IT training courses which is to include the promotion into the surrounding communities like Galeshiwe, opposite Platfontein.
4. The landscaping of the centre will be undertaken by Alexandria Müller, our Swiss volunteer currently training some of the Platfonteiners and Arnesto, her assistant from Platfontein.



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THANK YOU

Our Hilltop Team would like to extend our gratitude and many thanks, to all the donors from the 2 hr Run committee and others that have more recently joined in supporting the financial needs of the renovation of the centre which is ongoing and for the support of this program.

Thank You For Uplifting Platfontein.

Rommel Roberts
DIRECTOR
Hilltop Empowerment Centre

