

HABandBF Newsletter

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Message From Our Chairperson

As another year draws to a close I am pleased and proud to be able to share in some of the successes of our small fund: Tertiary Students' results have been generally excellent so far, with many distinctions and merits coming through. There have been some expected disappointments where illness has beset the individuals and we have worked with them to inform the relevant authorities and enable them to continue their studies.

Our CAO Project has worked with over one thousand learners across 7 schools and iKhetelo Children's Village, inspiring and guiding these young people towards a life of effort and hope. The Advice Bureau continues to assist families in need, accompanying and advocating for clients at Home Affairs and SASSA - a little more about that in this Newsletter.

And, with more volunteers working with us we have been able to catch up with some of our Tertiary Fund Alumni. You can read articles written by Journalist alumni Cebesile Ngobese about B.Ed. alumni Bonga Bhengu and B.Tech. Taxation alumni Nkasimulu Mhlophe .

Academic education from the tertiary institutions plus life skills education from coaching, mentoring and guidance works as a route out of the poverty cycle. And that's what we're about!

'A Better South Africa, One Degree At A Time....'

Happy Christmas



TANYA HARVEY

Featured articles

Advice Bureau Still Going Strong

Operating since 1972 and more recently from dedicated offices which opened on the 11th October 2018, the non-profit advice bureau organisation in Botha's Hill (Shayamoya) a division of the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund has helped hundreds of people access their pension grants from the South African Social Services Agency (SASSA) and Identity documents from home affairs.

According to the advice bureau's paralegal Ms Winnie Mtakwende they assist up to 30 people a month. "We help up to 30 people a month. The people we help are people who have difficulty accessing pensions, child social grants, identity documents, motor vehicle accident compensation, birth certificates etc," said Mtakwende.

Other than the above mentioned services offered by the advice bureau, they also offer support and advice to troubled youth and adults. They also support struggling community members by giving them food parcels.



Paralegals Ms Winnie Mtakwende, Nkuthula Sokhela and client Benzi Majosi.



Client Mlamuli Mdakwende, paralegal Ms Winnie Mtakwende, client Benzi Majosi and paralegal Nkuthula Sokhela.

One of the people who has been helped by the advice bureau is Mlamuli Mdakwende. He is sick. He suffers from Epilepsy and it has been disrupting him at school throughout his childhood. He is unable to work or attend school and he has spent most of his life admitted at hospital. He said he's been applying for a disability grant since the year 2017 and has been unsuccessful.

It's only now that with assistance from the advice bureau that his disability grant got successful and he's to receive his first pension payout in January.

He said, "Thank you very much to the advice bureau for all the support and assistance they have given. I'd also like to thank the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund (HABandBF) for supporting me and my siblings with food parcels, especially since I take a lot of pills that requires me to eat before taking them."

The Advice Bureau opens every Wednesday at 9:00am to 12:am. They are a non-profit organisation funded by corporate social responsibility donations. Support and donations are welcome and they can be contacted via email on info@HABandBF.co.za or by cellphone to Mrs Mtakwende on 065 959 7908.

Charity Work NEVER Ceases, At HABandBF Headquarters

With the aim of bettering the lives of young South Africans, 'One Degree At A Time', the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund continues to lend a helping hand to a number of young people wishing to pursue careers at tertiary level.

On Wednesday the 19th of October 2022 the bureau held a gathering at the Hillcrest Holy Trinity Anglican church, whereby they were to receive yet another generous donation from the well renowned auto mobile company KEY Motors.



Speaking at the event, one of the students who are funded by the bureau Bonga Bhengu, who now holds a Bachelor of Education and is currently studying BCom in Accounting at the University of South Africa (UNISA) thanked the bureau for the tremendous support they have been providing him.

"I would like to extend my gratitude to the entire Hillcrest Advice Bureau team for helping me throughout my journey". The bureau's marketing and student liaison manager Mrs Nicky Sibaya thanked KEY Motors for their donation, saying, "I would once again like to thank KEY Motors for being a pillar of strength and resource. We are truly grateful to them for keeping our organisation in mind, their contribution really goes a long way."

She continued by urging students to study hard and use the opportunity they are given by the bureau wisely. "There are many students who find themselves at a financial disadvantage, without the kind of support we offer. At the most, our organisation listens, cares and puts the needs of students first, which could be anything from mental, physical health, family and schooling. Using the opportunity wisely says a lot about the students, their perseverance and accountability. We are a small organisation and every coin has a student allocation, that only shows the dedication and hard work of the team of HABandBF."

"Nelson Mandela said, 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world', this is what we at Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund believe in. The students we support have a 96% pass rate. Last year we had 21 graduates and know that as they go out into their new careers, education will have changed their lives and they will pass this on", said HABandBF's board member Heather.

The Alumni Secret To Success : Determination, Dedication and Discipline

Bachelor of Education graduate Bonga Comfort Bhengu said in order to be successful in life, one has to be a kind of person who is dedicated, determined and disciplined, amongst other qualities.

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He studied his lower level education at Ndlokolo Primary School, studied his higher level education at Hlahlindlela High School and proceeded to KwaBazothini High School, which is where he matriculated. Because of difficult circumstances that he and his family were faced with at that time, he was unable to enroll for tertiary straight after matriculating, so instead, he decided to seek for employment because he needed to cater for himself and his siblings.



Bonga Bhengu

He then found a job in the year 2004 where he served under a fixed contract which later got terminated in the year 2008. He stated that after his contract got terminated, 'he thought it best to go back to school so that to enable him to find better and permanent employment in future'.

"In 2009 I went back to school to upgrade my matric results. After I achieved that, I started to apply to various tertiary institutions and then I got accepted by the University of South Africa (UNISA) which is where I graduated with a Bachelor of Education-Senior and FET Phase, with a booming 19 distinctions", he said. He said he is very grateful for all the support and assistance he received from the non-profit organisation called The Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund. He reported that they supported him financially, provided him with study material, transport, life skills etc.

"I would like to thank the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund Organisation for supporting me throughout my studies. I would like to extend further my gratitude to Chairperson of HABandBF Mrs Tanya Harvey and the entire team and also various stakeholders who contribute donations to ensure that we receive education", said Bhengu.

He now works as a qualified teacher at Labourer Primary School and is also currently studying for Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Financial Accounting (BCOM) at UNISA.

Either than being very good student, Bhengu is also a very humble person who aims high and wishes to achieve only the best. He said, "I wish to further my studies ultimately. Achieve a doctorate degree in education, BeCOM in Accounting, Honours in curriculum studies, Masters in curriculum studies and Doctorate in curriculum studies.

I also wish to be able to give back to underprivileged societies."

"The secret to success is a combination of many things, such as determination, dedication, discipline, time management, respect, setting time frame, applying relevant methods in your studies and aiming high in your life. My advice to young people is that grasp every opportunity that God gives you. Work hard, be honest to yourself, do justice to yourself, disclose unwavering commitment and associate yourself with relevant people. These combinations will produce fantastic results in your life", he continued.

From Humble Beginnings To Successful Entrepreneur



Born and bred in the dusty streets of KwaNyuswa, through support from the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund Organisation Nkazimulo Mhlophe is one of the fortunate people who have succeeded in pursuing a career and graduating at university.

He started his early childhood education at Umphumela Primary School from grade one to grade seven, started his high School education at Umnyameni Zenex High School from grade eight to grade ten. He then studied grade ten to grade 12 at Emaghutshane High School, which is where he matriculated.

He says life was not always easy for him when he was growing up because sadly, his father passed away in the year 2006, and he was then left with only his mother to take care and bring up him and his siblings, a younger brother and sister. Being raised by a single parent did not break him or lead him to become a problematic child but instead it made him stronger, wiser have a strong desire to make something better of himself and encouraged him to fight even harder to have a bright and successful future.

After matriculating, he states that 'life became somewhat difficult for him as he did not have funds to apply for university, he did not have information about choosing a career path and had no idea where he would get finance to support his tertiary studies, when he got accepted at university.' It was through a friend, Nhlakanipho Mthiyane, that he became aware of how he could apply for university. He says that it was also Mthiyane who told him about the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund Organisation. "I am very grateful to the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund Organisation for all the support they provided to me during my years of studying. They provided me with financial support as well as life skills. I owe most of my success to them", said Mhlophe. Mhlophe is now a proud owner of a successful Logistics Company called Ngcingweni Projects PTY LTD. He owns two trucks, which he uses to transport commodities such as coal, chrome and manganese, just to mention a few, from the Durban harbour to warehouses in Durban and from the warehouses to the harbour, for imports and exports purposes.

Featured articles

Even though his business is now booming, he says it wasn't always easy when he was starting up. He said he came across a number of challenges and that he attempted starting four other businesses before he settled where he is now. "Starting a business is very hard, especially when it comes to raising capital to start off. Initially, I had attempted to start four other businesses. I worked so hard, day and night, but, they did not work out. The logistics company I own now was my fifth attempt. I came across a lot of challenges and hurdles, but in the end my hard work Paid off and yielded ripe fruits", said Mhlophe.

The rate of unemployment in South Africa continues to grow everyday. I number of young people who graduate from Universities find themselves unemployed for quite some time after graduating. This leads them to give up on life, loose hope for a better future or sit and wait for opportunities to be handed to them. This is not the case with Mhlophe. He said he has 'never worked a day in his life. His aim has always been owning his own company and being his own boss. He said he is aware of the lack of job opportunities in our country and said in order to curb this pandemic, young people should be thought how to make use of skills they've acquired at tertiaries to enable themselves to make opportunities for themselves'.

"Instead of being thought about unemployment, young people should be thought to go for what is relevant. They should be thought about how they can make use of qualifications they get from Universities rather than waiting to get employed by other people in the same field. Also, the older generation should believe, have faith and invest in the younger generation", he said. His advice to the youth is that 'they should take things step by step accordingly and not fear being humble and moving on a slow lane. They should not get influenced by things they see on social media'. "Great and successful things start from humble beginnings."



Trucks belonging to Nkizimulo Mhlophe. He uses them at his Logistics Company, Ngcingweni Projects PTY LTD

Time To Celebrate

The Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund Organisation held a Christmas lunch/party to celebrate work done, even under difficult circumstances whereby the whole world has been faced with the covid-19 pandemic which led to a major financial backlog.

The party, held on the 7th of December at the Phezulu Estate in Botha's Hill comprised of HABandBF colleagues, friends and family. HABandBF is a non-profit organisation that supports university and FET students financially and they also provide support such as transport fees, accommodation, study material, interview and CV training and life skills. They go through great lengths, seeking donations from corporate companies and individuals who are willing to provide support to ensure that South African youth gets a chance to study at tertiaries, which will enable them to become successful and learned members of society, 'One Degree At A Time...'



"We are truly grateful to all those who support our work in any way, be it financial or with their time and services. Some of the Trusts and charities who still support us have been working alongside us for the best part of 50 years. It has been a hard year financially, in that some of the institutions who had previously been regular financial supporters did not survive the economic effects of the covid-19 pandemic," said chairperson of the bureau Mrs Tanya Harvey.

"However, we reduced the numbers of students supported and the vast majority have brought in excellent marks. We have been blessed with the addition of Ann Braine and Abigail King-Milne to our voluntary members. My advice to our students is that to succeed it must be through your effort and hard work. HABandBF can help you to help yourselves. Take every opportunity and work to make the most of it. Each challenge is an opportunity for you to learn

how to come to a solution. Never forget where you started and always remember to pay it forward by helping others in any way you can", continued Harvey.

Tertiary Fund Students Paving The Way



Siphamandla Dladla - Masters Chemistry and Chemical Technology

In a nutshell, we are developing chemical shapes that are to contribute to an ongoing fight against cancer that has claimed lives, especially in the African population.

The title of the research work is "Synthesis of non-natural amino acids as covalent inhibitors for protein-protein interactions", just a brief on this project "Protein-Protein Interactions (PPI) represents an exciting expansion in druggable chemical space and offer new opportunities to develop new therapies against challenging diseases. The PPI between HOP and HSP90 is one such example. This PPI is mediate the cells' chaperone cascade, and as such is responsible for maintaining cellular proteostasis.



Nosipho Ndlovu - Medical Microbiology

This year I am busy with my final year while also applying for internships and a Master's degree because my degree is a honours degree.

So if I do not get allocated for internships because there will be many graduates I will complete my Master's degree to uplift my qualifications and be better qualified compared to other applicants or graduates because Masters will expose me to more research compared to other honours graduates

I am currently working on my Lab work, I have cultured Lactobacillus and I will be working Gardnerella Vaginalis soon. We are currently experiencing delay with some of the reagents required for the project. My Masters degree is 2 years so I will be completing my Project next year.



Mandlakhade Hadebe - Bachelor Of Pharmacy

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