

IT IS YOUTH DAY EVERY DAY AT MHANI GINGI



Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network strives to build a sound foundation for tomorrow's society. This commitment is reflected in a focus within its Social Responsibility Programme on supporting Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilities such as the Angel's Paradise ECD in Ottery where the children pictured here are cared for. Read more inside.

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS TO FLOURISH AT EVERY LEVEL

Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network's holistic and integrated approach empowers individuals at every level of the social pyramid, from pre-school age right up to old age, through promoting education, health and nutrition as well as independent income-generation and entrepreneurship. Mhani Gingi Trustee and leader of the Social Responsibility Programme, Joan Wright, works closely with seven Early Childhood Development (ECD) facility principals in townships of Cape Town, implementing the A2B Transformation methodology developed by Vivienne Schultz (author of *Developing an Ecosystem of Change*) to instill a 'can-do' approach and self-belief in the principals so that their ECDs and the children in their care can flourish.

The success achieved by these efforts is illustrated in the story of Sindiswa Noboza, Principal of Lidinga Educare situated in Philippi East. Read over the page about Noboza's resilience, her capacity for caring and sharing and a capacity to grasp every opportunity that comes her way.



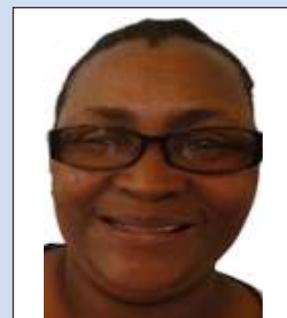
Sindiswa Noboza, Principal of Lidinga Educare in Philippi East.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

ECD Principal Sindiswa Noboza reaches higher and higher

A CAPACITY to grasp every opportunity that comes her way with both hands and resilience in the face of every challenge are among attributes that have served Principal Sindiswa Noboza as she has continued to take the Early Childhood Development (ECD) crèche she established in Philippi East higher and higher.

Noboza established Lidinga Educare in 2011, first with four children cared for in a single room within her house while Noboza went out to teach. That was before she met Joan Wright, Mhani Gingi Trustee and leader of its Social Responsibility Programme, through the AfricaCAN Charity organisation two years ago.



Sindiswa Noboza.

Since then Noboza has employed two assistants and built a separate structure with a bank of toilets and two more rooms — including an office and kitchen — to care for the 54 children presently in her care. Noboza is aiming even higher, with plans to erect another floor when funding can be found for the R57 000 required to expand her ECD upstairs.

An inspiration to all

Since mid-2015 Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network has supported seven ECD Principals in the Nyanga East, Khayelitsha and Philippi areas, including Noboza, with training and development of their ECDs. When they paused recently to review achievements, Wright had this to say: “We are celebrating Sindiswa's resilience, an inspiration to those she touches, her capacity for caring and sharing, her joy of life and her capacity to grasp whatever she embraces.

“Challenges do come, and we knew they would, but the next moment Sindiswa will be up with a smile on her face,” Wright said.

Noboza tells how she was a domestic worker in Constantia for many years. “After my divorce, as a mother of three, there was nobody to help me to support my children. I started a crèche within my house in 2011. I started with four children in one bedroom with my daughter. I was teaching. I then moved into another room. Then when I had 21 inside my house it was too much!



Social Responsibility — FOCUS ON ECDS

“I managed to build two flats for the children and I have grown and grown. I made another step when I built toilets in 2015. Luckily, I had someone to help from Newkidz organisation to finish off my kitchen and office there. Now I want to build upstairs!”

The 54 children now in Noboza's care, assisted by a staff of two and her daughter, consist of seven babies from 0 to 2 years; 19 children aged 2 to 3 years and 30 older children cared for in three classrooms. The first child arrives at 5 a.m. “I cook them breakfast; and make them something for lunch.”



Learning to “stand tall”

The support the seven principals have received from Mhani Gingi over the past two years includes strengthening of the teaching skills and the educational programmes; assistance to build safe and adequate structures for the children and guidance in governance and the business of running economically viable ECDs.

“Everything has changed,” Noboza said, including her interaction with the parents. The last graduation ceremony had “touched some of their hearts and everybody wants to bring their children here.” In addition, the children are doing well in interviews for admission to primary schools. “We are so proud.”

Noboza's self-belief has grown and she has learned as a leader to “stand tall”. “People around me are believing in me because I'm learning. You have to stand tall and allow people to see you,” she said. There is also the need to convey your vision to parents and staff. “Sindiswa really leads by example — she works together with her staff and shows them not just the 'what' but the 'why' and 'how' too,” Wright adds.

“Now in the next three years I am moving on to developing the upstairs,” Noboza said determinedly. But these achievements are not all. Last year she completed her Level 4 Qualification as an Early Childhood Development practitioner at Cape College and now she is studying for her Level 5 qualification.

Generating funds

Wright has also taught the principals how to generate funds to develop their schools. Noboza purchases second-hand clothing from an online store, Once More, which she re-sells to parents and at Philippi Mall on weekends. On 3 June Noboza held a Market Day at her ECD to raise money to pay the deposit for the annual graduation ceremony. She also has an urgent need for funds for transport. “There are lots of children who come to the centre – I need to collect them.” About 10 prospective new children for the crèche have been lost due to a lack of transport. There is also the shopping to be done for the ECD, for which Noboza currently catches a *pela-pela*. And she has plans for further expansion: “With transport I can collect children for after-care from the schools.”

CAN YOU ASSIST?

Anyone who can assist Noboza to obtain transport should contact Mhani Gingi Trustee, Joan Wright, at 072 040 3169. Or e-mail pjwright@telkomsa.net.

GARDEN OF ANGELS EDUCATES FARM CHILDREN IN OTTERY

Early Childhood Development centres (ECDs) are the central focus of Mhani Gingi's Social Responsibility Programme in order to ensure a sound foundation for tomorrow's society.

In the heart of the vegetable-growing farmlands in Ottery outside the city of Cape Town, the Angels Paradise Early Childhood Development (ECD) facility has made giant strides towards sustainability that include creating a vegetable garden to nourish the small farmworker community served by the ECD. The Garden of Angels also supplements the children's education, illustrating Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network's holistic and integrated approach to empowering communities to help them to escape chronic poverty and food shortages.



The children at Angels Paradise ECD are actively involved in the garden.

Angels Paradise ECD was a crèche begun by a local church and in danger of being closed down as it was unregistered. In the space of just a few months in 2017, the ECD has not only come close to compliance to enable it to register with the Department of Social Development as a Partial Care Facility. The Principal of the school, Katryn Booyesen, working together with parents from the farm community and with Mhani Gingi, has cleared and levelled the ground surrounding the ECD for the food garden that has produced a first harvest of vegetables including turnips, carrots, cabbages, spring onions, lettuce, spinach, celery and parsley for consumption.

Guided by Mhani Gingi Trustee and champion of its Social Responsibility Programme, Joan Wright, the Garden of Angels has been created using whatever resources are at hand, such as empty bottles and other recyclable items, to line the beds. It took three to four months of hard work to start the garden "from nothing". It has provided much-needed nutrition for the farmworker community served by the Angels Paradise crèche. But in addition, the children have been actively involved in the garden from the start. Using toy-sized rakes and hoes, the children themselves recently filled a tyre with sand and helped plant in it carrot seedlings.

Social Responsibility — FOCUS ON ECDS

The children have learned about shapes from the planting beds which have been purposely created in circles, triangles and rectangles; the children also benefit educationally from activities such as sorting recycled bottles into colours and different sizes and learn about the natural environment, plants and growth cycles from their active involvement. The children will eat the soup that will be made for their midday meal from the beans that they are propagating presently. And when the water supply was interrupted recently, the children helped to fetch water from the nearby dam.

Now the beds are being re-made and more vegetable seedlings supplied by the Mhani Gingi Herb and Seedling Nursery will be planted. The Garden of Angels is co-owned by Booyesen and the parents who tend it. The vegetables grown provide food for the farmworker community's kitchens. In addition, recyclable containers are being collected to create soup packages that can be sold — and salad packs in the summer months — to generate funds required to maintain and develop the garden.

Instilling resourcefulness and self-belief

Under Mhani Gingi's direction, each person has a carefully defined role and a unique value exchange system and currency has been created of "Grands" with which seedlings are bought from Mhani Gingi. This system is designed to ensure that Mhani Gingi's efforts create sustainability, resourcefulness, self-sufficiency and self-belief in the community they are assisting.

Booyesen's goal is to develop a tea garden to attract visitors to the garden who will purchase the produce. Meanwhile, Wright has conducted the first training session to develop the skills of the Angels Paradise ECD's two assistants who work with the children. Booyesen herself is studying part-time.



The Garden of Angels forms part of the children's learning at Angels Paradise ECD. Principal, Katryn Booyesen (far right), works in the garden.

CAN YOU ASSIST?

Challenges are many. The latest is that the water supply that is piped from a neighbouring farmer to irrigate the garden will soon cease. Booyesen is thinking ahead, however, to find piping and a pump, or a water container, to create an alternative water source. Anyone who can assist should please contact Joan Wright on 072 040 3169. Or e-mail pjwright@telkomsa.net.

YOUNG MUSICIANS SUPPORT ECD CHILDREN



The Cape Town musicians who play the 'Last Thursday' live music gigs at the Thursday Food Markets at Pinelands Club at every month-end are an important contribution to the efforts of Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network's Social Responsibility Programme. The funds raised by these performances go towards the support of vulnerable groups in society, including more than 600 children at Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilities and crèches supported by Mhani Gingi in townships and farm communities of Cape Town.

The musicians have raised more than R8 000 for Mhani Gingi's efforts since institution of the live music gigs at Pinelands Club in Lonsdale Way, Pinelands, mid-2016. The artists have included Timothy De Monk in February 2017; Grace De La Hunt in January 2017; musician and poet, Brynn, in 24 November 2016; and Jasmine Minter in October 2016. *The Voice South Africa* semi-finalist, Jono Grayson, and contestant and singer-songwriter, Chris Werge, began the series with gigs in September and August 2016.

Pinelands resident and former Pinelands High School pupil, Timothy de Monk, the featured artist in February, has not looked back since he took up the guitar only three years ago. He picked up a guitar and starting strumming at the home of his cousin one day.

"Things have moved very fast," De Monk admits. He played at restaurants such as Peter's House in Kloof Nek Road and Octopus Garden in St James before releasing his debut indie pop EP, "Hazy Days", recorded at Mighty Music Studios, on 5 December 2015. By his matric year in 2016, De Monk was signed to David Gresham Entertainment Group. His single 'Everyday' released on the David Gresham Records label on 3 April 2017 has done well on the local charts.

Solo artist Kathryn Swain will deliver her 'Alternative Pop With A Message' or APWAM at Pinelands Club on 29 June from 6.15 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. The R20 donation entrance fee will go towards the work of Mhani Gingi's Social Responsibility Programme. Entrance is free for under-14-year-olds. **For information contact Sue Walker of SW Events and Projects Management at 072 914 4837. Or e-mail her at sweventsprojects@gmail.com.**

1 000 WOMEN RAISE THEIR VOICES AGAINST ABUSE



Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre principals Luleka Mjezu, Vuyiswa Mgedezi, Nokuthula Thbethe - Omari, Linsiwe Xaso, Sindiswa Noboza, Lillian Masebenza, Founding Director, and principal Venus Sindiswa Nkole.

Beneficiaries of Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network were among those who added their voices to protest against women abuse by attending the annual 1000 Women 1 Voice Flagship fund-raising event held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre on 11 May 2017.

This year's 1000 Women 1 Voice event was hosted by Elana Afrika-Bredenkamp and entertained by Zimbabwean musician, Taps, as well as Zanele Muholi of South African group, Freshly Ground. The focus of the 2017 event was on human trafficking.

The WHEAT (Women's Hope, Education and Training) Trust, partner of the 1000 Women's Trust, first mobilised 1 000 women to Unite Against Domestic Violence in Cape Town in 2004. The annual initiative is supported by Pick n Pay and raises money for women-led projects across the country that work to bring hope and support to women living in abusive relationships.



Wendy Ackerman, Patron of the 1000 Women Trust, delivered the welcome address. She noted the sober fact that abduction and slavery still exist in the world today, referring to the recent abduction and murder of three-year-old Courtney Pieters from Elsies River in Cape Town. Ackerman said that we should be teaching young boys in our care to have respect for women.

DID YOU KNOW

One out of every four women in South Africa is in an abusive relationship.

DID YOU KNOW

Every six days a woman in South Africa is murdered by her intimate partner.

DID YOU KNOW

Every 25 seconds a woman or girl is raped in South Africa.

THE SCOURGE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Continued. Ackerman also noted that South Africa ranks 14th in the world for the abuse of women.

1000 Women's Trustee, Tina Thiart, explained that money raised by the event goes towards the shelter movement and awareness campaigns. This included two new centres which had been established to fight human trafficking, one in Murraysburg and another close to the N7 between Saldanha and Vredenburg. The 1000 Women 1 Voice initiative had also funded the Put Your Foot Down campaign in 2016, which succeeded in raising awareness among the trucking industry, she said. Donations had been made also to organisations involved in the 16 Days of Activism.

Claudia Burger, Programme Director at Activists Networking against the Exploitation of Children (Anex), delivered the main address on the subject of human trafficking while another speaker was Grizelda Grootboom, author of the book, *Exit!*, about life on the street in South Africa.

Burger provided an insight into human trafficking as it affects women in South Africa. She defined human trafficking as the situation where people are forced into a relationship against their will for the purposes of forced labour or sexual exploitation, within or across national borders.

The fastest-growing industry

Traffickers used different methods to recruit, train, transport or harbour victims and the phenomenon occurred in South Africa, too, she explained. Human trafficking was the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world, generating more than 150 billion US dollars per annum from this form of modern-day slavery.



South Africa was a source, transit and a destination country for trafficking and in 2016 some 248 000 cases of some form of human slavery had occurred in South Africa, Burger said. Through the South African National Human Trafficking Resource Line, a total number of 29 victims had been rescued from August 2016 until February 2017.



Thanks to Titania Fernandez, Resource Development and Fundraising HOD for the Western Cape Community Chest, for the images. Lillian Masebenza (right) is pictured at the luncheon next to Wendy and Raymond Ackerman.

1000 Women 1 Voice

Burger emphasised how important relationships are in the development of a child. People who had never had an attachment or relationship were easily hooked and trapped — even if it meant working on the street to pay debt. Only 1% of trafficked people were rescued. The question was: “What happens to the rest?”

Traffickers used fake job offers and addressed the needs of the target; they knew your vulnerability and also used social networking to find the victim. Traffickers used physical abuse, isolation and confiscation of their identity documentation, among other ways, to trap women. A lot of this was very similar to the cycle of abuse in domestic violence, Burger said.

Who are the traffickers?

She added that a profile of a typical trafficker had not yet been assembled. There was a need to stop the demand for human trafficking and to create awareness. Burger also said that people needed to celebrate each other.

The South African National Human Trafficking Resource Line telephone number is: ☎ 0800 222 777

How Mhani Gingi empowers vulnerable communities

Beneficiaries of Mhani Gingi's programmes who attended the 1000 Women 1 Voice Flagship event this year included five women from the Dutch Soap Making project funded by Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; seven principals of Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilities in Philippi, Old Crossroads and Khayelitsha townships of Cape Town; as well as community gardeners from Uitsig Community at Uitsig on the Cape Flats. The seven ECD principals are supported by Mhani Gingi's Social Responsibility Programme while the gardeners, who are differently abled, cultivate a thriving community garden established, supported and managed by Mhani Gingi's Flagship Programme.



Improving livelihoods

Mhani Gingi works to improve the livelihoods of its beneficiaries and the families and communities on whom they impact so that they do not have to remain victims of perpetual situations of chronic poverty, food scarcity and violence. The women of the Dutch Soap Making project which started in 2017 have survived abuse and are being given soap-making and enterprise skills to empower them to gain financial independence and to rebuild their lives.

“The women are receiving marketing skills, communication skills and financial management so that they can improve their livelihoods and that of the people around them.

1000 Women 1 Voice

“While we would like to help more women, we have started with five beneficiaries who will impact on another five in the programme and those in turn will impact on others in a similar situation in the further phases of the project,” said Lillian Masebenza, Founding Director of Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network.

Funding from Ackerman Pick n Pay Foundation for the Flagship Programme has enabled Mhani Gingi to establish more than 30 community gardens in various communities of the Cape Flats, impacting amongst others on about 30 differently abled people at Uitsig Community and five at Blouville School for children with special needs in Retreat, who gain knowledge about gardening, nutritional education and income generation. This augments the small disability grants that they receive. Ultimately, Mhani Gingi plans to assist the Uitsig gardeners to register as a co-operative to enable them to supply produce to others, Masebenza said.

Providing hope

“But we are also giving the beneficiaries hope and this impacts on their self-esteem,” she noted. The women of the Dutch Soap Making Project, calling themselves The African Violets, thus confidently launched their organic soap product at a stand during the 1 Women 1000 Voice luncheon on 11 May.

The seven ECD principals, led by Mhani Gingi Trustee, Joan Wright, are being assisted to sell second-hand clothing to provide funding to improve the services that they provide to parents. At Angels

Paradise ECD in Ottery, parents are involved in a community vegetable garden which serves to provide income and nutrition for the community as well as supplementing the educational programmes for the children. Constant monitoring and evaluation helps Mhani Gingi to understand the needs of beneficiaries and communities to ensure the effectiveness of such initiatives.

Network members of Mhani Gingi, similarly, through assistance provided for their small enterprises, are able to improve their livelihoods and to educate their children and support their families. The story of a network member, Nosisa Magutywa, whose child graduated from Cape Peninsula University of Technology recently in Project Management, started working and has now bought herself a car, illustrates how Mhani Gingi is assisting network members through enterprise development to improve their livelihoods, Masebenza said.



Lillian Masebenza congratulates The African Violets.



About 30 gardeners who are assisted by Mhani Gingi cultivate a thriving vegetable garden at Uitsig Community. One of them is Peter Sampson, above.

AUGUST EVENT: Promoting health and safety of women and children



FOCUS ON FATHERS

Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network, in collaboration with Swedish organisations 1.6 Million Club Sweden and Yennenga Progress, will host an inclusive conference in Cape Town on 17 to 19 August 2017 aimed at preventing the violation of the rights of women and children. This initiative to promote the health and safety of women and children will have a focus on fathers and includes among its planned outcomes the formation of support groups for mothers and fathers.

“Mhani Gingi wishes to contribute to enhancing the role of duty-bearers, community leaders and service providers to improve the human rights and safety situation in the Western Cape,” said Lillian Masebenza, Founding Director of Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network. “The focus will be on uniting women from difference backgrounds to ensure a renewed emphasis is placed on women's health and the safety of the vulnerable within our fragile communities.” Topics to be addressed may include women's rights, the female body, lifestyle and nutrition, alcoholism and drugs, stress and mental health, women's entrepreneurship, and empowering the youth, with a focus on teen suicide and disabilities.

A voice against violation of the vulnerable

“This project's focus will be on networking with existing services, organisations, political leaders and other entities already functioning within these areas to come together as one voice against violation of the rights of women, children and the vulnerable,” Masebenza added. For 14 years, Mhani Gingi had been focusing mainly on women, youth, children at Early Childhood Development facilities, as well as on People with Disabilities (PWDs). An additional focus would be a proactive approach to preparing soon-to-be or new fathers and men in general to understand their roles and take up the responsibility to care and protect their children and the mothers of their children.

“The problems of violence in our society necessitate the need for a holistic, integrated and inclusive project to highlight the importance of the functional Family Unit. This is a big challenge in that most 'families' are child-headed,” Masebenza said.

Swedish experts will be among the conference speakers. The 1.6 Million Club Sweden promotes women's health and will fund the initiative together with Yennenga Progress. **For further information, willingness to get involved and support for this project, e-mail Project Manager, Liezl van der Westhuizen, of Creatividad Consulting at director@creatividad.co.**

MHANI GINGI NURSERY MAKES A BIG MOVE



Digger loader driver, Siboniso Mbombo, left, and Lillian Masebenza set to clear the new space.

Mhani Gingi Herb and Seedling Nursery — which supplies about 30 community gardens on the Cape Flats — is relocating to Athlone, in a collaboration with the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, after being given notice to vacate the premises presently occupied at Tertiary School in Business Education (TSiBA) campus at Old Mutual Head Office in Pinelands.

The nursery employs two women gardeners who have been enabled to support their families through the income that they gain from running the nursery. The move will entail relocating all gardening and cultivation operations as well as the seedlings, herbs and decorative plants and structures which constitute the Mhani Gingi Nursery. Mhani Gingi needed to move by the end of June 2017.

A “big, big” thank you

Lillian Masebenza, Founding Director of Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network, expressed a “big, big” thank you to Burcon Plant Hire CC and Ross Rubble Cycle for their services in preparing the new site for the move. Burcon Plant Hire stepped in to clear away rubble and vegetation and level the ground in order to make way for the gardening tunnels, the laying of beds for planting and the installation of irrigation. She also thanked Just Trees for helping with the move.

The new space had to be cleared for Mhani Gingi to start moving the following:

3 existing gardening tunnels; 1 hot house; 2 'Wendy' houses; plants; seedlings; and tools.

Flagship Programme

“Mhani Gingi hired a Digger Loader from Burcon Plant Hire from Blackheath Industria to clear the grass and rubble from the allocated space. Mhani Gingi also contracted Ross Rubble Cycle to cart the rubble away. About 43 loads of rubble and rubbish were moved. We remain indebted to their services,” said Masbenza.



“Better and bigger”

“We are excited about this initiative as we will now have a better and bigger space to showcase our Flagship Programme,” she added. The partnership with Saartjie Baartman Centre will also provide vegetables for the centre's kitchen as well as training women residents in gardening and providing education for children at the centre.



Green energy

Mhani Gingi began the process of moving from 26 June 2017. The next challenge will be to find an alternative energy source to help Mhani Gingi to afford the electricity and water costs at the new premises.

The Flagship Programme houses Mhani Gingi's gardening and environmental activities which promote healthy nutrition and income generation among people who are vulnerable to chronic poverty and food scarcity. The Flagship Programme establishes and manages the community food gardens with the support of Ackerman Pick n Pay Foundation; General Mills through United Way Worldwide; the Department of Social Development; the Department of Public Works through the Extended Public Works Programme; City of Cape Town; and others. Mhani Gingi also has a Centre of Excellence Nursery in Gugulethu where community gardeners are trained.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Anyone who can assist Mhani Gingi with the supply of solar panels as an electricity source for the Mhani Gingi Herb and Seedling Nursery should contact Lillian Masebenza at 021 531 8577 or 082 465 4687. Or e-mail Lillian@mhanigingi.com.

HOW TO BECOME A CHANGE MAKER

The Sustainability Institute in Stellenbosch will host a course on “Becoming a Change Maker” on 11 to 13 August 2017 that will be conducted by Rob Zipplies, sustainability consultant and co-founder of Common Cause SA. This course for inspired and inspiring individuals will explore what your role as change-maker can be in our society going forward. The cost is R2 000. For further information contact vanessa@sustainabilityinstitute.net.



VISIT OF MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



The Mhani Gingi office hosted a visit from Marquette University's Office of International Education in June. The Marquette University's international exchange programme makes a significant contribution to the work of Mhani Ging through the South African Service Learning (SASL) Programme. Pictured at the Mhani Gingi office, from the left, are Office Administrator, Lulu Mfazwe (seated); Director of the SASL, Melikaya Ntshingwa; international intern student, Connor Williams; international intern, Joe de Lorimier; Mhani Gingi Founding Director, Lillian Masebenza (seated); Karli Webster, Associate Director Study Abroad; Mhani Gingi Flagship Programme Co-ordinator, Tabisa Mahlati; international intern, Addison Mauck; and Dr Terrence Miller, Director Office of International Education.



Mhani Gingi Horticulturist, Sada Sada-Saphiwo Nkcukankcuka (left) hosts Terrence Miller, Director Office of International Affairs and Karli Webster (right), Associate Director Study Abroad, at the Mhani Gingi Herb and Seedling Nursery on a recent visit to Cape Town of Marquette University service learning programme. With them is Lillian Masebenza, Mhani Gingi Founding Director.

WELCOME TO MHANI GINGI'S NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Mhani Gingi welcomes Office Administrator, Lulu Mfazwe, who will be providing support in the office daily from 09:00 to 15:00. She will provide support to Founding Director, Lillian Masebenza, as well to Liezl van der Westhuizen of Creatividad Consulting, Project Manager of the Dutch Soap Making project.

She loves working with people, believes in team work and in getting involved. Mfazwe is also passionate about assisting and making a difference. She has worked for non-profit organisation like Business Skills and Development Centre, The Tripple Trust Organisation and Kwa-Nothemba Workshop for the Disabled, as well as in the field of Corporate Social Investment. "I am excited to join Mhani Gingi and hope to make the difference," she said.



Office administrator Lulu Mfazwe.

FAREWELL TO INTERNATIONAL INTERN STUDENTS

Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network hosted a luncheon on 3 July 2017 to say farewell to three international students from the United States of America who have completed a four-month internships at Mhani Gingi. Addison Mauck from Loyola University Chicago, Illinois, has a BA in Sociology with minors in Urban Studies and Communication Studies. She showed an interest in Mhani Gingi's network initiatives such as the baking and pottery enterprises. With some experience in ethnographic research, Mauck helped to document Mhani Gingi's pottery project with Fettle Fox Clay Studio as well as the Social Responsibility Programme's initiatives with Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres.



International internship students, Addison Mauck (left), Connor Williams and Joseph de Lorimier made a valuable contribution to Mhani Gingi over the past few months. They are pictured here with Lillian Masebenza (seated), Founding Director.

Connor Williams from Saint Louis University, Missouri, is a Sociology and Political Science major who hoped to gain knowledge and experience of the non-profit sector while at Mhani Gingi as well as learning about people who have made a career out of empowering communities. He assisted with the organisational structure of Mhani Gingi and business aspects of the organisation, besides being a keen volunteer for working in the community gardens. Joseph de Lorimier, also from Saint Louis University, Missouri, is an Economics major. He had an interest in helping Mhani Gingi's clients to expand their markets and became involved with the Dutch Soap Making enterprise. He also assisted Mhani Gingi by developing a proposal for the organisation to obtain transport through the private sector.

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