

Dependable Strengths Foundation

2008 Progress Report

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A Productive Year

We have doubled the number of our courses and expanded our contacts.

Statistics again prove that the process works! Over 60% of those who completed the Job Magnet were successful in finding work or starting entrepreneurial projects.

Our one day processes were fun. It is wonderful watching participants as their strengths are revealed. The smallest group was for 4 young people who had just been confirmed, and the largest was for 65 matriculants of Sacred Heart College.

	2008		2007	
	Candidates	Courses	Candidates	Courses
Number of Job Magnet	532	37	324	24
Discovery	121	7	62	5
1-Day Discovery	235	8	0	0
Facilitators	8	2	14	2
Total	902	54	400	31

Friends & Sponsors

Supporters and sponsors have been generous and we are financially more secure.

Channel Life

Dr Arnold Smit again proved a champion of our cause. Emthonjeni continues to develop and the facilitators work hard to identify and bring participants to the process. They are able to keep in personal contact after the process and are encouraged by the numbers who are successful. The new malls in the area gave added job markets.

Channel Life funded four One-Day Discovery courses at Sibonile, a school for visually impaired learners. The whole staff, academic, child carers and support staff were included. We had blind, partially sighted and seeing participants. All were fully participative and it was wonderful to see the support they all gave one another. We were warmly welcomed by the principal, Mrs Moruthane, who herself is enthusiastic and caring.

We also worked with Channel Ubuntu. The company is training sales people in the rural areas to sell their products. We took the Discovery Process to them and the boost in self confidence enabled a greater turnover. Facilitators enjoyed the out of town experience.

Rosebank Rotary Club

Rosebank Rotary Club again sponsored two courses at the Alexandra Branch of the Johannesburg Technical College. The college is always very supportive and the learners enthusiastic. Many of them go on to further studies.

Donations

Current unemployment in South Africa means that the need for the Job Magnet is great. Faithful sponsors again gave generous donations. These donations were used mainly in Alexandra and Soweto. The excellent and enthusiastic groups of facilitators led in Alexandra by Sibusiso Zikalala and in Soweto by S'phiwe Nhlapo have greatly benefited the work of the DSF.

New Settlers Foundation

The New Settlers Foundation gave us R50,000. They added a very welcome R20,000 in the last quarter of the year and enabled the momentum to continue.

Lidonga

Lidonga doubled their sponsorship and enabled twice the number of sponsorships.

Anglo American Chairman's Fund

The Anglo American Chairman's Fund donated R50,000 which we received in November. We used this to run three courses in November. The remaining money will be used in 2009. S'phiwe and Sibusiso were delighted to be able to continue running courses into December.

The Oppenheimer Trust

We were delighted to be invited to a lunchtime function by The Oppenheimer Trust. This was part of the 50th-year celebration of the start of the Trust. The invitation gave no indication of an agenda. It was attended by other organisations, like the DSF, that had been funded over the years. Mrs Bridget Oppenheimer and her daughter Mary Slack were in attendance and announced that one-time grants of money to honour Ernest and Harry Oppenheimer had been awarded to all the organisations present "for the good work they were doing." We were presented with a promise of R500,000, since paid to us. We have invested the money in an Endowment Fund and will use the interest for ongoing funding of operations.

Outreach

The DSF again took the course to Uitkomstehuis, a place of safety for abused women and their children. This was funded by St. George's Anglican Church in Parktown. We thank them!

After a period of quiet, Rhodes University became very active. I was delighted to be contacted by Joanne Naidoo who has taken over in the HR department. I went to Rhodes and trained eight facilitators with the help of Lucie Zunckel who is working to develop DS in Grahamstown.

Rhodes ran two in-house courses and five off campus. From Joanne's report:

The five DS Workshops held off campus were done with corporate interns who had just graduated from University or Technikon. We trained a total of 75 interns, with 15 participants in 5 workshops. All groups agreed that this workshop was hugely beneficial to them and it was done at the right point in their careers because some of them still were not sure about which career path they wanted to follow.

Feedback from the groups have always been very positive and encouraging. It makes us feel as if we are definitely on the right path. As a DS Facilitator I have every intention of running as many workshops, if not more, again in 2009.

Thozi Theko organised and facilitated two Discovery workshops with Phumani Paper, an NGO based at the University of Johannesburg, and Rags to Paper CC, an enterprise supported by UJ. The Partnership of Excellence was particularly beneficial to them as they were new to structural organisation. They could now rearrange their responsibilities according to their strengths.

The Clarens Operating Group organised by Rev. Philip Dixie have regular meetings. They ran Self Discovery and Partnership of Excellence course for pre-matriculants and have much in the pipeline for 2009. They hope to reach out to Bethlehem, Durban/Pietermaritzburg and Bloemfontein. They are supported by the Methodist Church and other community projects.

Jenni Lewis continues to drive Dependable Strengths in partnership with Ellerines Community Development Centre. All their trainees take part in a Dependable Strengths course. In addition they do workshops at Trevor Huddleston Community Centre and are working with schools in poor economic areas as part of their social responsibility initiative.

Organisation

The Executive Committee continues to hold regular meetings. The 2007 committee members J. Tallack, J. Lewis, P. McLeod, T. Theko, G. Trumble and J. Warren were joined by S. Nhlapo and S. Zikalala.

The main matters of business remain courses, funding and ways to further the aims of Dependable Strengths. We are very grateful for the commitment and loyalty shown by members and our facilitators.

The Board members are Mark Franklin (chair person), Marian Laserson, Rev. Charles May, Connie Nkosi, Sizi Mbhele, Jennifer Tallack (ex officio). Chris Mamabolo has recently joined the Board. We welcome him!

Grateful thanks to Board members who continue to promote the interests of the DSF. The Annual General Meeting was held on 24 June 2008 and was well supported.

Funding

Dr. Jean Haldane, wife of the founder, Seattle, donated \$16,000 for 2007 and 2008.

We received amounts in the region of R5,500 from the choir groups of two schools. This was arranged by the Rev. Charles May and we are so grateful that they donated their funds to us.

CDS, Seattle

We keep regular contact with the Dependable Strengths team in Seattle.

There is no change in the health of Dr. Jean Haldane. We keep her in our prayers.

To contact Jennifer Tallack and the Dependable Strengths Foundation (Johannesburg), visit: www.dependablestrengths.co.za