

UKUZALWA .OKUTSHA

THE REBIRTH OF RECYCLING IN  
GRAHAMSTOWN

By Ntendeni Luvhengo

# BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

Ukuzalwa Okutsha is a new NGO in Grahamstown, which was one of the new projects formed from the Global Pact initiative program of July 2009. This is where young people are trained to start NGOs and be involved in the community. It was part of the environmental group where we tried to find a sustainable way to clean the environment while engaging local townships members to participate.

MEMBERS OF THE UKUZALWA  
OKOKUTSHA TEAM



THESE ARE THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT  
From left: Denel Honeyball, Patrick Shearman, Ntendeni Luvhengo, Marry Angilly,  
Scott Chapman.

# FACILITATOR FOR THE PROJECT



FACILITATOR(If left) AND SOME FOUNDING MEMBERS LABELING THE BINS

# My personal role in the project

AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE PROJECT, I HAVE THE FOLLOWING ROLES:

- ❑ MAKING SURE THAT THE PROJECT'S AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE MET BY SEEING TO IT THAT THE FOLLOWING IS DONE:
  - a. THE CANS, BOTTLES, PLASTICS AND ALL OTHER RECYCLABLE WASTES ARE COLLECTED REGULARLY (AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PER MONTH).
  - b. HAVING REGULAR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LOCAL FACILITATOR OF EXTENSION 9 TO ASK IF THE RUBBISH IS BEING COLLECTED.
  - c. FINDING OUT IF THERE ARE ANY OBSTACLES WHICH CAN DISTURB THE PROJECT AND WORKING WITH MY CO-FOUNDER TO SOLVE THEM.

# PERSONAL ROLES: CONTINUING

- ❑ CONNECTING WITH THE CITIZENS OF EXTENSION 9( ESPECIALLY THOSE AT THE JABEZ HEALTH CARE CENTRE) TO KEEP THEM INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT:  
FROM THE UKUZALWA OKOKUTSHA TEAM, WE DISCOVERED THAT TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED, WE HAVE TO BE FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS.

# CONTINUING:

- PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS WHEN THEY ARE ABLE TO SEE THE PHYSICAL RESULTS OF THE PROJECT. MY JOB IS TO MAKE SURE THAT WE KEEP THEM INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT BY MAKING THEM SEE THE BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT IN THEIR LIVES.

# CONTINUING:

I ATTRACT THEIR INTEREST BY DOING THE FOLLOWING:

- a. I FACILITATE THE SUPPORT GROUPS OF WOMEN AND MEN AT THE HEALTH CARE CENTRE EVERY FRIDAY AS PART OF THE BENEFIT OF THE PROJECT.
- b. ALL THE MONEY THAT WE GET, BY RECYCLING THE RUBBISH THAT THEY HAVE CREATED, GOES TO THE CENTRE TO BUY FOOD FOR THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE SUPPORT GROUPS AND THEIR FAMILIES.



# CONTINUING

IN THIS WAY THEY ARE ENCOURAGED TO COLLECT THE RUBBISH KNOWING THAT THEY WILL BENEFIT AT THE END WITH THEIR FAMILIES

MY OTHER JOB IS TO LOOK FOR FUNDS FOR OUR NGO B Y ACHIEVING THE FOLLOWING:

- a. I SEND LETTERS TO NEWSPAPERS TO ADVERTISE OUR PROJECT AND WE HAVE CREATED AN E-MAIL ADDRESS WHERE PEOPLE CAN CONTACT US TO HELP.

# CONTINUING:

JOINING IN THIS COMPETITION WAS ANOTHER WAY TO FIND FUNDING.

I TRY TO FUSE OUR PROJECT WITH ANY SIMILAR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT IN GRAHAMSTOWN TO MAKE IT BIGGER AND STRONGER.

# OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- ◎ THE FOLLOWING ARE OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:
- TO BUILD A COMMUNITY WHICH SEES POLLUTION AS A THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH, AND NOT JUST AS SOMETHING TO IGNORE.
- TO BUILD PEOPLE WHO WILL BE AWARE OF THEIR SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND ACT TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS.

# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- TO CREATE A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS FOND OF RECYCLING.
- TO ENCOURAGE RECYCLING, REUSING AND REDUCING.
- TO MAKE PEOPLE SEE RECYCLING AS ANOTHER WAY OF GETTING MONEY.

# CONTINUING:

- TO CREATE A COMMUNITY WHICH FUSES RECYCLING WITH SURVIVING i.e. RECYCLING TO GET MONEY FOR FOOD.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR OUR PROJECT



## THE BINS



WE HAVE BOUGHT FIVE BINS WITH THE MONEY THAT WAS DONATED BY THE AMERICANS(WHO ALSO FOUNDED THE PROJECT).

# THE BINS





# BINS



# THE FIRST ACTION



IN THE ONE OF THE FIRST FEW WEEKS, WE WERE ABLE TO COLLECT MORE THAN ELEVEN(11) BAGS OF CANS AND BOTTLES FROM THE NEARBY BOTTLE STORES

# THE OBSTACLE TO OUR ACCOMPLISHMENT

- WHEN WE WERE AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WE HAD AN OBSTACLE THAT BLOCKED PEOPLE FROM CONTINUING.
- THE TRIP TO DELIVER THE RUBBISH TO THE TOWN'S RECYCLING PLANT WAS MORE EXPENSIVE THAN THE REWARD.

# continuing

- ① THE RECYCLING PLANT WAS GIVING ONLY SIX RANDS (R6) FOR A DRUM FULL OF BOTTLES AND WE ENDED UP LOSING MONEY
- ① IT PREVENTED US FROM GOING ON BECAUSE THE CITIZENS FELT THAT THEY WERE NOT BEING REWARDED WELL FOR ALL THE HARD WORK.

# solutions

- ◎ AS IT IS ONE OF MY ROLES TO FIND THE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROJECT'S PROBLEMS, I WENT AROUND TOWN TO FIND IF THERE WERE ANY SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS.
- ◎ I FOUND *MAKANA BOTTLE AND GLASS RECYCLE* OWNED BY *THE GLASS RECYCLING COMPANY* AND WE HAVE HOPES THAT THE MONEY WILL INCREASE AND THE PROJECT WILL CONTINUE SMOOTHLY.

THE BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT TO THE  
COMMUNITY



OUR FOCUS IS THE JABEZ HEALTH CARE CENTRE AT EXTENSION 9 IN THE GRAHAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP

# OUR PROJECT BENEFITS THE COMMUNITY AND THE CENTRE IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- ❖ WE PREVENT FURTHER POLLUTION BY COLLECTING LITTER FROM STORES (E.G SHOPS AND BOTTLE STORES).
- ❖ WE TEACH THE COMMUNITY ABOUT RECYCLING, REUSING AND REDUCING.
- ❖ IN THIS WAY, WE CREATE A COMMUNITY WHICH IS AWARE OF ITS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND TRIES TO COMBAT THIS PROBLEM.

# BENEFITS

- 100% OF THE MONEY OBTAINED FROM RECYCLING GOES TO THE JABEZ HEATH CARE CENTRE TO BUY FOOD.
- WHILE IN A MISSION TO ATTRACT PEOPLE TO THE PROJECT, THE CENTRE BENEFITS FROM THE FREE SUPPORT GROUPS THAT WE GIVE EVERY FRIDAY.



# FUTURE BENEFITS

- WE WILL ADOPT A “FOLLOW THE RUBBISH INSTEAD OF THE RUBBISH FOLLOWING YOU” STRATEGY.
- IN THIS STRATEGY, WE WILL GO AROUND THE TOWNSHIP PICKING UP LITTER FROM THE GROUND.
- THIS WILL IMPROVE THE LOOK OF THE SCENERY AROUND.

# BENEFITS

- WITH MORE FUNDS, WE CAN HAVE AS MANY BINS AS POSSIBLE IN THE TOWNSHIP TO PREVENT FURTHER POLLUTION.

# CONCLUSION

WE REALISED THAT CONSERVATION OF NATURE COULD ALSO HAVE SOCIAL BENEFITS.

THE FUSION OF THIS CONSERVATION WITH RAISING FUNDS FOR THE CENTRE WILL ENABLE IT TO LAST LONGER AND BE MORE SUSTAINABLE