



Project Education Micro Enterprise Course and Trauma Counselling in Kayamandi, Stellenbosch

9 June 2023 Update

Trauma Counselling

It was wonderful to meet with all of you at your board meeting on 22 May 2023. We are very grateful for your support and interest. After our discussion about the impact of trauma and your offer that we could use some of the funding for Trauma Counselling, we looked into it and have found a suitable trauma counsellor who will be able to come to the centre once a week. He has done several years of trauma research and in addition to confidential counselling, he has ideas about evidence-based interventions that will also help.

Before the lesson started yesterday, 8 June, three women shared trauma they had experienced the previous week – they just happen to be the three women we mentioned in the last update.

Ntomboxolo Dandashe was part of a meeting with a group of women in a shack directly on the street when two well-dressed, nice-looking men came past them and started a conversation. While talking in a friendly manner, the men moved across the threshold. The tone of the encounter changed quickly as they took out their guns, threatened the women and stole their money and phones. They heard one man say that they had been seen and should kill all the women as they could be recognised. Fortunately his partner dissuaded him and they forced the women to lie flat as they were robbed and then locked them in the shack with a padlock, threw away the key and left them. They were rescued by people nearby but traumatised by the experience.

Ntombodumo Mange told of an intruder in her shack at 3am threatening to shoot her and robbing her.

A third woman, Neliswe Khumalo was unable to focus on her business as she spent the week searching for her uncle who has been kidnapped with the help of the police.

Sharing with the group, that they have come to know during the course, and feeling their support was helpful but we feel sure that additional counselling will make a big difference in their lives. Thank you.

The Micro Enterprise Course

We have continued to have 9 regular attendees and have seen progress each week.

A highlight in June was the Business Game. It was fun to play and basic business concepts of buying and selling, having stock and availability, cash flow, profit and the impact of decisions were reinforced while playing the game.



Last week, we asked the attendees to tell us the most important things that they have learnt so far. Some comments from the class:

Nonyameki Dayeni “Record keeping is wonderful and understanding cashflow. I used to just see what I had but I have now learnt about saving and planning. Also not to give credit.”



Bolekwa Bangiso was in business before and gave credit – she learnt the hard way that credit is very risky.



Mnothoza Xola “Where you are selling you need a sign. You must sell what will bring an income and change quickly if something is not selling so you can pay your rent.”



Nokubonga Tuswa says “I have learnt that what I sell must be appealing to the community and that I need to pay myself a salary. Also about record keeping and selling a variety of things”



Ntomboxolo Dandashe shared her record keeping which showed that selling sweets and biscuits was not making a profit so she has switched to selling paraffin which is much more profitable



Next week, 15 June, will be the last formal class. The class will be completing their business plans and will spend the next four weeks working on their business. On 13 July, we will meet with them again and they will share their experiences over the four weeks with us. They will present their business idea, tell us what has gone well, what they have learnt and share their record keeping with us and how profitable their business has been.

We will send another update after 13 July.