



SIYAZIGABISA CHILDREN YOUTH & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

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SIYAZIGABISA REPORT

FOR

THE YEAR

2014

PERIOD: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2014

**To: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK
SOCIAL WORKERS**

Indiana Chapters/Co Dr. Jackie Green



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1. INTRODUCTION

The year 2014 saw us go through many challenges, but we also achieved much, and saw much growth in our organisation. We pride ourselves in having another one of our children finish high school, passing Grade 12 well and qualifying for University entrance. She has decided to take a gap year in order to find her true passion and gain some working skills in this year. She has managed to be accepted into an internship at a financial institution.

Tebogo Khoza is still our pride and joy as he continues with his degree in education, we look forward to seeing these young leaders take on the world and make our community a better place. We also expect an addition to these bright future leaders at the end of 2015, as yet another one of our children, Mpumi, is currently in her last year of high school.

Through the year, we have seen much growth and we saw our children perform very well in school. It has been a year of youth empowerment and community building. We have made an impact in youth development and in skills development.

Siyazigabisa continues to grow from strength to strength through the assistance of our loving sponsors. We are thankful for all the funds we have received from and the support of the National Association of Black Social Workers - Indiana Chapter. We appreciate all of Dr Jackie Green's efforts with linking us to and mobilising to such a passionate group of individuals who are always ready to give to our vision.

2. MAIN ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME





At Siyazigabisa we are firm believers in empowerment. We always strive to empower the people in our community to be better skilled and to be able to create opportunities for themselves. This is how we believe that we will move from a culture of entitlement, and move the community from feeling as if they are needy and should always receive hand-outs.

As the year began we partnered with the National Youth Development Agency and took eighteen young people as volunteers into the organisation to empower them with skills and for them to have work experience that will make them more employable.

In this programme the volunteers were empowered with the following skills:

- Life Skills
- Housekeeping
- Administration
- Community Scans
- Running afternoon homework classes and library
- Library management
- Covering books at schools
- Painting
- Gardening

At the end of the programme the majority of the group started their own organisation together, to deal with the issues faced by the youth in the community. We were able to take one of them into the organisation on a permanent basis as she stood out and had a true love for children. She is still with the organisation now and we are proud to have been able to empower the youth in this way.

2.2. **TEENAGE GIRLS CAMP (NORTH WEST)**





Once again our girls received some character grooming at a camp in the North West Province. Through the assistance of our loving sponsors, we were able to pay for fifteen teenage girls to be part of this life changing experience. We were also able to provide them with dignity packs (toiletry) in order for them to feel confident as they interacted with their peers.

Through the four days the girls were empowered with much needed Life Skills. They were also given lessons on choosing a career and preparing for the work place. This included how to choose and apply for a course to study at tertiary institutions. The girls were also taught how to prepare a CV and how to prepare themselves for interviews.

The camp really gave the girls skills that are to empower them to be great leaders in the future.

2.3. OUTREACH 2014 (PORT SHEPSTONE) – KWAZULU NATAL



Siyazigabisa was able to reach out to the needy communities of Port Shepstone (KwaZulu Natal). We were very excited and humbled to be able to bless others through the assistance of our sponsors.

When we travelled to KZN we realised that there are people that are living in very terrible situations, with poverty stealing all their hope for the future. We made it our business to not only go and food and clothes to the communities but to also plant seeds of hope through the Word of God, reminding them that they are also worth a lot to our creator and that He has great plans for them at all times.

We also visited schools where we motivated the children to focus on their education in order to improve their communities. As we keep in touch with them it is humbling to hear that most of them have a renewed sense of self-worth and they now believe that they can achieve all their dreams.



Through a campaign that we ran, we were able to prepare dignity packs for the girls in the communities, as most of them come from families that cannot afford to buy them toiletries, which affects their confidence and leads to them missing school during their monthly menstrual cycles.

2.4. ABUSE CHALLENGE DEFEATED

One of the worst battles of the year 2013 was having one of our children, Simphiwe, abused at school. We fought really hard to help him through the ordeal through counselling sessions and through finding him a different school.

We were blessed with having a sponsor that came on board to cover all his educational expenses for the year 2014. They also paid for Mbusi who was attending at the same school, as he had started being treated badly just because we reported the school to the Department of Education.

We are very happy to report that they are now attending a much better Christian school, where they are doing very well academically. Simphiwe is a much happier boy and he has gotten back to being his bubbly self.

2.5. ISILILO ALBUM RECORDING

This has also been a year in which, Mama Gab'sile Khoza has recorded her album which tackles the issues faced by women and children. The album aims to create awareness of women and child abuse.

The album is our main tool for raising funds for the organisation. This is to happen through the sales of the album and through bookings for performances.





3. CHALLENGES

3.1. FINANCIAL SHORTAGES

Finance remains one of our major challenges. We are, however working on a number of projects that will assist us to be a more sustainable organisation in order to be a growing organisation. This year we seek to move away from being dependent on sponsor funding, but to be able to take the funds we receive to build our sustainability and our ability to survive even when sponsors are unable to sponsor us.

We still face some staff shortages due to a shortage of funds for the payment of stipends. We are however thankful for all the volunteers that are always willing to help out at the home.

Another knock in the pocket in the funds was the loss of our main grocery sponsor. The organisation that has been buying grocery for us every month has also been facing a financial crisis. This has affected the feed-a-child project. We have had to put the project on hold as we are currently unable to afford it. This has been heart breaking for us as we know that the children are still in need.

The ISILILO album is to be our main fundraising project in order to raise more funds for the organisation.

3.2. SIYAZIGABISA COMPUTER CRASH

Another one of our challenges in the year 2014 was the crashing of our computer. This affected our administration very badly. Luckily we had backed up some of our pictures.

However we were lucky to have a laptop donated to us, which has helped us get back on track with our administration and keeping in touch with our sponsors.

The crash of the computer, does however still affect our ability to properly report on the highlights of the past year, as some the recent photos were also lost.



4. CONCLUSION

We are happy to have completed yet another year of giving love and hope to those that have no one else to turn to. We are glad we could once again add value into the lives of children and the community at large.

We could never have survived the year without the love and support of organisations such as National Association of Black Social Workers - Indiana Chapter and individuals such as Dr. Jackie Green and all those who hold hands together with you as you help us propel our dream and vision forward.

You have been a blessing through the years and continue to be our hope as we give hope to others. We are truly grateful for all your love and kindness and pray for favour, prosperity and growth upon your life, in order for you to feel as blessed as we do because of your love.

The year 2015 has already started on a positive note. Our children are already in school, with all uniform and stationery that they need. We have been blessed to receive a new three roomed container, in which we will move our office and conduct our afternoon classes and life skills programmes in the other two rooms.

We have a new washing machine, which will take the load of work off the team, and we have a bigger gas stove and oven which allow us to prepare more food quicker and to also prepare healthier meals, as we grill them. This will also take us through the season of electricity load shedding that is facing our country.

2015, therefore promises to be an eventful year of growth and development. We look forward to taking on the New Year, together with you. We wish you a year of blessings and in which God exceeds all your expectations.



**To: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS-INDIANA
CHAPTERS/CO DR JACKIE GREEN**

THANK YOU! SIYABONGA! RE A LBOGA! DANKIE!