

## Meet some of our Literacy Tutors

### **Mapula Mathabatha - Ekukhanyisweni Primary School (Alexandra)**

*"Youth in the community must have dreams and keep going, no matter what the circumstances. Be true to yourself. Be proud of who you are and never give up on your dreams."*



Meet Mapula Mathabatha, a youth that's making a difference in the Ekukhanyisweni Primary community as a Literacy Tutor. Before joining the Literacy Tutor Programme, Mapula was unemployed and heard about the programme through a WhatsApp group. "The Literacy Tutor Programme has made me realise the importance of giving back to the community", Mapula explained. "Many people, especially youth in the community, don't see the value in reading because they are not encouraged or inspired by anything. More youth should get involved in the LT Programme - it's inspired me and it feels good to know that I am making a difference in someone's life".

### **Refilwe Matomela – Ekukhanyisweni Primary School (Alexandra)**

*"My hopes for the youth in my community - that they would make good choices, challenge their minds and not be afraid to voice their concerns"*



Refilwe Matomela is a Literacy Tutor at Ekukhanyisweni Primary Primary School in Johannesburg. Refilwe enrolled in the year-long programme after hearing about it through a friend. "More young people should get involved in the programme - it's an opportunity to stay away from negativity and keep safe from crime", said Refilwe. She believes the whole community benefits when a child learns to read. "Reading helps the community by creating great leaders that are informed", she explained. "I can have an impact on the future through the children that I tutor."

### **Jaydene Coetzee – Pauw Gedenk Primary School (Wellington)**

*"Reading moulds someone into something extraordinary and can open many doors for them."*



Meet Jaydene Coetzee, a youth from Wellington that's changing her community for the good one reading session at a time. "Before I became a literacy tutor, I was working various places mostly as a sales consultant", Jaydene explained. "I saw an advertisement in the Paarl Post and decided to apply." For Jaydene, being part of the Literacy Tutor Programme has boosted her confidence and self-worth, and taught her a lot about herself. "While on the programme, I've discovered my love for kids and my passion to help them become better human beings." When we asked Jaydene what advice she'd like to share with the youth of South Africa, she said "No matter what your circumstances are you can do anything you set your mind to!"

**Michelline Davids (Second year LT) – Wes-Eind Primary (Franschhoek)**

*“Grow a love of books and you will break the cycle of poverty and unemployment.”*

Michelline Davids is a Literacy Tutor at Wes-Eind Primary School, and one of the young people enrolled in the Literacy Tutor Programme in 2018. Michelline believes learning to read is crucial in ending poverty and changing her community for good. “More young people should get involved in this programme to help break the cycle of poverty; youth are the future and by helping them develop a love of reading, they’ll be able to finish school and create a better future for themselves.” Michelline, we couldn’t agree more!



**Megan Hoffman – Groendal Primary School (Franschhoek)**

*“The LT Programme has opened my mind and improved my confidence.”*

Megan Hoffman helps children learn to read at Groendal Primary. She’s part of a year-long programme that trains youth as Literacy Tutors, who in turn help children learn to read at schools in under-resourced communities. In addition to growing in a personal capacity, the Literacy Tutor Programme has equipped Megan with skills on how to interact with children. “The programme has taught me how to be patient with children and helped me to understand them”, she explained. “I think more youth in our community should apply for this programme simply to make a difference in other people’s lives.”



**Cheslin Davids, Wemmershoek Primary School (Wemmershoek)**

*“To help learners read and the happy moments that you have with your learners, to see them moving forward, is one of the best feelings as a LT.”*

Cheslin Davids is a Literacy Tutor at Wemmershoek Primary School. “After finishing matric in 2016, I was unemployed and spent my time at home helping my mom in the house”, said Cheslin. “I heard about the LT Programme and applied”. Cheslin believes reading plays a crucial role in a child’s success in life.

In overcrowded and under-resourced schools in the Franschhoek community, Cheslin encouraged more young people to become Literacy Tutors. “There are many children that cannot read well in the surrounding area. If more youth got involved, they can make a significant difference in our communities.”



**Sade Williams – Wemmershoek Primary School (Wemmershoek)**

*“help2read has helped me believe that anything is possible.”*

Meet young changemaker, Sade Williams, who’s making a positive difference in her community as a Literacy Tutor. Every week, Sade spends dedicated time assisting learners that struggle to read as part of the help2read Literacy Tutor



Programme. “Learning and reading is important for our children”, said Sade. “Through the programme, I’ve learned that I can make a difference in lives of children”.

Sade is an inspiration to many young people in the community, and she believes the learners that she assists have bright futures ahead of them. “It makes me proud to think that in a few years from now, the learners that I help will be successful and achieve their goals.”

### **Aselita Jefthas – Wemmershoek Primary School (Wemmershoek)**

*“My hope for young people is that they would work hard and create a better life for themselves.”*



Meet Aselita Jefthas, a Literacy Tutor that’s making a big difference in her community by helping children learn to read. Since starting the Literacy Tutor Programme, Aselita has seen first-hand just how beneficial the one-on-one reading help can be for learners that struggle to read. “Seeing my learners improve has been a highlight this year”, she said. “A learner in Grade 2 did not know the alphabet, but by the second term she could recite the whole alphabet.”

Aselita believes youth can play a practical role in changing their communities for the good. “Without the ability to read, young people are being left behind and with no education, they will turn to crime and drugs”, Aselita explained. “Reading will keep more children busy and keep them out of trouble.”

### **Porche Fortuin – Wemmershoek Primary School (Wemmershoek)**

*“When a community is able to read they can understand and when they understand they know, which then ignites a desire to know more, also to be more and finally work toward something better.”*



Meet Porche Fortuin, a Literacy Tutor Team Leader at Wemmershoek Primary. With the dream of becoming a teacher, the Literacy Tutor Programme provided the perfect opportunity for Porche to gain hands-on experience working with children.

“This program is unlike anything I have ever encountered”, said Porche. “I’ve learnt that I have the power to motivate a child to love reading and that I am capable of helping a child grow in confidence.”

“I personally would advise that more members of the youth should get involved in this program because not only will they be able to help empower a child through education, they will also realize the potential within themselves.”

### **Tiaan Papier – Wemmershoek Primary School (Wemmershoek)**

*“Reading plays a fundamental role in uplifting a community especially one with limited or no resources in relation to literacy.”*



Meet Tiaan Papier, an young changemaker that’s impacting his community by helping children learn to read. Tiaan believes that reading can truly transform a community. “Reading a book gives you a sense of belonging, empathy, humility, self-knowledge, confidence, presence and joy”, he explained. “If those principles are implemented, it can build and uplift a community in dire poverty, such as mine.”

When we asked Tiaan what his hopes are for the youth in his community, he responded “My hopes and aspirations is that love for books increases in a day and age where modern technology reigns supreme.” We couldn’t agree more Tiaan.

**Jevine Goliath – Wemmershoek Primary School (Wemmershoek)**

*“Every child needs someone to help them in the right direction and if I can help only one it would already make a huge difference.”*



Meet Jevine Goliath, she’s a Literacy Tutor at Wemmershoek Primary School. With the aspiration to become a teacher or social worker, Jevine joined the programme as the next step towards pursuing her dreams.

Not only has Jevine personally grown since joining the programme, she’s watched her learners develop too. “It’s heartwarming to see a child with a very low self-esteem grow into one who participates and can take the lead.” Jevine believes youth can be positive role models in their communities through the Literacy Tutor Programme. “Today we are fighting against all kinds of bad elements and with more youth actively involved to stand as role models to help young children make wise and informative decisions, we can only achieve great results.”