



2019 Profile

Presented

By

18twenty8[®]



About Us

Established in May 2009, 18twenty8° is an award-winning, women-led Non Profit Organisation that empowers young women between the ages of 18 and 28, from disadvantaged backgrounds, by developing strategies for their educational and personal development. We encourage young women to view higher education as an attractive and necessary tool for their empowerment. Our approach remains empathetic, skills-enhancing and relevant to the young women we serve because we have experienced some of their challenges first-hand.

The idea to start the organisation came in October 2008 when, at age 28, Refiloe Seseane reflected upon the previous ten years of her life and what she had accomplished academically, emotionally and professionally since the age of 18. She felt that she would have gone a lot further if she had had someone mentoring and supporting her. So, at 28 she decided to provide the support that she did not have when she was 18, to other girls. That was what inspired the name 18twenty8°. We:

- conduct life-skills workshops for girls in grade 11 and grade 12 at high schools in marginalised communities
- curb youth unemployment by recruiting and training community-based youth to facilitate our life-skills workshops
- provide mentors for undergraduate female students through our Big Sister Network
- provide full financial assistance for the tertiary education of undergraduate young women
- produce successive generations of educated women leaders and mentors in all sectors

What we do – Workshops

In consultation with Life Orientation educators, we facilitate life-skills workshops for girls in grade 11 and grade 12 at high schools in marginalised communities. Our workshops have a strong focus on skill-building exercises that support the girls' development and cover the following topics:

Green Girls Workshop ([watch video here](#))

- Urban environmental awareness and conservation
- Recycling
- School clean-up campaigns
- Exposure to various careers in the green economy
- Climate change basics
- Reducing my carbon footprint



Hip & Healthy Workshop ([watch video here](#))

- HIV / AIDS
- Sexual responsibility and planned pregnancy
- Personal hygiene
- Saying no to #Blessers
- Anti rape and GBV
- Self defence

Education Workshop

- Funding for your education
- Transition to grade 12
- Transition to first year of university

Professional Day Workshop

- Professionals motivate the girls and give them exposure to various careers by bringing tools of the trade

Self Empowerment Workshop ([watch video here](#))

- Assertiveness
- Goal setting & life planning
- Financial fitness
- Grooming
- Presentation power & public speaking

Career & Entrepreneurship Development Workshop

- CV / business plan writing
- Corporate etiquette and interview techniques
- How to cope at my first job / with my business



We have earned the support and respect of our partner high schools and have been humbled to receive the following accolades in recognition of our work:

- 2010 EDCON/Jet Community Award for School-Level programmes of Excellence
- 2010 Inyathelo Philanthropy Award
- 2014 Elizabeth Arden Make A Visible Difference Award
- 2014 Levi's Pioneer Nation Award



What we do - Big Sister Network

Our network is a pool of educated, professional women who are established in their respective careers and are willing to be a Big Sister to one girl (or more). Big Sisters are mentors who guide and support our Little Sisters during their undergraduate studies by giving them exposure and concrete advice. The basis for compatibility is the Big Sister's profession as this is what the Little Sister aspires to pursue upon graduation. In addition to financial constraints, the lack of positive, female role models and academic mentors, within families and the broader community, is commonly cited as contributing to high university drop-out rates, general despondency or a lack of direction in the lives of our beneficiaries.



We expect our Big Sisters to commit to their Little Sisters for at least a year, to see their Little Sisters at least once a month and keep in touch via text messages and phone calls. We host a quarterly networking brunch for our Big Sisters and their Little Sisters to give us updates on their mentoring relationships and the progress on Little Sisters' personal development plans.



What we do - Financial Assistance Programme



Our beneficiaries are the first in their families to complete grade 12 - let alone enrol at university. Campaigns like #feesmustfall demonstrate that university education remains prohibitively expensive for the majority of South African students. We have many examples of young women who are academically-competent but forced to stay at home while they apply for funding or entry level jobs in order to earn an income to pay for their undergraduate education. This causes frustration and unnecessary delays for their educational attainment and personal development.

Through our Financial Assistance Programme we fundraise to cover tuition fees, textbooks, accommodation, a monthly living allowance and laptop for young women to complete any undergraduate degree of their choice. Consistent with our mission to produce leaders in all sectors of the economy, we have funded the full undergraduate degree costs of young women in the following fields: Education; Law; Economics; Computer Science; Sociology; Accounting; Construction Engineering; Biological Science and Entrepreneurship.

All of our graduates complete their degrees without interruption and start their first jobs, or pursue postgraduate studies, within months after graduation. Our Financial Assistance Programme enables them to enter the world of work without the burden of student loan debt. When students (or their families) take educational loans which they are unable to service, adverse credit profiles make it even harder for them to find work in a country with high unemployment.



Why you should partner with 18twenty8[®]

- We offer partners the opportunity to position themselves as youth-centric and mindful of the educational and developmental needs of high-potential young women in South Africa
- We raise ongoing awareness of our partners' brands thereby creating a pipeline of future employees and/or clients
- Partners save on tax because we are a tax-exempt PBO with the South African Revenue Service and we issue a S18A tax exemption certificate for the full value of all investments
- We bolster BBBEE scorecards because of our Level 1 BBBEE rating and Exempted Micro Enterprise status

Wishlist

- Funding for organisational scale including launching life-skills workshops for undergraduate students
- Mentors to join our Big Sister Network
- Volunteers and project partners for life-skills workshops
- Financial Assistance Programme funding to cover girls' undergraduate education costs in full

Invest and Contact Info

Account Holder	18twenty8 [®]
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Branch	Northmead Square
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