Universal Promise is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides individuals and institutions in underserved regions with the academic resources needed to ensure educational and career opportunities that will promote just, civil, and hopeful societies.

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Universal Promise is a USA-based nonprofit with a singular focus on education in South Africa. We believe education is the single greatest sustainable means by which to conquer poverty.

Since 2011, we have been carrying out our mission in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, where we serve a largely Xhosa population. You may see the magnitude of our accomplishments by visiting our website: http://www.universalpromise.org.

The Eastern Cape is the most underserved region in the country. We would welcome your support to expand our mutual vision of justice, civility, and hope for all through education in that region.

We are currently seeking funding for a yoga, dance, and choir studio to complement a new health curriculum that will positively affect emotional, physical, and sexual health. The studio will help arm educators and students with the skills that will allow them to handle the enormous stresses that come with twenty-first century realities as well as the devastating reverberations of apartheid.

Universal Promise efforts in South Africa began as a response to decrepit classroom conditions, and our infrastructure projects since our founding have surpassed residents’ wildest dreams. The Vusumzi Primary School Academic Centre, the renovation of 20+ classrooms in two schools, the provision of unfettered access to clean water, and the construction of a 31-station computer laboratory are evidence of that. Our efforts, though, have expanded well beyond building projects to include more sustainable activities, such as teacher-training, student leadership workshops, healthcare education, and social enterprise.

As such, we provide learners of all ages with opportunities to think, challenge themselves, connect with the world around them, and ensure their equal access to high-quality education.

And how do we accomplish that? We have a straightforward, three-step approach.

First, we rely on local input. This foundational philosophy allows us to build and sustain trust. Stakeholders in South Africa set the agenda - beginning with a schoolwide Top Ten Wishlist - because they know best. We examine their priorities in order and fund them in order. Residents know we are in it for the long haul, until their independence is unequivocal and sustainable. Stripped opportunities take time to restore, and the apartheid shadow gives the Xhosa of Nomathamsanqa good reason to doubt; but they now fully appreciate that “promise” is part of our name in word and deed.

Second, we do our research. We consider other nonprofits’ successes and struggles, and we examine reports, documentaries, and statistics to guide our actions. We support the education of all to promote freedom rather than perpetual hand-outs to the masses to ensure paralysis. We support school-based programs to serve thousands rather than ill-fated structures to serve few. We embrace a steadfast mission with a broad impact rather than an ever-changing mission with an unclear destination. We respect the local articulation of needs rather than the foreign imposition of will.

Third, we pride ourselves on transparency and help donors trace where their money goes. Contributors know that this donation paid for the purification elements of our clean water system and that donation purchased 10 robots to introduce coding at local schools. We are vigilant about protecting donor generosity, and we engage locals whose skills are of the highest quality and ask them to welcome others who would benefit from the training.

It works.

We hope you will explore our site and then choose to learn more about our efforts so we may all carry on our sustainable and transformative growth in South Africa.