

Describe the Purpose of Your Grant Request: We shall pay training fees for our staff member who is currently doing the 6-12 AMI course being run at the Indaba Institute. This will also cover her travel to Stellenbosch, accommodation, and travel while on training.

Description of Initiative : Zama Montessori Centre serves a community that has always struggled with challenges related to poverty. Many children who have passed its doors have surmounted their circumstances and made inroads into breaking the cycle of poverty. We believe Montessori education has been instrumental in bring about these results; supporting them to realise their true potential, and helping them to achieve results that are not typical in the neighbourhoods where they grow up.

Zama has run a range of projects over the years aimed at supporting family life, and extending the reach of Montessori education to many adults and children. These have included support and training of preschool teachers, mentoring of Montessori teachers in South Africa and neighbouring countries, parent education, home-based programmes, travelling libraries, soup kitchens and food gardens. The school itself gets used as an observation centre by established teachers as well as teachers in training.

The centre charges nominal fees, with a sizable percentage of children being admitted because of their need, and unable to pay even the nominal fees. Zama Montessori Centre has managed to keep its doors open over the years through prudent use of available funds and occasional donations. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on funding for the school. Many parents lost their jobs and donor funding dried up, leaving the centre floundering at trying to fulfill its role. In anticipation of the founder's retirement, the centre had enrolled a teacher for the 6-12 AMI Training Course in order to ensure continuity in

maintaining the authenticity of the school as a centre of Montessori practice

Plans were in place for continued fundraising to ensure the student's needs were met and her fees paid at the Indaba Institute. This has not been achieved, and the fees could not be fully paid as planned.