



Open Doors Scholarships

*Higher education as a means for
community development in South Africa*



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

The challenge:



Though Apartheid ended in 1994, real opportunity has not followed in many South African communities. Economic and educational inequality continue to affect disadvantaged populations. Chronic unemployment and poverty are a reality in many communities, including the two areas we focus on: Ocean View and Masiphumelele, both south of Cape Town, South Africa.

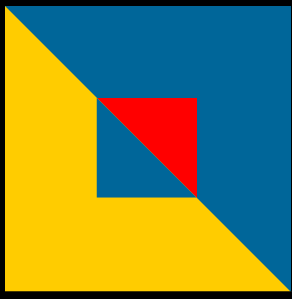
Only 20% of adults in these areas have completed their high school education. Almost a fourth dropped out of school before grade 7. Due to this “lost” generation, youth in these communities often cannot turn to their parents for academic guidance. For those who strive to achieve higher education, it is an uphill climb even without the financial burden.

What we do:

We offer scholarships to secondary school students in these communities. By selecting students with strong academic backgrounds, character, and most importantly, the desire to give back to their communities, we hope to support local growth and development.

We believe that education is the key to bringing a community out of poverty. Not only does it give students the skills necessary for future employment, but also the students become role models in their communities. The future of Masiphumelele and Ocean View depend on these youth.





“He who opens a school door closes a prison.”
- Victor Hugo

More about the communities:



Masiphumelele began as an informal settlement for mainly Xhosa migrants from the Southeastern part of South Africa, a rural area where day-to-day life is a challenge. Masiphumelele's 60% unemployment rate means that the majority live in shacks with limited resources.

Ocean View, on the other hand, was created during Apartheid's forced removals of “coloured” people from “White group areas.”

Though the employment rate in Ocean View is lower than in Masiphumelele, crime and drug abuse among its youth is a way of life.

Schools in both communities are overcrowded and undersupplied. Though most parents have not benefited from much education, they understand that in today's South Africa, their children do have the opportunity to get a good education. The main challenge is navigating the route to that education and ultimately, financing it. This is where we step in with scholarship funding.





“The fight for social justice and economic justice begins in the classroom.” - Barack Obama

The Scholarship Program:

Our scholarship is open to students who have graduated or will be graduating from secondary school at the time of the application. They must live in or attend secondary school in either Masi-phumelele or Ocean View.

Our requirements are as follows:

- strong academic background and character
- desire to give back to the community
- involvement in extracurricular and community activities
- letter of recommendation



Annually, we award scholarships of R5,000 (\$680) to selected students. The student will receive 50% (R2,500) of this amount during the first year of study while the remainder will be divided evenly among the remaining years of study.

We transfer the funds directly to the college and ask our scholars to agree to keep us updated during their academic journey. They must be progressing well in their studies in order to receive the scholarship for each year after the first. This ensures accountability for our funds.

Our goal for future years is to expand the number of scholarships awarded as well as the amount. Though we currently serve these two communities, we ultimately hope to replicate our scholarship system in other disadvantaged areas in South Africa and beyond.





“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress in every society, in every family.” - Kofi Annan

How far our funds go:

As of 2010, one of our scholarships (\$680) pays for anywhere from one class to a full academic year of classes (depending on the university and program) without covering room and board or other expenses.

Here is a list of the approximate cost of an education in South Africa:

- \$125: one class at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)
- \$20: most school supplies
- \$2500: one semester of tuition OR room and board at University of Cape Town (UCT)
- \$750: one year of living expenses



What you can do to help:

We are extremely excited to begin our 2011 fundraising push, and we hope you will help sponsor next year's Open Doors Scholar.

You can donate to the scholarship fund either by mailing a check made payable to “Open Doors Education Scholarship Foundation” to the address at the bottom of the page or through our website, opendoorsscholarships.org, under the “donate” section.

As a non-profit organization we depend entirely on private donations from individuals and companies to fund our scholarship. Any amount is appreciated, and all donations are tax deductible.

Want to be more involved? Please contact us at: opendoorsscholarship@gmail.com.

