

NEWSLETTER 2018

Dear Patrons and Sponsors of the Sweetdale Skills Center
Dear Friends, Acquaintances and Business Partners

The second training year at the Sweetdale Skills Center in Margate South Afrika is completed. It is time to let you know the latest situation.



Homeland from where our trainees come



Sweetdale Skills Center courtyard

After the Skills Center was officially inaugurated on 8 February 2017 and the first training year was completed successfully in 2017, the success story carried on in this second training year 2018.

- 👍 The 11 buildings are in a good condition, having survived the great strain of the teaching and a good deal of bad weather in the last two years, and are 100% fit for purpose.
- 👍 On 5 January 2017, 64 young people started their vocational training at the training center.
- 👎 In the first three months there were a few trainees who had to discontinue their training because of a lack of discipline, a lack of resilience or as a result of thefts committed.
- 👍 52 young people were able to complete their training successfully in late November, i.e. they achieved at the end of the training year the targets we set and proved the right character requirements as tradespeople.
- 👍 Also this year, four young disabled people successfully completed the demanding training: 3 with reduced mobility (polio) and 1 deaf person.



Each graduate found a job: there were 4 bricklayers, 5 plumbers, 2 tilers/painters, 7 electricians, 9 fitters, 9 carpenters, 4 landscape gardeners/farmers, 9 cooks and 3 catering professionals.



There was almost an equal gender share: 22 female and 30 male trainees.



The Packshed Restaurant by Sweetdale, right by the Skills Center, which opened in June 2017 and is also a place of training for future cooks and service staff, has established itself extremely well, and in 2018 successfully staged six major events with up to 248 guests.



By the end of November 2018, ZAR 11'389'825 in donations was received or promised.



The second training year also went without any serious accidents.



During the year, the trainees successfully acquired and carried out various third-party contracts under the guidance of their teachers.

One part of this revenue helped expand the machinery, the extra training and acquisition, the other part helped keep the operating budget 2018 in a good position.





The training of young entrepreneurs and the supervision of their start-ups under the guidance of Roland and Sibylle Wenger together with our partner the Jansen Prime Steps Foundation are in full swing.



In 2018, the first successful start-up already enabled 24 new jobs to be created.

We have set ourselves the following objectives for 2019 and some longer-term visions.

- ☺ The new training year will start on 28 January 2019. The new trainees are currently being selected.
- ☺ Maintain the pace and high standard of training at the Skills Center.
- ☺ A job for each graduate in 2019 as well.
- ☺ Consolidate the organisation of the Skills Center and secure it financially to make it self-sufficient from 2020.
- ☺ Together with the young entrepreneurs, position their start-ups successfully on the market (although 98% of the "black-owned start-ups" in South Africa do not survive the first 2 years) and in the next 5 years create 500 new jobs this way.

At the end of the year, we would like to thank most sincerely every one of you whose financial support has helped make this possible.



Unfortunately, we still need ZAR 637'765 to cover the operating costs 2019, until the project becomes self-funding in early 2020.

Perhaps someone will be pleased to still donate something or be inspired to encourage friends or acquaintances to donate.

"Every Rand counts – even small amounts are welcome!"

Donations:

1 goal-education4all, Raiffeisenbank Zürich, IBAN CH93 8148 7000 0425 5126 3

For more information see: www.sweetdaleskillscenter.ch

Kind regards and best wishes for the next year.
Margrith and Laurenz Weisser

December 2018