Introducing the Management Accelerator Participants

We proudly welcomed 18 dedicated After School practitioners to embark on a year-long journey of training and mentorship. This experience empowers them to evolve into distinguished leaders within the sector. Through the Management Accelerator, our participants benefit from sustained mentor engagement, which lends support throughout their immersive participation in the programme.

SIFISO SUNTSHA, ARK SOWETO

Sifiso Suntsha is the Chief Operating Officer at Ark Soweto. As an accomplished arts and crafts practitioner, Sifiso embarked on a journey of art facilitation and working closely with children in 2018. His drive to connect with children in a creative space led him into the After School sector, a transformative move, where he garners valuable insights into effective behaviour management techniques. Sifiso enjoys utilising artistic materials to stimulate children's holistic development. As a manager overseeing a team of over 20 facilitators at Ark Soweto, Sifiso remains committed to continuous improvement and acquiring innovative management strategies.

NASIPHI MASHICOLO, REALISTIC

Nasiphi Mashicolo is a Senior Social Worker at REALISTIC in Gugulethu, Cape Town. The organisation functions as an outpatient rehabilitation centre, while also providing services for substance abuse prevention, including early intervention and After School Programmes. Nasiphi's motivation to engage with the after-school programme stems from the community's pressing need - a lack of supervision for the young people after school, leading to potential risks and exposure to harmful behaviours. Her passion lies in rescuing these children from destructive pathways by implementing positive reinforcement strategies. Given her role as second-in-charge of the office manager and a supervisor for the ASP, she views the Management Accelerator as an opportunity for personal and professional advancement.

SIBONGILE RWAYI, QHUBEKA, JUST GRACE NPC

Sibongile Rwayi is the Programme Manager at the Qhubeka Youth Development Programme at Just Grace NPC in Langa, Cape Town. Sibongile's professional journey has consistently aligned with the education sector, reflecting his commitment to youth development and empowerment. Participating in the Management Accelerator programme appeals to Sibongile, given his recent transition to managing an After School Programme. As an ASP manager, Sibongile is enthusiastic about acquiring new insights on education and the sector. He eagerly anticipates the learning curve this programme will facilitate.

NOKONWABA NWABISA NDONGENI, LALELA ART PROJECT

Nokonwaba Nwabisa Ndongeni is a Project Manager at Lalela Art Project. Her aspiration to be a beacon of support within the after-school space has been unwavering. Nokonwaba is resolute in creating a secure and nurturing space where children in underserved communities can freely and confidently express themselves through various creative outlets. Recognising the learning gas that exists within the education sector, particularly in under-resourced schools, she has made it her mission to support the learning and development of these young minds. Nokonwaba values the opportunities for networking, referrals, and establishing a structured collaborative platform to keep refining her skills and learning best practices.

LETHABO J. MOKHONOANA, THE MAMELODI INITIATIVE

Lethabo J. Mokhonoana is the Founder and Director of GAP Connect. An organisation based in Nellmapius. The focus of the organisation is to bridge the gap of knowledge not met in schools. Programmes offered include STEM, Entrepreneurship, Mentorship, Work Readiness and Language Learning (Speech festivals, Spelling Bee's, Book Clubs etc.) His journey into the after- school sector was initiated during his early high school years when someone introduced him to the After School space. This introduction ignited a passion, ultimately shaping him into the leader he is today. A mentor's investment of time, energy, and resources impacted his growth, prompting him to contemplate his contribution to the sector further. Lethabo's reflections led him to embrace the afterschool sector as a platform to empower young people, cultivate leaders, and effect positive change. He recognised it as a hub for innovative thinkers and solution-oriented youth, aligning perfectly with his aspirations.

EMMERENTIA SAFFIER-ADAMS, I PROTECT ME

Emmerentia Saffier-Adams, affectionately known as Moekie to those around her, assumes the roles of Office Manager and Afterschool Manager/Coordinator at I Protect Me. Her profound affection for community children and people ignited her interest in the after school space. Passionate about bringing change closer to home, she enthusiastically joined the mission to nurture future change-makers and leaders within communities. Emmerentia envisions these leaders playing a pivotal role in driving positive social behaviour change education, ultimately leading to enhanced job opportunities. With a notable seven-year tenure at I Protect Me, coinciding with the organisation's celebration of a decade of empowering children, youth, and vulnerable adults, Emmerentia is deeply invested in the organisation's growth.

NELISIWE ZANELE EVERSON,THE SOZO FOUNDATION

Nelisiwe Zanele Everson, affectionately known as Lolla, holds the role of project manager at The Sozo Foundation Afterschool programme. Her journey into this sector started in 2011. As a young mother and community library volunteer, she encountered the Sozo Foundation's request for space to establish an After School Programme. Through her various engagements with students at the programme, she began explaining subjects in Xhosa and bridging communication gaps between children and tutors during homework assistance. Lolla's passion for supporting youth and filling the educational gaps she experienced herself led her to become deeply involved, watching students thrive and graduate. This rewarding experience fueled her progression into her current role as Project Manager.

PAMELA MDLANDLA, AXIUM EDUCATION

Pamela Mdlandla is a Literacy Mentor (Nobalisa Mentor) at Axium Education in Mqanduli and Willowvale. Her commitment to promoting literacy through engaging methods like storytelling and indigenous games led her to join theASP. Motivated by the lack of libraries and Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in their communities, Pamela recognised the limited access to books for children. The ASP allows children to showcase their talents and fosters a culture of reading for pleasure. Pamela's pursuit of the Management Accelerator stemmed from a desire to learn effective strategies for mobilising and inspiring young individuals to volunteer in the After School space.

ANDISIWE MBELEKANE, MASIFUNDE LEARNER DEVELOPMENT

Andisiwe Mbelekane is the Head of In-School Programmes at Masifunde Learner Development. Her engagement in the after-school sector is rooted in a deep sense of giving back, driven by her personal experience as a beneficiary of After School Programmes that fostered her resilience and untapped potential. This motivation to contribute to others' growth and development led her to commit to the sector, fueled by a passion for youth development and empowerment. As part of a continually expanding organisation, Andisiwe collaborates with a team of dynamic young professionals. Her dedication to growth extends to participating in the Management Accelerator Programme, where she anticipates equipping herself with tools and techniques to enhance her leadership skills.

LEHLOHONOLO MAHLOMOTJA, MATLHOGONOLO COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTRE(MCOC)

Lehlohonolo Mahlomotja is a strategist at Matlhogonolo Community Outreach Centre(MCOC). In her pursuit to address many long-standing challenges within the broader education sector, Lehlohonolo emerged as a proactive force. Lehlogonolo's commitment to identifying problems and developing solutions led to the creation of an ASP that facilitates change in response to societal challenges. To Lehlohonolo, the After school environment represents a sanctuary of comfort, freedom, and safety where young people are able to explore their vulnerabilities and discover their diverse talents.

NOSIPHIWO DOSI, INKULULEKO ORGANISATION

Nosiphiwo Dosi, originally from Cala, overcame adversity after her mother's passing in 2005, raised by her single father in Butterworth. Her dream of becoming a doctor shifted as she earned a BSc in 2015 and an honors degree in Biochemistry in 2016 from the University of Fort Hare. Dosi, recognized for her relentless determination, is a dedicated and sociable individual, passionate about helping others. She began her journey as a tutor at the University of Fort Hare and later joined Inkululeko Organisation as a classroom assistant in 2021. In 2022, she took on the role of Maths Coordinator, driven by her commitment to South African youth. Nominated by the director, Nosiphiwo eagerly embraces new opportunities to learn and contribute to her community, making her a valuable asset in her field.

EBRAHIM DENZEL DE SWARDT, SEVEN PASSES INITIATIVE

Ebrahim Denzel De Swardt serves as an Educational Mentor at Seven Passes Initiative. His journey into the after-school sector began through a leadership programme a few years back, during which his career direction needed to be clarified. Over a few months, a strong passion for assisting others ignited within him, solidifying his lifelong commitment to this path. This enthusiasm prompted him to pursue the role of an Educational Mentor. His motivation for choosing this position is rooted in a desire to offer the community, children and youth, positive role models from their surroundings and to contribute to positive community transformation. Ebrahim's aspiration to positively impact children's lives, forge connections with children and fellow caregivers, and foster personal growth fueled his choice to work with young people. As a manager of an ASP, Ebrahim found the Management Accelerator Training an ideal opportunity to refine his management skills.

PRINCE PHETOE, MATLHOGONOLO COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTRE (MCOC)

Prince Phetoe is the Founder and Executive Director of Matlhogonolo Community Outreach Centre (MCOC). After observing the unsatisfactory education and resources in township primary schools in Soweto, he recognised the need to intervene. His mission involves providing educational resources and engaging activities to foster a strong educational foundation and cultivate a sense of enjoyment in learning beyond primary school. As an ASP manager, Prince oversees a team of 109 participants. He sought to enhance his leadership abilities through the Management Accelerator Programme to enable him to lead and nurture his team effectively and drive both personal and team growth.

THATO GEBASHE, KHULA UNQOBE CREATIVE ARTS (KUCA)

Thato Gebashe is a dramatic arts facilitator at Khula Unqobe Creative Arts (KUCA) in Protea Glen. Thato's profound passion for the arts has steered his journey, leading him to a role he hadn't initially envisioned – facilitating classes, particularly for children. Embracing the chance to catalyse change and community impact through artistic expression, he is excited to be part of the Management Accelerator Programme, an experience he believes will be instrumental in his personal growth and evolution. As a lifelong learner, Thato looks forward to absorbing insights about emotional intelligence in the after-school space.

STEPHANO NKOSI, IKASI YOUTH NPC

Stephano Nkosi holds the position of Branch Manager at Ikasi Youth NPC, in Hout Bay, Cape Town. His journey into the after-school sector was rooted in a genuine desire to assist others. This inclination was nurtured during his post-matriculation period, where he initially began as an intern, assisting former facilitators. Through dedication and hard work, Stephano progressed within the organisation, eventually ascending to his current role. As an ASP manager, Stephano is thrilled about the prospects to cultivate his managerial skills through the Management Accelerator.

BRANDON MWALE, OLICO MATHS EDUCATION

Brandon Mwale is a Cluster Manager at OLICO Maths Education, an organisation dedicated to demystifying mathematics education. Brandon's journey into the after-school sector is deeply rooted in his history of struggling with mathematics during high school. With the support of dedicated tutors who became mentors, he improved academically and was inspired to pursue higher education and a career. Joining OLICO presented an opportunity to pay forward this impactful guidance to the next generation, a role he takes great satisfaction in as he witnesses the positive impact on many young people throughout his years with the organisation.

ZUKO LUYANDA GQADAVAMA KA SOMFIYANE, INKULULEKO

Zuko Luyanda Gqadavama Ka Somfiyane, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Coordinator at Inkululeko, initially entered the after-school sector through volunteerism, sparking a passion for community engagement and education. His diverse involvement in community development across socio-politics, economics, psychology, literature, and arts inspired his work in this multifaceted field. Zuko is a staunch believer in the transformative potential of youth development and education for social equity. He aspires to enhance his impact and relevance in the after-school sector through the After School Management Accelerator program, driven by a commitment to continuous learning and applying newfound knowledge to benefit his organization and community.