



## **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

**(sponsored by TFWA Care)**

The Youth Development Scholarship Programme provides selected students in Grades 10 - 12 the opportunity to complete high school as well as learn valuable leadership, life skills and social work skills. There are many factors that are considered when selecting students for the YDC Programme – all students must show potential but not necessarily academically, most importantly they must show potential as leaders and good role models, not only for their fellow SHCC students but the wider community also.

The students come from a range of backgrounds but all suffer from poverty at differing levels and would not be able to attend state school (high school) without being on scholarship. SHCC is free for them to attend and here they study English and whichever vocational classes they choose. But for these students to go onto higher education or to get a good job in the thriving tourism industry in the city they must graduate State school.

Aside from academic activities, the YDC programme at SHCC teaches these students social work skills, life skills, leadership skills, team building skills, first aid, education in money management, health and hygiene and environmental awareness. These students are leaders at SHCC, they are role models for their fellow students, and as we are a community run project that encourages empowerment and everyone working together for the benefit of the community these students volunteer their time to help us run our outreach work and conduct our home visits to the students houses, passing on the knowledge and skills they are requiring as they go.

The YDC also takes part in our community work projects which we run every Sunday when the school is closed. Previous community work projects include reconstructing roads, houses and farms destroyed by flooding, building houses for the poorest families in the community, repairing houses for poor families, planting trees and gardens around the villages, building community buildings, constructing and distributing 120 rubbish bins around the community and holding community clean up days.

***Please note...***

***In the time between our initial proposal and the acceptance. There were significant changes in the State School curriculum, resulting in children having to attend State School from 5.30am – 5.30pm six days a week, with travel time into town by bicycle, homework time, English classes and other vocational classes aswell as their responsibilities at home added in. It meant their days ran from 4am***



*– at least 11pm for children aged between 14 – 17 years. Obviously this was not humanly possible, however if these children wanted an education they had no choice but to do this. We tried to come up with ideas of how we could shorten their days and support them the best we could, including taking them by trailer in and out every morning and evening, cooking breakfast and lunch for them and delivering it to school, we did this for one month, but it was far too much for them and our staff both physically and mentally, they were falling asleep in class and some were getting sick. We knew it was not sustainable. On top of this the State school fees doubled for each child. Meaning we could not financially support all of them. Also class numbers increased to approximately 50 students per class, making it very difficult to learn well. So with all of this taken into consideration we decided the best thing we could do for these students to allow them a chance at receiving a quality education was to try to start our own State school and make it free for them to attend. Of course this was a big undertaking, to try to find almost \$60,000 to purchase the land to build a school, build 3 classrooms, pay 6 State School qualified teachers and provide equipment for them. However, after receiving the grant from TFWA Care, it seemed much more achievable, so we began fundraising efforts and seeking donations from abroad. Slowly but surely we reached our target. Largely due to the significant contribution from TFWA Care.*

*Now we are able to provide quality education to a much larger group of students, with well trained teachers, we have halved their study time and there is no need to cycle the 30minutes in and out of town. Currently the State School classes are open to students in grades 10 – 12, but in the future we hope to be able to provide this for Grades 7 – 9 as well.*

*We purchased the land in January, the classes began running in February when we received the TFWA grant, but currently are being taught in make shift classrooms while we complete the construction of the classrooms, we hope to have this done by November, for the beginning of the new school year.*