



DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS, OUR PILOT PROJECT IN SOSHANGUVE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT, TO SCORE A PENALTY GIVEN AFTER SOME WEEKS OF HARD WORK.

ACCORDING TO THE MOTTO "HELP 800 CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA TO 'KICK AIDS'" THE **KICK IT REPHELE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT** TRIES TO FIND SPONSORS ON ITS OWN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY. AS ONE OF ONLY 183 DESERVING ORGANISATIONS WORLDWIDE, KICK IT WAS CHOSEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL FUNDING NETWORK **GLOBALGIVING** TO TAKE PART IN A „FUNDING RALLEY“ WITHIN AUGUST. THE CHALLENGE IS TO RAISE AT LEAST \$4.000 (ABOUT 2.800€ OR R28.000) FOR THE KICK IT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, BUT THIS CAN ONLY HAPPEN **WITH YOUR SUPPORT** AND 49 OTHER DIFFERENT DONORS.

OF COURSE, THIS CAMPAIGN IS ALREADY WORTHWHILE TO BE PROUD, BECAUSE A PROGRESS LIKE THIS IS THE GOAL OF A DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP LIKE OURS BETWEEN *STARS OF TOMORROW AND KICK IT – **EMPOWER FOR SELF HELP**. THUS GLOBALGIVING SUPPORTS THE KICK IT APPROACH, TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT THE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE CHILDREN WITHIN A DIVIDED SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY THROUGH THE HELP OF VOLUNTEER COACHES. THOSE ADREES OUR LITTLE *STARS. WHO NEED TO BE TAKEN AWAY FROM THE STREETS AND THE DANGERS OF ISSUES SUCH AS **HIV/AIDS**, DRUGS, CRIME AS WELL AS TEENAGE PREGNANCY. IF WE TOGETHER **CHANGE THE LIFE OF ONLY ONE CHILD**, ALL EFFORTS WERE WORTHWHILE. DO YOU ALSO UNDERSTAND "SPORT AS A TOOL FOR DEVELOPMENT"? THAN SUPPORT KICK IT'S CHALLENGE AND SCORE THE GIVEN PENALTY WITH US. EVERY SINGLE DONATION CAN HELP, BECAUSE ONLY **TOGETHER WE CAN KICK AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA**.

SHOULD KICK IT SCORE THE GOAL OF **2.800€** UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST, THEY WILL WIN A PERMANENT POSITION ON THE GLOBALGIVING WEBSITE. THIS PLATFORM ALLOWS RENOWNED DONORS SUCH AS NIKE, BHP, DELL, GAP, AMONG OTHERS, TO PICK ON ORGANISATIONS THEY WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR AND MAY BE THEY WILL ALSO FIND OUR LITTLE *STARS IN SOSHANGUVE.

IT IS YOUR TURN TO HELP OUR PROJECT IN ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE AND TO KICK AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

***STARSNEWS** IS A NEW MEDIUM OF YOUR *STARS OF TOMORROW AND IT IS SUPPOSED TO UPDATE YOU ON A REGULARLY BASIS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS OF OUR PROJECTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE WANT TO START WITH TWO VERY OPPOSING AND ENCOURAGING STORIES. BOTH HAPPENED IN SOSHANGUVE IN THE LAST MONTHS, WHICH SHOW HOW **KICK IT** CAN CHANGES THE LIFES OF OUR LITTLE *STARS AS WELL AS THEY UNDERLINE KICK IT'S ROLE IN THE DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.

ENJOY THE READING AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT,
KAI HILL (CEO *STARS OF TOMORROW)



WHEN A CHILD IN THE PROJECT PASSES ON

The month of April was sad for Kick It as one of the children passed on. While the project's mandate is to use sport as a tool for social change among children, it is sad when one of such benefiting children passes on. The effects of such happenings on other children cannot be undermined, and thus it has dawned on the project to brave for such situations.

Patricia Sharon Msibi joined the Kick It project in 2009, as one of the orphaned, affected and infected children. She had already lost her mother to HIV/AIDS, and sadly she was born infected. Her father is living positive to date, while one of her three brothers is infected with the disease also. Patricia found a family in the Kick It project. The coaches were sisters to her, as she only had male relatives left in her family. While she had her paternal family, there was a real family breakdown, as the father would always be not at home, so as were the brothers. Thus the child found love in the project, and also friends.



Figure 1: The late Patricia Sharon Msibi

Patricia enjoyed the Kick It games and especially netball. She was very active, serve for when she was sick. Moreover she was very friendly and had lots of friends in the Kick It project. Patricia had contact with the office staff and some management members. She was thus well-known across the whole project satellites. This relating was key to her soldiering on, even though she knew she was sick and had already lost her mother to the disease. It is sad, that though much love and attention was given by the project, she could not make it further than the only 11 years she lived. Unfortunately even this love could not replace her mother, which she also laked, to closely monitor the taking of her medication.

While much support and love is given by the project, due to more partnerships with other organisations, such cases as Patricia's may be could be referred to foster care facilities, where medication is availed under close supervision.

On hearing the sad news, the project was available for the funeral proceedings. The Beruit and Slovo satellite coaches, assisted by management members Joyce Ngobeni and Welheminah Buthelezi, grouped kids to sing during prayers at Patricia's home. The children sang during the funeral service, as the crown burst into tears. Coach Kedibone Mabelani gave a speech, explaining the loss it was for the Kick It project. She elaborated that Patricia was just good, and wished her eternal peace.



Figure 2: Kick It Kids and Coaches at Patricia Sharon Msibi's funeral

Almost all coaches attended the funeral, with all management being present as well. The funeral day was rainy cold, but the project volunteers, management and children braved the weather to say goodbyes to one treasured child of the project.

It was eye opening for the project, to learn some of the situations to be met in the service to the children. There are a number of infected and affected children in the project, and thus the scourge of HIV/AIDS cannot be undermined. While the Rephele side of the project has made food gardening initiatives, and is working on setting up children's support groups, there is a great need to look into assisting the infected in ensuring they have access to medication, as well as home based care. Ideas of a social responsibility budget need to be established, so as to assist in instances such as these, for it happens that some children come from set ups where the known family is the project, and society expects the project not to fold hands in the dark hours of these children's lives. It is sad when a child in the project passes on....



STARS IN THE MAKING

SUNDOWNS JUNIOR CENTRAL DEFENDER - BONGANI SIBANYONI

The 17 year old Bongani Sibanyoni was recruited by his Kick It Coach Ben Mlangeni in 2004 to play in the community grounds, and the good news is he has qualified into the national club Mamelodie Sundowns in June this year.



Bongani stays with his mom, and two brothers. His father passed on in 2001. What started like a whiling up of time has ended into being a career prospect. Through his coach Ben Mlangeni, Bongani got to enjoy soccer, and grew in skills as he never thought would. He points out that initially they were encouraged to play so as not to go into crime and substance abuse (social change dimension). He thus played for fun, but as the coach identified the talent in this boy, he began encouraging him to play to the best and consider being the best player.

Coach Ben Mlangeni says that Bongani remained one of the regular children at the all week training sessions (Monday to Friday, and some Saturdays). This continued to shape Bongani's skills, and he excelled in all the tournaments he played. In 2009, Bongani began to play also at the school in the soccer team. It was on two occasions that the Sundowns Talent identification team noted Bongani playing. The first was at Bongani's school, where they noted his details. The second time was when the kids from Ben's satellite were invited to play in some tournament, and Bongani proved his skills again.

It was then that he was invited to come for trials at the Sundowns club training grounds. Bongani notes that the trials were tough, and very competitive. Of the sixteen boys who were called for trials, from all over the country, he was chosen in the seven that were enrolled into the Sundowns Junior team.

It was the greatest thing he had ever imagined his skills could lead to. He continued to say 'hats off' to his coach Ben Mlangeni, for the resilience he has shown them by daily trainings, even with scarce sporting equipment and rough grounds.

Coach Ben says Bongani is great at ball handling, passes and scoring. He is excellent at team work, and if he is not in the team for the day, you can observe the change in playing formations and styles. Bongani believes that stars can be groomed from everywhere, even the informal communities and rural shack dwellers. He says has great respect for the Kick It Sports for Social Change initiatives, which he says must also push up the dimension of talent identification.

Asked of what are his long term goals, Bongani sees himself in the South African Premier Soccer League games playing for Sundowns in the next 2 to 3 years. He is so determined to excel, and says is sure his skills will become much excellent as he practices daily and participates in the tournaments at Kick It, and the ones at the Sundowns Junior team. The Sundowns Junior trains on Wednesdays at the Giant Stadium, and Bongani is picked to the stadium and dropped back home after the sessions. They have matches on some Saturdays, and they travel extensively.

Cases like this indeed calls for a celebration of the crucial role of the Kick It programmes in the communities being saved, not only as a programme for social change, but also in breeding stars in the field of sports. While traditionally only children from the urban setups and high schools could be identified for talent trials, it is through programmes such as what Kick It is providing that there could be a link for the forgotten orphaned children, dwelling in the informal settlement and rural shacks, to be put in the spotlight for careers in sport.

Bongani is finishing his grade 12 next year, and hopes to divot more time to skills development, even as he takes a tertiary course in sports management. Its indeed recommendable, and also brings grassroots projects such as Kick It to the spotlight.

WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT YOUR EVER GROWING INTEREST! FOR REQUESTS PLEASE CONTACT: D.KAPPEL@STARS-OF-TOMORROW.ORG

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR THE NEXT *STARSNEWS WITH AN UPDATE ABOUT OUR COOPERATION WITH STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY...