

Murray & Roberts and Soul Buddyz Scholarship Programme Report

2010 – 2014



Murray & Roberts Soul Buddyz Scholarship Programme

Eighteen learners received the Murray & Roberts Soul Buddyz Scholarships in 2010.

Children who showed academic excellence, but were struggling to escape their lives of poverty were given the opportunity to attend better resourced schools and thus have access to a better education.

Soul City Institute appreciates the funds received from Murray & Roberts for the Scholarship Programme which increased the value of the Soul Buddyz Clubs, not only to its members, but to South Africa as a whole. We aim to contribute to a successful country through developing and educating future generations of South Africans.

The following messages and stories are from some of the scholarship beneficiaries who matriculated in 2014, as told in interviews conducted in 2012 and 2015.



Soul City Institute Soul Buddyz Clubs



Children Making a Difference in the Community



The Soul Buddyz Clubs were started in 2003 by the Soul City Institute for children between the ages of eight and fourteen years old.

They were set up in partnership with the departments of Basic Education and Health at primary schools and libraries across the country.

Ten years later, there were about 5 200 clubs across all nine provinces of South Africa where children support each other while finding out about the world, sharing their skills, doing community and health projects and planning for their futures.

Over the years, hundreds of thousands of children belonged to Soul Buddyz clubs and demand for the clubs continues to grow.

The model works well in rural areas where there is a lack of resources, information and recreation facilities. It works in urban areas where the problems are different and children have to grapple with violence, crime and overcrowding. Clubs everywhere provide a safe place where children can grow, learn and have fun.





Murray & Roberts Community Development



Changing Lives through Education and Skills Development

“Education is the great engine of personal development.

It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of a mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation.

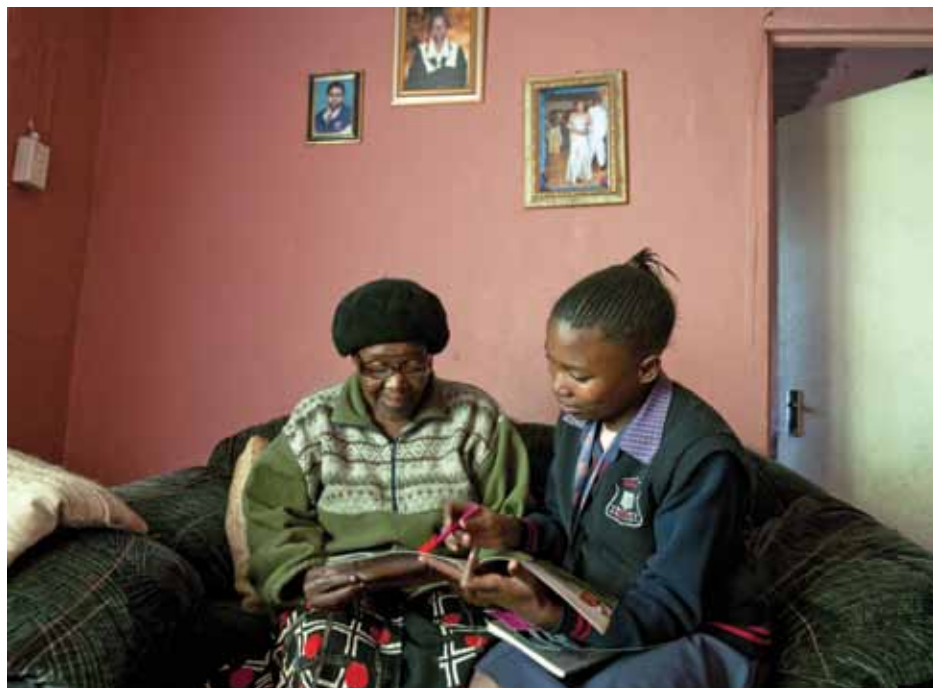
It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.”

Nelson Mandela

Echoing the sentiments

expressed by the late Madiba, Murray & Roberts remains resolute in our belief in the transformative power of education. Recognising that education and skills development are key drivers in addressing poverty, unemployment and economic growth, Murray & Roberts has operationalised appropriate programmes geared towards supporting education reform and advancement in South Africa.

Photographs by Suzy Bernstein.



Over the last decade, Murray & Roberts has invested significant resources in education and skills development.

The Murray & Roberts Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programme and Bursary Support Scheme are tangible programmes through which we directly influence and impact learners' access to, progress in and throughput across primary, secondary and tertiary education. The focal point of these programmes is formal education and skills development, geared towards producing a skilled and employable future workforce.

While the CSI programme focuses on development and proficiency in the core areas of mathematics, physical science and technology, the Bursary Support Scheme is

aimed at individual learners who demonstrate academic excellence or potential. Bursaries are primarily awarded to children of qualifying Murray & Roberts employees and in some instances, bursaries are extended to learners identified by our development partners.

Murray & Roberts' relationship with the Soul Buddyz Club dates back to 2007, when Soul City Institute was appointed as a beneficiary of the Letsema Sizwe Broad-Based Community Trust. The Letsema Sizwe Trust is a component of the Murray & Roberts broad-based black economic empowerment (BBBEE) programme, through which Murray & Roberts has provided funding to several partner NGOs to carry out work with women, young people, disabled people and other marginalised groups. After three years of successful partnership, Murray & Roberts allocated additional funding to Soul City to support the establishment of the Soul Buddyz Club Scholarship programme. The SBC Scholarship is in line with Murray & Roberts' overall focus on education and skills development.

Through their interactions with Soul Buddyz Clubs across the country, Soul City Institute identified a number of young people with academic talent and tremendous potential. These learners were however from very impoverished communities where the quality of education was below the accepted standards.

Soul City thus conceptualised a process through which they would identify top achievers within clubs and these learners would be eligible to qualify for a scholarship.

An amount of R1 191 600 was set aside for the new scholarship programme which commenced in January 2010. Eighteen learners (two per province) were identified and afforded the opportunity to enrol at good public or former Model C schools in order to promote access to quality education and increase their likelihood of pursuing tertiary studies post their secondary schooling.

The focal point of these programmes is formal education and skills development, geared towards producing a skilled and employable future workforce.



Interviews

Soul City Institute interviewed the recipients of the scholarship during 2012 and 2015. The learners were asked the following questions:

- Where do you live, where did you grow up? Tell us about your family.
- What are you doing now?
- What are your dreams?
- Do you think you can reach your dreams?
- What school did you go to? How did you do there?
- Did you have any challenges?
- Did you have any successes – in the classroom and out of the classroom?
- Did you belong to a Soul Buddyz Club?
- Tell us about the bursary from Murray & Roberts – did it meet your expectations?
- Why or why not? Would you recommend the bursary to another child?
- Where do you see yourself in 5 years' time?
- What message would you send to children in school?
- What message would you send to Soul Buddyz Clubs?
- What message would you send to Murray & Roberts
- Did you feel supported enough? Money alone does not guarantee success.
- Would you recommend bursaries for other Buddyz? How can Murray & Roberts with Soul City maximise success?
- What assistance do you need now in terms of tertiary education, skills training or employment?

Thulasizwe Sithole



Age: 18
From: Gauteng Province
Matriculated: 2014
St. Matthews Private School
Currently: Studying Genetics
at the University of Cape Town
Interview: 2015

“
The commitment keeps
you going.

“I am from Tsakane, a township in Gauteng. I grew up with my mother, two sisters and a brother. I did not see my father often.

I got the bursary in Grade 8 and went to a school in town. But the bursary came a bit late that year and I was not comfortable at the new school, so I chose to go back to my old school.

This move back to my old school made me work hard and kept me motivated. I made it my personal goal to prove that I could do as well as my friends in the town schools, if not better than them.

I am now studying Genetics at UCT. Coming to UCT was always a dream of mine and to be a medical doctor.

My school's nickname in Tsakane was 'ghetto'. I loved that school. I didn't fit well into the town school, the library was too quiet to study in.

I was chairperson of the *Cool Buddyz* club from grades 5 to 7. Soul Buddyz taught us to find solutions to a problem. As a Soul Buddy we cleaned the fields of litter and pollution.

In Grade 10 we went to the Murray & Roberts camp – that camp changed my life! It not only changed my life, but it also changed my friends' lives too.

There was this guy there – a presenter on Soul City TV. That guy

gave us tools for life, he made us see that we don't have to settle for mediocrity. He taught us that it was about the effort and not the result. That changed my life. I started to dedicate my life to putting the maximum effort into everything I do.

I had many personal challenges at school. Sometimes we did not have food at home, and I would go hungry to school. Nobody would know, but it would disturb me, because my parents would work so hard and still we battled.

In grades 9 and 10 I was selected to go to Star Schools where I was the top learner in Physics and English.

I got two distinctions in matric in Maths and Life Sciences and was the top learner in my school for that year.

My school did not charge school fees, but the Murray & Roberts bursary made so much difference.

I was the only learner in my school who had a blazer. It was an expensive blazer. In the debating team it helped me with presentation and made things easier for me. Even though sometimes we did not have food, I always had a uniform.

Without the uniform I probably would have been withdrawn and my parents would have been stressed. The bursary gave me confidence.

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In Grade 11, I got a Samsung laptop through the bursary. I appreciated that so much.

We did not have a Physics teacher in Grade 11, so I used the laptop to download question papers and we watched videos. Soul City bought me all the Mindset videos, so I had all the resources and shared it with the other kids. Even without a teacher we all got good marks.

I would definitely recommend the bursary to others. It puts pressure on you to do better, because you don't want to disappoint the people.

My message to Soul Buddyz:
Don't let external things affect you. Soul Buddyz Clubs teach you to be selfless and by helping another person, you are also helping yourself.

My message to school kids:
Get to the point where you are both excited and committed. When the excitement for something runs out, then it is about commitment. The commitment keeps you going.
Thank you so much.”

Nombulelo Jonga



Age: 18
From: Gauteng Province
Matriculated: 2014
St. Matthews Private School
Currently: Studies Law at
University of Johannesburg
Interview: 2012



Soul Buddyz was a place where we could express ourselves.

“In 2007 I was an ordinary member of Soul Buddyz, but in 2008 I became the secretary and for me it was the coolest job ever.

Soul Buddyz was a place where we could play games, discuss problems and find solutions, but most importantly, it was a place where we could express ourselves, our voices could be heard and we could have our say.

The scholarship has been of great value and help in my life, because I can further my studies.

Going to a new school, new environment, meeting new people and basically being in a school of mixed races has been a wonderful experience. I have learnt so much from the Dominican Convent School – using a combi to go to school, having my own locker at school, playing marimba, volley ball, but most importantly being part of the biggest project in the province, the Science Expo.

If it was not for Soul City I wouldn't have achieved and experienced all that I have. Soul City has changed my life and it has really played the biggest role in my life that even my family couldn't play.”

Noluvuyo Blou



Age: 18
From: Eastern Cape Province
Matriculated: 2014
Cathcart High School
Currently: Diploma in
Accountancy at University of
Johannesburg
Interview: 2015 & 2012



The bursary paid for my school fees, uniform, transport, school trips and for books.

“I am from Dimbaza in King William's Town in the Eastern Cape. In the middle of grade 10, I was transferred to a high school near East London, where I completed grades 10 to 12.

I was living with my unemployed mother, who found it difficult to pay my school fees, so this bursary has helped me a lot.

The bursary changed my schooling life as I went to Cathcart High School where I just focused on my books. I had never been in a boarding school before, with people from different places, talking different languages.

This school met all my needs. I thank God that I was awarded this bursary for my life to go more easily.

The bursary paid my school fees, transport and for books. I was at boarding school.

At the new school the instruction was in English, but I got help from teachers and friends and did extra classes. I was also in the choir and played volley ball.

I belonged to a Soul Buddyz Club from Grade 5. They elected me as secretary and I had to write the minutes. The camps were interesting and we went to Magaliesberg and Cape Town for the Soul Buddyz congresses.

Did the bursary meet your expectations? The Murray & Roberts bursary met my expectations. I heard that I got the bursary when I was in Grade 7. The whole school was there when they told me and another learner we had won the bursary. It opened many doors for me and led me to doing new things.

We did not have many resources at my previous school, so I was happy to go to a high school where there were resources such as computers.

Message to Soul Buddyz: The club taught me many things, as part of the club we went to other schools, we did programmes on alcohol abuse awareness. You learn while you are teaching others.

Message to Murray & Roberts: Thank you so much. My mom was so happy, because she knew I loved accounting. One day I wish I could run my own accounting business. Buddyz have the potential to be Chartered Accountants. When I got the bursary it was motivated to do something with my life.

My mom was the only provider in the house, because my dad died and my brother did not work. My sister had also dropped out of school. I told myself that I had to finish Grade 12 and do three years of university so that I can provide for my family.

Currently I am at the University of Johannesburg, Soweto campus, studying towards a Diploma in Accountancy. I paid the registration fees with the money my mom borrowed from her sister.

The full fees for the year is about R25 000, excluding calculators and text books. I have been borrowing books from the library and doing photocopying in the library so that I have some notes. I live in a commune near the campus where I pay R950 per month for rent. This comes from my mom's pension, she is 60 years old."



The bursary changed my schooling life...

Rachel Thema

Age: 19
From: Limpopo Province
Badimong Primary School
Interview: 2012

"As I was growing up, I realised that things were becoming too hard for my aunt, because she is an unemployed, single parent and has to take care of four children. I decided to join the Soul Buddyz Club as I had faith that it would change my life and ease the burden on my aunt's shoulders.

Since I got the bursary, life has been easier. I enjoy going to Hoërskool Noorderland. I got a very warm welcome from the school, including the teachers. As I was coming from a poor background, I remember the first day of school. I saw a lot of kids whose parents are rich and drive expensive cars. My aunt told me that money and riches won't get me anywhere in life and that I should be myself, no matter what happens. From that day I have lived by that advice and it has got me far in life."

Khumbuzile Gumede

Age: 19
From: KwaZulu-Natal Province
Ixopo High School
Interview: 2012

"For me, 2010 was my year of great success. One other club member and I got bursaries from Soul City. That was when I realised that through my hard work I can become anything I want. I was extremely excited when I got the bursary. As this bursary furthered my education in a better school, I realised how grateful I am and that I can help my struggling family. I am really excited about going to the best school and the fact that I will have to work harder so that I can improve my family situation.

Prioritising my education helped me a lot. I thank the Lord Almighty, Soul City and my teacher for believing in me. I promise to do the best I can. My priorities will always be to aim for 100%, to believe that education is the key to success and that all things are possible through Christ."

Refiloe Malekela

“One of the virtues I learnt as a Soul Buddy was to have great ambition, regardless of my circumstances. This I have always carried with me.

In Grade 7 I wanted to go to a school, which I knew very well that my family could not afford, but still applied.

During this time I also applied for a Soul City scholarship, which I had forgotten about until I got a positive response in the second week after I started at high school. The great part was that it was my dream high school, St Matthew. Knowing I got the scholarship brought tears to my eyes. I was extremely glad.

I would not have started playing the cello if it was not for the obligation the bursary gave me, which was to join an extra-mural activity. I greatly appreciate this for I have discovered how music, especially classical music is formulated and played. As a result I have seen live professional orchestra performances.



I added extra science lessons at the University of Johannesburg. I have a tendency of always wanting to improve myself and my work so as to return the favour to Soul

City for having given me the wheels to get going with a car that has a great engine.

For every child that has been sponsored, more than five lives have been changed. Being helped at an early stage of my life gives me the idea that working together is a way of life. For my life has been touched by Soul City, I have every reason to believe that I will grow up to change at least one life.”

Age: 19
From: Gauteng Province
Matriculated: 2014
St. Matthews Private School
Currently: Studying Actuarial Science at Wits University
Interview: 2015

“I have every reason to believe that I will grow up to change at least one life.

Andile Mhlongo

“I grew up in a village near Pietermaritzburg with my grandmother and aunt.

My mother passed away in 2007 and my father a year later. Growing up without parents was difficult, but I thank my grandmother. She taught me not to do wrong things and she was always there for me.

I am attending an academy to improve my marks for matric exemption. I want to go to university next year and do a three-year agricultural science degree. My dream is to study agricultural science and help animals.

I got the Murray & Roberts bursary in primary school when I was a Soul Buddy. They told me that the bursary would last for three years. I used the bursary for grades 10 to 12 and went to a government secondary school. I wanted to go to a private school, but there was no space.



Age: 19
From: KwaZulu-Natal Province
Matriculated: 2014
Hopesville Secondary School
Interview: 2015

It was easy for me to adjust to the new school environment because the Soul Buddyz taught me how to cope and how to deal with bullies.

I was always in the top five students in my class. The bursary gave me the opportunity to go to a better school. Without the bursary I would not have been able to attend a school where they also provide practical experiences such as laboratory work.

The Soul Buddyz Club changed my life and taught me how to take care of myself and others, and taught us respect. I am proud of being an ex-Buddy.

Did the bursary meet your expectations? The Murray & Roberts bursary paid for my transport to and from school and covered my uniform, school fees and pocket money. The bursary was very helpful.”

“My dream is to finish a university degree and work in the agricultural sciences field. I am passionate about agriculture and animals.

Bophelo Mphuthi



Age: 19
 From: Free State Province
 Calculus College
 Currently: Rewriting matric
 Interview: 2012 and 2015

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 I was accepted at university but I could not go because I did not have money for the registration fees.”

“My name is Bophelo. I live in Parys where I grew up. We moved here from QwaQwa when I was four years old. I live at home with my grandfather, my uncle, mother and four siblings. I have two older and two younger siblings. My mother is a teacher and my brother and sister are working.

This year I am rewriting my matric. I applied to rewrite my matric because I was not satisfied with my results. I was accepted at university but I could not go because I did not have money for the registration fees. I would like to study medicine at UCT, but tuition fees for one year is R40k, excluding accommodation and transport.

I dream of becoming a doctor one day. I want to become a neurologist or a neurosurgeon. I believe I can realise this dream.

I started my high school education in Parys. After I received the bursary from Murray & Roberts and Soul City I moved to Calculus school in Kroonstad where I went to boarding school.

We had many challenges at school. While it is a private school, we had many temporary teachers. In Grade 9 I had five Maths teachers. It affected my performance.

I was usually first or second in my class. In Grade 12 I was elected the head boy of the school.

I belonged to a Soul Buddyz club in primary school which impacted my life in a good way, because I learnt how to work with people, how to be a good person and citizen. Through the clubs we helped other children and struggling families and organised donations to orphanages.

Did the bursary meet your expectations? The bursary from Murray & Roberts met my expectations. We were told we had a R20 000 limit for each year. In my school, the fees were far above this and the bursary covered the costs. I would really recommend the bursary.

In five years, I see myself still studying and perhaps running a

business on the side. I am not sure what business. I like business, but I don't want to go to school to study it. I rather want to study in a science field and do business on the side.

My message to children in schools: Stay in school and work hard, no matter how hard things may seem to be – keep on working and the results will eventually come.

My message to the Soul Buddyz: Keep it up guys because what you are doing is a great thing!

I think without the bursary it would not have been very pleasant to be at school, because at home there are troubles and my mother is in hospital most of the time. I had a lot of support during my school days from everyone, including people from Murray & Roberts and Soul City.”



Themba Motaung (right) from Soul City Institute with scholarship beneficiaries from the Free State Province, 2015.

Priscilla Lechusi



Age: 19
From: Free State Province
Matriculated: 2014
Ntsu High School
Currently: unemployed, hoping to go to university in 2016
Interview: 2015

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My Soul Buddyz experience prompted me to do things in communities. If someone else had a problem, I could talk to them.

“**I grew up in Parys. When I was eight years old and in primary school, I lost both parents at different times of the year. My mother’s sister adopted me and I went to live with her and my two siblings.**

I matriculated last year but due to financial challenges I could not study this year. Currently I am not doing anything, just sitting at home. I did a 6-months computer course and am studying towards my learner driver’s license, but in educational terms I am not doing anything. I want to be a Chartered Accountant.

I was at school in Kroonstad for three years. There I was in the top 10 of my class. Academically I believe I am strong and a hard worker.

For the last two years of my high school career I was at a secondary school in Bethlehem. There I was in the top three students of my class.

I was the chairperson of the Grace Soul Buddyz Club. This experience prompted me to do things in communities. If someone else had a problem, I could talk to them.

We had a wonderful facilitator who helped a lot of people. We made a difference in the community. I learnt a lot about respecting people and about the challenges experienced in

the community like alcohol and drug abuse and crimes. I am so proud that once I was involved in this amazing project.

Through the Soul Buddyz I learnt a different perspective. We had to act like adults in the team and we had to help other adults, so mentally that changed us. We had to look at things the way adults look at things. I learnt how to deal with peer pressure. I knew how to handle things like HIV and crime and other challenges.

Did the bursary meet your expectations? Yes, it paid for a school uniform, stationery, transport and school fees. The fees were paid on time and for school trips.

In five years’ time I see myself as a Chartered Accountant, working for a major company in South Africa, perhaps like Murray & Roberts!

My message to school children everywhere: Learners must not care what other people say, whatever their backgrounds. You are the one who limits yourself. Work hard at school.

Message to Murray & Roberts:
I would like to thank them for the opportunity that they have given me, thank you for paying my school fees, even if I don’t know you! Thank them for being there and for paying for everything I needed in educational terms.

I would like to thank Soul City also, they are such great people and they are making a real difference in South Africa. They are bringing hope to us, and programmes they have started such as Rise is making a great impact on the community. Keep on doing that.

They are such a blessing to the whole of the country. If we didn’t have a Soul City, a lot of girls would be misled and maybe have their futures compromised. I’m without words – Soul City is just great.

Without the bursary I think I would have been stressed out about my school fees and how these were going to be paid, instead of focusing on my school work. My mother lost her job two years after I was in high school. She was the one paying my school fees.

The bursary made me work towards something, it pushed me. Every time my marks dropped or I failed a test, I remembered I had a scholarship and had to do better than this. It made me believe in myself.”

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The bursary made me work towards something, it pushed me.

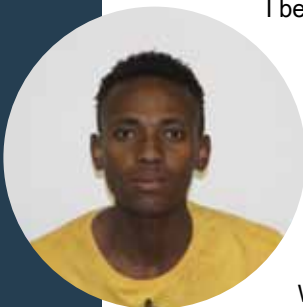
Tebogo Motsitsi

“I am from a vulnerable family. My mother passed away when I was 10 years old and I was raised by my grandmother.

I grew up in Parys. In Grade 9 when I got the bursary I moved to Kroonstad. The first year was a bit of challenge because the teaching methods were different and it was a new environment and we were taught by white teachers.

Being at boarding school away from home was a challenge, but I pushed myself so that I could reach my dream of having the future I want. Having many new teachers every year, even in matric, was also a challenge.

When I passed matric with a diploma entrance I was not satisfied, because I want to be able to study towards a Bachelor's degree. All the economics learners did not perform well in matric so it dropped our marks. I want to rewrite economics, which I will do next year.



My dream is to study further and be successful one day and own my own company. I would like to study marketing and business management. I believe I can reach my dreams.

I was top student in my school in Grade 11. I joined the soccer team and was assistant captain. I belonged to the Grace Soul Buddyz Club. It impacted my life very much.

We learnt where we are and where we are going. It changed my being, who I am and how I want to be and how to treat people.

Now I'm part of the family and helping the community and overseeing things. Like I hate it when

Age: 20
From: Free State Province
Matriculated: 2014
Calculus College
Currently: Unemployed
Interview: 2015

I would like to thank Murray & Roberts: They took us from Grade 8 to Grade 12.

I see littering and dumping, because I had that education from a young age.

I would like to thank Murray & Roberts and Soul City. Without them I don't think I would have been able to get to matric because I'm the first one to reach matric in my family. By the age of 16 or 17 I would have dropped out of school to try and support my family if I did not have the bursary. The bursary made me believe I can achieve something and I am still going to achieve more – anything is possible.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time? I see myself studying and having a business. I'm thinking of a property investment company. I would like to study marketing and business management through a tertiary education institute.

My message to children in school: Don't see your background as an obstacle, rather see it as an opportunity to overcome your challenges.

My message to the Soul Buddyz: I miss being a Soul Buddy. There I got to be myself and grow. Soul Buddyz is a great thing. Keep changing the lives of others.

I would like to thank Murray & Roberts: They took us from Grade 8 to Grade 12. Thank you. Getting out there in the world is difficult. I wish

they can help us further with tuition fees.

My message to children in school: Don't see your background as an obstacle, rather see it as an opportunity to overcome your challenges.

Do you feel you had enough support? I did have support from my family and the teachers played a big role in who I've become. My hostel parent played a big part. Ms Sasha supported me in everything. She motivated me and my family. Also Soul City reached us and supported us.

Advice to Soul City and Murray & Robberts: Start this bursary earlier from primary school, as a project for vulnerable children.

Now I am sitting at home doing nothing. But I am close to getting my learners license and going for my driver's license. I would like to study further, but need financial support.”

I'm the first one to reach matric in my family. By the age of 16 or 17 I would have dropped out of school to try and support my family if I did not have the bursary.

Mueseline Baaitjies

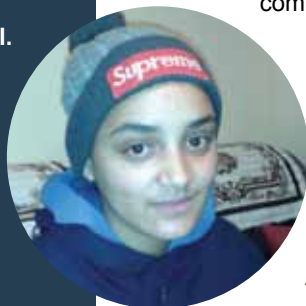
“I enjoyed going to school. I liked Physics. Someone recommended me to go to Soul Buddyz. My marks improved at school.

But at school there were more than 50 kids in a class, it was overcrowded and the teachers could not cope. There were three matric classes. I failed Physics because it was in English. The teacher left in the middle of the year. We were without a teacher for a while.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time? In five years' time, I don't know where I will be – it is difficult to say.

My message to children in school: Keep your heads up high – there will always be challenges, but if your mindset is right, it will be okay.

Message to Buddyz: Good luck to the clubs! What they teach is important. I was part of one of the most active clubs – it kept us busy and taught us about alcohol and drugs.



We had an environmental club and we went out to go and clean the fields. We encouraged recycling, so we could remove litter from our community.

My message to Murray & Roberts: Thank you.

When I went to the camp it was the first time I flew in an aeroplane. I felt a bit out of place, because I was the only person

from the Western Cape. We should open up the bursary to everyone.

Now I need employment. That is my goal. What I really want to do is an internship programme.”

Age: 19

From: Western Cape Province

Matriculated: 2014

Sibelius High School

Currently: Unemployed

Interview: 2015



We should open up the bursary to everyone.

Phunyuka Mkhari

“I grew up in a village near Makhado. My mother worked as a domestic worker. I am studying Civil Engineering. The diploma is two years in school and one year practical experience.

My dream is to work in the construction field and make a difference in my village and town. I went to a good high school near my village. I was always one of the top 10 students in my class.

I had assistance from my teachers with any academic challenges I experienced at school. Outside of school I helped other children with maths and tried to motivate them.

The Soul Buddyz club taught me how to help others and understand them, and showed me how to respect others and not undermine them.

Did the bursary meet your expectations? Initially the money came late the first year. From the second year then my expectations were met and the money came in on time.



I also received transport money and money for toiletries.

Transport was a challenge, because I had to take a taxi to my school that was far from my village. The money was not enough for transport.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time?

I see myself working in the engineering field, having a big house and luxury car and achieving something with my life.

My message to children in school: You have to have a dream and hard work pays off. Only focus on your school work, don't give in to peer pressure, otherwise it will affect your whole life.

Life without the bursary would have been difficult, because my mom did not have money for my schooling.

I need experience working for a company, which will work towards my degree at the end of next year.”

Age: 19

From: Limpopo Province

Matriculated: 2014

Skhosana Secondary School

Currently: Studying towards a

Diploma in Civil Engineering

Interview: 2015

Thozama Ngwenya



Age: 19
From: Eastern Cape Province
Matriculated: 2014
Cathcart High School
Currently: Studying Bcomm
Accounting at Rhodes
University
Interview: 2015

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The little change or
opportunity we create
in peoples' lives, mean
the world to them.

“**I live in Dimbaza near King William's Town with both my parents who are unemployed. They support me and my siblings with social grant money and my father does his best by getting piece jobs.**

What are your dreams?

I hope to become a chartered accountant. I am the first person to go to university in my family and one of the few in my community. I want to be an example to those who are still holding on or those who think there is no hope.

What school did you go to? How did you do there?

In 2010 I enrolled at Richard Varha High School. I only studied there for two years. When I got the bursary, I enrolled in Cathcart high school. I struggled at first as the standards were high and there was so much pressure. As time went by I managed to be in the school's top three.

Did you have any challenges?

When I switched schools I understood English, but it was difficult as I had to do it as my home language. I also struggled with mathematics as I hadn't had a good foundation in it.

Did you have any successes – in, and out of the classroom?

Yes. I got awards for being first in

all the subjects I was doing for two consecutive years. I got a bronze award for The President's Award. I also got an award for being the most committed player in netball.

Did the bursary from M&R meet your expectations?

It may seem like a small thing but it's not, through the bursary I got an opportunity to go to a better school where I also got an opportunity to experience things that helped build my character. If it wasn't for the bursary I wouldn't have gotten all the opportunities I got. The bursary did more than meet my expectations. It really opened doors for me.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years' time?

In 5 years' time, I see myself as a qualified Chartered Accountant, a leader that will be able to help other students achieve their goals too.

What message would you send to children in school?

You can turn the challenges you face into opportunities, they shouldn't be a stumbling block in your success or achievements.

What is your message to Murray & Roberts?

The little opportunities they create in people's lives are the world, they should continue making the noble

decisions that they make as they help create different doors for people.

How can Murray & Roberts with Soul City maximise success?

Murray & Roberts with Soul City can maximise success by not only meeting the financial needs of their candidates but through motivation to meet other needs that they may have. Sometimes one opportunity can create another problem which may need to be addressed.

What assistance do you need now in terms of tertiary education, skills training or employment?

Even though I got NSFAS paying for my fees, it does not guarantee full payment for everything, the costs of textbooks was too much to handle for my parents so I ended up not buying all of them. As I am also studying towards being a chartered accountant, I have so much difficulty in getting vacation employment to improve my skills as my community has little to offer.

My message to the Soul Buddyz: Making a difference in peoples' lives does not end when you stop being a soul buddy. The passion and the need to change our society for the better should forever be in our hearts. ”



Published: Soul City Institute, 2015

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