



# SIHAMBASONKE

SEPTEMBER 2021 | ISSUE NO. 8

THIRD TERM NEWSLETTER

## NEWLETTER GUIDE:

**Sport Programme - 2**

**Sakha Ikamva | Skills Year - 3**

**Chess Programme - 4**

**Computer Programme - 5**

**Internship Programme - 6**

**Agriculture Programme - 7**

**General Announcements - 8**

**How to get involved - 9**

## OPPORTUNITY THE NEW CURRENCY OF OUR TIME!

**by Ruan Cilliers (Executive Director Sihamba Sonke)**

Is the glass half-empty, half-full or are you a realist? Most of us have answered these questions somewhere in our lives. However, the new teacher on the block, Mr. Covid, pushed us to ask different questions. Questions that were not part of the curriculum! On the positive side, asking new questions, looking at problems from a different angle, and challenging the status quo, have all been key factors, to open a whole new world to us, "The world of opportunity!". Our country, especially the youth, has been desperate for change for so long. Now more than ever, the climate for change is ready, as Bruce Whitfield from 702 confirms at the 2021 Nation Builders conference, urging South African leaders from all spheres not to miss the new opportunities that are around us today. Enjoy this newsletter as we celebrate stories of change taking the opportunity at hand.



# Sport PROGRAMME



One of the big highlights on our Sports Programme's calendar was that our sports coach, Siphelele, organised and managed a touch rugby mini-tournament here on our very own Wild Coast home soil! You could feel the excitement in the air as it was the first touch tournament that our young teams were able to participate in for the year.

We welcomed a team from Cape Town that travelled all the way to play against our local teams in this unique tournament. We are of course also proud of the fact that our senior team won the tournament after playing a series of games that day.

More exciting news to share is that Siphelele entered the Touch Tigers team into Siya Kolisi's R30k Adidas giveaway on social media. This kit would've meant not only new gear and tools to practice and play matches in but also a step-up and step forward into the sports world, encouraging our young players that impossible is nothing. Although we did not win the giveaway, we were ecstatic when we received an email from the Kolisi Foundation that Siya Kolisi still want to award our team with a small gift as they believed in our mission as much as we do. We are extremely grateful and salute Kolisi and his team for acknowledging our players.





# Sakha IKAMVA

## SAKHA IKAMVA AND COMPUTERS

This year has once again hosted a number of great opportunities for our participants to gain new skills in many areas, one of which is computer literacy. As part of the programme, our Sakha Ikamva participants complete 5 different modules of the ICDL (International Computer Driving Licence) programme. With extremely limited access to computers in our community, our lab gives community members access to computer training which would otherwise not be possible.

## SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:

One of the newest and most exciting additions to our Sakha Ikamva programme for 2021 has been the Small Business Development component designed to not only develop entrepreneurial skills among our participants but also teach financial literacy, develop problem-solving skills, and foster innovation and leadership.

Given the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural areas such as ours, which has only been amplified as a result of the pandemic, entrepreneurship education is becoming an increasingly valuable skill to prepare our youth for uncertain futures, therefore instead of raising up good employees, we aim to raise up employers! The Sakha Ikamva participants operate their small businesses during the

The ICDL modules aim to teach people about the basics of computers, the internet and programmes such as Microsoft Word and Excel. These programmes cover enough material to enable them to use computers in a professional work environment as well as for when they go study next year, significantly broadening the options and opportunities available to them once they graduate from the Sakha Ikamva programme!

afternoons nearly every day of the week, and between the participants fill a number of gaps in the community.

Some of the business initiatives undertaken by the participants include starting vegetable gardens and selling their produce, making their own bricks and selling it to community members, operating a hair salon from home, and a group of the participants even started taking on construction projects and helping to build and renovate houses over weekends. Despite steep learning curves and challenges hiding behind just about every corner, we are confident that our Sakha Ikamva participants of 2021 are more ready than ever for what the future holds.





# Chess PROGRAMME

Our Chess team can barely believe that it has been nearly a year of our Chess Programme running full-steam after the Covid first wave. Our In-School Chess Programme is at 3 schools, with 3 After-School Chess Clubs, a Community Chess Club, and last but not least our Junior Chess Club, the Cool Cats! In order to scale our programme, in the background, we have been hard at work writing, editing and designing our chess workbook, called "Moving with Purpose". Getting closer and closer to publication, our steady progress with our workbook have been one of our biggest victories in 2021 and is hopefully taking us increasingly closer to being able to maximize our impact and help other communities all around South Africa

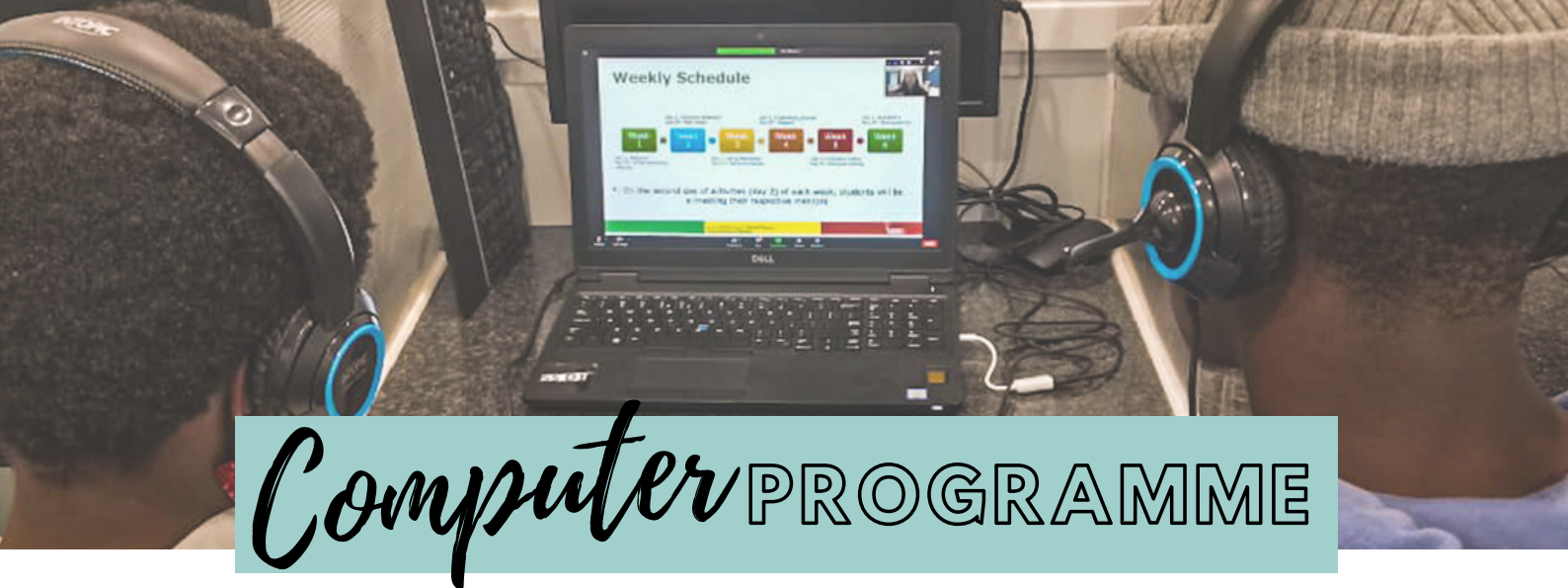
One of the annual highlights on our chess programme's calendar is handing out chess

boards at the schools upon the completion of our chess curriculum. And few sights will ever be as rewarding as these groups of beautiful children smiling from ear to ear, and now able to take our chess programme home, teaching others in the community what they have learned, moving with purpose!

Another highlight was without a doubt our Cool Cats Beach Day! Despite living only a short hike away from a beautiful beach, most of the children in our community rarely have the opportunity to visit the beach or see new places. Afikile, our chess assistant and Cool Cats leader, is passionate about our youth and took the initiative to arrange the first-ever Cool Cats field trip, a day of fun at the beach with a game of chess! We salute Afikile for taking the leadership to impact our youth.







# Computer PROGRAMME

There are certain tests that one would choose not to pass. A very current example of this would be a Covid test. Since the last newsletter, the team at Sihamba Sonke's Computer Lab has made sure that students pass their computer literacy exams but fail their Covid tests!

Our reliance on Solar Power has supported Zithulele's vaccination station during power outages, and our newly built classroom has provided them with storage space for their valuable equipment. International Computer Driving License (or ICDL – the material Sihamba Sonke uses to teach computer literacy) module pass rates have increased by 20% from the first half of 2021 until date. This improvement has allowed the Tech team to already achieve their target initially set out for December. Well done team!

The past term has also seen Sihamba Sonke step into a partnership with iNerde Inc., an American organisation focused on inspiring and empowering African youth. A pilot programme is currently underway which exposes primary school children to fun, practical lessons on elements of science, technology, engineering, arts, and maths.

If the pilot goes according to plan and the students stay committed for the duration of the 6-week programme, Sihamba Sonke and iNerde will continue presenting these fun activities to local kids for years to come. As always, much of the above would not have been possible were it not for the unrelenting support and guidance of Dell and Computeraid International. We are humbled to work with these organisations, and thankful for the opportunities they have brought to our community.





# Internship PROGRAMME

This year we have started with a new internship programme at Sihamba Sonke. The programme aims to enable and equip participants who have completed Sakha Ikamva to get some experience working in a professional environment, help drive the vision and be part of various programmes in the organisation.

The internship also aims to help with self-development in order that those who join will understand the value of being a lifelong learner. The self-development is done with the whole-person approach focusing on Body, Mind, Heart and Spirit. Interns have many opportunities to choose where they want to focus their development, on a programme or personal level.

They also help out in all the programmes in order to get a feel for what every programme is about and how Sihamba Sonke's vision form part of the programmes. They are encouraged to take part in all the staff sessions, setting personal and programme goals as well as helping to drive the vision. When the internship is finished, some will have the opportunity to become part of the permanent staff at Sihamba Sonke. On the other hand, they will have gained some valuable experience in being part of an organisation growing comfortable with the daily office culture, which will most definitely help them in their future endeavours and give them new opportunities.

Our very first interns for this year are Sakha Ikamva alumni from 2020, Sipho and Kamva. They are mainly part of the touch programme as assistant coaches to Siphелеle. Kamva has been part of the team for a few seasons now. They also assist the chess team at schools, as well as with ICDL classes. Both Sipho and Kamva have completed and passed all their Base modules for ICDL, which makes them excellent assistants for this programme. They are currently continuing their training for ICDL. In the agriculture programme they are assisting Sine with two big gardens. One of the gardens they helped start from the beginning – an opportunity to experience the whole process!





# Agriculture PROGRAMME

Over the past year, our agriculture team has gained some major momentum. This term they have completed two gardens of which the second one is ready for spring to plant with full mulching. They maintain input to the ground with their own compost heap and have started to sell their first spinach harvest.

They have planted spinach, lettuce, cabbage, beetroot and carrot, and are trusting that by end of November to start with their first big harvest. They have legumes that they are planning to plant in both gardens and with that, we are grateful for the seasonal rains finally filling our water tanks.

With all the natural resources ready they will focus on more compost heaps to give back to the ground after each harvest. We are all excited for the agriculture team to "pick the fruits of their labour"!

A big thank you to Sipho and Kamva, our 2021 interns who are assisting Sine, for their hard work. Agriculture always has its challenges, for example keeping community goats and pigs out of your garden. The team will persevere and are looking forward with excitement to their first big harvest.





# From the OFFICE...



This term, we greeted one of our long-term colleagues and friend, Philip. Philip has been a part of Sihamba Sonke since it opened its doors in 2018. We thank him for his serving heart and commitment to our team as he played an important role in the shaping and management of the organisation. We are excited to see where God leads Philip on his new journey.

This was the term for academic achievements and we would like to congratulate the following Sihamba Sonke members for their achievements. What a solid example of resilience and hard work!



- Nkosikhona passed the Train the Trainer course from ICDL with a mark of 79% which qualifies him as an ICDL trainer. The student becomes the master!
- Congratulations to Nicole who recently attended her online graduation for qualifying her Honors in Marketing Management, and Julian who received his Master's degree in Economics.
- Sinethemba and Afikile both attended and completed a protective behaviour course. It is an organisation that helps train people who work with children to give them (the kids) the tools they need to stay safe. Most of the NGOs work with children in some way or another and it would be amazing if the same messages were going out into the community in terms of staying safe, saying 'no', and strategies for getting help.
- Siya, Nkosikhona, Kamva, Sipho, Afikile and Sine all passed their ICDL modules this term and are coming closer and closer to becoming fluent in computer literacy.





# Want to DONATE?

**WANT TO CONTRIBUTE BUT NOT SURE WHAT FOR? SEE BELOW A FEW OF OUR BIGGEST FUNDING NEEDS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2021.**

- We are still busy raising funds for our Sakha Ikamva Fieldtrip where they will be visiting various NGO's and businesses in KZN, as well as go on a 3-day hike in the Drakensberg in November. The purpose of the trip is to expose these young men to different cultures, work environments, and activities such as visiting the uShaka Marine. This trip is an annual event which is always a highlight of the year. If you feel excited about this event and want to help us reach our target, please see the banking details below. Please reference "Fieldtrip" should you want us to allocate a donation specifically towards this program. The current cost of the trip is almost R30000! Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.
- An excellent funding opportunity that will cost you nothing is the MySchool MyVillage initiative. **Just swipe your MySchool card or link your Woolies Card to Sihamba Sonke and THEY will contribute to our project.** Just go online on your MySchool or Woolies profile to activate up to three beneficiaries. If you want to apply for a MySchool Card, all you have to do is to follow this link, [bit.ly/myschoolform](https://bit.ly/myschoolform) and e-mail the completed signed copy to [nicole@sihambasonke.org](mailto:nicole@sihambasonke.org)
- It's in the little amounts too! We particularly want to thank our partners that consistently gave us a small donation each month. Your R200 a month seems little, but ten people cover a salary of a local mentor. These are the funds that helped us over the line and are never unaccounted for!



**18A TAX  
CERTIFICATES**

WE ARE 18A  
REGISTERED, SO YOU  
WILL GET A TAX  
DEDUCTION FOR  
YOUR  
DONATION.



Acc name: Sihamba Sonke  
Bank: First National Bank  
Account Type: Cheque  
SWIFT Code: FIRZAJJ

Account No: 62759245676  
Branch Name: Umtata Mall  
Branch Code: 210643  
Reference: Donation – Name

*Banking  
DETAILS*