

**'Today is the opportunity to build the tomorrow you want.'**

**Ken Poirot**

The 16th of June is fast approaching and there is a lot to be said about the state of youth in South Africa, particularly youth unemployment. Ukuwela has been in the game long enough to know there are no quick fixes for complex problems. It is so easy to become overwhelmed, even paralyzed by the enormity of the problem. Yet Ukuwela believes in making a difference where we are, with what we have, and most importantly, we believe that we can and should build towards a different tomorrow for our youth with disabilities. We are solidly in the business of growing and supporting the vocational needs of the learners at Carpe Diem School. This term we invested in our senior learners on the autistic spectrum. Confession: we might have a new favourite! We were wowed by these learners' willingness and eagerness to do their best. World, watch this space!



## **GO BANANAS! OUR LEARNERS BUILDING WORK SKILLS AT KRAAIBOSCH EXPRESS SPAR AND HEATHERPARK SUPERSPAR**

Our senior learners in the Vocational Phase participated in work exposure gaining valuable skills in the retail industry at Heatherpark SuperSpar and Kraaibosch Express Spar. Thanks to Ukuwela facilitator, Asisipho, for making this possible. Every learner who participated was awarded a certificate because we believe bravery and hard work should be recognised.



We're so almost there! Ukuwela and NQtac are on the brink of making history! The very first NQF accredited course has been presented to five of our 2024 school leavers. These learners, together with NQtac superhero Johannes Smith, are wrapping up the 'Room Attendant' course benchmarked at NQF level 2. Listen out for our cries of victory!

**ABOVE: ROOM ATTENDANT TRAINING WITH THE AWESOME JOHANNES SMITH FROM NQTAC HOSPITALITY TRAINING**

Ukuwela remains committed to meeting learners where they are at and building useful and employable skills into their lives because their tomorrows matter.

Elroy Blaauw stepped into his tomorrow on the 6th of May 2024 when he started an exciting paid work experience opportunity at the Garden Route Botanical Gardens. Ukuwela is funding the opportunity and we are super grateful to Christiaan and his amazing team for giving us the 'green' light! Thanks also to Desireé van der Vyver, newest Ukuwela Facilitator recruit, for supporting Elroy on his journey.



**ELROY BLAAUW IS GOING GREEN AT THE GARDEN ROUTE BOTANICAL GARDENS!**



**JUSTIN BARNARD IS ALL SMILES AT HARTENBOS PICK AND PAY!**

Another big stride forward was for Ukuwela candidate, Justin Barnard, who started employment at the Hartenbos Pick and Pay under the watchful eye of employers Mariaan, Gert and Heinrich on the 23rd of May 2024. Thank you to the team at Pick and Pay for being so supportive and to mom, Charlene, who is behind Justin every step of the way. Justin, you've got this!



While these Ukuwela candidates are only starting their journeys, Alexander Africa has been on the journey at Pathcare for a whole year. Congratulations on your well deserved 'Vasbyt' award, Alex! We're marking the 17th of April 2024 in our diaries as proof of what can be achieved with willingness, dedication and an employer who roots for persons with disabilities. We're also super excited to announce that Alex is now a permanent employee of Pathcare George!

**ALEXANDER AFRICA (ABOVE LEFT) HAS REASON TO BE HAPPY! HERE HE IS WITH  
MANAGER, SUNETTE FOURIE**

Ukuwela jumps at every opportunity to network and this term has been no different. We have assisted five Ukuwela candidates to register for paid work experience opportunities in the hospitality sector made possible by the Garden Route District Municipality. Thank you to our favourite Doc, Florus, for making the circle bigger and including us! Thanks also to Khanyisa Madolo for providing practical assistance along the way. Watch this space!

If you've not connected with JobAble, we dare you to do so! It was lovely to chat with recently appointed Su Huggett sharing our experiences, struggles and victories. Check out their website: <https://www.jobabled.org>

Ukuwela attended the George Business Chamber Morning Marketing event held at the King George Protea Hotel by Marriott on the 4th of June 2024. Bragging rights were awarded to the hotel for employing three Ukuwela candidates (we might have mentioned this in previous newsletters and we might mention it again in future!). Bradley, Bewin and Libhongo aka Charles have been employed for six, five and one year and a half years respectively! Guys, you are testimony to the tomorrows we work for!

May the fires of positivity burn bright this winter!

Greetings from a chilly George,

*The Ukuwela Team* 