



BIRMINGHAM-JOBURG LEARNING INITIATIVE

South Africa

Nkanyezi Stimulation Centre and Shomang Primary School for Children with Learning Difficulties



Thembekile Prisca Tshabalala, Co-Founder
Nkanyezi, Stimulation Centre



Tshepo Ramatumbu (seated)
RAFFA Youth & Arts Mentor

Nkanyesi Centre & Primary School, (est. September 1998) by Mothers of children with multiple disabilities; as there was no provision for disabled children to ensure education, stimulation, care and safety. The driving force behind the centre is Thembekile Prisca Tshabalala, mother of the late Nkanyezi Tshabalala who died from cerebral palsy.

The centre caters for all children with multiple disabilities, irrespective of their race, colour and religion from the age of 1 year old, depending on the disability level. The programme consists of various activities ranging from stimulation to self help, as most children are severely and profoundly disabled they often need to be stimulated with activities such as Gross Motors, Fine Motors, Self Help skills including feeding, personal hygiene training and activities of daily living (ADL). The Centre also hosts Family Support Groups and Outreach Programmes to promote awareness and understanding amongst local communities.

RAFFA, took the initiative to revitalise the Birmingham-Joburg City Partnership with in-kind support from Birmingham City Council, by providing the opportunity for Mayfield School, Heathfield Rd, Birmingham, to establish links with Nkanyesi, activities focussed on Teacher-to-Teacher, cultural understanding, and knowledge sharing about children's arts and learning activities.

Tshepo Ramatumbu, Youth & Arts Mentor, is responsible for local project management, supported by the RAFFA Local Panel, Chaired by Mr Eric Usiba, former Headteacher, Belle Higher Primary School, Soweto.

RAFFA, also agreed to support the development of a Life-Skills Programme at 911 Refuge and provide "Creativity for Development" scholarships for Girls and Boys at Thubelinhle Junior Secondary High School (est 1949). "Creativity for Development" programme a collaboration between Rudi Page and Dr Sunday Popo-Ola, Research and Teaching Fellow, Imperial College London.