



Charitable Registration #86418 8420 RR0001  
www.thetownshipsproject.org  
c/o Martha Deacon  
69 Upper Prince Street  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 4S6 Canada

South Africa: The Townships Project Trust  
c/o Riana Pretorius  
Postnet Suite 119, Private Bag X32  
Highveld Park 0169

25 November 2020

**Building Better Businesses in South African Townships since 1998**  
**Now in partnership with Rotary**

Dear Friends:

***“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom.” Nelson Mandela***

Despite the pandemic and economic uncertainty, 2020 has been a very hopeful year for **The Townships Project**. We have been blessed with your continued faith in us as shown by your financial support, with great partners from various Rotary Clubs in Canada and South Africa and with the efforts of our own talented and conscientious board members. We have also been blessed with opportunities to engage in change-making projects for peace and reconciliation, for early childhood development training and for mentoring and supporting small business owners. These projects are in addition to the Building Better Business Symposium that you have heard about in past years.



**BEFORE COVID-19:**  
Participants at the 2nd Building Better Businesses Symposium held at UNISA (University of South Africa) September 26 and 27, 2019

❖ **COVID-19 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Building Better Businesses Symposium**

We had planned a 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium to be held in September 2020, which became impossible once COVID-19 hit. The South African organizing committee is now planning a 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium for March 2021, either virtually or in person, as pandemic circumstances permit. South Africa has the highest number of COVID-19 cases and deaths on the African continent. As elsewhere, it has restricted movement outside homes and required physical distancing. These moves have resulted in a dramatic decline in household incomes, hitting low-skilled less-educated workers the hardest. COVID-19 has pushed many households into positions of food insecurity due to the severe shock of lost income. A recent UN Development Program report predicts that GDP will take at least 5 years to recover.

❖ **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rotary in Africa in 2021: 100 Mediators Project**

Next April marks Rotary’s 100th Anniversary in Africa. Rotarians plan to celebrate this milestone by training 100 community mediators to participate in dispute resolution as a legacy for Rotary’s next 100 years in Africa. The Townships Project is proud to participate in this project that will support townships entrepreneurs and to encourage Canadian Rotary Clubs to participate as well. The mediators will be:

- independent from court-mandated mediators, which are often inaccessible to underprivileged groups
- community leaders of under-represented groups, such as youth, women, micro-business owners and peace activists
- accredited by Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI)
- trained by a Rotary Vocational Training Team (VTT) in collaboration with the Africa Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and Unisa’s Institute for Dispute Resolution in Africa (IDRA). UNISA stands for the University of South Africa.

❖ **Early Childhood Development (ECD) Training and Certification in Soweto**

We are providing funding to an ECD program, to be led by Rotary in Soweto in 2021, which will train and certify women who already run Townships daycares. This work is foundational to building healthy communities for the future. Watch this 4 ½ minute YouTube video to see a similar project that Rotary ran in Alexandra Township last year: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ev2Wxp0nvv0&feature=youtu.be>

❖ **Prize Winners from 2019, plus Ntombi Zulu, Inspired Entrepreneur**

Valencia Hollander and Fazel Hendricks own Valfaz Auto Repair, which received funding from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium to purchase a hoist for their car repair business. Maggy Akunda owns Homebased Bakery, which received funding from the Symposium for the purchase and installation of a propane stove and oven.



Riana Pretorius, Chair of the South African governance team, congratulates Valencia Hollander and Fazel Hendricks of Valfaz Auto Repair and Maggy Akunda of Homebased Bakery, seen with her mentor, Dorcas Mogano.

Both prize winning businesses from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium will attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium in March 2021 to report on their progress and to inspire their peers.



We met Ntombi Zulu in 2018 through one of our sponsored business owners. During the past year, our board member, McKinley Ambrose, mentored Ntombi as she learned the intricacies of Microsoft Excel. We also paid for her training and internship with Banareng Office Suppliers. Ntombi has now registered her own business and feels competent and confident to launch out on her own. As she writes in her thanks to Ambrose: “You have shaped me, grown my knowledge, and your consistent belief in me has stimulated me to follow and act on my dreams.”

We again thank you for your support, and hope it will continue. **You can donate securely by eTransfer/Interac through your bank or credit union to [donations@thetownshipsproject.org](mailto:donations@thetownshipsproject.org).** Please fill in the message portion with your name and address so that we know where to send your charitable tax receipt. You can also donate by mail, using the tear-off section attached to this letter. All donations will receive a charitable tax receipt.

Our best wishes for a safe, happy and fulfilling holiday season and New Year.

Sincerely,

F. Martha Deacon  
 Founder and CEO  
[marthadeacon@thetownshipsproject.org](mailto:marthadeacon@thetownshipsproject.org)



**YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE TOWNSHIPS PROJECT ([www.thetownshipsproject.org](http://www.thetownshipsproject.org))**

**\$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone (\_\_\_\_)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send to: The Townships Project, c/o Martha Deacon, 69 Upper Prince St, Charlottetown, PE C1A 4S6 Charitable Registration #86418 8420 RR0001**

