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Afrika Tikkun and TriAlpha Tackle High Youth Unemployment

International NGO, Afrika Tikkun in partnership with the City of Cape Town continues to impact the lives of local children, youth and their families in the Mfuleni Township at its newly developed Centre of Excellence. Here local children, youth and families gain the much needed access to education, health and social services.

Catherine Taylor, Marketing Manager at Afrika Tikkun Cape Town says that the NGO actively seeks partnerships with other NGOs and Governmental departments to optimise its collective impact for the benefit of the communities in which it operates.

“Our aim is to empower communities to develop new generations of productive citizens through implementing a holistic development model. The model starts with the support and care for infants in a vulnerable home situation and ends with contributing members of society. We have formed alliances with various organisations as well as the government to provide five core inter-related services that nurture, educate and support children and youth who face various socio-economic challenges. These special partnerships enable us to extend the services we offer,” she explains.

The five programmes offered by Afrika Tikkun at its six Centres of Excellence situated in various townships around the country include family support services, primary health care, early childhood development, child and youth development and nutrition & food security.

Russell Shanglee, Director of Business Development at TriAlpha says supporting the Children and Youth Development Programme (CYDP) is one which particularly resonated with TriAlpha’s CSI objectives. “Youth unemployment is dire in poorer societies like South Africa, and the reality is that thousands of young people leave school annually with no skills that can make them employable. The scale of the challenge demands increased partnership between government, the private sector and non-governmental organisations so that these youth can gain skills that

will improve their socio-economic circumstances as individuals and community members,” he comments.

Shanglee believes investing in programmes targeted at up-skilling the country’s youth is crucial to the development of the economy. “As an investment firm we understand the importance that mathematics in particular plays as a critical life skill. With South Africa bidding to host the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) next year it is another investment opportunity we felt we wanted to be a part of when the organisers approached us to assist with funding. It is these youth that will be the future leaders in fields such as engineering, science and finance,” he says.

The CYPD is an integrated capacity building intervention that targets young people of between 13 and 25 years and give them opportunities to develop themselves through practical hands-on training on modern topics. They are empowered to take part in sports, the arts and also receive school work support and after school care.

Taylor concludes “The intention is to provide them with positive activities, a nurturing environment and exposure to positive role models. The success of the CYPD strategy in turning around the prospects of poor youth proves that it is an appropriate strategy for challenges facing poor and unemployed people. Poor living conditions, the reality of the HIV/AIDS pandemic approximately 2 million children orphaned, and ever advancing technological developments mean that it is only through partnerships with government and private organisations such as TriAlpha that we can have a meaningful and sustainable impact on our youth.”

Ends

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