

Hey Team ROI,

I wish I counted how many times in the past month I wished we had an upcoming ROI group visit us in May or June of this year... So much has happened on either side of the Atlantic over the past months, that I am sure we would keep each other entertained for some time. The word that best describes the past season at GLA is “maturity”. I am sure in your own spheres you can testify to this. As a Non Profit, we have embraced this season of disruption and challenges, and I believe, that through the goodness of God and the hard work of many hands, we are able to give testimony of many great stories. Some of these stories I wish to share and highlight below.

Tertiary Education Scholarship Success Story

Our first three students who received the Tertiary Education Scholarships graduated during 2020. **You might remember that ROI gave the seed money for this initiative – Thanks Again!!**

I am happy to announce that all three ladies are professionally employed. Nancy (*BA Communication*) is employed at a regional radio station, Tsungi is practicing as a Civil Engineer and Daphne is an accountant at an international accounting firm in Humansdorp. All three ladies are now contributing back into the fund to enable more learners to follow in their footsteps.



Top Achiever Global Leadership Academy - Mihlali Willem

From an impoverished background, Mihlali joined us in 2016 as a Grade 8 learner who showed tremendous potential in her primary school years.

Throughout her schooling years, Ms van Schalkwyk, her Afrikaans teacher mentored and supported her through the ups and downs of high school. Mihlali soon grew into an academic achiever, and constantly performed in the Top 10 of her grade.



During the past National Senior Certificate examination, Mihlali achieved 7 distinctions and averaged 86%, the best academic achievement in the grade. Mihlali received a full scholarship through the University of Cape Town to study a degree in community development.

Oakridge Academy

At Oakridge, one thing remained constant, and perhaps even increased during this period. The smiles, laughter and joy of kids. With only having 106 learners from Grade R-7, Oakridge was able to have all their kids back at school long before most other schools.

The Grade 3, 4, 5 and 7 classes are currently still sharing space with the GLA hostel kids, rooms are being used as classrooms in the mornings, and flipped into living rooms during the afternoons and evenings. (-:



Teacher Intern Program

With the growing demand of teachers within our three schools, and with a mandate to train and mentor future leaders, we established a Teacher Intern Program in January 2020. Currently we have thirteen full time students, five second year and eight first year students. They are a very diverse but very connected group of young people between the ages 18 - 34.



All students took an immense step of faith, some even resigning from other jobs to pursue their dreams of becoming a teacher.

As part of their internship, they will complete a four year Bachelors of Education degree, while also tutoring and serving at our and surrounding schools and centers such as Ithemba.

ABC Adventures

On a smaller scale, Evelyn launched another education initiative called ABC Adventures. In partnership with the intern program, **ABC adventures reaches out to informal pre-schools and daycare centers in the Tokyo Sexwale and Ocean View township to train, educate and assist those acting as day caregivers and teachers.**

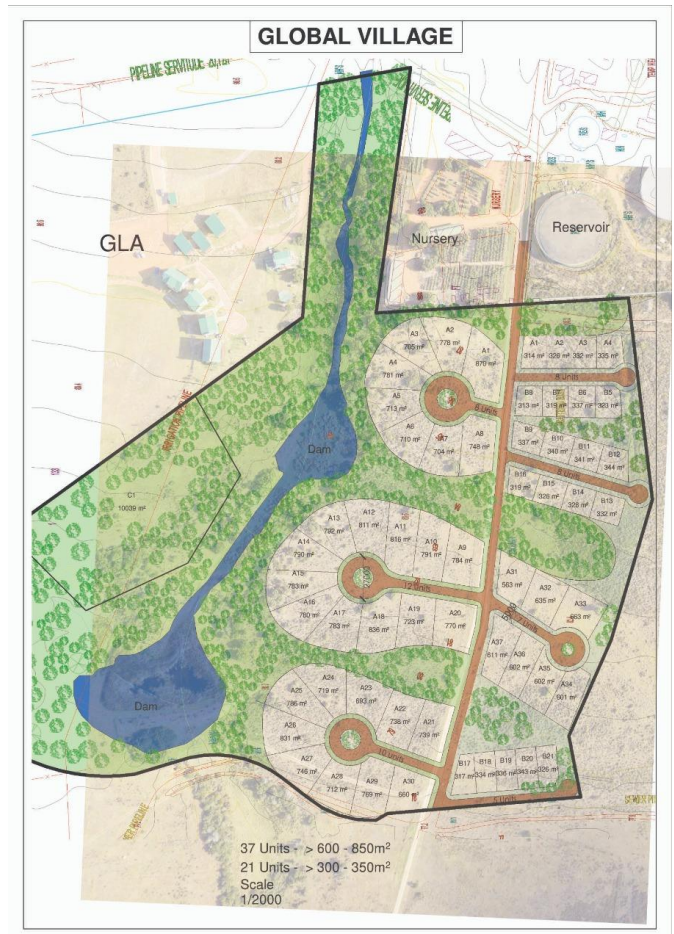


Global Village

A few months ago, the unexpected opportunity arose for us to buy an additional 11.5 hectares of land adjacent to GLA at a bargain price. From the image on the right you can see that the property is to the sea side of the current GLA school development and actually the original Phase 3 of a planned wild life estate.

The owner of the land is the same owner who donated the original 7.5 hectares of land and he again favorably allowed us (all stipulated in a contract) to buy the piece of land over a period of 12 months. **We were then able to create a master plan for a community village, of which the main purpose is to provide a model of simplistic - community living. A percentage of all sales go towards establishing "housing through ownership" for previously disadvantaged members within Global Challenge.**

I am happy to say that almost all demarcated pieces of land have been sold. We have recently submitted to the local authorities the necessary proposals, and should all go according to plan, the new home owners should be able to start with construction of homes by early 2022.



SHFT – Your Learning

One last venture to report on is the establishment of a “Remote Learning” initiative called SHFT.

SHFT is tailor-made for independent, motivated and determined learners who desire the freedom to work at their own pace and achieve academic outcomes while utilising the freedom gained for personal development.

It is important to note, that SHFT is seen to us as a **fund generation initiative**, as we are able to optimally use our human resources without the need to build more infrastructure.



With only a couple of Grade eight learners enrolled for 2021, we are already breaking even with regard to income and expenses for SHFT. We believe with the addition of more learners in 2022 and the adding of more grades this will become a significant fund generator for our other initiatives.

ROI Video Calls



We just had the first ROI Video Call for the year, which was organized by Miranda and Nancy. The call was with Dylan Brady who had a tremendous impact on our learners. From the photo you can see it was a packed classroom and the feedback from the learners were tremendous. **These call continue to be an inspiration and blessing to many kids. PS: The teachers have also now started showing parts of the recordings to other classes and using them in lessons to better integrate academic content with real life experiences.** This is brilliant, thanks!!

Glancing back over the above mentioned items I just realize that in most of them your advice, strategic planning, insights and partnership have been key contributors to its successes. For our relationship we are truly grateful. Thank you.

Well Team ROI, this is all for now. All the best with your **March Gladness** campaign. I signed up but gave up the moment I realized I know nothing about Basketball...

Blessings to you and your families.

Stefan, Danie, Paul and the Jeffreys Bay Team