



CASE STUDY: SAMKELE AND LATHITHA

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

MEET SAMKELE MAPASA!

Samkele is a multi-award winner of Just Grace's Youth Development Programme awards. Each he holds the top attendee award for his grade and possesses other awards including the top achiever award as well as the star of the year.

Currently doing his grade 11 at Isilimela Comprehensive school, Samkele joined the programme in 2020 as a grade 9 learner from ZIMASA School in Langa. He heard about the Just Grace Qhubeka Programme from friends who had been part of the programme already. These friends emphasized on the care that the tutors showed all learners as they supported learners academically in sessions. Sam's friends also claimed that there were coding sessions and driving lessons offered at Just Grace and this blew his mind. With academic struggles and just a big drive to achieve the best, Sam joined the programme. The extras were going to ice his cake. He was elated to be admitted into the programme after the interview with the Programme Manager. Ever since, Sam has made the most of his time at Just Grace even though he was annoyed that the rumours about the driving lessons were just that.



The highlight of Samkele's time at Just Grace has always been the outings and events. As a top attendee, each year Sam has a guaranteed spot on the outings list. He has been to City Rock for mountain climbing, Hint Hunt for the amazing race challenges, Clay café for pottery, Simonsberg Christian Centre for grade 10 camp and Silwood school of cookery to name but a few. All these outings have given him a bigger drive to want to achieve more and do better in his studies so that there will be no limit to the places he can afford to go and take his big family out. They give him exposure and a good experience of life outside of Langa and a fresh perspective of the world around him.

Coding and computer training sessions are some of the Just Grace offers that spark Samkele's interest. Being an adventurous and creative teen, Coding and computer training gives Samkele a fresh boost to the endless possibilities that await him in the future of this digital age.



Samkele and friends during an obstacle challenge at Simonsberg Christian Camp site

MEET LATHITA!

Lathitha is an ambitious, energetic and outspoken 15-year-old from Langa High School. She is currently in grade 10 and joined Just Grace in February of 2021 when she was doing her grade 9. Lathitha is one of our shining stars who has won a top achiever award as well as star of the year for 2021.

Q: What sparked your interest in JG?

A: "Since grade 8, I have always wanted to join Just Grace to get help me with subjects like math that I was struggling with, but one could only join in grade 9. Once I was in grade 9, I was the first person to come and get an application form."

Q: What activities that Just Grace offers that you were interested in the most?

A: "The main one is extra classes [academic support] since I was struggling with math at the time. I used to get very low marks, (30% in one of my Maths tests) so it became obvious that I needed help soonest. The extra classes here really helped me. I am also a book worm, I love books, which made it easy to find the book club a magnet."

Q: What are some of the other things you enjoy at Just Grace?

A: "Besides the value I find in book club and extra classes, I enjoy the life skills sessions and Bible study. Here at school, I used to get emotionally abused by this boy in my class. He would say mean stuff to me, and I would retaliate by saying mean stuff back to him. The life skills sessions and Bible study helped me rethink my responses, to be assertive without being aggressive, and to be a better person. Now I no longer worry about the mean things he says because my 'No!' is firm enough. He has since given up the act (Chuckles). I also like that I can borrow books. I love improving my language skills so that I can speak better English and better my chances of getting a great job"





Lathitha loves the freedom that reading brings. "It's like a door that exposes endless possibilities to be explored, a light illuminating the dark spaces of our minds".