



## **NEWSLETTER – October 2017**

Welcome to the first JOSH newsletter for a long time! In this now monthly communication we will keep you informed of where we are and all our successes. So much has happened this year to date it is hard knowing where to begin. As the founder and CEO of JOSH, I can honestly state that it has been a very difficult road with intermittent successes, however JOSH is now on its own right road. Starting a social enterprise is not for the feint-hearted!!

### **REDRAFTING THE BOARD LEADERSHIP AND THE MANAGEMENT TEAM FORMS**

At the start of 2017, amid severe personal challenges, I honestly considered closing JOSH. I had deep conversations with Rev Makubalo, one of our Board members who has been part of the JOSH journey since before its conception. He and I agreed to see where 2017 led JOSH.

#### **Board of Directors**

The year began with a shuffle of the Board of Directors. Mr Carel Nolte, our founding Board Chair, indicated that owing to pressures of work he wished to step aside. Rev Sikawu Makubalo was elected as the new Chair.

The CEO of the Randburg Chamber, Mrs Linda Blackbeard, also resigned but approached the Deputy President of the Chamber, Mr Willie van der Schyf, to replace her. This strengthened JOSH's links to the Chamber as it has adopted JOSH as one of its social support members.

Mrs Retha Zeelie, our governance specialist, also resigned for work reasons but her company still assists JOSH with all efforts to become fully compliant.

I need to record my deep level of gratitude to the group of amazing people who started this JOSH journey with me, appreciated the long vision and kept me supported during the many months and years when getting going seemed often insurmountable.

The JOSH Board now comprises Rev Makubalo (Chair), Mr Dinesh Munu (audit and risk), Mrs Reshma Singh (legal), Mrs Nkele Mathope, Mr Bafana Sithole, Mr Willie van der Schyf (Randburg Chamber) and myself.

## Management Team and new developments

Having had to part ways with one of our main volunteers in February, I had no clear idea how to proceed. Suffice to say that various angels have appeared at different points this year and now this Charlie's Angels group of 4 women are set to take JOSH to new heights.



**Mrs Gilda Zandamela** arrived in March. She is a qualified Social Worker and speaks various languages. She has now taken charge of the counselling of the clients and helps manage the office. Her presence enabled JOSH to tender and undertake a short 3-month contract with the City of Johannesburg. The contract period was from April to June 2017. JOSH sought to reunite clients with their families which was a huge challenge. Some clients were placed into existing shelters. Suffice to state that much was learned from the contract with the urgency to establish JOSH shelters and services being more pressing than ever. Having Mrs Zandamela on board has meant I could at long last start to deal with strategic issues.



**Mrs Areeka Chotoo** phoned up the office in early August and offered her services. With her banking experience, especially business banking and financial management, Mrs Chotoo is now our Financial Manager. We are now on the road to becoming fully compliant, having all our financials in place and up to date, business plans in order, budgets and forecasting both realistic and investor-friendly. I cannot begin to state how grateful I am for Mrs Chotoo joining our team. She joined me in attending a funding conference in September and has signed herself up for workshops and courses in social innovation and cloud-based accounting systems. JOSH should soon be ready for funding!! Watch this space!



**Mrs Diana Musara**, a human resources and skills development specialist has joined the team first as a consultant. She joined our small team in late August and has already secured some funding and business opportunities for our clients and JOSH itself. She is also assisting with all our human resources and procurement policies as well as our job contracts and job descriptions. This process is an evolving space as we at JOSH become far more structured and properly funded and financed. Mrs Musara has also opened new networks for JOSH and links to further funding and investment.

Volunteer help has also continued with **Mr Liam Meyer** and his friends among others helping over a period to get the computer issues sorted out and the soup kitchen directory compiled. This is a huge development! Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

## NEW LOGO, WEBSITE, BRAND COLLATERAL, SIGNAGE AND DONATIONS

The goodness of people knows no bounds. All I can say is that JOSH has been blessed this year.

**The Cross Culture Church in Northwold, Randburg**, also known as the C-Cubed church, is based at the Gereformede Kerk in Randburg. Their Pastor, Thomas Dreyer, approached JOSH to assist with a few homeless guys that had begun to attend their church. They also wanted to help JOSH in other ways and made a significant and highly generous donation. JOSH got an updated logo, flyers, business cards, a promotional video, 2 pop-up banners and a new website. This process has been a game-changer and will certainly be even more so when the new website under our own domain name goes live by month end. I am indeed sincerely grateful to Pastor Dreyer and his church especially Mr Corne Engelbrecht, who has done all the hard graft. The homeless were featured in the video as well as one of the homeless guys is the star of the pop-up banners. Check out our new website on [www.joburghomeless.org](http://www.joburghomeless.org)



**Mrs Pauline Cox of 6<sup>th</sup> Dimension** has done beautiful signage which is now affixed to the walls of the church. This means visitors to JOSH are now clearly directed from within the church grounds to our office.



**Donations** have started to arrive from near and far. Hot 91.9 radio station arrived with boxes and boxes of all sorts of goodies called winter boxes. We distributed what we could to the homeless.

We have also initiated the use of a YOCO card reading machine and this enables us to receive donations via card.

The JOSH team also now have golf shirts in grey with the new JOSH logo on them. We now look like a proper outfit in more ways than one!!

Further donations arrived from the Fulcrum Group, individuals and groups. St Stithians Boys College guys brought shoes and helped with painting. Many, many thanks to all!!!

All these donations are sincerely appreciated. Sadly, we could not accept one or two donations as we are not yet in possession of our PBO (Public Benefit Organisation) Section 18A status for tax-exemption.



Hopefully this will soon be a thing of the past.



## **WORLD HOMELESS DAY AND OTHER CONNECTIONS**

JOSH has started working with the street newspaper, Homeless Talk, with JOSH's homeless community joining as new vendors in the north. This is part of a planned process of JOSH working more closely with Homeless Talk providing regular articles and further initiatives to raise the profile of both organisations.

To kick start this process it was resolved to launch a World Homeless Day event, with literally 3 weeks to try to pull it off. World Homeless Day is marked annually on 10 October and this year it fell on a Tuesday. A mini conference called Conversations for Constructive Change was held at the Randburg Methodist Church. We succeeded in connecting with leaders in the homeless support space in Cape Town, Durban and Tshwane, whereby they shared their initiatives and success stories this was done via Skype. The leaders who addressed our audience were Rev Dr Stephan de Beer (Tshwane), Mr Raymond Perrier of the Denis Hurley Centre, Durban and Mr Hassan Khan of the Haven Night Shelter Organisation and the Cape Town Street People's Forum. Mr Wandile Zwane, Executive Head of Social Development, City of Johannesburg, also gave the attendees the local municipality's perspective. Other speakers included myself on learnings from other cities worldwide, Professor Sarah Charlton from Wits University, Homeless Talk's Ms Nomonde Hamilton, and also Mr Mark Kotze of Generosity Water, a newly emerging revenue stream for JOSH. One of JOSH homeless community members and Homeless Talk vendors, Lungelo, was one of the joint MC's

The delegates comprised a mix of Ward Councillors, other church representatives, interested community members and the homeless themselves. At lunch time delegates were served soup by the homeless. After this soup kitchen with a difference the homeless and those who live in homes sat together at tables and discussed their real needs of the homeless and possible solutions.

The day was a success and certainly raised the profile of JOSH. I had started the day early with a studio radio interview with Radio Sonder Grense which also served to raise the profile of JOSH.

The JOSH team also attended an Urban Lab on 29 August 2017. This initiative was hosted by Wits University to start linking all groupings in the homeless space in Johannesburg. We will also be participating in the Exploratory National Conversation on Street Homelessness in Tshwane on 20 -21 November, 2017. JOSH is certainly firmly on the local and national radar and seen as a significant stakeholder in this sector.

## **CONCLUDING COMMENTS**

Yes, lots is happening at the office and beyond. We are always needing donations of soap, toiletries and other items. We also need old tyres and black plastic crates as we are moving the plants to enable us to expand our vegetable garden. In addition, we are looking for benches and tables, bins for recycling and garden tools.

We still live in hope to creating the shelter and the skills development centre in the Randburg area in 2018. It is also the plan to roll out the voucher scheme soonest.

The year-end period will be spent getting organized for 2018, securing funding, and applying for sites for the skills development centre and hopefully the overnight shelter as well.

Furthermore, the JOSH Team will endeavor to visit the available resources in Pretoria/Tshwane. We also went to the movie, Vaya. This award-winning movie directed by Akin Amatoso was written by the homeless themselves through The Homeless Writers Project. We urge you all to see this hard-hitting reflection of the tales of 4 ordinary South Africans who like men of old have trekked from the rural villages in search of a job. Jo'burg is still seen as the City of Gold!!!

We wish all joy and peace, and our newsletter will be a monthly feature.

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NPC: 2013/230489/08

NPO: 147-119

Banking details: FNB (Branch = Randburg) (Branch code = 254005) Account number: 62457065186

Account name: Johannesburg Organisation of Services to the Homeless (NPC)