



'Life is a series of a thousand tiny miracles.'

Mike Greenberg

Ukuwela is testimony to a thousand tiny miracles that have weaved their way through and over obstacles, connected to each other and opened windows of opportunities and doors of possibilities. Take a moment and share the view with us.

Riding the waves

So there we were, ready for the festive season and waves on the beach. Only to be hit by a second wave of COVID-19! In spite of the lack of ocean waves, Avuyile Nyakaza and Petronella Pietersen made the most of seasonal work offered to them by Garden Route Laundry. Matt and his team are stalwart Ukuwela supporters and make every effort to shape the employability of our candidates.

With the support of his family and the team at Safari, John Johannes has been solid in his dedication at Safari Braai Products not only over the festive season but also during the first quarter of this year. Way to go, John!



**JOHN HARD AT WORK AT SAFARI
BRAAI PRODUCTS**

While some worked over the festive season, Ricardo de Wee and Christeline Sapto enjoyed a break before returning to work. Ukuwela was there to capture Ricardo on his first day back at Kiewietsvlei and we left with his instruction to 'show the picture to everyone!' We're doing just that, Ricardo! It seems Christeline might be diversifying her skills at Africorp, building team spirit with her role as Easter bunny. With such a sweet photo, we can't help but 'show the picture to everyone!'.



EASTER BUNNY CHRISTELINE!



RICARDO AT KIEWIETSVLEI

New achievements

Taking their disability targets seriously, Woolworths recently interviewed two Ukuwela candidates. Congratulations to Luchiano Aweries and Jarryd Grootboom who are now both working at Woolworths, Plettenberg Bay and Knysna respectively! Both candidates are working in the Longlife Food Section under the guidance and positive support of their co-workers and supervisors. Luchiano was recently awarded Employee of the week following the excellent start he made at Woolworths, Plettenberg Bay! Wow!



**JARRYD AND SUPER CO-WORKER,
VALERY**



**LET'S PUT ELBOWS TOGETHER FOR
LUCHIANO RECEIVING HIS AWARD
FROM SUPERVISOR, MARDI!**

The best way to describe Lu-Wayne Bruinders is 'hungry'. Not the way 18 year old's can absorb food, but for WORK! Lu-Wayne's energy was matched by the busy, active and supportive team from Grow Green Organics where he started his first day of work on the 15th of March! It is wonderful to see how local businesses support local needs.



**LU-WAYNE READY FOR ACTION
AT GROW GREEN ORGANICS**



**WILLIAM MAJAVIE STANDING TALL
AT THE ACADEMY, FANCOURT**

Ukuwela is bursting with pride over the achievement of William Majavie! William jumped at the opportunity to participate in an internship program facilitated by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism which commenced in December 2020, hosted at Fancourt. Following the completion of the four month internship he was one of a few candidates selected to be offered a fixed term contract! William’s mom captured the thousand tiny miracles which connected to bring him to this place when she said: *‘I’m so proud of him ... William can write a book (about his life)... my tears are rolling’*.

Achievements kept rolling in with Lucille Olivier awarded ‘Employee of the week’ at Woolworths, George CBD during March. On the 26th of April, Lucille will celebrate her two year work anniversary! Well done Lucille! Other Ukuwela candidates who have reached the 2 year mark include Reginald Draai, Linwill Nel and Bewin Stander. Ukuwela had to wait for two COVID waves to pass before we could personally hand over their 'Vasbyt' Awards, but it was worth the wait!



**CONGRATULATIONS TO LUCILLE ON
HER EMPLOYEE-OF-THE-WEEK AWARD!**



**TWO YEARS AND COUNTING!
CONGRATULATIONS LINWILL!**

Ukuwela - the impact

While we were at it, we asked family members what it means for our candidates to have a job. Their responses speak to the economic empowerment and upliftment of, not only the individual, but the entire family.

'If you want to see what he did for me, he bought me the stove'

Minnie, Reginald's mom

'I am glad and I am grateful ... Because of his pay there is an income for the house.'

Bettie, Bewin's mom

Sonika, Lucille's sister not only spoke of Lucille's positive experience as a worker but also about how her family supports her work life:

'She works at Woolworths CBD ... and she is very happy. I am her sister. Together we have walked this road for the past two years where I see to it that she is ready for work every day, that she is neat and that she can do everything to her ability to be happy at work.'

With these positive and heartfelt remarks it seems fit to conclude our newsletter. The hard work and dedication of the Ukuwela candidates, the support from families and the willingness of businesses to include persons with disabilities, will always be our reason and our motivation.

In the meantime, there are some exciting developments in Ukuwela's pipeline, so watch this space! What if there are a thousand tiny miracles on the verge of connecting to each other...

Warm greetings,

The Ukuwela Team



**REGINALD AND PROUD MOM,
MINNIE**



**MOTHER AND SON:
BETTIE AND BEWIN**



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