

'It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.'

Albert Einstein

There is no way AI could generate a newsletter for Ukuwela. It could say that Ukuwela is seven years old this year, but it understands nothing of how we have changed, evolved, laughed, cried and everything else in between. It doesn't understand how to truly reflect on experiences, see them as lessons and learn as much as we can from it. Take a moment to journey with us through our year. A story told by us exclusively in the most human way possible.

It's that time of the year again. Yes, Christmas trees and so forth but also time to crunch some numbers! This year, we've crunched it! Ukuwela has supported and enabled 153 attendances at eight different workplaces where learners had the opportunity to put their work skills into practice. These workplaces include Game Car Wash, Geronimo Spur, Heatherpark SuperSpar, CareVita, Grocery Express, Wilderness Fruits, McDonald's Courtney Street, and Loerie Bakery.

Big thank you to Wilderness Fruits and Grocery Express where our senior learners showed their stuff during the past term. While our boys folded boxes, picked strawberries, and pruned branches, our girls had a sweet taste of real-life work where they counted, packed, and weighed sugar sachets.



**ALWAYS A SMILE FROM
JADE AT GROCERY EXPRESS**



**HARD AT WORK OUTSIDE AND INSIDE AT WILDERNESS
FRUIT. GOOD JOB, BERNITO (MIDDLE) AND ANDRE
(RIGHT)!**



We have upped our game on the skills training front and hosted four different skills training courses for our senior learners with 79 attendances recorded. These courses were facilitated by accredited training providers and included hair braiding and weaving, basic food hygiene, basic handyman skills, and basic computer skills.

Congratulations to the learners who completed the Basic Food Hygiene course on the 16th and 17th of October presented by awesome Chef Marco from NQtac! We truly believe that these skills, together with skills taught by our Carpe Diem Educators give our learners an excellent head start when they leave school.



AWESOME CHEF MARCO FROM NQTAC DOING WHAT HE DOES BEST!

PS: BOYS CAN COOK!!

Our learners who participated in computer training also completed their year-long course this term and received their certificates. Thank you to Teacher Karen Fourie who went above and beyond the call of duty to make it possible for these learners!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEARNERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN BASIC COMPUTER TRAINING!

Congratulations also to Brandon-Lee Platjies who received his Ukuwela Vasbyt Award on the 14th of November 2023! Brandon-Lee has been employed by DeDekke Spar for the past year where he assists in the fruit and veg department. Daniel Baleseng also received his Vasbyt Award on the 12th of December 2023 for his hard work and commitment at McDonald's Courtney Street the past year. Excellent work Daniel, keep it up!



SHOUTOUT TO BRANDON-LEE (LEFT), AND DANIEL (RIGHT) WITH THEIR VASBYT AWARDS!

It's been a year of firsts and fourths! For the first time, Ukuwela hosted placements for fourth-year Occupational Therapy (OT) students from the University of Cape Town. Thank you to our OT students, Caitlin, Thato, and Poppy for your input and investment in our Carpe Diem learners. The time you spent in classrooms facilitating work readiness skills together with your efforts supporting our learners during work exposure made such a difference. May these experiences stay with you on your journey!

The Ukuwela office has been buzzing with activity this term. We have made every effort to support our school leavers and connect them with employment resources in the community to support them in their new journey. We have also evaluated candidates to match and support them in employment opportunities in 2024! Thirteen candidates have been assessed and we can't wait to prove to the world that 13 is indeed a lucky number!

We truly appreciate the support of our funders, staff, and volunteers who have supported us in various ways during the past year. You are our gift and we have therefore decided to wrap you up this year!



Ukuwela wishes you a break from the busyness of the season (and from technology).

May you find the space and time to rebalance the scales.

Christmas blessings,

