

**‘It is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change.’**

**HRM Queen Elizabeth II**

Get up, wash up, dress up and show up! That is the motto of our Ukuwela candidates! Congratulations to Raychaan Pienaar, Monique Joubert, and Petronella Pietersen who have been committed to their respective jobs for the past year. Every day, for the past twelve months they have taken small steps forward which culminated in this milestone.

We are not the only ones who are proud.

Here is what Monique’s mom had to say:

‘I want to thank everyone who gave my daughter a chance in life, even our heavenly Father who opened a door for her. I want to thank Pathcare for giving her a chance and that they care so much about her, and they give her so much love. Pathcare came to make a difference in my child’s life. As a mother I am so proud of her, and it means so much to us as a family. You won’t realize how grateful we are.’



**MONIQUE WITH HER VASBYT AWARD  
AT PATHCARE. CONGRATULATIONS  
MONIQUE!**



**PETRONELLA WITH THE  
WINNING TEAM WHO  
SUPPORTS HER ALL THE WAY!**

Of course, Ukuwela was there to present each of these candidates with a 'Vasbyt' Award and congratulate them in person. May there be many more happy years ahead!



**THE LOVELY CAITLIN AT WORK  
AND SMILING ON HER FIRST  
DAY!**

There are many ways to give small steps forward. Ask Ukuwela candidate, Caitlin Mampa who is a wheelchair user living in Sedgefield. In an economy where job opportunities are few and far between, we must be creative in employing strategies to pave the way for future employment. Caitlin has started as a volunteer to gain work experience at the Pick and Pay Clothing store in Sedgefield on the 7th of September 2023. On her first morning of work the taxi drove straight past her and she pushed her wheelchair into town to be at work on time. That shows commitment, Caitlin! (Don't get us started on the taxi driver though!)

The journey to employment for our learners starts at school when their teachers nominate learners to the employment component of the program, based on the following two criteria: 1) willingness to work and 2) school attendance. Ukuwela is hard at work with Occupational Therapy (OT) student, Poppy Sindane, evaluating learners who have been nominated to determine their abilities, skills and interests. This will give us an indication of which industries would be a good match for them when they leave school.



**POPPY (RIGHT) AND AUDREY  
(LEFT) BUSY WITH THE  
IMPORTANT TASK OF  
ASSESSMENT!**

While still at school, learners are taken on work exposure opportunities where they have the opportunity to put theoretical knowledge into practice and learn more about different industries.

The past term our senior learners participated in work exposure at Grocery Express (retail), Carevita (hospitality) and Loerie Bakery. Thank you to Ukuwela Facilitator Asisipho Ndzoto as well as OT students, Thatohatsi and Doané who made this happen!



**OTHANDWAYO IS ALL SMILES AT  
CAREVITA**



**ELROY GIVING IT HIS ALL AT  
GROCERY EXPRESS**

Ukuwela is always trying to extend our reach and we have done so this term by spending time in the classrooms presenting work readiness groups for our learners. Again, our OT students were instrumental in facilitating these groups. Thank you for investing in our Carpe Diem learners!

Yes, we're doing a lot of explaining of what it is that we do, but the short answer is basically: 'Whatever it takes!' During the past two terms Carpe Diem learner, Leigh-Caydri Lourens, has received nail technology skills training at home. Recently we've taken two of her classmates, Shavone and Mugelane, to visit her at home and of course, have their nails done! Leigh-Caydri, you've got skills, girl!!



**MUGELANE (LEFT) AND  
SHAVONE (RIGHT) SHOWCASING  
THEIR NAILS!**

One of the highlights this term was undoubtedly the Umbulelo Breakfast hosted by Carpe Diem and Ukuwela on the 13th of September where we thank everyone who invests in whichever way in our learners. The morning was a huge success, and it touched the hearts of all who attended. This is testimony to the abilities and the unique way our learners engage with the world.

Following on this morning, George Herald journalist, Eugene Gunning wrote an article about the Ukuwela program. Thank you Eugene, for spreading the good news and inviting businesses to participate! Here is the link in case you've missed it:

<https://www.georgeherald.com/News/Article/General/help-carpe-diem-se-ukuwela-program-202309221220>

A very big thank you also to the BVK Empowerment Trust for their financial contribution towards Ukuwela. We can't wait to share how this sponsorship opens doors for our learners!

Reflecting on the term, we have not made giant leaps, but we have given small steps forward that, we believe, effected lasting change. Thank you to every individual, business, and organisation who is on the journey with us. May your own journey be equally blessed.

After a long winter, we are so excited to greet you with the following words:

See.you.in.summer!

The Ukuwela Team 



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