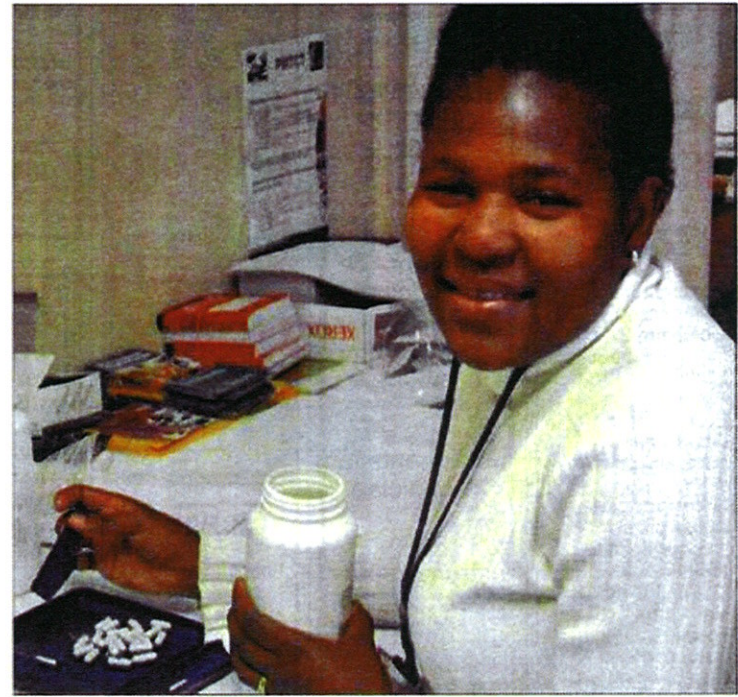


JOSEPH RAMATSETS



MIMMY AGNES

Training reaches new level

MEDIA Works, a Johannesburg-based organisation that specialises in adult basic education and training, and Popup (People Upliftment Programme) have joined forces to give hope to underprivileged Tshwane communities.

Established 12 years ago, Popup is a non-profit organisation with a holistic approach to the upliftment of underprivileged communities, addressing the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals.

Popup offers 12 skills programmes, ranging from cooking and baking to life skills. Rietha Gaybba, skills manager at Popup, says that before embarking on the skills programme of their choice it is compulsory for pupils to attend a 10 day life skills programme aimed at

POPUP: Offers a dozen skills programmes

“The life skills programme motivates prospective pupils to complete their studies and improve themselves. Pupils trained at Popup enter society as changed people who can make a difference to their communities, family, friends and working environment.”

A year ago, Popup decided to introduce adult basic education training (Abet) into its training programme, as many pupils having completed a formal matric certificate did not meet the basic entry criteria of Abet level four (equal NQF level one) when tested.

They were therefore not in a position to embark on their chosen

Many of the pupils attribute their success to the patience and kindness of the Popup team, who provide a secure and supportive environment.

“Pupils that complete the Abet skills programme prior to starting their chosen skills programme are head-and-shoulders above their counterparts,” Gaybba explains.

One such pupil is Joseph Ramatsetse, who, physically handicapped, attained his matric certificate in 2007

schooling he could hardly speak English and found himself unmarketable in the formal job arena.

That’s when he decided to do a computer and office administration skills programme at Popup, though not before completing an Abet skills programme prior to realising his dreams.

He was subsequently awarded the best learner accolade for 2011 and is currently a volunteer at Popup assisting with Data Capturing.

“My decision to do the Abet level three skills programme prior to starting my skills programme at Popup has helped me so much. Previously I was afraid to speak

Joseph is so committed to his new career path that he travels three hours a day from Mpumalanga and back to volunteer his services at the centre.

Mimmy Agnes Mnisi says Popup brought the smile back to her face.

“I experienced something incredibly traumatic in my life and was saved by the amazing people at Popup.

“I was full of anger but I learnt to forgive my enemies. The Abet skills programme changed my communication skills.

“I now work in the clinic at Popup and am studying home-based care as well as doing a skills programme on HIV-Aids which I would never have done before.”

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