

Actionpact

Newsletter for friends of Mfesane

The season of emergency aid

Winter multiplies the hardships and misery for the poor.

When icy winds rip off a flimsy makeshift roof, what was shelter becomes exposure to the harsh elements with no mercy.

When a fire begins from an overturned candle, and jumps from shanty to shanty, people lose everything, sometimes even losing their lives.

When the rainwater builds up in informal settlements and floods people's homes, meagre but precious possessions are damaged, often to the

point of having to be thrown away.

This past winter, we promised ourselves that we would be more prepared to help in emergency situations. And you helped us have 'rescue packs' at the ready – with items like blankets, as much warm and protective clothing as we could gather, towels, bedding, and some basic non-perishable groceries for emergency food.

'Thank you', for giving some comfort and hope in situations when it seemed that all was lost. Your kindness is without price.



A future gift that you may consider

Some of our loyal supporters have expressed interest in leaving a bequest to Mfesane in their Will. Over and above their present generosity, this is a wonderful intent, which costs nothing now, but will one day become part of Mfesane's future sustainability.

Having a valid and updated Will is extremely important in that it safeguards one's family in the way that one wishes. Your Will is a legal document, but it's also an act of love, encompassing all that you hold dear.

If the difference in the world that you make through your gifts to Mfesane is sufficiently dear

to you, you may wish to ask for our free Wills brochure. You can do this by ticking the appropriate box on your reply form, and learn more about how leaving a bequest will carry your good works forward.

A quick reminder to please use our new banking details

ABSA Bank
Account no.: 4083756444
Account name: Mfesane
Branch code: 632005
Branch: Santyger

Please give us your answer to an important question

Here at Mfesane we're considering moving our communications such as our letters and our newsletters into the digital age. And your opinion matters a great deal to us.

Would you like to hear from us by e-mail, and be able to send your donations online?

There is a tick box on your enclosed donation form for you to give us your feedback. There's also space for you to give us your e-mail address and telephone number, and confirm your details are correct. Thank you for your help in this.

Message from Nomvuyo



Our economic climate is poor, meaning that there's less money to go round.

If we truly believe in our mission, then we cannot just give up with a whimper. We have to become as creative as possible to ensure that our doors stay open.

Your history of giving makes you part of Mfesane's sustainability. Your donations have been vital to growing our many services to people in poor communities. I cannot thank you enough for all your generosity. I also cannot ask you more earnestly to please keep giving us your support.

On the creative front, we're not sitting idle. We're gathering new partners to share in our programmes, and we're looking at areas where we can diversify for income. We're also looking at some changes that might be necessary – and it's here that I'm asking for your valued opinion.

Would you appreciate hearing from us via e-mail and/or telephone? If so, please provide us with your e-mail address and phone number on the enclosed form.

Thank you so much. And I look forward immensely to hearing from you.

You helped to create more breadwinners

Your support of our 'Give yourself a Job' programme has inspired many unemployed people to find imaginative ways of earning a living.

One of these is Nicola Adonis. With her artistic flair she began by collecting old beads and other materials, turning them into earrings, bracelets and necklaces which she sold to relatives and others in her community.

But with the 'Give yourself a Job' training, Nicola grew in ideas and on a business level, also took a leadership role in her group of participants.

Nicola's hand-made products quickly expanded to include headbands and handbags from T-shirt fabric. Her jewellery became much more structured.



And the highlight is that her merchandise is now being sold through a local shop.

From life being a daily struggle against too many odds, Nicola is now free of her biggest worries – being able to keep up with her rent, and pay her children's school fees.

Thank you for helping to turn people's lives around, by giving them the tools to 'give themselves a job'.

Even if it's only one child

Childhood is the foundation on which the future adult is built, which is why Mfesane pays great attention to the children of impoverished families.

Ntombomzi is 12 years old and in Grade 3, but wasn't attending school. Our Child and Youth Care workers found that her mother was unemployed and in poor health; the whereabouts

of the father unknown. There was often no food at all.

Ntombomzi became withdrawn, not even wanting to play with the other children at the safe park. She was also regularly sick, but there was never money to transport her to a clinic or hospital.

Thanks to donations like yours, we've been able to supply a food parcel when needed, support Ntombomzi at school and with homework, provide her with a school uniform, and enrol her in the safe park life skills programme. She's even become part of the Sarafina dance group.

The change in this one child is remarkable. But none of it would have happened without you. So thank you!

