

Service Leaders dig in the dirt and dabble a little paint...



Dowling Primary School and surrounding areas, Westbury, JHB

On the 20th of April 2007 City Year South Africa arranged a Service Day in collaboration with Dowling Primary, Together Action Group (TAG) and the National Youth Service Unit as part of Global Youth Service Day 2007. Two hundred Service Leaders from City Year were joined by 60 high school learners from Westbury High School and engaged in a day of cleaning, painting and gardening at different locations in the area.

Dowling Primary is a small school situated in the Westbury township community in the Western part of Johannesburg. Westbury has 1200 houses and 780 flats that are council owned, although the process of transferring house ownership to residents is unfolding. The area has neighbouring communities called Newclare and Coronationville that all form a larger community. Westbury has many community workers committed to uplift the community. This is the first year a City Year team will be working in this community and will be joining other community based organisations who are positively contributing to the development of the area.

Service Days are organised as part of our annual service impact or as a service offered to companies who want to participate in service events especially tailored to their needs and goals. Service days intend to demonstrate the positive action that is possible when many hands join together to make a visible difference.



Photos: Service Leaders put their efforts together in Westbury to make a difference. Painting, working with children and gardening were the main activities of the service day.

photos WHLS

City Year South Africa EVENTS

June - Service Leaders participate at the World Economic Forum in Cape Town.

June - Service leaders participate in CYZYG, City Year's annual convention

CITYYEAR SOUTH AFRICA FOUNDING LEAD SPONSORS



MARCHING FOR IDEALISM

More than 300 City Year young people and friends of City Year marched through Johannesburg, calling all South Africans to stand up and make a positive impact in our country on Thursday, the 5th of April, carrying signs with messages such as, "serve with dignity", "diversity is our game", "stop racism", "love our children" and "build a better South Africa".

The march made a statement about the positive change people can make in our country if they stand up and make themselves a part of the solution. Each carrying a garbage bag in one hand and a glove on the other, the streets became cleaner as the marchers passed by. It is the first time, said City Year programme coordinator, Xolani Magqwaka, that

a march was used to spread a positive message instead of protesting against something out of anger and being destructive".

Having marched through Johannesburg from Main Street through to Braamfontein with a stopover before the Mandela bridge to clean in the field next to the taxi rank, 200 young volunteers committed themselves to serving their country in 2007 through after school programmes in disadvantaged schools throughout Johannesburg.

The march ended at Sappi Park where the new Service Leaders received their red City Year jackets, sponsored by Timberland, and were challenged by Executive Director, Teboho Mahuma to

"wear their jacket with pride, not for its fashion statement, but as a symbol of commitment to service."

City Year co-chair, Rick Menell added in his address to the new Service Leaders that "through the 30 minute clean-up of 300 people we accomplished more than two-full time cleaners could accomplish in a week".

If you make "everything you do this year count", he said, "your energy will spread and it's small things that potentially gain people's trust for a lifetime." City Year Co-chair, Murphy Morobe, joined the call to service saying, that "Your year of service is an investment we want to make, one that we should make and will be making in our country".

City Year alumni... where are they now

Zanele Hlatshwayo, City Year Service Leader 2006



I'm currently studying at Unisa doing my honours in corporate and marketing communication while working at Kagiso Media, where I am a marketing and corporate communications trainee. From City Year I learned to treat everyone with dignity and respect regardless of their background, to appreciate everything I have at my disposal and use every opportunity I get because those may only come once, to work hard in everything I do so that I can achieve my goals and to stand up for what I truly believe in, because that is what makes me a wiser human being.

Jacky Van Huysteen, City Year Service Leader 2006



I am currently an assistant teacher for grade 0 at Blairgowrie Primary as well as an aftercare teacher there. City Year helped me a lot because it was my experience of working with the children through the after school programme that enabled me to get the position I have now. From City Year I learned discipline, independence and improved my ability to work with diverse people. It also really helped me to learn about myself and through City Year, I decided I want to pursue teaching as my career. I am looking forward to getting married, moving to Scotland and teaching in the near future.

Thabang Kgobe, City Year Service Leader 2005, Senior Service Leader 2006



I am currently studying for a National Diploma in Environmental Health at the University of Johannesburg, while working part-time at HR Capital doing filing and data capturing. After City Year, I wanted to follow a career that would integrate what I have learned during my 2 years of service. I believe that the skills and knowledge I gained from community service relate well to what I am studying, and I want to become an environmental health practitioner to educate communities about preventing and controlling possible health hazards. One of the important lessons I took from City Year was my passion to serve and make a difference in someone else's life. The best gift you get from City Year is personal development.

Luciano Manacas, City Year Service Leader 2006



I am currently working at First National Bank as a home loans sales consultant and studying B Comm, Economics, part-time through Unisa. Through City Year I learned how to use others skills for the benefit of a team, how to work with a diverse group of people; to follow protocol; and most important, I learnt to negotiate and meet people half way. As a young person living in SA, THE VALUE OF SERVICE CHANGED MY OUTLOOK ON LIFE AND MY VIEWS ON OTHER PEOPLE. CITY YEAR IS A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN GROW AS AN INDIVIDUAL, LEARN FROM OTHERS, make a difference and have fun!!!

Soldaat Mosia, City Year Service Leader 2005



After my year of service with City Year, I started 1982 Youth Media, an IT initiative aimed at exposing rural South African youth to technology and its possibilities through a Mobile IT Centre, radio broadcast training as well as DJ training. 1982 Youth Media is working at building a support base for the work that it does, and has already commenced some DJ training with rural based youth in the Eastern Cape. My year of service with City Year was a great experience and it has brought value, not only to me but to the development and growth of the country.

Changes within the City Year South Africa Programme

After two years of experience, City Year South Africa has made a few adjustments to its programme for 2007. Still working with just over 200 Service Leaders, who for this year are facilitating after school programmes in 16 primary schools, 14 of which are situated in Gauteng and one pilot school in the Northwest province. Similarly, in response to the greatest need, the after school programme has narrowed its focus areas to literacy and life orientation. The training for the Service Leaders in the programme now includes a recognised qualification in computer literacy training as well as credits towards a certificate in Project management with Wits Enterprise. These slight alterations have come as a result of feedback from young people in the programme as well as from Service partners with whom City Year South Africa works.

Choosing to Serve

by Teboho Mahuma, ED, CYSA

In this third year since the launch of the City Year service programme, very few things inspire me more than the continued commitment of young City Year people to make a difference in the lives of fellow South Africans. This gives me hope for the future of our country, and of the world.

At City Year we know that each action we take, however small and insignificant it might seem at the time, will one day count as a contribution to a bigger difference. We go through our days with knowledge that the biggest difference we can make is to help others help themselves. This is when someone gets to do something they never thought themselves capable of doing, realising

that they had it in themselves all the time and all they needed was a nudge in the right direction, an opening of a door they didn't see or thought impossible.

What a privilege it is to be surrounded such positive energy everyday of my working life!

Top right: CY Executive Director, Teboho Mahuma challenging Service Leaders to remain committed to their year of Service. Middle right: Service Leader pledge to support each other throughout their service year after receiving their red jackets. Bottom right: MC's Melanie Naidoo and Kamogelo Malinga lead the ceremony held at Sappi Park, Braamfontein

photos KOKO



About Basic Training Retreat

Service Leaders Reflect on the four days spent at the Basic Training Retreat at the Start of the Service Year. Here is what they said:

Aadilah Hoosen: "I believe that I changed a lot during the camp. The workshops were really deep, but at the same time really eye-opening. I came away black and blue, but with a soaring spirit. BTR was altogether a memorable and wonderful experience".

Kelebogile Nthite: "Going to BTR was an amazing experience. Being at the camp was an honour because I learned so many things that I always took for granted. In the session on gender and sexism, I discovered things about myself that I did not know and it helped me get over the problems that I had

before I came to City Year."

Tumelo Mahlong: "BTR was a life changing experience to me, it made me understand exactly what one means when they say "Motho ke motho ka batho" a person is a person through other people (ubuntu or humanity). The obstacle course taught me to respect other people, and I realised that I cannot survive on my own, I need other people's helping hands to make it, no matter how strong I might think I am. I also enjoyed the educational sessions, they taught me to respect women and made me understand why my

contribution to building a better life for all is so important. I believe that this kind of information should move on and reach more people out there, especially the youth."

Victor Nchabeng: "Truly speaking BTR was not just a camp. It was a platform to heal my past wounds and to move forward. I cried and I was comforted. The team building exercises proved to me that I have more strength than I initially thought, but alone my strength was of no use, and that I needed my team to accomplish things".



Photos:

Solly Letswalo Service Leaders are challenged to do physical and mental activities as teams to help build the teams prior to the commencement of service later in the year.

