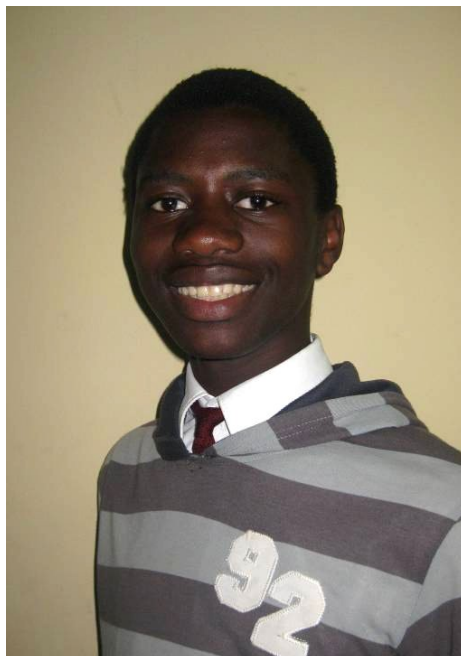


Peer Educator of the Month

SOUTH AFRICA
08.09

Siduduzo Jali

Siduduzo Jali is a Track 2 Peer Educator at KwaBazothini High School which is located in KwaNgcolosi in the Valley of 1000 Hills. KwaBazothini has problems with teen pregnancy and many of the learners struggle to pay their yearly schools fees of 200 Rand (approximately \$30). Additionally, Siduduzo believes that crime and violence are also problems in the community, especially with many young learners (students) at his school. Sethani has implemented GOLD in KwaBazothini since 2007 and Siduduzo has taken part in the program since 2008. It has equipped him with the skills and motivation to be the best that he can be.



Siduduzo lives with his mother, sister, brother and grandparents. He walks about 2 kilometres to get to school every morning, which often starts at 7am.

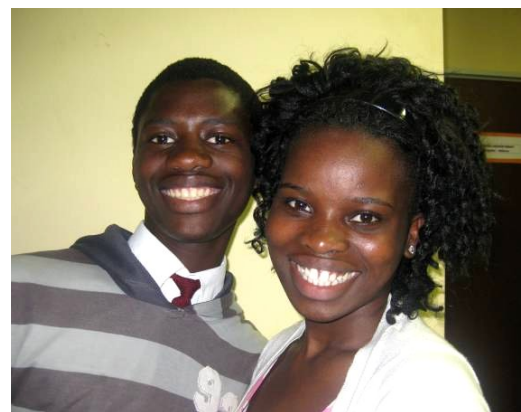
Before becoming a Peer Educator, Siduduzo took no interest in the GOLD program and did not want to become a Peer Educator. His friend encouraged him to come to a session and yet Siduduzo continued to refuse. Finally, through much persistence, Siduduzo gave in and attended a GOLD session at his school. The session he attended was about valuing yourself and valuing others. He found himself listening carefully and began to think, "If I listen to them, I will change my life." Siduduzo has never looked back.

The best thing about being a Peer Educator for Siduduzo has been that the program is not just about teaching, like normal classes. When their facilitators talk to them during their GOLD sessions, the Peer Educators can take what they have learned and put it straight into practice. This often involves talking to other learners about what they have discovered or doing activities to improve the community such as volunteering to clean clinics near their school. Through Sethani and GOLD, he has learned the importance of values; has become more passionate and has learned to listen carefully in class so that he can change his life and be the best that he can be.

Recently Siduduzo had the opportunity through the Schools 4 Schools program to attend the Enke forum in Johannesburg - about 8 hours drive from where Siduduzo lives. There he met learners from all over South Africa, Botswana and the UK. Meeting so many people speaking many different languages has helped him to communicate better with others and be confident with himself. The forum also gave Siduduzo the chance to create his own community action project. He chose to do his on raising awareness about crime which is often caused by poverty in his community. He is currently planning to work with the Sethani Resource Centre and other Peer Educators to talk to the families in the area about crime and encourage belief in everyone's goals.

The facilitators that run the GOLD program at KwaBazothini High School are Nosipho and Phakamani. Siduduzo describes Nosipho as strong and very caring as she lets you say what you think and wants to see the best in everybody. Siduduzo believes that Phakamani is strong and generous too, sharing stories about his family and past hardships to help inspire the learners.

Siduduzo hopes to become a chemical engineer when he grows up. He would like to deal with chemicals, mixing medicines to help combat diseases such as HIV. However, as this ambition requires a lot of money to study, Siduduzo also has a plan B: to become a social worker as he really enjoys helping people in his community.



Siduduzo with one of his GOLD facilitators, Nosipho

"I am a Peer Educator and I am proud of it." Siduduzo Jali