



BY
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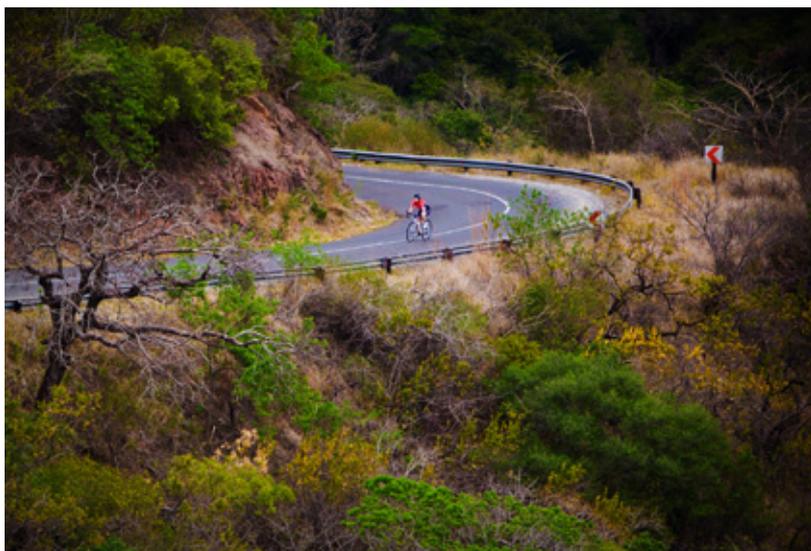
The JSE remains committed to the Change a Life Trust, which supports crime prevention and youth development initiatives

ROAD TO TRANSFORMATION



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The 2013 Change a Life Nguni Tour was a five-day, 600 km cycle event that tracked Southern Africa's cultural roots, exploring the migration routes of the Nguni people who formed the dominant African cultures of the region. It raised R3.5 million for the Change a Life organisation, bringing to almost R20 million the ➔



total amount donated to anti-crime and youth development projects in SA, which transform the lives of individuals and communities.

Established in 2008 in memory of Computershare executive Mike Thomson who was murdered in 2007, Change a Life not only contributes to life-changing opportunities for the beneficiaries of the five projects the organisation supports, it also contributes to the broader SA community.

The JSE was one of the first companies to sponsor the Change a Life Cycle Tour when it was launched in SA in 2008 because the stock exchange identified with the causes that the Mike Thomson Change a Life Trust supports. The JSE has remained one of the key sponsors because the event is an effective vehicle used to support crime prevention and youth development initiatives. JSE CEO Nicky Newton-King, her predecessor Russell Loubser and Bernadette Rheeders, legal counsel at the stock exchange, have been regular participants in the tour since its inception.

The JSE sponsored the third day of the 2013 Nguni Tour, which involved a tough 185 km ride over the Lubombo mountains to Mkuzi in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Change a Life initiative has helped many causes such as the DNA Project, which achieved a significant milestone in August 2013 when the DNA Bill it has tirelessly lobbied for, was adopted by Parliament. Founded and run by Vanessa Lynch, the DNA Project was one of the first initiatives to receive support from Change a Life.

The bill, which governs the use of DNA in criminal investigations, will allow for proper analysis and a national database to help identify and convict repeat offenders. Other Change a Life projects, which have also been championed by powerful role models

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wanting to give back to society, have also excelled. One example is the Martin Dreyer Academy in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, which has had a particularly good year.

In February, Change a Lifers once again dominated the Dusi Canoe Marathon, with nine of the organisation's paddlers finishing in the top 27 of SA's iconic sporting event. Eric Sbonelo Zondi, 25, who grew up in the valley and was one of the first participants selected by the academy. Eric and his Change a Life partner Thomas Ngidi were placed third in the 2010 K2 race. They become the first black crew to win a major canoe race in SA when they finished first in the Non-Stop Dusi, a gruelling one day event covering the same route as the three day marathon.

In 2011, Zondi finished fourth in the Dusi K1 marathon and won the Non-Stop event again, using his prize money to build a home for his family in the valley. That same year he represented SA, with his partner Michael Mbanjwa, and finished tenth in the Canoe Marathon World Championships in Singapore.

Over the past four years, Dusi champion and extreme sportsman Martin Dreyer has extended the reach of his academy to the other sporting disciplines such as running and mountain biking, which are equally suited to the rugged terrain of the Valley of a Thousand Hills.

A highlight of 2013 has been the launch of the RMB Change a Life mountain bike team as part of the

academy, in partnership with Rand Merchant Bank. The programme is run from two huts in the valley where cyclists eat, sleep and train.

Another example is the Nemato Change a Life Club, which has taken a step closer to achieving its dream of securing quality education and a better future for the children of the Nelson Mandela Township in Port Alfred. One recipient is Athenkosi Hlekani.

Athenkosi, 23, grew up in the township and joined the Nemato Rowing Club in 2005. His talent was quickly identified and he became the club's top rower. After school he was awarded a full sports bursary by the University of Johannesburg and currently captains the institution's rowing club. He is expected to graduate with a degree in Business Science at the end of 2013 and has been invited by the university to complete his postgraduate studies in Education.

The iChoose to Change a Life programme continues to have a significant impact on many young people who have been diverted from crime and who are empowered to become agents of change with their communities. It is providing a platform for learners from primary schools in Orlando East and Diepsloot to initiate crime prevention activities and make educational institutions safer places.

Another programme that continues to make a difference is the Allan Thomson Kushido Karate-Do, which is aimed towards the Drummond and Cosmo City communities. **JSE**