



H18 FOUNDATION'S

# MANA PRESCHOOL

This is why we do it

Comfort and Aka

## Joe Slovo Park

### A TRULY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY

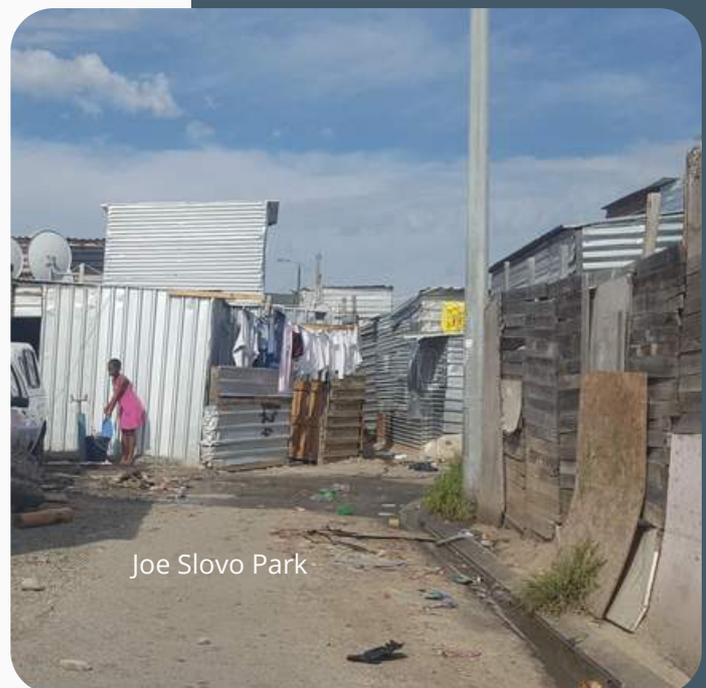
Joe Slovo Park is on the border of a leafy, quiet suburb, Milnerton. The disparity is astounding, considering they are separated by just one road. The shacks reach the 'streets', which are potholed and falling apart - especially when it rains, and of course the sewerage spills out into the streets through the manhole covers, and broken underground pipes. There are no pavements and no gardens.

Essential services cannot reach the dwellings as the streets are too narrow. With immense overcrowding, litter and garbage is strewn and cluttered everywhere. Rats, cockroaches and other vermin abound. THIS IS WHERE THE CHILDREN PLAY.

**OUR PURPOSE:**  
To provide exceptional  
Preschool education to  
learners that otherwise  
would not have the  
opportunity to be  
exposed to quality  
materials and teaching  
practices during their  
crucial formative years.



Joe Slovo Park



Joe Slovo Park

Emmanuel

## H18 Foundation

### HOW THE MANA DREAM WAS BORN

in 2016, mother and daughter team, Jill Lewin and Amanda Solomon, opened a small coffee shop, in a business park, to sustain a social enterprise on the border of Joe Slovo Park. Their social enterprise grew and became self-sustainable, and was registered as an NPO in January 2018, H18 Foundation (201-931 NPO).

H18 Foundation empowers unemployed women in Joe Slovo by providing craft skills training with immediate outcomes-based income generation.

One crafting endeavour the women of Joe Slovo have found uplifting and transformative is the Mana Boxes Project. Born from the devastation of the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic, Mana Boxes is an example of sustainable, replicable, scalable economic development for South Africa.

Comprising one-of-a-kind handcrafted pieces, the boxes are packaged for a quarterly subscription programme which is being sold to women in America. Mana Boxes are contributing to our restoration in Joe Slovo. Our artisans have created beautiful crocheted handbags and sun hats. Lined with Shweshwe fabric, these items are among the Mana Boxes items to be shipped to subscribers this Summer.

The original coffee shop eventually was closed and the duo, backed by the NPO board, moved H18 to a house.

This move was inspired by the children. The H18 women could not afford nursery school, and brought their children to work with them. A business park was no place for children to play.

At the new house, the children had a garden, and eventually, a small supervised playroom. But this did not facilitate Early Childhood Development which became a passion for Jill and Amanda.

In late 2020 the perfect premises were found, an empty Nursery School. This has become the home of H18 Foundation and the soon to open Mana Preschool.

**A child's early years are the foundation for their future development, giving a strong base for lifelong learning and learning abilities, including cognitive and social development. It is an essential building block of every human's future success.**



H18 Daycare Room



Outside play at H18



Abigail and Amanda

## Mana Preschool

### THE DREAM FOR EQUAL EDUCATION

The basis of any solid structure is a solid foundation. The crucial foundation phase years of a child is when they form their lasting perceptions. It is a time for them to learn through play - alone and in groups, through example, and through access to quality equipment and passionate teachers. It is the time when they need to learn that they are special, they are valuable and they have worth.

Breaking the cycle of poverty among these children who are subjected to playing on the streets or in small underequipped daycare facilities. All the while learning independence and having to look after younger children at an extremely young age (sometimes as young as 6 years old). These little ones need to be children, they need to learn to learn, and not have the responsibilities of adulthood to contend with. They need to be challenged by literacy and numeracy, to develop their fine and gross motor skills, and to be told that they are important.

Mana Preschool - with its intent to be a resource to families who can help the school self-sustain and allocating a minimum of 35% of its space to underprivileged toddlers - will provide all of this. Mana will also nurture talents, such as music, performance, and art, as well as self-confidence and to raise children who can overcome. Our experienced teachers will also be looking for any potential special learning needs, and working one on one to help the children surpass these.

Starting with the H18 Foundation children in our first year, we expect our progress to open up 35% to other families from Joe Slovo. The ultimate goal to be 100% free to the children of Slovo, grow Mana Preschool to accommodate double the amount of children, while continuing to empower the women of Slovo, their children, and the future of South Africa.

We will be gearing to become a preferred feeder school for Primary Schools in the area, and work together with the families of the children to secure financial grants for their Primary School Education.

By breaking the cycle at foundation phase, we can change the future of our youth. This is our passion, our dream, our mandate.

**" The South African education system, characterised by crumbling infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms and relatively poor educational outcomes, is perpetuating inequality and as a result failing too many of its children, with the poor hardest hit "**

**Amnesty International**



Picture: mg.co.za



Jessica

## The Goal

### HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARD?

As we watch the classroom take shape, through donations of toys, educational equipment, books and puzzles. As we watch our H18 little ones revel in the outdoor space and play on the outdoor equipment already donated, we know that in order to open the Mana Preschool, we will need Kickstarter funding. This allows for the delayed school start based on government guidance that is currently targeting 15th February 2021.

This will afford the Mana Preschool to:

- Acquire all the necessary equipment to create the most creative environment for learning, ensuring all our littlies have access to the most up-to-date learning equipment
- Continue to refurbish the premises to a standard befitting all children, no matter their circumstances. This includes a fire retardant, sound proof dry wall to separate the classes.
- Continue to create an outdoor environment that stimulates fine and gross motor skills, ensures outdoor play is safe and creative, and encourages group play - including rubberised mats under the play equipment.
- Ensure healthy meals and snacks for all learners
- Ensure all our administrative processes are in place in terms of compliance, including health and safety, and especially Covid.
- Ensure we can pay expenses for the first few months of operation whilst we advertise for fee-paying learners.

Please contact us for a full breakdown of our Capex expenses and projected running costs

### BASED ON UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**IN OUR SMALL COMMUNITY IT IS OUR INTENTION TO MAINTAIN COMMITMENT TO THE UN SDG AND IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGIES ON THE GROUND, ONE CHILD AT A TIME.**

**Our H18 Little ones playing in our new space, while we work hard to get it ready for opening**

