



ACTION IN AUTISM

INSPIRE ADVOCATE EMPOWER

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Report and Update

Lucky Beans Foundation

December 2023

Nadia Bhayat

Director

INTRODUCTION

The following report gives an update on the learners and the employees funded by Lucky Beans:

1. Zende Ndlovu
2. Michelle Edmonds
3. Precious Sokhulu (facilitator) female young adult autistic supporter
4. Londiwe Msimang

1. ZENDE NDLOVU

Zende is a sweet little boy who has made a considerable progress this year. He has made great improvements in gross motor, fine motor, and cognitive development. Zende has made many friends amongst his classmates. The daily interaction with his peers has assisted in him breaking out of his shell and learning to trust others. He is a talkative child who is always asking questions and has an interest in learning new things.





2. MICHELLE CARA EDMONDS

Michelle continues to learn and grow in the Early Learning and Intervention Centre. Her confidence with managing small groups of children independently has grown. She manages art activities, chooses themes for the weekly academic curriculum, and supports children in therapy sessions.

She has become a trusted member of the team and is learning to contribute to written progress reports for the children. She is in charge of the library and chooses the books that match the thematic based instruction per week, that focuses on developing literacy skills in the children.





3. PRECIOUS SOKHULU

Precious Sokhulu has developed remarkably within the adult skills transference centre and business hub (Shahumna Centre) and become a core staff member that oversees and facilitates specific areas of the curriculum. Her input has assisted our students with support needs across various daily activities and supplemented consistent skills transfer. She has facilitated students both on site and off site as the centre has begun introducing students to working environments situated around the Durban area. Facilitating students in dynamic environments can prove to be a challenge as there isn't always a clear idea of the sensory experience and social situations students will be involved in. Precious has proved that she is able to constantly adapt and provide support to every student within these situations and in general.

An area of the curriculum that Precious has now led and significantly facilitated in is the food Production & Catering. Under her guidance and support, students have baked a multitude of goods such as butter biscuits, crunchies, parmesan bites, shortbread, and pizza bases. All these goods have been baked with finesse and are now being ordered by corporate enterprises for their on-site shops and corporate gifting amongst their networks. One such enterprise is the Hilton Garden Inn, situated on the Umhlanga Ridge, and is a very well-established brand of hotel. An order of 300 biscuit packs was placed, for their Christmas corporate gifting, which was fulfilled by our Food Production & Catering students under the support of Precious. This has been the biggest order that the students have fulfilled to date and each pack upheld a standard that could match those of any professional company. The Hilton Garden Inn has also provided employment opportunities for two of our students in 2024, enabling them to achieve a full paid internship with the view of eventually becoming permanent staff members. This would not have been possible without the standard of work and initiative shown by Precious over this year. She has been imperative for the motivations, confidence, and self-esteem development for every student, and has now enabled employment which fits in with the vision of Action in Autism.

Precious Sokhulu has developed exceptionally as a facilitator within a short period of time. This is due to her hard work, enthusiasm, and passion to ensure that our students are always supported. The Shahumna Centre has made huge strides in preparing our students for the formal workspace and ensuring they remain supported outside of our organisation's premises, and Precious has upheld and maintained the quality of work throughout her time here.



4. LONDIWE MSIMANG

Londiwe is a care assistant in the same grade R class in the Early Intervention and Learning Unit (ELIC). She has since moved to a full-time care assistant position. She assists children in school time and also helps to manage the after-care programme that is offered to working parents.

Here is what Londiwe has to say:

Working at Action In Autism as a Care Assistant has helped me develop communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal. Since I work with learners who some of them have no social skills. Some days are challenging, some are better. I have learnt to be patient, to remain calm even on stressful conditions.

Working as a care assistant is fun, all you need to do is to understand learners that you work with, and make sure that their needs are met such as:

- Assisting learners with toileting.*
- Assisting learners during snack and play time.*
- Ensuring equipment is installed and used correctly.*
- Providing appropriate protective equipment.*
- Cleaning interactive areas throughout the day.*
- To remain informed of educational intervention for autistic children and continually develop skills & knowledge in this field.*
- To assist with behaviour intervention.*

Each day helps me improve and learn more about autistic children. I find it very fun having to work with them. Also working with them is not only about assisting them, but to also help them improve their independency.



Proposed Budget for 2024:

Action in Autism continues to support children and young adults with Autism by striving to provide the best foundations through our ELIC programme and the Shahumna Young Adult Business Hub and Entrepreneurial Centre affords our adults with autism the chance to successfully gain employment. Employment opportunities for adults with Autism compared to any other disability is painfully few and far between. This points directly to the multifaceted nature of the condition that impacts all aspects of life. We have successfully launched a work programme that has therapy support specific to their needs and the job demands, so that we set our graduates up for success in any workplace environment. We are also partnering with an inclusive opportunity recruitment agency that finds learnership and permanent job opportunities for people with disabilities nationally. They collaborate with a broad base of companies which significantly increases the chances of our graduates being hired.

This will be empowering our graduates to become more independent, improve their physical and mental well-being, build self-esteem as well as manage their lives more effectively and care for themselves and others on the autistic spectrum. This proposal seeks to request your continued funding for our learners

and staff as we continue to strive to support those in need and provide international best practice services to all those who access AIA.

Proposed Budget for 2024:

NAMES	POSITION	FINANCIAL OUTLAY
Zende Ndlovu	Student in ELIC	R 46 200 (R 3 850 x 12)
Michelle Edmonds	Autistic Adult Caregiver that supports ELIC	R 27 060 (R 2 255 x 12)
Precious Sokhulu	Young Adult Facilitator – Shahumna Centre	R 55 440 (R4 620 x 12)
Londiwe Msimang	Full time caregiver ELIC	R 42 000 (R 3 500 X 12)
TOTAL		R 170 700

Any contribution in full or in part towards these costs would be most appreciated.