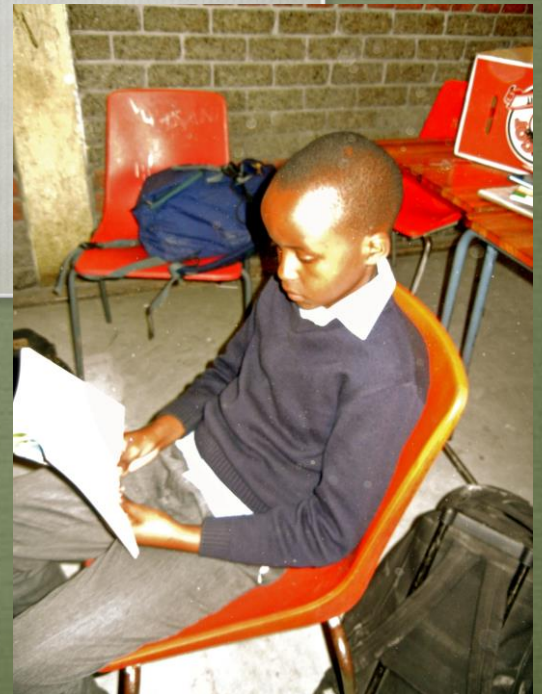


# Promoting Literacy in Nyanganga



# Education in South Africa

- ❖ South African Schools Act of 1996
  - All have the right to a General Education from Grade 1 to Grade 12
  - Uniform set of standards that organizes funding for all schools
- ❖ 2010-2011 R165 billion of nation's GDP (5.3% of GDP and 20% of total expenditure)- one of the highest in the world
- ❖ July of 2010- measures to increase number of no-fee schools
- ❖ Aim to have all children attend Grade R

# Education in South Africa

- ❖ Goal to greatly improve % of learners who obtain minimum acceptance mark in national assessment for Language and Mathematics
- ❖ Most recent initiative- Schooling 2025
  - Teacher recruitment, learner enrollment, school funding, literacy, overall quality of education
- ❖ Mother-tongue-based bilingual education



# The Problem

- ❖ English literacy in the township schools is severely lacking
- ❖ Lack of consistency in language use
- ❖ Students are not gaining the necessary reading and writing skills to achieve a higher education
- ❖ Teachers are overworked and undertrained- unable to give individual attention to learners

# Race Disparity in Education

- ❖ 18% of blacks finish high school, compared to 65% of whites
- ❖ In South Africa in 2008, 70% of blacks and less than 5% of whites living in poverty
- ❖ External factors contribute to the poor performance of students in the mainly Black townships
  - ❖ Prevalence of HIV/AIDS
  - ❖ Crime rate
  - ❖ Poverty
  - ❖ Gangs/lack of positive role models

# Benefits of Literacy

- ❖ Enables one to join new social spheres
- ❖ Progressing through the South African education system- passing the matriculation examination and reaching university level
- ❖ Entering the workforce, and thus fighting unemployment
- ❖ Stronger communication skills needed for the workforce
- ❖ Building of confidence in students

# Benefits on Community

- ❖ Reduction in poverty
- ❖ Economic and community development
- ❖ Reduction in crime and violence
- ❖ Decrease in marginalization



# What is needed

- ❖ More individualized work with students
- ❖ More quality teacher-education
- ❖ Assistance for teachers in overcrowded classrooms
- ❖ More time allocated for English literacy
- ❖ Positive role-models with enthusiasm and passion for the betterment of our youth



# Our plan

- ❖ Implement a program through the University of the Western Cape's Education Faculty with students performing at lower than grade-level in Nyanga's primary schools
- ❖ Compulsory bi-weekly reading and writing tutoring sessions after school
- ❖ One-on-one or small group work focused on the improvement of English literacy based on their individual needs

# Making Change

- ❖ Partially alleviates teachers of their excessive responsibilities
- ❖ Better prepares our future teachers to work in the areas of South Africa where we have seen sub par academic performance
- ❖ Involving parents and community facilitates support at home
- ❖ Help learners understand the value of literacy and education

# Mentor-Student Relationship

- ❖ There is great value in having a young university-aged student working with the youth of Nyanga
- ❖ Mentors serve as living proof for the possibility that all South African can receive a higher education and achieve their goals
- ❖ Mentors provide guidance for youth who are faced with many social challenges in their communities