

Ukhanyo Primary School

Led by two outstanding teachers from overseas and the school's principal, partnering with MasiCorp, this 1600 pupil school is becoming a model for positive change in township education. Their work is leading a transformation in the culture and quality of this school — the teachers, students and parents. Improvements in student performance are already measurable.



Scholarship Programs

We offer college scholarships to Masi students, providing them with mentors to help navigate the difficult journey from the township to the university campus. Nearly 50 students have participated and their success is evidenced by good jobs and graduate programs. Many students are sponsored by U.S. donors.



There are few philanthropic works more rewarding than seeing children grow through education to the point where they have choices in life where before they had none.

MASICORP

Please help us

We can only carry on our work because of fantastic volunteers and generous support from donors.

Because we are a grass-roots, volunteer-based nonprofit, we have low operating costs. You can be sure your donations will reach the people of the township and be greatly appreciated.

You can make a tax-exempt donation via our website:

www.masicorp.org

or, in the US, send a check payable to Masiphumelele Corporation to:

Jane Philippi, Director
Masiphumelele Corporation
32 Monument Avenue
Charlestown, MA 02129

For further information please contact:

John & Carol Thompson
603-279-3305
john.thompson@masicorp.org
or

Jane Philippi
617-241-8185
jane@masicorp.org



THANK YOU!

To receive our quarterly newsletter, the MasiMail, please send your email address to jane@masicorp.org.

Welcome to
Masiphumelele



A brief
introduction
to MasiCorp

MASICORP

partners in education and enterprise
masiphumelele - south africa

....discover what we do

Our story...

Masiphumelele is a township about 20 miles south of Cape Town, South Africa. Most of the residents are Xhosas who migrated from the Eastern Cape in search of jobs. An increasing number of people come from Somalia, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

Masi residents are extremely poor; only about 1/3 have full-time employment, most in low paying jobs. Concrete block houses are increasing in number but still the majority live in shacks. There is much associated social and health deprivation.



The State has provided basic infrastructure and schools and is trying to do more but resources are limited. Even with the considerable added efforts of nonprofits working in the community, life is tough in Masiphumelele.

But Masi residents are determined. Masiphumelele means “we will succeed”! We are humbled by the perseverance with which people seek to improve their lives and the lives of their children in an environment where there are few grounds for optimism or hope.

How MasiCorp began...

Founded in 1999 by John and Carol Thompson, MasiCorp was established to help make a real difference in the lives of the township residents. With people who so obviously want to help themselves, our goal is to give them a hand-up and not a hand-out. We tailor our work to the needs of the community and, in so doing, help to ensure it will be sustainable and have lasting value.



Starting with two people, MasiCorp's programs are now supported by 100 volunteers from surrounding communities. This is a remarkable transformation from the days of apartheid.



What we do...

Over the years we have built houses, day care centers, a community center, a library and a children's playground. We have supported small business entrepreneurs and community sports programs. Our work in the schools has reinforced our belief that education is the route out of poverty.

Masiphumelele Library

A small library built by MasiCorp in 2003 has been expanded twice and become the center of learning in the community. Shack dwellers have no books. The library now lends out over 40,000 books per year. MasiCorp helps support the many programs offered from adult literacy to homework clubs. A computer center provides training and community access to the Internet.



Seedlings

MasiCorp's goal is to provide quality preschool education to 2500 children in Masi. There are only four registered crèches out of 27 in Masi. For children unable to attend a registered crèche this means being in a shack with no toilets, little food and teachers with no qualifications. MasiCorp plans to build four large new preschools and some smaller centers with the support of the City of Cape Town and the community. MasiCorp is also funding critical teacher training.

