



At Masicorp we help township residents who are trying help themselves. We do this through education—the route out of poverty. We also support community entrepreneurs in setting up new and developing established small businesses.

Our work is made possible by our team of over 60 volunteers who give their time and talents, and by donors from South Africa, America, the UK and elsewhere.

We concentrate on the township of Masiphumelele where we have been established since 1999. Our founders, John and Carol Thompson, were passionate about working to fill the needs of township residents and we continue with that mission.

We have many projects and programmes that are making a real difference to the lives of people in the township. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to join our team as a donor or volunteer or both! You will be made very welcome and there is so much to do.

Masicorp is not affiliated to any religion or political organisation; we provide our help free of discrimination.



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 EIN number: 02-0511758

**Masiphumelele Trust Ltd [UK]**  
 Charity Commission N° 1137358  
 HMRC Gift Aid Registration: XT26095

If you would like to join our team in Masicorp, as a donor, as a volunteer or both, please contact us:  
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partners in education for life  
 masiphumelele - south africa

# Welcome to Masicorp



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Masiphumelele is a township about 40 km south of Cape Town. It began as an informal settlement in the 1980's, as Xhosa-speaking people migrated from their rural homelands in the Eastern Cape to seek work. Today, there are about 40,000 people living in this densely crowded place. The majority are very poor and socially disadvantaged, still looking for work and the chance for a better life.

Although there are now many more brick and block-built homes, 80% of the residents are shack-dwellers where living is cold and wet in winter and, under their corrugated tin roofs, stiflingly hot in summer. Typically a single space 24 m<sup>2</sup> shack will house a family of up to six. It will have electricity, but drinking water is from a stand-pipe some distance away and each toilet in a nearby block must be shared by about 60 adults and children



People are very poor and only about 30% have any form of regular employment; most are relatively unskilled and not well-educated. They work casually whenever they can as domestic staff, gardeners, and building trade labourers. A few find regular work in shops, tourism and light industry.

With a meagre diet, poor living conditions and limited access to good healthcare, life expectancy is about 50. HIV/AIDS is estimated to affect 25% of the population and drug-resistant tuberculosis is becoming a serious problem.

Compared with many other townships Masiphumelele has a good record of safety and security, but the problems that occur in all very poor communities exist here too: drug-related crime, domestic violence, sexual abuse. There are too few resources available to help. Police, social services, health service and many NGO's/charities are doing their best, but the needs are greater than they can deliver.

The word '**Masiphumelele**' in Xhosa means 'we will succeed' in English and nothing is more important for the township residents than education. They see it as their route out of poverty.

Masicorp is all about providing and facilitating education opportunities; we do this free of cost for township residents.

### Our current projects and programmes include:

We built and help operate the community library and its learning resource centre, which annually loans out over 30,000 children's and 15,000 adult books and where there are more than 40,000 attendees to its 20 education programmes.

Our Early Childhood Development (ECD) projects are working to help provide decent quality pre-school education for the 2500 township children aged 1 to 6.



At the primary school we have support programmes for teachers in English, maths and science. We provide physical education coaches and equipment, and provide free uniforms for children from the poorest families.

The English...please! programme provides English language and literacy support for Masiphumelele children who attend Fish Hoek Primary School just outside the township.

We support a maths Saturday club at Masiphumelele High School.

Our university bursary programme has assisted over 50 students who were schooled or resident in Masiphumelele to gain their qualifications—it supports them both financially and through mentorship.



For those seeking help with part-time study at UNISA [Open University] and at various other education providers, we have an interest-free student study loan available to assist with fees and learning materials.

Our partnership programme, Evangeline Life Skills, provides women affected by AIDS/HIV with English language and literacy, computer literacy, and stitching and sewing skills. When students graduate they leave with the gift of a new sewing machine to help to clothe themselves and their families and, perhaps, to find work.

Masicorp also has a small business education and support programme for budding and established entrepreneurs. We offer micro-finance and mentorship to help make them a sustainable success.



### About Masicorp

#### OUR VISION

Everyone in Masiphumelele will have access to quality education, training, advice and support.

#### OUR MISSION

To work with the people of Masiphumelele, and key partners, offering opportunities, through education and enterprise, to help themselves out of poverty towards a sustainable livelihood.

#### OUR VALUES

Utmost **respect** for those we serve and each other;

**Participation** in our decision making by all those concerned;

**Empowering** all involved to take ownership of their own development;

**Fair and equal access** to the opportunities we provide;

**Integrity and transparency** in all our operations, and long-term **sustainability**.

