

November 2010

PRISON BREAK! Phakamani Foundation

The woman in the community who goes to her neighbour for bread to feed her children does not know the buzz words – corporate social investment, black economic empowerment, social enterprise or emerging markets. All she knows is her family is hungry and her hunt for food has become more and more demoralizing.

She's tired of asking for food and not being able to repay the person who gave it to her. She's weary of hearing the cries of her children who don't understand the ache in their bellies. Longing for a time where she's stress free, she wakes up each morning wondering when this is all going to end.

Poverty robs people of the opportunity to make money not their ability or willingness to try. It traps people in a cycle of helplessness but not hope. It withholds training that can lead to the next level of independence but not the God given skills and motivation that are needed to break out of their powerless state.

It produces the untouchables. The ones few want to help and fewer understand. They wait for someone, somewhere to extend a hand to help them up: to stand on their own two feet and give them the skills and encouragement to change their own lives.

It is women in these situations that Phakamani Foundation helps break out of financial prison. A small loan, given in community with five others, grows and multiplies to put food on the table, pay school fees, build houses and take away stress. As her micro business grows the women learn to think and plan for tomorrow. How to save. How to build their business and make it more effective.

In two and a half years Phakamani has given out over 5,000 loans to such women. It has given them a hand up not a hand out. 5,000 loans are the tip of the ice-burg. For each woman helped, an average of six others under her care are affected. So 30.000 people's lives have been touched because of one small loan.

Once out of poverty's prison there comes the freedom of independence, the pride of dignity and the joy of hope released. Sesnet Gumede and Samaria Matabela agree!



In 2005 Sesnet Gumede (Bush Buck Ridge South) was selling her wares in her little side- road spaza shop when a group of armed men came and robbed her of all the money she'd saved from the day's trading. Understandably she became very nervous working without any protection either in her "shop" or in her home. Then, three years later in 2008 her husband died leaving her with her young son to fend for themselves.

So, when Phakamani arrived it was the opportunity to do some-

thing about her feelings of defencelessness. As the money from the loans began to work for her, she set about adding strong bars to the opening of her shop and burglar bars on the windows of her house.

She's grateful she no longer has to beg for food. The shame of trying to pay back food when she had no money is a thing of the past. She dreams about sending her son to university, getting his drivers license, and doing computer courses. For herself, she wants to extend her spaza shop and increase the number and variety of the products she sells.



Samaria Matabela (Bush Buck Ridge South) told us she is not hungry anymore. With eight people under her care, five of them her children, three her grandchildren and a husband, they all lived on two children's grants – R500 a month.

She smiles as she tells how, after her third Phakamani loan, she is happy, has the freedom to do what she wants and is independent. In her home now she has a freezer (which she's had fixed) in which she keeps cool-drinks and ice-cream which she sells with other items in her spaza shop. She proudly tells of her ability now to feed her family "good food" like chicken feet and heads, beans, frozen fish, spinach and morocco.

Samaria is planning for the future. She'll be extending her house so that she can move her stock out of her kitchen into a small shop attached to the house – away from her personal space and re-plastering the inside walls of her badly pockmarked home.

Phakamani Stats and News

	<u>Sept 2009</u>	<u>Sept 2010</u>
Loans provided since inception	2900	4945
Value of Loans Issued to date	\$203 000	\$813 000
Sustainability	19%	49%

During the month of September, Phakamani Foundation opened up a fifth branch at Nkomazi East in Mpumalanga. Since that opening, 210 loans have been disbursed to women with unrealised micro-business dreams. Overall the growth in 2010 continues to be strong and we do not expect this to slow down anytime soon. The need is endless.

In September many South African friends and institutional supporters of Phakamani as well as partners in both Canada and Australia joined us for a conference. It was wonderful to see how things have changed in a year! Nicola Bashall recently spent some time with us revamping and rolling out a new Group Training Program. Karolina Ruppert, an intern from Germany, is with us until December working on a new impact monitoring/assessment system. Don Wagner from UPEI spent ten days, volunteering his time, to work on several key administrative systems. We are grateful to these people and many more who come at just the right time to help us.

Would you like to Contribute?

Whatever you are able to contribute to give the poor a "Hand-Up" will be most gratefully received and put to good use. Each part, however big or small, makes up the whole.

- \$ 300 supports one family for a year
- \$ 1 500 a group of 5 families
- \$ 12 000 a centre of 8 groups
- \$ 48 000 a village of 4 centres

Wire Transfers can be sent to Phakamani Foundation. Bank:Nedbank Ltd, 3 Ferreira St, Nelspruit, 1200, South Africa. Branch # 146805, Account # 1468126873, (Swift Code-NEDSZAJJ). *For tracking purposes, please also send a email to info@phakamanifoundation.org*

Online: Go to the Canada Helps Website at www.canadahelps.org and type in Phakamani Foundation. Canada Helps will inform us of your donation and also send you a receipt.

With our sincere thanks for your support and your prayers,

Mark and Shirley Tucker, the team at Phakamani Foundation, Phakamani Foundation Canada and Ripple Effect in Australia