



# Skills Development News

## Profile of St Anthony's Education Centre

The enrolment of 11 students and the opening of a small library by Fr Stan Brennan in July 1966, marked the official birth of the St Anthony's Education Centre. From its very humble beginnings the centre grew into an institution that provides excellent upliftment programmes for the poorest of the poor as well as renewed hope and dignity.

### Adult Basic Education and Training

St Anthony's introduced its Adult Basic Education and Training programme (ABET) in 1974 to provide opportunities to adults who were deprived of access to schooling because of the political, economic and social conditions in the times. Since its inception, 28 000 adult learners have successfully completed ABET levels 1 to 4 and the centre is now registered with the Department of Basic Education and Training.

### Skills Development

In 1995, the St Anthony's skills training center was established primarily to offer skills training to the thousands of marginalized and disadvantaged men and women who had been deprived of formal education opportunities. The Centre serves the entire Ekurhuleni Metropole, with the majority of its learners coming from informal settlements and townships on the East Rand. It is estimated that 90% of the learners are unemployed, and live in families where income is erratic. The skills training programmes offered by St Anthony's have expanded over the years to include welding, motor mechanic, basic business and accounting skills, computer training, electrical installation and repair, appliance repair, upholstery and sewing. St Anthony's has established strategic relationships with businesses in the area to offer internships and practical training opportunities for its learners. Since the majority of the learners come from disadvantaged backgrounds, many lack confidence and a sense of self worth and St. Anthony's has responded by including life skills training as a core component of all the skills programmes offered by the centre. It is reported that almost 70% of the Centre's graduates manage to secure paid employment.

## Staff Notes

Dear Colleagues

During the month of May, the TSI team has continued its visits to faith-based skills centres and are truly overwhelmed by the good work that is being done by all. We still have a few more centres to visit which we plan to conduct in June.

In this issue, we will be profiling St Anthony's Education Centre which is situated in Boksburg in Gauteng. We would like to thank Alan Kitchenbrand and his team for hosting us and for the information provided.

Fawzia Naidoo

Yvonne dos Santos



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## The promotion of Entrepreneurship and Small Business "Hives"

On Wednesday 17 March 2010, Mr Bernd Schwendtke, CFO and Director of Mercedes Benz SA officially opened St Anthony's newly refurbished and expanded small business "Hives". The "Hives", which are funded by Mercedes Benz SA, serve as small workshops for people interested in starting small businesses. The equipped workshops can be rented for a nominal monthly fee by emerging entrepreneurs until such time that their business becomes established and they can afford to move to other business premises. The Centre also makes available some start-up capital for those entrepreneurs who submit particularly good business proposals. Currently, a Welder, Upholsterer and Refrigerator Mechanic are operating their business from the St Anthony's Small Business Hives

## Assessor and Moderators

In 2009, thirteen of St Anthony's Facilitators from different specialized fields of learning successfully completed an Assessor Training Course. St Anthony's proudly reports that all 13 have been deemed competent Assessors and are registered with a SETA relevant to their particular field of expertise. In addition, two of its registered Assessors attended a Moderator Course offered by the Thabiso Skills Institute in March 2010.

## Job Advisory Centre

St Anthony's has established a Job Advisory Centre that is registered with the Department of Labour. The

aim of the Advisory Centre is to assist learners in compiling a CV and in applying for jobs after their training at St Anthony's is successfully completed. This service is also extended to the broader members of the public.

## The Franciscan Matric Project (FMP)

This project was initiated as a response to requests from concerned parents on the East Rand. The initial objective was to provide an opportunity for unsuccessful matriculants to re-write their matriculation examination and achieve a Matric Certificate. The project has now been relocated as a registered Further Education and Training College within an Independent Private School and accommodates learners from Grades 10 to 12. As a result of this second-chance opportunity, many learners have successfully completed their schooling and enrolled in tertiary institutions.

The Skills training function at the St. Anthony's Education Centre is considered one of the largest and most successful skills development initiatives affiliated with the TSI. The scope of its skills development programmes and intake of learners has grown steadily over the years to meet the growing needs of the communities that it services. St. Anthony's has an established campus with qualified and dedicated staff which provides SETA accredited programmes covering a range of technical skills, as well as lifeskills and entrepreneurship. We at the Thabiso Skills Institute wish St Anthony's continued success in all of its training and community development endeavors.

## Contact Thabiso Skills Institute

The Institute's national headquarters is located in Booyens, Johannesburg, and operate in conjunction with the CIE. To learn more about the Thabiso Skills Institute visit its website, which is currently being established, at [www.thabiso.org.za](http://www.thabiso.org.za). You can also visit the CIE website at [www.cie.org.za](http://www.cie.org.za) for more information. You can contact the Thabiso Skills Institute at the following address:

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