

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mamelani Projects takes home the Gold Award at the Department of Social Development Youth Excellence Event

21 June, 2016, Cape Town, South Africa – Mamelani Projects has been named a Gold Award winner of the 2016 Department of Social Development’s Youth Excellence Awards (DSD Youth Awards) for their outstanding work with young people from marginalised communities in the Western Cape.

The DSD Youth Awards event is a celebration of youth development organisations from across the Western Cape Province who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution to the lives of young people.

This is an initiative led by Minister Albert Fritz as a way of highlighting best practice and showcasing innovative and impactful youth development projects. Mamelani’s ProSeed Youth Programme was chosen as the first in the Gold Category for its work with Youth in Transition from Alternative Care.

“We were really excited that our work was recognized at this prestigious event. It was a lot of fun to stand alongside my team and shout out loud when we heard we had won the award! We work with young people who are moving out of state care, mostly residential Child and Youth Care Centres – what most people know as Children’s Homes. Young people, many of whom who have grown up in care, are forced to move on from these Centres around the age of 18 and as you can imagine, without the right support, this can be a very difficult time for them. We are hoping that that this recognition can highlight the work that we do, and in particular, the experiences that young people face as they make these transitions. I am inspired daily by the resilience and tenacity of the young people we work and we would like to invite anyone who is interested in getting involved to be in touch with us about ways of supporting the amazing young people in our programme” – Carly Tanur, Founder and Director of Mamelani Projects.

David, one of the ProSeed participants quoted what Lorenzo Davids of the Community Chest said in his welcome speech *“Don't talk about what you do - Let what you do talk about you”*.

Mamelani was established in 2003 and has evolved into a vibrant and well-established community development organisation that seeks to create positive transformation in communities. The ProSeed Youth Development programme was designed to enable children who have grown up in state care to move into young adulthood with a more positive sense of self, healthier relationships and strengthened resilience. All of the young people in Mamelani's Programme have been placed in residential care because of difficult home situations and if by 18 they are still in care, it's a sign that they don't have the supports that most young adults have to move into the next phase of their life. Mamelani's programme works directly with young people as they make this transition from state care to their adult lives. Mamelani also works with Child and Youth Care Centres to build practices that support youth transitions, and more recently, they have been engaging in the policy formation process to ensure that legislation provides adequate support for youth transitions. Mamelani has developed a resource book that child and Youth Care Centres can use to guide these interventions.

For more information about their work, please look for Mamelani Projects on Facebook, @Mamelani on twitter and visit our website – www.mamelani.org.za