

# Working on Fire does 119 Acts of Goodwill in honour of Mandela Centenary



Mandela Day calls on us all, every day, to make the world a better place. Each year on 18 July we look back on what has been done, and forward to what will be done in honour of this icon.

As we celebrate this icon, Working on Fire also embrace the national theme, "Be the Legacy" by launching its 100 Acts of Goodwill early this month. The Working on Fire 100 acts of goodwill initiative seeks to remind all citizens about the power of selflessness, human service, giving and the spirit of Ubuntu - which Madiba held very highly. As we celebrate 100 years since Nelson Mandela's birth, Working on Fire participated in the Centenary Celebrations by committing themselves to doing 100 acts of goodwill to commemorate Nelson Mandela Centenary. Working on Fire hosted various activities across the country to commemorate the Nelson Mandela Centenary.

These acts included, encouraging education, something we all know was close to Madiba's heart, helping at elderly centres, lend a helping hand to the homeless, taking care of the environment, care for the animals, bringing relief to those in need and many other activities.

The Working on Fire employees opened their hearts, and in some cases their pockets, to buy the material, items and groceries donated during these celebrations. Some gave their time to Make a Difference in the lives of those in need. Currently Working on Fire has done 119 Acts of Goodwill which impacted hundreds of lives. More Acts of Goodwill are still going to be done throughout the month of July. Once again the, Working on Fire employees ensured they live and hold high one of the programme's values which is Making a Difference while also living Mandela' Legacy.



The Injaka team with the Soccer Gogos after losing 4-1 to the Gogos.



The Mlambongwane kept busy with gardening activities

## Mpumalanga firefighters fired up for Madiba

International Nelson Mandela Day came and went, but firefighters in Mpumalanga remained fired up throughout the month of July, with the spirit of Ubuntu and giving back to marginalised people in their communities.

Teams across the province participated in several clean-up and gardening activities. While the Injaka team spent Madiba Day playing soccer with the Soccer Gogos Team, the Waterval Boven team cleaned up a cemetery site in remembrance of 63 Mozambican mine workers who tragically lost their lives on a railway line 65 years ago.

The Mlambongwane team visited an early childhood centre to teach the young ones about fire safety and did gardening activities.



Swellendam Team doing some work at the Adaliah Home.

## Adaliah Home now safe

As we celebrate Mandela Day, the Swellendam team adopted the Adaliah Home in Swellendam to continue to improve the quality of the home, both inside and out.

The Team of firefighters cleaned the play areas, scrapped off rust and grime from the play equipment, re-coated the equipment with anti rust, repainted the equipment in different colours, making it more fun and exciting for the kids to play on, and later returned to hand out care packages to the residence of the home.

## Eastern Cape staff cares for kids this Mandela day



Eastern Cape provincial staff put a smile on a number of kids' faces this Mandela Day.

To celebrate 100 years since Nelson Mandela's birth, Working on Fire's Eastern Cape provincial management acted on the theme "Be the legacy" by participating in two different Mandela Day activities. These activities made a huge difference in the lives of young people from Khayelethu Special Schools and kids from Kings Orphanage Home outside East London.

The staff members started at Khayelethu: they spent time with the

learners, played fun games and also donated fruit. The learners thoroughly enjoyed the activities and expressed their appreciation. Later on in the day, the staff visited the Kings Orphanage, located a few kilometers from East London. The orphanage cares for about 50 kids, from newborns to age five. WOF donated baby products consisting of nappies, baby wipes, vaseline and clothes.

The Eastern Cape Social development Practitioner, Yvone Nte, said that they played with the kids and also assisted with their feeding. "Mandela Day seeks to remind all citizens about the power of selflessness, human service, giving and the spirit of Ubuntu - which Madiba held very highly," said Nte.

She continued that, by doing all these activities, they were encouraging other South Africans to do their part as well and "Be the Legacy" throughout the Mandela month. The founder of the Orphanage Home, Tracy Kings, thanked the WOF programme for all the good things they did for the Orphanage.

"At this orphanage, we rely on the good deeds of people and we sincerely thank the staff of Working on Fire for thinking of us on this Mandela day," Tracy explained.

## Limpopo provincial staff cares for the vulnerable



Limpopo provincial staff serves a hearty meal to orphans and the elderly.

The Limpopo provincial staff, led by their General Manager, Mr Tshepo Malatji, visited Dikolobe Multi Purpose Center at Mentz as part of WOF's 100 Acts of Goodwill initiative for Mandela Day. Dikolobe has five elements under which it serves its community: WOF opted to contribute to the orphans and the elderly as part of their initiative.

"There are so many ways that we can show the orphans and our elders that we also love and care about them. We don't have to share the same blood in order to share the love among each other," said Judith Molapo, the Office Assistant at WOF Limpopo.

Due to the cold weather, the WOF provincial team cooked a hearty vegetable soup, which they served, along with bread, to the kids and the elderly.

## Western Cape lives his legacy



The Southern Cape Management hands out care packages at the shelter for battered women and children in George.

In celebration of the centenary of former South African President, Nelson Mandela, the Southern Cape Management, together with the Sedgefield team, had a day well spent doing various activities in and around Sedgefield. Before heading to the Rainbow Kidz Crèche in Sedgefield, the management team visited a Shelter for battered women and children in George to hand out care packages.

Following the wonderful moments spent at the shelter, the team headed to the crèche where they cleaned, replaced broken windows, repainted the building and play areas.

Social Development Practitioner, Lusheen Britz said, "The day went very well and I am so proud of the staff and Sedgefield team for all their hard work. These acts of kindness should be done as often as possible, not just once a year.

We will visit these centres again soon to ensure that they are maintained and fit for the children."

# Head Office honours Madiba's legacy



Head Office staff donates care packages to local primary school.



Head Office staff donates animal food and products to local SPCA.

Working on Fire and Kishugu staff from the Head Office in Nelspruit honoured Madiba's legacy by giving back on what would have been his 100th birthday - 18 July 2018. Employees opened their hearts and contributed funds, products and time to two activities: #caringforkids and #caringforanimals.

In the morning, a bus filled with staff visited John Mdluli primary school to hand over boxes of care packages, containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and sanitary products. A large number of young South African girls miss up to 4 days of school a month when forced to stay at home due to a lack of funds for sanitary towels. The donated care packages were given to a teacher responsible for keeping an eye on

disadvantaged learners. Grade 5 to 7 girls were also engaged in an educational session, during which a local doctor, Ningi Makondo, shared some valuable health and sanitation tips.

In the afternoon, staff visited the local SPCA, where firefighters and staff assisted with bush clearing around the premises, as well as the painting of a store room and office. Staff also generously donated animal food, blankets and animal toys. "It was an honour to work together as colleagues and make a difference this Mandela Day," says Glynis van Wyk, HOD for Social Development. "Both the school and the SPCA do selfless work and were touched by our service and contributions. It truly is better to give than receive."

Working on Fire National Communication staff brought a smile to the elderly at Ikhaya LoXolo Old Age Home in Gugulethu as part of the Mandela Centenary celebrations. The team, true to Working on Fire's value of Making a Difference, contributed money to purchase gifts for the occasion.

The team donated 90 gift packs to the elderly at the home's, 9 gifts of appreciation to the staff who work at the home and 3 bags of adult nappies and toilet paper. The elderly's gift packs contained a face cloth, bath soap and a body moisturiser - a gesture that was much appreciated.

The team also committed to pay R500 toward the homes electricity bill to help the centre keep their lights on this winter. One of the elderly from the home, Madosini, thanked the National Communication team and said they hope to see them again in future. "We are grateful that you, as young as you are, chose to make time for the elderly.

The staff here always tell us that we have not been abandoned and that we are loved. Today we saw and felt that. May God bless you and bless your pockets from which you took to make this possible."

## Comms team shows love to the elderly



Working on Fire National Communication team distributes gifts to the elderly.

## KZN Team assist at children's home and crèches



Kokstad firefighters helping out at the orphanage.

The Kokstad team, together with Correctional Services, visited Comfort Orphanage, where they spent time with the kids and cleaned the facilities, the yard and jungle gym. Firefighters also prepared fire wood and helped to take care of the little ones for the day.

Another team of firefighters from Kwambonambi visited a local crèche where they cleaned and spent time with the children. The team also conducted a clean-up in their community.

Albert Falls team also enjoyed their Mandela Day with children from a local crèche. They played with the little ones and also constructed a fire break around the premises.

# Gauteng staff gives 67 minutes of honour



Vusi Nkosi painting at Thato crèche to mark 67 minutes of Mandela Day in Ebony Park.

Gauteng Provincial management honoured the former state president, Nelson Mandela, by doing community service at Thato crèche in Ebony Park.

Social Development Officer, Sabelo Buthelezi, said that this was to draw inspiration and wisdom from Madiba's good deeds and ensure that his legacy lives on. They decided to paint the identified crèche because the quality of paint was fading away.

"We wanted to participate as our programme was born of Madiba's government," he said. "The 67 minutes are critical in giving and ploughing back to children who are based at the crèche."

Tshireletso, one of the kids at the crèche, said he was humbled by the work of the management team at their crèche. "It was a great day for us as kids," he said.

# Mpumalanga provincial staff gets hands dirty on Madiba Day



Mpumalanga provincial staff gets dirty for Madiba.

Working on Fire provincial management officials in Mpumalanga, in collaboration with the provincial Department of Water and Sanitation, Mbombela Local Municipality and the Inkomati Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) and several other agencies, joined the global community to observe International Mandela Day on 18 July.

The day was observed through a clean-up activity at the Nelspruit Industrial area on Bosch Street. Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) community maintenance workers joined in on this activity aimed at creating awareness on how to combat pollution and protect the environment.

"The day calls for people from all walks of life to be selfless. It was only fitting that we got our hands dirty, in a bid to reduce pollution and protect the environment," said social development practitioner, Condrick Mukhudwani.

# KZN Provincial staff participates in WOF's 100 Acts of Goodwill



Provincial staff hands out food during Mandela Day.

The KwaZulu-Natal provincial staff participated in various activities to encourage all South Africans to do their part and "Be the legacy" this Mandela Day.

Provincial staff first visited the Ester House for women and children in distress. They motivated the young women to never give up. The visit served also to strengthen the partnership, as the province plans to launch a Women's Forum which aims to empower Working on Fire women and conduct work with external partners. The provincial staff will be working closely with the women in assisting them to develop themselves. The team then visited the Aryan Benevolent Home for the aged, where they spent time with the elderly and the frail. They reminded them of their value to society today and assured them that they are remembered and appreciated. They prepared the afternoon tea and shared good memories. The team then went to feed homeless youth in Pietermaritzburg. They concluded the day by donating food and blankets.

# Nebo extended respect and love to the frail



Nebo team reminded their community of the power of selflessness and ubuntu.

As part of their contribution towards WOF's 100 Acts of Goodwill, the Nebo team in Limpopo decided to visit a visually impaired elderly man who stays alone in their village.

"While growing up, we were taught that all elders in our community should be respected and treated with love and dignity. But along the way we lost that; hence we decided to revisit the lessons that we were taught by our elders while growing up," says Tonic Mathhare, Nebo Crew Leader Type I.

The team surprised Mr Jakobos Mhloba, who is visually impaired, at his house. They volunteered to do all his domestic chores. While ladies were busy cleaning the house and doing laundry, their gentlemen colleagues got busy with scuffling the grass and removing the fuel load from around the house.

"I am very happy with what the WOF firefighters have done for me. I pray that God will do well by them and give them blessings. I now know that I have a family I can count on in times of need," said Mr Mhloba.

## Naledi team makes a difference to the homeless



The team donated food and blankets to keep the homeless warm this winter.

The challenges faced by many homeless people are mostly food scarcity and keeping warm at nights. The Naledi team had this in mind as they planned their Mandela Day activity. On 18 July, they kept true to their plans and donated blankets and food to the homeless.

The team had also asked Nandos for food donations which they also gave to the homeless. But the team had more than giving in mind. They wanted to make a lasting impact on the homeless people's lives.

They brought a Social Worker along to give encouraging words to homeless, motivating them to change lives around them and know that they are still loved.

## Farleigh inspired to act by Mandela's words



Farleigh Team members rolled up their sleeves to upgrade primary school playground.

Nelson Mandela once said, "Our human compassion binds us, the one to the other - not in pity or patronisingly, but as human beings, who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future." These words captured the Farleigh team as they saw a need for change at the Karatara Primary School. They conducted a cleanup, and repainted the school's play area to make it safer and interactive for the children.

## Highveld teams lend helping hand at daycare



Highveld team spent their Mandela Day at the daycare centre.

North West Highveld team, together with different government departments such as the Department of Water Affairs, Department of Labour and the South African National Defence Force, lend a helping hand at the Tshwaraganang Daycare Centre in honour of #MandelaCentenary. The group spent the day taking care of the children, cleaning, gardening and helping around the centre. The staff at the centre was very appreciative for the extra hands, while the children enjoyed the company of the firefighters.

# Working on Fire participants remain committed in giving back



Eastern Cape Lusikisiki High Altitude Team and Ongeluksnek Team showed they care for the elderly.

In Eastern Cape the two teams decided to assist old aged people who stay alone and struggle to do things for themselves. According to the

Base Communication Representatives of Lusikisiki High Altitude Team, Pumzile Mcelwa, they as a team chose an elderly woman who stays in one of the villages in Lusikisiki to spend their 67 minutes assisting her.

"In the rural areas, water is fetched from far areas and it's not easy for old people. So, we fetched water for this old lady, cleaned her yard and even did her laundry," said Mcelwa. He said it made them very happy to see the impact they made in the life of this senior lady and she could not stop thanking them for their efforts.

On the other hand, Ongeluksnek team also went to assist another old lady who stays alone and they cooked for her, cleaned her house and also spend some time with her. "She could not stop smiling after what we did for her," said Ongeluksnek Crew leader, Khothalang Sello.

Working on Fire teams continue to show commitment in saving lives, caring for the old and also giving back to the communities around them.

## Eastern Cape lives his legacy



Participants play their part in honour of Nelson Mandela.

Working on Fire and High Altitude teams in Eastern Cape participated in different activities in honour of the Mandela Centenary. About three teams namely Addo HAT, Addo WOF and Katberg HAT spend their Mandela day assisting at Daycare Centres where they painted, cleaned and played with kids.

According to the Regional Manager of HAT, Susan Rall, both Addo teams went to Nomathamsanqa Day Care which has 80 children.

"The day care was chosen because it has a high number of children and only 3 teachers. The teams donated and installed a panel heater to keep the kids warm," explained Rall. She said that they also renewed the painting and made soup for the kids. Rall added that participating in Mandela Day activities was important because it reminds team members about what Nelson Mandela stood for and what he spent his life trying to achieve.

"Mandela is a symbol of hope and unity, and he wanted to bring the nation together regardless of race or gender. Celebrating Mandela Day gives participants an opportunity to always practice making a difference and serving the less fortunate in our communities," she added. Rall finalized by saying Katberg HAT chose a Daycare in Balfour where also showed ubuntu by painting the building.

## KZN teams assisted health care facilities this Mandela Day

A number of Working on Fire teams in the province of KwaZulu-Natal participated this Mandela day by lending a helping hand to local health facilities around their communities.

The Normandien Team visited the Ingogo Clinic, did some gardening and some cleaning and helped out with operations during the day.

The Mbazwana team offered assistance at the Mbazwana Clinic in the Mseleni Hospital - firefighters spent their 67 minutes by cleaning inside the clinic.



Firefighters assist at health care facilities.

# Limpopo teams make a difference in their community



Alma team from WOF Limpopo serves by cleaning at a local school.

WOF Limpopo teams hosted various activities across the province to commemorate the Nelson Mandela Centenary. "Our teams went all out this year to make a difference in their communities. They have embarked on various activities as part of the 100 acts of goodwill," said Mr Michael Ramatsea.

Mogalakwena led the provincial celebration when they launched the #CareForAnimals initiative from their base: they cleaned and fed the animals at Mokopane Zoological Gardens.

This was followed by Aganang team cleaning the laundry at WF Knobel hospital and also erecting a fence and creating a playground for the kids at Bahwela Crèche and Pre-School.

Sondela team cleaned at Bela-Bela Hospital and Alma team cleaned their local school.

Molemole and Rooiberg also took time to celebrate by dancing and exercising with elderly citizens at old age homes. Lephalale team also offered their time by cleaning for the elderly in their area.

Phiphidi sealed the day by painting the local crèche and implementing integrated fire management at the crèche by slashing grass around the premises.

"Our Modimolle team contributed by donating gifts to the disabled children at a local disability center," concluded Ramatsea.

## Living hope for the future

"We saw a need and wanted to do our best to help, even if it was in a small way," said Lwandiso Mgodeni, Type 2 Crew Leader for the Orangethorns High Altitude Team in the Western Cape.

The Team conducted a clean-up at the Living Hope Centre in Masipumelele, and also spent time getting to know the residence and staff of the centre. This was done in celebration of Mandela Day 2018.



Orangethorns High Altitude Team conduct a clean-ups at the Living Hope Centre in Masipumelele.

## KZN teams care for the aged



Firefighters help the elderly with house chores.

Harding team lived the legacy of Tata Nelson Mandela by offering their help to those in need. Harding BCR, Sthembiso, said the team visited 91 year old, Mr. Umzimkhulu Mbhele. "He has no one to call family and currently lives alone." The team helped with internal and external cleaning - Base manager, Mr Mbuthuma, and Merensky Community Officer, Mr Scott, donated cleaning material and paint for the task. "We were also very appreciative of Mr Mbuthuma offering a chainsaw to clear the trees surrounding Baba Mbhele's home. Everything went as planned and we're very happy with the outcome. We are proud that WOF is part of the #LivingTheLegacy movement," said Sthembiso.

The Vryheid team visited a local old age home, where they kept the elderly company and pampered them with pedicures and hand and feet massage. The team also did exercises with the senior citizens. Firefighters from Ulundi visited an elderly woman, living alone, as part of their Mandela Day initiative. They spent a day with her, helped with household chores and cleaned her yard. The team also contributed money to buy her some meat. Manguzi firefighters spent their day helping to clean in and around the house of an elderly lady living alone and the Eshowe Team, with the Umlalazi Fire and Rescue, built a three bedroom house for another single elderly woman.



Dinokeng team donated and planted seedlings at an old age home in Kekana Gardens.



Kroonstad team prepared breakfast for the elderly at Phekong old age home.



Senekal team provided food parcels to various members of their community.



Mogalakwena firefighters joined the legacy as they walked in the footsteps of Nelson Mandela by cleaning the cages for the animals and feeding them at Mokopane Zoological Gardens.



Vrede team celebrated Mandela Day by painting a community member's home and cleaning the Phumelela District Hospital.



In celebration of Mandela Day, the Porterville Team re-enacted a drama about the life of the late President Nelson Mandela, at the Brandenburg Primary School



Aganang Team creating a kids playground as part of their 100 Centenary celebration for Tata Nelson Mandela.



Castello team were at the SAVF Old Age Home in Ventersdorp along with the Community Work programme participants helped by cleaning, cooking, doing laundry and gardening. They also donated cleaning material.



Boskop Team, together with staff from Promosa Clinic, cleaned a day care's yard and painted their house. Before the team left, they donated WOF blankets and mattresses.



Jansenville Team spent their day cleaning up at nearby dumping site as part of taking care of the environment.