



# Newsletter

January to  
May 2017

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## Teens At Crossroads

Crossroads has teenagers coming and going every day. Some we get to sit and connect with on a deeper level, others come only when they need educational help & we get to help in this way, and then some we see come and go and never get plugged in. It's a daily challenge to connect with teenagers but it is also a big privilege.

Since beginning of 2017, Crossroads has opened with a BANG and a membership fee. Our attendance has dropped but we can again, reach teens on a very personal level because of low attendance and little staff. We also offer our Roadies system for those teens that cannot afford the membership fee of R50 as we never close our doors to those in need.

During the first & second term, we have continued to provide services to those in need and during it we have connected with teens who say "Crossroads makes a big difference in my education." Apart from the educational programs, we have continued to reach teens on a spiritual level of which many are benefiting. "In my family I am the only Christian so my family doesn't support anything I do that is Christian-based so at Crossroads I really feel supported." are just some of the words from a teenager that fights to keep his faith.

Meet Kwanele & Innocent, just some of our teens who also made it onto our Steering Committee, who attends the Centre daily because "Crossroads helps me with tutorial sessions & bet-

ter grades, music lessons that helps me invest in talents that I found out I have, & I have made many friends from different schools."

Kwanele continues to come because his leadership skills are being developed and he feels he is making a difference by helping and connecting with other teenagers.

These are just two of many teenagers that attend and get impacted in many ways. They each have their own struggles but life seems brighter when they enter Crossroads' doors.

## Needs:

- Tutor Volunteers
- CCTV System worth R 23 125.04.
- Music Equipment worth R 55 000.00
- Funding toward a Steering Committee Leadership Camp in the third school term
- Monthly Sponsorship

## 2017 Programs & Membership

Since January 2017, Crossroads has implemented a membership fee of R50 for the year. We have realized that our teens need to be taught the value of earning & that things in life are not free. But we have also realized that for many of our teenagers, they cannot even afford R50 either because they are not

supported by their parents, or they simply do not have it to give. For these teens, we have given the opportunity to use the Roadies system thus forcing them to attend programs where they greatly benefit from and then using their reward points to pay for their membership fee.

The start of the first term was a challenge as Crossroads faced the "fees must fall" scenario. But come the second term, our attendance continues to grow as our teens realize that their needs are met by what we have to offer. Our current membership is at 66 registered teenagers. This is a lot less than what we had in 2016 but there is a big plus to this.

# 2017 Programs & Membership Continue...

With the small drop in numbers, we have managed to give better attention to the teenagers that currently attend.

We simply do not have days where there are over a 100 teenagers of which many just comes and goes. We now have 40 on average which we get to really connect with and help! There are also many of our programs that we can run this year because of small numbers.

During the first term, we had events such as "Mardi Gras" where we taught the teens about being the real you whilst making it fun, "Computer Training" that covered all the basics, "Drama Club" being run by Goodhope Gumede who has been a Crossroads member for many years, "Talk on Study Methods & Dealing with Stress" by Siyanda Masondo who also assists us with tutorial sessions, "Talk on Career Guide-



ance" by Paul Scherzer that was very helpful for the teens, "Valentines Day Event" where we focused on love and what this really means, "Crafts & Games" to help develop skills & build friendships & our weekly programs such as Kids For Christ, Boys & Girls Club and Socials continued as well.

Along with the fun, we focused

heavily on education as there seems a big demand for tutorials during the first term & start of the second term. From January to March, Crossroads did more than 29 tutorial sessions for subjects like Math, Physics & EMS. We also started our "Meet your Mentor" program after Paul's talk on careers. Our teens signed up giving us details of what they want to do in life thus helping us to find a "Mentor" that can give them advice, directions & even open some doors for teens that would otherwise never have this opportunity. This program is currently underway. We also had SANCA talk to our teens on substance abuse & Rob Shepherd talk on Debt & what to watch out for (see photo.)

## Donations & Thanks

It is no secret that Crossroads needs the community's support to sustain us. Again, 2017 seems promising as many have stepped on board to help.

We would like to thank Mondi for their paper donation of 15 boxes that helps Crossroads teens to print their school work and helps the centre save costs.

We would like to thank UVS for their generous donation of R17 000.00 to-

ward our tutorial programmes as thus has helped us to increase the sessions and help more teens according to demand.

We thank Hospital Farm Trust for their continued support by giving R10 000.00 at the start of the year toward our programmes and to help us start the year off well.

Thanks also to Kenart for donating R5000.00 worth of school books for our tutors to use when doing tutorial sessions.

Lastly, we would like to thank our monthly sponsors who continue to make it all possible by giving generously each month towards the basic needs of Crossroads. Without your ongoing support we would not be able to carry on with the work that we do.

**WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE  
PEOPLE ON BOARD WHO  
SUPPORT OUR CAUSE!  
THANK YOU AGAIN**

## Ahead for 2017...?

Starting off from June 2017, we continue to run our weekly programmers along with Music Lessons every Friday. We also continue to work on our "Meet your Mentor" program & we are assisting Grade 12 students with bursary and university applications.

Crossroads will also be doing socials on certain Fridays such as "Jeopardy" games, "Sushi Candi" where our teens will learn how to

make sushi, "Fake Photo Contest" where our teens will learn all about creating and editing photos on a software, & many more that will be "open days" for all teenagers that are non-members in order to use this opportunity to get teens plugged in.

During the second term we will be focusing heavily on our teens' education and so our main programmes that will run daily will

be tutorial sessions. Our teens will be writing their midterm exams and so we want to invest in this to ensure our teens do well! Crossroads will then be closed for the school holidays in July and will partake in AWOL teen camp by having teens attend and some volunteer where needed. These are just some of our plans ahead. For more info on what is happening at Crossroads, give us a shout!

## Meet Your Mentor!

Each year, Crossroads has teenagers coming and going without an idea of what they would like to do in life never mind how to go about it. This year, we want to change things.

We have started our "Meet Your Mentor" program where we first had Pau Scherzer along with some Unizulu students, share about life after High School, CAO struggles & loan info as well as how to go about becoming a success in life.

We then had teenagers sign up giving us three career choices of "what I want to do with my life". After we got these details, we started reaching out to people within our community that are working in the current fields listed by our teens, to come and spend time giving guidance, assisting with question & even taking teens out on trips to observe and get "real" exposure to what it is like being a "doctor".

We realized that teens with dreams, need help because if they cannot stand blood, how can you want to become a doctor or what if your grades don't make it?! So giving teens exposure helps tremendously and having guidance lets the teens ask "if I cannot be a doctor, what can I become?" of which we then address by means of an online test.

All our teens work through an online testing system to try and pinpoint what their interests are and where their skills lie. This report from the testing, gives us a biggest "box" to then work with and also opens our teens' eyes to other possibilities.

It's a program of great need. It's a program that we cannot run without the help of our community.

We therefore reach out to you!  
If you would like to assist teens

and feel you can offer them guidance in your field of expertise, please let us know!



**Thanks to Leslie Fombad for sitting with our teens that are interested in pursuing medicine!**

## Needs?!

If you feel you can contribute to any of the following, please get in touch with our Centre Manager, Dezi Laatz, for more info.

Here are some of our current needs and a brief explanation of each:

- ⇒ **Volunteers!** If you have free time in the afternoon & can help school students with their studies, we need you!
- ⇒ **CCTV System!** For safety as well as better management of programmes, we need to install a CCTV system throughout the centre. The funding required is R 23 125.04. Any donation in this regard would be of great help.
- ⇒ **Music Equipment!** Crossroads has started music lessons as there is a big demand but our equipment are third hand and very old and almost done for. If anyone has equipment lying around, bring it to Crossroads or help us with funding for this of which our total comes down to R55 000.00. This amount covers things like drums, keyboard, microphone and many more needed equipment.
- ⇒ **Steering Committee Camp!** We would like to do a camp this year during the third school term with our Steering Committee in order to build leadership skills. We are currently working on the finer details but if you would like to get involved please let us know.

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## CROSSROADS TEEN CENTRE

Centre Manager: Dezi Laatz  
Program Manager: Thabiso Mokoena

We're on the web!

[www.crossroadsteencentre.co.za](http://www.crossroadsteencentre.co.za)

*Crossroads Teen Centre offers Christian based recreational, social and educational programmes, projects and activities in a safe and stable environment. We equip high school learners to better meet the challenges of the world so that they can maximize their potential and confidently lead the way for their peers to experience the same. As a registered non-profit organisation and public benefit organisation we rely on the generosity of funders and volunteers either through financial sponsorships or time and talents.*

*Many Blessings!*

## Meet our 2017 Steering Committee!

