

UNIVERSAL PROMISE

Inclusivity | Accountability | Sustainability | Ubuntu



WHO WE ARE

We are a USA-based nonprofit (501c3) that invests in children's education, well-being, and security in rural South Africa. Using a rare and highly effective Top 10 Wish List approach, we provide individuals and institutions in the underserved Eastern Cape with the academic resources needed to ensure educational and career opportunities that will promote just, civil, and hopeful societies.

WHAT WE DO

TOP PROJECTS & SERVICES AT SCHOOLS

SCHOOL SAFETY

full security measures to make school safe for children and to protect our donors' investments

CLEAN WATER

eco-friendly clean water systems that filter and purify rainwater or drilled water before dispersing it to water fountains, bathrooms, and the school kitchen

COMPUTER LABS

state-of-the-art technology labs with at least 30 laptops, an interactive white board, and curricular software, moving computer literacy from 0% to 100%

ART STUDIOS

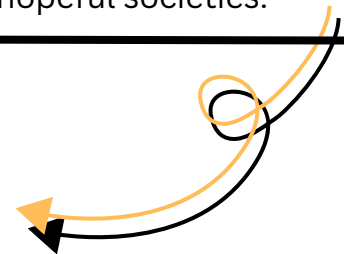
creative spaces for children to tap into strengths and talents that may not be showcased in a traditional setting

OTHER STUDIOS

dance, music, and wellness studios to showcase expression and to practice mindfulness as means to cope with the myriad challenges children face

PLAY-GROUNDS

stress-free play areas that allow children to have fun, lend support, take safe risks, and laugh



1% of Eastern Cape schools have proper security fencing to protect their schools. 100% of UP partner-schools have quality fencing and other extensive security measures.

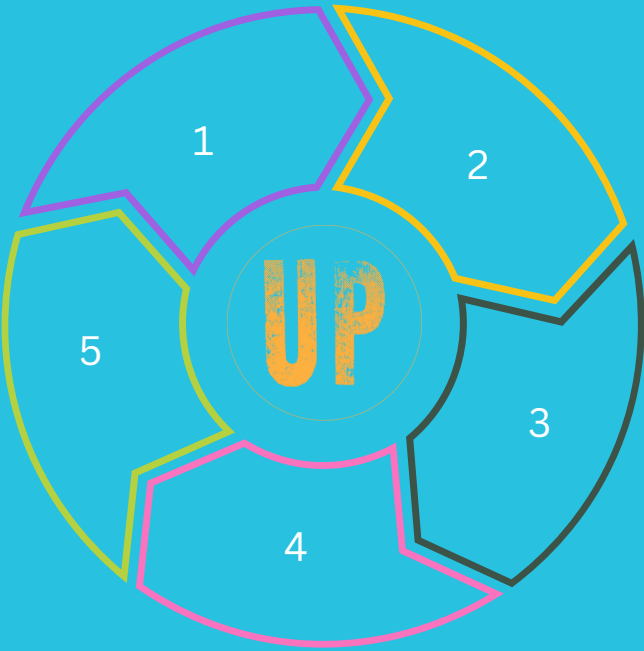


15% of children in the Eastern Cape comprehend what they read. Vusumzi, a UP partner-school, enjoys 96% mastery of isiXhosa: the home language.



In 2011, 0% of schools in Nomathamsanqa Township schools had clean water. In 2023, 100% of UP partner-schools have clean water and working bathrooms.

TOP 10 WISH LIST APPROACH



STEP ONE

We partner with underserved schools in one region of South Africa and ask administrators, educators, students, and parents to share their Top Ten Wishes to uplift their school.

STEP TWO

Together we consolidate and prioritize the four sets of wishes. Then we outline before, during, and after responsibilities and ownership for relevant parties.

STEP THREE

After school administrators, educators, and students satisfactorily complete their responsibilities, we provide support, assisting the community to meet each goal.

STEP FOUR

After we fund a wish list item, we pause for the school to show evidence of its ownership and maintenance of the project.

STEP FIVE

The school's independence and our ultimate departure are fundamental to our mutual success.

What led to such blatant inequities?

The majority of schools in the Eastern Cape fail to meet minimum standards set under the South African School Act. Why?

- The Bantu Education Act of 1963 created a separate and inferior educational experience for Black citizens, limiting students and adults to unskilled or semi-skilled careers.
- That burden, in turn, disproportionately affected females. Gender inequality increased girls' drop-out rates, teenage pregnancy, premature marriage, and gender-based violence.
- Lower quality education and inadequate wages led to higher crime rates. Schools without proper security measures, fencing, cameras, and monitoring were particularly vulnerable to theft, which affected the quality of facilities and programs.
- That, by definition, is a self-perpetuating cycle, which Universal Promise has systematically disrupted.

Chronic empowerment vs. chronic handouts

To combat the historic, institutionalized inequities based on race and gender, **we fund education**: a globally recognized resolution **to end poverty** and bring opportunities to the younger generation and communities-at-large. **Our results speak for themselves.** Reading comprehension at one of our partner-schools jumped from 36% mastery of the home language to 96%. Enrollment has skyrocketed, at one school even by 200%. Pass rates from primary to high school improved from 54% to 99%, and the proof goes on and on. As a complement to education, we also fund projects that enhance children's well-being and safety. Our investments have ignited a **movement-of-transformation**, allowing our partner-schools to distinguish themselves from the surrounding norms.





OUR PROOF



FOUNDED 2011
six partner-schools
serving more than
10,000 students



SECURITY
zero break-ins
since investment
in safety



ENROLLMENT
increased by 42.5%
in 10 years



CLEAN WATER ACCESS
from 0% to 100%
in four schools



LANGUAGE
home language mastery
improved by 60%



TECH LABS & LITERACY
from 0% to 100%
in four schools

"Why are you helping South Africa when the needs are so great in our own country?"



Martha (Nobuntu) Cummings
Founder | Executive Director

When people pose that question, I reply by asking if they have ever been to South Africa; 99% of the time, they say no. I knew most would never ask that if they had seen what I saw: that cruel, relentless chasm between the haves and have-nots. I frankly don't subscribe to the notion that charity begins at home, because what is home? Is it whoever lives within our walls, in our town, in our state, or in our country, or is home the Earth? Is home a feeling? In the end, it should not matter where we do something, as long as we do something. As to why I embraced the Xhosa of South Africa, I had never met anyone else with whom I so spontaneously fell in love: their culture, ancestral respect, humor, dancing, drumming, singing, multilingualism, smiles, gratitude, and grit. It was also their lingering hope that not all promises would forever be broken despite nearly everything they'd experienced to the contrary. I remain in awe that they still espouse the promise of humanity and allow us to earn their trust each day.



HOW TO HELP



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|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------------|----|
| FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK | 1 | FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM | 2 |
| BE A SPONSOR FOR \$1.15/DAY | 3 | VOLUNTEER IN SOUTH AFRICA | 4 |
| FOLLOW US ON YOUTUBE | 5 | FOLLOW US TWITTER | 6 |
| ATTEND OUR YEARLY GALA | 7 | CALL/TEXT/WHATSAPP +1 401 855 8984 | 8 |
| FOLLOW US ON DONORSEE | 9 | DONATE CASH, CRYPTO, OR STOCK | 10 |

- 1 Universal Promise
- 2 universalpromise
- 3 universalpromise.org/sponsorship
- 4 universalpromise.org/volunteerism
- 5 youtube.com/@universalpromise4064



- 6 @unipromise
- 7 universalpromise.org
- 8 info above
- 9 donorsee.com/universalpromise?follow
- 10 donate.overflow.co/universalpromise



NOBATHEMBU LOLWANA **Vusumzi Primary School Administrator**

Before working with Universal Promise (UP), our learners were very few. We had no resources, and animals were even roaming around the school. We had been looking for NGOs to help us. Some worked with us for a year but left before their promises were fulfilled. Then we met Martha Cummings, and everything changed. UP is the best NGO we have ever seen. It is always there for us. I would definitely recommend UP to others looking to improve their schools. UP makes things happen.