

# PROF TESSA HOCHFELD MEMORIAL BURSARY FUND

## UPDATE NEWSLETTER



## TESSA HOCHFELD

The Prof Tessa Hochfeld Memorial Bursary Fund was set up by the family of Tessa in 2019, as a way of ensuring that Tessa's remarkable legacy in the area of social and gender justice, and her commitment to mentoring students could be sustained.

To date the fund has supported two Masters students whose work has interfaced with issues of gender and social justice. Our first Tessa Hochfeld Memorial Bursary holder – Ms Pearl Rametsetse – successfully completed her MPhil degree in 2021 and is now working at the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre. She recently applied for her PhD Studies. Inspired by her work at the centre, she is planning to look into research about resilience of genocide survivors, focusing on the 1994 Rwandan genocide survivors that currently live in South Africa.

Tessa's parents – Steve and Penny – were instrumental in helping Pearl to secure her role at the centre. Pearl's contributions to society are in a large part due to the support that she has received through the Tessa Hochfeld Memorial Bursary Fund and her connection with the Hochfeld family.

The bursary is currently supporting two students whose profiles we share below.

**SO FAR THE BURSARY FUND HAS SUPPORTED THE STUDIES OF THREE STUDENTS – TSHEGOFATSO RAMETSETSE, YIBANATHI MABUNDA AND NNTSAKO PRECIOUS SAMBO**



## YIBANATHI MABUNDA

Yibanathi Mabunda is the second Prof Tessa Hochfeld Memorial Bursary recipient and began the MPhil in Social Policy and Development in 2022. Her interest in the MPhil course aligns with her interest in children, their wellbeing and social justice.

She aims to make meaningful contributions in policy formulation and gain skills and knowledge required as a social worker to promote social change in South African societies and beyond. She says "I believe that if we help address challenges that children face at a young age, they are bound to be better functioning adults. I think addressing social injustice issues for children will help build better societies and it will enhance their chances of reaching their full potential. It will promote employability, they will lead stable lives and that will also be beneficial to the country's future, it's social and economic development."

Yibanathi is a qualified Social Worker, having completed a Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Witwatersrand. While completing her studies she completed several practical sessions offering counselling to individuals and families. She also gained experience working with groups as a facilitator and supporting community work projects. Although Yibanathi's main interest as a social worker lies in social justice, she is keenly aware of the inequalities in terms of gender which are embedded in the cultures of patriarchy and apartheid systems. Yibanathi says "I have a deep belief that gender and social injustices are connected. It is up to people like me as a social worker and other agents of social change to advocate and act as catalysts to combat issues around both gender and social justice."

Yibanathi was selected as the next bursary recipient because of her keen passion for social justice, which upholds the work and values of our late friend and colleague Prof Tessa Hochfeld. "Going into the course I learnt a lot about the importance of policy making and how they affect our daily lives. The knowledge I have received doing an MPhil will contribute to my career because it will enable me to participate in policy-making in future and make a contribution to the country's social development in order to make a positive change in people's lives." Yibanathi is currently working as a clinical social worker at Netcare Milpark while completing the MPhil. Her research focuses on the need for psychosocial services in schools located in disadvantaged areas.

***"AS A SOCIAL WORKER, MY MAIN INTEREST IS IN CHILDREN BECAUSE THEY ARE THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY. I BELIEVE THAT IF WE ADDRESS SOCIAL ISSUES AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN IN THEIR EARLY STAGES, THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO ACHIEVE MORE AND LEAD A SUCCESSFUL LIFE." - YIBANATHI MABUNDA***



## NTSAKO PRECIOUS SAMBO

Ntsako is the third Prof Tessa Hochfeld Memorial Bursary recipient and has just begun the MPhil in Social Policy and Development this year. Her interest in the MPhil course aligns with her interest in family wellbeing, gender-based violence and social welfare.

Ntsako has a degree in Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Limpopo and has experience working as a social worker in the Communities of Practice for Child Wellbeing project. "Working on the CoP project gave me an opportunity to gain more experience working with a diverse population, which includes learners at school and their families. Working as a CoP social worker also gave me an opportunity to gain knowledge and insight into how poverty and unemployment can affect individuals and their families," she said. Ntsako has extensive experience in psychosocial intervention, which includes providing counselling to children and their families. She also has experience in providing trauma counselling to the victims of crimes as well as experience in conducting individual, family and group therapy.

Ntsako aims to enhance her skills and knowledge to bring about social change in communities.

***"I PLAN TO STUDY THE CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY UNEMPLOYED SOCIAL WORKERS. SOUTH AFRICA HAS A HIGH RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT, AND I HAVE REALISED THAT THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK IS IN DEMAND SINCE THERE ARE MANY SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN OUR COMMUNITIES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED BY SOCIAL WORKERS. THE MAIN GOAL OF THE STUDY IS TO EXPLORE THE EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT ON SOCIAL WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COPING STRATEGIES. I AM ALSO AFFECTED BY UNEMPLOYMENT, AND I FEEL THAT THERE IS A NEED TO EXPLORE THE CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE."***

***WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO THE FUND CONTRIBUTORS FOR MAKING BURSARY FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THESE STUDENTS!***

*thank  
you*

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