



# SIZANANI ACADEMY OF SEWING AND DESIGN

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Dear Friends

April 2019



Greetings everyone. It is lovely to be in contact with you again, and to share some of the work that is happening at Sizanani this year.



My greatest 'gratitude moment' so far this year, is when someone contacted Sizanani asking for names of past students they could contact for an employment opportunity. I have a list of half a dozen students that I would happily refer, and so I started phoning them to ask if they were available for me to put their names forward. Imagine my delight, when each of them turned me down! What!! 😊 Yes, they were all busy with their own orders that they needed to fulfil and couldn't accept. It was an emotional day for me! This showed me that the students, who complete 2 years of training at Sizanani, are more equipped both skills-wise and with confidence, to start their own sewing businesses. It also proved to me, that as Sizanani becomes known, businesses needing seamstresses will be happy to use



graduates referred by us.



Another ‘gratitude moment’ is that we have 37 students registered for training so far this year. Some are here on a full-time basis either in the 1 year or 2 year course. Others are coming on a part-time basis, on days either in the week if they are shift workers or on a Saturday morning if they’re employed during the week. The good news is, we still have room for more students, so don’t forget to **talk** about Sizanani to all your friends and colleagues. Maybe someone has a child at home, who is taking a gap year from studying or can not find employment, who would love to learn a skill in the interim to keep themselves busy.



Our ‘Sewing Machine Fund’ has been such a successful venture at Sizanani. This Fund acts as a revolving fund. Sizanani purchases sewing machines, and students opt to buy the machine during their training. The student then has a year (or two) to pay off the machine while they are at Sizanani. They use the machine during the training day, so they become familiar with it, and confident in using it for all sorts of processes – making buttonholes, sewing zips or using some of the decorative stitching to add detail to their work.





Once students pay off the machines, there are funds to repeat the process again.

90 sewing machines have been purchased over the past 9 years. This means, 90 students have left training equipped to continue with sewing from home.



This month, 37 large bags of fabric pieces, zips, cottons, and bits and pieces were carried away by the students so that they can begin their own 'sewing cupboards' at home. All donations from your cupboards, are shared out to all the students – sometimes there are enough donations to enable us to do this 2 or 3 times in one year! The buzz in the training room, as everyone goes through their fabric bag, is wonderful to hear. I had one student share that over the weekend after receiving her donation bag, she made 2 cushions and a table runner for her home from some of the fabric she was given 😊

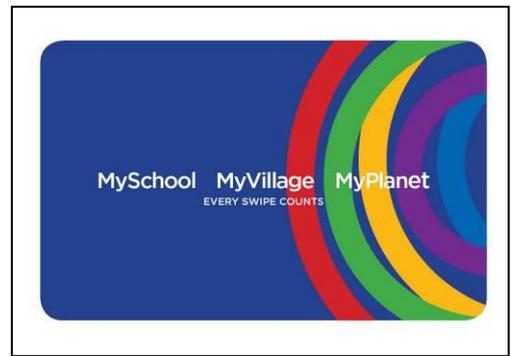


## **How you can be involved in helping Sizanani at NO COST TO YOURSELF?**

1. Shop at, or donate your unwanted household/office goods to the SOCIAL CAUSE AGENCY'S CHARITY SHOP situated at Paige Place, Bamboo Lane, Pinetown. \*\*\*When you donate goods, please tell the staff your donation is for Sizanani\*\*\*.

2. Register yourself on the My School Card Programme (Woolworths, Walton's, and other participating stores) and nominate

Sizanani, Academy of sewing and design as your beneficiary **OR** change your current beneficiary information to support Sizanani instead. You will find this information on [www.myschool.co.za](http://www.myschool.co.za).



3. **LIKE** our Facebook page, Sizanani, Academy of sewing and design, and **SHARE** all the posts that you see about what is happening at Sizanani on a weekly basis. This way Sizanani's information will reach all YOUR facebook friends.

4. YES, this one will cost you 😊 but please consider making a donation to Sizanani's work. You can scan this code and indicate an amount you want to donate. (download Zapper from your phone's playstore)



5. Alternatively, on our website [www.sizanani-academy.org.za](http://www.sizanani-academy.org.za), there is a DONATE button you can click on to make a donation – just follow the PAYFAST link.

Until next time.....

Sharon, Mpume and Lindile

