

PRESCIENT

SUCCEEDING AT CSI THAT SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

Rooted in a desire to contribute to the lives of people, the Prescient Foundation houses the group's corporate social investment activities that focus on lifestyle improvement projects.

Lifestyle improvement projects typically follow a cycle of three stages: initial financial support to improve the conditions of the project; financial support to take a project to the next stage of development; and, assisting project leaders with a plan for sustainability.

These can include land and housing projects, welfare and humanitarian projects, development projects and educational projects.

"The Foundation currently spends a large portion of its income on education and leadership development. When selecting a project to support, we do so with the understanding that on-going support is a requirement for long-term success," said Nicole Wentzel, Executive Director of the Prescient Foundation.

One project supported by the Prescient Foundation is an initiative run by the Principal of Laerskool Paul Greyling in Fish Hoek, Cape Town. The foundation's involvement with Laerskool Paul Greyling started on 1 June 2010.

This project is the brainchild of the parents and governing body of the school who identify 22 previously disadvantaged pupils from Ocean View and Vrygrond to attend the school. Pupils who are selected also show potential as learners.

Parents do not pay school fees and learners are transported to and from school using a vehicle sponsored by the foundation. The funding provided by the foundation is also used for remedial teaching to ensure that the children stay abreast of the curriculum.

The project has been extended to include a remedial class which gives one-on-one tutoring to students who are struggling. Once they have made progress they are placed back into mainstream class.

Nicole Wentzel commented: "The pupils have all grown into bright young learners and to date, four of the pupils that have excelled academically, in leadership and in sports and have been offered bursaries to attend Jan Van Riebeeck High School.

“Amy Atkins in Grade 11 and Natasha Munro in Grade 10 both received their Western Province colours in netball. Recently, Amy also received a certificate for the most versatile learner in grade 10. Mikyle Blouw was chosen as head boy at Laer Skool Paul Greyling in 2016 and Dylan Moses as a prefect. They both started at Jan Van Riebeck in 2017.”

The foundation will continue to support these learners in achieving their goals.

The leadership development leg of the Prescient Foundation includes an initiative started by the Principal of Laerskool Paul Greyling and the ex-Principal of Sullivan primary. The Prescient Foundation lent its support from the beginning after seeing the potential of the programme and the passion expressed by the educators.

The first Prescient Foundation Leadership Summit, sponsored by the Prescient Foundation, took place on 17 September 2015 and was hosted by Sullivan Primary School. Four schools from the Steenberg community, along with Laerskool Paul Greyling from Fish Hoek, attended and learners benefitted from listening to a host of motivational speakers of national and international acclaim.

“Word got around that this was a remarkably effective initiative and the second annual Prescient Foundation Leadership Summit attracted strong interest with participation rising to eight schools from the area. The success of the 2016 summit would not have been possible without the fellowship amongst educators, speakers and other foundations,” said Nicole.

Educators are reaping benefits from the leadership programme and have decided to do four leadership summits, one in each quarter of 2017. The first summit in March 2017 included a talk and workshop by well-known education expert Eugene Daniels.

To date there have also been three leadership camps. The third leadership camp was collaboration between Sullivan and Floreat Pirmary as well as educators from Laerskool Paul Greyling with the theme to be servant leaders that Leads with a purpose.

Ends.

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About Prescient Foundation

- The Prescient Foundation was established in 2005 as the vehicle through which the Prescient Group directs its commitment to sustainable development.
- The Prescient Foundation is incorporated as an approved Non-Profit Company (Reg. number 2004/034082/08) as defined in the Companies Act [no 71 of 2008].
- The Prescient Foundation is registered as a Public Benefit Organisation (PB) (PBO no 930022417) in terms of the Income Tax Act [no 58 of 1962] and is, therefore, tax exempt.