

# Growth



THE  
ACADEMY  
SCHOOL

---

OUR  
RESIDENCE

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EMBRACING  
THE DREAM

# Growth

*"I embrace challenge and each day look for 1% improvement in all areas of my life"*

## MISSION

To mentor and educate the next generation of great African leaders, society-changers, and footballers.

## UBUNTU VALUES

- i. Growth
- ii. Honour
- iii. Excellence
- iv. Family
- v. Positivity



## on the cover

**Meet Vusumzi Plamana.** At 9-years-old, he lost both of his parents, forcing him to move from the Eastern Cape to Cape Town. Fortunately for Vusi, his story didn't end there.

He was 11-years-old and spoke very little English when he joined Ubuntu in 2014. He came from a disadvantaged community and was playing for a local soccer team when we invited him to trial. When Vusi joined the Academy, he moved in with a host family and eventually the Ubuntu House, enrolled in one of our partner schools, and began to flourish in every area of his life, including the soccer pitch.

His passion for working hard and bettering himself earned him two call ups to the U17 National Team, representing SA on the largest platform for his age. He also won excellence awards in six subjects at school last year.



**ubuntu**  
FOOTBALL

issue 01

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This is the first ever Ubuntu Football Academy Magazine. It is an annual publication gifted to partners and supporters with the intention of sharing our stories from Cape Town, South Africa.



[ubuntufootball.com](http://ubuntufootball.com)

# Welcome

WORDS BY CASEY PRINCE AND MICHAEL JENKINS

What words can I use to describe 2018? Stretching, beautiful, exciting, and challenging are just a few that immediately come to mind. We have seen some amazing things happen in the lives of our boys, and we've been stretched to our limits to believe for more.

As the school has grown, the pro team has developed, and our resources are stretched, we have been extremely challenged. We've seen teachers and coaches rise to the occasion and fill the spaces where we needed help. We've seen seven more boys head off to America, a group of boys pursuing their studies here in South Africa, and six graduates have made the jump to professional football. Wow, it's been a full year!

Obviously, none of this happens alone. It takes a massive team effort here in Cape Town, and life is breathed into us by our supporters around the globe. Thank you for being a part of our story and leaning into all that is happening in Cape Town!

Casey Prince, Managing and Technical  
Director of Ubuntu Football Academy

We're probably in good company, among those who started out on a journey way too naive and inexperienced to properly understand where the path would lead.

Looking back on the last 8 years, I wonder if we would have dared to embark on the Ubuntu adventure if we could have seen where would be today.

Our mission statement, mentoring and educating the next generation of great leaders, is easy to say, but to actually do it often means literally intervening in every facet of a young life. It's not enough to provide coaches and mentors to a child who is not being educated. It's not enough to educate a child who is dealing with untold traumas. It's not enough to provide a place of healing, without inspiring a vision of what his life could look like. And this is why our theme this year has been **growth**.

We've realised that our mission is much bigger than we had first imagined, but we have also been blessed with an incredible family of staff, volunteers, and sponsors who continue to make it possible to do far more than we expected. This magazine is our way of thanking all of you for being part of making this happen, and to share the stories you've inspired and made possible.

Michael Jenkins, Executive Director of Ubuntu  
Football Academy





# WHAT WE DO

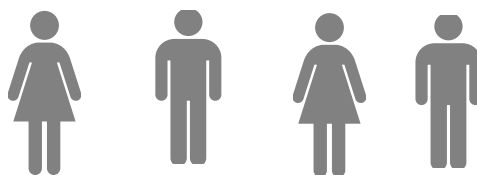
**60%** of children  
in South Africa  
are growing up  
without a father  
in the home.

## WHY?

Ubuntu Football was born in 2011 in response to a crisis of fatherlessness in South African society, where 60% of children are currently growing up without a father in the home. The lack of positive, male role models is a root cause of many issues like cycles of alcoholism, drug addiction, gender inequality, corruption, and more. We are dreaming and hoping for the day where every child in South Africa has a positive father-figure in their lives.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

We train boys for soccer starting at 11-years-old and invest in them for the next 7+ years of their lives. By providing elite soccer training, a quality education through our independent school, mentorship and leadership training, and a loving home at our academy residence, we believe our boys will grow to be the leaders and society-changers that can impact their communities for generations to come. They are moving on to exciting opportunities in professional football, full university scholarships, as well as local jobs. While it would be amazing if one of our players became the next Messi, Neymar, or Ronaldo, our real hope is that through their mentorship and education, they will become great fathers, community leaders, and role models for the future generation.





# History

WORDS BY LOUWRENS SCHEEPERS

HOUSE PARENT AND MENTOR, MORE LOVINGLY KNOWN AS "DADDY LOUW" TO THE BOYS

Although Apartheid ended more than 20 years ago, recovery from its systemic racial discrimination is a difficult and on-going process. Apartheid literally means "apartness" and was a system of government implemented in South Africa between 1948 and 1994 that separated people according to race in every aspect of daily life, entrenching white minority rule and discriminating against non-white population groups.

The legacy of Apartheid still haunts the functioning of South African families. Research conducted in the past five years by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and the South African Race Relations Institute (SARRI) found that 60 percent of SA children have absent fathers, and more than 40 percent of South African mothers are single parents. Apartheid damaged the very structure of family life; without the ability to own land and live close to their low-paying jobs, black men were subjected to the migrant labour system that took them away from their families for months or years at a time. Geographically disrupted families are still the norm for many South Africans.

The symptoms caused by the absence of a father manifests differently amongst the respective genders. Most young people are likely to react destructively in situations where they don't have a positive male role model to learn from or look up to. Fatherlessness serves as the start to a snowball effect that results in a generation of young adults who are 'social misfits'.

Research has found that boys growing up in absent-father households are more likely to display hyper masculine behaviour, including different forms of aggression, getting involved in

unhealthy relationships, crime, and addiction. Whereas, girls with absent fathers, are likely to grow up with low self-esteem, leading to increased possibilities of high risk sexual behavior, teenage pregnancy, or unhealthy relationships with the opposite sex. It has also been estimated that 63 percent of youth suicides are also from fatherless homes. The culture or widespread trend of fatherlessness is at the root of our generation's ills.

Cape Town, the home of Ubuntu Football Academy, is one of the most spectacular cities in the world, but it is also known for its violence. Cape Town is essentially two cities in one. One is beautiful, located on the slopes of Table Mountain and the scenic areas along the coast, and the other is a dangerous city where police need bullet-proof vests and sometimes army backup to instil some sort of order in uncontrollable townships.

For many people in Cape Town, this area is known simply as "The Flats". It is often described by some as apartheid's dumping ground that forced many into informal settlements in the sprawling flat land of the city.

Almost all of these communities, to one degree or another, remain poverty-stricken with serious social problems including a high rate of unemployment and disturbing levels of gang activity and violence. Most of the boys in the Ubuntu Football Academy come from these neighbourhoods.

In 1976, when thousands of black children in Soweto, a black township outside Johannesburg, demonstrated against the Afrikaans language requirement for black African students, the police opened fire with tear gas and bullets. The protests and government crackdowns that followed, combined with a national economic recession, drew more international attention to South Africa and shattered all illusions that apartheid had brought peace or prosperity to the nation. The 1976 uproar made the world aware of the effects of the Apartheid government in South Africa.

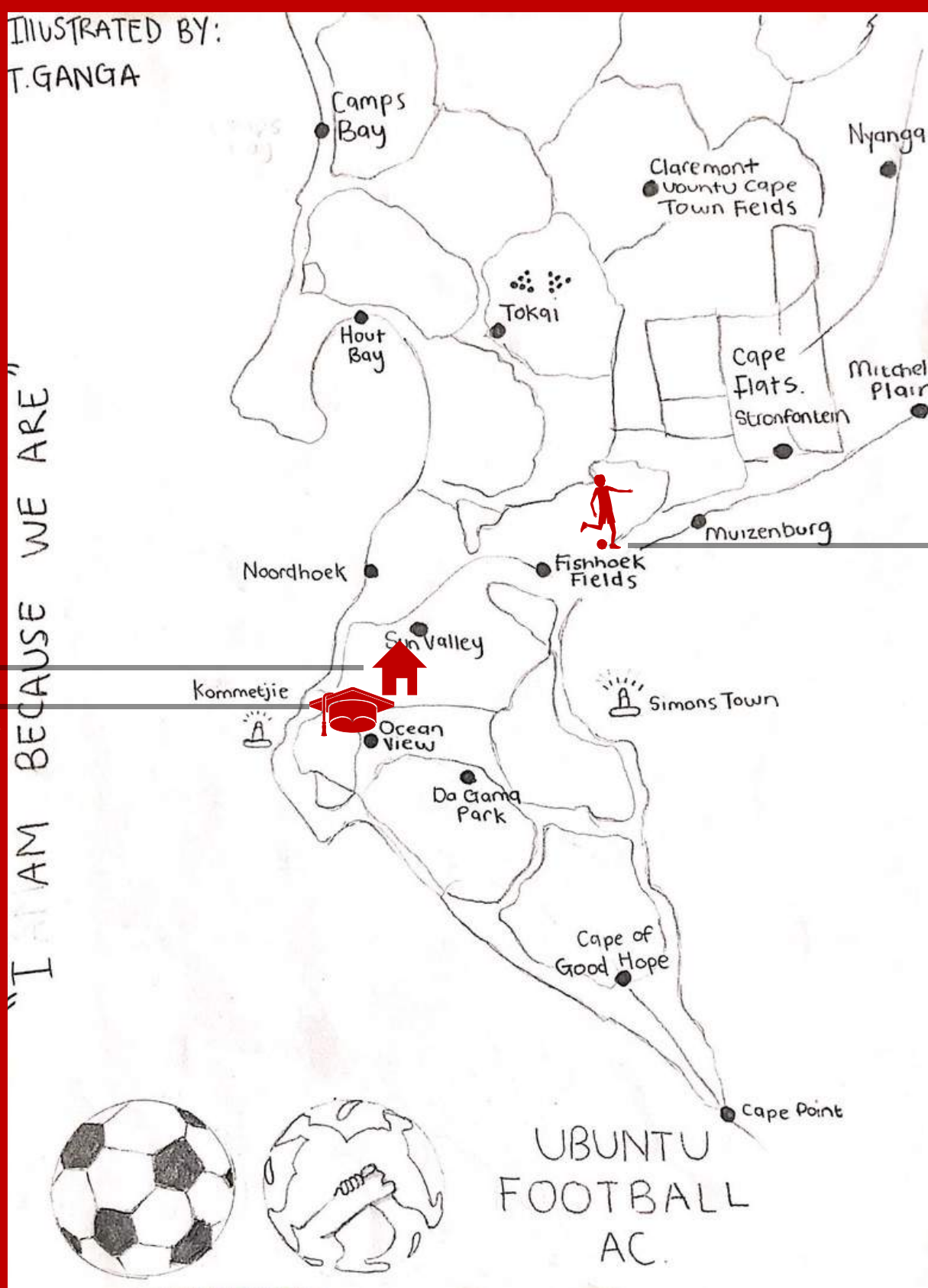
In 1976 the change came through violence, but could it be that it will again be the young people that spark the change into a new and better South Africa? This time, without violence.

ILLUSTRATED BY:  
T.GANGA

"I AM BECAUSE WE ARE"

Ubuntu  
House  
Ubuntu  
Academy  
School

Where  
We Play



## ILLUSTRATION

This page was illustrated by Taariq Ganga. He is an Ubuntu Football Academy Graduate now playing goalkeeper in ABC Motsepe League.





JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE



We launched into our 8th year with 95 boys total in the Academy, 50 students in our school, and a new class of 12 boys in grade six.

Robin Terry committed to attend Corban University in Salem, Oregon, becoming our first university signee of the year.

Ubuntu Alumni Jesse Donn and Luke Fleurs received call ups to the U20 National Team. Luke Fleurs became the first Ubuntu boy to sign with South Africa's top flight, joining SuperSport FC.

We held an Ubuntu Coaching Course focused on coaching young players and how to invest in them beyond just the physical side of football, with 37 coaches from around Cape Town in attendance! Major donor and Board Member Eric Reid came for an exciting visit, gifting Under Armour boots to the boys who earned their badges.

We held our Ubuntu School Open House, an amazing opportunity to work with parents and experience a room full of people who are all believing in the future of South Africa. Our school boys had Sports Day at Noordhoek Beach.

We sent staff, coaches, and seven of our boys on an outreach trip to the Middle East. Football season officially began after a delayed start due to the drought and water shortages in Cape Town.





JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Volunteers came out to serve at our residence for Mandela Day. Vusumzi Plamana received a call up to the U17 National Team.

The 2018 season came to a close with a strong finish from all age groups and a combined record of 44-4-5. We had four teams make Knockout Finals, and our U14s finished the job. Our U16s won the Rockafella's FC Tournament of Light.

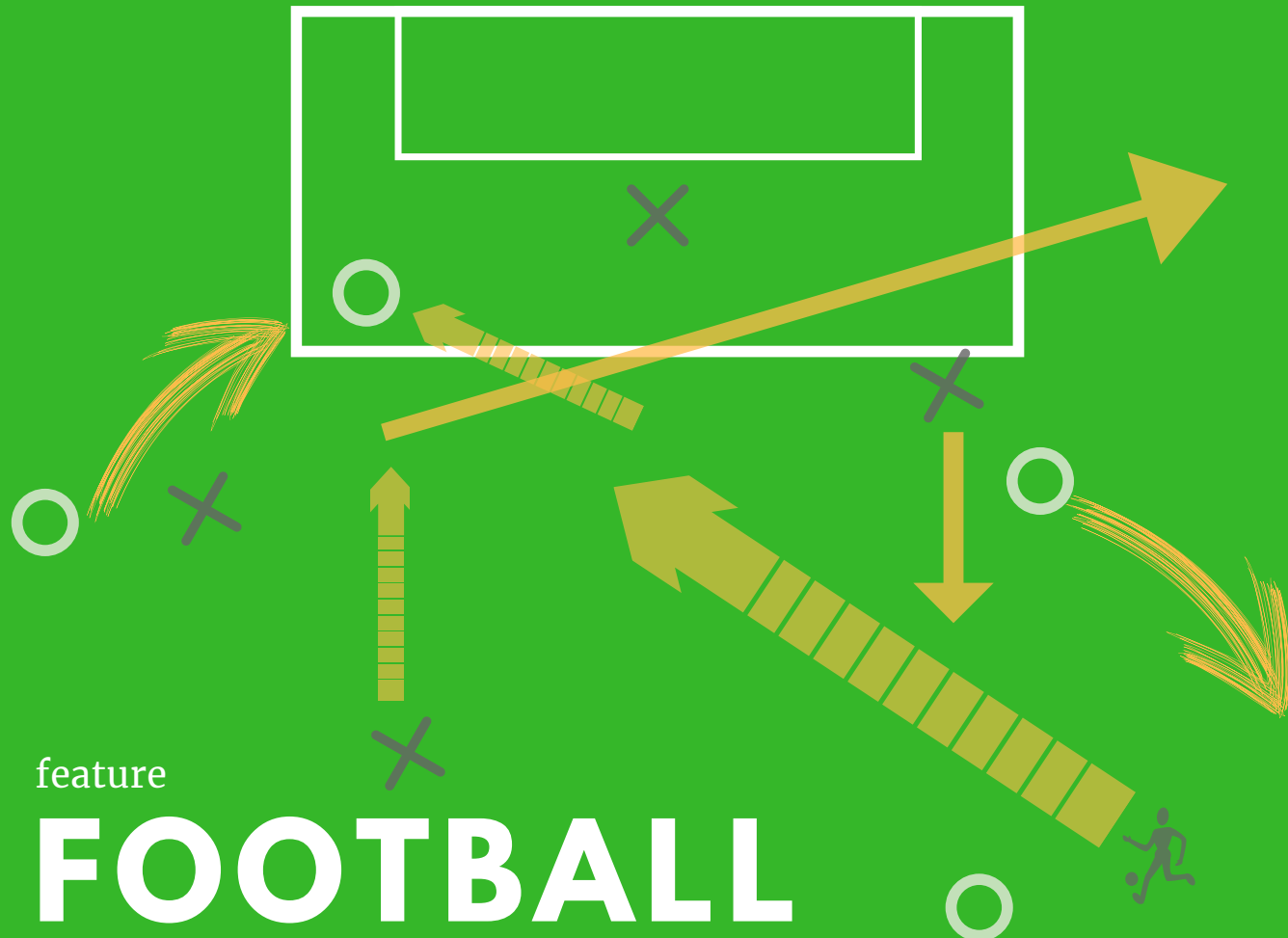
We held our first ever Ubuntu Talent Show, "More Than Just Football." The boys sang, beatboxed, drummed, performed skits, danced, and proved they can do more than just play soccer.

We launched our Ubuntu Skills Schools at four different locations around Cape Town. The Skills School is our newest initiative for young footballers, ages 6-12. Each session includes ball mastery, 1v1s, mini games, and life skills, all in a fun and safe environment.

December brings final exams, matriculation for eight of our boys, and our end of year celebration. Let the festive season commence!

Seven of our boys traveled to the United States to attend university, college, and prep schools. Our teams entered the knockout rounds for football.





feature

# FOOTBALL

WORDS BY DAVE WATERS, ACADEMY TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

The game of football is always changing. The way it looks now is quite different to how it will look in 10-15 years time. As a developer of future high level football players, we must constantly address the question: what will be the demands of a future footballer?

Our philosophy and approach is structured, yet innovative and creative, utilizing the great minds of our forward thinking coaching staff. At the youngest ages, developing the right culture and an excellent training mentality has to be foundational in order to build from there.

The modern game requires highly technical players who are competent with both feet, along with intelligent decision makers both on and off the ball. Whilst our style of play is certainly pleasing to the eye as a high tempo, possession approach, it is also vital that each player develops his own unique style of play, including personal "super strengths" enhanced further, that will one day help him stand out amongst the crowd.

2018 has been a challenging year for Cape Town football, with the drought affecting both training surfaces and match venues. The challenges however, mean that the innovation and creativity of coaches has really kicked into action this year! Due to the shortened season, the academy played just 53 league games between all the age groups, winning 44, drawing 4 and losing 5.

Our u16's won the prestigious Rockafellas Tournament with style in August, while four of the age groups made their respective cup finals, with just the u15's coming away with the trophy. Trophies are nice to win, but ultimately from a football perspective, our larger goal is to develop and prepare players for positive next steps.

This year, we celebrated sending seven players on USA boarding school and University scholarships, whilst five of our u18 players have made an early transition into South Africa's third-tier, ABC Motsepe, semi-professional football league, helping prepare them for senior professional football. We were also excited to cheer on Vusumzi Plamana as he represented the u17 national team for seven matches earlier this year at the COSAFA Youth Championships.

# Mindset, Determination, and Obvious Talent: Fleurs Becomes First Graduate to South Africa's Top Flight

WORDS BY STENNETT SMITH

"We've been proud to be a part of his journey since he joined us as a 12-year-old; we're excited to see him take this next step with SuperSport, and I have no doubt he will excel in the PSL, and hopefully eventually open doors to European football, which I know he aspires to,"  
Michael Jenkins, Executive Director of Ubuntu.

"Ubuntu Cape Town FC's young Amajita defender Luke Fleurs will be joining SuperSport United on a long-term deal, after the two clubs and player have agreed terms,"  
Ubuntu Cape Town.

Luke Fleurs is the first Ubuntu Football Academy graduate to join South Africa's Premier Soccer League. Fleurs has been in the Ubuntu family since he was just 12-years-old. When Luke initially joined Ubuntu, it took him some time to adapt to the culture.

"I went through a lot of downs, but Ubuntu really helped me from schooling, everything on and off the field. It was very tough for me, but they helped me with soccer and to become a better man. I've learned to be a better person in my community," Fleurs said.

Originally from Mitchells Plain, Luke was in the first group of boys who moved into the Ubuntu House when it opened in 2015. He represented South Africa on the U17 National Team in 2016, starting all 13 Amajimbos matches that year. He also got the call up to Thabo Senong's recent squad that beat Mozambique for the U20 AFCON qualifiers. Last year, Luke launched into his professional career with Ubuntu Cape Town FC, and his first professional season was full.

As a youngster in the league, there was a learning curve that came with playing against senior experienced players, some of whom have played in the PSL before coming back to the NFD.

Fleurs went on to be one of the most exciting players on the field in both the NFD and during Ubuntu Cape Town's impressive Nedbank Cup run. His first season highlight was playing in the final, but crucial, game of the season. Ubuntu Cape Town not only needed to win, but they needed to score goals to avoid relegation. Luke knew it would be his final match for Ubuntu Cape Town. With a big crowd of fans there to witness the victory, the last match was extremely personal.

Simultaneously, Fleurs has been working to earn his GED. Since moving to Johannesburg, he has been studying in his off time. With training in the morning, he utilizes his afternoons to pursue his education further. "I just want to thank Ubuntu for what they've done for me. There were moments when I felt like it wasn't the right place, but now I've graduated, and I'm finally a professional, and I can see why we did this thing, why they wanted me to do this. I just want to thank Ubuntu for helping me become the person that I am now."





# THE VALLEY BOY WHO IS TURNING HEADS IN THE NFD

My name is Jesse Donn, and I was born on the 9th of April 1999 at Two-Military Hospital in Cape Town. I have lived in Cape Town all my life and have been privileged enough to call "The Valley" home for 19 years.

I attended pre-school, primary school, and high school all within the valley, and I have always enjoyed being close to home. Growing up, I was an energetic (and naughty) child, so in an attempt to use some of that energy, I started playing soccer. At the age of five, I registered to play for Fish Hoek AFC. Every game was ritually followed by bacon and egg rolls. Along with most of my friends, I played almost every sport at school. From a young age, I gravitated towards soccer. In 2011, when I was in Grade 6 at Sun Valley Primary, I was told about a new academy that was forming in the valley. It was only natural that I was excited by the idea of playing for a proper competitive academy in Cape Town. I eagerly awaited the trials, unsure of what to expect, as I had been cocooned by the bacon and egg soccer I had grown up playing.

I thoroughly enjoyed the competitiveness of the trial and was over the moon when I heard I'd been selected to be a part of the first Ubuntu Football Academy class. I think that was the first time that I actually believed I could become a professional soccer player. I became addicted to the soccer academy life and struggled to imagine my life without it.

In 2014, I hit the first major setback of my career. Simply put, I was put in the U15 B-team. I was devastated. I always wanted to be the best, and I always gave my best. I found it hard to believe that I hadn't been selected for the A-team. This minor setback was the catalyst for my small bit of success today. Only when I was dropped did I realise that I wasn't doing enough to be the best. Compelled by the hate for that feeling, I decided that I had to start doing more than ever before. I can confidently say that I am a different player, and person, because of it.

In 2016, I was afforded the opportunity to travel to the USA to attend two soccer ID camps, along with five other Ubuntu boys. Besides the fun we had on the field, it was incredible to explore another country and create endless memories with my Ubuntu brothers. We managed to visit New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia, amongst other cities. We all excelled at the camps and generated solid interest from coaches. Personally, I was privileged enough to create enough interest to eventually receive offers from Notre Dame, New Mexico, and NC State. As I headed back to South Africa that year, I looked forward to studying in America one day. On the other hand, I also dreamed of playing professional soccer one day.





After pushing hard to create professional opportunities, I was blessed enough to visit Croatia in 2017 with two of my Ubuntu brothers, having organized a trial at one of their biggest clubs, Hajduk Split. Once again, the experience was unforgettable. The standard of soccer was sky high. The training regime was intricately structured, and their attention to detail was flawless. It quickly became apparent what it takes to become pro, and honestly, the task seemed quite daunting. Fortunately for us, the trial went well once again, with the club showing interest in all three of us. I was asked to travel with the team to Amsterdam to play in a tournament including the likes of Real Madrid and Benfica. After impressing the coaches enough during the tournament, I was offered a 1-year contract at the club.

In the meantime, Ubuntu had advanced talks with several NFD franchises, and eventually purchased what is now known as Ubuntu Cape Town FC. Coach Mike let me know that if I wanted it, there was a spot for me with Ubuntu Cape Town. Midway through 2017, my final year of high school, I was challenged with the decision between studying in America, playing in Croatia, or signing for Ubuntu FC. The American opportunity offered a chance to play football and get a degree at the same time, but my heart was set on professional football. Although I knew that studying in America wouldn't close that door, it felt like it may hamper my chances of turning pro. I have always wanted to play football in Europe, so playing for Hajduk in Croatia was originally what I desired. Because I was in my final year of school, I felt that it wouldn't be worth it to leave my final year of high school incomplete, especially for only a 1-year contract. And so effectively, I was left with choosing between signing for Ubuntu Cape Town and going to study in America.

It was one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make, and after much thought, mentorship, and prayer, I decided to sign with Ubuntu Cape Town. I truly felt that God called me to relentlessly pursue my heart's desires, and ultimately, that was professional football. It has been a crazy adventure ever since. I have learned so much in the year and a half that I've played for Ubuntu Cape Town FC. The culture at Ubuntu is like no other soccer club. The unity and togetherness, the essence of "Ubuntu" is immense, reinforcing the values that the academy has instilled into the boys. The pro team has also provided a platform for me and the rest of the guys to showcase our talent, and it's bridging the gap between academy football and high level professional soccer. The pro team has also forced me to become tougher, inside and out. Besides the flying kicks that come your way in the NFD, forcing you to become stronger on the outside, the standard of football and the pressure of performing forces you to become stronger on the inside.

There have been moments when I have fallen short of the standards both the team and I set for myself. In academy football, a drop in form is not fatal. There is nothing to lose. In pro football, you are responsible for other people's jobs, and hundreds of people are watching and monitoring you every week. The pressure is always on. You sign yourself up for criticism, and I've had to learn how to handle it. But at the end of the day, the daily challenges make me a better player and a stronger person. Like most soccer players, I'd love to play in Europe one day. It will take time and countless hours of hard work and determination, but I look forward to it. If I tackle the season one game and one training session at a time, everything else will fall into place. I'm forever grateful for the opportunity Ubuntu has given me to play the sport I love. I am blessed to be on the exciting journey with Ubuntu Cape Town, and I can't wait to see what God has planned for the future of this organization.



# ACADEMY SCHOOL

WORDS BY STENNETT SMITH

In January of 2017, we opened the doors to the Ubuntu Academy School. One of our focuses is quality education, and after success with partner schools and tutoring programs, we decided the next step was to create an environment for learning that is positive, stimulating, encouraging, and most of all, safe. There are currently 51 learners enrolled in our school, ranging from grade six to grade nine, with the addition of a new grade six class each year. Our goal is to one day educate every boy who is a member of Ubuntu Football Academy. There are six teachers and three administrators operating and overseeing the school, and they each work to contribute to an overall academic growth, as well as confident, well-educated learners. At Ubuntu, our values are the foundation of every choice we make, and together we have an opportunity to encourage growth and excellence.

For most of our boys, football is priority. They come to Ubuntu from all over Cape Town because they want to play elite football. This means they come from different backgrounds, cultures, and even speak different languages. There is one unwavering factor of unification, and that is the sport they love. When founders Casey Prince and Michael Jenkins decided to take Ubuntu beyond means of football and mentorship, they knew education would be a crucial pathway. Both men believe that football has a unique power to inspire and motivate young people, but they wanted this to translate in other areas such as character, leadership, and education.

After two years of Ubuntu's existence, sponsorship was raised to put the first 16 boys into an excellent local school, creating an opportunity to become more involved in each boy's education. Through tutoring programs and key relationships with those partner schools, Ubuntu has been able to personally invest in all areas of academics, really meeting each boy where he is.

As time has rolled on, they saw how large the gap is foundationally for some of our boys, especially in their

English and Reading. It was then that Mike and Casey approached Hannah Ross and JP Farrugia to form the team who would build what is now our independent school.

"We realized that bringing in boys from such diverse educational backgrounds, particularly because many of them came from the less-advantaged township schools, created a real variance between the strongest and the weakest academically," Jenkins said. "It wasn't so much about their potential but their preparation."

Some of the boys were coming into our school and flying academically, while others were coming in with literacy and numeracy levels of grade 3 and 4, but they were entering grade 6 and 7. Obviously, the mainstream school didn't have the capacity to address all of those different needs, to go back and figure out what gaps there are in every individual's educational foundation.

With that in mind, our goal became developing the foundation of each learner. Then when they reach grades 8 and 9, they can really engage with the more challenging

content. That was a major part of the driving force behind our own school, really being able to give every boy what he needs in terms of his foundation. Overall, we believed it would significantly increase the effect of what we've been doing.

## 2018 IN REVIEW

Words by David Handyside  
Ubuntu School Principal

i. The boys have really shown growth in who they are and the choices they are making. Some of the boys could not even look you in the eye if they felt threatened or in trouble, and now they are able to talk it through in a calm manner and maintain healthy eye contact.

ii. There is a much more settled environment than last year.  
iii. Our learners are moving faster academically as the foundations are being set.

iv. There is a special bond of brotherhood being formed. It has been fun to see friendships develop through cross cultural differences, along with a feeling of being understood and embraced.







# Meet the Twins

WORDS BY STENNETT SMITH

Meet Okuhle and Buhle Majavu. Their journey with Ubuntu only began last year, but they have already grown so much. Our coaches saw these two brothers playing in Site C of Khayelitsha when Okuhle scored a hat trick, assisted by his brother Buhle. After one day of watching the way the twins played and carried themselves, we knew it would be a positive fit. Coach Dave extended the invitation to Football Forward, and from there they were asked to come and trial. The 2018 trial year was quite competitive, and it was obviously a package deal with twins. After getting to know Buhle and Okuhle through Football Forward and the u11 team, it was impossible not to have them join the Ubuntu Football Academy. I sat down with Okuhle and Buhle to talk about year one.

SS: Stennett Smith  
OM: Okuhle Majavu  
BM: Buhle Majavu

"Okuhle and Buhle were a part of our Football Forward program in 2016 & 2017. We got to know them both along with their family during this time, where their positive characters really stood out. We also were encouraged by their appetite to grow – not just as footballers, but also in their academics, character, and leadership."  
Dave Waters, Academy Technical Director

SS: *What position do you play?*  
OM: Defense

*What was it like growing up in your family?*

Yoh, it was good. My father bought me and Buhle new boots, mine are white and pink.

*Do you like the Ubuntu school?*

They teach you well, not like other schools where they teach you and you don't understand... They help you to understand if you have questions. When I joined Ubuntu my life changed. In school I wasn't listening, but now I listen to what other people are saying to me.

*What changed in your life when you joined Ubuntu?*

I live in the Ubuntu house now. I get to sit out with friends and talk to them, sometimes they help you with homework and play soccer with you. There are lots of big brothers in the house.

*What's your favourite subject in school?*

English and Maths are my favourite because Maths and English I can understand more.

*What's the most challenging thing you've had to overcome in your life?*

Most challenging thing so far is when I was in a fight. I was in a fight at squash, but I learned that if someone pushes you or does something wrong, just walk away.

*Do you know the Ubuntu Values?*

Family, honour, growth, excellence, positivity.

*What's your favourite value?*

Family is my favorite because I like to be with them and get to know them.

*What's your dream job?*

I want to get a pilot's job to fly planes, or maybe play professional soccer and get a job. My dream job is to keep investing at Ubuntu Football because it has helped me a lot, so I want to keep investing to make them proud.

*What's your favourite food?*

Salad with fruit

*Is there anything else you want to add?*

I want to say thank you to Ubuntu for changing my life. I just want to say thank you.





Buhle, Okuhle, Phumlani, Siya, and Liqhawe

**SS:** *How old are you, and what position do you play?*

**BM:** I'm turning 12 this year, and I play left wing.

*When did you first learn about Ubuntu?*

I assisted Okuhle when he had a hat trick, and Coach Dave saw and called our father about Football Forward.

*When did that happen?*

We were 10 turning 11 when we were at Football Forward, then it was decided we would play for the Fish Hoek under 11s.

*What changed when you joined Ubuntu?*

I used to live with my mom and dad, but now I live at the Ubuntu house, so I see my parents every Friday.

*What's the best part of living in the house?*

EVERYTHING! Just waking up in the morning and older brothers at the house to take care of you.

*What about the Ubuntu school?*

Yes, I like it very much! English is my favourite subject because I think I can speak English and do English.

*Dream job?*

My dream job is to be an engineer!

*Favourite food?*

Apples

*What's it like having a twin?*

I like having a twin! I have someone to do stuff with always.

*Is there anything you want to add?*

One day, I hope to play professional soccer AND get a job.

**“They want to do well, and they want people to be proud of them. They each have an excellent work ethic in the classroom, and even though they thrive in different subjects, it is evident they both have a deep desire to learn.”**

**Abby Welch  
Grade 6 Teacher**

# Embracing the Dream

WORDS BY STENNETT SMITH

"Luto Tom lives and breathes the world of soccer, and his enthusiasm is contagious throughout the whole team. He is a special player who will continue to develop, and we have high aspirations for his next step." —Coach MacRae, Iowa Lakes Men's Soccer.

## **Luto Tom Dreamed of Going to the United States on a Soccer Scholarship: His Dream Almost Came True on a Few Different Occasions**

In 2016, Luto went on the first University of Ubuntu trip to the United States. It was then, he knew he wanted to play college soccer. "My trip to the ID camps was the changing point; it changed my whole perspective about college," Luto said.

At 18, he received an offer to attend a boarding school in the US, with hopes of this opportunity later providing a launching pad for university. The boarding school gave three scholarships to students, and Luto was the fourth. After this initial disappointment, Luto rewrote his SAT, hoping for a higher score and another chance. He knew his score was on the bubble, and he wanted to give himself every opportunity for success.

Luto completed his matriculation at Silvermine Academy, all the while applying to universities in the US, striving for his scholarship. Luto began the enrollment process: applications, eligibility, scholarships. Three schools and many months later, Luto received a full scholarship and signed his Letter of Intent, only to receive an email a few weeks later that the funding had been overspent, and the scholarship Luto had been rewarded was no longer available. *Get knocked down, get back up.*

Then, Iowa Lakes Community College pursued Luto, and he began this process yet again. After signing his Letter of Intent to Iowa Lakes, Luto learned he would need to write the TOEFL exam to finalize his eligibility; his SAT score would not suffice. (TOEFL = standardized test to measure the English language ability of non-native speakers wishing to enroll in English-speaking universities).

*One more hurdle.* With less than a week to register, prepare, and take the exam, Luto approached this challenge with positivity and confidence, knowing that if this test didn't go well, his dreams of attending university might fall away, at least for 2018.

A few weeks later, Luto received the exciting news that he passed the exam, cementing his scholarship. Now, he lives in Spencer, Iowa, and he is halfway through his freshman year. He is about to wrap up his first semester with a 3.0 GPA and some impressive play on the field. He started every match and had two goals on the season, helping his team break into the playoffs with a 4-game win streak. The Lakers finished the season at 15-3-1, and Luto was named to the ICCAC Men's Soccer All-Region 1st Team.

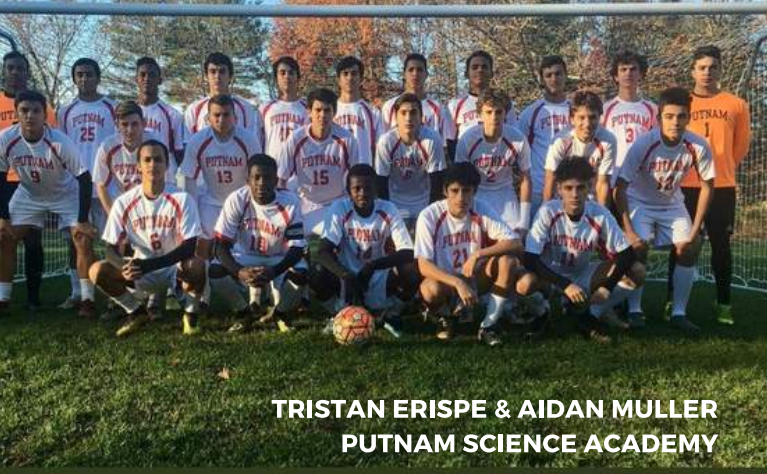
## **8,000 Miles from Home and Making Their Presence Known**

Along with Luto, Robin, Tristan, Alex, Keenan, Nur, and Aidan have also started a new chapter of their lives, while Wade Coetzee entered his second year at Corban University. Wrapped in the arms of their families as they said farewell for the 2018 school year, each of these boys made the long journey to the United States in August to participate in preseason training before they started school for the Fall term. They might be far from home, but this is the kind of opportunity they too have dreamed about since they were young footballers.

Scattered across the country, Ubuntu is represented at five different schools in five different states, stretching from New York to Oregon. All seven of these boys are attending school as well as playing soccer. It has been an honor, a privilege, and a joy to watch them take this bold step, pursuing excellence in every avenue of their lives.







**TRISTAN ERISPE & AIDAN MULLER**  
**PUTNAM SCIENCE ACADEMY**



**ROBIN TERRY & WADE COETZEE**  
**CORBAN UNIVERSITY**



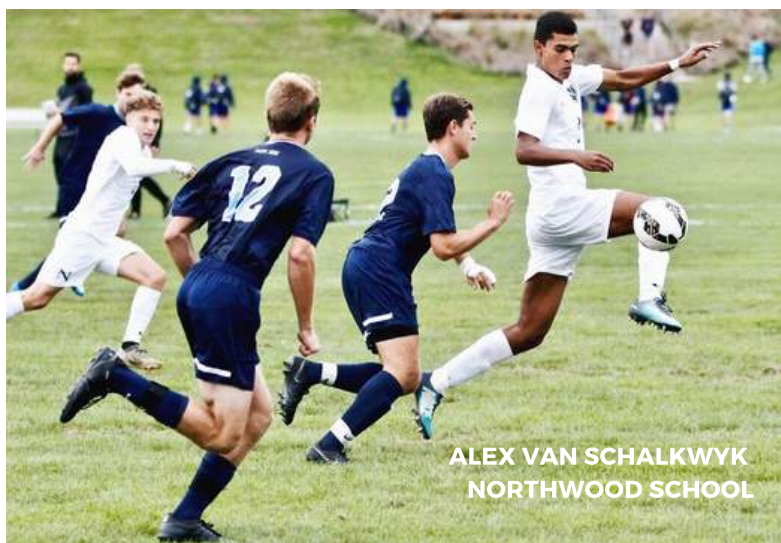
**ROBIN TERRY**  
**CORBAN UNIVERSITY**



**KEENAN KOOPMAN**  
**BERKSHIRE SCHOOL**



**LUTO TOM**  
**IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



**ALEX VAN SCHALKWYK**  
**NORTHWOOD SCHOOL**



**TRISTAN ERISPE &**  
**ALEX VAN SCHALKWYK**



**NUR ADIKHARIE**  
**TAFT SCHOOL**



feature

# OUR RESIDENCE

WORDS BY SHAWN BUCK

The Ubuntu House officially opened in 2015 and originally housed 14 players during the week, usually because they lived too far away to travel for practice. We had a few boys who needed extra nutritional support or supervision as well. Mid-year in 2017, we expanded the residence with the addition of four converted shipping containers, complete with dorm space, a bathroom, a small kitchen, and a common living area. This has allowed the house to accommodate 24 boys. Just IMAGINE living with 24 boys, aged 11 to 18. This absolutely wouldn't be possible without our amazing staff.







**BERNADETTE TERRY**  
**HOUSE CATERING MANAGER**

"I felt that this was the move. This is where God wanted me to be."

Bernadette has been keeping the Ubuntu boys fed and fueled for just over four years. Her son, Robin, was a u12 when Casey Prince approached her to join the Ubuntu Family in an even more involved way. When she started, she worked two jobs: Living Hope in the morning, and the Ubuntu House in the evenings.

"I enjoy what I do. I love cooking. But I thought how can I... you know sometimes you think okay, blessings are these physical things that you do for people. You talk or you encourage, and I was asking God how can I be a blessing here? And then I just thought okay, there's a lot of boys here, they don't have their parents here, so what is my role for them? Obviously feeding them, but I just thought okay, whenever you cook, just pray over the food and say that whenever they eat the food, God must touch in areas where they lack. Whether it's homesickness or they need something, you know, just use this food. So yeah, that's what I do, ever since. I've tried to cook and also let the food be nourishment or whatever they need."

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# IT'S THE FREEDOM THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

WORDS BY STENNETT SMITH

He spent his term three holidays in the recording studio, rapping, singing, and creating two songs. Meet Bongani Radebe, a grade 9 striker who stands at almost 2 meters tall. "It feels fun, and it feels like home. I just feel free," Bongani said as a huge smile spread across his face. An earlier edition of that statement forever changed Bongani's life. In January of 2018, the beginning of this school year, Bongani moved into the Ubuntu House.

"I don't like staying home alone... My father would work late nights, and I would stay alone there, worried maybe gangsters might come in or something, it was just scary," he said. Bongani lived the first 12 years of his life in Ocean View with both of his parents, his brother, and sister, then he moved to Grassy Park, where his parents eventually separated. Bongani chose to stay with his father while both of his siblings went to live with his grandmother.

"He wants to work every single day so he has enough money to feed us and stuff, so I asked Ms. Scheepers if I could stay at the Ubuntu House," Bongani explained. Now, he shares a room with Ase, Siya, Azola, Jimmy, and Somila, while he still gets to visit his father and siblings on the weekends.

Bongani has been with Ubuntu's partner schools since he joined the Academy, attending Sun Valley for Primary School, and now the Ubuntu School, where he has felt significant improvement in his marks. "I also feel free at school. They give enough work, and I really feel like I'm improving," he said. "This is my second year, and I feel like I'm doing better than last. I really prefer the arts; I like to be creative." Sometimes Bongani stays late for art class with the teacher, doing still drawings of plants and other fruits. His favourite piece ever is a drawing of the forest with a windy house in the corner.

As for football, the striker had his best season ever. He scored 11 goals, helping the u15a team claim the league championship. "It was my best season ever. Two years ago I was battling an injury; this year I got to really play."

In a loving home, and surrounded by his Ubuntu brothers, Bongani is looking to finish this year strong: training, rapping, and writing his final exams, all the while enjoying the summer weather in Cape Town.

"The house is a nice place, and I feel at home there... and the school, the teachers are friendly, and they treat you like your own children; it's a loving place. Football, we encourage each other, and we can be negative sometimes, but we love each other like brothers... it's a family."

"It feels fun, and it feels like home. I just feel free," Bongani said as a huge smile spread across his face.







feature

# CHARACTER

WORDS BY DAVE WATERS

“Instilling these values into the boys is of the utmost importance, as we believe that if they grab hold of and implement a value such as integrity, we will see them take great strides in their leadership,” Jon Armogam, grade 7 teacher and coach.

At Ubuntu, we believe that developing and nurturing the character of our boys is crucial to ensuring we empower each boy for success in his life, whether that comes in their home, community, in the classroom, the workplace, or on the field.

In 2017, we introduced our “Character Curriculum.” Each term, a new character trait is covered, which gives us a two-year cycle covering Growth, Integrity, Passion, Initiative, Social Intelligence, Self-Discipline, and Give-Back.

It takes the form of a weekly assembly, where every student in the Academy School focuses on a certain topic, and the same topic will be elaborated on during their classes with small group discussions. Without doubt, the most pivotal part of the material is when the boys work out application: “how does this apply to my life?” With such beautiful diversity in our school, the application will inevitably be quite different amongst the boys.

One of the topics we are focusing on right now is being open minded to other cultures and ideas, while still being strong in our own values. With seven of our boys playing in the U.S, this skill is vital to develop as they adapt to different cultures, while still ascribing worth to their own.



# UBUNTU CROSSES BORDERS

This was our first ever outreach trip, an amazing and life-changing experience. Seven of our boys, our house parents the Scheepers, and Coach Keegan Davids made the journey. During the day, our team ran a soccer clinic and at night they played matches. There were about 50 refugee boys from the ages of 8-12 who attended the clinics, and matches were played against a u18 Syrian refugee team. It was remarkable to see football transcend language, uniting our boys, and the Syrian boys they met. Our team left asking one question: could friendship change the world? We hope you are inspired by these reflections from Shagon, Tino, Ridhaa, Khanyile, Taariq, Tevin, and Yorick.

## What did you gain from this trip?

"I realised it's way more important to give than to receive."

"Serving the kids in this community opened my eyes to the reality that there are people in other parts of the world who have to endure really horrific circumstances."

"To appreciate the small things in life because it's so easy to take them for granted."

"I gained new friendship. Friendship sparked so quickly, even though we didn't speak the same language."

"The way women are treated deeply challenged me. I am challenged to treat woman better from now on."

"The children were really appreciative. It really blessed my heart."

"Learning about new cultures... it was challenging because it was so different."

"That giving back isn't always about money. Sometimes it's about time and how much you care."

"How little things can make a big impact, just being present meant so much to the people here."



A close-up portrait of Carl Van Rensburg, a young man with short dark hair and a slight smile, wearing a black and white soccer jersey. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

# Carl Van Rensburg

WORDS BY SHAWN BUCK


**“Don’t limit yourself! You can’t throw all of your eggs in one basket. You just can’t because anything can happen. Like see, most of the boys in my age group went to various avenues, so it’s difficult because there’s only a small portion that’s gonna make it as a professional footballer. You have to think outside football as well. There’s a life after football.”**

For weeks, I tried to get Carl to have a coffee with me. Carl Van Rensburg was one of the very first academy players ever. He was at the very first practice in 2011, he was a pioneer for Ubuntu boys attending our partner private school, and he was in the first group that graduated from the Ubuntu Football Academy in 2015. Carl achieved a lot during his time at Ubuntu, including getting selected to travel to the 2014 World Cup in Rio, but after he graduated, things didn’t go as planned. For all of 2016, Carl applied to universities in the U.S. and tried out for professional clubs, but none of it worked out the way he intended. Since then, he has taken up a job at the school that Ubuntu sent him to as a boy, Sun Valley Primary. That wasn’t really the normal or particularly celebrated path of most of his teammates, and I wanted to meet up with him to see how it had been going.

Initially, I couldn’t even get into contact with him, and when he finally replied to one of my messages, he was too busy to meet with me. Finally, one morning he messaged me to say that he could meet in three hours. I had other meetings, and I wasn’t prepared, but I knew if I didn’t meet with him then it could be weeks until I could nail him down again. We decided to meet at a cafe down the road from the school where he worked. As I walked up to the cafe, there I saw what looked like an adult standing in front of me. I have known Carl since 2012 when he was 14-years-old. Now that he has graduated, I bump into him every once in a while, so I obviously know he is older, but that day he was looking particularly grown up and hipster, in his tan turtleneck, denim jacket, and black jeans. We greeted each other, went to find a table, and ordered some coffees, two black americanos. Man, he really was grown up!







It was busy in the cafe that day with lots of chatter filling the air. We began catching up and as two people who haven't talked in a while do, we started by reminiscing on the old days. We talked about when we first met, what mutual friends were up to now, and swapped stories about our times at Ubuntu. I asked him what he remembered about how his behaviour and character changed while at Ubuntu, and his response was striking.

Carl also told me about how Sun Valley has made an amazing commitment to him for next year. "Next year, I've been given the opportunity by the school to study by UNISA (University of South Africa). So I'll start studying my teaching degree next year for the next four years. I'm grateful for that opportunity because it's really really massive for me because for the past two years I've been trying to find my way, and then the school has given me the opportunity."

I didn't know about this. Like Carl said, this was a massive opportunity. Because of Carl's hardwork, drive, quality character, and new passion for working and educating kids, he will be able to earn a full four year degree to continue pursuing that passion. Watching Carl as he spoke about this, I could see how excited he was, in the sort of way where you don't exactly know what is coming, but you know it's going to be good for you. I think that's what passion can do. "I think football will always be there, but I think educating people and seeing others achieve whatever they wanted to based on how you educate them... basically it's helping others. Educating people has been super super important for me."

Next, I asked Carl if he expected this when he joined Ubuntu. "Not at all! I think that wasn't the most popular thing around my friends, but I saw it coming late in my career when I decided teaching is actually a really good option." As Carl reflected on the fact that this shift happened, his advice for future Ubuntu players is "Don't limit yourself! You can't throw all of your eggs in one basket. You just can't because anything can happen. Like see, most of the boys in my age group went to various avenues, so it's difficult because there's only a small portion that's gonna make it as a professional footballer. You have to think outside football as well. There's a life after football." This response floored me. At Ubuntu, we try as hard as possible to really engrain this mindset into our players.

Of course, all of our players want to move on to professional football, but Carl is right, only a small portion of them will. It was amazing to hear Carl not only say that, but through his experience really understand and mean it.

His experience hasn't been what he originally dreamed or desired, but I believe he has been really successful despite that. Recently, a friend asked me what success looks like personally. I wanted to ask Carl the same thing. Even though he has achieved so much, does he believe the same?

"Making my mom proud. It's difficult because my dad has left us, obviously he died, and now it's very difficult, so I have to play a major role for my brother and my mom. I think to see her proud of me and what I'm going to achieve or the next step I'm taking is going to make me super happy. That would be a major success for me."

At Ubuntu, we definitely value our boys' achievements, but like Carl said earlier, we care more about character. We care about character because that is what helps you have a positive impact on the people around you and inspires change in your community. For Carl, his community is his family; it's his township Ocean View, it's the kids he coaches and teaches. "I would really love to teach for free in my community, but also like to give back to them and making sure our kids are involved in sport."

Carl also told me he is trying to get a job at Sun Valley for one of his Ubuntu brothers, and advising him on how this could really build something for the future. We finished our coffees and realized we both needed to get to our next task for the day. We shook hands again, and I thanked Carl for making time to meet me. He thanked me for asking him to come, and we went our separate ways.

As I write this, it has been about three weeks since I had coffee with Carl, and I can't get the conversation out of my head. Carl Van Rensburg is a living example of why Ubuntu does what it does. He is a true embodiment of what the word 'Ubuntu' means! I am because we are. Carl may not be South Africa's best soccer player or top student at Harvard, but he has capitalized on the opportunities in front of him to make a positive future for himself and to help others around him do the same. I'm inspired, and I hope you are too!

**UBUNTU: I AM BECAUSE WE ARE.**

# Impact Report

## Academy



**95**

Players in the Academy



**70**

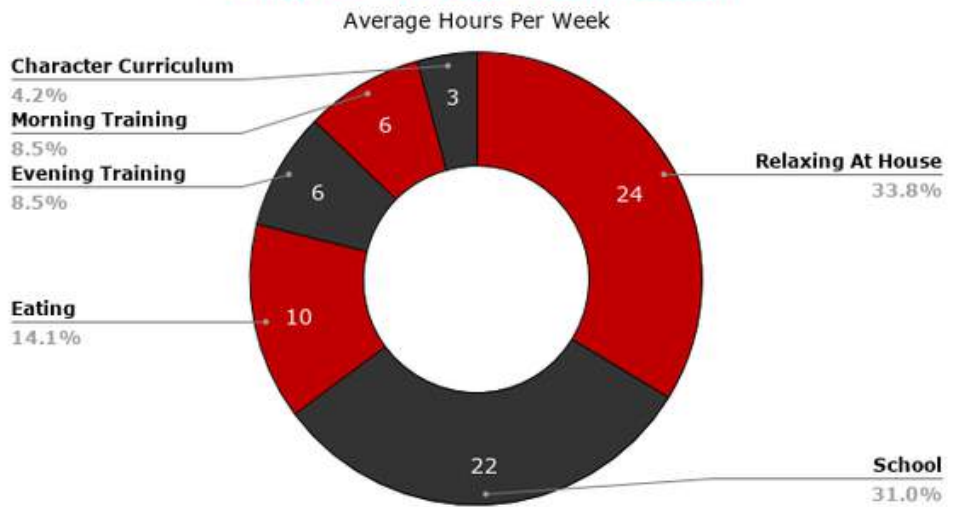
Students in Education Program



**28**

Boys in the Residence

### A Player's Week With Ubuntu



## Pathways



*Sociologists say a person will influence over 10,000 people during their lifetime.\**

**8**

Grads Studying in USA



**11**

Grads Pursuing Tertiary Education



**6**

Grads Playing Professionally



*We would love for our players to become the next great soccer star or world-renowned businessman, but our real hope for our impact is that they will use their influence and platform to be a positive role model and leader for their communities.*

\*<https://www.johnmaxwell.com/blog/leading-a-life-of-intentional-influence/>



# Letters from Our Board

## USA AND SOUTH AFRICA

I've had the privilege on being part of the Board of Trustees of the Ubuntu Football Academy, right since inception in 2011, and it's been an incredible journey of faith and growth. It's been amazing to see the initial small group of 16 boys grow into a large, boisterous family of nearly 100. We've seen two hours of coaching daily grow into a full-time school program. We've seen young rascals come into the family, each with their own unique spark of life, hopes, personalities, and rough edges too, and we've watched them grow up into amazing young men, university students, professional footballers, and men of character. I can't wait to see what the years ahead hold, and I want to thank each person whose support has made this journey possible. Stay on this journey with us – you are making a profound and lasting difference..



PHIL CUNNINGHAM



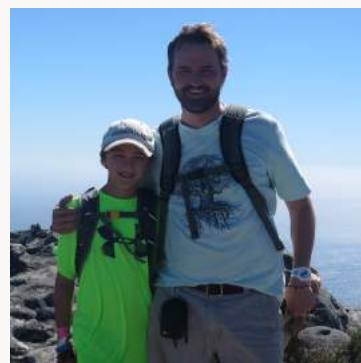
MARC EDWARDS



CRIS DILLON

One of the first things you notice about the boys who enter Ubuntu is the light in their eyes. If you follow Ubuntu on Instagram or Facebook, then you know what I'm talking about. These are eyes full of hope and vision for a better future. Ubuntu Football Academy faithfully honors and serves those dreams as well or better than any development academy in South Africa. Ubuntu offers so much through its holistic approach. By developing the whole person—through elite soccer training, education, life skills, leadership, and discipleship—Ubuntu is producing not just premier soccer talent, but future leaders and role models in communities across South Africa.

Ubuntu has come so far since its founding in 2009, but as our footprint has grown, so too have the financial realities -- they are stark. The launch of the Ubuntu Academy School, expansion of boarding facilities, and broadening of the soccer offering have all raised the financial bar. Your donations go towards making sure that the boys have the education, mentorship, soccer training, and loving environment that they need to fulfill their full potential.



ANDY CUNAGIN



ERIC REID

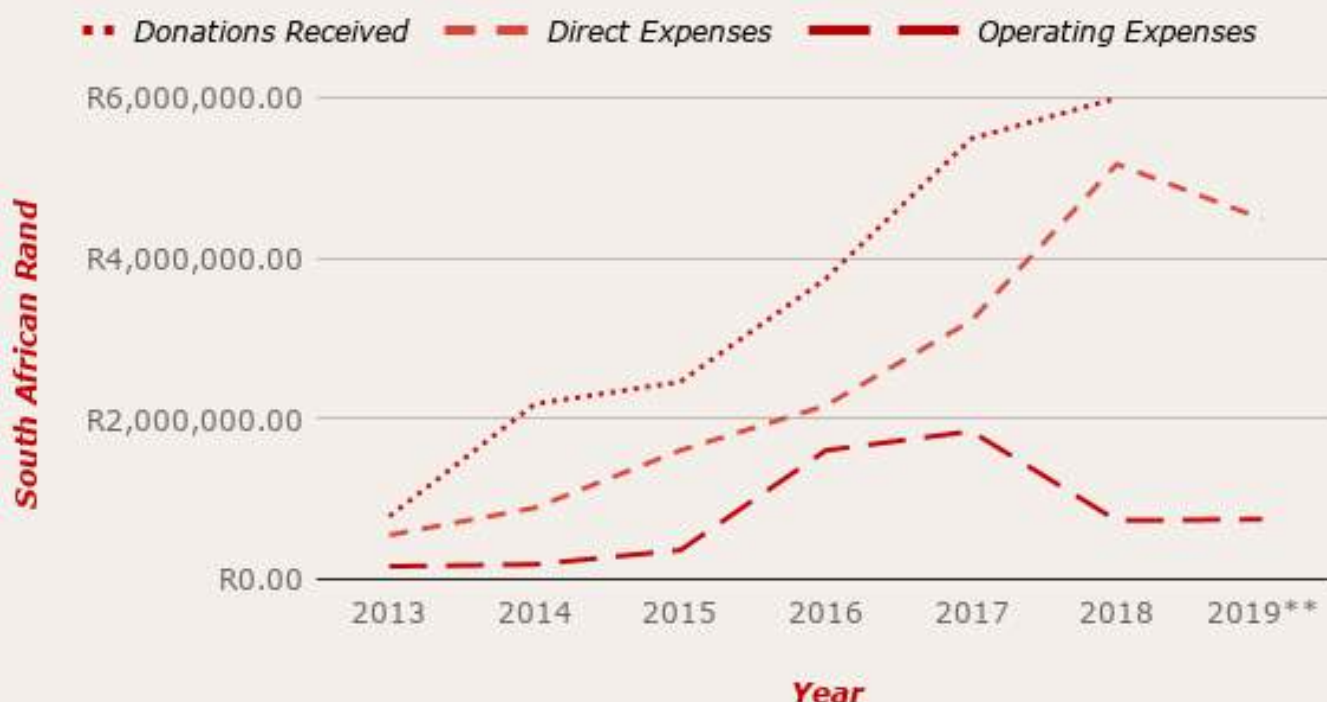


SEAN LAMB

# FINANCIALS

For our financial statements, please visit [www.ubuntufootball.com/financials](http://www.ubuntufootball.com/financials)

## Donations Received and Expenses (2013-2019)



## South African Rand (ZAR)

Year	Donations Received	Direct Expenses	Operating Expenses	Total Expenses	Net Surplus
2013	R784,436.00	R551,024.00	R161,499.00	R712,523.00	R71,913.00
2014	R2,182,233.00	R889,328.00	R184,754.00	R1,074,082.00	R1,108,151.00
2015	R2,458,227.00	R1,604,761.00	R362,457.00	R1,967,218.00	R491,009.00
2016	R3,742,637.00	R2,163,240.00	R1,604,761.00	R3,768,001.00	-R25,364.00
2017	R5,485,182.00	R3,219,920.00	R1,842,337.00	R5,062,257.00	R422,925.00
2018	R5,990,735.00	R5,167,822.00	R732,456.00	R5,900,278.00	R90,457.00
2019**	N/A	R4,487,640.00	745,923.59	R5,233,563.59	N/A

## United States Dollar (USD)\*\*\*

Year	Donations Received	Direct Expenses	Operating Expenses	Total Expenses	Net Surplus
2013	\$57,263.83	\$40,224.75	\$11,789.43	\$52,014.18	\$5,249.65
2014	\$159,303.01	\$64,920.94	\$13,487.04	\$78,407.99	\$80,895.02
2015	\$179,450.57	\$117,147.55	\$26,459.36	\$143,606.91	\$35,843.66
2016	\$273,212.50	\$157,916.52	\$117,147.55	\$275,064.07	-\$1,851.57
2017	\$400,418.29	\$235,054.16	\$134,490.60	\$369,544.76	\$30,873.53
2018	\$437,323.66	\$377,251.01	\$53,469.29	\$430,720.29	\$6,603.36
2019**	N/A	\$327,597.72	\$54,452.42	\$382,050.14	N/A

\*Financial year runs from March to February (Ex: 2013= March 2012 to February 2013)

\*\*2019 is our proposed budget from January 2019 to December 2019

\*\*\*Exchange rate is 1 ZAR to 0.073 USD as of November 30th, 2018



# THANK YOU

Okay, so this is our first ever Ubuntu Magazine. First. Ever. We hope it has taken you from your comfy chair, your desk, or wherever you might be reading, and launched you into all that is happening in and around Ubuntu Football Academy. Our vision? Something similar to an annual report, but at the same time, more exciting and engaging. We were inspired by the Bible Project Quarterly, so we have to give them some credit. [www.TheBibleProject.com](http://www.TheBibleProject.com)

We have been looking into creative ways we can help our Ubuntu family feel more connected to the boys and their daily lives. Specifically, we wanted something tangible, something you can hold. We have been crafting this magazine for you. This is just one way we want to say thank you for investing in our family in such an amazing way. We hope you enjoy it.

## OUR SPONSORS

It takes a village to make this thing work. Simply put, we couldn't do it without our amazing sponsors. They keep us running throughout the year, and we are so grateful. We hope each and every one of you have enjoyed this highlight of the projects you have helped fuel.

We love our amazing family and the relationships have with each of you. We can't wait to see how we can continue to work together to empower our boys, in 2019 and beyond!

Creative Brands in Cape Town helped us create this magazine, and we are forever grateful to them for making it possible. If you are in Cape Town and have promotional, branding, or printing needs, we highly recommend their work. Check them out at [www.creativebrands.co.za](http://www.creativebrands.co.za).



# CREATIVE BRANDS



## BEHIND THE SCENES

We worked for several months gathering content. We talked to our boys, our staff, and we really attempted to capture our heart at Ubuntu. Here are some photos of us working on the project.