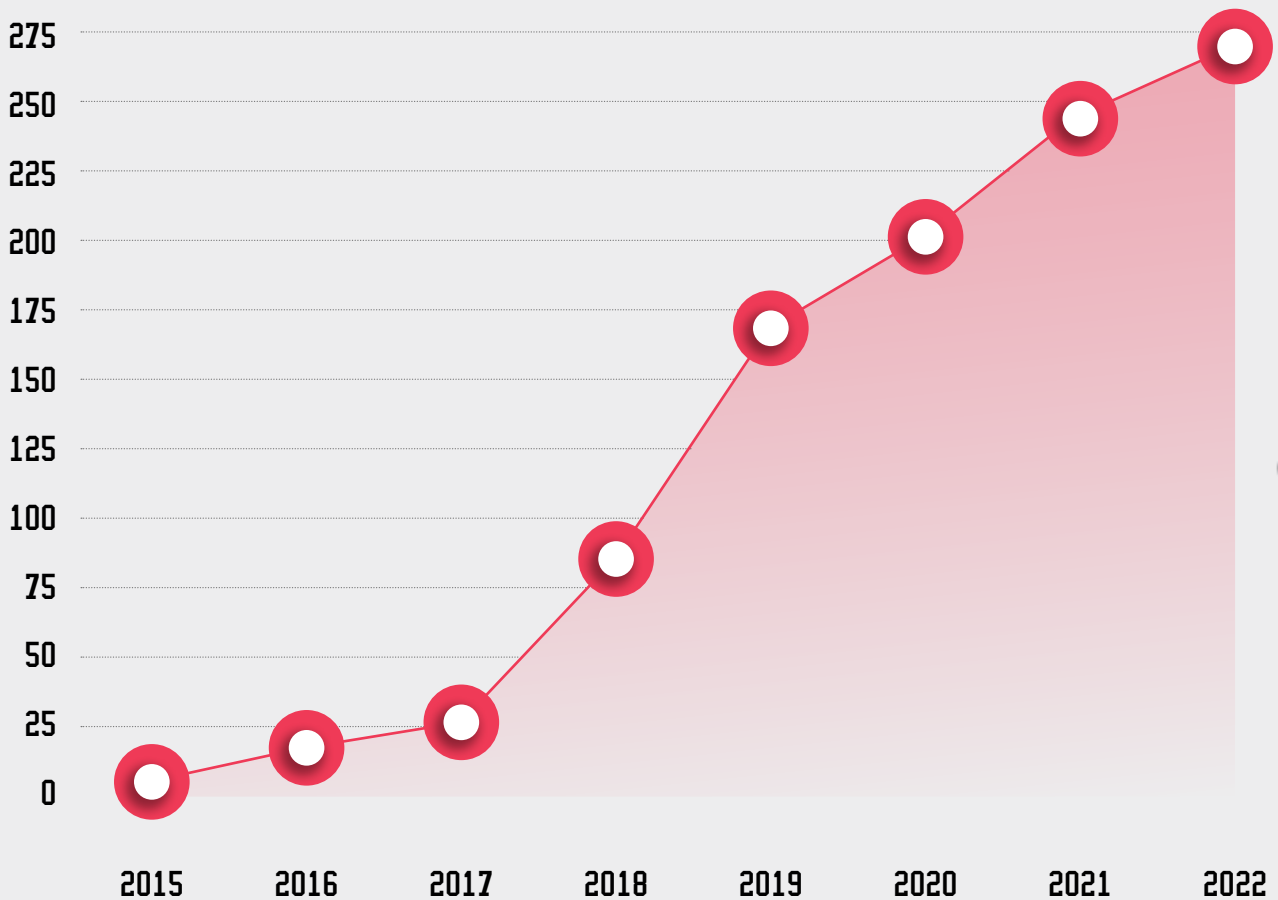


GRAD '22

GRADUATES REPORT



#OFGRADUATES Over the years



Masinyusane celebrated the graduation of 60 students in 2022! Each graduate overcame nearly insurmountable odds in the pursuit of their degree. We are in awe of their achievements and proud to have played a role in the journey.

They are now part of the special minority of children, fewer than 1% from our communities, that graduate from university. It is these young stars that hold the best hope for bringing about the new South Africa we all dream about.

As they enter the workforce, each embarks on a journey

to simultaneously build their own careers while pulling their families out of poverty. The analogy of climbing one mountain peak only to see a larger one in front of them comes to mind.

To date, Masinyusane has witnessed 276 of our students cross the stage and receive their diploma. We now have professional lawyers, engineers, teachers, accountants, politicians, and businesspersons across the country.

You have played a critical role in helping make the dreams of these young people come true. They are forever grateful.



Zukhanye Vokwana



“ I come from a very disadvantaged background. Furthering my studies was always my dream so that I can put myself somewhere in life. I persevered through difficult situations, not knowing how I would reach my goals. Then God blessed me with the Masinyusane family. They brought light to my life. Masinyusane helped me a lot in my academics and also personal issues. Since high school, they have supported me with study materials to help me pass my matric. Having passed my matric with good grades, they continued to help me through my tenure at varsity with absolutely everything I needed, be it food, books, or bus fare.

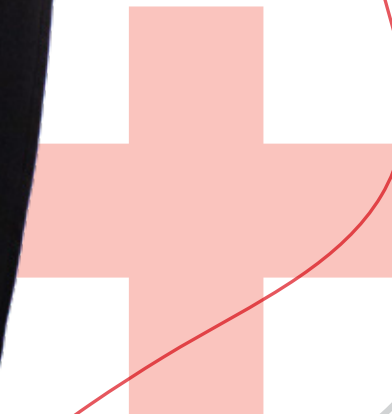
With Masinyusane and my family's support I am currently a proud Bachelor of Arts Degree graduate. I achieved this through my hard work and with their continuing encouragement and having faith in me when I doubted myself the most.

When I first met Zukhanye she was the most reserved person.

Now she has blossomed into a strong, opinionated young woman who is not afraid to speak her mind. Her strength, resilience & willingness to fight for what she wants is exactly what I think she needs to succeed in life!

She is currently doing her post-grad studies in anthropology. She draws inspiration from her hard-working mother, and she wants to succeed so that she can give her mother and sister the world.

~ Thuto (her mentor)





Esonasipho Mahlelelele

“I am extremely grateful to my family and friends and most importantly, the people that have held my hand throughout my first degree. This has been a fun, rocky, and joyful road. I have made friends that have become my family.

I have spent my whole life in a box. I have always boxed myself in. But there comes a time when a butterfly grows out beautiful wings. For me that time is now.

Masinyusane held my hand and always believed in me. Even in days when I did not believe in myself. I am now their one of their champions!

Nwabisa Ngceshe

“Nwabisa was a star accounting student at Nelson Mandela University, having passed all of her modules while graduating on time.

Masinyusane was excited to be able to offer her an opportunity on our finance team. Hiring, mentoring, and investing in our young stars has enabled us to build the great organization we have today. Nwabisa is now another member of that family.

She is currently assisting with bookkeeping, project budgets, bank reconciliations, and audit preparation. These are the unsung tasks happening behind the scenes that ensure the organization is able to grow, thrive, and provide support to other students like her.

While we would love for Nwabisa to stay at Masi forever, her star shines bright and we expect help her bounce into a corporate finance job in the coming years. ~ Jim



Ethel Mavaivai

“ After finishing grade 12, I didn't have any funding to pursue my education. I had to stop. All of my dreams were shattered. B/c I only live with my mother and she is a maid, the money she gets paid was not going to be enough for her to pay my tuition. I had lost hope. Everything that I thought I wanted to be....I had given up on everything. I started to print my CVs so I could at least find a job like my mom and clean someone's house.

As I was trying to do this, I heard that the Masinyusane crew came looking for me. That was something else. At one point, I thought it was just one big lie.

It was so amazing being on campus with the other kids. I could just be a learner like other people. The money they gave me was enough to cover my bus fare, but also to have lunch with my friends! One day I even gave my mother bus fare to go to work from my Masinyusane money.

Masinyusane became my second parents. I am so thankful. I just want to say 'thank you' for making my dream come true.



Ethel's family fled Zimbabwe years ago. Her testimony above shows how life-changing a Masinyusane scholarship can be. Her graduation has been an extra special one for us all!





Ndzondelelo Payi



“ Ndzondelelo is widely consider “Jim’s son” over here. We have been on such a long journey together, during which ‘Ndzondi’ has spent a lot of time living with me. So I’ll share a bit from my perspective here.

I met Ndzondelelo when he was a 13 year-old entering Grade 8. In a chaotic school that could have doubled for a juvenile prison, Ndzondi was well-mannered and reserved. He quietly attended all of our after-school classes and diligently completed his work. During those first few months, the team identified him as one of the top academic learners.

At the same time, we also began to expand our chess club. Ndzondelelo became obsessed with the game. Along with his friend Siya, he’d spend hours every day with the coach. They played thousands of games in those early years. He found himself competing, and winning, in tournaments against white kids from the city, students at university, and even accomplished adult players. He would qualify to play in the South African National Championships twice. Chess became more than a game to him. It was proof that he had the talent, work ethic, and ability to become something in this world. And to, potentially, escape the oppressive poverty that had suffocated him for so long.

Out of respect to his privacy, I won’t go much into Ndzondelelo’s personal life. But his upbringing is one of the most challenging I have ever seen. It was (and is) astounding to me that he is even alive. He has faced death and loss that few can imagine. He has similarly grappled with the myriad of challenges that abject poverty throws at a young person. And, honestly, that only scratches the surface.

Ndzondi will be the first to tell you that the journey hasn’t been easy. He faces demons that few could even empathize with, let alone understand. Yet he survives. Perseveres.

He managed to become one of the 2% of youth that qualifies for university. After winning a scholarship to study at Nelson Mandela University, Ndzondelelo went about pursuing a degree in Information Technology. He attended classes during the day, played for the university chess club in the evenings, and practiced his coding at night.

Adjusting to the cosmopolitan world of university, in which few people could relate to his story, was a challenge. Yet he has found a way.

I spend most of our time together either teasing him or yelling at him to improve his coding ;). But I have incredible admiration for the strength, character, and perseverance he has shown over the past ten years to get to this point. Ndzondi’s finishing up his post-grad studies this year and will enter the workforce in 2023.

It will be an incredibly empowering experience for him to earn money and experience the freedom and independence that comes with it. I am very proud of him and excited for his future. ~ Jim

**Masinyusane
has literally
been my
family for over
half of my life.
I hope God
blesses every
one of you.**



Anelisa Fikayo

Anelisa has grown from a sweet young learner to a very kind and confident woman whose mission is to improve her family's life.

Having overcome seemingly insurmountable odds, she is proudly working, and has her sights set on studying further.



I am feeling excited and overwhelmed. It's a lot to take in. I am full of happy and proud emotions.

I am super proud of myself. I have had a lot of hurdles in life. Multiple times I have been shaken to the core. But I kept pushing on. I never allowed myself to break.

As the saying goes, "A woman is like a teabag. You never know how strong she is until you put her in hot water." I have definitely been in that hot water and am stronger than ever.

Masinyusane has played a big role in the life of myself and my sister (also a Masi graduate). You guys gave us money, mentoring and financial support. Actually, you even gave us part-time jobs to earn some extra money!

Most importantly, I always knew I was part of the Masi family and that I wasn't on this journey alone. That support has pushed me to these great heights!



Xolisa Mtimka

“ How do I feel today? It’s hard to find words. I guess I would say I am on top of the moon.

It’s very hard to describe, but I am one step closer to fulfilling my dreams.

I want to thank you guys for always being there for me. Having someone supporting you along a difficult journey makes a huge difference.



Siphosethu Gubayo

“ I feel very grateful for the journey that I have been through. My academic path has taught me a lot about persistence and perseverance.

I am very grateful and privileged to have support from family, friends, and organisations like Masinyusane. The role everyone has played in my success does not go unnoticed.

It’s not easy for young people from our communities to make it. But I’m always reminded of this quote:

“If your dreams don’t scare you, they’re not big enough.”

I’m going to continue to embrace that and dream big. This is only the beginning of my story. I’m going to make everyone that invested in my success very proud. Watch this space.



Mongikazi Mlonyeni

“

I can't even begin to explain how I feel at this moment. This is just too overwhelming.

This is the moment I have been longing for my whole school life. Indeed, it feels like a dream.

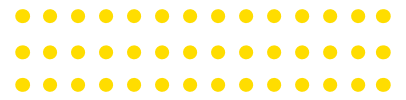
But more than anything, I am proud of myself that I made it this far. As Malcolm X said, "The future belongs to those who prepare for it today."

If it wasn't for Masinyusane, I don't know how I would have survived on this journey, especially during the first year. I had so many challenges with funding and Masinyusane always pulled through for me. You guys have pushed me to greater heights and I will always be extending a helping hand to others that need it in life.

Thank you.



Qaqamba Nomsobo



I feel so happy. Honestly, today feels like I am living in a dream. I want to thank God and my family for helping me to make it this far.

I still remember meeting Masinyusane when I was back in high school. You guys helped me apply to a bunch of universities. You then did the same thing for my financial aid. I am not even sure if I would be at Nelson Mandela University if it weren't for you.

There were lots of little things along the way. I still remember how grateful I was when Thuto bought me a bunch of printing credits in first year. I desperately needed those at the time.

I like to think that my life is living proof of the quote "anything is possible if you put your mind to it."



Ayathanda Dumani

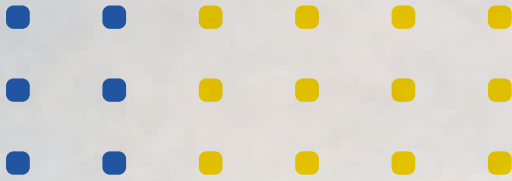


I am relieved, happy and over the moon. I have been waiting for this day all of my life. At last, I have made it!

As the first graduate in my family, this is a big achievement and I am hoping it won't be my last.

Masinyusane has been the pillar of strength that kept me going. For that, I will always be grateful. My mentor used to always tell me to focus on the goal, not the obstacles." I want to thank everyone that generously paid my tuition and provided the support for me to buy books and food. You guys are truly my heroes.

My aunt used to say "Our family's children are stars" and I just proved this to be true.



Lisakhanya Dwane



My full name, Lisakhanya ikamva, means brightness in the future. Today I am feeling so proud of myself.

I managed to fulfil my mothers dreams of me becoming a university graduate. It's like she saw the brightness of my future from the day she gave birth to me.

I am happy to have lived up to my name even though the road was not easy.

I want to thank Masinyusane and everyone who works there. You supported me throughout this process. If it wasn't for you the road would have been much harder.

Please keep giving support to students like myself in the future. And in return, we will shine in the future.

As I start the next chapter in my life, I will continue to keep these words in my head, "Always strive to be the best."

Lisakhanya is such a people person. He is a ball of energy. So full of life and enthusiasm.

He will pursue a career in the media field, which matches his bubbly personality. His personality will ensure his success in media and he will soon be able to take care of his family.

I am really excited to see him become a superstar in the industry.

~ Fiks (mentor)





2022 GRADUATES

**Lutho
Didishe**
BSc Psychology

**Zukhanye
Vokwana**
BA General

**Esonasipho
Mahlelehlele**
BA General

**Lisakhanya
Dwane**
BA General

**Zamokuhle
Ngcoko**
BSc Chemistry

**Sesethu
Poswayo**
Dip Analytical Chemistry

**Ethel
Mavaivai**
Dip Analytical Chemistry

**Nomvuyisi
Wanzana**
Dip Human Resource
Management

**Liyema
Betela**
Dip IT

**Ayabonga
Bangeni**
Dip IT

**Lunathi
Boltina**
Dip Management

**Ayabonga
Mdlankomo**
Dip IT

**Anathi
Skaap**
Dip IT

**Siphosethu
Mbamba**
BA Social Work

**Onke
Nkungwana**
BA General

**Ranetse
Leeuw**
BA General

**Pamela
Fani**
Dip Analytical Chemistry

**Sinesipho
Mnyaiza**
BA Media Studies

**Sisipho
September**
BSc Construction

**Asivile
Tayiya**
Education

**Thanduxolo
Nombila**
Education

**Zikhona
Ntseta**
Education

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Sinqobile Zondi BSc Health Sciences</p> | <p>Sinomtha Roboshi BSc Construction</p> | <p>Athule Dingeni BSc Construction</p> | <p>Siphosethu Nonkonyana Dip Accountancy</p> |
| <p>Mongikazi Mlonyeni Dip Analytical Chemistry</p> | <p>Sisipho Bomela Dip Analytical Chemistry</p> | <p>Zikhona Jeyi Dip Building</p> | <p>Sinoxolo Hina Dip IT</p> |
| <p>Nosisa Botha Dip Management</p> | <p>Lelethu Mthulandwe Dip Polymer Tech</p> | <p>Anelisa Fikayo Dip Law Enforcement</p> | <p>Qaqamba Nomsobo BA Environmental Sciences</p> |
| <p>Mandilakhe Ngqandu BSc Pharmacy</p> | <p>Cebolihle Gumede BSc Pharmacy</p> | <p>Saneliso Kondile HBS Medical Lab Sciences</p> | <p>Mphumezi Gungqisa BSc Comp Sci</p> |
| <p>Ovayo Mcimeli Applied Economics</p> | <p>Ndzondelelo Payi Dip IT</p> | <p>Alungile Boqwana Dip Journalism</p> | <p>Aphiwe Magaya BSc Comp Sci</p> |
| <p>Thabang Somya BA Corporate Communications</p> | <p>Palesa Ndimba Dip IT</p> | <p>Siviwe Mabetshe BSc Environmental Studies</p> | <p>Unathi Camagu BSc Pharmacy</p> |



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