enke: Make Your Mark is a youth entrepreneurship and education initiative that is building a network of young South Africans who are taking action on the most urgent social issues. We empower young leaders to make their mark on their community, their country and their world.
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This past year we’ve heard a lot about young people in South Africa. Youth unemployment reached 51%. Young people were labelled, again and again, “the nation’s greatest ticking time bomb”. South Africa’s most famous (notorious?) “young” person, Julius Malema, became a one-man media-circus by generally being a nuisance.

You’d be forgiven for shaking your head and wondering what the country, or even the world, is going to become when these young people come of age.

But here at enke we see a different story. We see a side of youth that is passionate. A side that's driven. A side that’s just as concerned about the future of South Africa as you are.

And they’re doing something about it.

So what are young South Africans worried about? Judging from the issues they take action on, education is a clear #1. The environment, poverty and teenage pregnancy are also among their top concerns. As of today, May 1st 2012, the last intake of enke delegates have impacted over 4600 people in their communities, working on those issues and more.

However, it’s easy to take that number at face value. It’s a pretty impressive figure! 4600 people impacted by youth-led projects in 9 short months. But there’s an even more impressive story behind those numbers. Or rather, 146 impressive stories.

In 2011 we worked with 146 Grade 11 learners, aged 15 to 17. Each one of them had a vision for the change they wanted to create and a plan for a project they wanted to run.

However, only 77 of them got their project started. Of those 77, only 49 of them were successful.

Which means that 97 participants “failed”. They either didn’t start or they started but couldn’t overcome the barriers that young people face when they try to take action. Those barriers were really interesting - lack of school support, lack of access to funding, lack of time, and many more.

Oddly enough, the failures excite me just as much as the success stories. As Thomas Edison said, “I’ve not failed, I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work”. Failure is a pretty amazing teacher. I should know, I’ve done it many times!

So while this report focuses on the success stories, I want to also take a moment to celebrate the failures that happen along the way.

If we want to change the rhetoric about young people that prevails in media today, the “greatest ticking time bomb” type stuff, we need to get the word out there about these stories - the successes and the failures alike. We need to create a new norm for what it means to be a young person in South Africa. We need to create a new narrative.

Young South Africans are doing amazing things. enke delegates are doing amazing things. Let’s let the world know.

Pip Wheaton
The beginnings
Working in under-resourced schools in Umlazi, KZN, enke’s founders recognised a need for a space where young people from all backgrounds could come together to develop creative, youth-led solutions. In February 2009, the concept of the enke: Forum was born: a space where youth were able to take their ideas and turn them into action.

enke’s start
The first enke: Forum took place in Johannesburg in July 2009. Participants were representative of the diversity and potential of South Africa; youth came from township, rural and urban communities, from the most under-resourced schools to the most exclusive in South Africa. What did they all have in common? – a passion to make a difference in the world, a desire to be connected to youth with similar passions and a thirst to be equipped with the skills that would help them change their communities.

Our growth
Since then, enke’s impact has mushroomed. We’ve since run 3 Forums in Johannesburg, touching over 460 youth. enke expanded to include university students to offer the skills training that is lacking from South Africa’s tertiary education system.

Our impact
The programs increase the social mobility, social responsibility and individual leadership capacity of young South Africans by reversing the trends of disconnection, unequal access to opportunities and apathy. The programs give participants essential life experiences that will make them competitive in the work place and, better yet, to create their own employment.

Where we’ve come from
The Basics
The enke: Youth Award is a nine-month program where Grade 11 learners develop their personal leadership skills. Participants are empowered to harness their potential and challenged to inspire and empower others in their own community to do the same. The enke: Youth Award is made up of 3 components: the enke: Forum, Community Action Projects and Support & Celebrating Innovation.

Community Action Projects
Community Action Projects (CAPs) are how young people can make their mark. Using skills learned at the enke: Forum, participants are challenged to take action on the social issues they are most passionate about.

Students have run projects addressing education, the environment, health and other social issues most relevant to them and their communities. They implement innovative projects that show how empowered youth can make a real difference in their communities.

enke: Forum
Kicking off the Youth Award, the enke: Forum is a week of networking, training, and planning. We bring together young people from all walks of life who are united around a shared vision for a brighter future for South Africa. At the enke: Forum, there is intensive, hands-on leadership training and practical skills to help learners turn an idea for social change into action. Learners will be inspired by their peers, young South African role-models and well-known contemporary thought- and action-leaders. In 2011 these included Moeletsi Mbeki, Clem Sunter and Leigh Meinert.

Supporting & Celebrating Innovation
We provide support throughout the 9 months of the Youth Award. Support includes access to seed-funding for project implementation, a troubleshooting hotline and opportunities to engage with the broader enke network. Through the experience participants learn to be proactive, creative problem solvers, developing skills that they carry throughout their lives.

We believe that just initiating a project is an achievement well worth celebrating. At the end of the program, achievements are recognized at the annual enke: Innovation Roadshow.
The Basics
Launched in 2011, the enke: Ignition Project is an exclusive program for tertiary students. This program connects exceptional young people with a diverse, active network of change-makers, equips them with skills and experience to increase employability, and inspires entrepreneurial thinking. In 2012 the program will be running in both Johannesburg and Cape Town.

The Training Retreat
The 6-month program starts weekend-long, residential training retreat where participants develop the social, emotional, and project planning skills that will increase their employability.

The Forum
At the Forum, Ignition Project participants become Facilitators, shaping the journey of the Grade 11 learners who are participating in the enke: Youth Award. Each Facilitator is responsible for a cluster of 5 delegates and navigates them through the curriculum and experiential learning of the week. Facilitators serve as mentors to South African youth, guiding them through the process of self empowerment and impact.
Participants - 2009 to present
**2009 Superstars:** Tsakane Ngoepe & Maja Morukhuladi, Dendron, Limpopo

Tsakane Ngoepe and Maja Morukhuladi of Dendron Senior Secondary School (situated about 60km outside Polokwane) both agreed that education is the most pressing issue facing youth in their community. Harnessing the resource most readily available to them, their peers, they developed the “Each One, Teach One” project for their Grade.

“We started the project because we realised there were some learners who were excellent but some who were extremely bad and we saw an opportunity to build a bridge between the two groups, to get them to help each other,” says Tsakane.

Talking to Mr Moloko Matsapola, the Principal of Dendron, it's clear that while the students are supported and celebrated they’re also the ones driving this initiative. Mr Matsapola comments on the big difference he’s seen in a short period of time. “These two students have revolutionised the whole school.”

Tsakane and Maja developed a project which identified those students in each subject who were excelling, partnering them with those who were struggling, to coach them during study periods in school hours, special evening and weekend sessions.

The pair took the pass rate in Grade 11 from 76% to 97% at the end of 2009 after just two terms of running the project. The project has outlived them both - still running over 2 years later, now in all grades.

Tsakane was the top learner in the province in 2010 - a source of incredible pride for the school and the community. Both Tsakane and Maja went on to receive full bursaries to study actuarial studies.

In 2012 Maja will be a facilitator at the Johannesburg forum and Tsakane will be a presenter at the Cape Town forum.

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**2010 Superstar:** Meghan Daniels, Cape Town, Western Cape

Meghan is an incredibly creative individual. You can tell that just by looking at her. However, what you can’t tell at first glance is that she’s also determined and driven to make a difference.

Realising that many young people are denied the opportunity to have a voice, she decided to teach photography as a means of creative self expression in under-resourced school. Working with a group of students in Khayelitsha township, Meghan began Ilizwi Photography Club.

Meghan began her photography classes in April 2011 with support from Nikon, Fuji Film and Silulo. Her workshops culminated in a widely attended photography exhibit at V&A Waterfront in Cape Town. Ilizwi Photography Club has just enrolled its second cohort of pupils in 2012.

Meghan was the recipient of the Amy Biehl Spirit of Youth Award and has featured in numerous media interviews, including Seventeen magazine.

Meghan will be a facilitator at the Cape Town forum in 2012.
We worked with 173 young people in 2011
Who were they?

146 delegates, aged 15-17
27 facilitators and presenters, aged 18-26

Race
- Black / African: 81%
- Coloured: 5%
- Indian: 3%
- Asian: 1%
- White: 10%

Access to resources
- Well resourced schools: 19%
- Under resourced schools: 81%

Provinces
- GAU: 51
- EC: 33
- KZN: 24
- LIM: 23
- WC: 14
- MPU: 10
- FS: 4

Gender
- Male: 54%
- Female: 46%

Note: graphs and figures only represent participants of the enke: Youth Award, not the enke: Ignition Project.
Impact

CAP “conversion” rate: 52.7% (percentage of delegates that started projects)
Number of projects started: 77
Number of projects successfully completed or still ongoing: 49

Average number of people impacted by each project: 95

Total number of people impacted: 4,656

Social issues chosen

Youth-led Action
For 3 years we have created a platform for young South Africans to impact the world around them. We empower youth and inspire them to make change.

Delegates have consistently worked to find innovative solutions to big problems through their community action projects. They have tackled hardcore issues like unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, poor education, and poverty.

Participants connect with a diverse, active group of peers who are all striving for excellence. They are equipped with skills and experience to increase employability. They are inspired to act.

Impact on Individuals

97.1% of delegates reported increased leadership
91.3% of delegates reported increased sense of social responsibility
94.2% of delegates reported increased confidence

Delegates recorded a 75% percent average strength change in response to “In 2 to 3 years time, I want to be at university”
Tevin Richards, KwaZulu-Natal
Tevin translated his passion for education and equality into action. His classmates were unable to study effectively, or to complete their school assignments because they had no access to internet.
So Tevin started a computer lab for his peers.
Working with his physics teacher, Tevin raised funds for his project, organising his classmates to sell cakes, cookies, and milkshakes at the school. He generated enough money to purchase 5 computers and supply internet to a new computer lab.

Deandra Pillay, KwaZulu-Natal
Deandra goes to a school were dropouts and teenage pregnancy are commonplace. Deandra was determined to overturn this trend. She started a group of boys that had been, or were in danger of being, suspended. The group meets weekly and focuses on peer mentorship. The boys support each other and talk through the dangers of smoking, doing drugs, and skipping school. The group then expanded to include study skills and peer tutoring.
Deandra then decided to head off the problem before it starts. She started talking with Grade 7 learners about the pressures and realities of high school. She hopes that this will help the students to prepare themselves and avoid dropping out when they enter high school.
Deandra reports that 7 boys that had dropped out of school or been suspended will be returning this year.

Lauren Rowe, Gauteng
Lauren is an active netball player. However, Lauren noticed that while athletes at her school enjoyed playing sports regularly, learners at less-privileged schools didn’t have the same chance.
Lauren mobilised her peers and community, running a ‘Trade-a-Tekkie’ campaign, getting people to donate a pair of used tekkies to pass on to under-resourced school sports teams. She managed to collect 82 pairs of tekkies, equipping 11 teams.

Katleho Modikeng, Free State
Katleho’s community has very few activities for youth outside of school. Bored and with nothing to do, his peers engage in high-risk behaviours such as drinking and drug abuse. Katleho was determined to find a solution.
Sourcing funding from Beacon of Hope, Katleho set up an entertainment and community centre. The club featured a functional 4-team football league, boardgames, and study groups. Katleho quickly found that he couldn’t afford everything that he needed to run the centre. He thought creatively and appeared on local radio to advertise the club to parents in the community. He then instituted a small membership fee, making the project sustainable. Parents gladly contributed, happy that the youth had positive past-times outside of school. Katleho is also a winner of the enke: Incubator seed-funding, enabled by the Australian High Commission.

Success Stories - 2011
In no particular order...

Thank you.


The people who make it possible
We believe that community action projects are how young people can make their mark. Using the skills they learn at enke:Forum, participants are challenged to take action on the social issues they are most passionate about. During the Forum they design and develop a project to put into action when they get home. Students have run projects addressing education, the environment, health and other social issues most relevant to them and their communities. They implement innovative projects that show how empowered youth can make a real difference in their communities.

The Forum kicks off the Youth Award as a week of networking, training, and planning. We bring together young people from all walks of life who are united around a shared vision for a brighter future for South Africa. They work through an experiential and dynamic curriculum, learning from each other and inspired by well-known thought-and action leaders. This is a national, youth-run event, celebrating the work of young people who've had an amazing impact in their communities. The event is run by participants in the enke:Ignition Project who gain valuable hands-on project management experience.