

A little goes a long way

Johannesburg Expo Centre (JEC) and its team of sponsors have marked the 2017 Nelson Mandela Day celebrations by returning to Inkwenkwezi and Riverlea Primary Schools on 27 July 2017 for a day to reflect on and celebrate the much-needed refurbishment and repairs that had been carried out at both schools.

“Madiba urged the nation to help change the world for the better. Now, as we celebrate his birthday each year, we as individuals, communities, companies, governments and non-profit organisations, are encouraged to make small contributions towards a better tomorrow.”

These were JEC’s chief executive officer **Craig Newman’s** opening sentiments as he addressed the teachers and pupils of both primary schools. The JEC paid a visit to the Diepkloof-based Inkwenkwezi Primary School in the morning, and later Riverlea Primary School, that afternoon.

“As South Africans, it’s crucial that we come together and invest in our country and in the young people who will continue with Madiba’s legacy,” he said.

For the past seven years, the JEC has been involved in numerous CSI initiatives, including the annual donation of food, stationery and blankets to both the Inkwenkwezi and Riverlea Primary Schools.

Another important and ongoing CSI initiative that JEC is passionately dedicated to, is Letsema La Bana, a support day for the SAPS widows and orphans, which JEC has hosted since 2009.

“Letsema La Bana aims to provide support to the widows and orphans of members of the South African Police Services (SAPS),” Mr Newman explained.

“We come together to commemorate those heroes and heroines who have lost

their lives while fighting crime. The event is a means of showing our support for the families that have been left behind.”

This year, the Johannesburg Expo Centre team, together with their sponsors (Main Event Catering, Prodec Paint, ZF Cleaning, Expo Guys, IDM Cement, Steoc Plumbing, West Rand Auto Glass, Multi Cup, Total Health Care, Signs and More, Sound Headquarters, Ronald McDonalds, Mahatsi Developers, Staedtler, Pick n Pay, Recall Security, Sizwe Fire Equipment, TechnoDraft, Blue Ribbon, Paper for Africa, Rand Show, Lodge Security Events, Silveray Stationery Company and Nutriday) returned to visit the two schools that they had assisted with repairs and refurbishments for Nelson Mandela Day.

The day was intended to celebrate all that had been accomplished and to distribute food, blankets and school bags to the pupils of each school.

“We are passionate about empowering all youth in our communities, which is why we chose to assist in revamping Inkwenkwenzi and Riverlea Primary Schools,” says Mr Newman.

“We had an amazing team of sponsors who each generously donated time, products and funds towards this cause, so we could help with renovations and give the children a warm meal.

“Each year on 18 July, people across the nation are encouraged to honour Nelson Mandela by dedicating 67 minutes of their



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time towards a worthy cause. It is our pleasure to help enable the educators of these schools to create a more sustainable environment in which to educate young minds,” Mr Newman said.

“This way, our children can create a better future for their children and their children’s children.”

The Johannesburg Expo Centre team use each Mandela Day as an opportunity to reflect on what has been done and what can still be done to help empower the youth in South Africa.

“A little goes a long way and every person in this country can do something to help someone else,” Mr Newman said.

“There is something extremely rewarding in doing something for someone who can never pay you back.”

In his closing remarks to both schools, Mr Newman urged those present to make every day a Mandela Day. “Let us celebrate Mandela’s legacy in a way that brings about enduring change,” he concluded. ■



Craig Newman with Principal Skipper of Inkwenkwezi Primary School.



Craig Newman addresses the teachers and pupils.