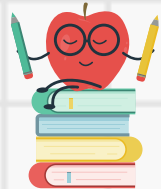




SIMTHANDILE'S JOURNEY

From uncertainty to becoming a future
Foundation Phase teacher



2022- 2023 - SETBACK

1



At 21, after completing Grade 12 Simthandile was determined to continue her studies, but wasn't sure what came next. After moving to Cato Manor with her parents, she applied with little to no guidance and support to several tertiary institutions but was unsuccessful. During her gap year, she volunteered at her father's Tyres Zone Workshop while continuing to pursue her goals.

2024 - DISCOVERY

2



Her father introduced her to the Basic Package of Support (BPS), and she joined the programme. Through coaching, career guidance and goal-setting, she began planning her future. Individual sessions, career guidance, clear goal-setting, and steady emotional encouragement helped her discover her passion for teaching- something important clicked. She realised she wanted to teach. One of her own teachers had once made a real difference in her life, and she wanted to do the same for young children.

2024 - TAKING ACTION

3



Simthandile was shy and lacked confidence speaking in groups. Through individual coaching and Peer Connect sessions, she gradually learned to share her ideas and participate more confidently.

2024 - OPPORTUNITY

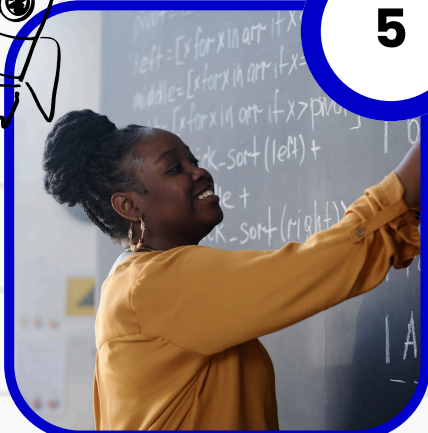
4

BPS also helped her with the practical side - it supported her Central Applications Office (CAO) application, walked her through the process, and kept encouraging her. This time, with more support, Simthandile was able to navigate the application process with greater confidence. Her determination, combined with the guidance and encouragement she received, paid off. She received an offer to study a Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase Teaching at the University of Zululand, starting in 2025.



2025 - BREAKTHROUGH

5



Simthandile began university and remained connected to her BPS Youth Coach for ongoing encouragement and support. She successfully completed her first teaching practicum at a primary school-an important milestone towards her dream career.

WHERE SHE IS NOW

Now in her second year, Simthandile continues to thrive. During the July recess, she returned to Cato Manor for a Peer Connect session. This time, she stood in front of the group and shared her journey, encouraging other young people to keep going. From a quiet young woman uncertain about her future, she has become a confident role model for others.