

African Bank Limited press release

February 2020

Building communities together

In the spirit of advancing lives of fellow South Africans, African Bank has recently partnered with forgood to create a website where African Bankers can volunteer towards meaningful and impactful initiatives. The causes that are listed on African Bank's **forgood** website have been selected specifically because they align with its CSI strategy and are primarily linked to education and sport.

Kennedy Dembetembe, National CSI Manager for African Bank, says the partnership is an amazing way to connect African Bankers with CSI causes the bank is passionate about. "Putting education first is one of our primary drives. We kicked off 2020 with a stationery drive, packing stationery for 1 500 children at the Winnie Mandela Primary School in Tembisa." Staff were also encouraged to paint pictures which will be auctioned off as part of the night of a thousand drawings campaign.

The children at the school were each given their stationery pack and a packed meal by a team of African Bankers and were entertained by the Mzansi youth choir.

The highlight of the day was a cheque handover of R500 000 from African Bank to the Click Foundation. Dembetembe says the money is being used for developing computer labs at various schools and providing children with access to digital learning. The Foundation believes education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.

Nicola Harris, CEO of the Click Foundation, says in South Africa we still have a very real problem. 78% of Grade 4 learners can't read for meaning (2016 PIRLS Study). "Weak student performance in literacy and numeracy in Foundation Phase (Grades 1-3) constitutes one of the major factors leading to poor learning outcomes in later grades. Our Foundation deploys online English literacy programmes in under-privileged primary schools across South Africa. The programmes offer young learners the opportunity to work at their own pace through fun and enjoyable activities, navigating their learning journey by means of technology. In doing so, the Click Foundation is not only addressing the

literacy crisis but also equipping these young learners with the technological skills required for future success,” says Harris. It relies heavily on donations such as that received from African Bank.

“The Click Foundation aims to change the trajectory of over 1,000,000 learners’ lives through technology-based literacy and numeracy programmes and we could not be prouder to be supporting them in this quest,” concludes Dembetembe.

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