

## **Bizcommunity helps kick-start Mamelani Projects computer room**

Bizcommunity.com yesterday, Thursday, 4 August 2011, made a contribution towards Mamelani Projects, and its youth development program Project Lungisela, in the form of laptops. The company held an official hand-over at its Cape Town offices, with Mamelani Projects operations manager Monika Edwards accepting the contribution on behalf of the Cape Town-based organisation.



L-R: Monika Edwards, Mamelani Projects operations manager; Robin Parker, Bizcommunity MD; Cheryl Harper, Bizcommunity sales executive.

The laptops will be used to start a much-needed computer room for 60 youths who are currently part of the program.

Project Lungisa, one of the Mamelani Projects, works specifically with former street kids who have grown up in the Homestead's Childrens Home in Khayelisha. Mamelani Projects works with the children for an 18-month period, leading up to when they must leave the home at age 18.

### **Imparting life skills**

The focus of the program is to impart independent living skills to the youth so that they are able to cope or they leave the childrens home. This is achieved through life skills workshops, career guidance, experiential outdoor learning skills development, internships and ongoing support and mentorship. A core component of the program is to prepare the youth for work so they are able to sustain themselves once they are back in the community. An internship program offers them the opportunity to gain the necessary hard and soft skills to cope in the working world.

Since the inception of the program, many young people have gained meaningful employment. The project foresees an average of 15 youths joining the program annually, said Edwards and they desperately need laptops that will enable them to write their own CVs, communicate, and gain information via the internet.

Mamelani Projects also engage in community-based health education and child development programmes.

For more on Mamelani Projects, go to [www.mamelani.org.za](http://www.mamelani.org.za).