Stefanutti Stocks relationship with

Jirah Academy enters its fourth year

Jirah Academy was started by chairman Ian Jones, a previously disadvantaged individual, who is passionate about making a difference in his community. After recovering from a motorcycle accident that saw him lose the full use of his legs, Ian was determined not to be held back by his challenges, and to impart the same mind-set, as well as be instrumental in creating opportunities for the youth in his immediate community as well as the greater Durban region.

Stefanutti Stocks has been supporting the academy, both financially and with regard to development and fundraising since 2014. A relationship which began with just one division within the group at the Maydon Wharf joint venture project (Stefanutti Stocks Coastal and Axsys Projects), has flourished into a relationship where Jirah Academy is now one of the Stefanutti Stocks group's socio-economic development beneficiaries.

The Academy is entirely donor and management funded and operates as a fee-free college satellite campus that provides engineering studies to learners who are suited to become artisans and technicians, or who want to pursue careers in engineering. Jirah Academy's approach to imparting knowledge has resulted in young adults who are known for excelling academically. Most graduates have been placed within industry and training centres for apprenticeships, internships and other industry-related careers.

The Academy's success has fuelled plans for the establishment of a stand-alone trade school (including college, workshops and a boarding home) catering for the needs and demands within the communities. This would mean, that for the first time in South Africa, learners doing Engineering Studies will also have direct access to levels 1 to 4 practical institutionalised training under one roof.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works has a 60 000m2 plot of land near the Durban Harbour ideally suited for this development, and the Jirah Academy is currently involved in negotiations for a 40-year lease agreement with the option to purchase.

The long-term vision for Jirah includes the acquisition of an existing Artisan Training Centre, the Atholl Munday Training Centre, a current trade partner of the academy. The centre would be renamed after Charlotte Maxete - a religious leader, social worker, and political activist as well as one of South Africa's first Black woman graduates.

"The combination of the Jirah Academy, Jirah Trade School, and Charlotte Maxete Artisan Training Centre will substantially increase the education and development opportunities for previously disadvantaged individuals within KwaZulu-Natal. We would also be delivering world-class artisans, that will be valuable assets to the industry," says Jones. "Our long-term vision and dream is to establish a rural KZN-based skills centre, that will increase our impact a hundredfold. I truly believe, based on the success of our approach, that this is possible."

What does industry have to say about the Jirah Academy?

"The Jirah Academy gives its students a good foundation for entry into the working environment. Every year the demand for a learnership at Engen is incredibly high. Of the total intake of 21 this year, three individuals from Jirah made it through the various screening processes, purely on merit. Their time at Jirah has given them a glimpse of what it is like in the workplace, and they are well-spoken, confident and eager to learn." ***Rob Gasken, Maintenance Training Specialist, Engen***

"The Jirah Academy concept is smart and is working wonders. Ian and his team are taking people from poor backgrounds, educating and testing them while moving at their own pace, and in spite of their challenges, are converting them into valuable, professional resources that can be utilised by the industry. Wade and Meagan are proof that their concept is working.

This empowerment has really struck me, and I wish that it could be funded and expanded into the community I come from. There are very few of us who have the heart and commitment to empower people to this extent - and all of this, with severely limited resources, while many of us, who have the resources at our disposal are just not as successful." ***Maxwell Magcada, Training Manager Transnet Engineering, KZN***

Where are some of the Jirah Academy graduates now?



Marcia Marais - Instrumentation apprentice at Engen Refinery



Keaton Juan - Electrical apprentice at Toyota Motors South Africa



Nomphilo Zulu - Electrical apprentice at Atholl Munday Training Centre



Morné Ward - Motor Mechanic apprentice at BMW-DSM



Silungile Mqadi - Instrumentation apprentice at Engen Refinery



Tre' Hulley - Instrumentation apprentice at Engen Refinery



Wade Fynn - Electrical apprentice at Atholl Munday Training Centre

Theophilus Ranana - Electrical artisan assistant at SAPREF



Jade Hughes - Electrical apprentice at VW McCarthy, Umhlanga Rocks



Nelisiwe Mahlangu - Electrical apprentice at Atholl Munday Training Centre



Jirah Academy - Facts at a glance



What is it?

The Jirah Academy is an engineering studies educational initiative of Jirah Projects - a non-profit organisation with section 18A tax exemption status (116-855 NPO). Currently Jirah Academy functions as a community-based satellite campus catering specifically to previously disadvantaged individuals within the South Durban Basin and the extended communities of the greater Durban area.

In addition to up-skilling the Durban communities through this initiative, Jirah Academy is also addressing the extreme shortage of highly-skilled, capable artisans that industry so desperately needs.

Vision

Jirah Academy's vision is to become the leading South African Trade School, in the truest sense of the definition - one that nurtures holistic education, training and advancement of knowledge and skills.

Mission

Jirah Academy's mission is to serve the needs of impoverished households of all race groups, by applying a dynamic whole-person approach to learning challenges. Whole-person education develops self-awareness, self-regulation and creates responsible individuals who are able to live autonomously.



Beneficiaries

- Many stem from troubled home environments within poverty-stricken communities.
- Previously disadvantaged learners from secondary schools from the extended communities in Durban.
- School-leavers from Fairvale and other secondary schools in the immediate area.

Key Principles

- Provide a 100% fee-free college service.
- Provide a second chance to previously disadvantaged individuals to pursue a formal qualification.
- Provide early identification, assessment and screening, in collaboration with local universities.
- Cater to all learning types.
- Provide an alternative avenue of study for those who chose incorrect subject packages at school.
- Offer trade orientation courses prior to learners selecting a trade at the start of N1.
- Collaborate strategically with industry.
- Collaborate strategically with higher learning institutions.
- Rebuild the identity and self-image of learners using the whole person education approach that will support the individual's self-awareness, self-regulation and autonomy, and empower them to become responsible and productive members of society.

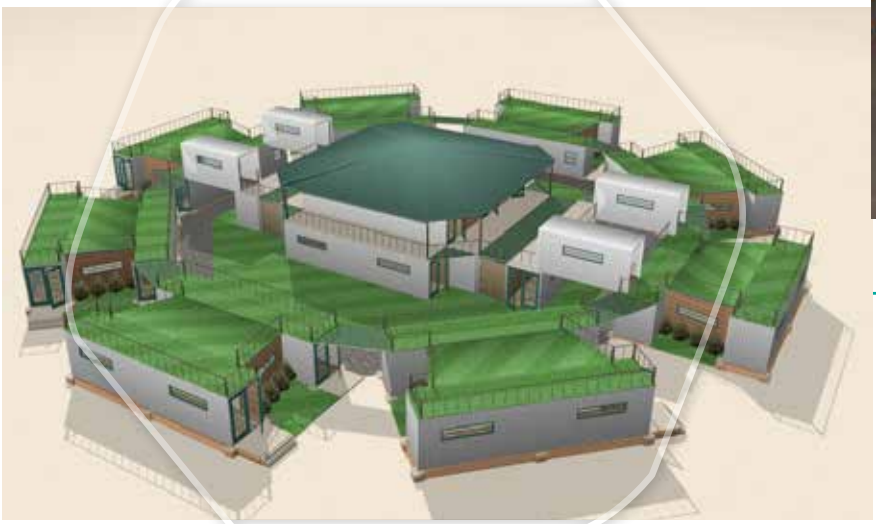




Infrastructure?

The Engineering Studies campus currently uses Fairvale Secondary School facilities, where Jirah is renting floor space and operating from mobile classroom and office units that have either been procured or donated.





Developments aspired to?

- Construction of a Jirah Trade School.
- Acquisition of an accredited Durban-based artisan training centre.
- Construction of a comprehensive rural KZN-based skills centre including accommodation and work shops.

Course offered?

Currently the MERSETA registered academy offers a Bridging Programme (focusing on Mathematics and Science education) followed by mainstream Engineering Studies N1/N2/N3.



Educational alliances?

- eThekwini City College;
- Durban University of Technology (DUT);
- UKZN (Durban Westville Campus); and
- various SETA training centres.

Trade Partners?

The Academy is supported by numerous industry and training centre partners including Atholl Munday Training Centre, Barons VW – Durban South, BMW-SMG, Engen Refinery, eThekwini Municipality's Electrical Department, GUD Filters, Illovo Sugar, SA Shipyards, SAPREF, Stefanutti Stocks, Tekmation Institute of Training, Toyota Motors South Africa, and Transnet Engineering.

Stefanutti Stocks sponsorship to date:	
Year	**Amount**
2014	R869 834
2015	R756 166
2016	R309 000
2017	
TOTAL	

Want to know more: www.jirahprojects.org



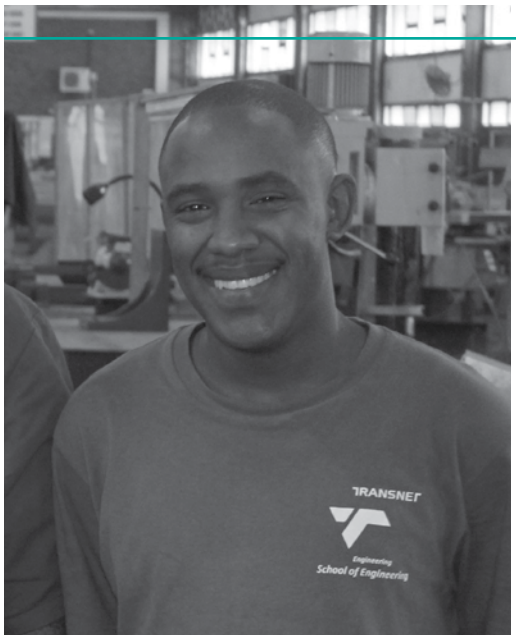
Zayne Parker - Electrical apprentice at GUD Holdings

How are you enjoying the learnership so far?

"I look forward to going to work every day! Being here at GUD Holdings means a lot to me. Prior to Jirah Academy's bridging programme and starting here I really struggled to stay afloat. Working has changed my life a lot, as I am now able to provide for my family. I am married, but we couldn't afford to live together for a long time, and didn't want to burden either of our respective families by moving in with them. Now, we are living together, and I am the main provider for my family."

What is is the one thing that motivates you?

"My son does. I want to make sure that he will have it easier in life than I did, and I will educate myself as much as possible to be able to make things happen for him."



Wade Lenin - Boiler Making apprentice at Transnet Engineering

How are you enjoying the learnership so far?

"I started at Transnet on 1 March 2016, and came with a vision and expectations of the standards here. The workmanship is just as I imagined. The people are considerate and mentor me according to my pace. I have hopes and aspirations to complete my trade test, to acquire work experience, then do some marine welding work, for which I would have to learn to dive."

What is the one thing that motivates you?

"My daughter of four months old who is always on my mind motivates me. The legacy I'd like to leave her is that she does not need to grow up the way I grew up, with little at my disposal. I want to pave the way for her."

Meagan van Wyhe - Boiler Making apprentice at Transnet Engineering

How are you enjoying the learnership so far?

"When I got the apprenticeship at Transnet it was an opportunity I couldn't let slip through my fingers. There was no money at home, for me to study any further and I knew that I had to make it a success - not only for myself, but also to show other people with the same background as me, that it's possible. I really want this apprenticeship to be a stepping stone to bigger things, and I plan on studying within the engineering field, once I have achieved my short-term goals. I believe this will open more doors for me."

What is is the one thing that motivates you?

"I have many 'one things', but if I had to choose the key ones, I would say firstly my mother, as I want her to be proud of me. I'm also very passionate about the work that I do, and about being a role model to other youngsters. I hope for them, that they will have an opportunity, like I have had."

