

WOMEN DOING CHESED PROJECTS

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What work do you do and why did you choose this path?

I am lucky to be a full-time mom.

How has this been impacted by Coronavirus?

At the start of lockdown, I saw how easy it was for my 4 children to carry on their education. Even my two-year-old was able to participate. A quick log on, a short drive to collect some work, a little bit of a change to routines, but essentially their school day and syllabus carried on, albeit from my dining room table. However, when I looked around at the impact Corona Virus was having on our society, I soon realised that although I had always thought of education as a right, Covid-19 was making it a privilege that not all could experience.

How have you innovated to overcome life challenges?

None of this would have transpired had it not been for COVID. The feeling of wanting to help was immediate. I physically wanted to do something. And that's when a friend and I came up with the idea for Back a Pupil. We started by putting educational packs together, which included grade-specific work, plain paper or exam pad, stationery, and a reading book. The packs were then put into A4 envelopes or bags and labelled accordingly. Teaming up with the Union of Jewish Women and FeedSA whom assisted in facilitating distribution. To date, we have handed out over 7000 packs.

What challenges have you faced as a woman?

I truly feel that being a woman gave me the upper hand with this cause, as I could appeal to other moms who are also aware of the privileges we have and the ease with which we are able to continue educating our children.

What King David experiences or Jewish values motivate you?

At King David we were always taught and reminded how lucky we were to be able to give, be it through outreach programmes or sister schools who we helped academically. We were taught that there are many aspects to "tzedakah" that can be done through time or money.

What drives you to make an impact?

Being a proud South African and truly loving my life here, I know that in order to make South Africa great, we need to start with our youth. We need to ensure that our next generation is driven by excellence, not a privilege.

Tell us about your family.

I met my husband at school and started dating shortly after leaving KD. I have four magnificent children, the youngest is a boy. I try to involve my family (children) in any initiative that I take on, whether this means packing books for Back a Pupil or donating towards a cause for their birthdays.

Words to Live By:

"Be the book you want to read about". To me, this means being the author of your story; being proud of every chapter. Decide if you want to be the main character; choose your role. Be the book that you can't put down.