



# Infinite Family 2024 Impact Report

Preparing Teens to Succeed in School, Work, and Life

## IMPACT IN 2024

**243** Teens strengthened weekly in **3** marginalized communities; **913** indirect beneficiaries

Matric results: **4 Bachelor's, 5 Diploma, 2 NQF4, 2 Rewrite**

**4,300** Mentoring Sessions

**7,300** Teen-initiated activities to build English, education, and employment skills

**4,245** Hours of homework, research, and skills development

## CUMULATIVE IMPACT

**1,304** Teens strengthened, **52%** mentored >3 mos. in **8** marginalized communities

**51,100** Mentoring sessions

Mentors provided support from **25 Countries** and **40 US States**

**21 Months** – Average length of mentorship; many relationships last a decade or more

Matric Results	Infinite Family	South Africa	Difference
Qualified for Advanced Education	95%	75%	20%
Qualified for University Studies	84%	60%	24%

## IN OUR NET BUDDIES' WORDS



**Hlubi\*, cannot thank "Jagi" (Dr. Jagruti Gandhi) enough for the role she has played in her young but difficult life.**

Hlubi and her mother, along with her two older siblings, moved into Nkosi's Haven when she was just two years old. The mother passed away two years later, and the children were left in the care of the institution.

When she was nine, Hlubi and her siblings were taken in by the mother's relatives who lived in a township in Johannesburg. Hlubi grew up quickly as her new guardian provided a lot of responsibility and chores rather than the care the children needed. A few years later, Hlubi and her sister were sent to another province to live with other unfamiliar relatives. Things were even harder at the new home where Hlubi said she and her sister endured emotional and verbal abuse and threats of physical abuse from their second set of new guardians.

After several terrible years, including a missed year of school, Hlubi found her way back to Nkosi's Haven when she was 18. It would be yet another year before she could go back to school. During her second 'gap year,' she joined the Infinite Family and was matched with Jagi.

When she started her mentorship, Hlubi described herself as having been lost in this world, not knowing what to do or her own capabilities. She was shy, lacked confidence, and full of self-doubt. But as soon as she met Jagi, she realized that her future depended on going back to school.

Going back to school after missing two years was anxiety-provoking and hard. Hlubi shared that her initial grades were 'very bad.' She started to doubt herself again and wanted to quit, but Jagi pushed her on and helped her to navigate the hardships and uncertainties.

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## Infinite Family

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# Age 12 to 22 – The Make or Break Years

## When Teens Forge Their Futures



### Net Buddy Story continued

Hlubi shared in a text, “My life is so different [since] I met my mentor. I am able to set boundaries and take responsibility [for] things I need as well, it also helped [me learn to be on time.] I am now able to communicate with people and do a lot of things without being shy. I’m proud and thankful for having such a lovely mentor because I [passed] with good results, and now, I am in matric, which is Grade 12. She really did what she had to, and today, as I stand up tall and brave, I’m grateful for having her ❤️❤️👉.”

Like every teen growing up in difficult circumstances, Hlubi has hopes and dreams. She aspires to follow a career in law, social work, or aviation. With the support of her beloved Jagi, she is determined to turn these dreams into reality.

*\*Photos and quotes are all real Infinite Family Net Buddies. For their safety, we change the names and images to protect their identities.*

### Our Infinite Family Ignites, Informs, and Inspires Teens to Succeed

A teen’s years are forged by new feelings and identity, new experiences, new choices, and new responsibilities. They push away from parents and guardians, making crucial choices alone. And yet, these decisions define all that follows, their opportunities and independence for the rest of their lives.

Our global network of mentors spend thirty minutes each week in a video conversation with their Net Buddies, giving them space to explore a world beyond their lived experience. And time to share their ideas and thoughts, their concerns and insecurities with a caring adult who is invested in their success.

Our LaunchPads provide a safe and quiet space for Net Buddies to access the internet and a range of educational resources, helping them stay focused and motivated as schoolwork gets tougher.

Our Infinite Family – the touchpoints, the resources, the network – provides invaluable support to teens who want a better, independent future but often face pressure to drop out of school. From families who are desperate for them to earn an income. And from the more than 50% of their peers who have been driven to make that choice through hopelessness and learned helplessness.

Making the decision to complete high school, and work towards results that can give them choices later, is almost a revolutionary stand, but it is tested every day. Not only by the daily trials of post-apartheid township life – where high unemployment and abject poverty mean their physical and mental safety are consistently under threat – but also the lingering effects of lost learning due to Covid. For African teens, the world seems to have left them behind. Infinite Family’s global relationships prove otherwise and prepare them to succeed in an uncertain world.

**Resilient • Resourceful • Responsible**

**The Infinite Family program is a refuge for teens who know what they want in life but need help to get there.**

**Our enduring results fortify our commitment to keep investing in South African teens who invest in themselves.**

