

Every child is gifted. They just unwrap
their packages at different times –
unknown author



The Living Link - South Africa
Creating Abilities From Disabilities

“Award for Innovative Practice”

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www.thelivinglink.co.za

Who is The Living Link

- The Living Link is a life skills training centre that focuses on the integration and up-skilling of intellectually disabled young adults into the mainstream of our society. Our mission is to challenge the stereotypes and stigma that surround these individuals within their own communities, the work place and society at large.



The Work Readiness & Adult Integration Programme

To provide **life skills and work readiness training** covering the following subjects

- Employment Orientation (work place related training)
- Lifestyle Management (Independent living skills)
- Community Survival (Human rights & safety skills)
- Personal Empowerment (Vital personal skills and social skills for integration)
- Basic Financial Management (Basic budgeting and understanding of money)

To provide **job sampling** experiences at 4 work sites over a 4 - 6 months period

- The opportunity for students to experience real working environments and sample different types of jobs to gain practical work experience and understanding of everyday work requirements

To provide an **independent living experience** for students over a week where all skills learnt are put into practice in a supportive environment away from home.

To formally and informally assess each student's potential strengths and capabilities in terms of employment opportunities in order to successfully **match them to job openings** and understand their respective support needs.

To assist each graduate to **find suitable work** in the open labour market and provide the necessary intervention and support for these placements.



Continued support within the work place utilising The Living Links Supported Employment Model



2nd Phase Membership

- The Living Link supported employment model
- The Gap
- Permanent employment
- Other contract employment
- Voluntary employment
- Entrepreneurship
- Membership sustainability
- Independent living





Gift Tsoka

A story of perseverance, overcoming enormous challenges and with The Living Link's support, finally success.

Potential Impact & Sustainability

- After the successful completion of the AIP or WRP Program, these adults will be better equipped to obtain and maintain open labour market employment in line with the Employment Equity Act.
- Graduated students will have a greater chance and opportunity of contributing to our society and adding value to the community.
- Graduated students will be less of a drain on society both economically and socially.
- We will be promoting & aligning to the objectives of the SA government which encourages inclusion, education and skills development and creating employment opportunities and ultimately less dependence on state funding



The Future and Growth Needs

- Access to finance
- Duplication of The Living Link
 - aligned to The Living Link strategy
- Access to further employment opportunities





Thank you