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I saw what is really possible when we speak about life with the purpose of identifying possibilities in mind.

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Gerhard van Greunen

Partner to **Margaret Chauke**

When I first heard about Partners for Possibility, I attended a programme in Johannesburg with cautious excitement. However, I found the same passion for education amongst partners and principals alike, that matched my enthusiasm. After hearing their life changing stories, I was hooked! I felt I needed to understand the challenges township school principals faced better. I had my opinions from afar, but wanted to experience it first-hand.

What I surmised from this experience and how it impacted my life:

Every human being has three needs i.e.

- The need for significance
- The need to belong
- The need to be empowered

I experienced these same needs on this incredible journey and was amazed at how beautifully these needs were met.

The need for significance

I started a friendship with Margaret Chauke, a principal of a primary school in Mamalodi. It was really exciting! She is an exceptional leader and also doing her PhD.

The fact that I could help her in her endeavour to provide quality education for 2000 students (the smallest class has 45 students and the biggest 114) gave me an opportunity to be an active citizen and make a difference for the next generation, instead of just sitting on the sideline and criticising. I felt I was making a significant difference for Margaret, her leadership team, staff, students, the Mamalodi community and our country.

The partnership was sponsored by an anonymous donor.

The need to belong

Being part of the the leadership circle in Twane, where 5 partners together with 5 principals and our Learning Process Facilitator (LPF) met on a regular basis and shared stories, as well as victories, adressed this need to belong.

The need for empowerment

The three courses Margaret and I attended was of the highest quality. In order to empower us for the challenge of leading change as well as transforming our community in Mamalodi. We were truly empowered by:

- Nancy Kline’s “Time To Think”
- Peter Block’s “Flawless Consulting” and
- Peter Block’s “Community- The Structure of Belonging”

My eyes were opened to the reality and possibilities in township schools. I saw what was really possible in our schools when

- We take hands across business and educational spheres
- We create opportunities for our incredible communities to bring their talents to the table
- We talk about life by identifying possibilities rather than worrying about challenges
- We involve the communities in our schools
- We empower the idea that school is at the centre of the community and if we lead it can become a positive force in the lives of so many in and around it

I have hope for the future!



Margaret Chauke
Sediba sa Thuto Primary School