

## MY NDLOVU STORY

## Ruth Chauke



## **My Social Work Story**



On a bright winter day the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2023, Ndlovu Care Group podcast engaged in a conversation with Social Worker, Ruth Chauke and Child Care and Community Development Programs Manager Morongwa Magongoa. During the conversation, we delved into her role and discussed how these programs have profoundly impacted Ruth Chauke, a Social Worker at Ndlovu Care Group for over 10 years.

Ndlovu Care Group is founded upon four pillars: Community Healthcare, Child Care, Youth & Community Development, as well as Research and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene). One standout program within Child Care and Youth Development is the renowned Ndlovu Youth Choir!!! Morongwa's face lit up as she enthusiastically explained what NCG does.

Her responsibilities encompassing the protection of children, youth and their families from social challenges, while also fostering their well-being and enhancing family dynamics. "**she serves as a buffer against social ills**"

She perceives her role as intricately connected to NCG's objectives as she aids children in acquiring essential identity documents, enabling them to access education, healthcare and other crucial services.





It is indeed startling that a significant number of children lack documentation. She elucidates that some children remain unregistered with the Department of Home Affairs due to various reasons, such as home birth and their mothers not having attended any prenatal care during pregnancy which is mandatory in South Africa. The assistance provided by NCG to these children and parents involves guiding them through the registration process to ensure the children are properly documented. Due to lack of literacy among many of these parents, they often feel embarrassed and consequently refrain from registering their children. She also addressed the issue of mental health, highlighting it as another factor that has a detrimental impact on the community. Ruth encourages the community to actively seek social support in addressing mental health challenges.

According to her, There are opportunities for both growth and advancement at NCG in line with our motto "From cradle to adulthood". Though a range of diverse programs, the organization plays a significant role in contributing to the fulfillment of Maslow's hierarchy of needs by offering physiological assistance to beneficiaries and guiding them towards self-actualization. Ruth has contributed to and helped uplift the lives of over 500 children. Through her intervention, many children have the opportunity to be enrolled in other NCG programs such as disability, After School Program, Sports Arts and Culture and others





Ruth takes immense pride in being a part of Ndlovu, she emphasizes that this brings a profound fulfillment and she genuinely appreciates the positive culture within the organization. Morongwa added by saying that NCG's culture is remarkably easy to adopt, as individuals can easily relate to it and seamlessly integrate into the cultural environment.

One program that has had a profound impact on Ruth is the research initiative. Despite her initial discomfort with injections, the Ndlovu Research Centre managed to shift her perception, leading her to eagerly anticipate receiving her next jab.

Undoubtedly, Ndlovu Care Group serves as a comprehensive source of support , offering integrated services to the people of Moutse in various aspects of their lives...





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