



Meet Phumelela Nyushu

**Masinyusane
Gqeberha**

Phumelela Nyushu, from Kwazekela, Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape, has always seen herself as a change-maker, problem solver & born leader. She loves singing, literature, and cooking. With a passion for working with children, especially those with Autism, she has made it her mission to liberate and bring awareness around her cause. In 2019, she lost everything when her house burnt down, but still, she did not let this diminish her dreams. Working as a teacher's assistant, she noticed the need for development in young children's education. She applied for YearBeyond in 2022, seeing it as an opportunity to add value. This was the start of her YearBeyond story.

Who inspired you throughout your YearBeyond journey?

My grandmother. She has always been there for me. Believing in me since I was young. She would tell me "shine, wherever you go, people will see you". Even though she was never formally educated, it was her wisdom that grounded me and provided me with guidance on my journey. I feel it's very important to listen and learn from our elders. They have experienced life and can share insights to help us on our journey.

How has YearBeyond changed you?

Being part of YearBeyond has grown my confidence. It has allowed me to see how as an individual, I can add value to my community and make a positive change in the lives of others. YearBeyond has connected me to like-minded people and shown me how we all are different but are united in purpose: To bring change.

What would you tell young people interested in joining YearBeyond?

Do it. YearBeyond gives young people the platform to be active change-makers in their communities, while developing their skills and gaining experience.

This interview was conducted and compiled by fellow YeBo Academy student, Damione De Bruin.

YeBo Academy Class of 2023