

Belhar community – Don Bosco Delft Skills Training Centre (Delft)

DON BOSCO DELFT SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE

71, Caledon Street, Leiden, Delft

Tel: 0219560102

Salesian Sisters – (Cape Town)

INTRODUCTION

Don Bosco Delft Skills Training Centre is run by the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco. Their main purpose is to work with young people at risk, poor and vulnerable.

In 2004, during the Assembly of the Salesian Sisters of the Southern Region, it was decided to take Delft Project as a priority among the needs of the region. Delft Project consisted in building and running the Skills Training Centre and the construction of a multipurpose hall.

In 2013, a “Needs and Opportunities assessment” was carried out in the community which identified the most “liked” skills from the young people and which ones among those are most marketable for employment.

It was decided that Don Bosco Educational and Skills Training Centre will offer to the most disadvantaged and unemployed young people of Delft the following Skills: Computer Literacy and Reception, Food Preparation and Catering, Housekeeping, and Driving.

In 2017 after three years of preparation seeking funding and setting policies in place in alignment with education and Training Standards, the building of a new Skills Training Centre commenced with the help of Street Wise and Misesan Cara (from Ireland) as well as with Don Bosco Mondo and Misereo (from Germany).

In 2018 the building was completed and towards the end of November the Sister in charge left the container that had been her office for almost ten years and moved to a proper office, in the Skills Training Centre’s new building.

On the 8th April, 2019 the New Don Bosco Delft Skills Training Centre was born and started operating. The Skills Training Centre opened with 12 students who had registered, offering them three weeks of Life Skills Programmes, followed by eight weeks Catering and Food Preparation.

The first graduation ceremony took place on the 28th June 2019 and 12 young people received their certificates.

DON BOSCO DELFT SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE (DELFT)

Physical Address: 71 Caledon Street, Leiden Delft, Western Cape

Postal Address: 36, Arctotis Way, Belhar 7493

Telephone Numbers: +27219560102

Municipality: Don Bosco Delft Skills Training Centre is linked to City of Cape Town.

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THE PROFILE

Don Bosco Delft Skills Training Centre, was incorporated as a non-Profit Organisation under South Africa Non- Profit Organisation act 1977, under No 188-627 NPO on 21st April 2017.

Don Bosco Delft Skills Training Centre is registered with South Africa Revenue Services (SARS), Tax Reference No 9073208259, and is approved as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) No 930060235.

Don Bosco Delft Skills Training Centre (DBDSTC) has a strong focus on building good working relationships to all our Stakeholders which include surrounding communities and sponsors to the Centre.

The Board Members have extensive and diverse experience which makes (DBDSTC) an effective Non-Profit organisation with excellent development potential.

Don Bosco Delft Skills Training Centre aims to reduce the level of youth unemployment, school dropouts, poverty, inequality and promote social integration and a brighter future for the community living in poverty-stricken, crime-ridden townships. It provides access to Life Skills, Vocational Training and Job Placement Assistance to underprivileged and disheartened youth as a means to contribute to poverty alleviation in the area.

The Don Bosco Skills Training Centre (DBDSTC) leads the way to in contributing to the growth of many young people, in partnership with government agency, Stakeholders and communities.

Courses offered:

- Three weeks (3) weeks Life Skills Training Programme
- Computer Literacy and Reception

- Catering and Food Production
- Hoping to start Housekeeping as this is very much required from our Stakeholders who are taking students for Job shadowing.

Working in the style of our Founder St. John Bosco, we take special care regarding the daily environment of the Centre and the welfare of our students. Our provision of and education they can trust and based on our BELIEF THAT EVERY YOUNG PERSON is capable of good and of growth.

DBDSTC offers three (3) months vocational training to students. Life skills Programmes is mandatory to all students before they start their hard skills in the course of their choices. The students have one (1) week job shadowing in different Hotels and companies. This gives them direct contact with the working world through in-company work experience placements.

DBDSTC with a total of 13 beneficiaries for January intake 2020, being the next April Intake of 30 students.

The aim of DBDSTC is:

- To train young women and men in some skills so that they would be able to earn an honest livelihood.
- Help young women and men to find employment or be self-employed.
- To make them become primary recommendation themselves.
- To equip them with a good moral and spiritual formation and skills which will enable them to provide for themselves.
- Government recognition for the Skills Training Centre, in order to assure quality and stability for the Centre.

CHALLENGES OF THE CENTRE

1. COVID-19

Covid-19 has placed an unexpected strain on the Centre. The January intake of students had two (2) weeks remaining to complete their courses. A week of Job Shadowing followed by a final week of training then graduation which was scheduled to take place on 3rd April 2020. All came to a standstill when the President declared National Disaster for the Pandemic. This is not only affecting the lives of South Africa but the whole world.

Due to Covid-19 the process for Centre Accreditation cannot go on as everything is on hold until next year 2021.

2. SETA ACCREDITATION

Don Bosco Delft Skills Training Centre is not registered to SETA. The Board Management and Staff are aware that it is imperative to gain Government recognition for the Skills Training Centre in order to assure quality and stability for the Centre. Our students would also have better opportunities at securing employment.

We need urgent guidance and assistance in undertaking this task.

3. FUNDING

Don Bosco Skills Training Centre is dependent on funds and donations from abroad which is becoming more difficult to source given present economic climate throughout the world. The ideal would be financial support from Government as well as local funders and donors who understand the reality of the environment in which we work.

Cost Structure of Course:

- ❖ Computer Literacy and Reception covers 15-unit standards equal to 15 Modules.
- ❖ Minimum per credit. Total of R250 per credit equal to 250×61 credits = R15,250
- ❖ Catering and Food Preparation currently covering 12 modules
- ❖ $45 \text{ credits} \times R250 = R11,250$

In line with the teaching of Don Bosco and the mission of the Salesian Sisters to be of service to the poor and most vulnerable young people in society, each student is expected to pay a minimal Courses Fees / Commitment Fee:

- 1) Computer Literacy and Reception: R150 per course.
- 2) Catering and Food Preparation: R140 per course.
- 3) Life Skills programme is included in the hard skills.

Facilitator's Salaries:

DBDSTC has a major challenge as all the facilitators are funding based consultants and contract-based employees. The Institution need to have employer commitment to employees and employee's commitment to employers. As it is now employees are only contracted for 8 weeks and 3 weeks due to lack of funds.

- A. Computer Literacy and Reception: R1350 per week
- B. Catering and Food Preparation: R1000 per week
- C. Life Skills Programmes: R2800 per week

4. STAFF

RELIGIOUS SISTERS

Sr, Florence B. Mulenga as Centre Manager

Sr. Ana Mercedes Henriquez as Project Administrator

ACTIVE LAY CO-WORKERS

Three trainers employed on a contractual basis who offer the Life Skills Programme, Catering and Food preparation and Computer Literacy and Reception. The Centre has also one utility officer.

CONCLUSION

The Don Bosco Delft Skills Training Centre is a new initiative striving to serve the young vulnerable adults in Delft by providing them with a solid foundation on which to gain knowledge and financial independence.

We as the staff and Board of Management are open to establish working relationships with institutions and or individuals who are able to assist and guide us in achieving our objectives.

VISION STATEMENT

A journey with vulnerable youth to become agents of change in their families and Community by providing them with skills through which they can become financially independent and embrace social responsibility.

MISSION STATEMENT

To educate and provide skills to vulnerable youth so that they can be self-sufficient and supportive of their personal growth and social responsibility.

VALUES FOR OUR SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE

- 1) **BELONGING:** We are part of a school (learning) family; we welcome and respect each other
- 2) **SPIRIT OF SERVICE:** We give to others and show our care.
- 3) **SECURITY:** We strive to provide a safe environment for learning and celebrating life
- 4) **GRATITUDE:** Through love, we share kindness and joy, and we are grateful
- 5) **FAMILY SPIRIT:** We are a “Mission” community and commit ourselves in promoting the Spirit of togetherness and loving-kindness.
- 6) **COMPASSION:** As we are called to the mission, we believe that Jesus showed a lot of compassion where he went through out his journey: therefore, we ought to have compassion for the work we do and towards those we serve.

- 7) GOOD TIME MANAGEMENT: (scarce commodity):** We believe that we are here for a reason and should value every minute or second as a precious commodity. Do not waste time.
- 8) EMPATHY:** We must have the heart to empathise with our students, and those we work with irrespective of their circumstances, by showing unconditional acceptance and being non-judgemental and caring towards each other.
- 9) TRUST (Trustworthiness):** As a learning community we entrust ourselves to serving each other creating an environment of inter dependence therefore one should be trustworthy.
- 10) RESPECT:** We embrace diversity of each individual as an advantage for our skills developing community.