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Fundi: Fundi Fund launch to suppliers (November 2019)

**Fundi Fund set to change the lives of high school and tertiary students**

*Education solutions provider Fundi officially launched its Fundi Fund to suppliers in its value chain earlier today. Building on its existing internal model, the new fund will see players in the greater education ecosystem leverage their collective spend to enable the dreams of current and future generations of learners.*

Launched in 2016, the Fundi Fund’s original intention was to create a way for the company’s team members to give back and be part of something bigger than themselves; starting a positive movement of change. “The mechanism behind the Fundi Fund is simple,” explains Tshepo Ditshego, CEO of Fundi. “Team members consent to a monthly deduction from their salary. This amount is then pooled across the company, with Fundi matching it from its own CSI funding.”

In a move to amplify the fund’s impact, Fundi has recently launched its own foundation – which will manage the fund and its activities. “While our long-term objective is to make it possible for any external party, including members of the public to be contributors, this will be an organic process – starting with our value-adding suppliers and their networks today.”

Ditshego notes that the fund has already changed the lives of 12 learners, with eight of these being children of staff members. “This is quite remarkable if you consider our comparatively small team – and the value of full education bursary.”

He adds that while staff can stop contributing at any time, very few do. “In fact, if anything, we’ve seen an increase in levels of generosity from team members over the past years. This is both humbling and inspiring given that most of them have their own families and children that they’re supporting through school or college. It has demonstrated the real potential of what can collectively be enabled in this space.”

For Nompilo Shange and Mpumelelo Vilakazi, both now university students, Fundi has become an extension of their family – supporting them in ways they had never imagined since they were at high school. “Fundi has provided me with all the tools I needed to enable my dream of becoming an accountant, including additional tutoring and mentoring support,” says Nompilo Shange who is currently doing her accounting internship at head office.

Tankiso Mahetlane and Nerys Govindsamy have just completed their matric – supported by the fund. Fundi has encouraged both throughout, playing an active role in their studies. “The team has pushed me to achieve better marks and to keep working hard towards achieving my dream of studying psychology.”

“With the odds of finishing school or pursuing a tertiary qualification still stacked against many children in our country, we’re proud to have started our own legacy of change,” says Ditshego. “It’s a privilege to be part of anyone’s learning journey and to walk with them as they create their own paths of meaning and purpose in the world. We’re excited to have extended this opportunity to others today – and look forward to driving an agenda of positive change in this space.”

Ends.

**About Fundi**

Fundi is South Africa’s leading education finance and education fund management solution specialist. The company’s purpose is to help others realise their purpose. It is positioning its brand as Africa’s single source for all services that enable the education and learning journey.

Fundi’s innovative solutions span finance and education loans; end-to-end bursary administration; and cashless digital devices for students. They include a full range of supportive educational services that reduce administration and increase productivity for students, parents, bursars and institutions. A seamless customer experience is the company’s intended strategy.

Fundi is passionate about making a tangible difference in the life of every African through education. Know More. Be More. For more information about Fundi, visit [www.fundi.co.za](http://www.fundi.co.za).

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