

'21

GRADUATES REPORT





Masinyusane's Scholarship Fund's mission is to create a generation of graduates empowered to uplift their own families, solve their own community's problems and to serve as role models to other youth.

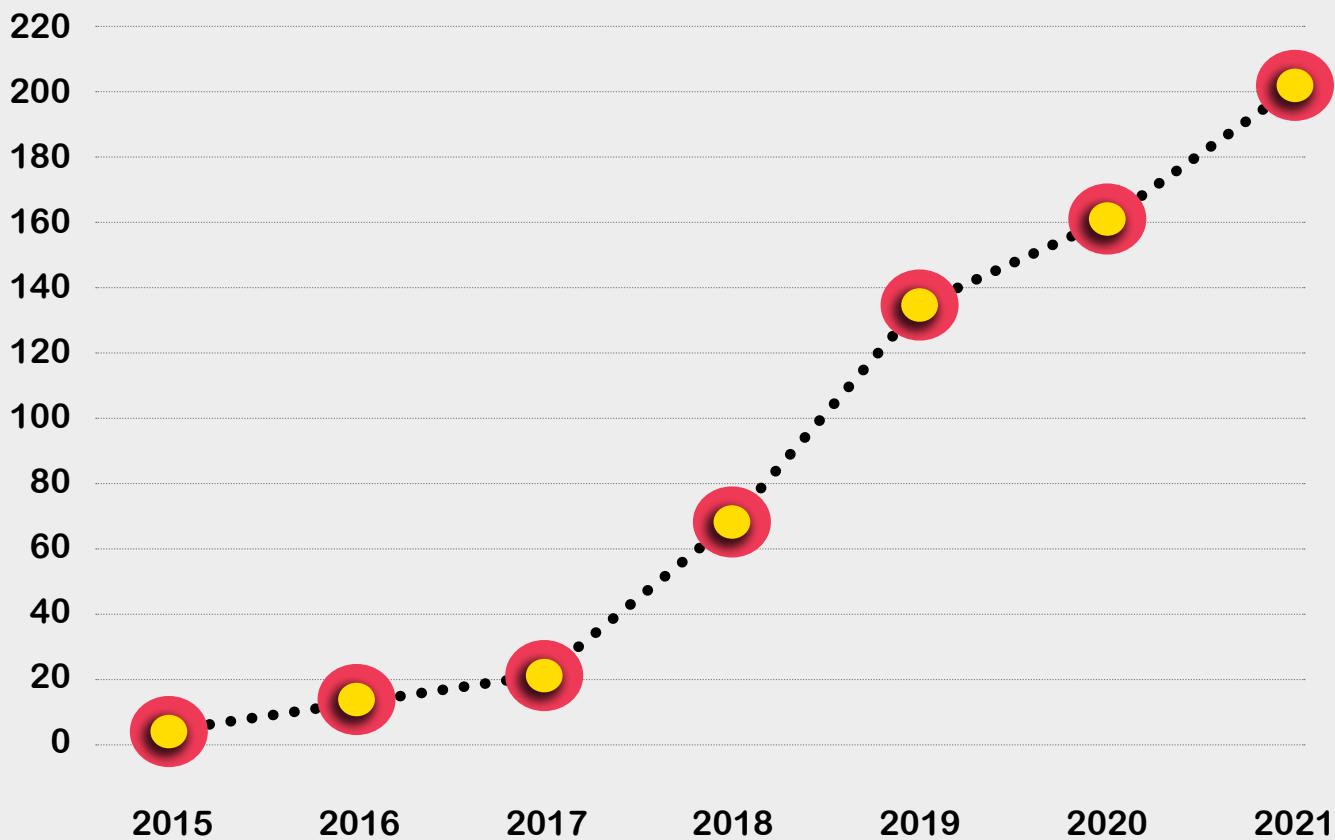
This mission is becoming a reality. And you are the reason why.

In the pages that follow, you will hear the enormous gratitude each of them feels towards the greater 'Masinyusane family' that has been sponsoring their journey.

We hope you feel the same joy, pride, and excitement that we do in seeing their success. Thank you.



# #OF GRADUATES *Over the years*



# Avuyile Fikayo

“ I come from a very disadvantaged background. Furthering my studies was always my dream so that I can put myself somewhere in life. I persevered through difficult situations, not knowing how I would reach my goals. Then God blessed me with the Masinyusane family. They brought light to my life. Masinyusane helped me a lot in my academics and also personal issues. Since high school, they have supported me with study materials to help me pass my matric. Having passed my matric with good grades, they continued to help me through my tenure at varsity with absolutely everything I needed, be it food, books, bus fare etc.

Through Masinyusane and my family's support I am currently a proud Bachelor of Arts Degree graduate through my hard work and because of their continuing encouraging and having faith in me when I doubted myself the most.”



Avuyile comes from a very impoverished background, living in an informal settlement with troubled family dynamics. Despite this, she is the first person from her family to ever attend university. Avuyile started a small non-profit in her own community and we were so inspired that we actually employed her post-graduation to continue that work. She is a proud example of the Masinyusane ethos of using education and passion to lift a family from poverty and in being a shining light in one's community.

# Zandile Damoyi

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“Ahh where do I start?

It has been a long journey of growth. Just like most people, my journey has not been easy.

There's been struggle, pain, failure, and a lot of uncertainty. In all that Masinyusane has been my biggest supporter. Because of Masinyusane's support, giving up was never an option. They believed in me when I did not. Masinyusane always motivated and encouraged me; they went out of their way to support me not just academically but in every aspect of my life. From the 1st time I encountered Masinyusane in high school, through university to ultimately being an employee of Masinyusane, they were always holding my hand. I have no doubt that I would not be where I am today if it were not for Masinyusane and for that I am eternally grateful. Thank you for loving me, believing in me and for seeing the greatness in me.”

“Dynamite comes in small packages” describes Zandile perfectly. We hired Zandile post-graduation and she was quickly poached (with permission!) by a partner of ours who fell in love with her energy, spirit, and passion.



# Lufezo Zolelo

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Masinyusane Organization recruited me in Jan 2016 while I was in grade 12. Masinyusane provided me with study materials (question papers etc.), which helped me obtain high marks. They also helped me apply for funding and admission at Nelson Mandela University.

During the University years, my mentor would meet with me at the beginning and end of each semester to review progress on my academics, and also to discuss which modules I found challenging in order to help me improve. Masinyusane also created a group where we interacted with other Masinyusane students, got 2nd hand study materials at lower prices, and would also help sell our textbooks to other students.

Once I was finished with my theory modules in 2018 and needed in-service training Masinyusane would share internship opportunities with us to make sure we all have workplaces to get experiential training.

Lastly, during the period of graduation, Masinyusane organized a graduation photo shoot and provided me with a graduation gown (which I did not have). ”

Lufezo has quietly gone about his business, with not a single complaint, surviving a hellaciously difficult Engineering degree. Did we also mention that he is an entrepreneur with a young company?



# Siphokazi Mzwakali

**“** “Masinyusane has been a great blessing in my life since high school. Being a clueless little girl in grade 12 who had no one to advise her regarding which course to choose, which varsity to apply to, the entry level requirements etc, Masinyusane filled that gap and brought direction to my life.

They helped me apply for university and guided me throughout my final years of high school. As if that was not enough, in my first year I did not have any funding. Masinyusane provided an allowance for me to attend classes. Mid-year first year I told them about my difficulty to

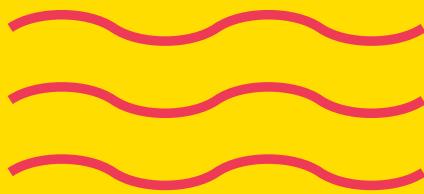
study at home, as we are a big family. Masinyusane offered me a place to stay. I did not have to pay anything. My only duty was to keep the house clean and excel at school.

Throughout my varsity stay, they checked up on me, asking if I need any help and talked to me about how we can improve my low marks. Masinyusane took care of me from high school until I graduated, and even afterwards they still check on me to see if I am doing well. I will forever be grateful to Masinyusane for taking care of me throughout varsity and beyond. I don't think I would be where I am in life if it weren't for them.”



Siphokazi has leaned on her deep faith in God to see her through a gruelling Engineering degree. It is with pride that we present her as a rare gem – a black, university trained female engineer.

**Siyavuya**  
*Fiki*





**“** I don't even know where to begin. My journey with Masinyusane started in grade 11, when this beautiful lady came and asked for me personally in my classroom. She then told me that she's from an organization called Masinyusane which I am now part of, because of my wonderful marks. She then added that I'm part of the top students they had identified in Port Elizabeth.

To someone else this might seem like a normal event to occur, but for me this was the greatest day of my life, coming from a difficult background where it was difficult for me to be celebrated. This was the confidence I needed, knowing that someone out there believes in me. I started believing in myself, started seeing the direction and setting goals for myself. I became a very driven student knowing my hard work didn't go to waste. I became organized in everything I did, and still am to this day.

For me Masinyusane provided a much needed sense of belonging, which always leads me to be excited whenever I see a Masinyusane t-shirt or one of the vehicles. I get excited and wish to tell people: "I'm one of them!"

Masinyusane mentored me through my final two years of high school. They would provide files with past question papers in preparation for every exam. They then helped me with admission to the university and funding as well. They even helped me get an idea of what an accountant does. I remember I visited the PWC offices under one of their programmes called Take A Girl Child To Work. It was an exciting moment for me as I was reminded every time that anything is possible with hard work.

Fast forward to my university years, the Masinyusane team was always there checking up on me, making sure I adjusted well to the transition from high school. I used to get stipends each month for transport money and toiletries. I met friends, house mates, gym partners and study partners who have now become family through Masinyusane. Masinyusane is like this big family that keeps on expanding as I meet new people all the time, people that are always there when you need help.

I was also fortunate to be chosen to live at the Masinyusane House of Excellence, where I was close to campus in a very comfortable family learning environment and a great opportunity to be independent. Having a supportive team that always wants what is best for me and also prays for me has been the best thing in my life.

I am now an aspiring businesswoman, who is self driven and willing to try anything that will bring out the best in my abilities, and it's all thanks to the one of their programmes, which led me to register my own company and develop entrepreneurial skills.

Masinyusane did not stop there. They made sure that on my graduation day I celebrate, with a professional photo shoot, when Covid only allowed virtual graduations. I know many people around me who want to start organizations like Masinyusane because of the impact they have seen in my life, and how Masinyusane is helping the youth.

I will forever be grateful. Thank you, Thank you!"

**For me  
Masinyusane  
provided a  
much needed  
sense of  
belonging**

**The world is indeed Siya's oyster. Not content with being a budding  
businesswoman, she is also now doing her post-graduate studies.**



## Iviwe Gqotholo

“ I am so overwhelmed and truly eternally grateful for the support and love Masinyusane has given me. For someone who did a 3 year course over 5 years I did not have an ounce of wanting to give up on my studies because of the constant support I have received from the organization. In 2016 when I was doing my first year I really thought I would not cope in varsity, as I came from a family with no financial stability (my mother was a street vendor and my father a gardener). Text books were ridiculously expensive, so I would never even mention them at home. That's where Masinyusane came through for me. I was provided with text books for my most difficult modules and even better they gave me a brand new laptop to make my studies easier. Six years later I am now a working young lady, still using that laptop.

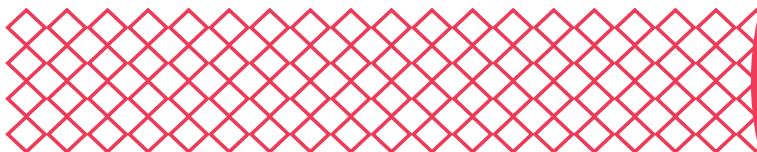
On top of that support, Masinyusane gave me an allowance to help out with transport expenses. When I was doing very poorly in my 3rd year and could not study at home because there were so many of us, Masinyusane offered me accommodation for that year's last quarter. Masinyusane has contributed so much to my education. I am now the first person in my family with a qualification, because of the kindness and hope Masinyusane had in me.”

We first met Iviwe in her first year at varsity. She has grown from a sweet young learner to a very kind and confident woman whose mission is to improve her family's life. Having overcome seemingly insurmountable odds, she is proudly working, and has her sights set on studying further.

# Sandisiwe Jantjies

**“** “I would like to take this opportunity to thank Masinyusane for being there throughout my studies, for the emotional and material support they gave me. I personally do not think my journey would have been as smooth as it was if it weren’t for Masinyusane.

When I felt like I couldn’t carry on while at home, Masinyusane offered me accommodation where I could be close to campus and study peacefully. Where I felt like I was drowning, Masinyusane offered emotional support, guidance and their motivational programmes were top tier.”



Sandisiwe has worked hard to become a double graduate. Her leadership abilities led to her being appointed House Captain at the Masi House of Excellence and most recently employment at Masinyusane. Her varsity recognized her work ethic and awarded her a full scholarship for her post-graduate studies. All of this achieved in a household of close to 15 people in a two-roomed house.



## Buhle Mkona

“Growing up I knew that I wanted to go to university but coming from a disadvantaged background did not make it easy for me, Masinyusane helped me by giving me the information I needed. They also helped me with my financial aid application and registration. When financial aid did not send the monthly stipends they helped out even gave us free textbooks at some point. Honestly, Masinyusane kept me going till I obtained my qualifications and even after they invited us for a nice graduation photo shoot because we couldn’t have a graduation ceremony because of Covid-19. I will forever be grateful for the opportunities and support they gave me and a lot of other students.”

Buhle is the embodiment of never giving up and constantly improving oneself. Studying, and periodically working at a bank, she has also invested in herself by obtaining her Code 10 driver’s licence, something which is almost unheard of by young women.

# Masixole Gayi

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I got accepted to study at NMU in 2015, but was unable to study for financial reasons. In 2017, I was still in financial difficulties but my father had saved enough money for me to register.

Fortunately, a friend and neighbour told me about Masinyusane, and I was introduced to them. Since then Masinyusane helped me with a monthly allowance for my learning materials.

The organization did not just support me financially but academically, in that they always checked on my academic progress. If I was doing poorly, personal visits were arranged to discuss the issue, and if I was doing well, I would get complimented.

When I failed my second year I was so ashamed of myself and so stressed that I had let the organisation down and would never receive any help from them again. I even started avoiding texts and phone calls from Masinyusane. Thankfully, a text which stood out told me to remain strong and not worry, I was still a Masinyusane student.

Finally in 2019 I got NSFAS, which was a miracle, so I was finally able to get text books and a bus fare stipend. **Today I am a graduate.”**

Masixole was unfairly excluded from financial aid the first two years of his studies. Despite living in a shack with his father and having every reason to give up, he persevered. It is nothing short of a miracle that he graduated in the face of so many hurdles.



# Sinovuyo Krwaqa

"Masinyusane has played a very big supportive role in my life since my last year in high school. Masinyusane has made the transition from high school to varsity very easy for me from applying to settling in. The organisation has showed me support throughout my varsity years from the stipend that I received from them to checking up on my well being and my academics and I will forever be grateful for those moments. Year after year the organisation never failed to show care and I appreciate them for that. Being part of the organisation has played a role of who I am today, and they have lived up to their name. One of the moments I will forever cherish was the fact that Masinyusane was able to give me the opportunity to wear a gown and celebrate graduation with my family, they made the impossible possible during this difficult time."

Another opportunity I am grateful for is working with the organisation as a literacy coach. I am learning quite a lot from this role. I am very excited for this opportunity because not only am I gaining experience, but it is equipping me for the career path that I want to venture on. Masinyusane does wonders and the role they play is impeccable."

Growing up with just her grandmother in her corner, this young lady has blossomed into a goal driven career woman. Her smile is constantly present, and the children at our primary schools love her.

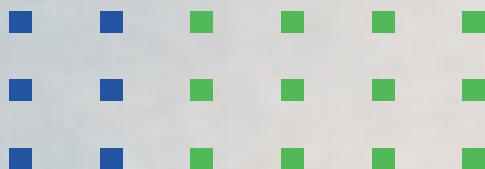


## Zanele Nongoso

"Masinyusane has helped me from day one. They have supported me throughout my varsity years, from first year to my graduation day. I almost lost hope during my first year when I was having financial problems with NSFAS but Masinyusane came through and gave me transport allowance, bought me printing credits and also made check ups on how I was doing. I am very grateful to be a member of the Masinyusane family and it has been a huge privilege. I feel so proud and I will always brag about being a Masinyusane member. I am very grateful for everything they have done for me."

Zanele has always had an attitude of simply putting her head down and getting the work done. She has quietly been doing just that with zero complaints. An ever present smile does not betray a really sad home situation, living in an informal settlement in a crime-infested neighbourhood. She is currently studying further.





# Sibongile Gcakasi

**“** “The Masinyusane family has helped simplify my life in every possible way. This started way back in 2016 when I was doing matric. They made sure I never stressed about my university application, and they became a huge part of my life. I remember in 2018, when I was doing my first year life was difficult, having to travel from Wells Estate to campus every day. Masinyusane helped by providing me with a monthly stipend, as NSFAS was extremely inconsistent that year.

In 2019 they provided me with accommodation which made my life easier because I was close to campus, the library and had access to many other amenities. Masinyusane provided an academically friendly environment where I was surrounded by people who had the same drive and vision as me, and as a result my marks from 2019 greatly improved. They also provided me with a mentor who did not only focus on the academic aspect of my life, but on the emotional aspect as well.

Due to Covid-19 we only had a virtual graduation ceremony but Masinyusane stepped in and organized a graduation photo-shoot for us, which filled the void of having not had a graduation day on campus.

As Alfred North Whitehead once said: ‘No one who achieves success does so without the help of others.’ I, Sibongile Gcakasi, acknowledge with gratitude the help I got from Masinyusane.”

An absolute pleasure is Sibongile. Having lost her mother in her final year of high school, tragedy struck again when she lost her dad in her final year of varsity.

Surrounded by the love of the other students in the Masi House she soldiered on. Suddenly being thrust into adulthood with two younger siblings hasn’t deterred her. She is continuing her education at the post-graduate level now.





# 2021 GRADUATES

**Siphokazi**  
*Matebese*

**Mihlali**  
*Dyalivane*

**Zoleka**  
*Nyati*

**Phelisa**  
*Moyana*

**Asemahle**  
*Tom*

**Sinovuyo**  
*Krwaqa*

**Zintle**  
*Wulana*

**Athenkosi**  
*Jodwana*

**Sinako**  
*Khalipa*

**Mahle**  
*Mbanjwa*

**Unesakhe**  
*Va*

**Thembalakhe**  
*Beja*

**Azola**  
*Zamani*

**Zonke**  
*Yonela*

**Buhle**  
*Mkona*

**Yolanda**  
*Fexenge*

**Siyavuya**  
*Fiki*

**Sibongile**  
*Gcakasi*

**Babalo**  
*Ggomfa*

**Olwethu**  
*Gushman*

**Yolando**  
*Jack*

**Sakhiwe**  
*Sithole*

**Iviwe**  
*Gqotholo*

**Zondiwe**  
*Jack*

**Nolusindiso**  
*Madakana*

**Sibusiso**  
*Notwala*

**Sinesipho**  
*Malusi*

**Nomthandazo**  
*Mathiyase*

**Azile**  
*Maxongo*

**Chuma**  
*Mramba*

**Sibabalwe**  
*Mazinyo*

**Vuyina**  
*Mgidlana*

**Yibanathi**  
*Mjekula*

**Yonwaba**  
*Monqo*

**Minentle**  
*Mqambeli*

**Thokozani**  
*Mtimkhulu*

**Zimkhitha**  
*Ndongeni*

**Nwabisa**  
*Ngceshe*

**Khanyisile**  
*Ngqalela*

**Ayanda**  
*Ngxangane*

**Yanathi**  
*Nkunkuma*

**Zintle**  
*Isaac*

**Zanele**  
*Nongoso*

**Sitsakile**  
*Sikhwenkwe*

**Lunga**  
*Sitshongaye*

**Unathi**  
*Camagu*



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