



Newsletter February 2018

Dear Friend



First Newsletter of the Year

The year is well on its way, and so it is too late to wish you a "Happy New Year"! We do appreciate your interest in our work.

We are excited and optimistic for the year ahead despite the rapidly changing landscape, such as "free education", and budget constraints that are negatively affecting our efforts in addressing the shortages of healthcare staff at rural hospitals.

We are thankful to our donors, many of whom have walked with us for over 10 years. Their continued support has allowed us to achieve what was originally thought impossible.

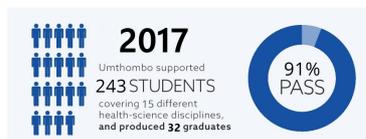
2017 Pass Rate

We supported 243 students last year. 220 passed, whilst 23 failed, giving an overall pass rate of 91%.

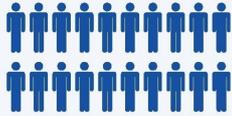
Although this is slightly lower than last year, it is still an exceptional achievement from rural students studying health science degrees. Numerous students achieved distinctions in a number of their courses, highlighting the latent potential of rural youth.

In addition 32 students completed their degrees last year increasing graduate numbers to 336! Doctors make up 111 of the 336 graduates!

Unfortunately due to financial constraints the KZN Department of Health is unable to employ 17 of our graduates who completed their Community Service last year. We are trusting that they will be employed in other rural Provinces or at least in the public sector.



2018



Umthombo is supporting
251 STUDENTS
covering **15** different
health-science disciplines:



Student Numbers 2018

New students were selected from 15 rural Kwa Zulu Natal hospitals and will result in us supporting 250 students this year. These students are studying at 16 different academic institutions across the country.

The announcement of free education for poor and working class families is cautiously welcomed. We believe that academically capable students who are financially needy, should receive free education. However, we believe that without academic and social mentoring support provided to these students, access alone will not result in high university pass rates, and thus the investment will be undermined.

Conclusion

Despite the challenges we still advocate for the improvement of healthcare delivery to rural communities, through the investment in rural youth. Our graduates are making a huge impact in the delivery of healthcare services to indigent rural communities, and are able to deliver healthcare services in mother tongue, resulting in better patient care and patient satisfaction.

I look forward to keeping you informed of our work during the year. Please share with others what impresses you about our work.

Regards, Gavin



[Website](#) | [Annual Report](#) | Contact us: Tel: 031 765 5774 Fax: 086 577
5774

Email:

gavin@umthomboyouth.org.za

[Click to unsubscribe from future emails](#)