**Richard Mabaso**

He is a social entrepreneur who was groomed and inspired by his own circumstances to have intimate knowledge of the challenges facing rural and poor communities. He regards himself as an innovative social strategist within the social space and he masterminded: Trek4Mandela, Caring4Girls and Vision2020 amongst other initiatives to help address some of the challenges while inspiring the current youth to dream big. At Imbumba Foundation; we pride ourselves on “Imagining social innovations that create a platform for government, private sector, non-governmental organizations and communities to work together for a better South Africa. He is a proudly South African who has not let his background determine his future – he believes in setting new trends that support unity, growth and development of our nation.

I have always been inspired by Madiba and what he stood for: I believe that everyone of us has his/ her own Madiba story to share. It is indeed a great honour for me and many others to share ours through Trek4Mandela and Caring4Girls programmes. I sincerely believe that our story will inspire many people to continue to do good beyond the 18th of July and “**Make Everyday a MANDELA Day**”!

***Trek4Mandela and Caring4Girls initiatives are underpinned by the following values: Ubuntu, Dignity, Freedom and Responsibility, Good governance and Leadership – symbolizing Madiba and all other heroes and heroines who were the torch-bearers of our liberation and catalysts for change.***

**Tebogo Thekisho “Pro Verb”**

Proverb is the programme ambassador of Teach Children to Save South Africa®. He is well known as the face of idols South Africa and for his god given talent as a South African hip pop Artist. He plays a major role in the Mandela day as he donates some of his time to give back to communities and South Africa as a whole. “I think it is always impertinent to avail yourself to volunteer, it is how you learn the most by sharing. Time, honestly is such a valuable commodity, even over money. I’m trying to spread my 67 minute for Mandela day to not only one specific task. Fore me I would like to go to a couple of schools, just identify a few young people that we can sit with as amajita (slang for brother hood), and just chat. I think that sort of mentorship is what we do not have enough of.” Quoted from the wise man himself “Proverb”.

He was introduced to both Trek4Mandela and Caring4Girls programmes through the TCTS-SA® programme and he remains committed and supportive of these programmes as they empower young girls to have dreams in life.

***Tata Nelson Mandela has left us an incredible legacy and challenged us to do little for others. Being part of Trek4Mandela and Caring4Girls is an opportunity for me to reflect and ask myself a question: What am I doing? I also use this opportunity to challenge my family, peers and everyone within and outside of my circle to do help those who are less fortunate.***

**Sibusiso Vilane – The Expedition Leader:**

Sibusiso Vilane was born at the then kaNgwane homeland which is now part of Mpumalanga Province, at an area commonly known as Shongwe mission. He then moved to Swaziland together with his mother after his parents separated. He never set foot in a class room until he was ten year old, before that he had already been chasing goats and cattle as a herd boy who walked barefoot. He got his O’levels in 1991 after which he went straight to a job environment. He spent 1½ years working as a manual labourer in a number of small construction companies. Then he got a job in Malolotja nature reserve as a tourist officer. This is where he met Mr. John Doble who later introduced Sibusiso to mountain climbing. Together they did hikes in the Drakensberg where Sibusiso grew the passion for climbing big mountains.

He then decided to move back to South Africa where he spent four years at Bongani Mountain lodge working as a game ranger.

SIBUSISO VILANE in 2005 became the first Black person to successfully summit Everest from both sides, his previous summit was in 2003 – succeeding on first attempts on both sides.

***I am again in support of the 2014 Drive and climb Mount Kilimanjaro trip for the same reasons and purpose. Richard through his foundation is influencing and impacting many girls lives for better. But it’s not enough, we need more stakeholders (partners) to partner with him so that he can reach and touch as many lives as possible for the betterment of the future of a girl child*!**

**Thembile Nzuza**

I am Thembile Nzuza from KwaNongoma, Northern Zululand. I’m currently based in Pretoria, working for Exxaro Resources as a Senior Specialist Environmental and Resource Accounting. I love outdoors, a road running fanatic and have recently participated on Two Oceans Half-Marathon aiming to complete an ultra-marathon in 2015. My adventurous partner, Phumla introduced me to hiking earlier this year and I find it exhilarating that I imagined myself summiting Kilimanjaro one day.

As a child who grew up in the rural areas and having experienced the same difficulties that the Imbumba beneficiaries have, when this opportunity to participate in the Trek4Mandela expedition came about, I jumped into it. This is the beginning of great things to come, fulfilling my life’s purpose by contributing towards the development and nurturing a girl life that I once was. ***The concept behind the Trek4Mandela expedition is very close to the heart, Caring 4 Girls*!**

**Nompumelelo Mpumi Mbethe**

Nompumelelo ‘Mpumi’ Mbethe better known as Mpumi Mbethe is a typical girl that goes crazy when she hears her favourite song on the radio. Mpumi is a South African television presenter and entrepreneur who is motivated by moving forward even if she moves forward slowly in the name of success. She is said to be a fun-loving and energetic person with a greater sense of humour. She is passionate about media as we also know her on the Ligwalagwala FM’s Afternoon Drive Show as a co-host, She also co-hosted the SABC1 youth series Zoned. Her biggest fear is standing still that’s why success follows her. Mpumi is now part of the programme ambassadors of teach children to save South Africa, trying to make a difference in her country most of all in the youth.

Shortly after graduating in 2009, she worked as a production assistant at Broad Daylight Films, a TV production company which produced a series of Current affairs/political debate shows for a leading News channel. She then moved to work for a commercial broadcaster in their Electronic programming division. She was a presenter on Ses’khona and on Zoned.tv, both on SABC1’s prime time slots, but is currently the host of IDENTITY, a multi-faith youth show that broadcasts every Sunday at 11am on SABC1. She hosted a weekend show on Emalahleni FM, a community radio station in Witbank, before joining Dumisa Mavuso ‘Shabba’ on Ligwalagwala FM’s Afternoon Drive Show on week days.

***If one man can give his life for cause that is greater than him, then I can take this journey for a course greater than me!***

**Phumla Ngwenya**

My name is Phumla Ngwenya. I have often asked myself why do I want to do undertake this arduous journey to the summit? To me this is not only a physical journey but a mental as well as a spiritual challenge. I believe this will be about summoning my inner strength and willpower, bottling it and taking it to Uhuru peak with me.

I am also by nature a person with a keen sense of and adventure and aversion to injustice. My adventurous side was ignited by a trip I undertook to the Drakensberg as an impressionable high school student. From that day on I have always know that I want to be one with nature every opportunity I get. These days almost every weekend has now become an opportunity for me to connect with nature by hiking in some of the most beautiful places in the country.

I want to do this especially for these young girls, literally walk in their shoes and face similar challenges they face on a daily basis. I want to be able to contribute in my own little way to understanding and empathizing with the enormous struggles they face. I believe my victory in conquering this mountain will also be theirs as my journey will be their journey as well.

***I hope this adventure will allow me to be involved intimately with things that I’m most passionate about, the empowerment of girls and adventure.***

**Bheki Langa**

Founder and managing director at Tripillar Holdings served in the British forces for more than five years in a number of operational environments, such as Iraq and Afghanistan. He founded the company and built it on top of the experience and military knowledge acquired over the years serving. Bheki brings value to the company with the skills acquired and hands on operational knowledge in safety and security. In 2012 Bheki received a bursary from BHP Billiton to do business management studies through “Raizkorp” a business Incubator at which he’s currently enrolled on their business incubator programmes.

Tripillar is a security and safety hub that specialises in asset protection, event security solutions and safety equipment. Tripillar was formed by former British Forces members with paramount operation experience. Our guard force is at cutting edge and delivers the highest professionalism and quality 24 hours. To ensure that our force maintains this high standard we have very intensive, in house training programs alongside our industry standard qualification. Tripillar has the resources and experience in providing physical security and safety products to all sectors of the market nationwide. Tripillar engages in a number of community development initiatives, as we believe that contributing and giving back to society, be it through youth educational sponsorships, bursaries and development programmes to the society, we believe it is a way of building future leaders for the country to contribute in growing this great nation.

***My greatest desire in life is to be help those who are underprivileged and I really appreciate the opportunity to be part of this dream adventure with a purpose.***

**Mthunzi Zwane**

I was born and grew up in Luphisi village outside Nelspruit in Mpumalanga province. I run local and provincial marathons and have never imagined myself attempting to summit the majestic Mount Kilimanjaro. This is a great opportunity for me which I will always cherish and forever be grateful for. Growing up in a rural village I have learnt a lot of things about life more especially the fact that it doesn’t matter what your background is – you must always set your goals and work hard to achieve them.

Over the last couple of years I have been very much involved in my community through youth support programmes. I am a nature enthusiast and every opportunity I get I teach young people about the importance of preserving our natural resources to support growth and development.

***The legacy of Tata Nelson Mandela is a wonderful gift that South Africa and the entire world has! It’s great to see social innovations such as Trek4Mandela and Caring4Girls celebrating and sustaining this gift!***