

EPWP Introduces Unemployed Youth with Disabilities to Jewellery Making

During 2016 the [Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport \(DCAS\)](#) and the [Expanded Public Works Programme \(EPWP\)](#) introduced unemployed youth with disabilities to a two-week skills training workshop at the Genadendal, Greyton and Voorbrug (GGV) Disability Forum.

The majority of the aspiring crafters are unemployed 18 to 35-year-old females from the Overberg region, with various forms of disabilities. It is a challenge for some of them to use both their hands and they needed lots of encouragement and patience to manage and achieve progress in jewellery making.

Paper bead rolling is a recycling project in which old glossy magazines are used and it is part of the Craft and Visual Arts Genre Development Programme. Craft trends usually evolve fast and in this instance the degree of difficulty of mastering the new skills was vital as well as ensuring that affordable material is easily accessible in the region. The group EPWP beneficiaries learned about teamwork and started with a production line by cutting paper, grouping the best bead rollers together and varnishing the final products. Trainer Mignon Hattingh said: "It was very special to witness the aspiring crafters threading bracelets single handed because threading on elastic when using both hands is a rather challenging method."

They were also equipped with soft skills and became more confident, happy and were proud of their achievements. DCAS Project Manager, Lizahn Claasen, stressed the value of new competencies that develop confidence. "It was indeed rewarding to sense the strengths and limitations of each individual, especially when they blossomed into confident, talented crafters with great potential," she said. The skills transfer of making jewellery from paper beads will be rolled out for the entire year in this region. It will equip local people as crafters and enable them to access local markets in the Overberg, with the possibility of economic and financial sustainability of their products.

Caylin Hendricks, a 23-year-old who completed her NQ6 in Human Resource Management at Boland College came on board of the EPWP when she was unemployed. She was appointed to facilitate the GGV Disability craft project. Her duties included further strengthening and sustaining of the project that was initiated by DCAS with the ladies with disabilities. She now, motivates the group, guides, produces and sells various completed pieces and assists with the production line and all areas across the craft value chain. Caylin proudly said: "Since the end of last year when the training of the project started we have been mastering this art in a very professional looking end product. Our first priority is to ensure that we receive funds to manage the business side of this project."



Teamwork started with a production line of cutting and rolling magazine paper



Bead rolls are ready for varnishing



A freshly made paper bead rolled pendant



Caylin Hendricks, Celestine and Lucille Smith were acknowledged with a 2017 Cultural Affairs Award

Mind over Matter Jewellery is a set example of what can be achieved through the EPWP. They are the proud owners of a Cultural Affairs Award and a very professional product line that was sold to the value of R1 000 at the [Arts Walk](#) in Greyton on 17 and 18 November 2017.

EPWP adds value to the lives of people and assist them to reach their full potential, **BETTER TOGETHER.**

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