

PERA 2017

SOCIAL BUSINESS

The Clothing Bank



Tracey Gilmore

Tracey Chambers

The Clothing Bank (TCB) was founded in February 2010 in Cape Town, South Africa by Tracey Chambers and Tracey Gilmore.

Their vision is to *inspire skill and support unemployed South Africans to eradicate poverty in their lives.*

They achieve their vision through empowering unemployed women (95% are mothers) and men (90% are fathers) to start small businesses so that they can become financially and socially independent.

They believe that becoming a self-employed business owner is something everyone can do, irrespective of education levels and resources, as long as they the person is self-motivated and well supported (mentally and emotionally). They have been operating for seven years and have learnt and experienced a tremendous amount about how to engage people on their path to self-determination.

They have four projects which support their mission in different ways:

1. The Clothing Bank Enterprise Development Project - supports unemployed mothers to become informal clothing retailers.
2. The Appliance Bank Project – supports unemployed men to establish businesses which repair and sell home appliances.
3. The Grow with Educare Centres Micro Franchise Project – enables women in poor communities to establish excellent sustainable fee paying early childhood development centres.
4. The Amazi Project – trains nail technicians and places them in Amazi stores.

They have five branches nationally (Cape Town, Paarl, Johannesburg, Durban and East London) which can support up to 800 small business owners per year. The Clothing Bank has supported over 2 000 women to start a retail business in the last eight years. Collectively beneficiaries in their Clothing Bank and Appliance Bank programmes made R30 million in profits for themselves in the last 12 months. They have established 21 Grow Schools which provide quality education to 760 children and trained over 170 nail technicians.

To contact The Clothing Bank, email Tracey Chambers and Tracey Gilmore at traceychambers@theclothingbank.org.za or call 0832533538/ 0215312134