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Afrika Tikkun (wings of life) Diepsloot.

Hope and liberty in my community

Hope is when you wake up in the morning and don't say "I think" but say "I will". Diepsloot is a community full of crime, rape and gangsterism were on every turn you come upon you come across nyoape boys and this makes people to view Diepsloot as a hopeless place, for I differ. Here goes a story about how I view Diepsloot as I like through a story.

Growing up in a community like Diepsloot isn't very easy as it seems but somehow people manage to live here in Diepsloot. Some were born here, grew up here and also brought up here and they were able to face every obstacle they come across, every challenge, hardship and daily struggles to live. Parents try by all means to provide for their families through opening small shops, cooking fat cakes in the morning and also by working at other people's houses for money.

As for the youth, some sell things all school during break to help with the struggles at home, some are more privileged, they go to private schools through busarries to learn till they are able to take their families away from the poverty of Diepsloot. Some come back after being successful to bring change in the community. To change Diepsloot is not an instant adjustment but

and detergents for cleaning the house.

She still held on the hope to succeed in life through education. After months she recovered from that pain then got the extra hope from today Madibals quote "education is the most powerful weapon ^{you can use} to change this ^{world} life. Even though it did break her apart, she tried by everything to not show his cousins that she can't get back up.

When she was doing grade 12, she got a busary to the States to study medicine. You could see how happy she looked. Later on that day, his grandfather passed away. She was still happy and sad at that time, worrying about who shall be able their provider at home since her parents never wanted anything that has to do with her nor her cousins who were orphans. Gone are those days where school was what she loved so much.

She never accepted the busary because she had responsibilities now, she had to play the parental role just after her final exams of grade 12. What a curse on a poor girl's life. She had no idea of how she shall be able to fulfil the family's needs. She ended up being a prostitute of 8 months so she can provide for their family's needs. For her it was a very easy job as she had prostitutes friends and knew everything about about what when want in prostitutes and what satisfies them.

It's a gradual process which should be undertaken by everyone over a long period of time. For the youth they open dance crews to keep the other youth away from the streets. Such things create opportunities because they usually perform where there are events in Diepsloot to be known. It also gives us hope that we can be free from the poverty of Diepsloot, free from the peer pressure from friends and free from the images our societies portray about the youth and free from the poverty in Diepsloot.

No matter the situation at home, most of the youth of Diepsloot still hold on the hope and liberty to success in life, to get a better future for them and for their families.

The youth of Diepsloot believes that they can get successful through different things it's not only through education as the main factor.

Thando is a young girl who lives in a community of Diepsloot. She lives with both her grandparents from her mother's side ~~but~~ both her parents are still alive. Thando comes from a poor background with her grandmother being the only bread winner in the house. She also gets social grant money but that's not enough for a family of 4 especially having a very old grandfather who can't walk or see anymore.

Going to school has always been Thando's interest because she had the hope to succeed in life and that could only be through education going to school. Her grandmother always told her, encouraged her to go to school to help her provide for the family and so she could build herself and a bright future and get them out of the poverty they lived in. This had been the basic building blocks of Thando's hope to succeed in life.

When she was doing grade 7, she got a busary to do her grade 8 to 12 at the Leap Science and Maths school around Diepsloot. This was the light rays in her life after losing a busary in primary because of her background but still, she still held on to the hope and liberty to succeed in life. Such things in life can tear one apart but as for Thando, it gave her more power, power to stand and fight what cannot be taken away from her, through education.

At Leap she passed very well and the teachers were impressed with her school work. After a year at Leap, her grandmother passed away which broke her even more during her ~~morning~~^{mourning} process in life for her grandmother. Thando was a very open person, so she shared her situation with her 10 teachers. She asked for help as their bread winner had passed away and she indeed got help. The school provided food parcel for every week for Thando's family which included toiletries

Through that money, she saved some to go back to school, was able to take her cousins to school and buy them clothes and luxury wants. During her last month, she found herself a very good sugar daddy who not only cared about himself but also about her life and future as a young girl. The sugar daddy took her to school and hired a nanny to look after her cousins while she's at school.

She still held on the hope to succeed in life through education. Prostitution isn't very easy to leave even at university, she was a prostitute. The other sugar daddy she got offered her a real good job while studying then she took care of her cousins till they matriculated and graduated at school.

Through that Thando became successful and useful in life. She now became a better person in life through all those stages she ~~came~~ got access to where she is now. She sat down and wrote a book about all the struggles. That book inspired a lot of people that in order to achieve good things in life it's all through education.

She opened a youth project in Diepsloot where children got to be taught about the struggle they shall come across in their lives and how they can deal with them, where

are groomed to be good leaders, to young people with a lot of opportunities and how they can reach for them in different ways. This was how she gave back to the community.

Diepsloot is not a hopeless place. Opportunities are there for us the youth especially. What we have to do is to grab them with both hands and they could get us somewhere in life. We have liberty to get away from where we live, grew up, to change away who we are in different ways. It's not about education which can bring change in our lives.