

VISION

To make the biggest possible difference in the lives of intellectually disabled young adults in a sustainable manner.

MISSION STATEMENT

At The Living Link we promise to continuously develop and enhance the potential of intellectually disabled adults.

Our aim is to allow them the opportunity for full integration and equal participation in the mainstream of our society so as to improve the quality of their lives.

We strive to facilitate growth and change by empowering our members, their support network and the community by creating an environment of understanding, acceptance and possibility.

HOW WE ORIGINATED?

The Living Link was founded in 2000 by Julia and Ingrid, sister and mother to Nadine, who has an intellectual disability.



In a society that provided limited services and support for such adults, it was through dedication and perseverance that they themselves taught Nadine essential living skills. Their input has contributed to Nadine's independence and intellectual growth. Nadine now works and lives independently and is proud to be an actively integrated member of the community.

Julia and Ingrid were inspired to share their knowledge and allow other adults to become more valuable members of society... and so The Living Link Training Centre was established to provide these special people with the opportunity they deserve.



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REGISTRATION

Section 21 Non Profit Registration
No: 99 24246/08
Section 18A No: 18/11/13/4792
NPO No: 022-273-NPO



**CENTRE FOR
INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED ADULTS**



TRAINING PROGRAMS

The Living Link runs two programmes:

- The 1 year Adult Integration Programme.
- The 6 month Work Readiness Programme.



JOB SAMPLING

The short-term placement of the learner in a company. The purpose of which is to offer these individuals the opportunity to experience different types of jobs and realities of work. On site training is provided to the learners, the employer and co-workers.

INDEPENDENT LIVING TOUR

Specific to The 1 year Adult Integration Programme: An outdoor experience where real situations are created allowing the learner the opportunity to demonstrate and practically apply their skills and to experience independence.

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Specific to The 1 year Adult Integration Programme: Support workshops empowering parents or caregivers with valuable skills and providing regular feedback on course content.

KPI'S AND EMPLOYMENT REPORT

During job sampling students are rated by their supervisors against real key performance criteria. These criteria help **The Living Link** understand where the young adults need more coaching to enhance their work performance skills.

On completion of the training, a work recommendation report is used as a tool to correctly match the skills of an individual to the demands of a potential job.

THE GAP PROJECT

This is a transition project for learners who have graduated from either of the training programmes and are waiting to be successfully placed into permanent employment. The Gap project is run when suitable finances are available to pay a stipend to graduates employed on the gap.

- Graduates and Gap site staff are supported by a Job Coach from **The Living Link**
- Graduates will earn a basic stipend during the contract
- Graduates will leave The Gap on completion of the project

EMPLOYMENT

The Living Link seeks to place their graduates into integrated open labour market employment by implementing The Supported Employment model.

Adults are placed in ordinary working environments, doing regular work where salaries and benefits are realistic and reflect work performance.

This department provides the following services:

- Job market screening
- Job site observations/job analysis
- Recommendations on job restructuring
- Maintenance of a database of prospective employees with intellectual impairments
- Job matching and placement
- Job coaching/on site training and ongoing support
- Employer and co-worker sensitisation and training

INDEPENDENT LIVING

The Living Link facilitates the transition of graduates who are employed from family living to independent living in the community.

This department provides the following services:

- Establishing financial stability
- Establishing support network infrastructure
- Negotiating housing options
- Assessing permanent employment, stability of income and availability of transport
- House visits

House visits addressing the following:

- Meal planning
- Grocery shopping
- Budgeting
- Home maintenance
- Safety and security
- Transport
- Health and sexuality



SOCIAL CLUB

Members have access to regular social events exposing them to a variety of venues and experiences. The aim of the outings is to achieve full social participation and integration in the community as well as developing the adults social contacts.

COUNSELLING

Qualified therapists offer individual or group counselling for members and their families.