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message from the board | donné nicol



On the 3rd June 2008 while attending the Inaugural Meeting of the Social Entrepreneurs Network of Africa I had the pleasure of meeting Charles Maisel; one of the Founders of Black Umbrellas. His enthusiasm, passion and track record convinced me that Black Umbrellas was the small business development flagship project that the Shanduka Foundation was looking for. The Shanduka Group board was as enthusiastic and a wonderful partnership was formed leading to the opening of a Johannesburg branch and the birth of Shanduka Black Umbrellas.

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funder profile | rentworks



RentWorks started trading in South Africa in 1998 and now employs over sixty staff and has offices in all the country's major centres. As the market leader in asset rental finance RentWorks specialises in residual based operating leases and offers tailor made rental structures across the corporate, public sector and education markets. In addition, RentWorks also provides dedicated vendor finance programmes to numerous niche equipment suppliers.

Through established secondary markets, RentWorks allows its primary users to optimise the value gained from using technology and capital equipment, whilst reducing the impact of asset obsolescence and the responsibility for asset disposal.

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lessons learnt | richard ryan



Shanduka Black Umbrellas is currently inviting, screening and selecting entrepreneurs who have either expressed the desire or embarked on entrepreneurial ventures of their own. This journey can be both daunting and exciting as the highs and the lows of the road less certain is experienced.

Statistics show that 90% of entrepreneurial ventures fail in the early years of operation without some form of support. Shanduka seeks to address this by providing infrastructural

With our help, carefully selected entrepreneurs are ensured a much greater chance of success.

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SMME of the month
patrick buso

UmzikaNtu Technologies was founded by Patrick Buso 18 months ago. The primary focus of the organization is technological innovation and to bring about solutions that would improve lives of ordinary South Africans while working in partnership with nature. These innovations rely on natural resources to function, which include solar energy, wind and hydro energy.

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support to black entrepreneurs. Entrants to the programme are screened prior to invitation.

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