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Partners for Possibility project wins IJR Reconciliation Award

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(/images/plg_jdvthumbs/p4p-



a6876917dceedd84d57d34da018be71f.jpg) Archbishop Desmond Tutu handed over the 2013-14 IJR Reconciliation Award to Symphonia for South Africa, for its Partners for Possibility flagship project, at a celebration held at Steenberg High School on 11 November 2014.


Symphonia for South Africa was recognised for its flagship Partners for Possibility (PfP) programme, for enlivening reconciliation by helping to bridge the social, economic and geographical divides between the business and education sectors.


Symphonia for South Africa's PfP programme strives to help realise a vision of quality education for all children in South Africa by 2022. The PfP initiative speaks to the idea that enhancing the quality of education, improving the school environment and encouraging engagement between parents and teachers are meaningful and attainable goals that have the potential to provide an upward spiral of real change in society. By placing the school at the centre of the community, PfP


believes that a radical transformation can be achieved in the education sector. To date, the programme has been implemented in 180 schools nationwide, impacting more than 6,800 teachers, 140,000 parents and 136,000 learners.

"I subconsciously assumed that there was a correlation between poverty and lack of goodwill. I did not realise I carried this prejudice until confronted with the reality of my peers in the Partners for Possibility programme. My social interactions assumed that principals, teachers and pupils were destroying books and not attending school because somehow they didn't care. I feel honoured to have had my unspoken assumptions obliterated. I have never come across such commitment, goodwill and effort by people to build their communities. I realise that my own commitment to my country has been weak – not theirs." - Partners for Possibility business leader participant

Since its establishment in 2000, the IJR has conferred its annual Reconciliation Award to an individual or organisation that has outstandingly contributed to nation-building and reconciliation in South Africa. This Award is intended to acknowledge and honour the strategies and achievements of recipients, while inspiring others to play their part in helping to foster a reconciled country. Previous recipients include the Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa, Judge Albie Sachs, the community of Masiphumelele, Mary Burton and Tim Modise.

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Sue C. — Good piece John. I agree the expat voters (who were presumably mostly DA) could "play a ROLE in

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Mark Griffiths — Sounds interesting, John - perhaps a missed opportunity to link economic development to social and

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Gugulethu Mhlanga — World AIDS Day is indeed important in order to remind us that the fight against this disease is

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Will Travers — I am all for improved and greater trading opportunities between SA and the UK but I hope that delegates will

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