

# iLAUNCH UPDATE

August 2020



## Online and Onhold

As the world is well aware, COVID 19 has had a profound effect on lives in every country. As it hit South Africa in March, our country was put in a very strict lockdown, which put everything completely on hold for a few months. While more developed countries adjusted quicker to the online world, South Africa had to deal with the poorer communities that make up a majority of its population. Poor university students who had no access to internet were struggling to continue with studies, particularly in our city, Durban. As a result, students had a longer waiting time before classes resumed. Now things are up and running and our nine students are all back to their crazy workloads and quite relieved to have their studies moving forward again.

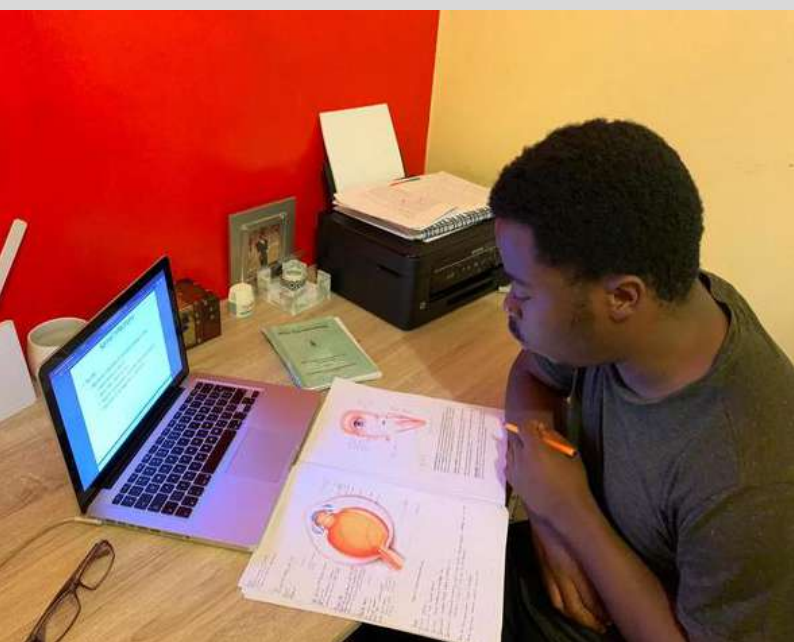
## Stories from Lockdown

While the lockdown brought the university and college programs to a halt, our students did not let this hamper their drive to progress. They stayed surprisingly motivated and positive in the face of much uncertainty.

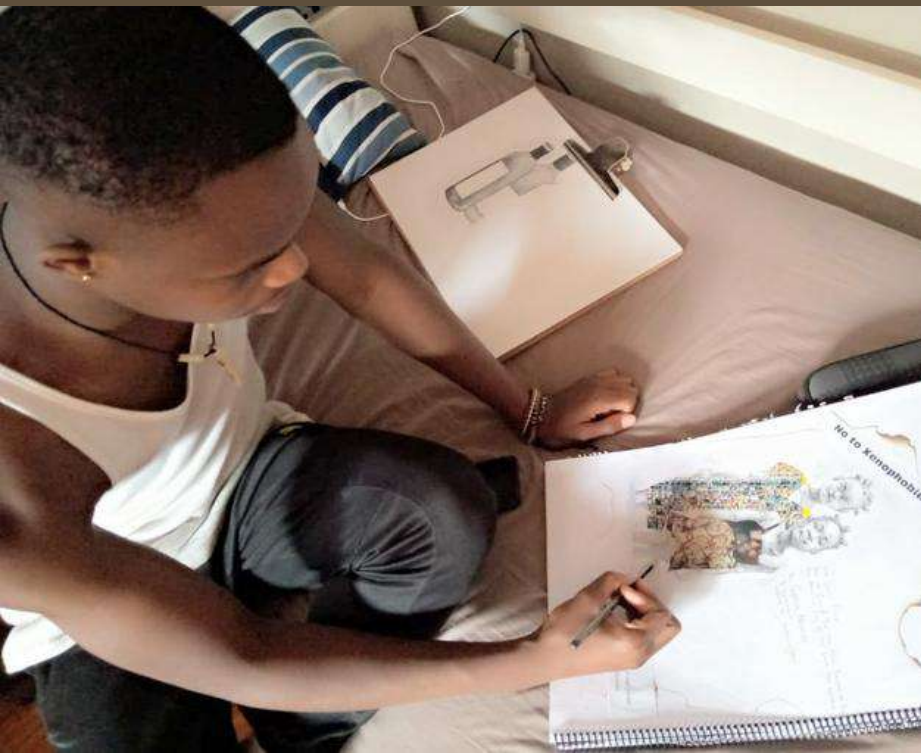
**Nelly** (right) was determined to get her drivers license and put so much effort into learning. Her road test was postponed, but as soon as it was rescheduled, she was perfectly prepared and aced it, becoming our first girl to get her license!



**Sthembiso** (left) who was in the midst of his medical rotation in Johannesburg when Covid 19 hit, but never wasted a moment. He was immediately studying online, and then quickly back into the hospitals to continue his rotation in psychiatry and surgery, also helping out during the Covid 19 surge. And he's loving it!







**Sphiwe** (left) and  
**Nkosingiphile**

(pictured on 1st page) who are both studying design have been very motivated and creative during the lockdown time, working on their art, practicing with online design programs, and working on professionalizing their social media platforms.

**Thando** (right) won a bursary to International Hotel School's culinary diploma program last year and has been working very hard on the theory while the restaurants have been closed. She has been extremely focused and excited about her studies and pushing herself in times that have been isolating and hard. Soon restaurants will be open and she can begin her practicals.



# Supporting Our Graduates

The Covid pandemic has been quite challenging for our graduates who have been working. The economy in South Africa was already struggling before Covid started and the lockdown made an already hard situation tougher. iLAUNCH has been actively supporting its graduates through this challenging time. Some of our graduates were waiting for unemployment benefits to kick in, and needed support briefly. Others lost jobs permanently, and iLAUNCH was able to come along side them and help them to plan how to move forward. And others were in the midst of job searching, which has come to a standstill at this time. In all these situations, we have been able to assist our young adults to make sure they are all safe, stay motivated in discouraging times, and move forward in small ways. We are so thankful for our supporters and donor who make this all possible. We cannot do any of this without your generous giving!

**iLAUNCH wants to thank all of its donors and supporters!**

**Support our program and the students:**

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