

LETTER OF SUPPORT:

We have been in contact with Maxine Jean-Louis, Noemie Hailu, and Max Stoller regarding the deployment of XO laptops to 100 students around 11 years old this June. We find their proposal very compelling, and think their motivation and thoughtfulness is admirable. We are fully aware, and in support of, this endeavor. It would be wonderful to have these young adults with their values and commitment to service working with us for the betterment of disadvantaged communities in Cape Town. We look forward to welcoming them into our community and providing any assistance that we possibly can to help this program thrive.

We believe that this group of three students exemplifies the necessary criteria to foster the successful implementation of their proposal. As the partnering organisation, we will provide the children and location for this program. The students will meet at the Rainbow Community Centre in the Gugulethu township of Cape Town, where they will participate in a project focused on xenophobia, fully incorporating the use of the XOs, during their winter break. This project is a creative way of incorporating the laptops, and highlights that children are agents of change by encouraging social action through education. After classes resume in mid July, the children will meet at the centre for extra-curricular activities, rooted in engaging the children to explore their curiosity and academic material through the countless new opportunities provided by the laptops.

As an organisation that supports a number of sustainable community development initiatives, we are primarily concerned with the long-term impact that this project will have on the children, as well as its feasibility of maintenance. The computer literacy skills they will acquire will benefit for years to come. We believe that access to the Internet is an invaluable tool, and will aid this group to determine the best options for installing a connection in our community centre. As Cape Town is too often host to theft, we will take all necessary precautions in regards to robberies and security issues. The Rainbow Centre has constant security and surveillance. The students will have access to this centre at their convenience. This centre will also serve as a safe storage place for the 230 Kg equipment.

We are excited to work with Maxine, Noemie and Max, and have faith that their efforts will be successful. Ikamvu Labantu means The Future of Our Nation, and we believe that this initiative invests in just that. We see striking similarities between OLPC and our mission, which is to help develop self-reliant and sustainable community-based organisations to facilitate positive social change. This is why we believe that we are the ideal collaborator for this program. We look forward to being a partner in this movement to transform the paradigm of child empowerment.