



YMCA Cape Town
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22 July, 2015

Dear Friends, Supporters and Sponsors,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you our plans for celebrating *Cape Town YMCA's Sesquicentennial* anniversary; a fancy way to say we've reached a ripe old one hundred and fifty years. During this time, we pay tribute to many people and communities for allowing us to serve young people through our youth development programs.

The *Cape Town YMCA* was founded primarily as a Christian 'home away from home' residence for young gentleman seeking a place to reside in Cape Town. The residence location was in various places such as *Hout Street, Long Street* and *Queen Victoria Street*, before relocating to Observatory. From its humble beginnings, our *YMCA* always played an active role in youth community programs in the Cape Town; afterschool education, life-skills, youth empowerment activities, finding placement for drug abuse victims in safe houses, counselling, annual youth camps – these programs continue to be an integral part of the *YMCA* mission.

As a global movement, the *YMCA* has grown immensely, with many partnerships formed over the years, and with voluntary work being one of the cornerstones of our mission; it is crucial we celebrate our service thus far. To mark our 125th birthday in 1990, we planted a tree in Cape Town as a symbol of planting life. For our 150th celebration, we highlight the importance of trees to the sustenance of our natural environment; planting a special indigenous tree - the '*Forest Bushwillow*' also known as *Combetrum Kraussi*. The tree is also South Africa's designated '**2015 Tree of the year**'. Together with our volunteers, supporters and friends, we have undertaken to plan a total of 150 *Forest Bushwillows* in and around Cape Town, at selected NGO's. Kindly see our website www.ymcacapetown.org.za for more details on our celebration.

The *Cape Town YMCA* wishes to thank our past and present Board members, Staff, Residents, Patrons, Donors and most importantly, our Volunteers for the continued supporting in providing youth programs.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Stockdale', written over a light-colored, textured background.

Stephen Stockdale
Chairman, *Cape Town YMCA*