

Country : South Africa

Name: Gert Potgieter

Altus Sport, a Sport for Development organization in South Africa, in conjunction with the IOC Sport & Active Society Commission, hosted a Spirit of Olympism conference on the 7th of March 2020 in Johannesburg.

The objective of the conference was to spread the spirit of Olympism, reaching out to mostly neglected schools, creating a safe network environment for our children, and reinforcing positive life skill values. Most of all, carrying over the message that **EVERYONE can be winners in life!**

This successful event hosted 81 participants, ranging from principals, teachers, parents, and youth sport leaders from various areas in the Johannesburg region. Representatives from the Olympic Studies Center of the University of Johannesburg; Laureus Sport for Good; Skills Village and the Education Department also participated.

Each participant received an educational manual, Fun & Olympics, with various activities which could be completed by the children at the various schools and at Altus Sports' Life's a Ball sport & life skill sessions. Through this initiative we aim to indirectly reach 24 350 children.

Topics covered were the brief history of the Ancient and Modern Olympic Games, Symbols and Traditions, Olympic Truce and Women at the Olympic Games. Olympism, a way of living, was dealt with in interactive sessions, in which values were discussed and Resilience was highlighted.

Potlako Lesebe, a participant of our GOAL Life's a Ball program, shared her story from rising from the dust to a happy and self-confidant speaker. Currently in grade 11, she is a youth sport leader and, due to her determination and to living by positive values, she has been taken up under the wings of the CEO of Standard Chartered Bank, in London.

Potlako is an excellent example of the Olympism values of JOY, EFFORT & STRENGTH!

Altus Sport would like to thank all our partners in assisting us in our drive to equip the youth with a positive, healthy attitude, compassion and strong moral values.



Potlako Lesebe, participant of Mamelodi High School.



Gert Potgieter, Director of Altus Sport & former Olympian.