

MEET YVONNE

SHE IS PARTICIPATING IN A PROJECT MANAGEMENT LEARNERSHIP
AT SIGNA ACADEMY, SPONSORED BY VOLKSWAGEN GROUP SOUTH AFRICA

MY STORY

In 2013 I was involved in a car accident. Going for a check-up a year later, I had to undergo surgery and have screws inserted into my ankle. I now walk with a limp and have to use a crutch.

At the time I was working at a clothing company and was promoted from receptionist to sales representative. When the company closed down and all staff were retrenched, I moved back home to my mother but couldn't find work for two years. A friend told me about Signa Academy and in 2016 I applied for a Business Practice Learnership, sponsored by Volkswagen. I was accepted and loved every moment. What I learned is that anyone – including me – can start a business, all you need is an idea. This was contrary to what I had always thought, that you finish your studies and then work for a big company.

After completing the 12-month learnership and being placed in the top three performers, I was selected for a second learnership with Volkswagen, but this time in National Banking.

After starting the learnership I discovered that I was pregnant. The pregnancy wasn't easy as I had asthma and high blood pressure throughout, and because of the complications my baby boy, Vyuisile, was born prematurely.

After Vyuisile was born I started the learnership again but constantly felt unwell. Thando, the course facilitator, was worried about my health and asked that I speak to a doctor who happened to be on the campus that day. The doctor immediately sent me to a hospital, where they discovered a blood clot in my lung. Because it was preventing my blood from circulating, I had to undergo emergency surgery for a blood transfusion. I was told that if I had come a week later, I would not be alive today, so that surgery saved my life.

Signa Group approached their client, Volkswagen, who agreed that because I had been in hospital, I could have more time to finish the learnership. At the end of 2017, I completed the National Banking Learnership and I am currently participating in a Project Management Learnership, which is also sponsored by Volkswagen.

HOW MY LIFE HAS CHANGED

People in my community who have disabilities are often made fun of, but I found other people at Signa who also have disabilities and they encouraged me and built my confidence. I have accepted my disability and no longer feel that it is a stigma. I have also made lifelong friends at Signa, and have developed a support system that is here for me when I need it the most.

MY FUTURE

I'm motivated and inspired by everything I have learned at Signa Academy, and I hope that I can start my own business one day.

MY ADVICE

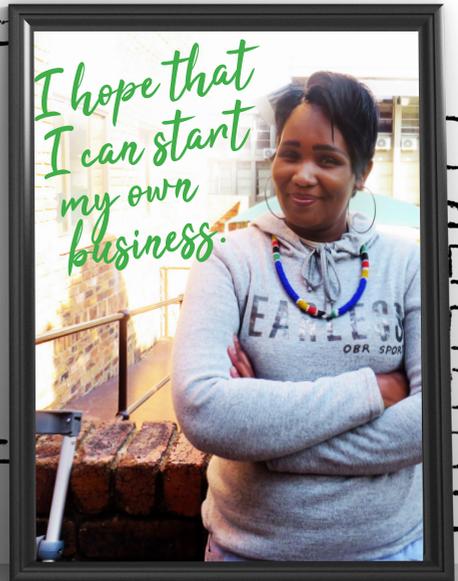
Don't take opportunities for granted. If you want to study after matric and can't afford to go to university, you can still further your education through learnerships.

WHAT SIGNA MEANS TO ME

The staff at Signa believed in me and supported me through the hardest and scariest time of my life. I was also given the opportunity to finish my learnership, and for that I am grateful.

THE POWER OF ONE

Yvonne is participating in her third learnership through Signa Academy, where she receives a regular salary. This income has given her the confidence and financial means to take care of her son and to help her mother pay for living expenses. Yvonne's life has taken a different turn because of the Power of One, and she is now actively changing her son's future, while also helping support her mother on a daily basis.



SPONSORED BY:



signa
group



POWER OF ONE