Klika (Click):
Helping Children Click Start a Brighter Future
By: Tshediso Matake, Skidmore

Background Information

June 16 1976, was a turning point for the South African independence struggle. My grandmother calls it "the spark that revived the fight against apartheid". Black high school students in townships protested against the use of Afrikaans and English as the main language instructions in schools. Though their resilience and bravery paid off and can be witnessed in the in the urban areas of South Africa, a new struggle has ascended upon the rainbow nation. My generation is now fighting for better quality education and easy access to the critical information. Last year the country was up in arms at the news that some schools in Limpopo had not received texts books until the end of the year. A high school graduate was tragically killed while hundreds injured during a stampede as students were rushing to apply to university. These two incidences and many more has created tension between the government, educators and school children. There is a constant talk among school children to facilitate their own revolution.

It's time for the South African educational revolution, a revolution that does not have to involve death or mass protesting, a revolution that can be sparked by technology and computer literacy. With technology, the spread and sharing of information will be faster easier and resourceful. No longer will pupils in rural areas have to wait for text books or go to the nearest city to get access to information in public libraries. The combination of technology and access to the internet will efficiently make the dissemination of knowledge amongst children in Ga-Ragoathwa and Makweng a reality. I grew up in a small township that hosted similar challenges as to those of Ga-Ragoathwa and Makweng, but fortunately I eluded some of the challenges by getting a scholarship to one of the best high schools in South Africa, The American International School of Johannesburg. In my junior and senior year I was part of a computer literacy boot camp that my school held for township kids, it is here I first realised the stark power of technology and the internet on the lives of students. After the boot camp, the kids were not only able to use computers but they were now accessing information they previously couldn't attain. Some of the students went as far as creating a resume and applying for jobs for their family members. Some students applied for universities online which greatly reduces the chance of another stampede. In just three weeks of having attending a computer literacy boot camp these children now had the power to change their lives and the communities they came from. It is clear that South Africa is slowly becoming a technology dependent nation. This is great for the overall development of the country however children in rural areas are slowly being left behind. This project specifically aims at providing children in rural areas the same opportunities as children living in urban areas.

Project Objective

"Klika" is a computer literacy intervention program in South Africa that aims to promote peace and environmental sustainability through computer literacy seminars. "Klika" will provide children from Ga-Ragoathwa and Makweng with more than just a chance to obtain a basic education, but rather a chance to obtain a practical education that will help the children make meaningful, lasting change in their communities. The program will collaborate with Ngwanamokwena Primary School to develop a three week computer literacy boot camp and a functional computer lab for the community. The children will learn basic computer skills and will have a chance to show case their new acquired skills with a presentation at the end of the camp. Essentially the project hopes to broaden the children's mind about the world while equipping them with necessary skills for a brighter future.

Project Details
- **May – Introduce the Project:** Introduce the Project and ask for the right of passage from the leaders and elders of both villages. This is will be done during the regular meetings held by the leaders in the villages. This meeting is primarily to get the blessing from the elders and also announce the project to influential figures in the villages. The next step is to introduce the Project to the youth of the village and this will be done during church services. One of the teachers of the primary school will organize meeting with the church pastors.
- **May-June – Creating the program:** Visit Ngwanamokwena Primary School to set up the classroom and asses the children that will be attending the boot camp. Finalize a syllabus for the different age groups that will attend the boot camp with the local educators. Work with the educators of the primary school to prepare a yearlong program that will take place after the boot camp. Once syllabus and year-long programming is done, train teachers that require training.
- **June-July – Boot Camp Commence:** The boot camp will begin at Ngwanamokwena Primary School. Children will meet three times a week for two hours at a time. During their free time the students will be encourage to brainstorm ideas for their projects so when they sit on a computer they are able to work efficiently.
- **July – Project Concludes:** The end of the project will be marked by the students' presentation during the closing ceremony. During the ceremony awards and recognition will be given to all the students who participated in the boot camp and those who excel throughout the camp. The community and Limpopo media will be invited to celebrate the success of the Project. The school will provide food with help of the community and parents.

"Klika" Team Leaders, Contributors, and Supporters

Leaders	Institute/ Organization	Description
Tshediso Matake	Skidmore College	Tshediso (Joe) is a Sophomore at Skidmore College majoring in Math and Physics. His family moved from Ga-Ragoathwa to the city in search for a better life. He is well acquainted with both villages and has numerous contacts in the city. His passion for renewable energy and efficient technology will help allocate the $ 10,000 resourcefully.
Thabang Koopedi	Vaal University of Technology (VUT)	Thabang is a sophomore at VUT majoring in Computer Science and Information Technology. He grew up in one of the villages and is fluent in in the language. His knowledge about computers and personal experience of living in the village will help create a realistic syllabus for the students.
Tiyani Mthombeni	Rhodes University	Tiyani is a sophomore at Rhodes majoring in Economics. Her background in accounting and finance will help keep track of the $10,000 and any additional funds.
S. Mahlabela	Ngwanamokwena Primary School	S. Mahlabela is the principal of Ngwanamokwena Primary School. He will help facilitate the boot camp in the village and also act as a liaison between the parents, community and the boot camp facilitators.
Darren Drabek	Skidmore College	Darren Drabek is the international student advisor at Skidmore College and has assisted Tshediso with information and online resources while writing the proposal.
Jill Linnz	Skidmore College	Jill Linz is a physics professor at Skidmore College that specializes in applied physics. With her strong background in electronics, she has provided Tshediso with information in choosing the right power source, computer software and models.

Klika (Click):
Helping Children Click Start a Brighter Future
By: Tshediso Matake, Skidmore

Estimated Breakdown of $10,000 Grant

Use	Description	Cost ($USD)
Flight	-Tshediso will need airfare from New York to South Africa.	$1000
Laptop Computers	-20 Laptops will be purchased with the maximum price spent on one laptop being $300, most of the laptops bought will be refurbished but Tshediso will make sure the laptops are functional. (20 laptops x $300)	$6000
Transportation	-The three student's leaders will have to take the bus from Johannesburg to the village. (3 Round trip = $76 x 3) -Special delivery for extra luggage ($76)	$304
Supplies	-3G Wifi Router: This device will enable all the laptops to access internet without any cables.	$150
	-Printer: A standard printer that can photo copy, scan send and receive faxes will be purchased. This also includes printing paper and additional ink cartridges. (1Printer $150 + Paper $50 + $Extra Ink Cartridges = $250)	$250
	-Checking bags: Tshediso will be buying most of the devices in the US due to the low cost and availability, as result he will need to check in 2 extra bags. ($150 x 2bags)	$300
	-Cables: These will be used to connect all the devices to the power outlet. Internet cables will also be purchased in case the some of the laptops cannot pick up the signal.	$200
	-3 Over Head Projector (3Projectors x $300)	$900
	-Protective Carriage for Laptops: A local metal-smith paid to build a carriage made out of metal. ($65 for material + $35 labour)	$100
	-Closing ceremony certificates and awards	$92
Internet Subscription	-60gigs of data will be bought from the local network, this deal will come with extra 60gigs that can be used only at night. ($200)	$200
Hand Sanitizer	-This is just a precaution tool; the project will take place during the winter period in South Africa which runs the high risks of germs spreading through keyboards. (28 bottles x $5)	$150
Educational Software and Antivirus	-Typing Software (21computers x $15) -Antivirus (1 anti-virus for 3 computers: 7antivirus x $27)	$504
Total		**$10,000**

- Some of the prices were conceived in terms of the South African currency (Rand) and then converted to US Dollars
- All costs were slightly overestimated in case additional funds arise in the future
- I will get receipts for all the transactions.
- Additional fundraising such as computer part and software drives will be done. If any of the devices are too big to be carried in the checking bags they will be sold and the money added to the grant money

Please contact Tshediso Matake (tmatake@skidmore,edu) with any additional questions.