

GEORGE (S'JIJO) MOLIFI MAKHUNGA

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Languages: English, Xhosa, Zulu & Sotho
Gender: Male



Although born with what others call a “disability” (Cerebral Palsy, or “CP”), I am a hardworking individual who never lets his disability get in the way of what he wants. My diligence and enthusiasm ensure that I do my best to complete every task handed to me. I possess 9 years of work experience in a high-pressured and demanding environment. This challenges my mental and physical abilities, thus allowing me to grow and learn daily. I also volunteer with an organization I helped set up, the SA Light of Hope, a project designed to support disadvantaged children in my community.

As a disabled person, I was unable to attend “normal” schools with my able-bodied friends and was never given an opportunity to matriculate from high school. I was forced to attend schools for disabled persons even though I always believed that I had the ability to do as well as, or better than, many of my friends.

I am currently looking for opportunities that will provide me with exposure to challenges that will enhance both my personal life and career.

SKILLS SUMMARY

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Outlook
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft Windows 7,8,10.
- Time Management
- Friendly & approachable
- Problem solving
- Innovative
- Ability to work independently or in a team
- Customer service

EDUCATION

Lead Change

2019 – In progress

International Computer Driving License (ICDL)

Lead Change

2018

Digital Literacy

Adelaide Tambo School

2011

Level 3

CAREER SUMMARY

Woolworths

2013 – Present

Customer Assistant

Working in retail, my job entails increasing sales by providing excellent customer service and ensuring on-the-floor stock availability. This requires effective stock management skills, product knowledge, approachability and discipline.

VOLUNTEERISM

Light of Hope South Africa 2021 – Present

- Coordinated the food and clothes drive at Refilwe Legae Orphanage for the 67-minutes for Mandela Day.
- Coordination and participation in the Tell-a-Friend campaign that donated school shoes to learners with disabilities across 5 schools and at Refilwe Legae orphanage.

NOTE: Our team’s goal in early 2022 was to raise enough money to buy 70 pairs of shoes (double the 35 pairs we donated in 2021). Through our efforts we managed to raise enough money to buy all 70 pairs, but also received donations of 140 more pairs of shoes from Adcock Ingram and Woolworths (70 pairs each). In total, we donated 210 pairs of shoes, including more than 40 pairs to disabled children with special needs.

REFERENCES

Amanda Letsielo

Team Leader (Floor Coordinator)
Woolworths
076 805 9966

Senzo Mbonambi

Lecturer
Lead Change Developments
082 054 6244

Kashini Chetty

Manager
Woolworths
082 832 9402

Michael H Rea

Managing Partner
Integrated Reporting & Assurance Services (IRAS)
062 810 0118

From Michael...

I have known George for more than 12 years, first meeting him when he joined the Soweto Marimba Youth League (SMYLE) steel drum and marimba band project I operated in Soweto. George certainly wasn't the best musician I'd ever come across, but he was undoubtedly one the best performers I'd ever worked with in the 14 years I ran SMYLE. His ever-present smile and enthusiasm for performing as part of a team radiated through every performance, while his work ethic always forced people to notice that while George may have one leg that doesn't work so well, and a bit of a speech impediment, he is by NO means "unable".

After nine years of working at the same Woolworths store at Eastgate, George only earns less than R5 000 per month (gross, less than R4 000 net), with more than R1 200 going directly to his transport costs. He is called upon to work only 4 days per week (sometimes on a fifth day) which precludes him from finding a second job to earn more money to support himself, his mother, and his niece. Despite this challenge, George and a small group of his friends have created their own charity project that seeks to, in George's words, "help disadvantaged children" (as if George isn't disadvantaged himself).

George has been, is, and always will be an inspiration to me, and always an example of the best of what South Africa has to offer the world.