



Paying it forward

Emsie Rheeders has reached the point in her life where she knows what makes her happy. In her humble way, she talks to Get It about creating a positive change in our schools, travelling the world and the importance of family.

Meysdal resident Emsie Rheeders has one goal and one goal only, and that is to make a difference in the lives of the youth by eliminating barriers to learning. "My dream is to make a difference by assisting learners to reach their full potential in life. Education has been my passion from primary school days. Thinking back, I used to play school with my friends and I of course always took on the role as the teacher. I knew that this was my calling and that I would be a teacher one day." Emsie has had a long career in teaching and is a true educationalist at heart. She is currently working as a remedial therapist helping learners overcome barriers to learning. After extensive research she implemented a school-based programme focused on assisting learners to overcome barriers in Afrikaans, English and mathematics. The programme is aimed at learners from grade one to nine. "I believe the children of today will be the leaders of tomorrow, and that is why it is so important we teach our children to master the art of effective study and exam techniques. Because children are more likely to learn in a more effective way once they use effective learning techniques, you will find they will develop a love for learning that can last a lifetime. "I recently presented this course with 20 learners at a local school. It was one of the most blessed days I have ever experienced in my life. After the workshop each learner came to me and hugged me and told me how I opened doors for them they did not know existed. I know that I empowered them with skills that are going to last a lifetime! Money cannot buy this warm feeling of recognition and satisfaction."

Relaxing times

Besides her busy career, Emsie enjoys travel. "The world is a book, and those who

do not travelling only read a page, I would like to read the whole book. I get energy from travel, and as soon as I have returned from a trip all the new, innovative ideas start flowing in.

"As a family we enjoy going to different restaurants that specialise in their specific cuisine. It inspires me to try out new recipes and experiment with different food types.

"I love reading, all material from magazines to novels. Reading adds to your general knowledge as a person and will not leave you at a loss for words in any conversation. Theatre, movies, hiking and of course my retail therapy: shopping!

"I like to spend quiet times with the Lord and trust Him to guide me and use me as an instrument in His hands and to apply the talents that He gave me to the best of my ability. I want to move out of my comfort zone at all times, because I know that is where you grow and make a difference!"

On the home front

"Weekends are there to spend quality time with my family. My husband Deon and I have been married for 25 years now, and I will change it for nothing in the world! He is my rock that keeps me balanced. We have two sons, Ruan (22) a fifth year medical student at Wits University, next year he will qualify as a medical doctor. Armandt (20) is a second year information management student at University of Johannesburg. I am so fortunate that they both study from home and I still see them every day, although they have hectic schedules. We make a point of eating together as a family; I believe that people who eat together stay together. "We go to church as a family on a Sunday. I feel it is very important to give your children the right foundation in life. I

believe that if you as a parent lay that foundation, no matter how rocky the road your child will travel on one day, they will always return to the foundation that you laid for them as a child! On weekends, we enjoy trying new restaurants as a family, build special memories, and share all our pro's and cons of our hectic schedules with each other, and by doing so encourage each other positively for the week and give each other advice and solutions to each other's problems."

Future plans

"I would like to broaden my horizons a bit more by sharing my knowledge with other teachers, principals, district officials and build a better future for our education. I recently compiled a manual on Barriers versus Solutions for the Foundation and Intermediate phase teacher, which I present to primary school teachers. The teachers then implement this in their classrooms. I believe that I know where the needs lie. It is a personal passion and dream that will be fulfilled if I can empower our teachers through development programmes".

"Education empowers people and give them the confidence to become the best they can possibly be! It is one of the greatest rewards in life for me to see how a learner has grown from the first day I met them till the day they complete their therapy with me. I enjoy every minute I spend with children and empower them, I feel that I align with God's purpose for me on earth. I live in faith and trust God for every step I take, I believe that nothing can stop God's plan for your life."

Get in touch

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