



## RightfulShare Participant Stories

### **Delano Katglane**

Delano Katglane has always understood that changing one's circumstances requires active participation and creativity, especially in a small town like Groblershoop in the Northern Province of South Africa.

Despite holding a post-school qualification in Human Resources—an additional education level not held by many job seekers in the country—he has struggled to secure a stable, sufficient income. He found himself in a familiar South African process: talking to people to find employment leads, submitting his CV, and taking part-time casual work, with none able to support him with the baseline for a larger, financially viable career.

As an active volunteer in community organisations and a person experiencing the cycle of a broken job sector, Delano has witnessed the profound impact of unemployment on Groblershoop, leading to issues such as crime, drug addiction, and teenage pregnancy.

When it became clearer that formal employment was unlikely, he decided to focus on farming as a self-sufficient form of entrepreneurship. However, getting started requires start-up capital, and despite having some resources, he was still missing support that would make it possible to take farming further.

Delano was one of the first participants to join RightfulShare. Despite some initial misconceptions about the idea of a basic income grant and very little understanding of blockchain technology or cryptocurrencies, he believes that to make changes to the status quo, new ideas and structures are needed to address the unemployment crisis.

He has been using his funds to invest in his farm, purchasing animal feed and spraying equipment for his livestock, which includes 50 boer goats, a horse, and sheep. Currently, he generates income by selling the goat kids locally.

As part of his investment in his farm, he wanted to buy a horse to aid in looking after his livestock. While this would seem like a straightforward process to many, in a small isolated and under-resourced town like his, the process speaks to the extra hurdles even the most seemingly basic interactions need.

Being able to find a viable horse in the area, finding a car and a trailer to transport the horse from its original owner, and making the payment was not simple, and the whole process took a matter of months.

In addition, petty crime as a result of severe poverty means facing consistent hurdles. For Delano, this has meant his phone has been stolen twice—a vital connectivity resource that is not cheap to replace, as technology in South Africa is often significantly more expensive than it is overseas.



Despite the challenges, he values the monthly transfer and specifically its effect on his mental health. He explains that this foundation allows him to manage his expenses, including phone bills, clothing, and petrol. Making it possible to manage month-to-month removes this consistent stress and frees up mental space, time, and money to invest in his farm.

He envisions expanding his ventures and has plans to rent out equipment like jackhammers and small machines to generate additional income.

After experiencing what an unconditional, consistent cash transfer provides, Delano now believes that UBI should be accessible to everyone, as it has the ability to impact an individual's financial well-being, alleviate some weight off their mental load, and potentially transform their lives.

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## **Joyberne Neels**

Joyberne Neels is a classic Gen Z. Born in 1999, he has a knack for picking up tech and understanding how to run with it. While computers never interested him, playing with phones has captured his attention since he was young.

However, in a small town like Groblershoop, having finished high school and being a quick and adaptive learner can't compensate for the Northern Cape's 43% formal expanded unemployment rate. Since finishing school, he's taken on casual work and odd jobs, even spending some time as a receptionist at the local resort, but he has yet to find a reliable source of income.

He learned about RightfulShare through a friend. While the basic income transfer is beneficial and something he believes is changing his life, the real game changer has been opening him up to cryptocurrencies and blockchains.

Determined to make the most of this opportunity, Joyberne set out to learn about blockchain and cryptocurrencies. He opened his own Binance and Valr (a South African centralised exchange) account, created a Metamask wallet and rapidly became comfortable with the technology.

He has quickly become the poster child for what opportunities cryptocurrencies can open up for individuals. He has since discovered learning games on Binance that reward players with points, and he invested a portion of his basic income in a savings protocol on the Celo blockchain, embracing the idea of financial security in the digital realm.

He has even spun this into a small entrepreneurial enterprise, helping fellow project beneficiaries convert their digital earnings into fiat currency for a small fee. This is key as the process is intricate, involving conversions from Celo to USDT, USDT to BNB, and BNB to South African Rands.

This educational role may soon be expanded as he has become more involved with GoodDollar, exploring becoming their South African ambassador and onboarding and educating more people in the community about digital currencies.



For young men in South Africa it is easy to lose hope and enthusiasm as they are told to relentlessly job hunt for jobs that are not there with no support from both governmental and social structures.

For Joyberne, the UBI has opened up a new world of opportunities. He has said he no longer wants to work for someone else or rely on traditional employment that is unreliable and unlikely to realise a stable financial future. Rather he aims to further develop his involvement in the digital financial ecosystem and help others utilise it to their benefit and its full potential.

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## **Darryl Wessles**

Darryl Wessles life has not been easy, but it has been filled with determination. Born in 1994, he is part of the “born-free” generation, promised a life of opportunity following the end apartheid and expected to build a fairer South Africa.

Like many others, he has been let down by the slow progress of our government to provide stable social structures. He left school in Grade 8, was later incarcerated for a time and has always faced an uncertain and fluctuating income. Despite these challenges, he was determined to improve his life. He enrolled and completed an adult literacy class to ensure he was not missing this fundamental skill.

When it comes to searching for a job, he faces the extra challenge of having been to prison. With an already threadbare job market, competing for full time employed work against many others with a record is difficult. Despite South Africa having one of the highest incarcerated populations in the world, there is little social support once they are released.

Before joining RightfulShare, Darryl had heard about cryptocurrency trading and Bitcoin on social media - but had decided better of interacting with it as most of the promotions seemed like scams.

On meeting RightfulShare Founder Karen Jooste and discussing both universal basic income (UBI) and cryptocurrencies potential further, he started to see the opportunities available here, not just the flashy trader promises.

With his consistent income, he has established a small pig farm. The idea came about after he recognised that his community were not able to afford bigger meat purchases, but weren't being supplied with smaller portions that could align with their budget.

With the money he received, Darryl invested in the equipment needed to set up the enclosure for the pigs and dedicated himself to learning everything he could about animal care to ensure he could provide a quality product.

This renewed sense of purpose, coupled with his already strong community-minded outlook has encouraged Darryl to dream bigger. He aims to incorporate other young people into the business, giving them something meaningful to do and the opportunity to learn valuable



skills. This project isn't just about basic income for him; it was about building a better life for himself, his family, and the community he cares deeply about.

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## **Chantelle Adams**

Chantelle Adams loves fashion, make up and beauty. In the small town of Groblershoop Chantelle found herself enthralled by the beauty bloggers and vloggers online. Inspired by their artistry, she has been determined to build up her own brand and beauty business.

However, like many in rural towns across South Africa, resources and basic start-up income are hard to come by. After finishing high school, Chantelle took up babysitting to save some money of her own, with this she started her own business, 'Busi's Beauty Room'.

Much of entrepreneurship is about understanding a market need and addressing it well. Chantelle adeptly identified this gap, with her services doing makeup for special occasions being the only.

Despite this, like many enthusiastic and energetic young people in South Africa who are willing and eager to build out new enterprises, she was held back by a lack of start-up capital. The small amounts she was receiving from childcare couldn't cover the resources she needed. This slowed momentum and took a toll on her enthusiasm.

Her attempts to get more significant employment were also draining, especially when the jobs available to apply for don't even pay the minimum wage. This is a consistent issue in South Africa, making the call for 'more jobs' hollow - as even employment doesn't promise upliftment.

On joining the RightfulShare project, she felt a renewed sense of hope for her business. With the additional income from RightfulShare, she can finally purchase the makeup, and essential tools, she can buy some data to watch online tutorials and improve her skills and ultimately elevate her beauty services.

This is not to say that there are not still challenges to be overcome. She currently works out of her small shared bedroom and needs to invest a lot of time and capital into accessing the resources she needs, which have to be replenished as she gains customers.

Despite the obstacles, she remains optimistic about the future and is eager to learn more beauty skills. Chantelle dreams of having a dedicated place for her business and applying for a bursary to attend college to study beauty and makeup and further cement herself in her career.

While one UBI grant can't cover all of this, she is a testament to how even providing some basic support can keep the spirit alive and encourage those who are full of potential and drive.

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## **Danielle Kaptein**

Danielle Kaptein sees the horrific impacts of poverty every day. As an Auxiliary Social Worker in Groblershoop she is acutely aware of the impacts of chronic unemployment, especially youth unemployment, and its detrimental consequences.

She understands how much sacrifice and commitment people have to make to get a job that meets their needs. She has moved from her own hometown to Groblershoop for her current role, leaving her two sons behind with her parents.

After years of seeing how unemployment instils hopelessness in people. She has seen how this hopeless settles into communities and without any tangible ways to alleviate it manifests in social problems such as substance abuse and even suicide.

Danielle firmly believes that a basic income could be a powerful solution, not only to alleviate financial burdens but also to reignite hope and foster economic growth.

Her dream has always been to run her own nonprofit organisation, but she has needed more financial resources. With a fixed monthly income provided by RightfulShare, Danielle can now breathe life into her nonprofit, using the funds for operational costs and initiating community projects.

One small project she has already undertaken has been providing an outlet for joy and fun to local children from the informal settlement on the outskirts of the town by taking them to the local pool.

Despite being in the same town, many of these kids haven't had the chance to visit and swim because of the family financial constraints. In the Northern Cape, this also means enduring sweltering summer temperatures without the means to cool off.

Even this small project reflects a larger value of a UBI. For those in financial dire straits, there is little room for pleasure as all resources need to go to survival. Making something as simple as visiting a local pool a luxury creates even further divides and impacts on fundamental development in areas like mental health.

For Danielle, the RightfulShare UBI empowers her to pursue her passion for community development. It makes it possible for her to make a tangible change for those she serves. She is an example of how a digital basic income doesn't only have to be a short-term stop-gap but rather a greater vehicle for something bigger, and longer lasting.

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## **Kitso Ludick**

Kitso Ludick wanted to study skilled trade engineering at Kathu TVET college. Having spent her whole life in Groblershoop, she dreamed of building a viable career, one that she had been told would set her up for success.

She had put in the work during high school to make sure she got great grades, and even secured a bursary to cover some of the expenses. Despite these achievements, she had to put this dream on hold as she and her family could not pay to cover the additional expenses.



She joined RightfulShare and immediately saw opportunity and a possibility for a new pathway. While she couldn't study engineering she initially used her UBI to buy much-needed new glasses, replacing the expired ones. She also completed a diploma in business management and entrepreneurship.

Utilising the skills and knowledge from her diploma, she is now building her reputation as an entrepreneur, providing loans to customers with a 30% interest rate. Despite the challenges of ensuring timely repayments, she remains selective in choosing clients.

For Kitso, the basic income isn't just a vehicle for building her career. It also is a way for her to contribute to her household. Having older children contribute once they can is a common necessity among South African families and often one that puts further pressure on those who can't find jobs. She uses the funds to assist her mother and brothers, especially with school-related expenses like bus transport.

It's also not just about addressing basic needs. Recently, she was able to erect a tombstone for her grandmother, who passed away in 2017. The placing of a tombstone is a costly, but vital expression of gratitude and love. She credits the close bond with her grandmother, who raised her until age 16, in shaping her values and ambitions.

Overall UBI is about providing baseline access and liquidity to communities and families that are stranded without cash flow and access. Through her responsible lending, Kitso is attempting to take a simple grant and expand its impact, supporting her community. She sees how important a consistent income is, to help avoid making others like her defer their dreams despite their hard work and determination.

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## **Laura Boer**

Laura Boer is a single-mother of two who grew up in Groblershoop, raised by her grandmother and grandfather. Her lived experience has made her a strong advocate for social justice, with a universal basic income and workers rights at the centre of her efforts.

Despite wanting to be a teacher, Laura has found herself in the farming sector. While she wasn't interested in farming, she was able to find work as a seasonal farm worker. Laura also supports herself with a combination of government grants and, now, her RightfulShare income.

While working one of her contracts, she became involved in the Women on Farms project. This project aims to support and strengthen the capacity of women farm workers and dwellers to know, claim and realise their rights.

Their demands extend beyond a basic income grant; they seek land distribution, emphasising the importance of women having their land. Equally crucial to them is the working condition of female farm workers – protection from hazardous pesticides, proper toilets, and access to clean drinking water.



Laura has even experienced first-hand why initiatives like RightfulShare and Women on Farms are needed. With Women on Farms she was part of a delegation who gave a memorandum to Parliament and the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reform, arguing the importance of a basic income grant.

They have still received no answer. and when travelling to the Western Cape to hand it over in person, the Minister didn't even bother to attend their meeting.

This kind of callous dismissal on the part of government officials is indicative of the larger refusal by the South African government to acknowledge they need to find alternatives to job creation to keep people out of poverty.

For Laura, her activism work continues but on a more personal community level she is focused on her own project. She started her own food garden and since joining RightfulShare, she is able to put more time and resources into this work as the burden of worrying about day-to-day expenses was lifted.

For Laura, access to land and income is not just a personal aspiration. It's a means to provide for her community and family. She wishes to see her children finish high school, attend university and thrive in careers that give them stability and fulfilment.

RightfulShare's basic income is providing the stability that she knows she deserves and requires to make these aspirations for her, her family and her community come true. She envisions a brighter future for Groblershoop, believing that the project could make an even more significant impact with increased funding and inclusion.