

ArcelorMittal South Africa Solidarity Holidays 2014

Nthombifuthi Nxumalo's story

Mmasabata Mofurutsi

For Ntombifuthi Nxumalo growing up life had its many challenges and it was her grandmother's home that provided her with a sanctuary.

Nthombifuthi Nxumalo lives in a small one bedroom house with her aunt, uncle, cousins and their young children. The house they live in used to belong to their grandmother but unfortunately she passed away in 2008. Now the house is being used as a family home, so there are usually about 19 people living together in the small cramped room where the whole family has to sleep, eat and wash.

"Growing up life was not easy for me and my family; we are poor and do not have much. We all grew up at my grandmother's house. She was a pensioner and she provided for us in the best way she could. I am currently unemployed and there is no one else in my family that is currently working. We all depend on social grants from the government to support ourselves. The house we currently live in is small, the roof is a thatch roof and when it rains the water comes into the house. I used to be so embarrassed when I walked out of the house, the neighbours used to laugh at us because our house was crumbling and falling apart. We had asked the government to assist for years and nothing was done.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank ArcelorMittal South Africa for this wonderful gift they have given to me and my family. This house is a beautiful blessing; it will improve our lives for the better. I can now go to bed at night knowing that my family is safe and secure place".



Ntombifuthi Nxumalo's old house



Ntombifuthi's family members outside their home