



Compass Group Southern Africa Walks the Talk

The Compass Group Chef Academy, launched in 2008, provides high quality training to previously disadvantaged individuals to address the skills shortage in the tourism and hospitality sectors. The learners receive an NQF Level 4 Tourism and Hospitality Education and Training Authority (THETA) accredited certificate in Professional Cookery.

“Our involvement with the Chef Academy is not about merely handing out money. We impart the knowledge and place some of our graduates in the business because we believe in sustainable empowerment,” says Lientjie van Rensburg, national manager: Organisational & Talent Development, Compass Group Southern Africa.

According to programme manager Thabang Njuza, the Chef Academy has become instrumental in changing people’s lives. “The Academy provides them with not only theoretical training but the practical skills needed to work and run a kitchen.”

“The Chef Academy does not only create sustainable job opportunities for the learners, but the investment in skills training and mentorship builds capacity for the industry in which we operate,” said Compass Group Southern Africa CEO, Monwabisi Kalawe.

Selected from a database provided by the Department of Labour,

Compass Group Southern Africa, the country’s market leader in food and support services, has over the last three years invested R5,4 million to train more than 140 unemployed youth in food preparation at its Chef Academy.

the National Institute for the Deaf and the Umsobomvu Youth Fund, learners need to be 18-25 years, and South African. They need to have a Grade 12 certificate, with good grades in Home Economics or hotel keeping subjects, including English Literature and a numeracy subject. They also need to have personal attributes such as good personal grooming, as well as have a passion for food and services.

The first intake in 2008, consisted of 36 learners, with 31 learners completing the course. Of this, 25 were offered employment with the Compass Group Southern Africa.

The class of 2009 consisted of 50 learners, including 16 who are hearing impaired. Of the 50, 44 learners completed the course at the end of February 2010. The class of 2010 consists of 55 learners. At least 15 of those are hearing impaired. ✖