



Jackie Gallagher



Jacqueline Michael



Lucilla Boozyen



Jane Dzebu



Khanyisile Motsa



LesleyAnn van Selm

# Gauteng's super six up for Woman of the Year

GAUTENG has six finalists in the Shoprite Checkers Woman of the Year Award. These six exceptional women have been selected from hundreds of entries, and the public are invited to vote for the one they believe the most deserving of the award. Their votes will account for 30 percent of the final score although the judges' decision will be final.

The six finalists in the various categories are:

Lucilla Booyzen (small shop to big business maker), a stalwart of the South African fashion industry and the woman who launched South African Fashion Week (SAFW), which created a platform for fashion designers to showcase their collections and network.

A project close to Booyzen's heart is Fashion Fusion, which is supported by the Department of Arts and Culture. Through it, more than 1000 crafters have been working with top designers to develop uniquely South African products.

Jackie Gallagher (educators category) is the founder and general manager of the Sparrow Schools Educational Trust. After starting off by teaching four disadvantaged pupils on Saturdays in a church hall in Joubert Park in Joburg 20 years ago, the initiative has now helped thousands of pupils reach their dreams.

Her other initiatives include a teacher upgrade programme, providing teaching relief to empower schools struggling in under-developed and impoverished communities.

Lesley Ann van Selm (good neighbours category) founded the Khulisa Crime Prevention Initiative 13 years ago using African stories to instil morals among offenders. Today Khulisa is a successful Section 21 (not-for-profit) company making a unique contribution to a safer South Africa now and in the future.

Sister Jane Munyadziwa Dzebu (health caregivers category) is a dedicated professional nurse who assists women treated for gynaecological cancers at the Charlotte Maxeke-Johannesburg Hospital. Her work in this ward is an example of how South Africa's health facilities can be restored to formidable levels in the public sector.

Dzebu has worked hard and obtained a Master's degree in nursing science from Unisa.

Jacqui Michael (youth movers category) heads two NGOs that aim to give hope to troubled youths.

As both the director of the Johannesburg Parent and Child Counselling Centre and the director of the Child and Youth Care Agency for Development, she is driven by the belief that every child has a right to have a family in whatever form. The ultimate goal is that children are kept out of institutions wherever possible and given the benefit of parenting and family.

Currently extensive work is being done with children and families affected by poverty and HIV/Aids, child abuse and substance abuse.

She was also one of the founding members of the gay counselling service in Joburg, where she assisted for 15 years, helping many youths with difficulties around sexual orientation and transgender issues.

Khanyisile Motsa (youth movers category) founded the Berea-Hillbrow Home of Hope 10 years ago and has since touched the lives of more than 8 000 street children who have had the opportunity of becoming responsible citizens.

In aiding street children – mostly girls who have been exploited on the streets of Hillbrow, Berea and the inner city of Joburg – the first challenge has always been to win their confidence to be able to entice them from the streets.

The home offers the children a safe environment in which the healing process can begin. After a period of nurturing and rehabilitation they are given the opportunity to receive formal and informal education. Employment opportunities are explored and they also have the opportunity to reunite with their families.

Motsa has also formed support and peer groups to monitor and support the street girls, who in many instances were forced into prostitution on the streets by drug lords and pimps, or have been victims of child labour and trafficking.

All these interventions have helped these street children regain their confidence and esteem, and lead a better life.

The winners will be announced at a spectacular gala evening this month at Emperors Palace in Gauteng.

This event will be broadcast during prime time on Monday August 9 on MNet.