

MAY 2021

# MEN AROUND A FIRE

The Character Company

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The emotional health of men is key to their ability to be good fathers and positive role models in a society that expects men to be strong and in control of the demands of modern society. Men Around a Fire is a one-night event which allows men to have real conversations in a safe environment where men can be vulnerable about issues that affect manhood.

Article by TCC

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Our heart is that every boy in South Africa has access to a positive male role model, preferably his dad but with the current statistics of 67% of children growing up in single parent homes that is just not possible.

Gauteng camps take place once a month, however this month, the second camp for Polokwane was held as we would like to “make the circle bigger” around the fire for men to find healing, strength a place of belonging with other men who want to be better men.

# TESTIMONIES FROM OUR MENTORS

## The power and impact of men talking!

*"The first time I attended this event was last year, I broke down, because for the first time I was surrounded by like-minded brothers who allowed me to do so. Leaving the camp, it was like I had offloaded 10 tons of guilt, hurt, failures, loneliness, rejection etc." - Bongani Khumalo*

*"Hi guys, I travelled safely. Thank you for a much-needed weekend. I am looking forward to our next campfire. Absolutely! This weekend was enriching and has already made the world's difference to how one experiences and approaches this week's challenges. Thank you, gents! Please keep me informed of any upcoming events and opportunities. Take care!" - Johan*

*Weekend well spent gentlemen, thank you. Lots to digest indeed. To be among men, tackling important issues, I do not only feel empowered but also challenged to build, and to build well. I really feel structures/concepts like these are God-sent to bring back the original purpose of humanity and positive masculinity." - Spha*



Men around a fire is a great outing MENTors look forward to on our TCC calendar because it allows MENTors to confide with their peers away from this ever-judging world we live in. In as much as MENTors impart a part of themselves to the boys during mentoring sessions, there is a lot of replenishment needed on MENTors as well.

The issues men face growing up, rarely get discussed with friends and family members. However when sitting with men who think and behave like you one feels comfortable to open up. MENTors allow themselves to be vulnerable, break down, and flush whatever baggage they might have carried for years. It is very important to know that "you are not alone", that is the theme we carry whenever we go out to this event.

You can never hold the hands of these young boys we are mentoring or pour from an empty vessel when you are carrying stuff on your shoulders that troubles you. The impact of Men Around a Fire has been evident in the testimonies and feedback received from our MENTors.

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“

*Before toxic masculinity, comes confused masculinity” - Jaco van Schalkwyk.*