

Vax Champ of the week: Jami Zulu

By Noko Mashilo

Jami Zulu is not giving up on encouraging people to vaccinate. Last week between 28 February and 4th March, she managed to encourage 580 people to vaccinate. Earlier in March, on Monday she recruited 60 people to vaccinate, 220 on Tuesday, 125 on Wednesday, 97 on Thursday and 78 on Friday. That is 580 people vaccinated due to Jami's work in one week!

This Community Health Worker from Winelands in Paarl, Western Cape works for Right to Care and is based at the House Maccrone clinic. Jami said she does not want people to die and she wishes that life can be back to normal. "If we all vaccinate, we will win and overcome all the anxiety Covid 19 caused to so many of us," said Jami.

She also said she has lost some of her close family members. "It is painful to lose someone you love. Others have lost jobs after businesses closed down. It was like the world was coming to an end. We could not do anything except to wait the advice from scientists, political leaders, civil societies and other role players" said Jami.

Jami said her strategy to the winning formula is to carry a log book where she writes street addresses and house numbers. "I will tick any behaviour I come across. It could be people refusing or willing to vaccinate. This allows me to track down each and every household's behaviour towards vaccination," said Jami who has no problem speaking with anyone and everyone. Jami said she feels happy to see people vaccinated. "This makes me proud of myself since I share health information to my community," said Jami.

Before Jami joined Right to Care in 2021, she worked as a health co-ordinator for Joy 4 Life between 2003 and 2013 and later Easternberg clinic as counsellor for six years between 2014 and 2020. Jami is trained in Basic Home Care and Community Health and Safety Care at St John Ambulance Training Centre in 2009. she also trained at Red Cross Society in Basic Advanced in Silver Medal in First Aid. she further took another course in Community Health Work and Occupational Health and Safety at Educate 24 between 2014 and 2015.

Jami said early this year, she did an online course about Covid 19 and vaccination through Community Health Academy. "We were 372 across the world and I became position three. This shows the dedication I have in saving lives," said Jami.

Her message is that she is vaccinated and what about you. "I am a Vax Champ and this shows that I am fully vaccinated. Vaccination is scientifically proven that it saves lives and it has been used for many years," said Jami.