

# 100% dynamo

In addition to her demanding job, Khanyi Chaba, Director of Customer Experience at Standard Bank, works to uplift the youth, studied photography and interior design, and is a fitness fundi who's climbed Mount Kilimanjaro



Summitting Mount Kilimanjaro taught me that small steps can culminate in a big achievement.

I qualified as an architectural technologist at Wits Technikon (now known as the University of Johannesburg) and also have an Advanced Diploma in Marketing from the IMM Graduate School of Marketing, a Certificate in Associate Management from the University of Cape Town Business School and a Diploma in Interior Design and Decor from Design School SA. I continually invest in myself by learning new things and challenging myself.

I'm lucky to be in a job that deals mainly with people. It requires understanding how our employees feel about themselves, how people understand the role we have to play and how that translates into making our customers experience our service in a positive manner.

Giving back to the youth is also important to me. My background and upbringing have prepared me to respond to the challenges many of our young people are facing. Foremost among these is a lack of resources, particularly with regard to education. I'm involved with the Shoshana Foundation, whereby I raise funds to assist single mothers to school and clothe their children. Having been raised by a single mother myself, who performed miracles to give us a chance in

life, this is my way of ensuring that other children don't have the doors of education closed on them.

I learnt at a young age that exercise is an important part of creating a balance in your life. After being introduced to road running by a friend, I finished six Comrades Marathons, six Two Oceans Marathons and various standard ones, including the New York Marathon and the Great Wall of China Marathon in early 2011.

The quest to know how far I can push myself has driven me to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, which was one of the hardest physical adventures I've ever undertaken. The experience taught me about the importance of teamwork. Summiting the mountain was made easier by the support we gave each other and truly taught us that small steps can culminate in a big achievement. What I still remember and celebrate today is what it took for us to get there.

I'm continuously trying to stretch myself to prepare for whatever challenges life throws at me. The experiences I've had have shown me that there are always bigger goals to achieve. My plan is to ensure I'm mentally and physically fit to tackle them head on. I plan to continue using the resources I've acquired and the things I've learnt in making a difference to other people's lives. ■

## IF I WASN'T IN BANKING...

"I'd still work with people. I've been fortunate in that the career opportunities presented to me have put me in a space where I work with people. As a result, I'm always ready for any opportunity, provided I can lead and be led in a way that touches people positively."