



# THEMBALITSHA

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

WORKING TO RESTORE HOPE AND DEVELOP SELF-RELIANCE

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## SOUTH AFRICA

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ANTHONY GEARD - *Chairman*  
MONICA FOLSCHER - *Managing Director*  
GUNDO MASWIME  
ALISON CARVALHEIRO - *Treasurer and Secretary*  
MARK VOLMINK  
KATIE VISSER  
RANDALL ADAMS  
LUYANDA NDLELA

## USA

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HELEN BAXTER-SOUTHWORTH - *Chair*  
ANTHONY GEARD - *South African Representative*  
LINDSAY NGIDIWE - *Development*  
KIRSTIN HENLEY - *Secretary*  
NIPHO ANYUMBA - *Treasurer*

## UK

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DAVID WARTSKI - *Director*  
KATHERINE CHRISTIE - *Chair*  
ANTHONY GEARD - *South African Representative*

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**MESSAGES**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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2023 was another eventful year for the Thembalitsha Foundation. The year started with a notable setback in that the 2022 matric results at School of Hope were disappointing. After a number of years in which the matric pass rate averaged close to 90%, which is ahead of the provincial and national average, barely half of the class of 2022 succeeded in passing their exams. Not only does this represent a personal tragedy for the learners involved and is deeply discouraging for the teaching staff, but it has a meaningful impact on the school's funding. While the Western Cape Education Department has been hugely supportive to us in the past year, it is a condition of its funding that we achieve defined benchmarks. Accordingly, the WCED funding for School of Hope was cut by roughly a third in 2023.

However, I am confident that the systems and processes implemented by Patrick Lewis, the principal at the School of Hope, will bear fruit in the next period. Already the 2023 matric results are showing signs of improvement (63% pass rate), although these were still far off where we would like to be. We wish Patrick and the teaching staff much grace, wisdom and strength as they embrace the challenges associated with running a high school for at risk youth.

Our three pre-schools continue to thrive under the leadership of Thabisa Mdolomba and the principals of the respective schools. We are reverting back to the 3-5 year age groups now that the WCED has once again assumed responsibility for the grade R cohort of learners. Fortunately, we have been able to re-deploy resources at Agape and Them bani to satisfy a high level of demand for places for learners aged from 3 years to 5 years. This is not the case at Graceland, where there are not enough children in the Devon Valley catchment area that require our services.

Mama Themba and Themba Training have both been in their "new" premises for more than a year and have innovated and grown to take full advantage of their increased space and opportunity. There always seems to be something new happening at YeThemba Place, which also serves as home for our Service Centre. It is always a joy to show off our flagship headquarters and welcome potential donors and partners there.

Speaking of our Service Centre, it has been a year of extraordinary change: the year-long handover from our long-serving and extraordinarily capable managing director, Monica Folscher, to Katie Visser is nearly complete and both women have managed

the transition extremely well. The development of human potential is one of our core values and it has been immensely gratifying for me to see how Katie has stepped confidently and competently into Monica's giant shoes! We also have new incumbents in the roles of Finance, HR and Marketing Managers – well done to Faith, Unathi and Amanda for stepping up so well. In the Eastern Cape, Sakhumzi Klaas has innovated well to develop creative ways to serve Adelaide and the surrounding community and develop people to a place of greater self-reliance. Our work there is much more general in nature than is the case for our projects in the Western Cape and we must continually respond to the changing demands and requirements of the rural community that we serve.

Our marketing and fundraising team has worked effectively together with our project managers, as well as our US and UK boards, to secure new funders and develop existing partnerships. While the 2023 year is likely to reflect a deficit again, we have at least ended the year with a healthy bank balance and reserves. South Africa is beset by many challenges (there are also many opportunities to make a difference!) and a great number of organisations are finding it difficult to survive and to connect to their purpose. Against this backdrop, I am proud of the tremendous work that our 60+ staff are doing in challenging circumstances and convinced that we are living out our purpose, now as much as ever before, to bring hope and restore people to a place of self-reliance.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to our board of directors. I know I speak for all of us when I say we are determined to grow and transform and serve the vision of Thembalitsha to the best of our ability. A big "thank you" also to my colleagues on the Thembalitsha USA and Thembalitsha UK boards, which serve as our fundraising arms in those countries. I am particularly grateful for the addition of some remarkable people to our UK team and that their experience and networks have already resulted in notable successes.

In closing, I thank our dedicated staff for their considerable efforts and devotion in the past year. May God's grace equip and strengthen us to do even better in 2024.

- Anthony Geard  
*Chairman*



## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

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**“THE MEANING OF LIFE IS TO FIND YOUR GIFT. THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS TO GIVE IT AWAY.” - Pablo Picasso**

Thembalitsha Foundation NPC, although large and complex, and delivering services in three different social sectors, still retain an internal family atmosphere, a safe space, where we live and share the same values. During February this year all staff and Board members met in person to recommit to our vision, mission, and values with the theme “The Gift of Hope”. We discussed our challenges, celebrated successes, and recommitted ourselves to be servant leaders in our respective communities. What a privilege to be part of this group of people who have found that the gift of hope and sharing it daily with our thousands of beneficiaries, brings meaning and purpose and transforms not only the lives of the vulnerable people we serve, but also transforms their own lives.

On the external front, it has been a challenging year, as we operated in a volatile, complex, uncertain, and ambiguous landscape. The external political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and legal context in South Africa, continued to impact the over 280 000 non-profit organisations registered in South Africa. NPOs are financially vulnerable, and their sustainability is at risk. Competition is high, confidence is low, and funders are cautious.

However, we are not mere victims of this external context, but can mitigate the challenges and risks. To ensure our ability to maintain continuous social value in a volatile external landscape, requires a shift to sustainability strategies and practices, with a focus on profitable activities through marketisation, social entrepreneurship and innovative alliances with donors, communities, and businesses.

Thembalitsha Foundation NPC is committed to the process of organisational sustainability and is continuously assessing gaps and underdeveloped areas while orientating the whole organisations towards improved sustainability.

As you will see from the different reports, we have found our purpose in life, and we are committed to continue sharing the “gift of hope” to the thousands of people we serve daily.

- Monica Folscher  
*Managing Director*

# THEMBALITSHA USA

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## **SITTING DOWN WITH TUSA CHAIRPERSON: HELEN BAXTER-SOUTHWORTH**

It is a pleasure to reflect on the year we in the United States have supported Thembalitsha. Thembalitsha means “new hope” in Xhosa, and this year’s theme of “Gift of Hope” rings so true. It is a gift to contribute to this spirit of hope.

Our US role is to support Thembalitsha through raising awareness of what Thembalitsha does, building relationships with committed friends and donors, and offering the opportunity to share our talents and treasures in whatever way we are able.

We meet with friends and family and their friends and family to build a common connection: the joy of learning the stories of those whose lives we touch and are touched by.

It always surprises me to see our mailing list grow and how everyone connects!

Whether it’s a best friend or a neighbor or a family member or member of a visiting mission group, Thembalitsha’s reach extends to people across the US who hear the stories of the lives of our beneficiaries and staff. With immense gratitude and joy, we participate in helping others outside our immediate communities. We touch others directly on the other side of the world.

We speak regularly with (and some of us visit) Thembalitsha staff and those we serve in South Africa. This helps us in the US be assured Thembalitsha does what we say we do and why we do it. Knowing Thembalitsha is audited, is a legitimate and regulated nonprofit gives us the confidence to proudly declare our value. We also learn of the immense challenges our young learners, mothers and staff face daily. Knowing the challenges our beneficiaries and staff face in conducting the activities of daily living is so important. Our beneficiaries are reaching for a better life through education and health for themselves and their children while in the midst of high unemployment, food and physical insecurity, or access to transportation and housing. Knowing these realities gives us a deep appreciation for the impact of each dollar we send to Thembalitsha.

We hope you will read and reread the stories of our beneficiaries and staff and feel deep satisfaction in being a part of the Thembalitsha family.

**RAISING AND CHANNELLING FUNDS TO THE WORK  
OF THE THEMBALITSHA FOUNDATION SOUTH AFRICA.**

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# THEMBALITSHA UK

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## SITTING DOWN WITH TUK CHAIRPERSON: KATHERINE CHRISTIE

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” (Hebrews 6:19)

In an age of increasing conflict and polarisation, we need to hold onto hope, and impart hope to the world. I have watched Thembalitsha (meaning “hope new” in isiXhosa) staff offer hope, kindness and love to South Africans through the powerful vehicles of education, health and training, for over 25 years.

2023 demonstrated our ability to remain resilient and agile, keeping hope alive while navigating our projects into a solid, safe place after the tumultuous years of Covid-19. Our track record of hearing and responding to needs and adapting to change has kept us both relevant and sustainable. One example of this was the establishment of Themba Care Athlone, our hospice for infants infected by HIV and AIDS. Founded in 2001, we were able to receive and hold little ones in the final weeks of their lives, and provide care and comfort for their families. However, as our Health Department began to introduce antiretroviral medication and prevention of mother to child transmission during birth, the number of babies suffering from this disease thankfully started to decline gradually. With fewer and fewer babies needing our hospice, we made the decision to close Themba Care down in 2014 and divert our funds and resources to other projects.

Our focus remains very much on children and young people, with support for mothers giving birth and caring for their new-borns, three beautiful pre-schools and a high school for children at risk preparing the next generation for fruitful and productive lives, and entrepreneurial training for young adults.

Our motto has always been “relationship, relationship, relationship”, and we deeply value every friend, donor and supporter of Thembalitsha Foundation. All of us, near and far, are doing this together, and I particularly want to mention our friends and family in the United Kingdom. South Africa has historical ties with the UK, and the constant flow of support to our projects via Thembalitsha UK is part of our story of hope.

2023 was a year of growth for Thembalitsha UK. As newly appointed Chair I hosted a tea in west London in April, and enjoyed catching up with our UK administrative staff, as well as meeting and reporting to guests on the founding, development and achievements of Thembalitsha in South Africa.

Thembalitsha UK, a funding arm of the foundation, is registered with the Charities Commission of England and Wales. The UK board consolidated its efforts over the past year, meeting quarterly and welcoming a new trustee, Kimberley Johnston, who will take position in 2024. The trustees agreed to take on a part time fundraiser, who is building new networks for Thembalitsha in the UK. We were thrilled to be adopted by Westbourne House as their charity of the year. Westbourne pupils and their parents will be raising funds for our preschools and the School of Hope in 2024. We are planning to host young visitors from the school and introduce them to our projects and beautiful country.

As the footprint and impact of Thembalitsha South Africa grows, we hope to increase the resources we raise in the UK to continue to expand our services to the most vulnerable in South Africa. Thank you for joining hands with us to keep hope alive!



**PERFORMANCE  
HIGHLIGHTS**

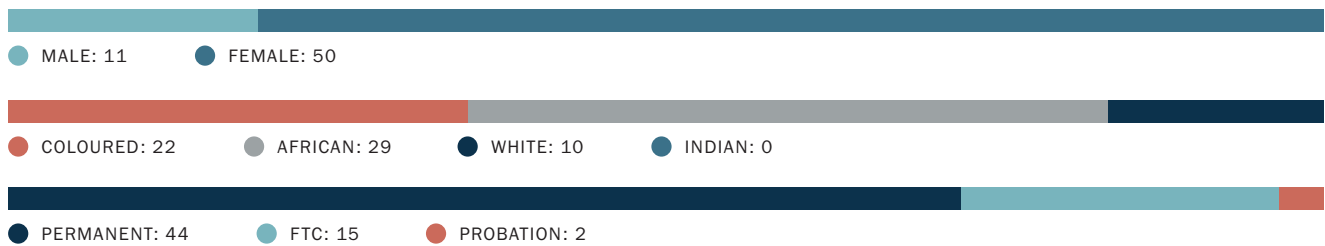


# 2023 HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

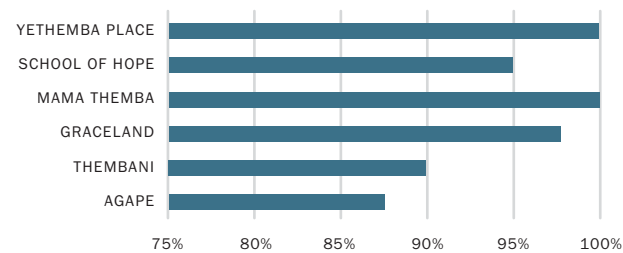
**IN SUMMARY:** There have been recent developments within the Department of Labour and Employment to modify the existing labor laws, and these changes are expected to be finalised before the 2023 financial year. The national minimum hourly wage for 2023 has been set at R25.42. Despite some internal

staff movement, our operations have experienced minimal disruptions. We have ensured that vacancies are promptly filled through a thorough and watertight recruitment process. As we approach the end of this year, all projects and service centres within our organisation have successfully filled every vacancy

## THEMBALITSHA STAFF ANALYTICS



## HEALTH AND SAFETY COMPLIANCE SCORE PER PROJECT



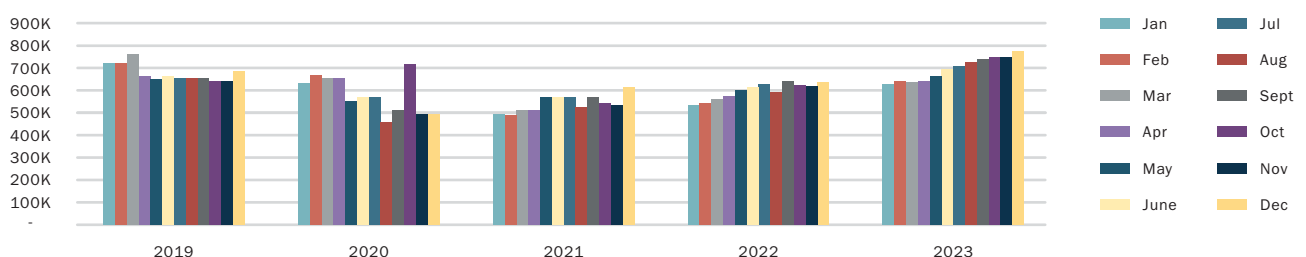
Albertus conducts monthly health and safety inspections within the projects. Additionally, a Health and Safety Committee meets quarterly to address challenges and concerns identified in the monthly inspection reports.

## EMPLOYMENT EQUITY AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

Thembalitsa Foundation, guided by its Employment Equity Committee, takes pride in its commitment to the Western Cape Employment Equity Plan. This commitment is reflected in the positive outcomes of Thembalitsa Foundation's recruitment practices. The organisation consistently invests in the development of its staff by providing both internal and external training opportunities to enhance their skills.

**STAFF BENEFITS:** Momentum Health Insurance stood out as a significant aspect of staff benefits, proving to be effective in reducing absenteeism within the majority of the Thembalitsa Foundation workforce. It has particularly benefited those staff members who are on chronic medication.

## LAST 5 YEARS OF PAYROLL COMPARISON



# MARKETING, FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS

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CHANGE IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE

– Dr. Max Goodwin, New Amsterdam.

The commitment to Thembalitsha Foundation by our partners and stakeholders has been the cornerstone of our success. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones, and the Annual Report is a testament to the strength of our community. This report is more than just a collection of numbers; it is a testament to the power of collective action, commitment, and generosity.

As we embark on another year of purpose-driven endeavours, we carry your support with us as a source of inspiration. Together, we are not just addressing challenges; we are building a legacy of positive change and empowerment.

It's truly heartening to witness the unwavering support and generosity extended by our valued institutional partners. Their commitment and dedication have been instrumental in propelling our initiatives beyond expectations. We express our deepest gratitude to ITS Solar & Heat Pumps, Patrizia Foundation, Schmitz-Stiftung, Stavanger Gospel Company, Anders Linden, Tranas-Resebyra, Ackerman Family Foundation, MacFarlane Family Trust, Capital Equipment Parts, Global BPO, Mapula Trust, Maria-Marina Foundation, Frank Connock Trust, Nussbaum Foundation, Grandslots, Lord and Lady Lurgan Trust, Sarie Joubert Foundation, to name but a few.

Your support is not just a donation; it is a vote of confidence in our shared vision for a better world. In our pursuit of a shared mission, it's the dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment of the dedicated staff and Board members, both locally and internationally, that breathe life within our organisation. Each project, initiative, and challenge we face is met with a collective spirit that goes beyond the traditional boundaries of a workplace.

Thank you for being the pillars of strength that uphold the vision and impact of Thembalitsha Foundation.

Together we continue to build a better tomorrow for all.

- Amanda Nortje

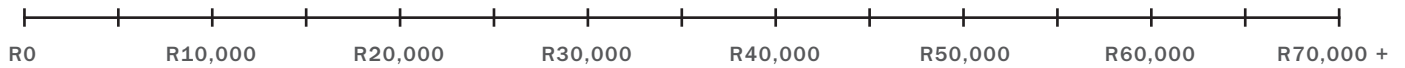
*Marketing Manager*

**IT'S TRULY HEARTENING TO WITNESS THE UNWAVERING  
SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY EXTENDED BY OUR VALUED  
INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS.**

# 2023 CAMPAIGNS

## AMOUNT RAISED:

2021 2022 2023



### MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day was celebrated in the UK and US and South Africa again this year by selling digital and printable cards. We also included an informative video of what takes place at the relevant projects. These donations contributed to Mama Themba and Themba Training.

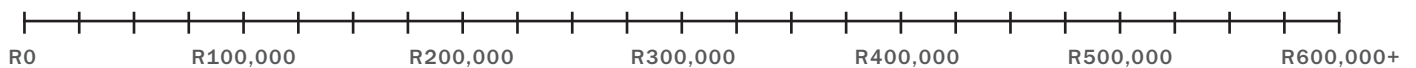


### SPONSOR A DESK ONLINE CAMPAIGNS

Sponsor a Desk continued this year with an incredible retention rate, resulting in donors coming back month after month and year after year. We started great conversations with a potential new corporate partnership to start in 2023 which will significantly increase Sponsor a Desk donations.



2023 Total Sponsor A Desk amount raised - including offline donations: R252,504



### GIVING TUESDAY

With the belief that EVERY STORY MATTERS, we set out for a huge goal to raise \$20,400 in the month of December. Although we did not hit our target, we still did an amazing job raising just over \$15,000.



### THEMBALITSHA GIVING DAY

Breaking barriers, educating females, building futures. Providing girls and women with quality education and training so they can achieve their dreams. We set out to raise \$8000 for the first ever Thembalitsha Giving Day and came close to our goal. We look forward to future campaigns.



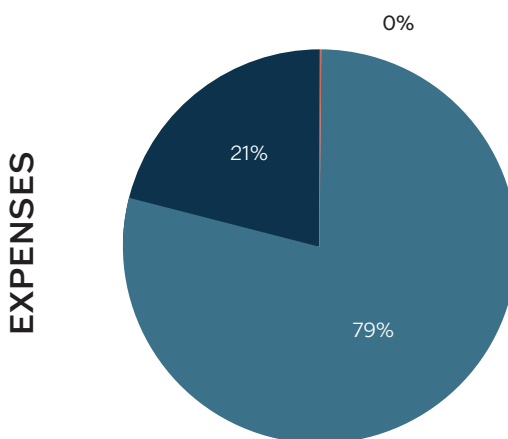
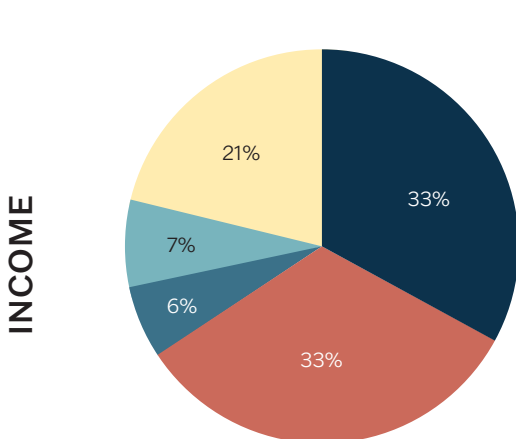
# FINANCE

Thembalitsha Foundation NPC has adopted the principles of good corporate governance, which requires conducting business in an honest, ethical and transparent manner. Thembalitsha has a zero-tolerance approach to fraud and fraudulent transactions. All our internal control systems, policies and procedures are intended to keep our staff

members accountable and give confidence to current and new funding partners that their contributions are well managed and meet all criteria, standards and ethical business principles. Our unqualified audited annual financial statements are available on request and published on our website.

2023 Year To Date	TOTAL ZAR	THEMBALITSHA FOUNDATION	THEMBA TRAINING	SCHOOL OF HOPE	MAMA THEMBA
Income:	14,795,490	3,615,482	1,049,597	7,169,093	661,245
Expenses:	15,144,202	3,864,305	940,565	6,860,991	828,232
Sustainability fund:	751,419	193,106	47,027	343,050	35,733
Profit/Loss:	(348,712)	(441,929)	62,005	(34,948)	(202,721)

GRACELAND	AGAPE EDUCARE	THEMBA CONNECT	THEMBANI
376,715	723,442	394,487	805,430
562,317	680,510	433,993	973,288
28,115	34,024	21,700	48,664
(213,717)	8,907	(61,206)	(216,522)



Grants	4,880,141	School fees	1,048,986
Foundations	4,824,901	Programme	3,146,743
Individuals	894,719	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,795,490</b>

Programme	12,137,950	Administrative	3,214,596
Fundraising	21,284	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,144,202</b>

## OUR CASH RESERVES AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2023 TOTALLED R7,128,462 COMPRISING OF:

- Cash on hand/bank accounts R4,922,647.
- Investment account with MiPlan R2,205,815 (original investment R2.5 million). R400 000 was withdrawn from the MiPlan investment in September 2023 to be used for energy crisis as per Thembalitsha Foundation board of directors.
- The 2022 first contribution to the Sustainability Fund of R713,226 will be used to relieve project budget shortfalls.
- Ending 2023 on a high note, we hope and look forward to soaring higher in 2024.



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HEALTH

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# MAMA THEMBA

In February a lovely young lady, Stacy-Leigh Strydom joined our Team as Assistant Project Manager. She has her Masters in Dietetics with a special interest in Breastfeeding and has been the most wonderful asset to our Project.

We approached a number of Educare Centres to partner with us in donating gently used baby clothing to us for our beneficiaries. This has saved us a great deal of money this year. We have since expanded to having Donation Boxes at several doctors' rooms and other interested businesses.

Our volunteer numbers have swelled to 11 supporting us in the office during the week. This is vital to cope with the processing of donations and packing of care bags. We are so grateful to have over 120 volunteers now, making carry bags, pants and knitting other baby items.

We recently had the privilege of training a similar team from the Eastern Cape, who are now implementing what we have taught them in their own district!

We are deeply grateful to all our local and overseas Donors, our local Partners, Ambassadors and Volunteers for their generous contributions and ongoing and faithful support during 2023. Thank you to the Board, our Service Centre colleagues and our Staff for their hard work and support during the year.

- Lindy Officer  
Project Manager

## THABISA, A PEER COUNSELLING BENEFICIARY

*"I have a 4 months old healthy baby boy, all thanks to my lovely Care Counsellor, Sis Zoleka, who was there throughout my pregnancy until now. I learn more about how to take extra good care of myself and baby during pregnancy, by not smoking, drinking alcohol, eating healthily, getting enough rest and exercise safely. She always told us that breast milk provided all nutrients that the baby needs and protects babies from infection and illness."*



**594 WOMEN & BABIES SUPPORTED IN HOSPITALS**



**6,247 BENEFITED FROM EDUCATION & SUPPORT**

- 4,501 Women educated in Group Sessions at local clinics
- 1,746 Women supported via WhatsApp



**2,830 CARE BAGS PROVIDED**

to newborn & premature babies

- 50 Toiletry bags for Kanga moms in hospital
- 23 Community/NPO's supported (*items we are unable to use*)



**FACILITIES ASSISTED**

- 4 Clinics
- 3 Hospitals



**2,830 BLANKETS**

- 61 Gifts given to Maternity Unit staff on Mandela Day (*made by volunteers*)



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**EDUCATION**

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# AGAPE EDUCARE, THEMBANI EDUCARE & GRACELAND PRE-SCHOOL

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## EARLY CHILDHOOD IS THE KEY TO THE BETTERMENT OF SOCIETY.

According to the latest ECD Census Report, there are just under 43 000 early learning programmes in South Africa of which 84% provide breakfast, 94% provide lunch, 73% have a tap on the premises, 60% have flushing toilets, and 86% are in a formal structure. Only 38% of children in rural areas are enrolled in early learning programmes.

### **We are proud to say that our 3 Educare Centres provide all of the above – 100%!**

Early childhood represents a period of great opportunity. During this period children will develop emotionally, socially, cognitively and physically. We have qualified teachers who provide essential ECD teaching within a loving environment. Our classrooms are filled with natural light and are a colourful and fun space to learn in, a space where children feel safe. Holistic care with psycho-social support is what our teachers pride themselves on.

Agape Educare, Graceland preschool and Thembani Educare all have jungle gyms, sandpits and lots of outdoor toys that ensure gross-motor skill development which is an important part of every learner's physical development.

Great nutrition has led to vast improvement in the children reaching growth milestones and both Thembani and Agape have their own vegetable gardens. Our learners enjoy a hearty breakfast, snacks and a well-balanced lunch and for some learners this will be the only food they eat in a day.

We partner with Bookdash - [www.bookdash.org](http://www.bookdash.org) - whose vision is that every child should own a hundred books before the age of 5. They provide all 3 of our ECD's with reading books for the children to take home. This encourages a love of books and also encourages the parents to spend times meaningfully with their children reading a story and looking at pictures. It's a beautiful symbiotic relationship fostering a foundation for literacy.

Agape, Thembani and Graceland thrive on the support and involvement of stakeholders, partners, individuals and organisations. Individuals who know that ECD remains one of the strongest investment we can make in the long-term success of our learners and the long-term economic strength of our communities.

- Thabisa Mdolomba  
*Project Manager*



**84730 NUTRITIOUS MEALS SERVED**

\*Breakfast, Snack & Lunch



**BENEFICIARIES**

- 189 Children
- 42 Graduates

# SCHOOL OF HOPE

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One of our notable accomplishments is that we interact with our various stakeholders and in doing so, we have established good rapport with tertiary institutions, parents looking for alternative schooling, as well the WCED (Western Cape Educational Department). We encourage, promote and foster interaction, as this provides us with meaningful feedback. The school dropout rate in South Africa is a staggering 50%, a statistic that highlights the challenges many students face in completing their education. However, the School of Hopes dropout rate is only 8%. This remarkable difference underscores the positive impact that School of Hope has on keeping students engaged and ensuring they stay on the path of learning.

We started the year with a number of 173 learners, and along the way 14 learners exited our system for a combination of reasons: repeated absences, non-compliance, and intricate family complications despite us rendering much assistance. It must be understood that School of Hope is a school for learners at risk, and that there will always be "complications", in spite of our attempts to salvage multiple situations, and of course we would not like to lose any learners.

We also pride ourselves on serving two meals per day for our learners; most of these learners come from 26 designated areas on the Cape Flats, and very often do not have the means of having a decent meal - we have provided over 30,000 meals for 173 learners from Jan-Nov of 2023.

From a project perspective, it takes a multi-disciplinary approach to be able to provide a meaningful and measurable experience for all stakeholders at our school, and therefore, we wish to celebrate the following highlights/accomplishments for 2023:

- Policies (learner code of conduct, exam policy, moderation policy, excursion policy, staff development policy, admissions policy) were reviewed and accepted by the board and other stakeholders.
- Development Plan (2023-2025)
- Academic Improvement Plan
- Staff Development (Effectiveness of Teamwork)
- Intervention Classes for grades 8-12
- Focus Camp for Grade 12 (02-06 October of 2023)
- Math Pull-Out classes for Grade 8
- Introduction of a new exam system
- Introduction of a Grade Head system
- Introduction of an Academic Head

- Entrance Exams and Interviews of the new grade 8 learners
- Matric Ball
- Valedictory: Class of 2023
- Teacher Training (IT)
- Year 13 Initiative
- Migration to MS Teams and Moodle
- Inverter and Internet Sponsorship: Patrizia Foundation
- Schmitz-Stiftung Digital Classroom Sponsorship
- Extra sessions of French, Spanish and German classes for Grade 8
- Installation of cameras throughout the campus
- Installation and mounting of load shedding counter lighting
- Installation of new flooring

## CHALLENGES (DEFINITELY OPPORTUNITIES THAT CAN BE CONVERTED):

- Lack of recreational space
- Inconsistent Wi-Fi and slow connectivity (hopefully this will be something of the past soon)
- Parental buy-in (school fees and lack of interest)
- Transport issues for learners

- Patrick Lewis  
*Project Manager / Principal*

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## 2023 ACADEMIC PASS RATE

### GRADES 8-11 INTERNAL RESULTS: PASS PERCENTAGES

- Gr.8 - 90.9% passed
- Gr.9 - 100% passed
- Gr.10 - 72.7% passed
- Gr.11 - 93.1% passed
- Gr.12 - to be announced in Jan 2024

**School of Hope had a pass average of 83.46% for 2023.**



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# TRAINING

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# THEMBA CONNECT

In 2023, Themba Connect successfully conducted diverse training programmes covering gardening, sewing, computer literacy, and physical literacy. A significant milestone was our partnership with a Community College (formerly ABET), broadening educational opportunities. We introduced a Physical Literacy Programme and established an Internet Café for income generation. Collaborations with the Golden Valley Wind farm led to the implementation of a Sewing Programme, and our partnership with the University of Fort Hare Psychology Department reflects our commitment to holistic development. Acquiring a water pump for garden irrigation demonstrates our dedication to sustainable practices.

However, we faced challenges, including printer interruptions due to an unstable internet connection, the need for a laptop screen replacement, and limitations in our computer lab. Ongoing issues like load shedding and local power cuts disrupted our operations, exacerbated by a current lack of water due to failed municipal infrastructure, prompting us to explore alternative water sources. We also identified the need for a greenhouse to support winter crop growth and seedling cultivation. Despite these challenges, Themba Connect remains steadfast in our mission, striving for positive impact and sustainable community growth.

- Sakhumzi Klaas  
*Project Manager*



## 1807 VISITORS/BENEFICIARIES: JAN- NOV 2023

\* Includes: meetings; events; workshops;  
inquiries



## COURSE ATTENDEES

- Sewing course training: 9
- Computer training: 11
- Gardening training: 14
- Physical Literacy: 26
- ECD Workshops with UFH Psychology Dpt: 17
- Internet Cafe: 710
- Community College: 20



# THEMBA TRAINING

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Themba Training's main objective in 2023 was:

- Settling into our new space, shared with the Thembalitsha Foundation service centre and ironing out all start-up operational aspects
- Starting with four new training funnels: Woodwork, Business Training, Computer Training, and Barista Training.
- Opening our Yethemba Place coffee shop and gift shop
- Increasing contact with the local community to work towards the building of bridges of hope in our local community, including businesses, individuals, donors and other NGOs.
- To continue hosting our popular sewing training courses
- To increase our sewing contract income and team capacity
- To develop volunteers to assist us in our training courses and other Yethemba Place activities.

We were blessed to do the above and much more.

The 1st quarter of 2023 saw us setting up our brand-new space, securing a collaboration with a local barista to host the Yethemba Place coffee shop, and holding the soft launch of the coffee shop in March 2023. The BB craft school moved into our workshop space and started hosting two woodwork courses per month in February 2023. They have brought a lot of value to the Yethemba Place shop, providing high quality practical training opportunities since then to our local community.

In the 2nd quarter we officially opened Yethemba Place, hosting a very well attended open day on the 12th of May. This inspired many community members to take hands with us in working toward our vision.

We also started with two of the largest sewing contracts we've had up to date: making 700 scatter cushions and 1200 of Cocoon SA's recycled plastic products. We continued to take hands with Mama Themba in manufacturing approximately R100k worth of baby blankets. We also collaborated with the Foundations' projects with the Agape, Themhani and School of Hope projects, providing mattress covers for the ECDs and training School of Hope students in our Job readiness courses. Working across project boundaries is something we look forward to continuing to grow in.

If you visited the Yethemba Place sewing space during the 3rd quarter of 2023, you would have seen a hive of activity that would have seemed most dizzy. Thankfully our team brought their A-game and worked hard and fast on completing large sewing contracts, while hosting a multitude of very successful craft workshops. The newly appointed Assistant Project Manager immediately added a lot of value by coordinating and developing the new computer skills training, business training, barista training courses and crafts workshops. We celebrated heritage with an impromptu Braai day at Yethemba Place, securing a lot of new interest in the local community and fundraising about R3000 in the 3 hour event. We look forward to many such events at Yethemba Place in 2024.

Themba Training became famous in the 4th quarter when the Kwela programme on DSTV's KYKNET channel contacted us to film our operations. This was such a fun day, learning so much about television

*\* Continued*

filming. I was very proud of the beneficiaries who were in training during filming. They were very patient with us moving things around on the day, interrupting their training, and putting them quite literally in the spotlight to chat with the Kwela team on camera. They received such good feedback and end encouragement from the Kwela Team and felt empowered to continue developing themselves. This programme was aired on the 3rd of Dec and saw us receiving donations-in-kind from 4 individuals, as well as consultative phone calls and conversations with 3 individuals who want to start or improve similar initiatives.

We also held our first ever volunteer appreciation event at Themba Training during November, as we've never had volunteers to celebrate before! I have loved seeing these individuals join our mission out of own volition, keeping the vision of Yethemba Place close to their own hearts, working alongside us with ease and enthusiasm. We look forward to growing our volunteer base in future to empower even more of our locals.

If I had to summarise 2024, it would have to be said that this was a year of walking, growing, and exploring potential, all in grace and a sense of community.

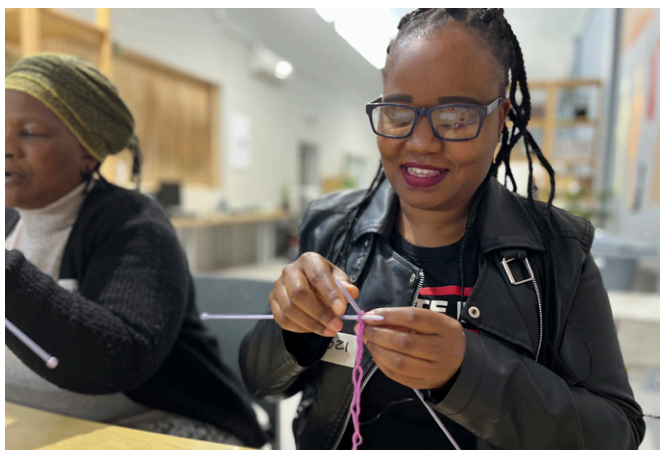
### **HIGHLIGHTS/EVENTS:**

- Janine van Huyssteen joined our staff as Assistant Project Manager in May 2023
- Cokiswa Sigadla joined our sewing team as an intern in October 2023
- Hosting 4 successful marketing and fundraising events in 2023
- Networking with so many likeminded individuals in the community- we look forward to how this develops in 2024.
- Increasing our production capacity in the Sewing space.
- Beneficiaries earned a total of R63 000 by selling their handmade wares in our shopfront.
- We saw 260 beneficiaries go through our training courses and workshops in 2023.
- We made approximately 6600 products in 2023.

### **CHALLENGES/RISKS IDENTIFIED:**

- Funding for overhead costs
- Seeing production drop during the quiet months remains a challenge - sales rep /volunteer to assist with this- as well as online shop marketing in 2023.
- Safe use of our internet will have to be established in 2023 in order for PC to be used in our internet café/hotdesking space as well as increase in staff and volunteers using this facility.

- Marla van der Merwe  
*Project Manager*



# THEMBALITSHA FOUNDATION

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Thembalitsa Foundation is incredibly grateful to our leadership, staff, beneficiaries and partners both local and abroad. We are proud of the accomplishments we achieved as an organisation in 2023 and believe through a continued commitment to our values that we will see further success in 2024. Thank you for partnering with us in restoring HOPE!

[www.hope.org.za](http://www.hope.org.za)

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