

2024

ANNUAL REPORT *January - December 2024*



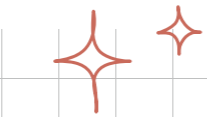
THEMBALITSHA

www.hope.org.za

Working to Restore Hope and Develop Self-Reliance

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01.	Board of Directors Thembalitsha Organogram Mission, Vision, & Values	page 4 page 5 page 7
02.	A MESSAGE FROM THE Chairman Managing Director	page 6 page 7
03.	HEALTH Mama Themba	page 8-9
04.	EDUCATION Educare Centres: - Agape Educare - Thembani Educare - Graceland Pre-School School of Hope	page 10-14 page 15-17
05.	TRAINING Themba Training	page 18-19
06.	Finance	page 20
07.	Hope Heroes Sponsor a Desk Contact Details	page 21 page 22 page 23



OUR AIM IS TO
RESTORE HOPE
AND DEVELOP
PEOPLE TO
A POINT OF
SELF-RELIANCE.



WE EXIST TO **TRANSFORM**
THE LIVES OF THE VULNERABLE
AND MARGINALISED IN
SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH
OUR **EDUCATION, HEALTH,**
AND **TRAINING** PROJECTS.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SOUTH AFRICA

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

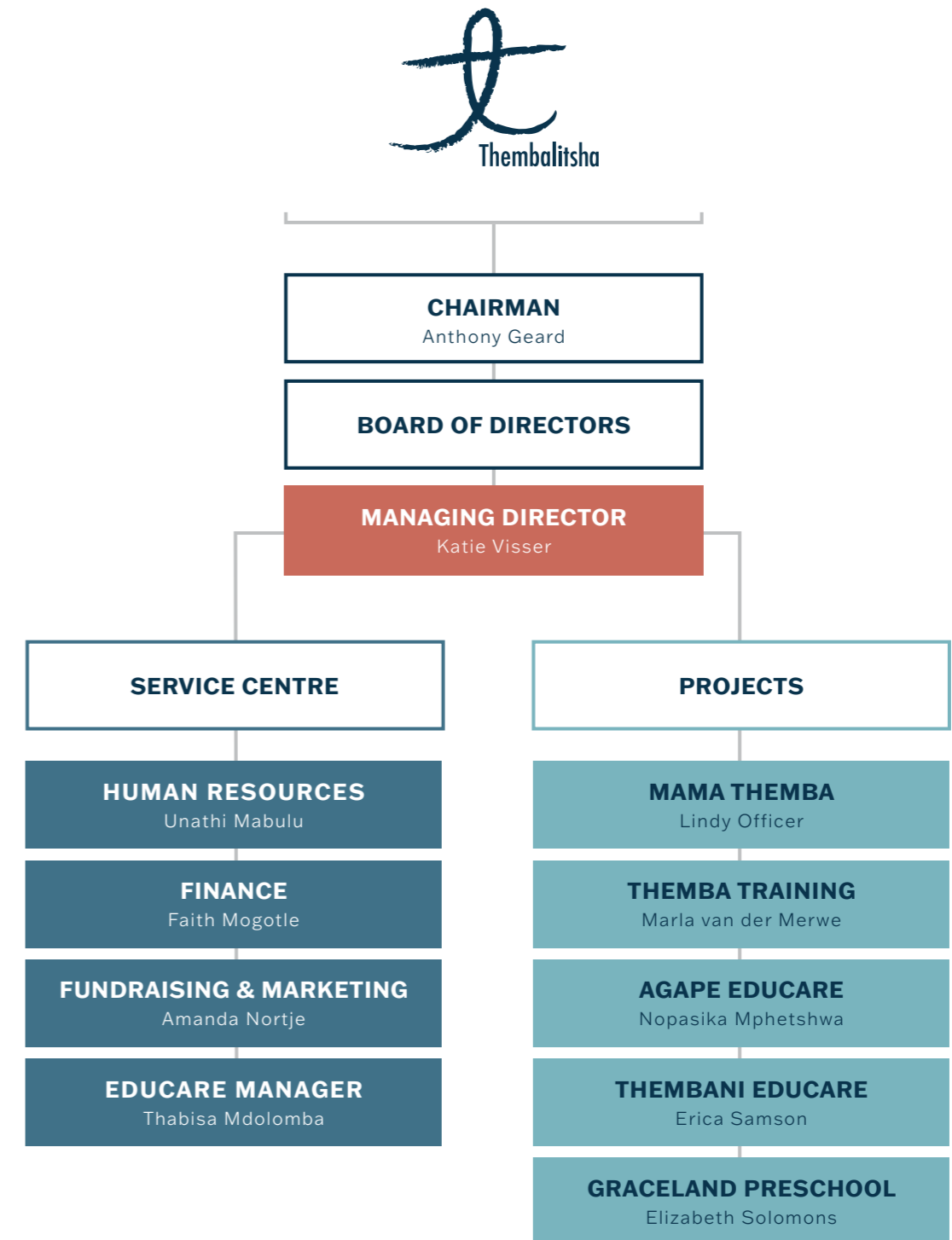
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- LINDSAY NGIDIWE - *Co-Chairman / Development*
- KIRSTIN HENLEY - *Co-Chairman / Secretary*
- HELEN BAXTER-SOUTHWORTH - *Director*
- ANTHONY GEARD - *South African Representative*

UNITED KINGDOM

- KATHERINE CHRISTIE - *Chairman*
- ANTHONY GEARD - *South African Representative*
- DAVID WARTSKI - *Director*
- KIMBERLEY JOHNSTON - *Director*

ORGANOGRAM





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Anthony Geard

I am proud of the resilience displayed by the Thembalitsha Foundation during a 28-year journey that has witnessed many ups and downs, triumphs and setbacks. This year has been no exception and, in fact, we have endured one of the greatest challenges of our history in that the essential funding that the School of Hope has historically received from government was withdrawn at short notice. This amounted to more than half of the roughly R8m annual cost of running the School of Hope, which itself accounted for roughly half of Thembalitsha's total annual expenditure. Our marketing and fundraising team has for many years successfully raised sufficient funds to match government's contribution and thereby sustain the critical activities of the school, but a shortfall of this magnitude was always going to be a bridge too far.

Accordingly, the board took the painful decision during 2024 to close the School of Hope as it is currently constituted. Some of our teachers have already found new posts but a number of them have been left without employment opportunities on account of many teaching posts within the government system being frozen due to lack of funds. We are doing our best to help where we can and are doing likewise for our non-teaching support staff. Likewise, most learners have found places at alternate schools and the board has committed funds to facilitate the transition where appropriate. We have initiated a process to dispose of the school's assets (of which

the building is the most significant) and hope to be able to allocate the proceeds and related income to Thembalitsha's other projects before the end of the year, as well as keep some funds in reserve for future projects, some of which are already in the incubation phase. Finally, the board is determined to keep alive the dream that the School of Hope represented and reimagine what a new learning and training facility might look like.

The rest of our projects (Agape Educare, Graceland Pre-school, Themhani Educare, Mama Themba and Themba Training) are doing well and I commend their respective project managers for sustained excellence at each one. During the year, we released Themba Connect to flourish as an independent entity, now known as Seloh Foundation. The reasons for doing so included its distance from our Western Cape base, poor infrastructure and communication links, the general and evolving nature of the project and the shared desire for it to be rooted in and led by local community members. However, Thembalitsha intends to remain involved on a mentorship basis and we continue to celebrate the positive impact that Seloh is making in Adelaide and the surrounding Eastern Cape region.

In regard to governance, I am grateful that Thembalitsha Foundation successfully recruited fresh talent to our board of directors in recent years and that our former MD, Monica Folscher, coached and

mentored our current MD, Katie Visser, so well. We needed people of exceptional talent, mature character and deep empathy as we faced the challenges of 2024 and I extend my profound appreciation to all concerned for investing themselves in the process. The same is true of our functional heads and I likewise extend my thanks to Amanda (marketing), Faith (finance) and Unathi (human resources). Finally, we are blessed to have the support of our founders and our UK and US board members, all of whom added their voices to our discussions and injected passion and empathy.

We have had to close projects before, pivot and start new ones or expand the reach of existing projects. We have the people, a generous and faithful community of friends and supporters (some of many years' standing and others very new) and the tools to do so again. We will face the opportunities and challenges of 2025 and beyond with faith and confidence and remain determined to live out our purpose, now as much as ever before, to reignite hope and restore people to a place of self-reliance.

ANTHONY GEARD
Thembalitsha Foundation Chairman



WE ARE HOPE RESTORERS. WE ARE THEMBALITSHA.

The Thembalitsha Foundation has been working with communities in South Africa since 1997, inspiring change and offering a hand-up rather than a hand-out. We are a diverse team of people, committed to addressing the socio-economic challenges of the poor, vulnerable and marginalised people of the Western and Eastern Cape, through healthcare, education and training.

OUR MISSION is to transform the lives of the destitute, forgotten and vulnerable in South Africa through educational, health and training projects. **OUR VISION** is to restore hope and develop people to a point of self-reliance. Our **CORE ORGANISATIONAL VALUES** are Teamwork, Integrity, Compassion, Stewardship, Professionalism, and Loyalty.

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

As we look back on 2024, my heart is filled with gratitude and admiration. This year has reminded us of the strength we draw from unity – the rhythm that carries us forward. To our funders, staff, and partners, thank you for walking this journey with us. Your support and commitment continue to inspire hope and make a profound difference.

One of our most significant milestones was the closing of the School of Hope. While it was a bittersweet moment, walking through its halls reminded me of the lives transformed and the purpose fulfilled. Seeing the determination of our staff ensured that we ended on a high note. Although it's hard to say goodbye, we celebrate the achievement of the very goals the school was created to address, and we are excited about the opportunities ahead.

The future calls for flexibility and innovation. With our new five-year strategic plan, we remain steadfast in our commitment to restoring hope and fostering self-

reliance. With the political, economic, and social challenges facing South Africans, thousands of non-compliant non-profit organisations and donor fatigue, our focus will remain on ensuring donor confidence and creating a sustainable future through revenue diversification and social enterprise. Together, we aim to address unemployment, lack of education, malnutrition, and healthcare; empowering over 3,500 people monthly.

As Thembalitsha moves forward, our belief in the ripple effect of kindness and unity remains unshaken. Together, we will continue building a brighter, more hopeful future for those we serve. With gratitude,

KATIE VISSER
Managing Director



Katie Visser

MAMA THEMBA

OUR OUTREACH ENSURES EVERY MOTHER WITHIN OUR REACH HAS ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT BOTH SHE AND HER BABY NEEDS.

- **CARE BAGS FOR NEW MOTHERS:** Distributed on a regular basis to Macassar Day Hospital, Helderberg Hospital, and Stellenbosch Hospital, providing essential items for new moms and their babies.
- **PRE AND POST NATAL SUPPORT:** Our two trilingual Peer Counsellors provide educational support to mothers at four Helderberg District clinics, ensuring vital health information reaches all.
- **WHATSAAPP SUPPORT GROUPS:** Offered to all women both in the hospitals and at the Clinics.
- **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE:** Extending support to various community members in need.
- **SUPPORT WITH PREMATURE AND SICK BABIES:** Offering support to mothers in hospital for extended periods due to premature and/or sick babies.
- **A LASTING IMPACT:** Through all of these efforts, Mama Themba continues to restore hope, strengthen families, and empower mothers with the care they need.

HOSPITALS SUPPORTED:

- Macassar Day Hospital,
- Stellenbosch Hospital
- Helderberg Hospital (High Risk Maternity Unit)

Refilwe Chimbiti's Story of Impact & Hope:

"I really appreciate you and the WhatsApp support group. When I first came to your office at 7 months pregnant, I was confused about whether to breastfeed or formula-feed. Your advice to breastfeed has made me so happy with my decision. It's just the beginning, but I feel confident and fully supported. I also love that you don't judge us - I'm usually too shy to ask questions, but you made it easy. If I had support like this before, my second-born might not have been infected. I hope this programme continues to help many more mothers. Thank you!"

9,911

MOTHERS WERE REACHED IN TOTAL

providing essential care, education, and encouragement.



CLINICS SUPPORTED:

- Gordon's Bay
- Sir Lowry's Pass
- Somerset West
- Macassar Day Hospital & Clinic



PARTNERSHIPS

- **CHURCHES:** 12 partners, including Hillsong, Every Nation, The Bay Church, Mountain View Baptist, Shofar, and others.
- **BABY-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS:** Embrace, Moms and Babes, Edubabe, and Baby Therapy.
- **MEDICAL PRACTICES:** Somerset West doctors, dentists, and clinic sisters host donation boxes.
- **BABY PRODUCT COMPANIES:** Occasional donations of baby toiletries.
- **EDUCARE CENTRES & VARIOUS LOCAL BUSINESSES:** Occasional donations of baby toiletries.
- **EARLY LITERACY:** Bookdash provides books in three languages, helping children build a library of 100 books by age five.

PROGRAMMES AND WORKSHOPS: Our Peer Counsellors address key topics in prenatal and antenatal groups at clinics, ensuring mothers receive vital information and support.

- **POSTPARTUM FAMILY PLANNING:** Topics include physical recovery after childbirth, emotional well-being, nutrition, self-care, partner/family support, returning to work or school, and postpartum care for HIV-positive mothers, including follow-ups and ART adherence.
- **HIV, PREGNANCY, AND EARLY INFANT DIAGNOSIS:** Counsellors explain how HIV affects pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding, emphasising early infant diagnosis and the testing process for HIV-exposed infants.
- **MANY MORE TOPICS PERTINENT TO THE FIRST 1,000 DAYS:** Peer Counsellors cover everything that is relevant from conception to the age of 2 (first 1,000 days).
- **BREASTFEEDING:** Discussions include breastfeeding benefits, overcoming challenges, family planning, medication safety, cultural perceptions, exclusive breastfeeding, and HIV considerations. Alcohol's effects on infant development are also addressed. While 85% of mothers initiate breastfeeding, many discontinue early due to various factors.

A study by our Peer Counsellor at two clinics revealed:

- 32% Exclusively breastfed for 3 months only.
- 45% Exclusively breastfed for 6 months, mainly stay-at-home or experienced mothers.
- 8% Breastfed for over 2 years, supported by knowledge and strong support systems.
- 15% Practiced mixed feeding, mostly teenage mothers who left babies with grandmothers.



OUR GOALS FOR 2025: Our goals for the coming year focus on expanding our reach and strengthening our impact. We hope to do this by extending our education efforts by conducting talks at schools, equipping teens with vital information, and enhancing our programme to make it more accessible to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers in the community. To reach those unable to attend in-person sessions, one of our Peer Counsellors plans to establish an online platform, ensuring that essential support is available to all who need it.

Additionally, our Peer Counsellors will attend all relevant training and professional development opportunities to stay updated on the latest research and best practices. Strengthening our donor and volunteer network remains a key focus, as financial sustainability and additional support are crucial to managing our growing workload and continuing to provide quality care.



Lindy
Officer
MAMA THEMBA
Project Manager



Elizabeth Solomons
GRACELAND PRESCHOOL
 Project Manager | Principal | Teacher

GRACELAND PRESCHOOL

SPECIAL EVENTS: This year, Graceland Preschool hosted several key programmes and events to support the development of its children and strengthen community engagement. The Kinderkineticks programme, held every Friday, focused on promoting gross motor and physical development. Additionally, the Blocks 4 Growth programme played an important role in preparing children aged 4 to 5 years for Grade R, fostering their holistic development to ensure a smooth transition to primary school. In addition to these programmes, Graceland hosted special events such as the Colour Picnic Family Day, Market Day, and the Concert and Graduation. These events not only helped the project raise funds but also brought families and friends together, strengthening their connection to the school, its staff, and their children's achievements and growth.

2024 CHALLENGES: One of the significant challenges faced by Graceland was the uncertainty around the sale of the land where the preschool is situated. This caused stress among staff and parents, concerned about the future of the preschool. However, through proactive engagement, the Chairman and Fundraising Manager met with the new landowners and successfully negotiated the continued operation of Graceland at its current location. This outcome provided much-needed relief, and the good news was shared at the end of the year, with the new owners attending the celebration.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025, GRACELAND'S PRIORITIES WILL FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION OF EDUCATION, GIVING OUR CHILDREN THE BEST START POSSIBLE. WE WILL CONTINUE PROMOTING GOOD HABITS, SUPPORTING STAFF DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MENTORSHIP, AND IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AT ALL LEVELS. ADAPTABILITY WILL BE KEY TO OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND ENSURING CONTINUED SUCCESS.



AGAPE EDUCARE

SPECIAL EVENTS: Monica Goldebatch, a psychology student and dedicated volunteer, led a successful fundraising campaign for a water tank, which was installed in September. She also organised a wellness fundraising day. Agape hosted a memorable "Zoo Day" with a missionary team from Crossroad Mississippi Church, where children had the opportunity to interact with animals on the school premises. The THRIVE by Five team, in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education, visited Agape to assess the well-being of the 4-year-old learners. They were impressed with the school and awarded Agape a certificate for good compliance. Teacher Monica attended fire evacuation training at Them bani to enhance safety preparedness. Former Agape students Sinovuyo Batyi and Phumla returned to deliver motivational speeches at the Grade R graduation, while volunteer, Emsie Mayer blessed the graduates with South African T-shirts.

2024 CHALLENGES: Agape faced challenges, including a heavy storm that caused the school wall to fall, which was quickly repaired and painted. Flooding during heavy rains made it difficult for children to enter, but improvements to drainage helped resolve the issue. Ongoing sewage problems required frequent intervention from the municipality, but the school worked hard to address these challenges.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025, AGAPE'S GOAL IS TO CONTINUE EMPOWERING TEACHERS TO DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION AND ENSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR THE COMMUNITY.



THEMBANI EDUCARE

SPECIAL EVENTS: This year, Them bani Educare celebrated Mandela Day on the 18th of July with a visit from a group of volunteers from RenEnergy. The team donated four large shade trees and helped the children decorate cupcakes, which the kids thoroughly enjoyed. Additionally, the teachers attended a Duplo Blox training session presented by the Rooiels Outreach Trust in Cape Town. Each teacher received a set of Duplo blocks for their classroom, which will assist in developing cognitive skills such as counting and recognising colours.

2024 CHALLENGES: A major challenge this year was dealing with many diverse weather conditions, including a large storm that left the school without electricity for weeks. This disrupted essential activities like printing, emailing, and storing perishable items. Early mornings were particularly difficult as it was still dark when children arrived, and there was no light. Fortunately, a generous donor installed solar panels to power the fridge and enable the use of our printer and laptop, which was a huge relief.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025, THEMBANI'S MAIN GOAL WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDING A SAFE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CHILDREN IN OUR CARE, FOSTERING THEIR HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT. ANOTHER KEY PRIORITY IS UPGRADING OUR PLAY PARK AND ENHANCING THE OUTDOOR SPACE—PROVIDING OUR LITTLE ONES WITH ENJOYMENT AND THE POTENTIAL OF IMPROVED GROSS MOTOR SKILLS.



Key Educational Milestones Reached



- RECOGNISING & KNOWING THEIR NAME & SURNAME
- COUNTING FROM 1 - 10
- UNDERSTANDING VOLUME
- UNDERSTANDING NIGHT & DAY
- UNDERSTANDING TIME
- NAMING & IDENTIFYING COLOURS
- SHARING & TAKING TURNS
- GROUP PLAY
- FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS
- UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS
- WALKING BACKWARDS
- TUMBLING, SKIPPING, & HOPPING FORWARD
- GROSS & FINE MOTOR SKILL
- COPYING SHAPES & LETTERS
- CUTTING WITH SCISSORS
- COLOURING WITHIN THE LINES
- BALL SKILLS



Learning IS FUN!

AGAPE EDUCARE

GRACELAND PRESCHOOL

THEMBANI EDUCARE

Learner Enrolment & Graduation

ENROLLED:
75 Children

GRADUATED:
Pre-Grade R: 21 | Grade R: 16

ENROLLED:
32 Children

GRADUATED:
Pre-Grade R: 13

ENROLLED:
84 Children

GRADUATED:
Pre-Grade R: 51 | Grade R: 18

Average Attendance: 2024

SUMMER: 93%
WINTER: 90%

Attendance is consistent throughout the year.

SUMMER: 90%
WINTER: 31%

Winter attendance severely decreases as many learners walk to school.

SUMMER: 85%
WINTER: 70%

Attendance is mostly consistent but was affected by illness.

Teacher-to-Learner Ratios

3-4 YEARS:
1 Teacher: 21 Learners

PRE-GRADE R:
1 Teacher: 37 Learners

GRADE R:
1 Teacher: 17 Learners

3-4 YEARS:
1 Teacher: 19 Learners

PRE-GRADE R:
1 Teacher: 13 Learners

3-4 YEARS:
1 Teacher: 24 Learners

4-5 YEARS (2 classes):
1 Teacher: 19/23 Learners

PRE-GRADE R:
1 Teacher: 18 Learners

EDUCARE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

2024 INSIGHTS

58,203

NUTRITIOUS MEALS SERVED IN 2024

Across all Educare Centres

EDUCARE CENTRE'S

Pheletso Nrhune's Story of Impact & Hope:

In 2022, a little girl named Pheletso Nrhune walked through the doors of Agape Educare Centre for the first time. But Pheletso wasn't like most children starting school. She arrived as a sickly child, her energy drained, her appetite gone, and her spark seemingly dimmed. Her parents shared their concerns with the centre, explaining how she struggled to eat, even at home. They were desperate to see their daughter thrive.

From the very beginning, the team at Agape Educare knew that Pheletso's journey would require more than teaching it would require patience, love, and a deep commitment to her well-being. With open hearts, the staff embraced her challenges and made it their mission to nurture her back to health. The cook prepared nutritious meals carefully tailored to her needs, ensuring that every bite was packed with the goodness her body needed.

Slowly but surely, Pheletso began to respond. What her parents couldn't achieve at home, Agape's care and environment made possible. She started eating again, taking small but significant steps toward recovery. It wasn't just the food that made the difference. It was the love and encouragement she received from everyone at the centre.

As the months passed, Pheletso began to transform. Her once fragile frame grew stronger, and the sparkle returned to her eyes. But the most remarkable change was in her spirit. She began to love school, waking up each morning eager to learn, play, and explore. Her parents, who had once moved her between different Educare centres in search of the right fit, knew they had found something special at Agape.

Pheletso successfully completed her Pre-Grade R class at Agape in 2024. She excelled in her school work, and her parents beam with pride at the confident, joyful child she has become. Pheletso's story is a testament to the power of patience, care, and a nurturing environment. It's a reminder that sometimes, all it takes is a little love and support to help a child overcome even the greatest challenges.

At Agape Educare, Pheletso found more than a school - she found a second family, a place where she could heal, grow, and shine. Her journey is far from over, but one thing is certain: Pheletso's future is bright, and Agape Educare will forever be a part of her story.



SCHOOL OF HOPE

Tatenda Mangwanda's Journey to Hope:

Tatenda Mangwanda's story is one of resilience, determination, and the power of education to transform lives.

In 2021, Tatenda embarked on his high school journey at the School of Hope, a beacon of opportunity for learners facing socio-economic challenges. Living at The Homestead, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting neglected and abused children, Tatenda's path was not an easy one. The Homestead provides children with a safe environment, psycho-social support, and educational opportunities, ensuring that they have a chance to break free from the cycle of hardship.

Despite the obstacles he faced, Tatenda demonstrated exceptional perseverance and a passion for learning. His dedication to his studies earned him recognition as a top-performing student in multiple subjects. His academic excellence, coupled with his hard work, paved the way for his promotion to Grade 12 in 2024, a significant milestone that saw him transition to Queens Park High School to complete his matric year.

Tatenda's story is not just about personal success; it is about the power of support systems, quality education, and perseverance in the face of adversity. It is a reminder that with the right opportunities and encouragement, young individuals can rise above their circumstances and build a promising future. His journey stands as an inspiration to many, proving that hope, when nurtured with dedication and care, can lead to remarkable achievements. Tatenda is not just a student; he is a testament to the impact of resilience and the unwavering belief that a better future is always within reach.

* Tatenda's achievements extend beyond the classroom.

Like many other determined young minds, he took on the challenge of the South African Mathematics Olympiad, showcasing his aptitude for problem-solving and analytical thinking. His participation in such a prestigious competition is a testament to his intellectual curiosity and his desire to excel.



SCHOOL OF HOPE

CHALLENGES:

The School of Hope faced significant challenges in 2024, starting with the resignation of the Principal on 31 May, just two weeks before the end of Term 2. The Deputy Principal stepped in to ensure a smooth transition, and the term closed without disruptions.

The biggest challenge we faced came from an unforeseen circumstance: the government's significant budget cutbacks. The Western Cape was hit especially hard, and this had a direct impact on the funding for the School of Hope. Without the necessary government support, the School's future became increasingly uncertain and ultimately unsustainable. After much deliberation and with heavy hearts, the Thembalitha Board was faced with the agonising decision to close its doors by the end of 2024. This was not an easy choice, but it was the reality we were forced to confront in the face of financial uncertainty.

In response to these challenging times, we held numerous purposeful meetings with parents, providing them with the guidance and support they needed. These meetings were not just about providing information - they were a crucial source of support during what became the most difficult chapter in the history of our school.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRAMMES:

As an independent school receiving a government subsidy, the School of Hope struggled to maintain a matric pass

rate above the WCED provincial average. In 2022 and 2023, it fell short, resulting in the loss of most of its WCED subsidy. However, in 2024, the school exceeded the provincial average, restoring hope and confidence. This achievement highlighted the dedication of educators and support staff, who remained committed to their values despite the closure, upholding biblical principles and serving with excellence and integrity.

REFLECTIONS:

The greatest impact of the school was that it truly lived up to its name—it was more than just a school; it was a place of hope, restoration, transformation, and spiritual awakening. Learners were encouraged to embrace their God-given potential in a positive way.

The school's approach focused on corrective action rather than punishment, fostering maturity and personal growth. Even former teachers, no longer with the school, continue to check in on the 2024 matric learners, showing their commitment went beyond a pay cheque—they were mentors, counsellors, and steadfast supporters of every student who walked through the school's doors.

The spirit of the School of Hope lives on in the lives of those it touched, serving as a powerful testament to the impact of education, compassion, and an unwavering belief in the unique potential of every single learner - shaping them for a lifetime.



153 LEARNERS were enrolled in 2024

99% OF LEARNERS attended their academic classes on a regular basis

School of Hope's excellent attendance reflected its strong partnership with parents.

- GRADE 8: 74.2%
- GRADE 9: 93.9%
- GRADE 10: 87.1%
- GRADE 11: 89.3%
- GRADE 12: 88.9%



SCHOOL OF HOPE'S IMPACT AND LEGACY:

Though neither affluent nor large, the School of Hope maintained a strong presence in education, instilling courage in its learners and encouraging them to face challenges without fear. The school believed that when efforts were made for the glory of God, they would be honoured.

More than just a school, the School of Hope was a family—a sense of belonging that has endured beyond its closure. This deep community spirit was especially evident in 2017 when a learner tragically passed away. The school closed for the day, arranged transport for staff and students to attend the funeral, and later established an annual award in his honour, with his mother presenting it each year. Acts like these reflect the school's lasting impact - a place of care, unity, and unwavering commitment to its students.

Many past learners have gone on to contribute meaningfully to society, with some returning as teachers or for teaching practice—a testament to the values instilled in them. Those who entered the School of Hope left transformed, shaped by love, discipline, and a spirit of community that remains its greatest legacy.



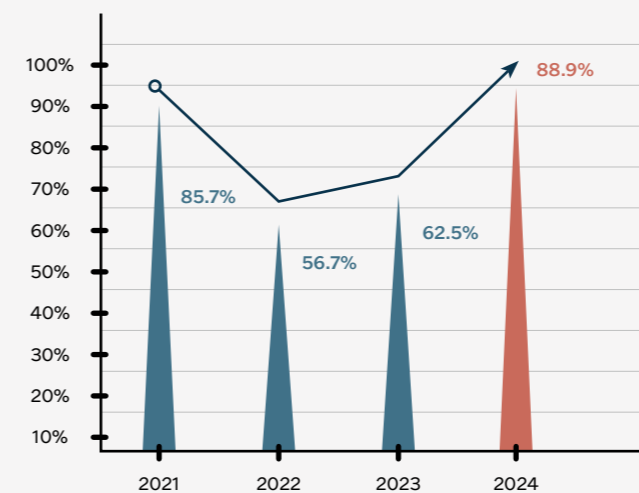
* Teacher to student ratio - 1:15

* Psycho-social Support

Around 30% of learners received counselling. Sessions were available to all students, either by staff referral or self-request.



Trevor Peterson
ACTING PRINCIPAL



SCHOOL OF HOPE MATRIC STATISTICS

2021 - 2024

	2021		2022		2023		2024	
Total School of Hope Matric Learners	29		31		33		28	
Number: Wrote	28		30		32		27	
Number: Passed	24	85.7%	17	56.7%	20	62.5%	24	88.9%
Number: Achieved Bachelors	7	25.0%	4	13.3%	6	18.8%	10	37.0%
Number: Achieved Diploma	10	35.7%	7	23.3%	7	21.9%	8	29.6%
Number: Achieved Higher Certificate	7	25.0%	6	20.0%	7	21.9%	6	22.2%



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



Marla van der Merwe
THEMBA TRAINING
Project Manager

27 SUPPLIERS
sold their goods in our coffee
and gift shop in 2024

AN INCOME OF R 69,769
was earned by Themba Training's
shop suppliers during 2024

OUR TWO MOST IMPACTFUL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. BASIC COMPUTER TRAINING:

In 2024, 36 trainees completed the 12-week Basic Computer Training programme. Most had no prior computer experience, but by the end of the course and after completing a post-assessment, all had mastered the basics of using a computer, along with beginner-level skills in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.

2. BUSINESS ESSENTIALS COURSE:

The 3-week Business Essentials Course, comprising six modules, proved highly impactful in 2024. Trainees, all of whom had launched their own small businesses, lacked essential skills such as budgeting, bookkeeping, product pricing, and profit margin calculation. The course, with its practical approach and theoretical foundations, provided valuable resources like stock take sheets, income sheets, budget templates, and marketing tools. For most trainees, these tools were unfamiliar but transformative, allowing them to implement their new skills immediately and gain greater control over their businesses.



THEMBA TRAINING

2024 - CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS: As Themba Training expanded in 2023, our staff capacity grew significantly. However, apart from the Project Manager (PM) and Assistant Project Manager (APM), most staff have little to no experience in coordinating and facilitating training. To ensure they can deliver high-quality, professional services, ongoing upskilling is essential. To address this, we will implement quarterly staff training beginning in January 2025. Another challenge has been trainee attendance. Many individuals sign up for courses but cancel at the last minute due to other commitments, transport difficulties, or poor weather, preventing others from accessing opportunities. To improve commitment and attendance, we have revised our booking policy, now requiring a partial or full payment in advance to secure a place.

2025 - TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION: In our third year since expanding, we are introducing new one-day workshops to equip trainees with practical skills, including sewing machine servicing, handyman training, product photography, candle and leather crafting, and Canva logo design. A WhatsApp Business workshop will help entrepreneurs market their products, and an Intermediate Excel course will build on our Computer Basics training. Most courses will now include life and business skills components to enhance trainees' self-sufficiency. To strengthen community engagement, we will host an Open Day, Youth Day event, 'Koek, Klets & Kreatief' for seniors, and a Heritage Week recipe exchange, creating opportunities for connection and support. Our Yethemba Place Coffee Shop & Gift Shop will expand menu options, train more local bakers, pilot a pre-order meal system, and develop partnerships with local coffee shops, businesses, and tourist shops to grow sales and create employment opportunities.

PARTICIPANT STATISTICS: Our programmes are designed based on current research to motivate, encourage, and equip participants with the practical skills needed to start their own micro-businesses. While limited resources prevent us from consistently following up with all trainees long-term, one standout success story is Hilda. After participating in multiple business training sessions, Hilda launched a catering supply business to supplement her income and support her family. Over the past two years, her business has grown steadily, supplying baked goods to three local coffee shops, including Yethemba Place.



DID YOU KNOW: In 2024, we offered 45 training courses and workshops, benefiting 206 trainees.

COMMUNITY IMPACT: Themba Training's vision to build community through skills development is based upon the idea that

'All parts of the community should have a safe space to be able to receive practical empowerment.'

Themba Training provides a space where people from all walks of life can connect, share resources, and gain knowledge. Daily, we see this in action as community members volunteer as facilitators, attend training courses, support our coffee shop, or contract us for fabric production.

Lina Sunduza's Story of Impact & Hope:

On 15 July 2023, Lina Sunduza responded to Themba Training's Basic Computer Course advert, excited to enroll. Little did we know she would soon become an integral part of our team. Lina recalls her first day: "I was a little scared and overwhelmed. I had worked on a computer before but had very limited knowledge. My dream was to work in IT, but I didn't know where to start or how to get there".

Lina quickly showed a natural aptitude for computers, grasping concepts fast and eagerly taking extra material home to practice. She completed the Basic Computer Course in September 2023 with exceptional results. In early 2024, Lina was offered an internship, assisting trainees with coursework. By May, she was facilitating the course independently and trained 24 students between May and November 2024. By January 2025, Lina had become a permanent staff member, preparing for the year ahead while enhancing her Microsoft Excel skills. Her journey proves that, with determination and the right support, growth and success are achievable.



Lina Sunduza

2024 Participant Statistics:

15 X CRAFT WORKSHOPS

enabling trainees with new crafts skills to use in developing product for their own micro businesses.

9 X BUSINESS SKILLS WORKSHOPS

enabling trainees with extra skills to be implementing in the running of their micro businesses

11 X SEWING COURSES

4 X 4-WEEK BUSINESS COURSE

3 X 12-WEEK COMPUTER COURSE

1 X BARISTA COURSE

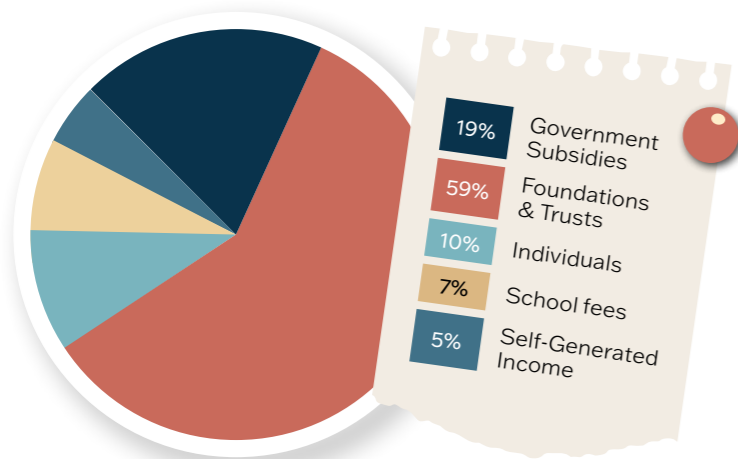
3 X JOB READINESS COURSE

MANY INDIVIDUAL COACHING SESSIONS IN-BETWEEN

FINANCE

Thembalitsa Foundation NPC is firmly committed to the principles of good corporate governance, ensuring that we conduct our operations in an honest, ethical, and transparent manner. Our approach to governance is guided by a set of core values that prioritise accountability, integrity, and sustainability in all our activities. Thembalitsa Foundation has adopted a zero-tolerance policy on fraud and fraudulent transactions. We take all possible measures to safeguard the integrity of our operations, strictly adhering to ethical guidelines and legal standards.

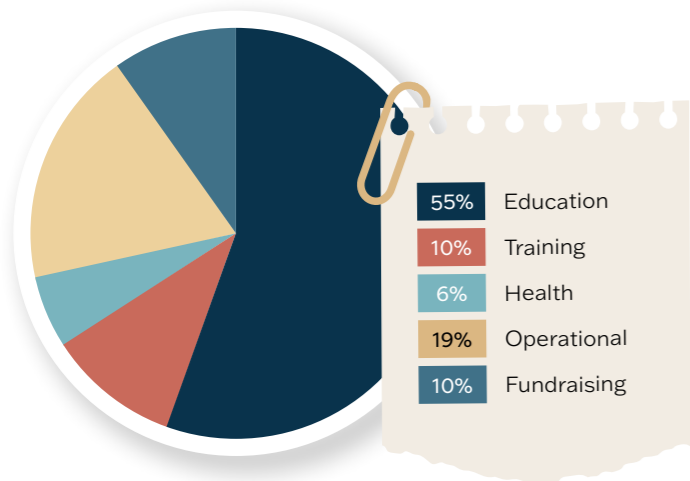
Our internal control systems, policies, and procedures are designed to ensure that every staff member is held accountable for their actions. We believe that by maintaining effective internal controls, we not only minimise the risk of financial mismanagement but also cultivate a culture of trust and accountability within the organisation..



INCOME

	2,890,604
	8,815,002
	1,447,351
	1,076,448
	772,826

TOTAL: 15,002,232



EXPENSES

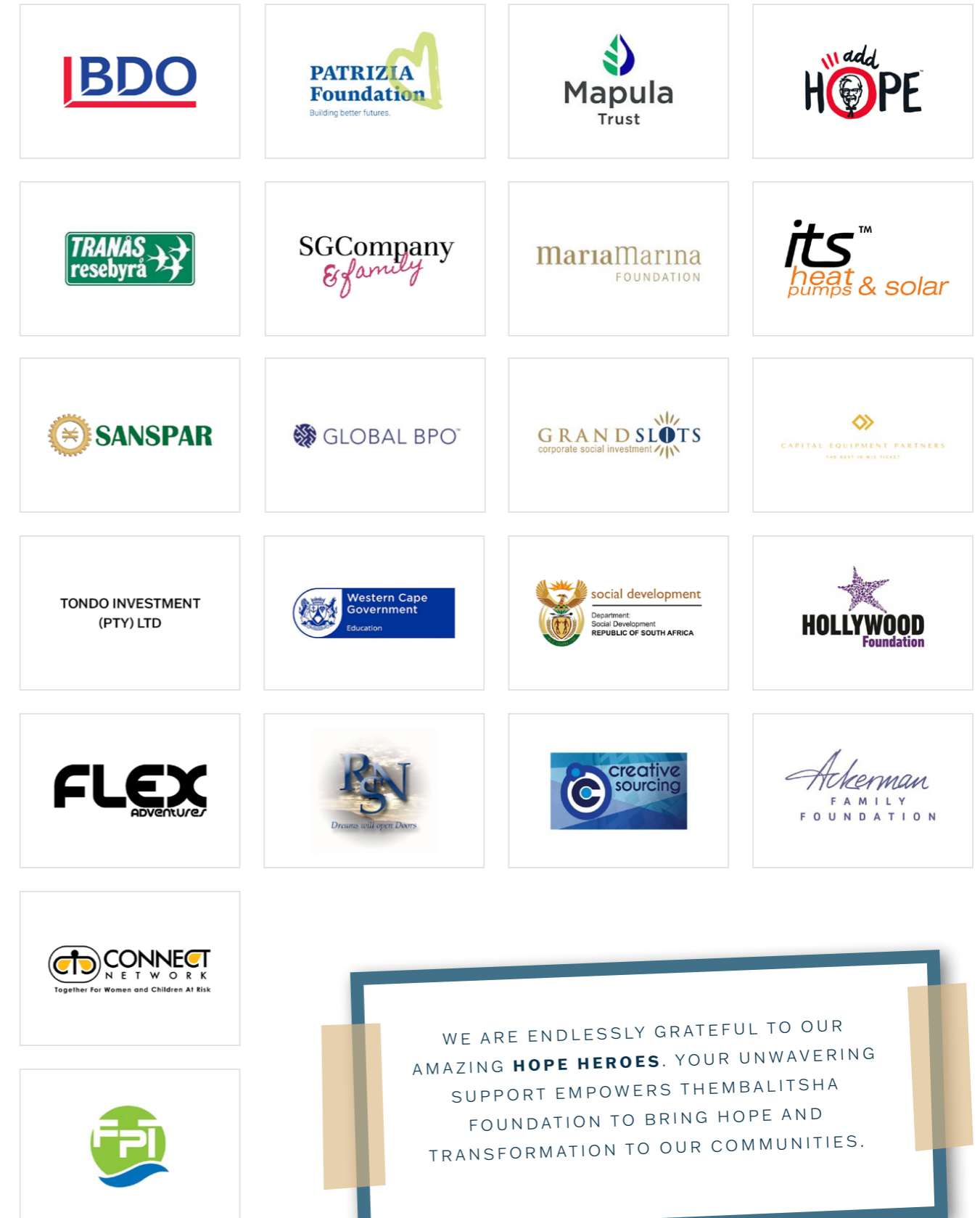
	8,638,403
	1,601,553
	895,866
	2,923,299
	1,544,697

TOTAL: 15,603,817

THEMBALITSHA'S TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT:

As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, Thembalitsa Foundation undergoes an annual audit by Deloitte & Touche. These audited financial statements are made publicly available on our website, providing further assurance to all stakeholders that we are managing resources effectively and responsibly.

HOPE HEROES



WE ARE ENDLESSLY GRATEFUL TO OUR AMAZING **HOPE HEROES**. YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT EMPOWERS THEMBALITSHA FOUNDATION TO BRING HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

SPONSOR A DESK

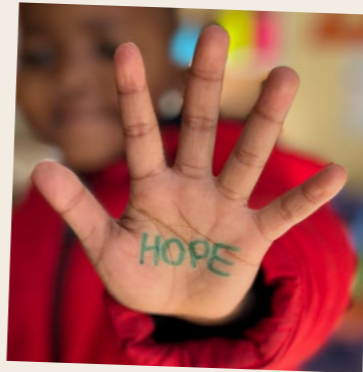
Sponsor A Desk is more than just providing a seat in a classroom—it's a chance for a child to learn, grow, and build a brighter future. With just 46% of South African youth able to access secondary education, this initiative provides a simple yet powerful way to help break the cycle of poverty. For just \$20 a month, you can provide a student with essential resources such as textbooks, training, and counselling support.

More than just a desk, your sponsorship opens doors to education and opportunity, equipping students with the skills they need to uplift their communities. As part of a global community, you'll receive updates and stories, witnessing firsthand how your generosity transforms lives.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

1. **CHOOSE YOUR DONATION:** Sign up to give \$20 a month or more.
2. **MAKE AN IMPACT:** Your contribution provides essential resources for students.
3. **STAY CONNECTED:** Receive updates and stories on the students you support.
4. **SEE THE CHANGE:** Watch how your generosity transforms lives

CLICK HERE OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO DONATE TODAY!



#BestCoffeeEver

Come visit our gift shop! We sell unique handmade items made by local suppliers.

JOIN US FOR A COFFEE AT YETHEMBA PLACE.

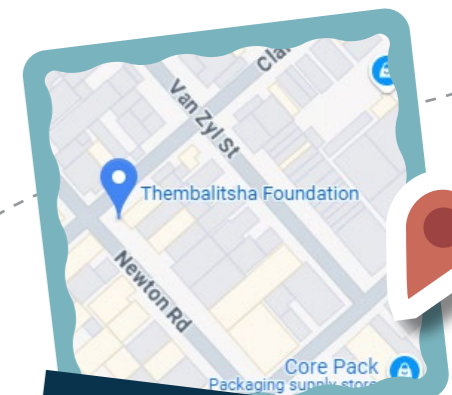
YeThemba Place, "a place of hope", is where Thembalitssha's Head Office and the expansion of our Themba Training project joined forces in a beautiful but industrial setting. This is the place where people from different walks of life can come together and interact, enjoy a cup of coffee, buy a handmade gift and learn or share a new skill.

* Meet the Thembalitssha Foundation Team



GET IN TOUCH

- **YETHEMBA PLACE:**
45 Newton Road, Gants Plaza, Strand, South Africa, 7140
- **CONTACT NUMBER:** 021 852 3425
- **WEBSITE:** www.hope.org.za



YetheMba Place

FIND US ON ONLINE

- @ThembalitsshaFoundation
- @thembalitssha-foundation
- @thembalitssha