

A ROAR LIKE THE LION OF JUDAH

Growing up on a farm in the Cape Winelands in unstable conditions. A mother who is not only addicted to alcohol but has numerous short-term relationships with abusive men. A father who has been imprisoned before his son was born. A grandfather who is addicted to drugs and allows any drug user to live with him for a fix. Hunger, neglect, violence, emotional and physical abuse. These are the things that made thirteen-year-old *Nathan Cupido** anxious and angry. He lost his temper and lashed out frequently. Not because he wanted to, but because of the circumstances at home. Khula worked with this broken boy since 2019 after requests for intervention by his teachers and principal. During our journey with him, we approached different Designated Child Protection Organisations to intervene where we could not, since we are not a statutory organisation.

During 2018 Nathan was in Grade Two and showed a pattern of chronic absenteeism. His mother moved around between farms and between squatter camps. Nathan always had some sort of injury as he was assaulted by his grandfather and his mother's boyfriends quite often. Teachers were used to him showing up a week later after school opened. The excuses were always the same. His school uniform was either dirty or missing. Nathan made slow progress in school. He was not good in Afrikaans but enjoyed maths. This was his favourite subject. Despite these difficulties, he was promoted to Grade Three.

In Grade Three, Nathan started to show signs of aggression and did not fear anyone or anything. He was constantly involved in arguments, fighting, and swearing daily. His mother *Charmaine Cupido** was called to school to discuss her son's temper and attitude. In the beginning it was difficult to get her to cooperate. This was when the school Principal and his Teacher decided to ask Khula to intervene. After numerous discussions with her, she disclosed that she was just as broken as her son. She struggled with emotional pain, heartache, and rejection too.

In 2020 when Nathan was in Grade Four he was calmer, but still a broken child. At that stage he participated in petty crimes and smoked on the school premises. He could not distinguish right from wrong. During psychological assessments and sessions, he was honest and opened up about his mother's different boyfriends physically assaulting him. Charmaine denied the abuse as false accusations, despite the bruises on his body and witnesses who came forward. It was later confirmed that Charmaine endured the same abuse her son did.

During 2021 Nathan broke into the school yard and injured himself. His mother did not fulfil her obligation to see to it that he received medical care. Consequently, he was taken to the local clinic and a statutory organisation was informed. The organisation stated the mother showed no remorse over her neglect. Nathan approached a Social Auxiliary worker and spoke about the abuse he was facing. He mentioned how his mother was present but did not do anything to protect him. Lashing out, Nathan befriended the wrong people and begged for money on the streets wearing the same clothes over lengthy periods of time.

Despite his aggressiveness, the school Principal tried her best to get Nathan to a place of safety. Nathan often disrupted her efforts. While placed in temporary care he would run away and go back to his mother. This was when a prospective mother withdrew her willingness to foster him. After an incident at home where his mother's cousin threw a stone against his head, Nathan completely lashed out. He tried to stab a classmate with a scissor. When he was unsuccessful, he aggressively hit his hand and arm through a window in the classroom. He was taken for medical care for the cuts and bruises. When he returned to school, he tried to stab another learner. Failing, he hit a learner with a broom behind the head, injuring him.

Shortly after that Nathan tried to attempt suicide three times. Once, he tried to choke himself in front of our Social Auxiliary Worker with the dressing covering the wounds on his arms. On the next occasion he tried to choke himself in front of a Social Worker from another organisation and on the third occasion he tried to cut himself with the blade of a pencil sharpener. This was where our Social Worker Cornel Nel and Social Auxiliary Worker Abigail Adams stepped in.

Without discussing it with each other, on two separate occasions, both shared the story of The Lion of Judah with Nathan. They compared his anger with that of a lion with sharp claws roaring aggressively. Cornel comforted him by telling him everybody gets angry, and that is okay. What we should not do is hurt ourselves or other people. She told him the good news is we can control our anger as soon as signs of anger appear like sweating, headaches, or shivers. Nathan admitted he felt all those things when he got upset and Cornel taught him how to control it. She told him about the love God has for him, the plans he has for him and the beautiful thoughts he has about him. He was calm and at ease.

After the completion of four Form 22's (reporting of abuse or deliberate neglect of a child) by various professionals, cooperation and intervention from numerous organisations, medical assistance and psychiatric evaluation, Nathan was placed at a treatment centre where he will receive further treatment for his condition. Charmaine is also working towards improving herself. She is helping with cleaning duties at the school her son used to attend. She is also receiving emotional support to improve her parenting skills. The separation between mother and son was not easy, but necessary. They both had a tough time saying goodbye but know it is best to grow and heal.

An image drawn by Nathan Cupido after one of our Social Workers told him the story of THE LION OF JUDAH.



THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Achievements January to February 2022

438 – Number of Children Reached

988 – Individual and Group Sessions with Learners At Risk Of Dropping Out

1269 – Home Visits to Children not attending school and to empower Parents to Reduce Drop-Out

85 – Primary Caregiver Group Sessions and Workshops

1041 – School visits, Network and Collaboration Meetings to Empower Teachers and Children to Tackle the Issue of School Drop-Out

Special child protection focusses: 29 Form 22's referred to DCPO's and 41 urgent child protection cases were escalated to urge up the service delivery to most vulnerable children.

DONOR Spotlight



Khula Development Group has a solid foundation and an experienced leadership team leading the organisation with passion and a vision to change the future of the youth in our country: ”

CHARLES MOOLMAN:
CW Pharmaceuticals Managing Director

CW Pharmaceuticals is a longstanding donor of Khula Development Group. **Charles Moolman**, the Managing Director says they support our organisation because they know education is the backbone enabling youth in becoming part of the work force in South Africa and pursuing a career. The method of identifying pupils in lower income groups and disadvantaged communities, to prevent them from dropping out of the system and enabling them to return to school, is greatly admired by Charles.

Stories of HOPE

During 2017 a thirteen-year-old female learner was referred to our branch in Stellenbosch. She was chronically absent from school. After four years of working with her, she was successfully reintegrated back into school. Her progress in academics and improved discipline led to her becoming a Prefect. Her biggest priority is helping other learners, putting an end to bullying and encourage sharing. She is also extremely proud of not missing a day of school since being elected as a Prefect.

A lonely learner found it difficult to adapt and make friends at school. She had emotional distressing episodes and would sometimes refuse to enter the classroom. Despite this, she spent intervals with her Teacher in the classroom as she had no friends. We saw the seriousness of this problem and referred the learner for counselling. Services were rendered at home and at school. Her grandmother says she sees a huge improvement in her emotional stability and academics, she also managed to make friends at school. She is very pleased with her granddaughter's progress and thankful for our intervention.

Recently, placing a Grade 3 learner back in the school system has been a challenge. Mainly due to his absenteeism and the primary caregivers lack of cooperation. He showed chronic absenteeism because doing schoolwork is challenging. This is where our Child Well-Being Team's constant motivation and support to this family led to his acceptance back into school. To ensure he stays in school and makes progress, arrangements were made with the Teacher and remedial Teacher to make his school experience more productive and enjoyable. Since the family is also facing financial difficulties, attending school ensures the learner receives two meals per day. Khula will not only ensure regular school attendance but will also assist the family with whatever they need.



DONATIONS

If you would like to enjoy the act of charity you can donate via Zapper, EFT or Givengain.

EFT:
Khula Development Group
Nedbank Cheque Acc No:
1019306149

Branch Code: 198765
Swift Code: NEDSZAJJ
Reference: Your Name

givengain



*Did you know donations made by individuals and businesses to Khula Development Group can result in the individual or business **reducing their tax liability** upon submission of their annual tax return? As a Public Benefit Organisation, Khula can issue the donor with a Section 18A Certificate for submission to SARS with an annual tax return.*

Donating to Khula Development Group has great benefits, both in terms of the reduction in tax liability as well as the contribution made to the education of vulnerable children.

Candice Slabbert an unemployed mother of five boys completed a Home-Based Care Training course through Ikhaya Le Themba. Upon completion, we referred her to Fountain of Hope where she can get assistance with compiling her CV to find employment.



Annually, on 8 March the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women are celebrated globally. This is known as International Women's Day. We celebrated with the members of our Primary Caregiver Support Groups focusing on Resilient Parenting. This is an eight-week programme compiled by Ezra Community Training & Development known as "Die Bou Slim Werkboek". Here, Community Worker Divine Pietersen is busy explaining a practical approach to those in attendance.



Collaboration **MATTERS**

We are grateful to every organisation and individual for collaborating with us. Working together shows promising results and makes a difference on a huge scale.

Hear X Foundation

“To hear for life, listen with care”.

In raising awareness about preventing deafness, hearing loss, and promoting ear and hearing care across the world, we celebrated World Hearing Day in collaboration with **Hear X Foundation** at Orleansvale Primary School in Paarl on the 3rd of March. Teachers and learners received complimentary hearing and eye tests. Abnormalities and concerns were referred to Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists and Optometrists.



Amado Animal Assisted Therapy

Our relationship with **Amado Animal Assisted Therapy** is growing in a beautiful direction. There are eight Khula learners attending therapeutic intervention. Positive feedback from teachers shows improved moods and a visible decrease of anxiety amongst learners - www.amado.co.za

Stellumthombo Reading Programme

Khula learners in Grade R attending Cloeteville Primary in Stellenbosch are enrolled in the Reading Programme of Stellumthombo. The organisation will spend time with these learners improving their reading comprehension.



NEW Appointments

Both our Paarl and Stellenbosch branches are pleased and excited to welcome the following to staff members to our organisation.



Chumiza Madze
Community Worker



Gadieja Pasquallie
Community Worker



Jacques Gabriels
Social Auxiliary Worker



Ivona Carolissen
School2Home Facilitator



Kate Van Wyk
School2Home Facilitator

THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Our staff attended a LEAD Workshop hosted by Ezrah Community Training and Development in Paarl. The purpose of the training is to equip Social Workers, Social Auxiliary Workers, and Counsellors with tools and skillsets to train and mentor children and teenagers to use their voices and actions constructively in six key life areas: Family, School, Friends, Finances, Beliefs/Values and Technology.



Our organisation is extremely grateful to in Harmonie for treating our staff to a two-day Rest & Restoration Retreat in Franschoek. During this time, we could all reflect on our spiritual growth. A baptism ceremony was also held for attendees who wished to be baptised.



Love was celebrated during a class party at Nederburg Primary in Paarl. Hand painting was an illustration of how our hands are imprinted in the heart of Jesus, how much he loves us and how he wants to use us to do amazing things. Learners loved this activity especially hearing about where love comes from.



One Hope Church volunteers and interns who worked with us during the @Home Learning Programme assisted with Samaristan's Feet South Africa shoe distribution at Klapmuts Primary. Learners were not only given a new pair of shoes, but they were given hope too. While washing and caring for their feet, volunteers connect with their hearts, encourage their hopes and dreams, and remind them that their lives matter.



Our School2Home Programme team recently attending a training session on "What is the most important thing we need when we work with children". The session was presented by Kate Van Wyk, one of our School2Home Programme Facilitators and Qualified Emotional Support Counsellor.



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