



# News

Q1: 2021



*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: **Love your neighbour as yourself**'*

~ Matt 22:37,38

## The @Home Learning Pilot Interns and Inspiration.

In April 2020 Khula staff grew impatient with the National Lockdown. This was due to their growing concern over the learners and primary caregivers in the community they haven't seen in a while. The moment the organisation was cleared to provide essential services, staff came up with initiatives and ideas to serve their community. This is how the Go2school@home project was born which led to the birth and success of the @Home Learning Pilot.



By Bianca Petersen  
KDG Communications Manager

The @Home Learning Pilot aimed to test a model where interns were placed to work under the mentorship of a Non-Governmental Organisation to promote the value of education by supporting primary school learners from vulnerable communities to stay connected with learning through play-based educational activities. Fifty-nine interns were employed across three organisations including Khula Development Group as the lead, Hope Through Action and Love To Give. Under their supervision, five hubs operated in Paarl, Mbekweni, Franschoek, Stellenbosch and Kayamandi, who successfully provided a range of formal and informal activities between November 2020 and March 2021.

The past six months has been life changing for every single person involved, especially the interns who engaged with the community daily. During a reflection session with them, they shared their experiences and what they learnt through the internship. Mariska Thomas recalls meeting a young girl in Paarl-East who did not know how to write her name. Applying the skills and knowledge she was taught during her training sessions, Mariska was able to help her write her name, even though it took two weeks. Mariska believes that to be successful you need to get out of your comfort zone, the change for you starts in you.

Felencia De Kock reflects to the intern training in 2020 before the Pilot commenced. She recalls how they were welcomed with the phrase "God chose each and every one of you to be here". Today, she is confident that every intern plays an important role in their community. Felencia mentions she was assigned to serve Chicago in Paarl. Coincidentally she grew up and resides there too. Until the start of the Pilot she was not aware of the educational problems and needs in her community. She talks about how she always wanted to make a difference and came to the realization that to do so is to start with yourself. She could make a difference in her life to make a difference in the lives of other children.

The journey was not always easy. In the beginning there were many stumbling blocks but as time went by, the impact the Pilot had in the lives of the children became apparent. With a smile on her face she shares how the children would approach them daily calling them Khula mommies. She talks about the excitement these kids expressed because there was something exciting happening in their lives. Something they could look forward to every day.

Llewellyn January could not stop talking about what the internship meant to him. He is determined to give back to the community. While addressing his peers, Llewellyn motivates them by telling them they can help children in the community, with or without the @Home Learning Pilot. They are equipped with skills and have the experience. He emphasises that they are the light in the lives of children. That is why they went out into the community to help teach. Llewellyn notes that every smile on a child's face makes his heart so happy. At the intern certificate ceremony, Llewellyn was acknowledged as the intern who spent the most time working on the pilot with a total of seven hundred and seventeen hours.

The outcome of the @Home Learning Pilot for the interns meant meaningful employment for the duration of the pilot, skills acquisition, increased engagement in the communities and an improvement in their wellbeing. The @Home Learning Project is currently underway. Although KDG will no longer serve as the lead, we are still one of the NGO's involved alongside the Western Cape Education Department, the Western Cape Government Economic Development and Tourism, The Western Cape Government Cultural Affairs and Sport, Val De Vie Foundation, Year Beyond, Hope Through Action and Love To Give.

THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

# @Home Learning KEY IMPACTS

<b>4668</b> formal activities reached <b>3035</b> unique children in 1-on-1 sessions	<b>560</b> informal sessions reached some <b>9499</b> children	<b>5535</b> educational resources were distributed
<b>60%</b> of children had some learning material at home when the pilot commenced, this increased to <b>80%</b> upon completion of the pilot	<b>87%</b> of children reported that their caregivers used the materials provided to engage in learning at home	<b>59</b> interns were meaningfully employed within their communities for <b>6 months</b>
Learners report feeling <b>less worried</b> and indicate <b>greater enjoyment</b> in their free time (increasingly engaged in learning activities)	Caregivers participation in sessions ( <b>26%</b> ), explore the materials ( <b>22%</b> ) and asked questions ( <b>28%</b> )	From a <b>12%</b> increase to <b>71%</b> learners report playing games with parents



@Home Learning in progress.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT



**“Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference”** Kathy Calvin

**Qualipak** has been donating to Khula Development Group since 2011. They believe that corporate social responsibility as a business is imperative and must be practiced as a passion of the heart. Therefore, they support organisations like us, who focus on socio-economic development programs that add value to our local community and making it a better place to live. We would like to express our gratitude to **Qualipak** for their generosity. Throughout these challenging economic times they have remained faithful in their contributions and committed to our cause.

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

**EFT:** Khula Development Group | Nedbank | Cheque Account 1019306149 | Branch Code: 198-765 | Swift Code: NEDSZAJJ | Reference: Your Name

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.**



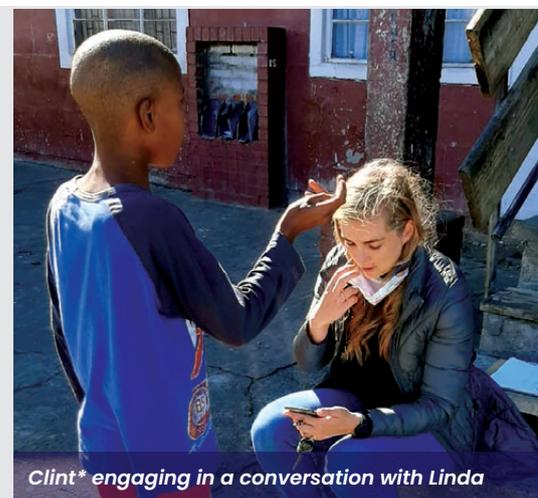
SCAN TO PAY

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## Staff Testimony - Linda Zietsmann

While seated in church on a Sunday Morning, Linda Zietsman, one of our Programme Coordinators, looks up and sees a young lad eagerly waving at her. It takes her a few minutes to realise that young lad is twelve-year-old Clint Clayton\*. Along with his siblings ten-year-old Chloe\* and five-year-old Craig\*, he attends a local primary school in Paarl where Khula renders services. Due to social problems they were taken out of the care of their parents and placed in foster care. The circumstances in foster care were not very pleasant and the siblings were moved into a children’s home where they are well taken care of. Linda admits if someone told her a year ago that Clint would stand in front of her in church, she would not take them seriously. But there he was. Well-groomed and looked after.

He tells Linda that things are going well with him and his siblings and he is a prefect at school. He participates in the praise and worship and cries out loudly “You took what the enemy meant for evil and turned it for good”. This brought peace and the phrase “Impossible is where God starts, miracles is what he does” to Linda’s heart and mind. The once troublesome Clint Clayton is now obedient and stands faithful in God’s word.



Clint\* engaging in a conversation with Linda

# Significant & exciting change



Two primary school learners engaged in activities while sitting on the pavement during a @Home Learning session.

The beginning of 2021 provided us with an opportunity for reflection and consideration of new opportunities and growth. The National Lockdown, COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions forced us to change the ways in we operate and deliver services.

Management crafted a restructure plan for Khula. This plan envisions a continuation of many of the core elements of our work, but with a significant shift toward enhancing community involvement.

**Our four programmes; Reintegration, In-School Support, Primary Caregivers and SAgo2school will now be combined into three different programmes:**

- 1 School2Home Support Programme**
  - To provide school- and home-based support of primary school learners presenting with early warning signs indicating an increased risk of school disengagement.
  - To promote learner and parental / household engagement in the child's education.
- 2 Love2Learn Community Programme**

To promote a culture of learning and strengthen the value of education and attendance through child and primary caregiver participation, youth activation and community collaboration.
- 3 Child well-being service**

To support vulnerable children through preventative interventions and collaboration with the aim to reduce the risk of significant harm that impacts their safety, school engagement and well-being.

**We are very proud of what has been accomplished through our previous programmes and look forward to continuing making a difference through love and education.**

# Time to say goodbye.

The devastating impact of COVID-19 has been significant in our organisation. Economic circumstances forced many businesses and donors to halt their donations which left us with no other option but to restructure. Our driver and fifteen fieldworkers, known as the hands and feet of our organisation settled for voluntary retrenchment packages. We would like to thank every single one of these individuals for their devotion during their years at Khula and wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

**Zelda Roode** retired after six years of service. Zelda started out as a volunteer for two years and was later employed as a Programme Facilitator where she was involved in In-School Support services at local primary schools. Her presence and contributions will surely be missed. **We wish her a long and happy retirement.**



Saying goodbye to Fieldworkers - Paarl Branch ↑

Saying goodbye to Fieldworkers - Stellenbosch Branch ↓



# THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

The @Home Learning Pilot Project Intern Certificate Ceremonies were organised and hosted by respective branches in Paarl and Stellenbosch. Here we have the interns after receiving their Certificates of Participation.



One of the aims of the @Home Pilot Project was to improve work prospects for unemployed youth by providing new skills and competencies. We are pleased to announce that through the Pilot, two interns gained permanent employment at our Branch in Stellenbosch as Community Workers.



From left we have Anniëka Mostert - Programme Coordinator, newly appointed Community Workers Carlyn Dhelminie (left) and Chriszelle Meyer (right), with Branch Manager Maria von Backström.



The @Home Learning Pilot Collaborators during a site visit in Paarl East.

Lozanne Venter Programme Coordinator with Llewellyn Janawaarie, the intern who spent seven hundred and seventeen hours working on the @Home Learning Project.



Paarl Junior Town Council takes hands with @Home Learning Interns in New Orleans Park.



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