

IF IT WASN'T FOR KHULA, I would not be in high school.

Brandon and Lyle were both referred to Khula Development Group in 2015. Predominant reasons; absenteeism and circumstances at home. Michelle Pretorius, Lyle's mother recalls how difficult their lives were. She was a single mother living in an overcrowded house. Three rooms to be specific, occupied by twelve people. It was chaos trying to find her and her children's belongings amongst that of other family members. It also caused unnecessary conflict. The location of the house was also problematic. During the winter water would run into their house and everything would be cold and wet. Another contributing factor to the children missing out on school. There were days where they had food in the house, and days where their stomachs were growling. Michelle admits "a child can't learn on an empty stomach".



By Bianca Petersen
KDG Communications Manager

Between 2015 and 2021, a lot has changed in her life. Today she has five children and lives in a wooden structure situated in the backyard of a family member. Her cousin's son Lyle is also in her care after his mother passed away from Tuberculosis. Michelle has never been employed even though she is thirty-three years old. She survives on the social grants she receives for four of her children. Dropping out of primary school in Grade Seven, she never had any dreams or hope for her future. She experimented with drugs and fell pregnant with her son Brandon at the age of eighteen. It was her son who asked her to stop using tik. He told her that parents around them in the community are dying of drugs addictions every day. She admits it is a struggle to quit using. She is trying to get into rehab.

Brandon and Lyle were part of our Champion Programme at a Paarl East Primary School for extra educational support. After the first two terms, Cleache Flanders, our Social Auxiliary Worker concluded Brandon did not belong in the programme. He exceeded and needed support in respect of the circumstances

at home. Lyle needed academic help. His marks were not satisfactory as he did not pay attention in class. He had the wrong friends who smoked cigarettes and bunked school. When Khula facilitators stepped in, he received emotional and academic help. This was new and encouraging to Lyle and he started to take part in the class.

Lyle admits that high school is tough. He also says if it was not for Khula, he would not be in high school. He is struggling, and the COVID-19 pandemic is not making it any easier. He mentioned that if there was an organisation like Khula, working in secondary schools, he would do much better in than he is doing now. Brandon says he would encourage any child to keep going despite their circumstances. It took a while before he realised that his potential had nothing to do with his circumstances. Especially after he became a prefect at school. Both boys have dreams of becoming accountants.

Although our journey with Brandon and Lyle is complete, we are still involved with the family. Michelle's daughter,

ten-year-old Shenay, is not attending school. Discipline and peer pressure are huge influencing factors. While she walks her to school in the morning to ensure that she attends, during the day she has the tendency to run away. Kim, her seven-year-old daughter is also enrolled at Khula for academic support. She is struggling to count, read and spell in school, yet attends school on a regular basis.

While Michelle expressed her gratitude toward Khula, she admits she did not want help from the organisation years ago. She recalls how she shouted and screamed at staff members during home visits. She was under the impression the organisation wanted to take her children away from her. Today she talks about how her children did not only receive academic help and support at home but were also given a second chance in life. If the organisation was not as persistent to work with her, she would not make the effort to enrol her children. As a result, their futures would be as challenging as the life she is living now.

Pseudonyms were used to protect the identity of this family.*

Achievements 18 JAN – 22 SEPT 2021

471 Learners on our database	20 Active School Count	7184 Activities/meetings / engagements
267 Learners fully reintegrated and Cases Closed	51 Learners dropped out	30 Interns mentored in the WCED @Home Learning Programme

Activities by Interns APRIL – MID SEPT 2021

1 783 Home Visits	6 366 Formal Activities	14 558 Informal Activities
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@ Home Learning Activities in Progress

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

I cannot walk the streets.

"Today's prosperity is created by adults, but future prosperity will be the creation of today's youth. It is therefore very important that we as adults ensure that our youth receive a good education."

These are the words of Hubert Loubser, a donor who gives generously towards our mission and vision in his personal capacity.

As Nelson Mandela said: "...young people must take it upon themselves to ensure that they receive the highest education possible so that they can represent us well in the future as future leaders." Nelson Mandela has always believed in the youth as the rock on which the future is built. He has promoted education as a key instrument of liberation.

When asked why he supports the organisation Hubert replied "I found a lot of synergy with the mission of Khula Development Group: to reintegrate primary school children from disadvantaged communities at risk of dropping out, back into the school system.

From the beginning my wife and I felt the need to support them in their hard work in the community of Paarl and later also Stellenbosch. I was touched by the concept of the employees walking the streets to assist children that are not attending school. I then realised that I will not be able to walk the streets, but by supporting Khula, I can enable others that are more equipped for the task to perform this noble work. Being involved and supporting Khula over the years have been a privilege and blessing to us. I would like to urge others to get involved by supporting Khula and through it help build a prosperous South Africa.



Hubert Loubser
Khula Development
Group Donor

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

givingain



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.

Stories of HOPE

The Resilience of a Child

Despite her poor and abusive background, a sixteen-year-old girl persevered. The circumstances she lived in was not easy. A crowded two-bedroom dwelling, a father with substance abuse issues, a mother with a drinking problem, a sibling in jail, and caring for a disabled man, however, she excelled. With the help and support from the school principal in the Simondium area, she completed Grade Seven and is now happy in Grade Nine in high school.

A New Home

A ten-year-old boy enlisted on our books in February 2018 due to social circumstances influencing his school attendance and academic performance; has been removed from poor living conditions. He will be moved to a CYCC (Child and Youth Care Centre) within the next month. Although a CYCC is never the first option to provide a safe and loving home for a child, in this case it was the best option. This boy has touched the hearts of our personnel since we met him. He is a sensitive soul with so much potential who lost both of his parents at a very young age. He was then taken in by family friends. Although his caregivers had the best intention of taking care of him, substance abuse related issues and family violence often made the home circumstances unstable and unsafe. During the last three years he was removed to a place of safety on more than one occasion. He started to display concerning behaviour and became involved with the wrong peers. A specific plan for intervention was needed to ensure he does not become a statistic. He has experienced so much trauma in his life that we are grateful for the assistance of the Department of Social Development, the school, and Community Keepers. Through their intervention and efforts, a difference could be made.

Early Intervention and Teamwork

A Grade R learner enrolled in a primary school in Paarl East has shown a pattern of absenteeism. He was referred to Khula in August 2021. After investigating the matter, we found he had a plaster of paris on his right lower leg due to a pedestrian vehicle accident he was involved in during May this year. He also sustained injuries to his head, kidneys and eyes. Transport issues made it very difficult for him to go for follow up check-ups at Red Cross Memorial Children's Hospital. He was supposed to attend four clinics at the hospital which include the fracture clinic, neurosurgery, maxillofacial and urology. Linda Zietsman, our Programme Coordinator, and qualified Occupational Therapist made it her mission to contact doctors and take the child and his mother to the hospital. The boy was cleared from neurosurgery but has follow up appointments at the other clinics. In the meantime, he is regularly attending school. Linda also made sure he received a home exercise programme which will be utilised at school too. Several home visits have been conducted and we are pleased to report that his circumstances have improved, and his mother is now part of our primary caregiver intervention.

THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

COLLABORATION MATTERS

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



ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

On Wednesday's four primary school learners receive animal assisted therapy sessions at Amando in Paarl. While they are enjoying it, we trust that it will bring growth and healing to them and their lives. Horseback-riding offers a new visual perspective of the world. It encourages independence and the control of one's own destiny. Therapeutic riding offers physical, emotional, and cognitive rewards.



THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS

Kate Shannon Van Wyk is an Emotional Support Volunteer at our organisation. Kate recently worked with children on our caseload, focusing on breathing techniques. In her experience, teaching a child breathing techniques when they are facing anxious situations or feelings can be tricky. She makes use of bubble breathing, a simple technique using bubbles to help introduce younger children to calm breathing in a fun way. By focusing on trying to blow big bubbles, children are encouraged to focus on exhaling and breathe in a slow and calm deep way.



PRIMARY CAREGIVER WORKSHOPS

We started hosting several Primary Caregiver Workshops in Paarl and Stellenbosch. Through collaboration and bringing the workshops to the communities, we reach Primary Caregivers where they discuss numerous topics, including concerns about their children's education. With Yeboneers actively involved in communities, Primary Caregivers are at ease, knowing there is a support system nearby.

INTERNATIONAL FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER DAY

On Thursday 9 September 2021, International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Day was commemorated to raise awareness about the dangers of consuming alcohol during pregnancy.

ALCOHOL FREE TO PREVENT FASD

09:09AM 09/09
International FASD Awareness Day

#FASDAwarenessDay

Internationally, the month of September is FASD Awareness month with FASD Awareness day observed on the 9th of September each year. The first FASD day was held on 9 September 1999 which was chosen on the ninth day of the ninth month signifying the nine months of a pregnancy.

FASD is thought to affect at least three million of the South African Population, however it is preventable.

At Khula Development Group, we conducted the following activities during September:

- Raised awareness on the topic at workshops with primary caregivers.
- Shared information about FASD during home visits or interactions in the community.
- Prayed about this topic and for people with FASD during prayer week 6-10 September 2021.

After presenting an information session about FASD in the Paarl-East Community, Principal Social Worker Carien Van Zyl felt very encouraged after she spoke to a primary caregiver. The primary caregiver admitted that for the first time in her life she understood what FASD was and that she learnt how to speak to a pregnant mother about alcohol abuse during pregnancy. She also expressed how happy she was to find out that children with FASD have potential to prosper in life.



THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION, YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE.

Time to say goodbye.

After **4 years and 6 months** in service, **HANLIE VAN DER MERWE - Paarl Branch Manager** said goodbye as she is relocating to England where she will be pursuing a new career and build a new life with her husband. Hanlie started out at Khula as a Social Worker where she worked her way up to Branch Manager. She has a passion for children and constantly advocated for their social wellbeing. Here is her final message to all her staff members:

“ My Dear Team,

Where do I begin to express my deep gratitude and love for you and for our people with whom we work? You changed my life. You shaped, hugged, embraced, and loved me. Leaving is one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. I'm going to miss you deeply. You are women of war with a mandate from God to make a difference through love and education.

Do it wholeheartedly and with zeal and unquenchable passion. Keep fighting bravely. I will always carry your passion and perseverance with me. I admire you.

May you walk with God every day and obey him. I love you. ”

Protea of the Valley

Our organisation was once again honoured to have one of our staff members, Alta Bester a Programme Facilitator nominated as one of the Valcare Proteas Of The Valley, an annual women's empowerment initiative that honours and celebrates fifteen inspiring ladies in the Cape Winelands.

Alta Bester has overcome great challenges to be the remarkable woman that she is today.

When she was a young mother of three, Alta was diagnosed with Gallium Barre Syndrome and was paralysed from the neck down. Doctors told her that she might not survive or walk again, but she defeated the odds and recovered completely. Alta's illness showed her the realities of feeling helpless, and this motivated her to become a voice for women and children in the community. With qualifications in fashion design and education, she initially used her creativity and teaching skills to volunteer as facilitator at Khula Development Group. Today, she is a full-time Programme Facilitator at Khula where she develops and implements solutions to keep children in school. During lockdown, she took the initiative to create home activity packs with interactive educational toys that she made from recycled material, to keep the children stimulated. She always walks the extra mile and doesn't mind spending hours at a police station or in a hospital ward with an abused child. Through her consistent love and care, countless children have prospered from being neglected to having hope for their futures. She is servant-hearted and creative. She is a Protea of the Valley.

"My dream is to live a good life, to be loving, to be close to God and to bring peace to people."

Alta Bester - PROTEA OF THE VALLEY



As part of the Mandela Month initiatives, our @Home Learning Khula Yeboneer team started off their Reading Awareness Campaign at Nederburg Primary in Paarl and read out loud with the foundation phase learners following their lead from the July special edition of the Nali Bali Supplement. Our teams also shared the story of Shongololo's Shoes with the bright young Grade R learners of this school. Not only did they awareness about the importance of reading, but provided sixty seven families supported by our services with a Nali Bali Supplement.



Children in Lovers Lane having fun with toys we make from recyclable materials.



Sharon Parsons joins our Primary Caregiver group on a weekly basis. Here she is spending some quality time and coloring with her daughter.



Learners facing serious learning challenges were identified and brought under the attention the Western Cape Education Department. These learners were referred to HearX Foundation for hearing tests, an NGO involved in the Valcare Educational Support Coordinated Effort. Based on their findings, these learners will be referred to Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists or Audiologists. Hearing test results serves as an indication that learners have no trouble hearing or are lagging academically due to hearing impairment.



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