

By Bianca Petersen - KDG Communications Manager



**From Left: Andriette Diedericks (KDG Love2Learn Facilitator and Social Auxiliary Worker), Vengeline Small (Primary Care Giver), Niesha Ferbruarie (KDG Love2Learn Facilitator).**

## FROM CLIENT TO VOLUNTEER

Vengeline Small is a thirty-eight-year-old mother of six children. She became known to Khula Development Group after one of her children was referred to the organisation.

During a conversation about Vengeline's journey with KDG, she described what her life was like before she accepted our help. She was a single parent and worked as a waiter. After a diagnoses with Arthritis, she lost her job because she could no longer use her hands due to pain and stiffness. Changing her baby's diaper, brushing her daughter's hair, and performing everyday tasks were a challenge. She often relied on others for help which resulted in conflict.

Low self-esteem, helplessness and frustration contributed to her losing her will to live. She locked herself in her house and slept throughout the day. She lost contact with everyone she knew. She missed her clinic appointments and did not have medication for her disease. Occasionally, her children missed school as she could not help them get dressed or walk with them. One of her daughters displayed worrisome behaviour at school. At that stage, teachers suspected that there were problems and referred her case to a KDG social worker for intervention.

KDG Love2Learn Facilitators, Niesha Ferbruarie and Andriette Diedericks who is also a Social Auxiliary Worker, were assigned to Vengeline's case. They knocked on her door to initiate home visits, but she refused to open. She made it clear that they were not welcome. Niesha and Andriette were persistent. They went to her house on a daily basis until Vengeline stopped peeking at them through the window and opened the door. After they

had introduced themselves, they discussed the worrisome behaviour of her daughter at school. During the conversation it was concluded that the difficulties her daughter were facing was a result of circumstances at home. With great love for her children and their well-being, Vengeline decided to remedy the situation. She had meetings at school, cooperated with the teachers and supported her daughter until the worrisome behaviour was a thing of the past. Her daughter made significant progress at school. Academically, she advanced in a short period of time and stood first in her class.

Niesha and Andriette invited Vengeline to attend weekly sessions with other primary caregivers in the Love2Learn Programme. These sessions focus on the support and empowerment of primary caregivers and relevant significant others to provide healing spaces through storytelling, at-home learning assistance, home support guidance, empowerment and skills development. At first, Vengeline was picked up by a KDG vehicle to attend these sessions. Later, as her health and will to live improved, she started leaving her home early in the morning, having to walk at a slow pace, to be there in time.

Vengeline grew remarkably close to Niesha because Niesha would always leave her home with a verse from the bible and compliment Vengeline on how beautiful and wonderful she is. She also took Vengeline to her clinic and hospital appointments. Vengeline started taking her medication daily. This had a huge impact on her health. She could use her hands again and was able to walk her children to school.

Vengeline never believed that she had a purpose. She did not believe in God. One morning Niesha prayed over her life. Vengeline testified that she felt a sudden urge to be alive again. Today she is proud and eager to get to know God.

After completing the Primary Caregiver Workshop in the Love2Learn Programme, Vengeline took the certificate she received and displayed it at the local shop in her neighbourhood. Proud of what she achieved and eager to encourage others, she plans to display her training manuals on a bookshelf at that shop. This way it will be accessible to all primary caregivers who struggle. Vengeline also enrolled as a Volunteer at KDG. After successfully completing the training course, she volunteers at KDG on a weekly basis. Children love her and primary caregivers open up to her. Vengeline did not only improve her own life and the lives of her children, but she is also an inspiration to her community.



**Vengeline volunteering and entertaining children in New Orleans Park, Paarl.**

## Achievements Jan to Sep 2022

**Active in 9 schools**  
**22 Schools reached**

**831** - Number of Children Reached

**3342** - Individual and Group Sessions with Learners at Risk of Dropping Out

**2929** - Home Visits to Children not attending school and to empower Parents to Reduce Drop-Out

**125** - Primary Caregiver Group Sessions and Workshops

**1525** - 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 306 urgent child protection cases were escalated to urge up the service delivery to most vulnerable children.**

THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

## DONOR Spotlight

*BerryWorld has been proudly donating towards the mission of Khula Development Group for the past two years.*

They support us because we are a family-oriented organisation. As a company with family values, BerryWorld strongly believes in investing in the future. One of the company values is Sustainability and supporting KDG contributes to that value. They contribute to a Sustainable future for children to achieve success.



## Prayer Week

**As a Christian based organisation, we believe in sharing the love of Jesus, not only in our offices, but in the communities we work in too.**

Our Paarl Branch celebrated **Prayer Week** between 29 August - 2 September 2022 at the following primary schools in Paarl East: **New Orleans, Orleansvale, Paarlzicht, Nederburg and Magnolia.**

We followed Jericho Walls **The 7 Days on the Wall** initiative praying for spiritual awakening, social justice and the unsaved in their churches and communities. The Mission is to mobilise more local prayer networks across South Africa, as well as various other nations around the world, to pray 24-7 for: **Spiritual Awakening – Isaiah 62:6-7, Salvation of Souls – Acts 15:16-17, Social Justice – Luke 18:7-8.**

Khula Stellenbosch was invited to join **The Prayer Network** in Stellenbosch during Prayer Week. They were active in schools between 15 – 19 August 2022 under the theme **The Power of Purity** at the following primary schools: **Pieter Langeveldt, Klapmuts, Rietenbosch and Cloetessville**

Teachers, learners and primary caregivers were welcomed for individual prayer sessions.



Prayer sessions during Prayer Week.



Learners attending a prayer gathering at New Orleans Primary School in Paarl.



Learners enjoying Christian based colouring activities during Prayer Week.

## 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.**

### Social Worker Breakfast and Journal Club

Social Workers play an important role in promoting social change, solving problems in human relationships and helping to enhance well-being. In partnership with Valcare and KVV, we hosted our quarterly social worker breakfast on 16 September 2022 at Ashanti Estate, where social workers shared resources and offered support to one another. The management of workload was discussed during the Journal Club meeting. Heinrich Gabler, former Mr. South Africa 2019, was the guest speaker who shared his life story and the role social workers played in his life.



**From left:** Jolanda Van Der Lingen (Valcare Relationship Manager), Carien Van Zyl (KDG Principal Social Worker), Heinrich Gabler (Mr SA 2019), and Daleen Labuschagne (KDG Programme Director).

## Donations

**If you would like to join 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 **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 further the education of vulnerable children.**



**givingain**

## Volunteers

**Our next Volunteer intake will resume in 2023. Details will be shared on social media.**



## HearX foundation



organisation that conducts vision and hearing tests for learners in primary schools. Recently they provided testing to all the staff members at our Paarl branch.

Taking care of your hearing and vision is important to maintaining your total body health and ensuring that you hear and see everything that matters to you. HearX Foundation is a charitable



**From left:** Neziswa Duka (Screener), Eunice Paul (KDG Receptionist), Porchia Martin (Screener), Ivona Carolissen (KDG School2Home Facilitator) and Alison Wilson HearX Programme Manager.



**From left:** Go-Go (KDG Mascot), Darren Hartlief (Salt & Light Paarl East Team Leader), So-So (KDG Mascot).

## Promoting School Attendance and The Gospel

Salt and Light is collaborating with KDG mascots, Go-Go and So-So. During our performances at different schools, Khula mascots promote school attendance through a short play and Salt & Light share the gospel and beautiful stories with learners who enjoy the lessons they learn. This collaboration will resume in the fourth school term.



## A Teacher's Initiative

Teacher Amanda Pitt at Nederburg Primary started a project for two Grade 2 learners who were chronically absent. She brought seeds of fruits and vegetables to school. The boys were given the assignment to sow these seeds in a garden they ploughed. As motivation to keep them in school and to participate in this extra extracurricular activity, Teacher Amanda explained to them if they do not come to school, their garden will be neglected and nothing will grow. The boys are not only attending to their garden regularly but are also showing improved school attendance. On 23 September 2022 they each received a certificate after breaking the record for good school attendance in term three.

# PROTEA OF THE VALLEY

During Women's month, one of our Community Workers, Divene Pietersen was nominated as a Protea of the Valley. This is an annual initiative by Valcare who celebrates 15 women as part of its Proteas of the Valley women's empowerment initiative. Divene started at our organisation as a fieldworker nine years ago. She has a heart for helping families, ensuring no child drops out of school. ***"To help families gives me purpose. We don't want to see children loitering on the streets and drop out of the schooling system. We want a healthy society; this starts with guiding parents to ensure children stay in school. Sometimes all someone needs is a kind word. It gives me such joy when people choose a better life for themselves. It doesn't matter what your circumstances are, be hopeful. There is a better life for you."*** Divene believes the only thing you need to help someone is to give them hope.



Teacher Amanda with her two Grade 2 learners.

## Staff NEWS



Jacques Gabriëls started at our Stellenbosch branch at the beginning of 2022 as a Social Auxiliary worker in the Child Well-Being programme. A few months into the programme, Jacques proved to be hands on with children in the communities they work in. He is now working as a Social Auxiliary Worker in the Love2Learn Programme.

Khula Staff successfully completed training in Level 1 First Aid during August 2022. This training prepares learners for emergencies like CPR, choking, burns, fractures and other workplace accidents.

**Front:** Madelein Samuels. **Back left:** Eunice Paul, Andriëtte Diedericks and Niesha Februarie.





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# SUCCESS stories

## School2Home Programme

Emma Dippenaar School2Home Facilitator successfully closed the file of a Grade 2 learner that has been in the programme for the past year. His teachers and mother were actively present throughout his journey with KDG. Seeing teachers go beyond and above for a learner lagging academically and mothers investing in their children's education, provides hope for every child on our database. *"It makes me think that there is hope for not only the future generation, but perhaps for the current generation as well, which is a beautiful reminder of Gods redemption that stretches far beyond our way of seeing things."* -Emma Dippenaar School2Home Facilitator

## Love2Learn Programme

Absent fathers are a contributing factor to absenteeism and school dropout. When learners grow up without a male or father figure in their lives it can cause emotional problems. Jacques Gabriels, Love2Learn Facilitator and Social Auxiliary Worker, took male learners under his wing. On a weekly basis, they visit the SPCA where they receive animal assisted therapy. This provides comfort, reduces loneliness, increases mental stimulation and lowers anxiety while helping the learners to relax. Recently, a little boy who formerly had been attacked by a pit bull, joined the group. The attack and stitches left his face scarred. He never received therapy. After his visit to the SPCA his mother testified that he could not stop talking about how much he had enjoyed it. During sessions he was calm and participated in all activities. This indicates that he is overcoming his fear of dogs.



## Child Well-Being Service

Reginald Coenrad is a former drug addict. He decided to change his life after he realised he was heading for disaster. Our Child Well-Being Service assisted with his rehabilitation application. When he completed his treatment, he paid a visit to our primary caregiver group and shared his experience. During prayer week he addressed primary school learners and told them about the dangers of drug abuse. He spoke from a health perspective, explaining exposure to different diseases. He also stressed how drug addiction can tear your family apart. Encouraging learners, he read an article about making good choices from his rehabilitation manual.



Our Love2Learn team in Stellenbosch are collaborating with the WCED @Home Learning Programme, promoting play amongst primary school learners. The benefits of play are endless, including cognitive, physical, social and emotional development. Children also decided to keep the park in good condition by picking up litter. This way they have a clean park to enjoy and have fun in.



A Primary Caregiver Workshop took place in New Orleans Park in Paarl on 24 August 2022. Toys were made with waste material and fun activities were lined up for the children while the Love2Learn team worked with the primary caregivers.



Khula Staff attended the Ezra BuildSmart Parenting Mentoring Workshop on 8 September 2022. The four building blocks of parenting will be incorporated in our programmes to mentor primary caregivers.



## Khula Tours

Khula Tours gives supporters, potential donors and volunteers a hands-on experience of the work the organisation does. After a short information session at our Paarl office, attendees are driven to the Paarl East community where we render services. Guided tours of our three programmes are conducted among the different schools we work in.



### Tour Dates 2022:

**20 October 10:00 – 12:00 & 17 November 10:00 – 12:00**

Please note that limited slots are available and booking is required. Please contact 021 871 1511 or e-mail [admin@khuladg.co.za](mailto:admin@khuladg.co.za).

Our Stellenbosch branch has taken the initiative to empower unemployed youth. These young people are currently observing our community workers and will be trained as volunteers to assist in our School2Home programme.



## CONTACT DETAILS

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