

THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



DALEEN LABUSCHAGNE  
Programme Director

## Foreword

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The year set off with our usual staff training and get-together after the festive season. As it is our tradition, we normally try to hear what is on God's heart for the year and then share it with our wonderful staff. Last year, at our Mergon Connect, Niel Hart, their Executive Head shared on John 15 and how God shapes us through pruning. While preparing the message, the Holy Spirit laid it on my heart to ask Niel to share the message with us in person. As Khula went through maybe the deepest pruning season since we took over as leaders in 2009, we were expectant of a new season with much fruit. We only had God to trust for the provision of the work we do and had to communicate this with our staff. We were vulnerable as leaders and as Niel shared, we experienced a deep sense of peace. This was seen in a testimony of one of our School2Home Facilitators, Claudia van Rooyen as she shared in her report:

*"The year began positively with team bonding and an introduction session. However, there is uncertainty and concerns about future challenges. Despite this, there's a strong trust in God for guidance and better outcomes. Each day is approached with hope and gratitude, recognising the honour of being led by God as the steerer of our Khula ship. Working with children is seen as a privilege, recognising them as God's children. There's joy in seeing their excitement and appreciation, as well as the opportunity to provide the love and support they crave. Children simply seek love and belonging, and it's an honour to be part of their lives, standing by them with care and dedication. Despite facing significant challenges, there's reassurance from God that change brings opportunities for growth and support. With new relationships, classrooms, and people, there's a chance to positively impact children's lives. By approaching each situation with renewed perspective and determination, there's a commitment to fostering success and making a difference for every child, backed by prayer and dedication. Despite challenges, the schools are thriving, and the students are excelling. There's a heartfelt desire to strengthen family relationships. Despite difficulties, there's a commitment to continue supporting every child and parent. As we do home visits in the challenging heat of January and February in Paarl and Stellenbosch, each child's circumstances are approached with a fresh perspective, seeking God's guidance for a brighter future for all involved - students, teachers, parents, and the community."*



CLAUDIA BEUKES  
School2Home Facilitator

We are excited to launch our **Sponsor a Child campaign** and hope you are excited too! **Let us make a difference where we are!** As Mother Theresa said: **"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile"**.

“ Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again - rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me - everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you!

- Philippians 4:4-9

## RESTORING A FAMILY

Ten-year-old Kim-Lee\* and seven-year-old Craig Adams\* are two siblings who were referred to our Programmes during August 2022. Factors contributing to their referral include frequent absenteeism and substance abuse at home.

Jamie-Lee Engelbrecht KDG Community Worker and Claudia Beukes spending time with siblings Kim-Lee and Craig Adams.

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



Kim-Lee did not face any academic challenges in school. As an intelligent girl, completing assignments and tasks were a breeze. Her absence from school remained a huge concern. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about her brother, Craig.

During her pregnancy, his mother Maria\* continued to use tik. Lately, it became evident that this impacted his cognitive, gross, and fine motor skills. At the age of six years, he struggled to balance, throw, and kick a ball.

Claudia Beukes, Khula Development Group School2Home Facilitator has been working very closely with the family and explains the circumstances at home were not easy to begin with. They lived in a shack in their grandmother's backyard. Although their father lives at home, he is not actively involved in their lives. Kim-Lee had to play the role of a mother to her brother for a long time. She had to get him ready for school and make sure he attends school. This responsibility was too much to bear for such a young child.

Khula staff successfully conducted a home visit after numerous attempts. Jamie-Lee Engelbrecht, Khula Development Group Community Worker says Maria's mother was very attentive and took on the responsibility

of ensuring Kim-Lee and Craig attend school. Although she tried her best, there were times where the children refused. After a devastating fire, in which Maria and her children lost everything they owned, she accepted our help. Maria committed to changing her ways. She went to rehab and after completing the programme, she found employment. Together, she worked with us to ensure that her children received the necessary services from us to develop to their full potential. She took the children to school every day and participated in our primary caregiver programmes.

Through her cooperation, Kim-Lee has broken her cycle of absenteeism and was successfully closed off as a Khula learner, starting this academic year as a Grade 4 learner. Craig is repeating Grade 1 as he is lagging academically. Maria and Craig remains in the Child Well-Being programme. They are also receiving additional services from Department of Social Development.



## BENEFICIARY REACH

It's crucial to recognise that the reporting period encompasses the yearly final exam period, the December holiday break, and the first month of the new school year. At the end of 2023, we had 224 learners on our database. Between November 2023 and January 2024, we closed 68 cases. Of these 50 were for good progress, 13 progressed to Grade 5 and 4 learners relocated to other schools. 1 Learner permanently dropped out of the school system. Currently we have 290 beneficiaries on our database. 9,972 children and adults were reached through various initiatives emphasising the value of education.

To extend our reach and collaborate with other organisations we recorded 4,364 additional interactions.



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# KHULA LEARNER NOW TEACHES LEARNERS IN HIS COMMUNITY

Onica Tatsi is a former Khula learner who featured in the main article of our newsletter in December 2023. Once a Khula learner who could not speak a word of Afrikaans, he overcame many obstacles and received good news in January 2024: he passed matric. After matriculating, Onica knew he had to find something constructive to occupy his time with.

He heard about the YearBeyond, a national programme that provides unemployed youth with meaningful work experience. He applied and was invited for an interview. The interviewer immediately recognised Onica. He was the grade one learner she worked with many years ago. Alta Bester was a programme facilitator for Khula Development Group at the primary school Onica attended. She is now employed by YearBeyond. Alta smiles while reflecting on his interview, "he has grown so much, he is disciplined, well mannered, hardworking, he is a leader". She describes him becoming a Yeboneer as a full circle. "Someone who knows the community, who is alert and aware of safety. The observations he makes on a daily basis are priceless".

Onica is responsible for twelve learners whom he assists with educational activities. Home, school, and community visits are conducted while providing services to them. Onica says he enjoys working with these learners. He shares his testimony with them regularly as motivation to persevere. After attending training to become a Yeboneer and providing support to learners, Onica is considering to apply for a qualification in teaching after he was set on applying for a qualification in Agriculture in June 2024. He sees the need for education and care for children in his community and is determined to do what he can to help them.

Alta describes working with Onica as a privilege. He is humble and dedicated to his responsibilities as a Yeboneer. His peers look up to him and he is not ashamed to share that he once was like the learners he works with, needing additional help and support. He will remain in the programme until December 2024.



## #SponsorAChild!

Are you ready to make a difference? We're thrilled to announce the launch of our latest initiative, #SponsorAChild!

Now, you have the opportunity to support a child in need of education by donating R500 per month or as a one-time contribution.

By becoming a sponsor, you'll directly impact the lives of children who rely on our services. Plus, upon request, we'll provide you with an Article 18A certificate for your donation. Together, we can reach even more children and create a lasting impact in their lives.



## Minute Man Press Paarl



Khula Development Group has received donations in print and design from Minuteman Press Paarl over the past few years. Since January 2024, the generosity

of Gayle Meyeridericks and her wonderful team have been continuous. Through the printing of manuals we were able to present training to our staff and the printing of promotional items spread the word of our mission. The quarterly sponsoring of each foreword and newsletter help us promote school attendance. **Thank you Minuteman Press Paarl! Your support is tremendously appreciated.**

## Khula Tours

Come and experience Khula Development Group.

After a short information session at our office, guided tours of our three programmes are conducted among the different schools we work in. **Our next tour is scheduled for 18 April 2024 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in Paarl and Stellenbosch.** To reserve your seat please WhatsApp +27 73 176 5086 or e-mail [bianca@khuladg.co.za](mailto:bianca@khuladg.co.za)



## MySchool

You can help us promote school attendance whenever you go shopping! Sign up today and add Khula Development Group as one of your MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet beneficiaries. Whenever you swipe your MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card at a qualifying partner, a percentage of your spend will be donated to us and it won't cost you anything extra!



MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet  
MAKE EVERY SWIPE COUNT

JOIN TODAY & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Sign up with QR code
- Choose us as your cause
- View your transactions
- Search for partners

SCAN HERE TO SIGN UP





# VOLUNTEER!

We need volunteers to assist us in our programmes. Requirements:

- As our values are based on Christianity, our volunteers are required to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- We work with vulnerable children, which means volunteers should be patient, caring, loving and approachable.
- Volunteers are required to volunteer during school hours, at least two hours per day per week between Tuesday and Friday.
- Volunteers should undergo a fingerprint clearance at SAPS at their own expense.
- Volunteers should complete a TB screening questionnaire at our offices.

For more information, please contact: bianca@khuladg.co.za

# GO2CAPTAIN AWARDS

We are announcing our Go2Captains across schools spanning from Paarl to Stellenbosch. Go2Captains are leaders who:

- Attend school every day.
- Are on time for school every day.
- Remind the teacher to complete the attendance register.
- Have respect for their teacher and classmates.
- Motivate classmates and friends to go to school.

## Pieter Langeveldt Primary



Left: Ntsika Nongqina, Eastern Poole, Nahum Abrahams, Zayd Jagers, Heidi Baron, and Zukhanye Mrali.

## Paarlzicht Primary



## Magnolia Primary



Left: Ivona Carolissen (KDG School2Home Facilitator) Thalia Fortuin (KDG Community Worker), Beuran Howard, Neymar Matthee, Skylar-Ann Fredericks, Carlah Oktober, Jovandre Williams, Megail Claasen, and Niesha Februarie (KDG Love2Learn Facilitator).

## Nederburg Primary



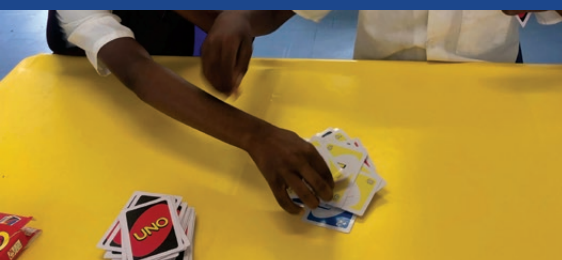
Left: Junay Kermis Thalia Fortuin KDG Community Worker, Mic-Kaylo Engelbrecht, Leandra Stoffels, Kaydee Coetzee, Nazri Wallaby, Cyrillene de Kock (KDG School2Home Facilitator), Niesha Februarie (KDG Love2Learn Facilitator) and Mecaylib Matjan.

← Left: Tesley-Ann Dombas, Sharfaa Benjamin, Maxwell Claassen, Cassie Dowries, Mia Volmink, Zackery Francke, Raziq Botha, Purdon Booysen.

Back Left: Ianthea August (KDG Community Worker), Moriska Thomas (KDG School2Home Facilitator), Niesha Februarie (KDG Love2Learn Facilitator) and Teacher Kaylin van Schalkwyk.

# BREAKTHROUGHS

- A mother with two daughters attending two different schools in Paarl East came onto our radar after one of her daughters showed a pattern of absenteeism. The schools her daughters were attending were not situated close to each other which contributed to the one learner's absence as the mother had to walk them to school. They also lost their house in a fire which made things even more challenging. Our Child-Wellbeing team intervened and worked tirelessly to ensure that both learners attend the same school in 2024. In January this year, the mother completed the final paperwork and enrolled both of her daughters in the same school, who have not been absent ever since. Our journey with this family continues as a younger sibling needs to be enrolled in Grade R as soon as possible.
- A male learner enrolled in our School2Home Programme shows a lot of potential, especially with problem-solving and forming strategies. However, he does not talk a lot during sessions and comes across as very reserved and quiet. During a game of UNO he lit up completely! He talked loudly and told stories when his stuttering became apparent. Joanne Conradie, one of our School2Home Facilitators realised that he is very self-conscious, which explains why he does not talk much. She is determined to assist him with the stuttering and boost his confidence to talk even more!



# Collaboration & Partnerships

We believe in sharing our resources, knowledge, and expertise, increasing impact, while improving sustainability!

## Principles when Working with Learners Workshop

On 27 February 2024, our Love2Learn Facilitators hosted a workshop for the community workers of the *Foundation Of Community Work* under the theme: *Principles When Working With Learners*. They work with the pre-school children of parents who cannot afford to send their children to creche. During the feedback session, attendees expressed how much they enjoyed the workshop and that they could not wait to apply what they had learned in their work.



## Quarterly Social Worker Breakfast

In collaboration with Nation Builder, KVV Foundation, and North-West University we brought social workers together at our first quarterly social worker breakfast of this year on 8 March 2024 at Ashanti in Paarl. Annette de la Porte, a social worker with 42 years of experience in counselling and training was the guest speaker at the event.



Left: Jolanda van der Lingen (Relationship Manager Nation Builder) Annette de la Porte (Guest Speaker), and Daleen Labuschagne (Director of Programmes Khula Development Group)



## STAFF NEWS

### Welcome



**Thalia Fortuin** joined our Paarl branch as a Community Worker.



**Joanne Conradie** joined our Paarl Branch as a School2Home Facilitator.

### Goodbye



**Eunice Paul** joined our Paarl branch as a community worker in January 2020, where she demonstrated tireless dedication and formed strong connections with parents and the community. In 2022, she transitioned to the role of receptionist, where her warmth and hospitality made everyone feel welcome. On February 29, 2024, Eunice bid farewell to pursue opportunities elsewhere. Her love and commitment have left a lasting impact on all those she encountered, and she will be greatly missed.



**Lize Eloff**, a qualified Occupational Therapist, joined our Stellenbosch Branch on June 7, 2021, as a School2Home Coordinator. Her infectious smile earned her the 'Ray of Sunshine' office award, with colleagues praising her warmth and dedication. On March 20, 2024, Lize will bid farewell to focus on her growing family. She has been a pillar of support, offering both professional and personal advice to colleagues. We are grateful for her impact on both our office and the lives of our beneficiaries. Lize, you will be greatly missed.

### Goodbye



**Divene Pieterse** joined our Paarl branch as a field worker in May 2013, initially serving the Paarl-East community and later extending support to Simondium Primary and Nederburg Primary School. In 2021, she transitioned to become a community worker in the Lantana area. Despite initially describing herself as an introvert, Divene blossomed into confidence, capable of addressing large crowds. She found immense fulfillment in working with families and children, bringing hope and spreading the gospel. On December 14, 2023, as we bid farewell to Divene, our hearts overflowed with gratitude for her unwavering devotion to the community and schools she served. We are confident that she will continue to make a positive impact wherever she goes.

## SPECIAL MOMENTS

The unveiling of two new classrooms on 30 January 2024 at Orleansvale Primary and Paarlzicht Primary in Paarl East brought great excitement amongst learners and school staff. We do face the challenge of having a dedicated space at schools where we can render services. Thanks to the Val De Vie Foundation and funds raised at the 2023 Vodacom Shop Celebrity Golf Day, we can now engage with learners in a private and safe environment.



**Left:** Mrs Kaylin van Schalkwyk (Teacher at Paarlzicht Primary), Cornel Nel (KDG Social Worker) Clechaè Flanders (KDG Branch Manager) Moriska Thomas (KDG School2Home Facilitator), Daleen Labuschagne (KDG Programme Director) Gareth John Duraan (Paarlzicht Primary Principal) Chrisjan Coetzee (Val De Vie Marketing Intern), and Levona April (Teacher at Paarlzicht Primary School).



**Left:** Joanne Conradie (KDG School2Home Facilitator) Ryk Neethling (Val De Vie Marketing Director) Isaac Kock (Interim Principal Orleansvale Primary) Erns Labuschagne (KDG CEO) Marisa le Roux (Retired Khula Development Group School2Home Facilitator) Daleen Labuschagne (KDG Programme Director).



During February we referred four learners in our Love2Learn Programme to Amado for horseback-riding. Therapeutic riding offers physical, emotional and cognitive rewards. Through collaboration with this wonderful institution, we believe that learners with a learning disability can benefit even more from this additional service offering. Our staff ensure that these learners are taken to the facility on a weekly basis for equine therapy.



Our Stellenbosch branch celebrated Prayer Week between 26 February - 1 March 2024. During this period, they went from classroom to classroom and shared the good news: I am chosen, I am the King's child, I belong to God & I am special. Learners and teachers were open to pray together and enjoyed worshipping with us.

### CONTACT DETAILS

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