

By Bianca Petersen - KDG Communications Manager

YOU ARE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Its Wednesday morning, I just walked into the Khula Classroom at a primary school in Paarl East. I look across the table and see Rodney Davey* sitting next to his mother Cynthia Davey*. In general you would expect to see an eight or nine year old in Grade three. At Khula we know that is not the case with school dropouts. Rodney is in Grade 3 and thirteen years old.

Pseudonyms were used to protect the identity of this family.

I start talking to Rodney straight away. He looks shy at first, but once he starts talking, he talks with certainty. He tells me that he enjoys maths and that he wants to be a fireman when he completes school because he loves helping people. When we touch the topic of his journey with Khula, I see a lot of emotion in his eyes. He tells me that his belated father had a heart attack right in front of his school in 2018. He burst out laughing on the scene. This was his reaction to trauma. He did not know how else to react. Two years after the incident Rodney dropped out of school permanently.

His family at home were all Rastafarian. That was their religion and culture. This made it acceptable for him to start smoking dagga at home and in public. His first encounter with the substance was when he was ten years old. I asked him how he could afford to buy it. He says whenever people sent him to the shop they would give him a little extra and this supported his habit. His elder sister and cousin were his smoking companions. This made him feel calm and peaceful. He forgot about his fathers death and the headache that goes with it.

As time went by Rodney came to the realization that dropping out of school and smoking is not what he wants for himself. He thought long and hard about what he was going to do. That is when he remembered Khula Development Group is active at the school he attends. He remembered there were social workers and knew where to find them. One morning

Rodney approached Nandi Myburgh KDG Social Worker and asked for help. Nandi did not hesitate. She saw Rodney was serious about changing his life.

Rodney went to rehab and completed his treatment for six weeks. He recalls how he could not eat for the first few days as he was constantly nauseas. This did not stop him, he was determined to complete the programme and he did. After Rodney returned from rehab, Nandi spoke to the school principal and he was enrolled in Grade 3. After this he was enrolled in our School2Home Programme. Ivona Carolissen, KDG School2Home Facilitator, says Rodney has potential and shows promise to persevere. He shows more determination in sessions than his classmates and makes sure that he completes every single task, even if it is not 100% correct. Future prospects for Rodney definitely includes an application at School of Skills due to the huge difference in his grade and age.

Our KDG social worker and facilitators knew that additional classes in our School2Home Programme was not enough for Rodney. There is a need to address and work through the trauma he is facing. They decided to enroll him at Amado Animal Assisted Therapy as well which he attends once a week. He gives me a huge smile and tells me that he likes the horse named Shirley. Until recently he could not ride on her by himself, and now that he can, he feels more confident. He is slowly working through his father's death and he is starting to feel better day by day.



Ivona Carolissen (KDG School2Home Facilitator) with Rodney and Cynthia Davey.

Rodney's school attendance has improved tremendously since he was enrolled in school again in April 2022. So much so that he was nominated and named a Go2School Captain. Go2School Captains is a KDG initiative where learners who show leadership skills are nominated.

These learners:

- 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

Rodney boasts that he has already taken this position to heart by monitoring learners at school. His mother's eyes fill with tears as she describes how proud she is of him. She considers him an inspiration to her older children. At such a young age he took initiative and made a life changing decision. He is surrounded by temptation in the area where he lives, but he has shown resistance and character. Rodney says he is looking forward to the December school holiday and to practise cricket. Hopefully he makes the team at school next year. In 2023 Rodney will continue his journey in our School2Home Programme and Animal Assisted Therapy at Amado.

Achievements for 2022

Active in 9 schools
22 Schools reached

856 - Number of Children Reached

283 - Number of active children

4905 - Individual and Group Sessions with Learners at Risk of Dropping Out

3537 - Home Visits to Children not attending school and to empower Parents to Reduce Drop-Out

305 - Primary Caregiver Group Sessions and Workshops

1657 - School visits, Network and Collaboration Meetings to Empower Teachers and Learners to Tackle the Issue of School Drop-Out

Special child protection focusses: 31 Form 22's referred to Designated Child Protection Organisations and 437 urgent child protection cases were escalated to urge on the service delivery to the most vulnerable children.

DONOR Spotlight

Western Cape Bookmakers' Association has been proudly donating towards the mission of Khula Development Group for more than eleven years.

According to Rossouw Lubbe, the organisation can most definitely align themselves with the purpose and the passion in which KDG goes about to achieve goals.

They have seen the value of the services provided that adds to the core structures of the community by reintegrating young children back into the school system.



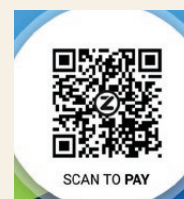
Donations

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

Go2Captain AWARDS

We named Go2Captians for the school year of 2023 at five primary schools in Paarl East. Go2Captians do not only show good leadership skills but also:

- 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

The Grade 3 classes with the best school attendance for the academic year of 2022 were also identified in Paarl and Stellenbosch. Congratulations to all Go2Captians and Grade 3 classes! We are excited to see you and all your classmates at school every school day in 2023.

Wake Up, Get Up, Show up!



← Magnolia Primary School

Left: Austin Williams, Carl Joseph, Junaid Williams, Johan Botha. **Back left:** John Leibrandt Principal, Mrs Ashley Williams Teacher of Grade 3C with the best school attendance for 2022, Ziyaam Botha, Valentino Bafazini, Lee-Jayrio Grandfield, Mrs Vivian Hefca and Matthew Prent.



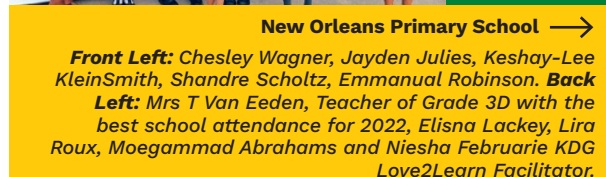
← Paarlzicht Primary School

Left: Niesha Februarie, KDG Love2Learn Facilitator, Charity Fortuin, Kate Van Wyk, KDG School2Home Facilitator, Lee Williams, Whitney Thomas, Saige Isaks, Matthew Arendse, Cubourne Arendse, Georgia-Ellen Beukes, Shade Swarts and Mrs Catherine Mitchell, Teacher of Grade 3D with the best school attendance for 2022.



↑ Orleansvale Primary School

Left: Niesha Februarie, Khula Development Group Love2Learn Facilitator, Mrs Dalene Gabriels Teacher of Grade 3B with the best school attendance for 2022, Bruwene van Rooyen, Zeekah Roux, Elrick Syter, Maurdonique Wessels, Jenique Domingo, Zeedah-Ann Afrika, Stephy-Lee Van Schalkwyk and Rianay De Kock.



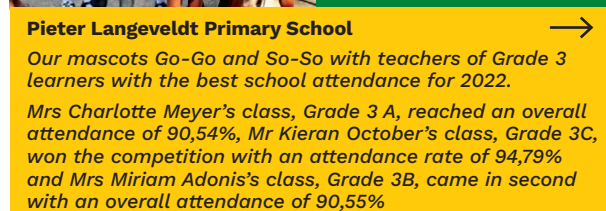
→ New Orleans Primary School

Front Left: Chesley Wagner, Jayden Julies, Keshay-Lee KleinSmith, Shandre Scholtz, Emmanuel Robinson. **Back Left:** Mrs T Van Eeden, Teacher of Grade 3D with the best school attendance for 2022, Elisna Lackey, Lira Roux, Moegammad Abrahams and Niesha Februarie KDG Love2Learn Facilitator.



Nederburg Primary School

Left: Divene Pietersen, KDG Community Worker, Shaunnay Tiemie, Marishan Daniels, Connor Coetzee, Morné Benn, Macneal Davids, Zionay Warries and Mrs Santie Marais, Teacher of Grade 3B with the best school attendance for 2022.



Pieter Langeveldt Primary School

Our mascots Go-Go and So-So with teachers of Grade 3 learners with the best school attendance for 2022.

Mrs Charlotte Meyer's class, Grade 3 A, reached an overall attendance of 90,54%, Mr Kieran October's class, Grade 3C, won the competition with an attendance rate of 94,79% and Mrs Miriam Adonis's class, Grade 3B, came in second with an overall attendance of 90,55%



Klapmuts Primary School

Mrs Veronica Cloete, teacher of Grade 3 E with her learners who showed the best school attendance for 2022 with a rate of 95,16%. Runner up classes were Grade 3 D with 92,3% and Grade 3 B with 91,8%. With Mrs Cloete are KDG Community Workers; Chrizelle Meyer, Gadjeja Pasqualie and Chumza Madze,

SUCCESS stories

There is hope for a family we have been working with for the past two years. The son, a primary school learner completed rehabilitation at Toevlug centre and has scheduled visits with a Social Worker from the Department of Social Development. His mother reduced her alcohol consumption and agreed to attend a out-patient programme every alternate week. His father is visually impaired and was referred to home based care services. His two older brothers also agreed to go for rehabilitation. The home this family lives in is also cleaner, maintained and filled with possibility.

After an eleven-year-old girl was molested and raped she was brought to our offices for help. Our Social Worker and Social Auxiliary Worker supported her emotionally and rushed her to the police station where she was assisted by the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit. The unit took her to the hospital for a medical examination and care. We collaborated with a Social Worker at The Department of Social Development who arranged extra care and support for her and her family. She is part of the Khula group at school and receives weekly animal assisted therapy.

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.

Sharing Information and Spreading Christmas Cheer in Loverslane

On 16 November 2022, in collaboration with Foundation For Community Work and Sela Huis, we hosted a workshop with primary caregivers and their families in Loverslane. Cleaché Flanders, KDG Social Auxiliary Worker, shared important information about gender-based violence and how victims can get help. We also spread some Christmas cheer and showed residents how to make affordable Christmas decorations ranging from crackers to wreaths. Excitement and a sense of accomplishment filled the air. After the workshop refreshments were served and Tanya Jansen, Owner and Founder of Huis Sela, surprised primary caregivers with a gift of toiletries.



From left: Ilse Lewis (FCW Home Visitor), Alberita Francis (FCW Supervisor Paarl and Klappmuts), Niesha Ferbruarie (KDG Love2Learn Facilitator), Florenchia Abrahams (FCW Home Visitor) and Tanya Jansen (Founder of Sela Huis)



A little boy adoring his DIY Christmas cracker

Sanitary Products Donations

Pieter Langeveldt Primary School had a lot of extra sanitary products to their disposal. When they heard there was a need for these items at Klappmuts Primary School they did not hesitate to share it. Our Love2Learn and School2Home teams made all the arrangements and successfully distributed sanitary products to ninety-six Grade 7 pupils. They also presented an information session focused on menstruation.



Annieka Mostert (KDG Programme Coordinator) with some of the Grade 7 pupils who received sanitary products after a menstruation information session.



Primary Caregiver Workshop in Loverslane

Last Social Worker Breakfast For 2022

We hosted our final social worker breakfast and journal club for 2022 in collaboration with Valcare on 4 November 2022. Thank you to K WV and Valcare for making this event possible. We are looking forward to joining hands in 2023, gathering the amazing individuals in the social worker profession to share and inspire.



From left: Daleen Labuschagne KDG Programme Director, Carien Van Zyl KDG Principal Social Worker, Guest Speaker Marienne Kriel Olympic Bronze Medallist, and Jolanda Van Der Lingen Valcare Relationship Manager.

THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Time To Say Goodbye

Kate Van Wyk worked as a School2Home Facilitator at our Paarl Branch for the past year. Learners love and adore her. Kate has decided to dedicate her time to her two sons and become a full time mom. She will also pursue her studies and still volunteer at KDG part time.



Marie-Louise Rautenbach started out at our Paarl Branch as a Primary Caregiver Facilitator seven years ago. She is leaving as Operations Manager to retire. We will miss her sorely and wish her all of the best.



Chriszelle Meyer started out at KDG as a WCED @Home Learning Intern during 2020. Her personality and potential led to a permanent position as a Community Worker in 2021. She proved to be dependable, a go getter and an inspiration to her colleagues. We feel honoured to have had her as a part of our team and wish her well in her future endeavours.



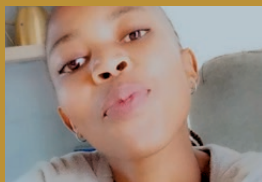
Welcome!



Xandra le Roux recently joined our Paarl Branch as Branch Administrator.



Haylene Adams joined our Stellenbosch Branch as a Social Auxiliary Worker.



Anelisa Dyonta joined our Stellenbosch Team as a Community Worker.

We are so excited to have you on our team! With your experience and knowledge, you are going to be a great addition.

Volunteer APPRECIATION

We would like to express our gratitude towards our volunteers. Your time, commitment and patience towards learners and their families are of great importance.

Our next Volunteer intake will commence in January 2023. Details will be shared on social media.



Our Stellenbosch Branch Volunteer Appreciation.

Liesel Fick, Emma Dippenaar (KDG School2Home Facilitator), Lize Eloff (Programme Coordinator), Robyn Phillips, Carlyn Dhelminie (School2Home Facilitator) and Chandre Simons. **Volunteers not able to attend:** Carnia Adams, Megan Probert, Janca Fouche, Heloise Smit.



Our Paarl Branch Branch Volunteer Appreciation.

Linda Zietsman (KDG School2Home Coordinator), Erns Labuschagne (KDG CEO), Daleen Labuschagne (KDG Program Director) Kate Van Wyk (KDG School2Home Facilitator), Andriette Diedericks (KDG Love2Learn Facilitator), Mariëtte Biermann, Yolanda Mouton, Matilda Du Toit, Vengeline Small, Niesha Februarie (KDG Love2Learn Facilitator), Ivona Carolissen (KDG School2Home Facilitator) and Xandra le Roux (KDG Branch Administrator)

Our Go2Teachers appreciation took place at the Afrikaanse Taalmonument in Paarl. KDG staff wanted to express their gratitude to the teachers for collaborating throughout the year. Without the teachers, a steady relationship would not be possible.



Khula staff in support of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.



Our Stellenbosch branch went Christmas caroling to spread the spirit of Christmas. They visited primary schools and sang hymns and special carols.

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 for 2023 will be announced during January 2023. For enquiries please contact **021 871 1511** or e-mail **admin@khuladg.co.za**

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