



News

Q2: 2023

By Bianca Petersen
- KDG Communications Manager

“
And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: “The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.” “So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.”

– NUMBERS 6:22-27 NKJV

Designated Child Protection Organisation Saves a Family

During June 2022, we became acquainted with the Meyer family after their eldest daughter, Bernadine*, a grade four learner at a primary school in Paarl-East, was referred to us for services with regards to poor school attendance. Bernadine has two younger siblings: Chanelle,* a grade three learner, and Meagan,* who attends crèche. The primary caregivers, Audrey* and Denzil,* are both unemployed and affected by the social ills of society.

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



After our first home visit, it was evident that intervention was necessary. When our staff members arrived at the Meyer house to discuss Bernadine’s poor school attendance, her mother was not present. Her grandmother answered the door and did not want to engage at all. Instead, she told our staff to speak to the child. The only excuse this little girl could come up with was that she did not have socks to wear to school.

This household was struck by domestic violence, substance abuse by parents, alleged physical and verbal abuse of children, visible neglect of children, educational neglect of Bernadine and Chanelle, as well as medical neglect of Chanel who suffers from cystic fibrosis. She also had a huge lump on her head. Due to the circumstances at home, the children were frequently absent from school, malnourished and neglected. Considering these risk factors and circumstances, a Form 22 was completed (a form 22 is a formal way to report child abuse in any form) and a Designated Child Protection Organisation confirmed that they were familiar with the family.

After the completion of the Form 22, our social worker paid a visit to the Meyer residence again. Here, Audrey opened up about the domestic violence and assault she and Bernadine were facing. They were both victims of abuse by her husband Denzil. This was also why Bernadine was not in school or at home that day. She went to a friend’s house for safety.

However, she fell ill during her stay and was hospitalised. The doctor concluded that she suffered from severe stress and anxiety due to the abusive circumstances at home. This was a rude awakening for Audrey who was suddenly determined to protect herself and her children.

She asked for our help and we made the necessary arrangements for Audrey and her daughters to move to a shelter for victims of domestic violence. Audrey willingly reported a case of abuse against her husband Denzil and provided the police with all the necessary information. At this stage Audrey admitted that she had done nothing to protect her daughter while she was attacked. If she had stood up for her in any way it would have made matters worse. Powerless, she stood there and said, “my mother was abused until the day she died, and if I don’t put an end to this, it will happen to me too.”

After they were admitted to a place of safety, there were signs of improvement and the family was enrolled in a three month programme where mother and daughters would receive therapeutic intervention. Not long after, Chanelle fell sick and was admitted to hospital which required her mother by her side 24/7. As a result Bernadine and Meagan were temporarily placed in safety care with Mrs Lewis* who is a foster parent. The two sisters could not stay at the shelter without their mother. When Audrey returned from the hospital she fought many battles to be with all three of her

children again. With the necessary help from DCPO’s and a judge ruling in her favour, they were reunited.

Life changed for the good and Audrey left town with her children to start over. Through family she found a new home in a small town and settled there. Unfortunately for Audrey, she herself was not healed from her past or her addiction. As a broken and lonely woman, she fell back into her old ways of substance abuse and neglect of her children. Bernadine made contact with the social worker at the shelter where they had stayed and cried for help. Upon investigation, the reports were found to be true and the children were removed from their mother’s care into foster care. Although they are not living in one house, they are situated in homes next to each other where they are well taken care of.

While Audrey needs to change her ways and life to be able to take care of her children, they are settling into their new environment. They are also attending school again. Without the swift response and collaboration of the DCPO’s involved, these three beautiful girls would have continued to live a life of neglect which would have had a huge impact on their access to basic needs and services as well as growing up to reach their full potential. We praise the DCPO’s involved in the Meyer family’s life as well as the foster parents who have opened their hearts and homes to these children.



Learners during an Animal Assisted therapy session at Amado in Paarl. This service is provided every Wednesday to promote improvement in human physical, social, emotional, or cognitive function, depending on the need of the child.

Achievements Q2 2023 Active in 9 schools 9 Schools reached

309 - Number of children reached	240 - Number of active children	3 118 - Individual and group sessions with learners at risk of dropping out	1 255 - Home visits to children not attending school and to empower parents to reduce dropout
205 - Primary caregiver group sessions and workshops	562 - School visits, network and collaboration meetings to empower teachers and learners to tackle the issue of school dropout	Special child protection focusses: 6 Form 22’s referred to Designated Child Protection Organisations and 96 urgent child protection cases were escalated to urge on the service delivery to the most vulnerable children	

Through love and education, we can make a difference.

Testimonies



A Love2Learn session with primary caregivers.

- A primary school learner who enrolled in our School2Home programme, did not want to participate in assessments because he cannot read or write. We assisted the school staff in convincing the boy to take his tests. While he is on the waiting list at School of Skills, our staff remain committed to his scheduled weekly sessions that ensures he does not lose his connection with school.
- The primary caregiver of a learner enrolled in our Love2Learn Programme, was not very welcoming towards KDG. During individual sessions at home, the mother would leave the house and leave interaction with our staff to her eldest daughter. Recently, she invited staff into her yard but did not participate yet. During a Child Protection Month empathy game, she suddenly participated and showed interest in her daughters wellbeing.

KEY PARTNERS



Serve Stellenbosch have been partnering with us since 2018. According to their Project Coordinator, Robyn Philips, it is because we are awesome. Robyn elaborates: *“Something we love about Khula is the heart of working together with others as an organisation. They really seek out collaboration and partnerships in order to best serve their clients. They are agents of change and a demonstration of servant leadership in the communities they are serving. We also really love how they are very connected to where they are serving- they are on the ground and present, pursuing relationships in the areas they are in”.*

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.**

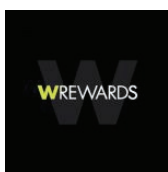


givengain

MySchool

We are very excited to be listed as a **MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet** beneficiary. Whenever you swipe your MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card at a qualifying partner as listed below, a percentage of your spend will be donated to us and it won't cost you anything extra!

Sign up today and make a difference through love and education!



WOOLWORTHS

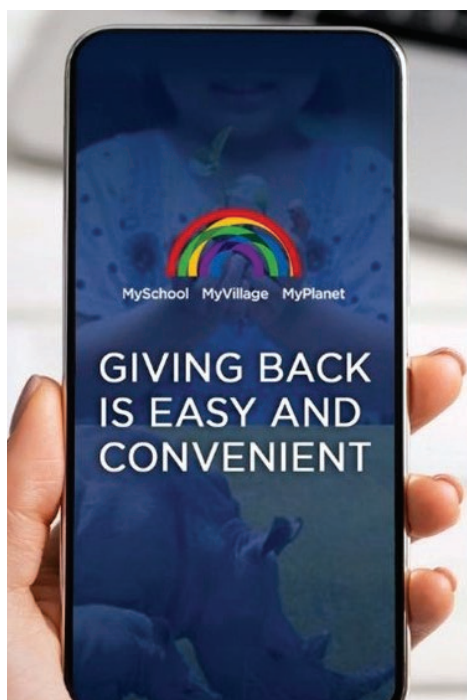
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Child Protection month: People who care about animals, care about other people too.

May is known as Child Protection month in South Africa. Our Child Protection Project took place from 8 – 20 May 2023, with the goal to create empathy amongst children through animal care, to promote communities that care.

Research has shown:

- There is a connection between violence and animal abuse.
- If children witness animal abuse, or abuse animals, they get used to it and this can lead to them not having empathy for others.
- Children who are cruel towards animals, will show aggressive behaviour of violence in future without empathy for people or animals.
- Animal abuse has a negative impact on children's emotional behaviour and is thus considered a form of child abuse.
- By making children aware of the emotions of other people or animals through empathy, the negative pattern of violence can be reduced in the community.
- One of the best ways of creating empathy amongst children is to make them sensitive to the needs and emotions of animals by teaching them how to take care of them instead of hurting them.

- If children can relate to animals, they will be able to develop empathy through awareness of other people's emotions.

Our Principal Social Worker, Carien van Zyl, felt the need to shed light on this issue as staff often hear about young children abusing or killing animals. This project was completed in partnership with the nine schools we are active in between Paarl, Stellenbosch and Klipmuts, and included fun activities:

- Our mascots, Go-Go and So-So put up shows at schools to spread the message that animals have needs and emotions just like human beings; that is why people have the responsibility of taking care of them.
- Learners participated in colouring in, word searching and poster making competitions.
- Special activities were also planned for learners during School2Home Sessions as well as for primary caregivers through workshops.

In the midst of the project, Paarl Rescue Obsessed joined hands with our Paarl branch. After Go-Go and So-So shows, they brought their puppies on stage and explained why animal care is important. While some learners preferred to play with puppies, others wanted to pet them.

We received positive feedback with regards to our project. *"The Child Protection awareness session was very insightful. Learners were receptive of the information shared. Many learners have pets that are well taken care of, while others do not have a healthy relationship with pets, thus information was well spread and received"* – Mrs Hefca, Magnolia Primary School.



Learners petting puppies.



Go-Go and So-So before one of their shows.



Learners had fun with arts and crafts during School2Home sessions.



A poster created for the Poster competition.



Primary caregivers enjoyed arts and craft sessions too.

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.

QUARTERLY SOCIAL WORKER BREAKFAST

On 2 June 2023, we hosted our quarterly Social Worker Breakfast and Journal Club in partnership with Valcare and KWV. Marlize Swanepoel, registered drama therapist, was the guest speaker at the event. She focused on what happens to the nervous system when we carry stress and how to quieten the noise to get to our restful place. This event creates an opportunity for those in the social work profession to share knowledge and resources around a table over a lovely meal.



Front Left: Lauren Cyster (KDG Social Worker), Jolanda Van Der Lingen (Valcare Relationship Manager), Brian Goliath (Social Worker), Marlize Swanepoel (Guest Speaker) and Carien Van Zyl (KDG Principal Social Worker).

Through love and education, we can make a difference.

collaboration *matters* continued...



Thuthuzela care centre information session

Our staff were educated on the procedure of reporting cases of rape they may encounter in the community whilst in service. Simone Bothma, Centre Manager from Paarl Thuthuzela Care Centre, shared information around their programmes and intervention. Knowing how to assist victims of rape is important in ensuring they receive support and counselling to deal with trauma.

From left: Abigail Adams (KDG Social Auxiliary Worker), Simone Bothma (TCC Manager), and Carien van Zyl (KDG Principal Social Worker).

Carmién Tea Donation



Thanks to Carmién Tea who donated over three hundred tea bags to our organisation, we were able to spread some love in the community! Our staff shared special notes and tea bags at schools, community organisations and in the community.

staffNEWS



Linda Zietsman joined our Paarl branch four years ago as a School2Home Facilitator. Her knowledge and experience led to her becoming the Coordinator of the School2Home Programme. Linda is immigrating to London by August 2023 where she will

be working as an Occupational Therapist at a hospital in London.

Emma Dippenaar has been with our Stellenbosch branch for over three years as a School2Home Facilitator. She is saying goodbye to explore new opportunities in her field.



Anneli Theron joined our Stellenbosch team eight months ago as a Social Worker. She said goodbye at the end of April to further her career at a child abuse centre situated closer to her home.



We support World Foster Day annually to create awareness about foster care and celebrate families in the fostering process. Here our Stellenbosch and Paarl branches are showing off their smiley faces. Learners enrolled in our School2home Programme, participated as well.



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.



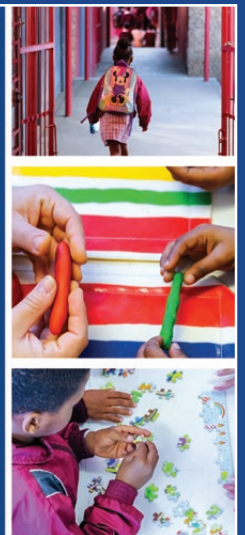
SEE OUR WORK IN ACTION!

ATTEND A KHULA TOUR

17 AUGUST 2023
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
AT OUR PAARL OFFICE
6 LOOP STREET

RSVP by 15 August 2023
Bianca +27 73 176 5086 or
bianca@khuladg.co.za

THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION,
WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



On 3 May 2023 our First Thousand Days of Life Training was attended by numerous individuals and students in the social work profession. In their feedback, attendees highlighted the influence the first 1000 days have on a child for the rest of his/her life.



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