



News

Q4: 2021

Christmas Addition

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

~ Hebrews 12:1-2

By Bianca Petersen - KDG Communications Manager

There is Life After Trauma

Growing up in Paarl East as the eldest of three children, twenty eight year old Moriska Thomas recalls how strict her upbringing was. The area she lived in was dominated by violence and crime. Her father was as strict as can be, yet Moriska knew how to take chances. She recalls how he had somebody looking out for her during the day while he was at work. When he returned home in the evenings, he would discipline her for showing unruly behaviour. She would wear short clothes, act out and use offensive language. Moriska admits her behaviour was hugely influenced by her peers.



Moriska Thomas with Lozanne Venter, one of our Programme Coordinators.

At the age of twelve, Moriska's friendship with her female friends slowly ended as she started to grow closer to a group of boys in the neighbourhood. In the beginning, this new friendship was very appealing but took a wrong turn when the boys started showing signs of inappropriate behaviour. After school they would gather at one of their homes, watch television and hang out. During one of these gatherings, the boys set a plan in motion to gang rape her. One of them forced and pushed Moriska in the toilet of her home. She tried to fight him off, but was not strong enough. She knew what was coming and told herself he is going to rape her. That is exactly what happened. While he physically overpowered her, he could not muffle her cries for help. One of her friends who lives next door heard her screams of terror. She entered the house and did not see anybody in the living room. The rest of the boys did not pursue gang raping Moriska and left the house as soon as their one friend pushed her into the toilet.

Moriska's friend called out to her. When she did not respond she took the liberty to look for her in every room of the house. Opening the toilet door she found Moriska in the presence of her rapist. He made his exit upon her entrance. This was when Moriska told her friend she needs to take a bath. Apart from the bleeding and trauma, Moriska recalls she felt filthy. Her friend told her she will be back and left. Moriska took a bath and tried to go about her day as usual. When the sun set and her parents came home from work, her friend's grandmother showed up. She told Moriska's parents what happened that day. They took Moriska to the police station to report a case of rape. They also went to the hospital for a rape kit. Medical personnel were able to find traces of the rapists DNA.

After the rape case was opened, it was referred to court. During the court case the defendant and his friends made a statement that Moriska gave consent to have sexual intercourse with him. Even though this was not the case, he walked away scot-free. This made Moriska feel like

a failure. She became depressed as judgement by those around her was too hard to handle. This is when she became suicidal. She took a hand full of pills and started to choke during the middle of the night. Her choking woke her mother up who immediately rushed her to hospital. Moriska was referred to counselling and received psychological treatment.

It took years for Moriska to heal from the trauma she experienced in the past. She realised she needed to break the chain of negativity and feeling like a failure. She also had the desire to share her story with those around her to inspire them. This is around the same time she heard about the @Home Learning Programme. After she successfully enrolled as an intern, Moriska encountered many young girls facing trauma similar to what she did. Today she feels it is her duty to motivate them to make the right choices and protect themselves. Peer pressure and trying to fit in can land you in dangerous situations.

Today Moriska stands strong, with so much potential for her future. She has dreams of becoming a teacher and completed her first year of tertiary education, however during her time spent in the @Home Learning Programme she found a new passion. Moriska wants to become an Au Pair and has successfully enrolled in an online course to get her qualification. It took a lot of courage for Moriska to get to where she is today. What she shared is the untold story of many young girls in our communities. Shedding light on this issue will hopefully encourage these girls to make better decisions. Not just for their safety but also for the sake of their futures.

Achievements Sep to Nov 2021

365 Learners on our database	12 Active School Count	3208 Activities/meetings / engagements
39 Learners fully reintegrated and Cases Closed	30 Interns mentored in the WCED @Home Learning Programme	

Activities by Interns Sep to Nov 2021

573 Home Visits	5 403 Formal Activities	7 446 Informal Activities
	3 746 Learners reached through formal activities	286 Informal Events taken place

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



“We support the focus areas of Khula and celebrate the commitment and hard work of their team to change the narrative for South African youth from disadvantaged backgrounds”. ~ Sarita Linde

Pure Legacy Foundation is a proud donor of Khula Development Group. Sarita Linde, the Foundation Manager says they support our organisation because they acknowledge the severity of school absence and the drop out rates in South Africa. What they love most about our organisation is that our teams are fully committed to the communities we serve and our approach to identify key figures in the focus areas to equip and empower. According to Sarita we carry the children in our hearts – the children aren't just statistics and projects, which is a fact.

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*

Janine Vermeulen

The Will To Change

Three mothers who attend our Primary Caregiver sessions regularly decided to kick their habits. With the will to break free from drug abuse, they applied for drug rehabilitation. This is considered remarkable progress, especially with regards to their history.

One of the Primary Caregivers who attends our support group has a dream of becoming a home-based carer. Our team decided to help make her dream a reality. She is now enrolled in a training course and managed to find gainful employment that is flexible enough to attend class too. Her mother, another regular attendee of the group and other ladies continue to support and encourage her to fulfil her life-long dream.

Breaking The Pattern

A learner referred to KDG during 2018 displayed a pattern of absenteeism. She was five years old and in Grade R at the time. She did not attend school in 2021 at all. During a home visit, we found the circumstances were not very pleasant, Despite hygiene issues, the mother of the child showed extreme resistance towards our staff. It took some time for her to allow us into her life and home. Through extensive work, we were able to place the learner back into school where she is attending regularly.

Her hygiene has also improved immensely, and she is neat and tidy. Through support and encouragement offered to her mother, her self-esteem improved. She now takes pride in her house. During a home visit we could not help but notice how immaculate it was. She said that she tried to do what our staff told her. "If you keep yourself and your home neat and tidy, you feel better about yourself". We are also very excited to enrol their daughter into the animal assisted therapy programme next year.

Intervention and Change

During a home visit, a group of youngsters told our Social Worker and Social Auxiliary worker about a young boy who has not been attending school for quite some time. This boy smokes dagga and is mocked by his peers since he always sits on the street and appears to be dirty. Our team approached this boy to help. After he took us to his home we found that his father is completely blind in both eyes. While sharing his story, he mentioned his blindness is genetic as both of his parents were blind. This has been the primary reason for his unemployment. During our conversation, one of his other sons appeared to be in pain. He revealed that he only has one kidney. With their permission, our staff prayed with and for this family. We returned the following day with items for the boy who has been missing school to clean up with. He eagerly took a bath in a 25-litre container, washed himself and showed so much appreciation. His elder brother helped him to get dressed and accompanied us to school. We are thankful that we had the opportunity to assist this learner to get back into school. Due various social factors in the family like substance abuse and domestic violence, we referred this case to the DCPO who compiled an action plan to assist this family further.

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.

School2home Programme

This Grade 4 learner from a primary school in Paarl East struggled her entire life with severe strabismus. She learnt to cope with this visual impairment and is a true example of resilience. In the past she had spectacles to help with this visual impairment, but it was stolen or sold and left her with no visual aid. Recently she went for a visual assessment at Specsavers and received new spectacles which are kept safe at school.



Love2LearnCommunity

Collaboration with Samaritans Feet took place throughout the final school term of 2021. We would love to continue to pursue this in 2022 as recipients of shoes are very grateful. We are also very appreciative of the special way in which the organisation place value on the learners by first washing their feet like Jesus did with his disciples in the Bible before they present the shoes.



@Home Learning

As part of the @Home Learning activities on Thursday mornings, our Paarl Yeboneer Team engaged in Singakwenza activities with seventy-nine Grade R learners from Nederburg Primary School. These activities included the use of recycled materials to make educational equipment and resources that reinforce their foundational learnings of the recognition and writing of letters as well as numbers and the exercising of fine and gross motor skills.



Primary Caregiver Support

During our many years of work in the community it has been evident that the Primary Caregiver is essential to intervention and change. One of our organisation's key achievements during the last few months has been the launch of workshops in the yards of community members as well as car parks, school facilities and municipal buildings. Bringing the workshops to the community has proven to be effective, especially when large scale community awareness is required. Managing crowds during the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging, but with the appropriate planning and resource management, well worth the effort. Not only are communities brought together, but awareness is also created around relevant topics like: • Learning through Play • School Attendance • Reading Awareness



In addition to these workshops, we established weekly Primary Caregiver Support Groups at Magnolia and Orleansvale Primary Schools in Paarl. Primary Caregivers who have children attending our beneficiary schools; Nederburg, Magnolia, Paarlzicht, Orleansvale and New Orleans Primary Schools are welcomed into these sessions. Here our specialist teams offer a variety of activities from knitting, sewing, crocheting and arts and crafts, whilst building relationships and providing spiritual and emotional support to women. Although we give preference to Primary Caregivers who are on our database, these groups are open to other parents. This strengthens support and accountability.



Time to say *goodbye.*

Sophelene Adams

Sophelene started out at Khula in 2018 as a Social Auxiliary Worker. She changed careers after working in a bank. Her passion, calling for helping communities and studies to become a Social Worker continues. She will resume her career at a statutory organisation. Sophelene's gentleness and dedication will be sorely missed!!



Time to say *goodbye.*

...continued



Lozanne Venter
- Programme Coordinator

Lozanne Venter started her journey at Khula Development Group as a volunteer four and a half years ago. Her selfless acts of kindness created a permanent employment opportunity for her where she managed the interns. She will be dearly missed, but we know that she will stay true to her calling in making disciples for Jesus!



Alta Bester
- Programme Facilitator

Alta Bester started working at Khula Development Group in 2011. Prior to that, she was a volunteer in our Primary Caregiver Programme at Butterfly House. She will be remembered as the one who pioneered

Khula's In-school Support Programme which led to our current School2Home Programme. Last quarter she was celebrated as a Protea of the Valley. Alta will not only be missed by her colleagues, but also by the many learners and teachers who's hearts she touched while working with them.



Our staff ended the year with a wonderful pizza outing at Rhebokskloof. A lot of laughter and tears were shared as we celebrated God's provision for the year, but also said goodbye to wonderful colleagues. We are looking forward to continuing serving our communities in 2022.

Our interns known as the Yeboneers had their graduation at the Artscape Theatre. We are extremely proud of them for finishing strong! We would like to express our gratitude towards the Yeboneer office and the @Home Learning team under the leadership of SCORE/Hope through Action for making this such a special event.



It has always been one of Khula's important endeavours to encourage, support and appreciate the educators of our beneficiary schools. A Go2Teachers Year-end function was organised at Peaches and Cream in the Paarl-branch. It was delightful, truly enjoyed and appreciated by everyone present. The teachers support Khula all the way and vice versa!



Our Paarl branch in collaboration with the Val de Vie Foundation hosted a Christmas party for our Grade 4 learners who graduated from our programmes. They had a fun-filled day at Graceland where activities like water slides brightened their day. Mr Elmo Cairncross, a board member acted as Santa with gift bags filled with stationary for 2022. Cornel Nel, one of our Social workers gave a talk on how to stay safe during the holiday. We are very thankful to all the donors and particularly to the Val de Vie Foundation for their continual support and love for our children!

Khula was once again blessed with donations to treat the members in the Primary Caregiver Programme to a Christmas Lunch. Elizabeth Abrahams shared her testimony and encouraged the women to overcome obstacles. They each received a Bible and gift bag to take home.



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