



# NEWS

## Q4: 2023

By Bianca Petersen  
- KDG Communications Manager

**66**  
LORD, you know the hopes of the helpless. Surely you will hear their cries and comfort them. You will bring justice to the orphans and the oppressed, so mere people can no longer terrify them.

– ISAIAH 58:9B -12

## Almost a dropout, now a **MATRICULANT.**

**“I AM A LIBERAL I CAN DO ANYTHING”!** These are the words of Onika Tatsi, a former Khula learner who is now a matriculant at Charleston Hill Secondary School in Paarl. Upon introducing himself, he says **“Our generation can change the future of our country, they should remain focused, if only every child had access to Khula”.** With confidence, he takes me back more than ten years when he moved to Paarl from Khayelitsha.

*Onika Tatsi was once a Khula learner who just finished writing his matric exam.*



His first day in Grade 1 at Paarlzicht Primary is not a day Onika likes to remember. Despite the heavy rain and being teased by his peers over wearing one sock, he could not speak a word of Afrikaans. Although he had a difficult year in school, he managed to learn the language and progressed to Grade 2. Unfortunately, Onika’s Afrikaans was not up to standard which led to him repeating Grade 2. His mother immediately looked for help and met Eunice Gweba, a neighbour who helped her son with Afrikaans. Onika remembers after school she would play school with him again and have him read prescribed school books, do phonics, and build sentences.

At the start of Grade 3, the informal settlement in which he lived was struck by a blaze and his family lost everything, including his Afrikaans books which he had grown to love. Mr Julies, the school principal helped Onika with a school uniform, and his teacher, Mrs Adams, provided him with new reading books. She took him under her wing to help him develop in the Afrikaans language. Onika looked forward to these reading sessions with her and read with confidence after every meeting they had.

When Onika was in Grade 4 he stepped into a nail and without medical care his wound became infected. This led to him being hospitalized for more than two months. He missed out on schoolwork and had a lot to catch up on. When he returned to school, Khula Development Group was asked to assist him with his academics as he wanted to drop out of school. Marliza Koen, one of our former programme facilitators met with him and encouraged him to stay in school.

When Onika speaks of Marliza his face lights up. During one of their meetings

she told him that he has a purpose and she feels that there is more good in him than he could ever imagine. He smiles when he says she gave him a gift for his birthday and this was when he knew he was special and loved. Suddenly he began looking at life differently. He committed to his schoolwork and was eager to complete school. When he completed primary school, it was bittersweet as he had to say goodbye to Marliza for KDG provides services to primary schools only.

Onika settled into high school and completed Grade 8. During Grade 9, COVID-19 and the lockdown had a huge impact on his schoolwork. Once restrictions were lifted, adjusting to the new school system was challenging, however, he passed and progressed to Grade 10. Through numerous educational community programmes, he had access to additional resources he could use at home to complete his schoolwork.

Through a group of friends Onika met, peer pressure kicked in and he forgot about his dream of completing school. He would miss out on school to spend time

with his friends at home or on the street corners. His mother saw a change in his behaviour and contacted the school. She was determined that he should change his ways. Fortunately, he received assistance from community organisations. Onika said goodbye to his friends and once again focused on progressing to matric. At home, he did not have a space where he could study, so the school assisted with a space after school. As a result, he would return home later than his classmates, but he reaped the fruits when he passed Grade 11.

Today Onika is in matric. He wrote his last subject and is anxiously awaiting his results as he applied to study Agriculture at Elsenburg in Stellenbosch. Onika believes that he is breaking the generational curse of not obtaining matric in his family. He takes the conversation back to Marliza and says “She told me I have a purpose, my purpose is to take care and provide for my mother and my siblings”. In the final moments of our conversation tears of gratitude roll down his face “If not for Khula, if not for Marliza, I would just be another lost soul on the streets”.



*In collaboration with Pieter Langeveldt Primary School, NMI Toyota Stellenbosch, Toyota SA and Coolplay, learners had fun during a mini-cricket festival on the school grounds. With them is Go-Go our Khula mascot, Tian Swanepoel from NMI Toyota, Jacques Gabriëls KDG Love2Learn Facilitator and So-So Khula mascot.*

## ACHIEVEMENTS Q4 2023 Active in 9 schools 9 Schools reached

**294** – Number of Children Reached.

**217** – Number of Active Children.

**1 339** – Individual and Group Sessions with Learners At Risk Of Dropping Out.

**596** – Home Visits to Children not attending school and to empower Parents to Reduce Drop-Out.

**92** – Primary Caregiver Group Sessions and Workshops.

**277** – School visits, Network, and Collaboration Meetings to Empower Teachers and Learners to Tackle the Issue of School Drop-Out.

**Special Child Protection Focuses: 3** Form 22’s referred to Designated Child Protection Organisations. **26** External Case Discussions with DCPOs. **80** External Communications. **14** External Referrals for Extra Services. **8** Family Meetings.

**55** – Primary Caregiver Individual Sessions.

**5 682** – Awareness & Campaigns.

**226** – Collaboration, Partnerships & Networking.

**1 316** – Community Interaction.

**592** – Go2Captain Session Reach.

**4 859** – Go-Go & So-So Show Reach.

**280** – Teacher Appreciation Reach.

THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

# TESTIMONIES



• A male learner enrolled in all three of the programmes at KDG, strives to achieve success, despite the challenges he is facing at home. With two parents addicted to drugs and health issues, our team is working around the clock to get them into rehab. Teachers at the school the learner attends have insight into his circumstances and go the extra mile to ensure he receives a meal and attends school. The learner participates in numerous activities at school and flourishes in cultural activities. With no other family members to take him in, we are exploring alternative care options.

• A brother and sister remained absent from school regularly. Our team had numerous discussions with their mother who was not interested in cooperating to get her children back in school. The learners were later placed in the care of their grandmother who prioritised school attendance. Their teachers report that they are in school regularly and are showing progress in their schoolwork.

## 2 New CLASSROOMS for KHULA



To render services at primary schools, our organisation needs a classroom dedicated to our School2Home programme. This programme takes place at the school where learners, who are at risk of dropping out of primary school, receive academic support. We understand that although schools require our services, they do not have a space they can dedicate to our mission, as they are already faced with overcrowdedness and too few classrooms.

Lorraine Hadfield, Advisor at the Val de Vie Foundation heard our cries and did not hesitate to lend a helping hand in preventing primary school learners from dropping out of the school system. The foundation hosted a Golf Day in honour of our mission and raised funds to secure classrooms dedicated to KDG.

Within two weeks, two classrooms were built at Paarlzicht Primary School and Orleansvale Primary School situated in Paarl East. Alongside school staff, learners, the community, and most importantly our clients, we stand in awe with gratitude in our hearts toward the Val de Vie Foundation who made our dreams come true.

**We are excited to start 2024 in our own classrooms, keeping learners in school!**



Learners enjoying their new classroom.



Cyrillene de Kock KDG Love2Learn Facilitator is busy with a Love2Learn session in a new Khula classroom.

## 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



**givengain**

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.**



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 My Planet 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!

**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



# GO2CAPTAIN AWARDS

Our Go2Captains received certificates for the role they played at their schools. Throughout 2023, they motivated their classmates to wake up, get up and show up! Go2Captains are leaders identified by KDG 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.

They also completed The Lead Mentoring Programme: Empowering the Next Generation as Leaders of Change, developed by Ezra.



**Paarlzicht Primary – Left:** *Ianthea August KDG Community Worker, Georgia-Ellen Beukes, Matthew Arendse, Andriëtte Diedericks KDG Love2Learn Facilitator, Saige Isaks, Leo Willaims, Niesha Februarie KDG Love2Learn Facilitator, Whitney Thomas, Shade Swarts, Cubourne Thomas, Charity Fortuin.*



**Magnolia Primary – Back Left:** *Divine Pietersen KDG Community Worker, Austin Williams, Juvanie Abrahams, Matthew Prent, Valentino Bafazini, Ziyaam Botha. Front Left:* *Carl Joseph, Ruchen Martin, Johan Botha, Lee-Jayrio Grandfield, Junaid Williams and Ra-Eez Februarie.*



**New Orleans Primary – Left:** *Chelsey Wagenar, Lira Roux, Emmanuel Robinson, Niesha Februarie KDG Love2Learn Facilitator, Shandre Scholtz, Keshay-Lee Kleinsmith, Elisna Lackay, and Jayden Julies (front).*



**Orleansvale Primary – Left:** *Zeekah Roux, Zeeah-Ann Afrika, Maurdonique Wessels, Stephy-lee Van Schalkwyk, Niesha Februarie KDG Love2Learn Facilitator, Rianay De Kock, Bruwene Van Rooyen, Jenique Domingo and Elrick Cyster (front).*

# Best School Attendance AWARDS

During November, we named the classes with the best school attendance for 2023 at three schools we service in Paarl East.

School attendance for every class in every grade since the beginning of the academic year determines the winners. Two winning classes are identified at each school, one in the foundation, and another in the intermediate phase. Both classes receive a trophy and certificate which they keep until November of the following year.



**Nederburg Primary – Left:** *Niesha Februarie KDG Love2Learn Facilitator, Zionay Warries, Shaunnay Tiemie, Morne Benn, Macneal Davids, Connor Coetzee, Marishan Daniels, Divine Pietersen KDG Community Worker, and Andriëtte Diedericks KDG Love2Learn Facilitator.*



**Pieter Langeveldt Primary – Carlyn Dhelminie KDG School2Home Facilitator, Amirah Simmers, Giarah Matjan, Lndon Bailey-Phillips, Jeffery Chikonzo, Wendy Paulse, Emily Abrahams, Gadieja Pasquallie KDG Community Worker.**

Learners enjoy the ceremony and share excitement waiting in anticipation for their class to be named. Mrs. Cecily Andries is a proud Grade 3 teacher at Nederburg Primary School. This is the second time her class received this award. **Here are the teachers and class captains with the best school attendance for 2023:**



Grade 3.B at Nederburg Primary with Mrs. Cecily Andries who has won the award for the class with the best school attendance in the foundation phase for the second time.



Mr. Marco Walters Grade and Yard-leigh Meyer Gr. 6A, Mrs Myrtle Apollis Acting Principal, Mrs. Cecily Andries and Kaydee Coetzee Gr.3B.



Mrs. Elizana Pienaar and Mecailler Adams Gr.1A and Mrs. Therese Fielding and Jayronesa Jacob's Gr. 4C. Jayronesa is also the top student in Grade 4.



Mrs. Ninville Adonis Gr. 5C, Niesha Februarie KDG Love2Learn Facilitator, Lucio Present Gr. 5C, Moriska Thomas KDG School2Home Facilitator, Mrs Meagan Theunissen and Keagan Julius Gr. 1D, Mrs. Kaylin van Schalkwyk and Andriëtte Diedericks KDG Love2Learn Facilitator.

THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

# 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

Wilma Pick, a Social Worker at Voortrekker Road Corridor Improvement District, was the guest speaker at our last Social Worker Breakfast on 3 November. She spoke about balance, passion, calling, and self-care. During her speech, she asked the question, why did you become a social worker? Maria Goosen, a Social Worker at (FCS) Family Violence, Child Protection, and Sexual Offences answered, "As a young person I just knew I wanted to change the world, poverty, the community, everything". We would like to express our gratitude towards Valcare and KWV for collaborating with us to bring the social work profession together every quarter.



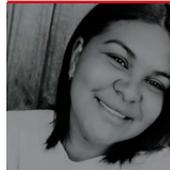
Daleen Labuschagne KDG Programme Director and Wilma Pick Social Worker at VRCID.

## #16

We joined forces with Stellcare, Department of Social Development, ACVV, SAPS, and numerous primary schools in Stellenbosch to create awareness about the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence on 29 November 2023. It is estimated that one in three women will experience sexual or physical violence in their lifetime. These forms of abuse are often contributing factors to learners dropping out of school. At schools, learners and organisations gathered to raise their voices against GBV.



## Welcome



**Britney Abrahams** joined our Stellenbosch branch as a School2Home Facilitator at Rietenbosch Primary School in October 2023. **Our entire team is thrilled to have her on board.**

## Goodbye



**Maria von Backström** started at KDG in February 2016. She did an amazing job in establishing the Khula branch in Stellenbosch. The branch expanded from a small team to a fully functioning branch with 14 staff members. Maria played an instrumental role in strategic planning in Khula and was part of the Management Team. Her love for Christ was visible through the way she managed her team and fought for the rights of children. Her work

ethic and professionalism were some of the attributes that we will surely miss! Spiritually, she contributed so much to disciple her team. Maria, we bless you on your journey into the unknown! You were handpicked by God for this season in Khula, and now the season ended. We are sad, but we know we won't lose a friend. We know you will always be an ambassador for Khula! *May God bless you and keep you and make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace!*" (Num 6:23-27)

In January 2019 we were introduced to a small but very dedicated and passionate lady, **Marisa Le Roux!** Although she was already retired as a teacher, she felt called to serve at Khula. We and the children embraced that and are very thankful for your hard work. We know that if you had your wish, you would carry on working until God calls you home. Through the years you touched many lives, made a difference in the lives of families, and allowed the Lord to use you as his instrument. Your rusks and cakes are the best, and we hope we will still be able to order! We are going to miss you! Isaiah 46:4 *"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you: I will sustain you and rescue you."*



With a feeding scheme in place, learners receive meals during school hours. For some, their last meal is at school. Thanks to PepsiCo and Meals on Wheels, over one thousand learners were sent home with sandwiches and fresh food in celebration of World Food Day at Orleansvale Primary School in Paarl East. →



↑ We had the privilege of saying thanks to our Go2Teachers with a Christmas Party. Once a month on a Thursday after teaching, they gather at our offices in Paarl. They share experiences, encourage one another and equip themselves with tools and activities to use in class.



Albertina Francis CEO at Change Within Development with Niesha Februarie KDG Love2Learn Facilitator, Andriëtte Diedericks KDG Love2Learn, and Justine Essau Facilitator at CWD hosted an information session under the theme #ITSMYLIFE at Magnolia Primary School. They focused on diseases and healthy living.

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Paarl:**  
+27 21 871 1511  
**Stellenbosch:**  
+27 83 228 6032  
[www.khuladg.co.za](http://www.khuladg.co.za)

