MISSIONVALE CARE CENTRE UPDATE

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023

How can we ever thank you enough?

We are looking back at 2023 with hearts overflowing with gratitude. It was an immensely difficult time to fundraise. We are so conscious of the tremendous turmoil around the world, and the cost of living increases that are affecting so many. Your contributions are appreciated SO deeply and we are so thankful to you for continuing to support us. We are thrilled to share some of the exciting events of last year with you - all only made possible because of YOU!

We also want to especially thank the Missionvale Australia Board for their selfless efforts and hard work to make sure the fundraising efforts have maximum impact. They worked harder than ever before last year and pulled off a most wonderful South African Day Out event again, (in addition to all the other work they do on social media and behind the scenes!) We are truly blessed with THE BEST! Although they all have busy schedules, they still find time to volunteer and give their time and skill to the benefit of our wonderful people here. We are so grateful to every single one of you! Heartfelt thank you also to James and Jane Mohr for your many years of support. You have been remarkable and we wish you a very happy retirement!

Meet the A-Team behind Missionvale Australia: From left to right, Peter & Ann Beck (Founder), Nicolette Rubinsztein, Gareth Beck, Lovemore N'Dou, Michele Beck , Nicolette Hughes

Education News

We are proud to report that our school achieved a 96 % pass rate! This did not come about easily as the teachers report that the effects of the Covid disruptions had long term consequences for certain subjects, particularly maths. They held extra lessons on weekends and over school holidays which is how the pass rate was achieved, but much must still be done to ensure the learners don't lose momentum now.

Below are a few other highlights of the year:

- Steelpan band learners had their first music exams and Reagan Leandro achieved 98% for a solo performance and as a group the learners achieved 90%. They also performed at NMU and even at one or two corporate events!
- Our March and Drill learners competed at the annual March and Drill competition and ended 4th. The children's confidence grows every time!
- Our Robotic learners attended a Robotics and Coding competition at NMU.
- Chess- as the reigning Champions we were knocked to 2nd place at the annual chess competition.
- P.E North Rugby - we had a learner, Basil Witbooi, representing our school. He also represented our school in P.E Athletics.
- Cross country - our learners achieved in the top 3 in their respective age groups.
- 6 learners from our LSEN class have been placed back into mainstream classes!
- A number of awareness campaigns were held with our learners on substance abuse as well as sexual abuse by the Algoa Park Police.
- We were grateful to receive funding from Rotary to upskill our teachers into basic trauma counsellors. They underwent a detailed course that better equips them to help our learners, who sadly so often experience trauma and abuse.

Our clever kids achieved a 96 % pass rate!

Did you know our school has its own Facebook page? Find it under Normoyle Primary School!

LEARN MORE

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Youth Development

We have a brand new building on the premises, a lovely and vibrant youth development Centre! It is a multi-purpose building with ample space and even touch screen technology for easy teaching!

We were devastated to lose our youngest staff member, Kamva Mabija in June after a short illness. He was only 21 years old but made a lasting impression in his young life. He was passionate about art and drama, and spear headed all our arts and culture programs. The team will be putting on a play based on a script he wrote in his memory in March 2024.

Our ballroom dancers made us proud once again by competing on regional and national levels, ranking in no less than 7 first place medals in respective categories!

The annual spelling bee was another huge success and the team have great plans to build on this more into the future!

Healthcare News

The Medical Centre is really thriving under the care of Dr Schuster and our nurse Sr Annie van der Merwe. Our home based care team see to those too ill to come to us by visiting them in their homes. A lot of their work involves daily check-ups, treatment adherence and wound care. We'd like to upskill our caregivers on wound care as we have many diabetic patients and amputees that require extra care.

In the Medical Centre we have caught a lot of cancers early. If the patients had to rely on State health services only, their diagnosis would come much later – possibly too late, so it is wonderful that we're able to do that.

The Support Groups continue to grow and improve and we are thrilled to see the positive changes these have brought about!

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Skills Development

Our Impumelelo Training and Development Centre began in 2021 with a group of 40 unemployed youth who attended our newly developed classes. We incorporate both theory and practical experience, and focus very much on life skills and strong work ethic.

We are just bursting with joy to tell you that in the last 2 years we have placed more than 90 young people into temporary or permanent jobs, and the feedback we are receiving on their progress is phenomenal!)

We also began a series of entrepreneurship conversations in partnership with the business school at the local university. What is special about this is that the facilitators have developed a course that is specifically aimed at township economies and the unique challenges and opportunities that comes within that environment.

Thanks to the generosity of 2 Missionvale Australia donors, we will soon introduce our New Venture Creation course that will kick off with carpentry and culinary skills training!

Our fabulous facilitators, Lucky Ngamlana and Likhona Ncgelwane

The crafters have been busy with a number of small contracts, general sales from our shop and selling to tourists coming in from cruise ships.

The gardeners continue producing beautiful crunchy fresh organic vegetables. These are either packed into food parcels or go to the swop shop where community members can “buy” it back with their token MCC Bucks.

More than 90 previously unemployed youth are now in some form of employment!

You can also find us on Instagram!

CLICK HERE!

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Shifting from welfare to development

Community Exchange System (CES)

Even though we work in one of the poorest areas in our city, we believe every person has something to offer and we strive to unlock that potential in each one!

Our community exchange system channels people away from handouts and dependency. Instead it provides our community with a platform to do something in exchange for the services / items they receive from the Care Centre.

While they are learning, volunteering or cleaning up the environment, they earn tokens called MCC Bucks which can be exchanged for essential items such as food and clothing.

It is exciting because it uplifts, develops and empowers, rather than creating expectation and entitlement.

Our Strategic Plan

For the first time in the Centre's history, we all got together for a 4 day workshop where we all planned together and had very in-depth discussions on the future of the Centre and our approach.

We built on our previous strategic plan and we are ready to share the next part!

To read our new strategic plan, click here:

https://issuu.com/sabrinala/docs/strategic_plan_21_14.8cm_7_

We have a little brag to end off with – we were a Top 3 finalist in the annual CSI Legacy Awards 2024 in the NGO category. It was a great opportunity to showcase our work on a national level. Although the award went to a paediatric cancer care organization, it was still great to receive recognition, and an honour to be considered one of the top 3 organizations in the country!

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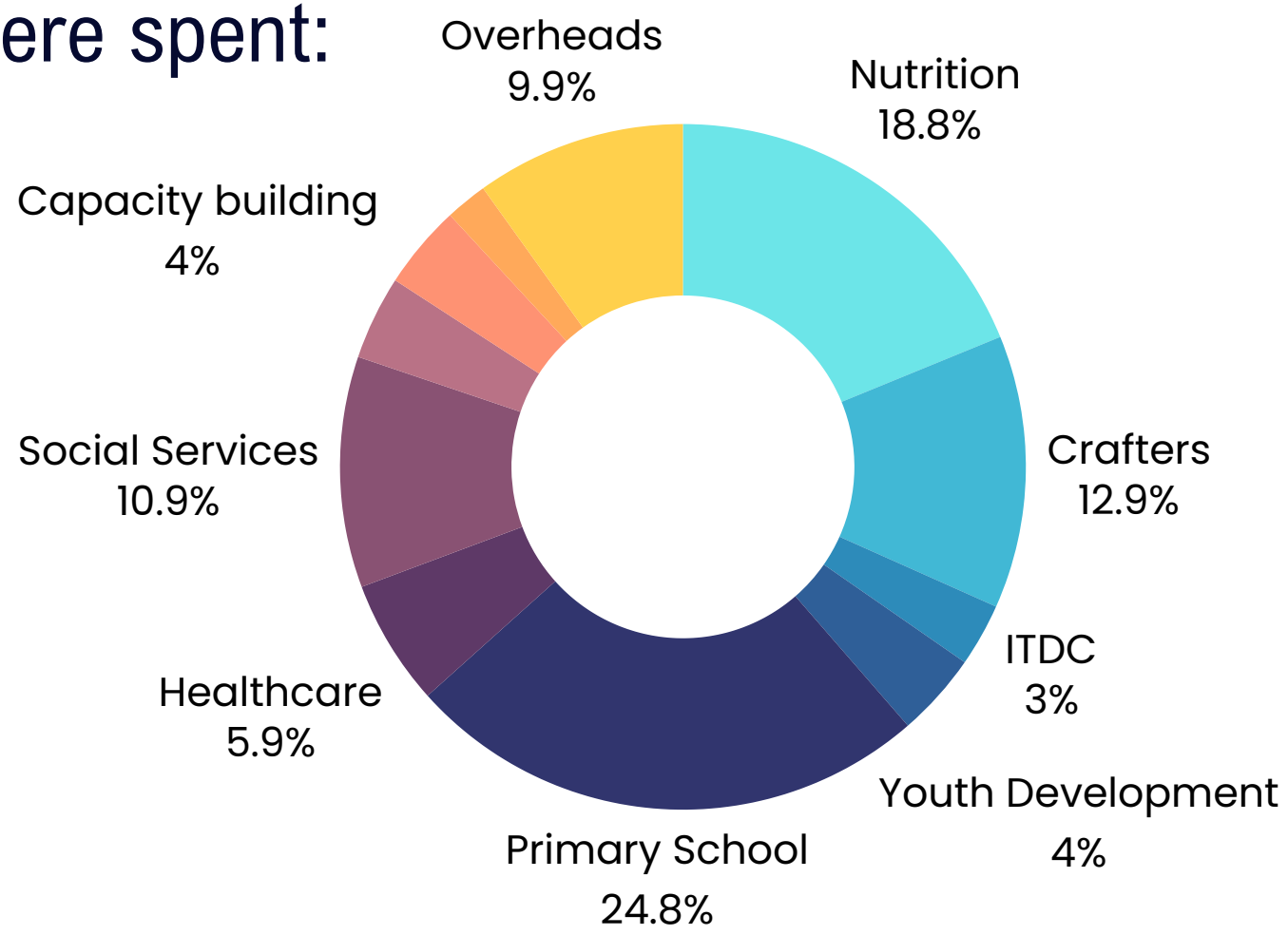
How your funds were spent:



Overheads 9.9%: Includes water, electricity, photo copies, phones, internet etc.
Capacity building: 4%: Staff training and development
Social Services: 10.9%: Community outreach (assistance with public transportation, accessing documents from home affairs, Outsourced services including professional assessments etc.
ITDC 3%: Impumelelo Training & Development Centre

Heartfelt thank you from all of us in Missionvale!

We appreciate you SO MUCH!

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Follow us on Social Media: