

# GOAL50 EDU HUB EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (ECD)

A BEACON OF HOPE, INSPIRATION,  
INNOVATION, EDUCATION AND NURTURING  
HEIDEVELD, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*

**Nelson Mandela**

*"One can change the world if you have a heart without fear, a mind without walls and a dream big enough to share"*

**Ashley Kaimowitz (16/08/1985 – 19/03/2005) Nonceba Family Counselling Centre, Khayelitsha, Cape Town**



## THE MESSAGES WE'D LIKE TO CONVEY WITH THIS DOCUMENT ARE:

- To highlight the importance of early childhood development and education in South Africa, and the significance of quality education in quality sustainable buildings.
- To raise awareness on the durability, strength and quality of using alternative, sustainable building methods and materials, as well as addressing the challenges of climate change and active recycling.
- To showcase how a diverse group of inspiring and innovative South African activists came together to plan and implement the transformation of Ulwazi Educare, located in the community of Delft, Cape Town, South Africa.
- To illustrate the progression of the construction of Ulwazi Educare, from its foundation phase to completion.
- To emphasise these buildings as remarkable examples of what can be possible in light of climate change, and the value in recycling and repurposing building materials.
- To inspire and motivate donors who care about the importance of education and are passionate about climate change, in support of the fundraising efforts for the construction of Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre, Heideveld, Cape Town, South Africa.

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# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre

## 1. A BACKGROUND ON THE VISION OF BUILDING GOAL50 EDU HUB ECD BY REPURPOSING TYRES, ECO BRICKS AND OTHER RECYCLABLE MATERIALS.

*What could be more important at this current time in South Africa, than quality early childhood education, in quality sustainable buildings?*

Mario Van Niekerk is an extraordinary human being with a remarkable life story. He is a loving father, a mentor to many and a shining example of personal transformation and determination in the face of adversity. Growing up without a father, Mario was poorly influenced and as a youth was involved in gangsterism. Something that is far too prevalent in Cape Town.

After becoming a father in 2001, Mario devoted his life to facilitating education and youth development projects, and providing love and support to young individuals in need, in a safe and nurturing environment. He founded an organisation called Greater Commission United (GCU), that has greatly impacted the lives of thousands of children and younger people for more than two decades through their various programmes of youth development.

One aspect that requires urgent attention is the severe lack of early childhood development in the Heideveld community, Goal50 Edu Hub will address this challenge.

The aim of Goal50 Edu Hub is to confront that challenge with the most extraordinary ECD built out of same sustainable materials as Ulwazi Educare in Delft. While the syllabus offered at Goal50 Edu Hub ECD will be based on the Montessori principles, the pre-school will offer the Jubilee Excellence Schools training in conjunction with Shiloh Education [www.shiloh.org.za](http://www.shiloh.org.za).

Uthando (Love) South Africa “Uthando” is a local non-profit organisation linking Tourism with Community Development Projects. Uthando shares GCU’s vision for youth development, and has been supporting GCU since 2011.

*Ulwazi Educare – October 2021*



In South Africa, there are approximately 4 million children under the age of 7 that are not attending a pre-school or Early Childhood Development Centre “ECD”. Likewise, millions of children are attending ECDs that are poorly built as informal structures, with limited access to toilets and basic facilities conducive to a quality education.

Through cherished partnerships, Uthando has successfully raised sufficient funds to transform 6 ECD Centres, into world-class buildings.

The most recent fundraising project undertaken by Uthando is the construction of Ulwazi Educare. In 2018, James Fernie of Uthando was introduced to Patiswa Patience Bangani (Principal at Ulwazi Educare) and Peter McIntosh (Natural Building Collective) by Helen Lieberman (Ikamva Labantu).

During this meeting of visionary leaders, the dream for an Early Childhood Development Centre to be constructed out of recycled and repurposed materials, was born. Plans for the building needed to be finalised, funds needed to be raised and the unforeseen misfortune of Covid-19 interrupted the entire process. Gratefully, the dream has finally become a reality. The build of Ulwazi Educare has been completed and the grand opening is scheduled for September 2022.

Ulwazi “Knowledge” Educare is one of the most extraordinary and beautiful buildings in South Africa. Constructed out of 1700 tyres, 6000 eco bricks (plastic bottles that have been filled with rubbish) and over 1600 other recyclable materials, the centre is a true labour of love. It is so much more than just a preschool. It is a highly functional piece of art that has become a beacon of hope and an ongoing inspiration to its community. Where young children have been given the opportunity to learn, develop and realise their own dreams.

*Ulwazi Educare – July 2022*



# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre

The primary donor, **Mitalto Stichting (Belgium)** for Ulwazi Educare wrote the following:

*"Together with you we are so very proud of this wonderful project. Of course we realize that this school will not change the world with so many young people still having no access to an education. However, we hope and trust that Ulwazi will have meaning for the people that will make good use of that education centre."*

*This being said, our greatest compliments to you for making this possible! It certainly is one of the most wonderful and dearest projects that Mitalto Foundation has ever known."*

In March 2022, Mario Van Niekerk (GCU) visited the construction site of Ulwazi Educare and was motivated to use the same sustainable building materials for the planned Goal50 Edu Hub ECD. Natural Building Collective architect, Emma McGregor modified the existing plans to accommodate the use of tyres and eco bricks.

**Through the partnership of Greater Commission United (GCU), Natural Building Collective and Uthando South Africa we aim to raise the funds and build an educational beacon of light, hope, inspiration and innovation in the community of Heideveld, South Africa.**

**We hope you are inspired to support this remarkable initiative.**



*Patiswa Bangani, staff and a few of the children at Ulwazi Educare prior to the construction of the new building*

## 2. THE VISIONARY ORGANISATIONS: RELIABLE. REPUTABLE. IMPACTFUL

### 2.1 Great Commission United (GCU) – Heideveld ([www.gcu.org.za](http://www.gcu.org.za))

Heideveld is an area on the Cape flats, which is part of the greater city of Cape Town. The Heideveld community faces a number of incredibly difficult issues affecting its youth, daily. From broken homes, unemployment and poverty to drugs and gangsterism. The youth of this community are in desperate need of alternative avenues established to facilitate opportunities that will provide them with security and hope.

The standard of education at Heideveld schools is remarkably poor. Other than the facilities offered by GCU, there are no meaningful extra mural activities for children to participate in, after school or over the weekends.

GCU was founded in 2001 by Mario van Niekerk, a person all too familiar with the challenges that face the youth of the gang-ridden Cape Flats in Cape Town. Mario is a former gang member who grew up in Heideveld and still lives there to this day.

GCU's vision is to see a society comprised of stable and healthy families, where children are nurtured, guided and encouraged to realize their dreams. Their goal is to provide support to the local youth through education, sport and life-skills practices, so that they are presented with better opportunities in life.

*Libraries have been established in 5 Heideveld primary schools since GCU's inception*



*GCU tutors and coaches support over 4000 primary school children across Heideveld every month, through their in-school literacy and education support programs:*

- Literacy & Education
- ECD & Foster Care
- Youth employment and Empowerment
- Community Development

GCU has positively impacted the lives of many thousands of children and individuals through their various programmes. Including literacy and education advancement, physical education and sport, youth employment and empowerment. They have also provided food for the hungry, by serving as many as 12 000 soup meals per day, through the "Mother City Kitchen" initiative.



*Mother City Kitchen*



*Mario Van Niekerk during Covid-19 crisis*



# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre

## Early Childhood Development (ECD) – Goal50 Edu Hub

There is a significant shortage of ECD Centres within the Heideveld community as many of the guardians and parents do not have the financial capacity, or simply do not appreciate the importance of early childhood development. GCU has established a small creche that is accessible and affordable. A property has been acquired with plans for the development of a multi-classroom Early Childhood Development Centre. In addition to this, facilities for the training of local teachers will be established, enabling the centre to accommodate as many as 200 ECD places, once it is fully operational.



The land on which Goal50 Edu Hub is going to be constructed

## Adam Kane-Smith (GCU Board Member)

*"GCU's dream of a world class early childhood development centre offering a broader service to the community of Heideveld has been a dream since Nigel Pascoe conceptualised the idea when he visited Cape Town for the Football World Cup in 2010 and was introduced to Mario and to GCU. 12 years later and with the land secured and zoned we are very excited to see this dream beginning to show tangible signs of realisation. During that time the need for a ECD in Heideveld has grown and the Covid-19 crisis has highlighted the importance of providing young children with a solid educational base. The world is much more aware of the environment too. Particularly given the carbon footprint of new buildings, we are very pleased, and it is appropriate that the Goal 50 Edu Hub will be using and showcasing a fantastic sustainable building technique that will provide an excellent environment for nurturing young minds."*

## 2.2 Natural Building Collective ( [www.naturalbuildingcollective.com](http://www.naturalbuildingcollective.com) ) and Sugarleaf

**Our vision** is to nurture the creation of a more sustainably-built environment. The Natural Building Collective is a collaborative project dedicated to educating individuals and organisations about the potential of sustainable buildings. In doing so, to stimulate the senses, connect people to their environment and awaken our inherent creative potential.

**Our goal** is to create an inspiring, healthy, safe environment for the children, that speaks to the community, by demonstrating alternative building techniques and provides a model for a more sustainable approach.

**Our mission** is to demonstrate the effective use of alternative and sustainable materials to provide buildings that are cost effective and exceed the requirements of conventional materials, while providing much-needed facilities in support of Early Childhood Development.



natural  
building  
COLLECTIVE



Ulwazi Educare. Tyre wall, natural plasters, recycled doors and windows, glass bottle light bricks and eco bricks



# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre

## Project motivation

Buildings are the largest energy consumers and greenhouse gas emitters, both in developed and developing countries. While the global production of cement is the third-largest source of anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide, after fossil fuels and land-use change (Andrew 2018). Yet, developing countries are facing massive housing shortages and a general lack of infrastructure.

The 2011 census in South Africa showed that the number of informal dwellings had increased to about 1.9-million from 1.4-million in 1996. This represented about 13% of all households in the country. There is also a lack of educational facilities. For example, in the Cape Town area there are an average of 18 000 children, below the age of 7, that do not attend an EDC Centre. Without pre-school preparation or education they are vulnerable to abuse with a distinct disadvantage to the start of their lives. This is a severe issue for the children, and the future, of South Africa.

It is our firm belief that by implementing the use of sustainable building methods, we can minimise the building industry's contribution to greenhouse gasses, all the while creating a much-needed infrastructure that serves the community on multiple levels.



*Ulwazi Educare, newly completed tyre wall with recycled doors and windows*

## Paul Marais (Architect) Simply Sustainable

Paul and Peter (Natural Building Collective) have worked on several sustainable building projects together over many years. Paul is deeply committed to the cause of sustainable building. Paul created the initial design and drawings for Ulwazi Educare.

## Why sustainable building?

Sustainable building refers to the use of materials in the building process that is locally sourced, natural and kind to the environment. Sustainable buildings typically produce much of their own energy through the smart use of materials and combination of passive design features to enhance insulation and thermal mass properties. In this way, buildings are more sustainable as they have a lower carbon footprint, not only during the building process, but for the duration of its lifespan. By their nature, these buildings have a more positive social impact as they do not rely on purchasing materials with a high embodied energy, thus contributing to local job creation and training.



*Ulwazi Educare, wall construction, cob packout, ecobricks and lots of diverse beautiful art*



*Spot the South African flag made from bottle tops in one of the internal walls*

# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre

**Peter McIntosh** started building with natural materials in 1999 when he built his own off the grid, earth-sheltered straw-bale house. For 10 years he embarked on a career as a natural builder working with South Africa's top green architects across the country with the full range of natural materials and techniques. This experience gave him the ability to make decisions based on what is the most appropriate for each given site with regard to available materials, the triple bottom-line of sustainability, client needs and climate. In 2010, Peter shifted his focus to training, mentoring and building the profile of natural and sustainable building in southern Africa. To this end he facilitates CPD accredited natural building courses under the auspices of the Natural Building Collective. Realizing that sustainability is about economy and social justice as much as it is about ecology Peter has been exploring the value of alternative building materials including tyres, glass bottles and eco-bricks (plastic bottles stuffed with plastic waste) since 2014. Recently he's set his sights on social development and innovation within the industry. He has been working in some of the poorest communities in Cape Town with local government and NGOs on several natural and sustainable building projects specifically in the area of Early Childhood Development.

**Emma Mc Gregor (Architect)** spent six years in an architectural practice focusing on government funded public schools. Irked by the lack of opportunity to explore alternative building technologies in these large scale projects, Emma moved into private practice in 2021. This allowed her to collaborate with the Natural Building Collective on the Ulwazi Early Childhood Development Centre in Delft and to explore the dynamic world of alternative and recycled building materials, with the aim to demonstrate how it is possible for the building industry to be less destructive in its effect on the planet.

#### **Shaun Solomon (Builder):**

*"At Sugarleaf (Pty) Ltd we pride ourselves for constructing flagship buildings using alternative sustainable building technologies. Started in 2016 we have built a reputation of being a reliable sustainable natural building contractor within the construction industry."*

**Robby De Barros** (Tyre Ramming Expert with Natural Building Collective). As part of the building team Robby is focused on the structural elements with regards to the tyre building and the specialized expertise that it entails) –

*"What an absolute honour to help build the Ulwazi Educare Centre using materials destined for landfill sites, recycled materials and a natural earth friendly approach to building. Ulwazi is a landmark for sustainable building which also provides a safe and beautiful space for children to learn, in a community which needs many more such spaces."*

#### **William Ruijsch van Dugteren PrEng (Structural Engineer)**

*"The Ulwazi ECDC project has shown how a great team with a higher goal can, using recycled materials, love and hard work, design and build a school to be treasured – it looks like the children and staff at Ulwazi agree that this building is AMAZING."*

#### **Mike Franck (Quantity Surveyor) – Homegrown Building Company**

*"Having visited the Ulwazi Educare premises on Mandela Day recently and seeing the building finished as well as the excited children, makes me delighted and so excited to be part of the amazing Goal50 Edu Hub project! "*

#### **Breadline Africa ([www.breadlineafrica.org](http://www.breadlineafrica.org))**

Breadline Africa is a non-profit organisation specialising in infrastructure in impoverished communities. They have installed over 730 structures on the ground to date, with support reaching into every province in South Africa. Breadline Africa installs classrooms, kitchens, toilets, offices, sickbays and occasionally libraries into ECD Centres.

Thank you to Alex and Diane Laugksch from Breadline Africa for the passion and dedication put into Ulwazi. Breadline Africa invested in the additional classroom, extra toilets, kitchen, office and sickbay at Ulwazi Educare.



#### **Alex Laugksch:**

*"I have a background and passion for natural building and providing environmentally friendly alternatives. Naturally, I heard about what Natural Building Collective was doing with Ulwazi Educare, and was incredibly excited and inspired to collaborate with all stakeholders on this project."*

#### **Uthando (Love) South Africa ( [www.uthandosa.org](http://www.uthandosa.org) )**

Uthando is an innovative Non Profit Organisation and Responsible Tourism Initiative linking tourism with a myriad of inspiring community development projects founded in 2007. James Fernie and Xolani Maseko drive this inspiring organisation, it is a small team with a very big heart.

One of Uthando's many initiatives has been the transformation of pre-schools operating in informal structures into world class buildings. The South African government will only provide financial support to ECD's that meet health and safety requirements, thus decent quality buildings are essential to obtain this support.

Through cherished partnerships, Uthando has contributed to the construction and transformation of six Early Childhood Development Centres since 2010. All of the buildings are well maintained and fully insured by Uthando SA.



South Africa

# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre

James Fernie

*"I am always so inspired and invigorated by the beautiful little children that I meet so often in township communities around Cape Town. They are full of goodness, love and light despite the incredible difficulties and circumstances from which many of them come. We must never stop striving to fulfill the promise of our young democracy, that all of these millions of children deserve the right of attending a decent pre-school where they can have the opportunity to learn, to dream and to be safe during the day. Our efforts in this regard are small in the broader scheme of things, but they are sincere and heartfelt. The buildings created out of tyres, plastic bottles and recycled materials by Natural Building Collective are beyond beautiful, strong and places of love and creativity. I know in my heart that Goal50 Edu Hub will be the most extraordinary place of love, healing, education and safety for children, a beacon of hope and light at a time when it is really needed. We all need good news stories, and this is one of those stories that we can all rally around. Please continue to support our efforts as we turn dreams into reality."*

James Fernie and Xolani Maseko onsite at Ulwazi Educare



Kiddies Educare (Philippi)

*"The new school was a blessing from god and has helped us for over 10 years to give the children a safe, clean and beautiful place to learn. Our school used to be a small shack with terrible kitchen and bathroom facilities, but thanks to Uthando and donors the children have a beautiful school to come to daily" - Margaret Makhafola (Principal)*



Kiddies Educare

Isiseko "Foundation" Educare (Mfuleni)

*"I am very proud of our team at Isiseko, for the good work we are doing looking after and educating our children. Today they have safe place because of UTHANDO and other partners. Education is very important to children of South Africa because they are the future. Isiseko is playing a part in laying that solid foundation"- Zoliswa Siko (Principal)*



# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre

## Iminathi Educare / Thokozani "Rejoice" Together Educare (Khayelitsha)

*"On behalf of Iminathi Educare, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Uthando SA for all the support provided to us from the inception of our Educare Center. Uthando has been the greatest pillar of our organisation. When our centre was built in 2018, it changed a lot of things, not just for the children but the community at large.*

*It means that we are able to provide the best quality education in a conducive environment, where children are safe and warm, and the new center allows our Teachers to plan their activities. To all supporters of UthandoSA, we Thank you for creating these learning spaces for our children, you are the real chance makers indeed."*

- Mhlangabezi Masizana (Principal)



Thokozani Together

## Zizamele "Just do it" Educare (Khayelitsha)

*"Our school used to be shacks which was terrible for the children in summer and winter. We could not imagine how beautiful the new school would be. Thank you to all sponsors for making it possible. Pre-school Education is very important, because it builds a concrete foundation. It gives a holistic development and support children in all aspects of life."*

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- Bukeka Mandlantse (Principal)



Zizamele "Just do it" Educare

## Masibulele "We give thanks" Educare (Khayelitsha)

*"Family is not family by DNA. That is what Uthando taught me. It did not only end with building, the building they part of community as Masibulele is a part of community. Hoping and wishing that it doesn't end with our community WE LOVE YOU!"*

-Nwabisa Xaba (Principal)



Masibulele Educare

*"It gives us so much joy, pride and pleasure to take donors to visit the Early Childhood Development Centres, to see exactly where and how their money is spent."*

## Celebrating with donors at the opening of Zizamele





# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre



Camilla Levin from 80 Days (Denmark) visiting completed Masibulele Educare



Phil and Margo Harding (United Kingdom) visiting Thokozani Together



Annika Bjorkroth and Helena Andren (Travel Beyond, Sweden), a very large donor to Masibulele and Zizamele Educare, visiting the completed pre-schools in Cape Town

## Ulwazi "Knowlegde" Educare Centre (Delft)

Ulwazi Educare was started by Patiswa Patience Bangani in 1998.

In 2018, Helen Lieberman (Ikamva Labantu) introduced James Fernie to Peter and Patiswa onsite at Ulwazi Educare, thus setting in motion the transformation of the pre-school through the valued partnerships.

Construction was due to commence in April 2020, but unfortunately the effects of Covid-19 delayed those plans from going ahead. Construction started in September 2021, and the official opening is taking place on the 3rd of September 2022.



Ulwazi Educare

Planning for Ulwazi Educare underway in 2018

## 3. ULWAZI EDUCARE "KNOWLEDGE" CENTRE – A SHINING EXAMPLE OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE

### Interesting and amazing facts about Ulwazi Educare

1700 tyres were used in the building. They were sourced from a tyre depot, managed by the Waste Bureau in Atlantis. As all the tyres were in one location, we were able to utilise the same size for the entire building. Large car tyres with a tread width of 265 mm were used for the entire building. The fill-material for the tyres comprised of recycled building rubble from a nearby yard, mixed with other recycled earths. Once filled with earth, each tyre weighed 170kgs, equating to over 289 tonnes for the total weight of the completed building.

The Cob method is a mix of sand, clay and straw which was used extensively in the building. Around 60 cubic metres was used to build the internal walls and pack out the tyres. Natural plasters were applied internally and a layer of cement plaster applied externally for extra durability, from a maintenance point of view.

6 000 eco bricks were used in the build. In addition, Cob was used for the internal walls and other places to save on materials and create art. Recycled doors and windows were used where possible, giving loads of character to the building.

A local organisation Greenset ( [www.greenset.org](http://www.greenset.org) ) supplied the unique 1600 eco bricks for some of the interior walls from upcycled Polyurethane film set waste. Hilton Cowie from Envirolite built the prototype machine, making it possible to recycle the first Polyurethane set-build waste.

**Belinda Johnson from Greenset:**

*"The aim of GREENSET is Sustainability in the Film, Electronic & Digital Media Industries - assisting productions to minimize their carbon footprint and overall environmental impact - by implementing practical, economical, green initiatives.*

*Our focus is life, occupational, entrepreneurial skills development & In-service training - employment creation & career path development. Polyurethane has long been one of the largest contributors to - waste to landfill - generated by the film industry in Cape Town. After much research and in search of a solution to this waste stream, GREENSET, funded by Raised by Wolves S2(HBO) , partnered with Envirolite to build a prototype machine that could recycle the Polyurethane into an aggregate that could be used in the manufacturer of Envirolites lightweight building blocks. Using the prototype machine, Envirolite produced 1600 building blocks made of recycled set waste which were donated by Netflix for use in the Uthando Ulwazi Educare centre in Delft Cape Town."*



*One of the internal walls made from upcycled Polyurethane film set waste*



*"At Envirolite Concrete we feel incredibly privileged to be able to successfully recycled waste Polystyrene packaging and Polyurethane into the manufacturing of energy efficient lightweight concrete blocks and panels" - Hilton Cowie*

*Bricks made by Greenset*



# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre

The spectacular visual progress of the construction of Ulwazi Educare (Delft)



All of the stakeholders

Laying the foundations



Cobbing being placed on the walls

The roof starts going on



The building starting to really take shape



The walls start taking shape

Internal walls made from ecobricks



# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre



*Ulwazi Educare is a work of art*



*Ulwazi Educare, a place of learning, love and creativity*



*Thank you to Eunoia E.V (Germany) for donating the jungle gym*



*Thank you to Cathrine Filipson (Sweden) for donating the astro turf and Authentic Grass for the additional turf donated for Mandela Day*

*"We are so excited to move into the new building. The school is just beautiful, a place of love and caring. The space is full of creativity, the children are going to be so inspired to do well. Thank you to the sponsors, builders and everyone who contributed to all the elements of the school and the additional elements such as the astro turf, jungle gym, just a huge THANK YOU!"*

*- Patiswa Patience Bangani (Principal)*

## Art in the building

The facade of the building is a work of art. But there are also some truly beautiful artistic interior elements to the building.

The school is incredibly blessed to include art created by Ceramics Artist Andile Dyalvane. Co-Founder and Creative Director at Imiso Ceramics, Andile created beautiful art on one of the interior walls of the school.

Andile says that before he starts working, he calls on the spirits of the ancestors to get clarity as to what they want him to communicate. The ancestors come to him in his dreams and he receives their messages. The symbols Andile creates capture the essence of healing, peace, love, unity and honouring the ancestors, and he describes the symbols as "Ancestral Dreamscapes" ([www.imisoceramics.co.za](http://www.imisoceramics.co.za))

Ulwazi Educare is truly blessed to contain the artistic symbols created by Andile Dyalvane.



*Andile creating art on one of the internal walls*



# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre

Helen Lieberman (Ikamva Labantu [www.ikamva.org.za](http://www.ikamva.org.za))

*"Thank you for sharing the heartwarming news and photos of what Uthando and Natural Building Collective have dedicated yourselves to at Ulwazi. You have truly blessed a community and generations to come. It looks amazing —beautiful, very functional and a creative lesson to others. This is what needs to be done throughout South Africa. An example that we need to highlight wherever we can."*



Group photo with Alderman James Vos and several high ranking City of Cape Town officials spending the morning at Ulwazi Educare

Ulwazi Educare and the unique model of building by Natural Building Collective is attracting a lot of attention by local authorities and media

On 18 July 2022 Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Development Alderman James Vos joined several high ranking City of Cape Town officials at Ulwazi Educare. Alderman Vos posted the following message on social media following the visit:

*"Today I joined Uthando South Africa at Ulwazi Educare in Delft to commemorate Mandela Day. The drive and innovation of the teams at these two organisations embody the theme for this year's celebration which is 'do what you can, with what you have, where you are'."*

*Uthando is an NGO with an award-winning model that combines responsible tourism with community development. And Ulwazi (which is isiXhosa for 'knowledge') is an Early Childhood Development Centre which provides a safe, creative environment for children in and around the surrounding area."*

*I was also joined by the We Are Africa team, and helped a few of the little ones to plant a few trees.*

*Through funds derived from their social upliftment tourism, Uthando is working with Ulwazi to build a new educare centre. On top of that, the materials used in the building are all recycled, such as repurposed tyres and discarded plastic and glass bottles.*

*It's just amazing what happens when resourcefulness is used as a force for good!"*

*Having seen first-hand the value tourism creates for local communities while celebrating culture and natural beauty, I am deeply passionate about this industry.*

*My heartfelt thanks to everyone at Uthando and Ulwazi for welcoming me today and for keeping Madiba's legacy alive through your incredible work."*

#MandelaDay #LoveCapeTown #ResponsibleTourism"



Thanks to Greenset, a local non-profit film industry initiative with a focus on the sector's environmental sustainability, a top executive from Netflix Global, David Greathouse, visited Ulwazi Educare shortly before he flew back to the USA in March 2022

# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre

## 4. GOAL50 EDU HUB EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (ECD) – THE PROMISE OF A BRIGHT FUTURE



### 4.1 Background to Goal50 Edu Hub

Back in 2010, Englishman Nigel Pascoe, visited South Africa for the soccer World Cup. A passionate football supporter, Nigel was staying in Cape Town and read an article about Mario van Niekerk in the Cape Argus.

As he read Mario's story, Nigel was prompted to contact him and a meeting was arranged. Whilst meeting Mario, Nigel was shown the GCU soccer school and heard Mario's dream to incorporate a safe house under the umbrella of the soccer school.

Nigel returned to the UK and later that year set up the Goal50 charity to assist Mario in the great work he is doing in Heideveld. Amongst many social projects, the safe house was acquired, but Mario and Nigel's vision was much bigger. Extensive discussions took place with the government about purchasing land to build a day-care centre.

Nigel and Mario live 6,000 miles apart from each other and come from different social backgrounds, but have become great friends over the last 12 years through their mutual love of soccer and their Christian faith. Land was purchased from the government in 2017 for the construction of the Edu Hub.

While the syllabus offered at Goal50 Edu Hub ECD will be based on the Montessori principles, the pre-school will offer the Jubilee Excellence Schools training in conjunction with Shiloh Education [www.shiloh.org.za](http://www.shiloh.org.za)

*"I am delighted that the Goal50 Edu Hub can now be constructed. The implementation of this facility will hugely impact the Heideveld community. This has been a project which has been planned over many years and I am excited that work can now begin. Many many families over many years will benefit when the Edu Hub is operational. Throughout the world, early learning support has proved to be a vital service which shapes a child's mind and character from a very young age. The Goal50 Edu Hub will enhance this social benefit in the Heideveld area. Exciting times." – Nigel Pascoe*



**Nigel Pascoe and Mario Van Niekerk**

As a long time friend and supporter of GCU, James Fernie from Uthando visited Ulwazi Educare together with Mario and introduced Mario to Peter (Natural Building Collective), and thus the plan was born to build Goal50 Edu Hub with the same sustainable building materials as Ulwazi Educare.

# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre

## 4.2 Plans for the new ECD



### Details of the Goal50 Edu Hub:

- Ground floor 680 square metres
- 1st floor 238 square metres including residential unit for principal which is essential for security of the building
- 4 classrooms all with access to toilet facilities
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Laundry
- Staff room and staff toilets
- Meeting room
- Principal office
- Reception area with sick bay
- 330 square metres play area
- 3200 tyres
- 6000 eco bricks
- 12000 Polyurethane film set waste blocks
- 135 square metre inner courtyard area for astro turf

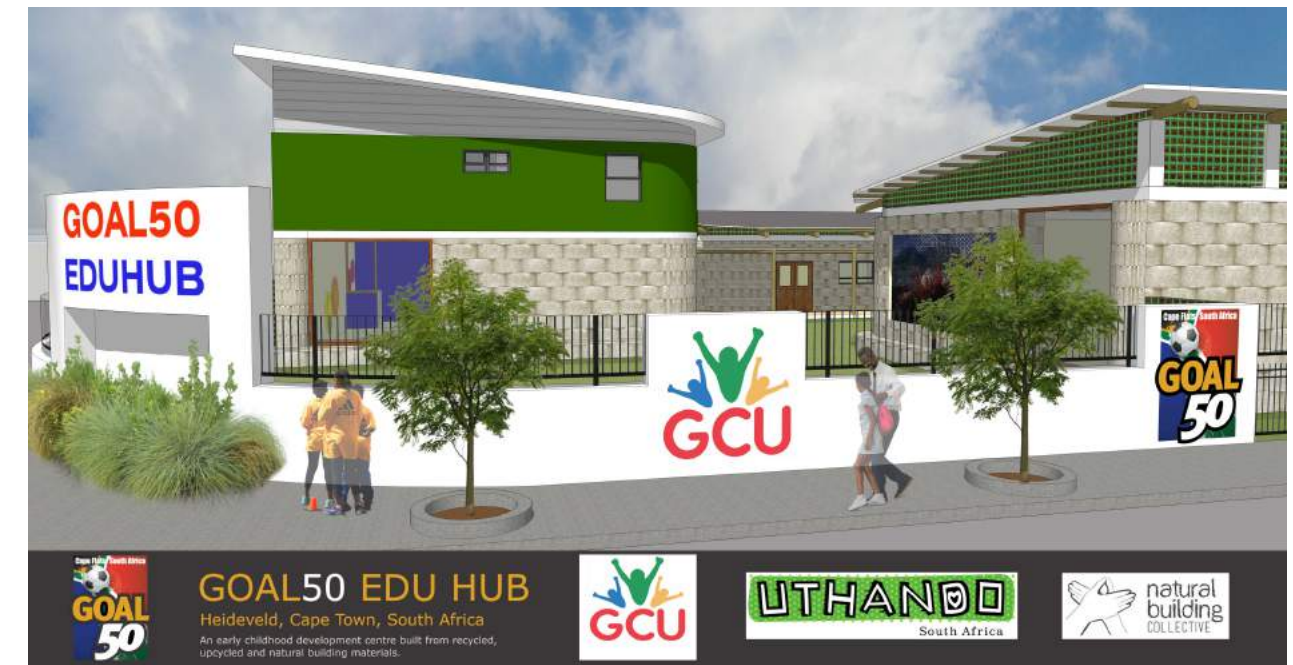


*Adam, Emma, Peter, James and Mario meeting onsite in Heideveld to set in motion to building of Goal50 Edu Hub Montessori School*



*Mario visiting Ulwazi Educare for the first time and meeting Peter from Natural Building Collective*

## 4.3 Summary of costs



**FUNDRAISING GOAL R10 MILLION (EXCL VAT). 100% OF FUNDS COLLECTED WILL GO INTO THE DESIGN, ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION OF GOAL50 EDU HUB**

Traditional building costs typically spend more on materials than labour because much of the work is done off site in manufacturing what is required, such as bricks and cement. This process does not directly benefit the local community as these factories are most often not near the building site. Sustainable building requires that a far greater portion of the work is done onsite, such as pounding tyres and less money spent proportionally on materials. Because tyre building requires a lot of physical work, more local people are employed for the duration of the project, learning new skills and the money goes where it is really needed, the community.

The following is an explanation of the costs incurred and materials included to build the Goal50 Edu Hub in Heideveld. These costs are currently an estimate, and are subject to change, but it will furnish everyone with a better understanding of the overall expense to build this remarkable school. The cost of the build of the school will total around R10 million (VAT exclusive). This equates to around R11 500 to R12 000 per square metre. A typical conventional building will cost approximately between R12 000 and R13 000 (and higher) per square metre. This is very competitive with a conventional building, so one has to consider the end product, and what the building offers and provides.

The material used for the ground floor walls will be tyres. About 3 200 will be required. These tyres will be filled with a specific type of building material called G5 and compacted enough so that the tyre becomes extremely solid. The internal walls will be made from eco bricks and cob plaster. The first floor walls will be made from M140 compressed film blocks. About 5000 will be required. Cob plaster will be used both internally and externally. Cement plaster will be used externally, with a cob and lime plaster used internally. The roof will be made from very large gum poles as the rafters, and standard roof sheeting as the covering. The building is labour intensive, so we foresee the project taking approximately 12 months to complete.

# Goal50 Edu Hub Early Childhood Development Centre

## 4.4 Fundraising to meet the goals and objectives

Fundraising goal R10 million (excl Vat). 100% of funds collected will go into the design, engineering and construction of Goal50 Edu Hub

### GivenGain Crowd Funding Campaign

Many hands make light work. Please support and share the crowd funding campaign far and wide around the world.

<https://www.givengain.com/ap/uthando-gcu-educare/>

### Direct Donations

All donations to Uthando by South African individuals or companies are tax deductible. Donations can be made on the Uthando website [www.uthandosa.org](http://www.uthandosa.org) selecting Greater Commission United (GCU) as recipient or direct transfer to bank account :

Name : Uthando Social Development Projects, South Africa  
Bank : First National Bank (FNB)  
Account : 62161218542  
Code : 201709 (97 Long Street, Cape Town, 8000, SA)  
Swift Code : FIRZAJJ

*Email proof of payment to James Fernie email [jamesfernie@uthandosa.org](mailto:jamesfernie@uthandosa.org) with full name and reference for the donation being GCU.*



Please support our vision for quality education in quality earth friendly buildings

