

ANNUAL REPORT UTHANDO (LOVE) SOUTH AFRICA

1 APRIL 2022 – 31 MARCH 2023

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Zama Dance School



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Amy Foundation



DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

1. DIRECTORS OVERVIEW – James Fernie

"There is much power in partnership and for that I am so grateful to Uthando SA and the friends and supporters of Uthando.

**We will never stop dreaming of a better future for the people of Hanover Park, and the Cape Flats.
Love and light will always win in the end.**

Our journey with Uthando South Africa has been a blessed one, the relationship goes beyond just support. It is about connection, community and love.

The kitchen container financed by Uthando and friends of Uthando is now really the center of many of our activities. The kitchen has recently been fully renovated and will enable us to provide over 600 meals per day to people that are destitute. Thank you Uthando South Africa for your continuous support to the Alcardo Andrews Foundation. We love and appreciate you."

Avril Andrews, Alcardo Andrews Foundation



Kronendal Music Academy

The original state of our consciousness is love. The heart of our collective creator source is love; the fountain of creation is love. The thing that we human beings refer to as love is so much bigger than just an emotion or feeling. Love is God. It is our essence, it is our true nature, it nourishes, sustains and empowers us. That is why us human beings prioritize love as our highest core value. We are living through extraordinary and exciting times in human history, and the choice between love and fear is confronting so many people.

Uthando means Love. It is a Zulu and Xhosa word, two of South Africa's most commonly spoken languages. Through our programme of action, linking tourism and community development, we are not only aiming to raise funds and resources for inspiring, innovative and important community development projects in South Africa, but we also aim to spread seeds of love, kindness and sharing our common humanity.

Through our Philanthropic Educational Excursions, we introduce to the world the courageous, passionate and tenacious community activists who are driving change at grass roots level. We are so proud of them, and it gives us great pleasure and joy to introduce them to people from all over the world. We are also so proud of South Africans.

Despite wave after wave of daily challenges, we collectively meet those challenges and rise above them, very often with smiles and a spirit of resilience and determination.

Visitors so often remark that they feel and experience the warmth, kind and welcoming spirit and energy when visiting township communities. Despite the challenges, people find it in their hearts to welcome visitors with big smiles and open arms. They too, are extremely proud of the work they are doing. They want to tell their stories. They want visitors to learn about their efforts, and of course they are grateful for the exposure and investment in their community projects.

South Africa is a nation of people that has paused to reflect on its past. We have sought to find peace and reconciliation through truth and forgiveness. The journey is far from over. Democracy has not translated into economic freedom. Many challenges and dangers exist, but in the world in which we find ourselves in 2023, this scenario is not unique to South Africa.

We are so incredibly and profoundly grateful to the many people who have helped Uthando along our journey since 2007 and without whom Uthando would not exist today. Likewise, we express our deepest appreciation for the community development activists and leaders who are driving change at grass roots level in their respective communities. We are proud to be highlighting their work in the tourism space, in our modest way. We survived and thrived yet another tumultuous and challenging year. We encountered and interacted with many thousands of people, and we contributed to 70 impactful and meaningful community development projects across a broad spectrum of sectors. Thank you for being a part of our journey.

James Fernie

Founding Director, Uthando (Love) South Africa



The Isibane se Afrika "the Light of Africa" Choir

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

2. SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

"Every child should have a safe place to spend his or her afternoon. Every child should have a nourishing meal at least once a day, access to safe transport and be loved by trustworthy caregivers and supportive adults, who champion them and encourage them to build dreams and a future. And this is where Kronendal Music Academy (KMA) and Uthando meet, perfectly aligned.

Both organisations are dedicated to providing the best possible opportunities to children and youth and, in Uthando's cas, to so many more.

KMA has been honoured to be in partnership with Uthando for the past 6 years and share values of kindness, philanthropy and above all else, Love. -

Dwyn Griesel, Founder and Director, Kronendal Music Academy

Easter Egg Drive for the children of Hanover Park a massive success

2023 was the 4th consecutive year that Uthando ran an Easter egg drive for the children of Hanover Park. With donations flooding in from South Africa and across the world, Uthando was able to deliver more than 14 000 easter eggs which were distributed to every corner of Hanover Park, a community ravaged by gangsterism and violence, and where the children truly deserve as much cheer as they can possibly receive. Some of the eggs also went to children in the community of Manenberg and St Joseph's Home for Chronically Ill Children.



Easter eggs handed over by Uthando to various community partners in Hanover Park

Uthando Freedom Day Celebration – 27 April 2022

Whilst many South Africans feel like there is little to celebrate on Freedom Day (the anniversary of our first democratic election on 27 April 1994), the Uthando Family had the great pleasure of taking the children and staff from Care Bears Educare in Belhar to visit the Two Oceans Aquarium for the morning, followed by lunch and play time in the Greenpoint Park. Most of the children had never been on a luxury bus before, let alone visit the aquarium. It was such a joy to share this experience with the children who so thoroughly and visibly appreciated it.

What all people need in their life is opportunity. Opportunity starts by creating experiences where children can dream. Dreams are where the seeds of life are planted. What better place for children to dream than in the magical Two Oceans Aquarium.

Thank you to Springbok Atlas Tours & Safaris for providing the transport, the Two Oceans Aquarium for the discounted prices, to Kauai for the discount on the lunch packs, to the amazing photographer Alexia Beckerling for great photographs as always, and our dear friend Debbie Maser for enabling yet another group of children to participate in these wonderful outings.

South Africans can change the country from the ground up, by sharing, caring and making just a little effort which goes a very long way.



SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

“We Are Africa” 2022

“We Are Africa” is a vibrant gathering of luxury African travel brands, top international tourism buyers and experienced international press. The mission of We Are Africa is to transform and rebrand African travel for the global luxury market, celebrate the continent’s diversity, unsurpassed beauty and incredible opportunity.

Uthando SA is really grateful to have been selected by We Are Africa as their community development partner since 2016. The 2022 show was held in person at the Cape Town Stadium in May 2022 after a two year absence as a result of Covid-19.

The 2022 show afforded numerous opportunities for Uthando. We Are Africa sponsored Uthando to attend the show and meet up with old friends and supporters, as well as meet with new business contacts.



Uthando hosted a press trip visiting community development projects with journalists representing publications including National Geographic Traveller, BBC, the Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, Conde Nast Traveller, Town & Country.

James and Xolani at the Uthando Table



The Tjommies from Hanover Park at the official opening of We Are Africa

We Are Africa sincerely believes in community, sustainability and giving back. For We Are Africa it is not just words. The 150 trees that were used at the show were planted after the show by delegates together with the children and staff at Christel House School, a non-profit school which Uthando supports. In one day, the school was blessed with an instant forest of decent sized indigenous trees.



Press trip journalists listening to the builder at Ulwazi Educare Centre. The school is being built out of tyres and recycled materials.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

Two Oceans Aquarium Visits: Ulwazi Educare and Thokozani Together

During the month of May 2022, Uthando undertook another two excursions for children from the townships to the Two Oceans Aquarium at the Waterfront.

Principal of Thokozani Together, Mhla Masizana, sent the following note:

"Thank you so much Uthando for such a great day. Our children had so much fun. They learnt a lot and they just can't stop talking about the amazing experience. We have already received voice messages from their parents expressing their sincere thanks to the school. Thank you once more, James and Xolani, and Uthando."

The principal of Ulwazi Educare, Patiswa Bangani, sent the following note:

"Thank you for such a beautiful blessing for the children of Ulwazi Educare. We always encourage our children to dream, and what better place for them to dream than at the aquarium."



The children from the Thokozani Together Centre



The children from Ulwazi Educare

Journeys by Design & Wild Philanthropy - The Angela Conservation Fund

Livingstone Safaris in Cape Town is one of Uthando's loyal supporters and donors. One of their African specialist agents in the United Kingdom, Angela Sacha, from Journeys by Design passed away in September 2021 suddenly and unexpectedly. It was a massive shock to the tourism industry, and in her honour many of her colleagues established "The Angela Conservation Fund" with a view to donating to charitable causes.

Livingstone Safaris selected Uthando as the beneficiary of the \$10 000.00 donation in Angela's honour.

Paul from Wild Philanthropy wrote to Livingstone Safaris:

"I think Uthando would be a fantastic organisation to support with your donation and we fully support that - I think Angela would have loved it."

Uthando is incredibly grateful to all concerned for trusting and believing in our vision and philosophy. The very generous donation was allocated to several important community development projects and below is some of the feedback received from just one of them:



SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

Scleral lenses for Mahad Bile through Eyes2Eyes Foundation

Eyes2Eyes sent the following note after receiving the donation for Mahad Bile:

Mahad Bile, age 24 years old, has been battling with corneal blindness since his teens. Mahad, who is from Somalia, uprooted his life to come to South Africa in the hopes of getting medical assistance for his blindness. Last year, he was diagnosed with keratoconus at the Groote Schuur Cornea Clinic. The hospital, which does not have the facilities or funding to help Mahad, referred his case to the Eyes2Eyes Foundation for assistance.

Keratoconus is a devastating eye disease that typically presents in the early teens. Yet it is seldom referred to in global or local eye care strategies to prevent blindness.

Sight in a patient with advanced keratoconus cannot be restored with glasses or contact lenses. The impact of this on young lives is devastating in any environment. In South Africa, corneal blindness perpetuates a vicious cycle of poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. And yet 80% of it is treatable.

Sadly, it's also an "invisible" form of blindness, as most patients don't look blind. Every one of the patients on our programme, tell us they no longer explain their condition.

Families, friends and employers simply don't believe they cannot see. Depression and isolation inevitably become part of the picture. When we assessed Mahad, he could barely count the fingers held up in front of his face. With a trial set of scleral lenses, he can see the driving line on an eye chart.

Like many of our patients, Mahad's life as a young adult in Mitchells Plain is extremely challenging. The area he lives in is dangerous – going outside alone as a blind person is impossible.



Mahad Bile

He spends his days sleeping to escape the isolation that vision loss brings with it.

At night, sometimes a friend will come around and take him out. He is marginalized within the community and not able to work.

Our communication with Mahad is via his closest friend, who shares messages and supports him as he waits for his sight to be restored.

Last week, we received the incredible news your donation. Mahad is the next patient in line on our waiting list – we are over the moon to have instructed our team to complete the design of his specialist lenses, based on mapping and scans of each cornea. In three weeks' time, his own custom designed scleral lenses will arrive from New Zealand. And the process of transforming this young man's life will begin.

We can't wait to share the videos from his fitting with you. Once again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for sponsoring the magical gift of sight restoration for Mahad."

Much love, Mandy"

Mandela Day – 18 July 2022

Part of Uthando's Mandela Day 2022 was spent with a wonderful group of people planting trees and shrubs at the brand new Ulwazi Educare Centre in Delft.

We were very privileged to be joined by the City of Cape Town Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Growth Alderman James Vos who wrote the following on social media:

"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'."



SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

"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

Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel Educational

We are so grateful to the Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel for the many years of support. On Friday, 29 July 2022 we had the opportunity to host a team from "The Nellie" including the new General Manager, Tiago Mores Sarmiento, PRO, Gaby Palmer, members of the concierge desk and chefs from the restaurant. It was such a great opportunity to connect with the Mount Nelson team and showcase just a few of the community projects supported by Uthando.



Visiting Moya We Khaya Garden. The Mount Nelson has supported the micro-farmers of Cape Town for many years by purchasing vegetables through Abalimi Bezekhaya for their main restaurant at the hotel.

Abalimi Bezekhaya "Farmers of Home" 40 Year Cook-up

"Celebrating 40 years of township farming"

Abalimi Bezekhaya, "farmers of home", have been pioneering township urban agriculture for 40 years. Uthando has been working with and supporting Abalimi for 14 years. We were privileged to be invited to participate in the 40-year celebration with a wonderful "cook-up" held in July 2022.

Eight beautiful community farms were paired up with eight chefs, including from the Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel and the Table Bay Hotel. They were challenged to cook a plant-based meal with veggies and wild foods from the various gardens in townships such as Khayelitsha and Gugulethu. The prepared food was enjoyed by all present in what can only be described as a vegetarian feast.



From left to right: Grace Stead (Abalimi), Pam McOnie (Cape Fusion Tours), Deputy Mayor City of Cape Town, Alderman Eddie Andrews, Babalway Mpayipeli (Abalimi) and James Fernie (Uthando)

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

Gail's Travel and & Safaris (USA)

We are so blessed to meet so many amazing people from all over the world. It was really so wonderful meeting a group of beautiful, engaging and very interesting ladies led by Gail Woloiz from Gail's Travel & Safaris on Saturday, 23 July 2022. We were so grateful to the ladies for bringing many bags filled with goodies all the way from the USA for Uthando to distribute amongst our community development projects.



The Great Summit" Bush Whisper Support for Christel House School

Thank you to The Bush Whisper Foundation team for carrying Uthando South Africa in their hearts, spirit and physical bags all the way to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Talitha Oosthuizen from Bush Whisper sent the following note:

"Nelson Mandela said: "It always seems impossible until it's done".

The Reason behind Bus Whisper doing The Great Summit:
We were in a truly fortunate position we had a financial sponsor the past two years which we are eternally grateful for, but being in the industry we have first-hand experience, seeing the effect on our fellow tour operators, agents, accommodation institutions, museums, animal rehabilitation centres to name a few that were not as fortunate as us.

The question came up, how can we help, and without a doubt we wanted to create awareness, by doing something extraordinary – climbing Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and fourth on the list of the seven summits – highest mountains of each of the traditional continents. It classified as something extraordinary, and the Great Summit was born.

They Great Summit is a way of paying it forward in our industry. Through our donations via our social media platform, website and digital and print marketing, creating awareness around the great summit campaign through media, we are truly hoping to raise enough funds to assist our main outreach organisation.

Uthando is a non-profit organisation that is underpinned by the values of responsible tourism. Its innovative model of responsible tourism and travelling philanthropy has linked the local and international tourism industry with inspiring and well-managed community development projects.

Briefly, they help local communities thrive by merging tourism to development in a challenging socio-economic environment. We will be donating proceeds from our initiative to Uthando to help communities in need.

As we approached Uhuru Peak, we experienced the most magnificent sunrise making its way over Mawenzi Peak, the glaciers shining a golden glow, is a picture I will never forget. Frozen soil forms an integral part of the summit. Reaching Uhuru Peak was an absolute emotional feeling, tears were flowing down my cheeks, but they were happy tears, tears of accomplishment, tears of relief, tears of respect for my peers and guides.

Our team, being family made it so much more worthy and it's a feeling only those who have experienced it would fully understand. A person is never the same after conquering Kili"



SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

Visit by dear friend and benefactor Joel Zack (USA)

Joel Zack from New York City has been a good friend and benefactor to Uthando since 2008. It was absolutely wonderful to spend the day with Joel and his nephew Sully (from Los Angeles) on their trip to Cape Town in September 2022.

Taking donors to visit the recipient community development partners is without doubt always a highlight. We just love showing people where and how their money has been spent.



Ikhaya "Home" Garden in Khayelitsha

Helena Andren (Travel Beyond Sweden) visit to Kronendal Music Academy

There is a certain kind of magic in the energy when bringing people together to learn and understand each other's stories, and show donors exactly where their money is being spent. A special recognition to Travel Beyond (Sweden) for not only investing in the young people of Africa over so many years through Uthando, but also taking such a sincere personal interest in the people.

In February 2023, we had such an inspiring afternoon with Helena Andren visiting the Kronendal Music Academy in Hout Bay and meeting two of the students, Brian and Laicah, whom Travel Beyond (Sweden) supported when they needed it most.



Thank you also to the director of the Kronendal Music Academy, Dwyn Griesel, for being such an amazing role model, leader and teacher to the more than 160 children attending this outstanding and life-changing music school. Helena sent the following note after the visit:

**"Dear Dwyn,
Thank you so much for organizing my visit last week! It was
amazing to meet your team and Laicah and Brian.
What extraordinary young adults and I am truly grateful to be a
part of their life journey."**

Helena Andre, Founder & Managing Director

Spreading the LOVE – Bongioanni Family (Luxembourg)

In 2022, Uthando hosted the Bongioanni family from Luxembourg through Maldafrica Tours. The youngest son, Tommaso decided that for his 10th birthday he would do a fundraiser for Goal50 Edu Hub (the next pre-school to be built from tyres) rather than accept gifts. This thoughtful young man raised a fantastic \$250.00. The family sent the following note together with the money:

**"We were very impressed by this amazing
project and the excursion in general was a
very touching and enriching experience".**

A very sincere thank you to Veronica, Omar, Giulio and especially young Tommaso, for this incredibly kind, thoughtful and generous gift.



Pepperclub Hotel supports urban farming and youth development

In December 2022, the Pepperclub Hotel handed over a generous cheque to Uthando for two community projects.

We are so grateful for our tourism industry partnerships that continue to believe in and support our community programs. The team at Pepperclub Hotel was so gracious to support some really meaningful initiatives, the Kronendal Music Academy and Abalimi Bezekhaya urban farming through Uthando.

The hotel General Manager of the hotel, Efi Ella officially handed over a cheque to Uthando in December.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

Moya we Khaya Urban Farm – “Water is life”

The Moya we Khaya urban farm desperately needed water as the 2023 summer season approached.

Thank you to Zilla and Penny Stekhoven for providing selfless support and funds to the Moya We Khaya Garden so that they could sink the borehole. The farmers were so grateful that their garden was saved with nourishing water, just in time for the very hot summer months.



Moya Micro Farmers enjoying the water sprouting from the ground

Wonderful German friends Christmas fundraiser – Sibsi and Guenter Lenz

Thank you to our longtime friends in Germany, Sibsi and Guenter Lenz, who organized a Christmas party in December 2022 for their friends and neighbours, which also served as a fundraiser for Uthando. The evening raised a wonderful 120.00 €. They sent the lovely note together with the funds:



“We had really a fun evening with snow, campfire and something hot to drink, and talked about your wonderful projects.

We wish you, your families and all in your projects a Merry Xmas and a happy New Year and seeing forward to support you again!”

Sibsi and Guenter Lenz
(Munich, Germany)

Ubuntu Beanies support for Brave Rock Girl

Well done and thank you to Maria Ross for the remarkable fundraising efforts with Ubuntu Beanies and supporting Brave Rock Girl through Uthando since 2020.

Maria posted the following message in December:



Brave Rock Girls



Maria Ross

“100 000 Rand.
Christmas came early this year for me. This is it.

This week I have crossed the R 100 000.00 mark. I have now raised more than 100 000 Rand in pure donations for BRAVE Rock Girl via Uthando South Africa, as well as several Soup kitchen, with Ladles of Love being the latest one.

I am extremely humble today. Thank you to each and every person that helped reaching this absolute massive milestone. One hundred thousand. It's honestly too crazy to believe this is actually true.

It took me 2.5 years. I knitted over 400 items and invested several weeks to learn about social media marketing, accounting and generally running a business whose main aim is to raise donations.

Thank you. Thank you for your orders, for your generosity, for your small and big donations. For recommending me to your friends and family and for making ME your trusted beanie supplier even though my hand knitted beanies are by far pricier than any generic beanie you find in any of the big shops around the world. I am what I am because of who we all are. #ubuntu

What's next? Ubuntu beanies will, of course, continue to raise funds. There might be a few structural changes but otherwise, this is not the end - this is just the beginning! Let's get this next chapter started.”

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

Planet Walker – Dr John Francis

Thanks to an introduction from one of our long-time friends in the USA, we had the distinct pleasure of hosting the remarkable Dr John Francis on the 9th of February 2023. John is a former United Nations Goodwill Ambassador, and as the Planet Walker, is a pioneer in environmentalism. John walked over 22,000 miles to raise awareness about environmental conservation and sustainability in the world.

His journey lasted 17 years, and during that time, he adopted a "no speaking" policy to listen and learn from the earth and its inhabitants. He became a true advocate for the environment, inspiring people all over the world to take action and protect our planet. He was even invited by the US Coast Guard to create a pollution policy and regulations for the nation's waterways.

John's story serves as a reminder of the power of individual action and the impact it can have on the world. Let's all strive to follow in his footsteps and make a positive impact on the environment in our own unique way.

We wish John well as he is set to embark on his next adventure across our beloved country and continent in 2024. Learn more about John's unique story www.planetwalk.org



Visiting the Feed the Kaltsha Garden in Khayelitsha

Mama Christina Kaba handing over "Dompas" to Nelson Mandela Foundation

Uthando is working with and supporting 8 magnificent urban micro farms in Cape Town. One of them is the truly beautiful Moya we Khaya "Spirit of Home" Garden started by Mama Christina Kaba and her team in 2015. The garden is a veritable oasis in the sprawling township of Khayelitsha.

Our vision is not just to support community development projects, but also reflect the stories of the community activists running them. Over the years, Mama Kaba has shown her 'dompas' to many of our clients when visiting the garden. It is, of course, always a profoundly moving experience.

On the 16th of February 2023, we were honoured to be part of a historic day in South Africa. Mama Kaba officially handed over her "dompas" to the Nelson Mandela Foundation. The NMF estimate that there are less than 100 of these "dompas" books in SA today.

The Pass Laws Act of 1952 was one of the most despised and destructive apartheid laws, requiring black South Africans to obtain a "pass" (stamp) in their passbook or 'dompas' in order to enter "white" South Africa. Basically, the government only allowed the black workers permission to leave the rural areas and enter "white" South Africa where they were forced to live on the outskirts of the towns and cities in areas called "townships". Between 1952 and 1986 when the Pass Laws Act was abolished, more than 250 000 people were arrested annually for "trespassing" in South Africa by contravening the pass laws regulations.

A peaceful protest against the pass laws led to the 21 March 1969 Sharpeville Massacre, which was a turning point in South African history. 69 people were killed by the police, most shot in the back running away. It was after this event that the ANC launched a military campaign by founding Umkhonto we Sizwe or "Spear of the Nation". Conversely, the National Party banned all political opposition to apartheid. It really was the start of a vortex of violence which was to engulf South Africa and accelerate with each passing year, until finally democracy dawned in 1994.

There was an extra highlight for the day, Dr John Francis joined us for the ceremony and played "Life's Celebration" on his banjo. Mama Kaba is 75 years old, and John is 76 years old. They have both led extraordinary lives in very different but similar ways.

When Mama Christina was asked about how she felt about the experience of handing her "dompas" over to the Nelson Mandela Foundation, she said:

**"This has been a long, long dream of mine, to have my "dompas" become part of history in a museum or historical place.
I have kept it all these years as a reminder of where we come from, teaching my children and grandchildren about our past in South Africa.**

**Now it will "rest" at the Nelson Mandela Foundation archives and serve as an important lesson to everyone from near and far, preserved for generations to come.
Thank you so much for making this dream possible, I feel so proud and at peace –
Mama Christina Thenjiwe Kaba**



Mama Christina Thenjiwe Kaba holding the "dompas"

Razia Saleh from the Nelson Mandela Foundation sent the following email after the historic day:

**"Thank you for facilitating the handover of the "dompas".
We are so honoured to add it to our archival collection.
Mama Christina has such a compelling story which we hope to highlight."**



A musical celebration with Dr John Francis

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

80 Days (Denmark)

Thank you to 80 Days for providing support to a range of community development projects including a well-point being sunk at the Thunariso vegetable garden in Khayelitsha and sponsoring Akhona Bubeka with scleral lenses through Eyes2Eyes Foundation.

Amanda Seccombe from Eyes2Eyes sent the following note:

"Akhona Bubeka, is 30 years old. She lives with her uncle and sister, in desperate circumstances in Khayelitsha. Her home environment is abusive, but she has no alternative given her vision loss. Her dream of becoming a social worker was dashed when she failed Grade 12 due to not being able to see in class and keep up with her schoolwork.

Akhona has advanced keratoconus. She had a corneal transplant to her right eye, but unfortunately suffered trauma during a robbery, causing significant scarring to this eye.

In the photo she sent me, the scarring is clearly visible. Her vision is currently limited to 2%. At a trial fitting of EyeSpace scleral lenses, Akhona achieved 70% sight, even with this level of scarring.

We are confident with a customised pair of scleral lenses, she will achieve an even higher level of visual acuity, giving this young woman the chance to create an independent life for herself. Thank you, 80 Days, for this very kind support."



Akhona Bubeka

The founder of the Thunariso Garden, Thozama Sikiti sent the following note:

"Thank you for helping to support the extension of our vegetable garden with life giving water from the ground."

Natascha Rupp visit to Ulwazi "Knowledge" Educare

We were delighted to take a donor, Natascha Rupp from Eunoia-EV (Germany), to visit Ulwazi Educare on the 9th of February 2023. Eunoia sponsored the jungle gym play area at the pre-school which opened on 3 September 2022.

Natascha wrote the following after the visit:

**"Rarely has a school building evoked so much excitement in me – the staff and kids' smiling faces, the colorful walls, and the beautiful architecture were all stunning!
Visiting the Ulwazi Educare Center to see the jungle gym Eunoia e.V. was able to sponsor, was definitely my highlight traveling to Cape Town last month.
We look forward to supporting many more projects in the future!"**



Natascha with Mama Patiswa Bangani, Principal of Ulwazi Educare

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

Visiting South Africa with the “Spirit of Giving”

Thank you to Astrid Nouwens, Katja Laene and Sandra van Dijk who visited South Africa in March 2023 and included an Uthando morning in their itinerary. Before leaving Holland they raised an amazing amount of 2800 euros for the purpose of supporting Goal50 Edu Hub and Ulwazi Educare Centres. Thank you to the many people who supported the crowd funding campaign run by these three lovely ladies.



(From left to right) Sandra, Katja, Mama Patiswa (Ulwazi) and Astrid

Supporting the South African LGBTQIA+ Community

In honour of Gay Pride Month in Cape Town during February 2023, Uthando donated to two projects that provide critical support to the LGBTQIA+ community, namely The Pride Shelter Trust and the Triangle Project.

“Our strength as humans is to be found in embracing our diversity. We are so proud to be South African, a collective of people, who for the most part, genuinely and sincerely embrace everyone living in our “Rainbow Nation”.
There are many extreme challenges in this country, but we are rich beyond words in the energy of the people. A proud moment at Cape Town Pride, 97 drag queens on the stage, a world record was broken. Well done Cape Town, you made us all proud”
 - Uthando South Africa



BECAUSE Creative Experiences team visit to Ulwazi Educare

Because Creative Experiences is a long-time supporter of Uthando, and a benefactor to several of the pre-schools constructed by Uthando. As we always say, one of the best parts of our work is showing donors how we have spent their money. What a delight to take the team from BECAUSE to visit Ulwazi Educare on the 24th of March 2023, to see firsthand their investment in this unique and beautiful school.



A prayer and a blessing on Table Mountain to close 2022

For the closure of 2022, Uthando and the Isibane Se Afrika “The Light of Afrika” Choir held a prayer and song ceremony at Maclear’s Beacon on Table Mountain. Maclear’s Beacon is the highest point on Table Mountain and a very significant energetic point in the world. It was constructed by Sir Thomas Maclear in 1865 as a triangular station to assist in measuring the curvature of the Earth.

The beacon is still used by cartographers to this day and is regarded as a powerful energetic and spiritual place on the meridians of the world. The goal of spending the day with the choir at Maclear’s Beacon was to send energetic sounds and blessings of healing, joy, abundance, kindness and love across Cape Town, South Africa and the world.

The day exceeded every expectation as people heard the singing of the choir and gathered with us around the beacon. In the end there were people from France, Poland, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Lebanon, Ireland, Dubai, United States of America, Mexico, South Africa and Holland. We ended by standing in a circle, holding hands and singing our beautiful National Anthem, Nkosi Sikelel iAfrika “God Bless Africa.” The choir wrote after the day:

**“Today we climbed up above,
 oh so high far beyond your
 worries to shine our light
 Among the clouds, where the
 great eagles fly
 We sang prayers with all our
 must and might
 Pouring out our gratitude,
 love and healing
 We hope it was what each and
 every one of you were feeling.”**



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

**“It means so much to the NOAH community that you are part of our special circle of most valued friends and supporters who value the role of our elders in building thriving communities.
Thank you once again.”
Ntsiki Dwangu, NOAH**

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, Uthando supported 70 community development projects across many different sectors including urban farming, early childhood development, youth development, feeding schemes, homelessness, seniors, skills development, animal welfare, LGBTQI+ and centres for abused women and children.

The projects vary from catering to thousands of people whilst others are very small grass roots community projects. We monitor and evaluate these programmes through regular visits, reports, Annual Reports and Annual Financial Statements. We are confident that all programmes are reliable, reputable and impactful.

“Water is Life giving to our Garden that produces Food for Peace” – Lucinda Evans (Philisa Abafazi Bethu)

Uthando provided the funding for the sinking of a well point at the Philisa Abafazi Bethu “Heal our Women” Family Centre. Uthando also contributed to the establishment of the vegetable garden at the centre.

The director of the centre, Lucinda Evans sent the following note to Uthando:

**“Dear Uthando Donors
We would like to thank Uthando Love for your support to Philisa Abafazi Bethu Women and Family Centre. We are so grateful for the donation of the Wellpoint. We have a motto that Food Brings Peace in the Homes and Peace in Families.
Water is Life giving to our Garden that produces Food for Peace.
Thank you so much”.**



Feed the Kaltsha Vegetable Garden (Khayelitsha)

Uthando started working with and supporting yet another remarkable organic vegetable micro-farm, managed by local and inspiring farmers in the sprawling community of Khayelitsha. The garden is based at the Sibongile “we are thankful” Centre. The centre provides quality and loving physical, emotional and spiritual care to children with cerebral palsy (CP) and other severe disabilities in the community of Khayelitsha, Cape Town.

Below is the email we received from Thapelo, the founder of the “Feed the Kaltsha” urban farm:

**My name is Thapelo Mthandazo Xabanisa. I am 26 years old and am based in Khayelitsha. “Feed the Kaltsha” (FTK) is an organic garden that is also based in Khayelitsha behind a day care centre called Sibongile “we are thankful” Centre.
FTK grows organic vegetables only. We started the garden in February 2020.**

The reason why I started this garden was to grow good quality organic vegetables to provide to the children at the Sibongile Centre. The children have disabilities and need quality vegetables to eat. The centre is a non-profit and food is expensive, so the garden helps them a lot.

**The garden also assists with job creation in Khayelitsha where unemployment is a massive problem, especially for young men. There are just so few opportunities. We are blessed and pleased that passionate young men like Baluleka, Jazz and Buhe have joined the garden and enabling us to grow and expand.
We have a vision to also start a soup kitchen since poverty has increased dramatically, especially since Covid-19. Uthando has helped us in many ways already, even in just a short space of time. We managed to purchase more materials for the garden such as shade cover, plus gardening tools, seedlings and compost to improve the very sandy soil.**

We are also enjoying meeting visitors from all over the world through Uthando, and showing off our beautiful garden. We look forward to a long and abundant relationship with Uthando and their friends.”

Regards, Thapelo Xabanisa



Bululeka “Bax” hosting an Uthando Excursion

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Ulwazi “Knowledge” Educare Centre – The dream became a beautiful reality

After almost one year of construction, the brand new Ulwazi Educare opened on 3 September 2022. Constructed out of tyres, eco-bricks (plastic bottles filled with rubbish) and film set waste bricks, the pre-school is a truly creative and beautiful place in which children can learn and grow. Thank you to all of the donors and benefactors who contributed to Ulwazi Educare and a massive thank you to the Natural Building Collective team for designing and building such a strong, creative and beautiful school. The building is a true labour of love. We also wish Mama Patiswa and her team of teachers many happy years in the new school building.



November 2021



May 2022



Art created by Ceramics Artist Andile Dyalvane on one of the interior walls. Andile refers to the symbols of peace, love and unity as ‘Ancestral Dreamscapes’



June 2023 Installation of the astro turf



One of the interior walls in Ulwazi Educare



July 2022

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



Grand official opening of Ulwazi Educare September 2022



First graduation of Grade R students in December 2022

Goal50 Edu Hub – Planning for the next Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD) construction project

The architect, engineers and builder, Natural Building Collective commenced planning the construction of the next Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD), Goal50 Edu Hub to be built from tyres, eco-bricks and recycled materials in October 2022.

The pre-school falls under the umbrella of Great Commission United (GCU), which has been in operation for 21 years, and which has a proven track record of changing and improving thousands of young lives through their various educational programmes.

Under the leadership of Mario van Niekerk, GCU provides the youth of Heideveld with opportunities aimed at keeping the youth out of gangs and away from the lure of drugs by providing them with the education, skills, hope and confidence to uplift themselves and the Heideveld community.



Mario van Niekerk, founder of GCU, holding an eco brick at Ulwazi Educare. The brick is made from polystyrene film sets.



June 2023 The plans for Goal50 Edu Hub are completed by architect Emma McGregor

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

On 23 November 2022, the Deputy Mayor of Cape Town, Alderman Eddie Andrews, visited Ulwazi Educare and the site of Goal50 Edu Hub.

The Deputy Mayor posted the following on social media after the visit:

The Ulwazi Educare Centre in Delft is built from 1700 tyres, plastic bottles filled with rubbish (around 6000 eco bricks), film set waste blocks and recycled materials. This innovative approach to building is welcomed in the City of Cape Town. Together with Uthando South Africa, GCU, Natural Building Collective, Breadline Africa and Goal50 we launched a fundraising campaign to build the GOAL50 Edu Hub in Heideveld.

WHY?

- To highlight the importance of early childhood development & 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

**#climatechange #environment #cityofhope #greenbuilding
#EcoBrick #tyres #recycle"**



Deputy Mayor of Cape Town Alderman Eddie Andrews at Ulwazi Educare (6th from the left) and Professor Eric Atmore (2nd from the right) with the Natural Building Collective, Uthando, Breadline Africa and Ulwazi Educare teams

Highly respected Professor and ECD Thought Leader (and founder of the Centre for Early Childhood Development), Eric Atmore, also visited Ulwazi Educare and Goal50 Edu Hub with the Deputy Mayor.

Prof. Atmore described Ulwazi Educare as being in the top 1% of best and most creative ECD's that he had seen in his entire career.

"I have visited and worked with many hundreds of ECD centres. Ulwazi for me is right up there at the top. It is brilliantly designed, colourful, child-friendly and spacious. It is ideal for young children who can only thrive in the Ulwazi environment. While walking around it is clear that the teachers are committed and active. The children were all busy with their work. Ms Patiswa Bangani shines as the principal as she moves around the centre. Ulwazi is an early childhood development centre that offers young children the best of opportunities and is and makes one proud to be African."
- Professor Eric Atmore



Professor Eric Atmore visiting Ulwazi Educare together with Deputy Mayor of Cape Town Alderman Andrews

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

After visiting Ulwazi Educare the delegation made its way to the site of Goal50 Edu Hub where the group was joined by Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Growth, Alderman James Vos. Together with partners Natural Building Collective, Breadline Africa and Great Commission United, a ribbon was cut to officially kick off fundraising for the school.



Official launch of Goal50 Edu Hub with Deputy Mayor Alderman Andrews and Mayoral Committee for Economic Growth Alderman James Vos

“Meeting with the Goal50 team one gets an overwhelming sense of community spirit. Under the leadership of Mr Mario van Niekerk, residents want to construct a facility that meets the needs of young children, thereby giving them a head start in their development. I have no doubt that with the support and guidance of Uthando, Goal 50 will thrive and make a substantial impact on the community.”
- Prof Eric Atmore

On the 9th of November 2022, Uthando hosted the “Big Ideas” group of sixty boys and five teachers from Bishops Diocesan College. Bishops is one of the most prestigious private schools in South Africa and the visit was geared towards inspiring the boys with the “Massive Idea” of starting a real building revolution in South Africa by supporting the Goal50 Edu Hub pre-school.



The “Big Ideas” Bishops boys and teachers

An emergency: Focus on FOOD

Like all countries around the world, South Africa is experiencing historic energy costs and food prices which are spiralling out of control. This is an emergency and in Cape Town there are workable solutions: Invest in and rapidly expand the many successful urban micro-farming operations so that local communities can grow food for themselves. Uthando is proudly supporting several of these programmes including the Ghetto Gardener Ludwe Qamata whose garden is located at the Sinovuyo Seniors Centre in Khayelitsha.



The Sinovuyo Seniors in the garden with Ludwe and Uthando visitors

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Hanover Park Cricket Club Awards

CEO of Uthando SA, James Fernie, was invited to attend and hand out several awards at the Hanover Park Cricket Club Annual Awards Ceremony held in June 2022. James posted the following comments following the truly wonderful evening:

“For many years prior to 2020 we had spoken about how to establish relationships with community projects in gang ridden communities such as Hanover Park. The chaotic Covid-19 crisis and a temporary truce between the gangs paved the way to implement our vision. In just two short years we have become family to many people living in this community.

It was a profound honour to be invited to attend the awards ceremony of the Hanover Park Cricket Club held at the President’s Suite Newlands Cricket Grounds, and furthermore, to be invited to hand over some of the awards to deserving cricketers.

Hanover Park is a community that really has to put up with a lot BUT the people living there are courageous, tenacious, brave, resilient and always keep smiling. Chairman Ashraf Allie spoke sincerely and truthfully about a shared humanity and the need to work towards that goal.

Sport is a remarkable tool for healing and helping to develop people, and I am beyond proud to be associated with such incredible organisations such as the Hanover Park Cricket Club and every individual associated with them, who are providing just such opportunities.

Huge Congratulations to the entire club on your achievements, from all of us at Uthando (Love) South Africa.

Keep shining and continue to do the game of cricket proud.



Thunariso Organic Garden (Khayelitsha)

During June 2022, Uthando began working with and supporting yet another organic urban micro farm, Thunariso Organic Garden started in 2019 by Thozama Sikiti from Khayelitsha.

As a young woman growing up in the townships Thomazo did not know much about farming but because of her passion for children and teaching them healthy living, she enrolled for a basic farming course with Abalimi Bezekhaya. What started out as a backyard garden grew into a large urban micro-farm. The micro-farm has three members working in the garden, and they plant a large variety of seasonal vegetables.

Besides feeding their families, Thunariso Garden provides a door-to-door distribution service to their customers around Khayelitsha, they supply vegetables to a local pre-school Ubunye Educare Centre and sell their vegetables through various outlets.



Names of farmers: Tata Godla, Thozama Sikiti, Buntu, Sindi and Manelisi

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Elevate Destinations (USA) sponsors Alcardo Andrews Foundation – “Buy a Trip, Give a Trip”

“Everyone deserves the chance to travel. Yet, all too often, seeing the world is a privilege reserved for the global elite. At Elevate Destinations, we bridge the divide, and our goal is to connect local youths to their own environments as travelers and stewards.”
– Elevate Destinations

At Uthando we are passionate about the concept of “tourism for all”. Thus, how wonderful it was to reconnect with Elevate Destinations again after the years of Covid-19 crisis that crashed tourism. Through their innovative “Buy a Trip, Give a Trip” model, Elevate Destinations provided a fun new travel opportunity for local kids in South Africa.

Elevate Destinations sponsored a trip for twenty six youth (aged 5 – 18 years of age) plus their teachers from the Alcardo Andrews Foundation from Hanover Park. For the first time, the children experienced nearby natural and cultural wonders, saw the sites around the Cape Peninsula, had fun, and made the kind of travel memories many take for granted.



The group at Cape Point

South African Tourism support Ekhaya Ekasi “Home in the Hood” Beading Project

Thank you to Forum Group Events & Marketing and South African Tourism (Australia) for the massive order of 2000 Uthando bracelets made by the ladies at the Ekhaya Ekasi “Home in the Hood” Centre in Khayelitsha. The ladies were so grateful and happy to be working again post Covid-19 and creating beautiful, beaded products and bracelets.

“It was such a lovely gift for the guests thank you. And Warren Mendes said a few words about the organisation and the bracelets. Thank you for organising so promptly and I am so happy we were able to have the bracelets at the event.”

**Leanne Constantino, Director
Forum Group Events & Marketing**



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Timbuktu Travel supports Quirky30

South Africa has an explosive unemployment crisis. The official unemployment rate is 34,5% although in many communities it is considerably higher.

Fortunately there are amazing organisations like Quirky 30 which are providing life changing skills to young people in critical sectors like programming and coding. There are also incredible tourism companies like Timbuktu Travel which are passionate about Responsible Tourism and investing in these community development organisations.

Thank you to Timbuktu Travel for the donation to Quirky 30 through Uthando in July 2022. The organisation purchased brand new equipment in order to assist and support the students, many of whom sacrifice tremendously to attend Quirky 30 and improve their lives.

It was so awesome connecting the Timbuktu Travel team with the founder of Quirky30, Sihle Tshabalala and his students in February of 2022, and kicking off this relationship.



Classic Escapes supports Pebbles Project

2022 saw a recovery in the tourism industry, and the link between tourism and community development was also re-ignited.

In August 2022, we were so grateful to Classic Escapes for the generous support for Pebbles Project who are doing important work educating and supporting children in the Cape Winelands. Classic Escapes had been supporting Pebbles Project through Uthando for many years prior to the Covid-19 crisis.

We were overjoyed and grateful for the donation as it went to an amazing cause. The Pebbles Project enables children from farming communities to access quality education programmes and health, nutrition and social work services. At that time, Pebbles was working across 6 geographic areas in the Western Cape and supported over 1400 children daily.

The donation from Classic Escapes was allocated towards the Pebbles Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme which supports over 600 children in 29 ECD centres across 5 geographical areas. The programme aims to provide holistic support and education to all Pebbles beneficiaries from conception to age five years of age.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Zama Dance School Choreography Competition

In September 2022, Zama Dance School held their 2nd Choreography Competition. Thank you to Traversing Africa (Canada) for partnering with Uthando SA to sponsor the prizes for this wonderful competition.

James Fernie from Uthando sat on the panel of judges together with Tracy Li (former senior Principal Dancer at CAPAB and current coach at Jacqui Pells School of Ballet) and Peter Johnson. Well known and important figures in the South African dance world were in attendance to watch the competition, including Esther Nasser (CEO Johannesburg Ballet, Delia Sainsbury (Waterfront Theatre School), Di Fincham (Theatre Dance Association) and Robyn Taylor (South African National Dance Trust).

"Being at Zama Dance School and watching these young people dance with such passion and dedication, all feels right in the world."

- James Fernie



Khumbulani Educare Centre visit to Two Oceans Aquarium

On 5 August 2022, and in keeping with Uthando's campaign to take as many children to the Two Oceans Aquarium and V & A Waterfront as possible, it was the turn of more than 60 children and 6 staff members from Khumbulani Centre (Khayelitsha).

Mama Gloria Bebeza, founder and principal of Khumbulani Centre sent the following note after the outing:

"Thank you for the trip to the Aquarium for the children. They enjoyed it a lot. It was certainly an educational experience and relevant to their curriculum. We appreciate such a generous contribution because it added to the experience of the teachers as well. If there are more such opportunities again, please consider us because the children are learning more in that beautiful environment."



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Young Guiding Stars Sacred String Band Claremont – 90th Birthday Celebrations

Christmas Bands have a long and rich history in Cape Town.

Uthando was invited to be part of the 90th birthday celebrations of one of the oldest Christmas Bands in Cape Town, the Young Guiding Stars Sacred String Band Claremont.

What an honour to be associated with such an amazing organisation that has such a rich cultural history. Uthando is proud to support the development of the young band members.



James Fernie, Shirley De Kock and Fred De Kock. At 89 years old (soon to be 90), Fred is the oldest member of the band

Giltedge Travel “ADOPT” the Amy Foundation

In September 2022, Giltedge Travel “adopted” the Amy Foundation through Uthando. The Amy Foundation is a youth development and skills training organisation with a very proud history and programme of developing young people and changing lives. We were excited to take the Giltedge team to visit the Amy Foundation in October and see first-hand the inspiring and important work that the foundation is doing to develop and upskill the young people of South Africa. Besides learning about the foundation, the afternoon was just packed with joy, laughter and community.



Students at the Amy Foundation skills development programme

Amy Foundation sewing skills development programme



Timeless Africa Safaris Educational

On the 8th of September 2022, Uthando hosted the entire staff complement from Timeless Africa Safaris, a local tour operator on an educational. The team spent the afternoon learning about the work of Uthando, Khayelitsha and planting seeds and seedlings at the Feed the Kaltsha vegetable garden.

CEO of Timeless Africa Safaris, Marco van Embden, sent the following note after the excursion:

**“Thanks for sharing the sterling work.
You and your teams are to be commended.”**



Timeless Africa Safaris meets Feed the Kaltsha

Thokozani Together Heritage Day Event – 24 September 2022

24 September is a day on which South Africans celebrate their different cultures and heritage.

Uthando sponsored the Thokozani Together event in which they hosted a music festival for locals, churches and choirs to celebrate and inspire their community.

With so many shooting incidents and tavern killings in SA during 2022, it was evident that we needed to pull together all structures and partners to inspire, nurture and protect the youth from the terrible social ills plaguing the township communities.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Uthando Cement Table Tennis Initiative

Sport is such an amazing way to engage children in positive and uplifting activities. We loved receiving feedback and images of children using the Uthando table tennis table on the 8th of September 2022. Mario Van Niekerk from Great Commission United (GCU) sent a heartwarming photo of children playing on the table at Woodlands Primary School.



Kronendal Music Academy (KMA) – Diela Mabiala

In October, Uthando launched a campaign to raise money to support a student at KMA, Diela Mabiala. We were very grateful to raise the money through the Uthando donors, and support this wonderful young lady.

Director of KMA, Dwyn Griesel sent the following request:

Diela Mabiala is a Grade 11 pupil from Hout Bay High in Cape Town. She joined Kronendal Music Academy (KMA) 4 years ago on drum kit and has remained one of KMA's most diligent and talented pupils. She does well at school, is conscientious and signs up for anything that comes her way that will improve her skills and better herself as a person. Diela has discovered that, unless she is able to return to the Congo this year and renew her visa, she will not be able to complete her matric and all her hard work will be for nothing. You see, Diela is determined to study medicine in some form and be of service to others in her life. KMA is working hard behind the scenes to assist Diela in raising the funds she will need for this life altering trip.



Alcardo Andrews Foundation recognition for Uthando

The silver lining to the Covid-19 crisis was meeting so many inspiring and beautiful people in the community of Hanover Park. “Aunty” Avril Andrews and her team of mothers who lost their sons to gang violence are at the top of that list.

The Alcardo Andrews Foundation celebrated its 7th anniversary on the 29th of October at the community hall in Hanover Park. As a community partner, James Fernie from Uthando, was invited to speak, and was handed a Certificate of Appreciation by Aunty Avril Andrews and Liesl Hermanus (Chairperson of the foundation).



Aunty Avril Andrews, Liesl Hermanus and James Fernie

Visiting Ulwazi Educare with donors

We love thanking our donors and taking them to see how we have spent their money. Thank you to Cathrine Filipson (Sweden) for sponsoring the astro turf at Ulwazi Educare, and thank you Sussi Galley from Livingstone Safaris for introducing Cathrine to Uthando. Your constant support and love over many years is so much appreciated.



Cathrine at Ulwazi Educare – October 2022



Cathrine at Ulwazi Educare – January 2023

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Major Voices Choir enthralling American visitors to South Africa

Uthando is working with and supporting several amazing, beautiful and talented choirs who are thirsty to work and earn a living by singing and welcoming visitors to South Africa with their vibrant African voices.

Uthando introduced the Major Voices Male Choir to New Frontiers Tours in 2019. The choir was set to perform gigs throughout the year in 2020 for an American tour series but the Covid-19 crisis obviously put a stop to that. Thankfully, the series commenced again in 2022 with great success. The visitors have described the experience as amongst the highlight of their trip to South Africa. Major Voices has thus secured the contract to sing throughout the 2023 year for the tour series groups.

Everyone wins really. The tour operator looks great because they arranged this lovely experience; the choir generates income to support themselves (and their families) and the visitors from all over the world have an amazing and inspiring experience listening to a beautiful African choir singing for them at their hotel after a long day travelling around the peninsula!



Eziko Cooking School Graduation

Team Uthando is so proud of the management and students at Eziko Cooking and Catering Training Centre in Langa.

With very high unemployment in SA, community projects like Eziko play a critical role in providing skills and opportunities to people who are thirsty to have a career and work hard. The school has a proud tradition of placing students in decent life-changing jobs in the catering sector.

Uthando part sponsored the graduation together with the Italian Consulate



Graduation ceremonies for Early Childhood Development Centres

We are so proud of the quality of the ECDs with which we work and support. In November and December 2022, Uthando supported graduation ceremonies and educational packs for the children at various ECDs who will be attending primary school in 2023. The solid foundation provided by the various ECDs will give those children the best possible start in their lives.



Kiddies Educare graduation

Eyes2Eyes – The gift of sight for Luqmaan Samaai

Thanks to our donors, Uthando was able to provide Luqmaan with scleral lenses, thus giving him the "gift of sight". We received this wonderful message from the founder of Eyes2Eyes Amanda Seccombe:

"Luqmaan Samaai is over the moon! He's really battled for so long. Aged 20, Luqmaan is awaiting his Grade 11 results and hopes to complete grade 12 this year. He is a gentle humble young man, with a great love for his horse - which was donated to him. Riding has kept him sane - he can't wait to ride freely with functional vision! Thank you, Uthando SA, for helping this young man! Eyes2Eyes have a waiting list of more than 60 patients waiting for their "gift of sight". In 2023 we hope to support as many of them as we can, with help from our Uthando donors. We remain so grateful for the incredible support from our kind and generous donors."



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Sinovuyo “We are happy” Seniors make magic with children at Ulwazi Educare

The seniors at the Sinovuyo “We are Happy” Seniors Club in Khayelitsha could not believe that a school could be built from tyres and plastic bottles. So, Uthando decided to treat the 25 seniors to a day out by visiting Ulwazi Educare, spending time with the beautiful little children at Ulwazi, and then treating them to a fine dining experience at the Spade Boutique Hotel and Spa.

The leader of the club, Mama Ophila, sent the following note:

“Greetings Uthando we don’t know where to start. Just want to convey this message from all the Sinovuyo seniors. Everybody is speechless about this superb special day Uthando made for us. This is a day we will treasure in our hearts. We thank Uthando and the donors who made this successful outing possible”.



The Sinovuyo Seniors with teachers and children at Ulwazi Educare

The Tjommies “Friends”

A mere 15 minutes from the centre of Cape Town there are communities like Hanover Park which resemble war zones, where good decent people live under the constant threat of gang violence, crime and violence. Yet, the people living there have such a spirit of courage, resilience and fortitude.



We are in awe of their spirit, and we are so proud to work with and support a number of community projects operating in that community. In February 2022, the Tjommies (meaning “friends” won the “Keep the Dream Malay” Choir Competition held at the City Hall. We are so proud to be a small part of the incredible cultural heritage of Cape Town, and so proud to be associated with such inspiring organisations.

Ladles of Love thanks Team Uthando

The hunger crisis in South Africa is deepening, with almost 70% of children living below the poverty line. Many still do not have access to nutritious food to help develop their growing bodies and minds. Uthando is exceptionally grateful to our donors enabling us to contribute to important feeding schemes undertaken by Ladles of Love.

The Uthando Team was deeply honoured to receive a visit and a gift from the Founder and CEO of Ladles of Love, Daniele Diliberto, on the 17th of February 2022. The certificate takes pride of place in our office.



James Fernie and Uthando SA Team

Many acts of kindness create one huge impact of love and together with your support, we have been able to make a huge difference to the lives of vulnerable people in our country.

Thank you for being #LoveActivists with us.

With gratitude and appreciation.

Danny and the Ladles of Love Family.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Hanover Park Cricket Club Golf Day

Uthando was really proud to be part of the team for the inaugural Hanover Park Cricket Club Golf Day held in February 2023.

Chairperson of the club, Ashraf Allie, sent the following note:

“Once again, we are humbly indebted to Uthando SA for continuing to support our objectives in developing well-rounded sports individuals (Cricket) (Males & Females), especially our youth and women members.

The sponsorship by Uthando SA for our golf day allowed us to provide a platform for golfers to enjoy the occasion by booking 4 balls, with some golfers extending their contribution by donating prizes and sponsoring funds to the fundraiser.

This made the experience and the occasion noteworthy with the majority pledging to be regulars as this was our inaugural golf day fundraiser. A portion of the funds raised will be set aside for a deposit to buy a 28-seater, as transport remains our biggest challenge to transport our youth and women to official matches on weekends.

We have 12 teams playing over weekends”.



Picture by Penny H...

Khayelitsha Youth Choir shine at Acapella Music Festival

We are exceptionally proud of the many talented choirs in Cape Town, and very pleased to support and promote their work. Many of our clients have the pleasure of experiencing their musical talents when participating on our excursions. In February 2023, Uthando sponsored the Khayelitsha Youth Choir to attend the Rainbow Arts Organisation Acappella Musical Festival, where the choir won 3rd place overall winner.

Choir director, Mihle Bhuda Mira, sent the following email:

“What a beautiful day. We got another opportunity to create more memories together. Indeed, it was a productive day. As we all know that Khayelitsha is a dusty crime zone township, we as Khayelitsha youth choir are rising our hands trying our best to shift that mentality. We want to change lives through our beautiful harmonies.

Thanks to Uthando South Africa for giving us an opportunity to be part of their long-time project. We really appreciate the introduction to the tourism industry. Hopefully we will heal and bring back joy to all those who lost hope.

Have a blessed day we love you.”



The Khayelitsha Youth Choir

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Versatile Dance Group

It is so important for children from township communities to visit and experience attractions outside of the township, planting seeds of inspiration and igniting dreams within them.

In February 2023, Uthando sponsored an outing for the children to attend the Cape Town City Ballet performance of CINDERELLA held at the Artscape Opera House in Cape Town city centre.

The photograph sent by director of the dance school, Thimna Sitokisi, are just adorable.



Masibulele Educare “Gratitude” Educare Children’s outing

It is so important for children to experience life outside of the township. Uthando sponsored a trip for 74 children from Masibulele Educare on the 10th of March 2023. The children had the opportunity to visit and experience the wonderful facilities at Green Point Park.

Principal of Masibulele, Nwabisa Xaba, sent the following note:

“Enkosi kakhulu (thank you so much) to the Uthando supporters for this trip. Outings for the children are an important part of their growth and development. We are so grateful for your kindness.”



Uthando supports students at Kronendal Music Academy “practice-a-thon”

On the 24th and 25th of March, the Kronendal Music Academy held a 24 hour “practice-a-thon” where the students practiced for a solid 24 hours with the aim of raising money to cover their tuition fees for 2023. We were so pleased and proud to sponsor 6 of the children.



Christel House School Appeal – Thank you

THANKS to our friends and donors, Uthando was able to provide 480 “Buckets of Hope” to 480 families as part of the Christel House South Africa programme, so that these most marginalized families can have a “bucket” of highly nutritious food and treats for the 2022 December festive season.



PHILANTHROPIC EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

4. PHILANTHROPIC EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

Fair Trade Tourism Pledge

Uthando (Love) South Africa is committed to the principles and philosophy of Fair Trade Tourism and at all times ensures that Responsible Tourism best practices are applied and integrated into our business and Philanthropic Educational Excursions. Our Excursions bring significant benefit to local communities by providing income and other forms of assistance, while cultural exchanges are conducted in a sensitive, respectful and mutually beneficial manner.

By running the excursions, Uthando is introducing the amazing community development projects and courageous activists to the world. The excursions really started to pick up as 2021 progressed and this really accelerated in the first quarter of 2022.

The awareness generated through Trip Adviser is really important.

At the start of the new annual year for Uthando, April 2021, Uthando had 450 reviews on Trip Advisor and was listed 13 out of 845 tours in Cape Town.

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g312659-d2194811-Reviews-Uthando_Private_Tours-Cape_Town_Western_Cape.html

The excursions really started to pick up as 2021 progressed and this really accelerated in the first quarter of 2022. At the start of 2023 the excursions were really back into full swing.

Uthando has been certified by Fair Trade Tourism (FTT) since 2010. We are incredibly proud of this important certification, and extremely grateful for the Fair Trade Tourism social media post on Uthando in June 2022:

“What do FTT-certified businesses have in common?

Among other things, they put people at the heart of their business.

Uthando (Love) South Africa goes above and beyond when it comes to people and tourism.

Below is just one example of how they channel funds from travellers and tourism partners for good.

The gift of sight. Truly exceptional.

Book your guests on an experience with Uthando in the Cape Town area and consider nominating them as one of your beneficiaries of your corporate (or personal) social investment strategy.

Their work changes lives.

#FairTradeTourism UthandoSA”

Thank you to each and every person for posting a review on Trip Advisor. The reviews assist Uthando in generating awareness, which in turn supports our efforts at community development and nation building.

We are reflecting some of the excursions, comments and feedback not to self-congratulate, but to show that people sincerely feel the spirit of love and UBUNTU permeates throughout the experience.

A few reviews from the past year:

Heartwarming and authentic

“Prepare yourself to experience an amazing and holistic visit, meeting and immersing yourself in true South African culture.

I just loved meeting the positive and hard working folks at the Seed project.

I admire the wonderful work they are doing by protecting our environment with sustainable building methods and growing organically the food we need in their permaculture garden.

The visit to the daycare centre was adorable and it was rewarding to hear the principal explain the history and the valuable contribution that Uthando made in the building and running of the school.

We then went on to be entertained royally by the choir Isibane se Afrika . the joy and happiness of these kids was addictive and needless to say we all joined in to ‘shake a bootie.’

Al in all, a super overview and insight into life in the Cape Town townships and a must when visiting Cape Town.”

“We really enjoyed our experience and appreciate the kindness and warmth we received. You were a blessing to us, and we wish you continued success as you share your talents and needs with your visitors”.

– Debbie and Dan



Visitors having some dance and musical fun with the choir members at Isibane se Afrika Choir

PHILANTHROPIC EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

A Highlight of our time in Cape Town

,May 2022

“Cape Town is beautiful and diverse, but a visit is not truly complete without learning about the townships. A tour with Uthando - a tourism certified, nonprofit organization that supports public projects within the community - was an incredible way to do this. Our guide, Xolani, shared the historical context of the townships within South Africa and led us on visits to some of the projects to which they offer support. The people we met along the way were welcoming and proud to share.

It was a highlight of our trip to learn about the challenges and goals of some of these people. Uthando's concentrated focus on small, grassroots projects is beyond commendable. It is a living example of the idea that we can't change everything, but we can change something.

Through perseverance and dedication small steps make significant improvements in the lives of many individuals.”

Must-do for any itinerary!

Jill_P wrote a review June 2022

The best part of my trip to SA was seeing these incredible projects and meeting the people behind them! Starting with a sustainably built school and ending with a chorus and so much love and fellowship from an elderly community, my heart was full by the end of our tour. A great reminder of the power we all have to impact our communities and come together. Highly recommend to anyone visiting Cape Town!

July 2022

“In order to really understand the life of South Africans you must spend a day with Uthando South Africa. Thank you Uthando for the most informative and wonderful morning.”
– Geri Lasher (USA)

August 2022

“I don't believe I can properly express how much we enjoyed our day with you touring the Uthando projects around Cape Town. It was a very educational and wonderful afternoon that provided an opportunity for my entire family to recognize how truly blessed they are to live the way we do in our country.

We set aside time at dinner each evening while we were in South Africa to discuss the things we did and what we enjoyed the most. Our afternoon with you was brought up throughout the entire trip and three of my grandchildren even said it was the most inspiring part of the entire trip.

Thank you, again, for your hospitality, knowledge, and for providing an experience we will never forget.

Best personal regards, Lee”

October 2022

“Impressive!”

For our first South Africa experience, we deliberately not only dedicated ourselves to the beautiful sides of the country, but also wanted to get an impression of life in the townships. In order not to drive past them as tourists with partially closed eyes, we decided to take a guided tour.

We were picked up by Xolani and James from the NGO Uthando with a minibus at our accommodation. The ride to the township was peppered with interesting facts about the history of South Africa. The enthusiasm and solidarity with the township residents was clearly noticeable. We visited three social projects: a kindergarten, an agricultural food garden and an art and education center.

The children greeted us with joyful singing and we learned how a great kindergarten was created from car tires, PET bottles, clay and a lot of personal commitment. Mama Christina, the founder of the food garden, introduced us to two of her protégés, who proudly showed us around their vegetable gardens, and their ideas for expanding the facility and selling the produce bubbled forth.

Finally, a dance and singing group gave us a musical performance with much passion, cheerfulness and contagious enthusiasm. We were finally taken by the hand and danced along.

Also we met Marco who, as the creator of the kindergarten we had visited earlier, introduced us to his new project, a school in the Heideveld. His personal story touched us very much.

The tour was exciting, moving and impressive. We were touched and sometimes shed a tear. Thank you Uthando for this terrific experience. Your heart blood, idealism and euphoria are admirable!”

I run a non-profit in Cape Town. The tour, where I was able to visit four other programs, was an amazing experience and opened my eyes to other extraordinary work being done in underserved areas. It gave me hope and inspired me to work that much harder of the children we work with. What Uthando does is one of the best ways for people to understand the complexity of this beautiful country. I encourage anyone interested in learning more about our common humanity, resilience, humility and hope - then join James and Xolani on a truly life enriching and changing journey.

Anthony A.” Anthony Allison (Hoops4Hope)

PHILANTHROPIC EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

Twin Mills Group through Hills of Africa (USA) / Livingstone Safaris (Cape Town)

In April 2022, Uthando hosted a wonderful group from North Carolina through Hills of Africa and Livingstone Safaris.

Tour leader, Amy Ridlehoover Green, posted the following on social media after the excursion

It's been a whirlwind trip! We hit the ground running and have been busy with touring the western Cape. Our first tour helped to put things into perspective, spending a very meaningful morning with Uthando South Africa. Uthando, which means love, is a unique & innovative Non-Profit/Fair Trade in Tourism company working to give a hand UP, not a handout, to those living in extreme poverty in the greater Cape Town area.

Our drive from the bustling city center to the outskirts of town to the impoverished townships was the perfect opportunity for James and Xolani to give us an overview of South Africa's history during the years leading up to apartheid through today. This experience, and spending time in 2 of the townships visiting 3 projects supported by Uthando (Love), provided an amazing foundation for our time in South Africa.

We were inspired by the initiatives aiming to empower people from the bottom up, whether teaching skills, providing educational opportunities or even supporting local art programs. As they put it on their website...'Motivated by love, compassion and respect for our common humanity, Uthando (Love) South Africa seeks to form part of the solution' to meet the challenges faced by those living in extreme poverty.



The group playing music on pottery drums

LGBTQ+ Travel – Uthando a PROUD partner in Cape Town

Gregg Potter from Madison, Wisconsin (USA) has been a friend of Uthando South Africa for many years as part of his work at Peacework.

When Gregg suggested including an Uthando Excursion for the inaugural LGBTQ+ group to South Africa in April, we jumped at the opportunity and had a fantastic time with the group, who were both interesting and interested. Details of the recent trip to SA can be found on the website.

After the excursion, Gregg posted the following comments on social media:

"One of the coolest parts of the [@lgbtqinterchange](#) trip the last two weeks was visiting this school that is being sustainably built. The amazing organization, [@uthandosa](#) (owned and operated by out and proud [@jamesferniect](#)) is the liaison of fund to build it. The walls have tyres in them, eco bricks make the separating walls, bricks made of old movie sets, and so much more. It is truly a site to see, and we were so lucky to see it. Thank you, James, for sharing it and all that you do!"



Kristi, Kelly, Jill and Gregg Potter (Tour Leader)

PHILANTHROPIC EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

Crime Watch Porterville day with Uthando

Porterville is a little town located about two hours' drive from Cape Town. Crime Watch Porterville approached Uthando with a view to exploring some of the solutions to combatting crime, unemployment and lack of educational opportunities in the town, by learning more about the community initiatives being undertaken in Cape Town and supported by Uthando.

The group from Porterville spent a day with Uthando and provided the following feedback:

Scheldon Gertsner:

"It was awesome to see all the successful projects in the various locations, but what grabbed me most was the people running these projects. All just so happy-go-lucky and positive. People with big hearts, big plans and a hunger to do more, which is inspiring for what we want to achieve with our Non-Profit Organisation in Porterville."

Vern Dirks

The whole day was a great experience, but what stood out for me the most was the school being built from recycled materials. The quality and scale of the building was just so impressive. It certainly did not look like tyres and recycled materials."

Claudine Carolus:

The day was so educational. The women and men running the really beautiful garden projects inspired me greatly. As a waste ambassador and passionate recycler, the eco built educare centre was the cherry on the cake."

Nicolene van der Merwe:

The trip was so insightful and educational, we learned a great deal. What stood out most for me, was the way in which each person involved took so much pride and responsibility in the part they played in each project. The fact that each person is doing their best for the love of what they are doing is so heartwarming.



The group with Bax at the Feed the Kaltsha Garden

Ripples of Hope (USA)

On the 15th of July, Uthando hosted the Ripples of Hope "The Gregory T. Ricks Fellowship for Young Leaders" group for an afternoon excursion.

The inaugural pilot of this Fellowship brings together young adult leaders from South Africa and the USA to participate in a life changing experience in both countries. These individuals learn from educators, activists and social change agents from all walks of life and backgrounds.

Uthando was blessed and privileged to spend an afternoon with this motivated and passionate group of young people.



The group of young leaders at the Amy Foundation, one of the community projects visited with Uthando

International Women's Club of Cape Town Garden Group

On the 16th of August, Uthando hosted a wonderful group of ladies from the International Women's Club of Cape Town on a garden excursion. The garden group planted a tree at the brand new Ulwazi Educare and visited two urban farms in Khayelitsha, namely Moya We Khaya and Feed the Kaltsha Gardens.

Thank you to Margaret Abbot for posting the following review on Trip Advisor:

"Amazing gardens in Khayelitsha!"

James, the Director of Uthando, took my garden group into Khayelitsha to visit to gardens which grow food sustainably and organically for the community. Run by dedicated women and men, the two gardens we saw were inspirational, beautiful and huge, with rows of gorgeous vegetables growing very happily. It was an eye-opening adventure for our group, which normally sees large private gardens in privileged areas. And it makes one realise the importance of green spaces and the acquisition of skills to plant and maintain a large garden. Fabulous gardens can be anywhere, and we learned that yesterday.

Thank you, Uthando, for an outstanding day."



The garden group planting a tree at Ulwazi Educare

PHILANTHROPIC EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

Henley Business School Excursion

Uthando hosted a very engaging and interested group of people from Denmark, Finland and the United Kingdom on the 6th of September 2022 as part of the Henley Business School R&R Global Immersion Experience Study Trip 2022.

Thank you to one of the group for posting such a beautiful review on Trip Advisor:

"Amazing experience of the heart of this African community"
Amazing experience - the true heart of Africa, not to be missed. You cannot help but smile, and the sense of community is truly magical."



Audley Travel Educational

We are so grateful to New Frontiers Tours and Audley Travel for supporting Uthando from the very beginning. Uthando recently hosted two staff from Audley Travel UK and USA, Hugh Overend and Jeremy Hyman on an educational.

We had so much fun with Hugh and Jeremy and received the following email after the excursion:

"Thank you so much for such an incredible afternoon- my cheeks are actually sore from spending the whole time smiling. We had an unforgettable time and just can't thank you enough for being such a wonderful host and history teacher."



"We Are Africa" Educational

We are so blessed to have an amazing partnership with "We Are Africa" since 2016. The money from We are Africa has gone directly to supporting many community development initiatives since that time. On the 5th of October the entire We Are Africa team took time out of their busy schedule to spend the afternoon with Uthando. We had such a joyous afternoon, laughing, engaging and showing the team how the 2022 donation was spent. Kathy Bruggemann posted the following message on social media:

"The moments that inspire, the moments that are worth celebrating, and that fill your heart with joy and where you get to experience a true sense of community and care, are the moments that make this short life real, authentic, precious and incredible!!"

Spending time with the Uthando South Africa team is always such a blessing. I love seeing how their projects are constantly evolving and how tourism dollars make such a difference because of Uthando's tireless dedication and facilitation and PASSION. It's always such a privilege to join you out and about, James. Thank you for sharing the magic with the We Are Africa team! "



Kathy Bruggerman at the Isibane se Afrika Choir

PHILANTHROPIC EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

Exeter Safari Company (USA)

We had such a “lekker” morning on the 6th of October with the Co-Founder and General Manager of Exeter Safari Company, Scott Simpson, and his delightful wife Melanie exploring and visiting community development projects. Thank you to Scott and Exeter Safari Company for your fantastic support and high energy enthusiasm.

Scott wrote the following after the morning:

“Thank you for taking the time to show us all the amazing work Uthando is doing in and around Cape Town! It was such a special day and not one Melanie Simpson or I will soon forget ”



Having fun at the Ekhasa Ekasi Centre singing and dancing together with the Khayelitsha Youth Choir

Mahlatini visit to Moya We Khaya Farm

We just LOVE connecting people. So grateful to local tour operator Mahlatini for taking the time out to come and explore with Uthando on the 20th of October. We received this lovely email from Director and Co-Founder Greg Fox:

“Just a short email to say a massive thank you to you and Xolani for the most amazing day out yesterday. Your work is an inspiration to us all and to see it first hand is truly humbling. Thanks so much again for a truly memorable afternoon with my team and yours! Looking forward to many exciting years of collaboration. All the best”, Greg



“Norwegians inspired by Christel House School

Christel House School is a non-profit school supporting over 900 children who come from the lowest income communities in Cape Town, yet the quality of the education is world class. On the 16th of November, Uthando was joined by a group of 24 young Norwegians who attended the year-end special assembly where the school showcased the remarkable talent of the children.

The 24 Norwegian students LOVED the experience and all of them commented after the assembly - the thing that struck them the most was the fact that the children were singing about gratitude, yet they came from families that had so little in terms of material wealth.



Young Norwegians at Christel House School



The Christel House youth choir holding up heart signs

PHILANTHROPIC EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

Brandbjerg Højskole (Denmark)

On the 24th of November, Uthando hosted a group of 47 students and teachers from the Brandbjerg Højskole in Denmark.

The full day was jam packed from start to finish, visiting a broad range of change-making projects but also having a lot of fun with music, dancing and singing together with the locals. It is important for visitors to learn about the serious challenges facing us, but equally important for people to have fun and laugh together.



Listening to the story of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission from Ntobeko Peni of the Amy Foundation

University of Maryland (USA) – Robert G. Smith School of Business

Our first excursion for 2023 was truly an energetic start to the year. Uthando hosted an engaging and curious group of students and their professors from the University of Maryland, Robert H. Smith School of Business who were in South Africa as part of their "Undergraduate Global Business Program / Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Contemporary South African Context."

It was a morning of mutual learning but also great fun, music and joy. The Uthando Team and our project partners thoroughly enjoyed spending the morning with these bright, enthusiastic and passionate young people and their leaders and professors. Everyone was in broad agreement; we all have in more in common than what separates us.



The group listening attentively to Mario Van Niekerk from Great Commission United

January 2023

"I reconnected with my humanity and shared values across all people. I thought about solidarity, community and making alliances and friendships across all nations. The most inspiring and moving day of my visit to Cape Town. The choir moved me to tears, I loved the school made of tyres and the organic garden project was wonderful. Solidarity and humanity to us all, thank you – "
Eugene Doherty and Cate Nisbet from Leeds, UK.

Editor-in-Chief of WWF (World Wildlife Fund) Magazine visit with Uthando

We had the honour of hosting Charlotte Permell and her daughter Fanny on a recent excursion. The schedule for the morning included a visit to Ulwazi Educare, where Charlotte was deeply impressed at the environmentally friendly pre-school built from tyres and other waste materials.



"Thank you very much for the enlightening us. Your projects are really making a difference. All 3 of them which we saw today are such warm safe spaces. The hope that you bring inspires. To give a place for young people where they can be themselves, explore, experience, learn and play.... this is so important and the way you make this happen is unbelievable. It makes me think and speechless. I will never forget the spirit and people that we met. Thank you. Dankjewel !"
– K. Stevens (Belgium)

"I am so thankful for this amazing experience. I am so touched by the people who do such a great job for everyone. I will never forget this day. You make me think about what's happening. It touched me, it brought me to silence on the inside. I can only encourage you, please keep up the love, the hope and the happiness. You are really inspiring me. Thank you so much."
– M. Ever (Belgium)

Dwayne Morgan Canadian Group

On the 15th of March, Uthando hosted a fun, engaging and interesting group of Canadians who were in South Africa with Travelead.

The group was led by writer, speaker and two-time Canadian Poetry Slam Champion, Dwayne Morgan. Dwayne very kindly brought copies of his book "Fairy Tales" which was handed to various pre-schools for the young children to enjoy.



The group visiting Dance for All

Meryl's Women's Group (USA)

One of our last excursions for 2022 was hosting a wonderful group of women from the USA, connecting them to a range of inspiring, strong and beautiful women here in South Africa. Some feedback from the American ladies after the excursion:

Incredible!!! Beyond our expectations. It just got better and better. Thank you, thank you, thank you.”
“Thank you for sharing the hopes and dreams of change makers in these communities that you support.”



The women in quality conversation sitting under the tree at the Moya We Khaya Garden in Khayelitsha

5. TEAM UTHANDO

Uthando is a small organisation with a big heart. James Fernie and Xolani Maseko work hard and make a dynamic team. James is the founder of Uthando and has been working for Uthando since March 2008. Xolani joined Uthando in November 2012 and in many respects is the professional, passionate and friendly face of Uthando since he leads the majority of the excursions.



Xolani Maseko and James Fernie with the Isibane se Afrika “the Light of Africa” Choir

In November 2022, Melissa Foley joined the team with the announcement of the partnership between Uthando and All About Africa Marketing and Consulting, the latter providing support in communications, fundraising and facilitating global advocacy for the collective initiatives which Uthando represents.

Founding Director Melissa Foley has decades of marketing expertise and is extremely passionate about the sincere integration of more meaningful social and environmental impact in the tourism supply chain. Melissa has traveled to over 80 countries and has spent extensive time consulting and doing pro bono developmental work for conservation and social development organizations in the US, India, Cambodia, Thailand, Greece, Spain, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa.

About All About Africa Consulting:

All About Africa is committed to integrating socially and environmentally sustainable solutions, products and organizations into the supply chain and operations of the African tourism industry.

We are storytellers that will help small business translate their sustainable impact into meaningful travel experiences for their guests and agent partners to create truly unique and positive experiences.



Melissa Foley surrounded by the Khayelitsha Youth Choir

6. APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO DONORS AND BENEFACTORS

Every single donation, contribution and gift, irrespective of the size or amount is highly valued and appreciated.

THANK YOU to our kind, generous and thoughtful donors and benefactors from South Africa and **all around the world for your kindness, thoughtfulness and support. We love and appreciate you!**



Zama Dance School

Uthando's fiscal sponsors in the USA

Uthando is incredibly grateful to our "Fiscal Friend" sponsors in the USA, Art Aids Art, for facilitating donations from American donors to Uthando who wish to claim a tax deduction for their donations.



7. FINANCIAL REPORT

**"Dear Uthando Team. Compliments of the season!
I want to take a moment and let you know how much you are appreciated.
You are true angels to our organization and I'm more grateful to you than words can express.
I know we are blessed to have you in our lives.
Please keep it up with your good work you are doing for our people" –
Mama Gloria Bebeza, Founder and Principal at Khumbulani Centre (Khayelitsha)**

Uthando Social Development Projects, South Africa NPC ("Uthando") is a non-profit and Fair Trade in Tourism accredited organisation that aims to raise funds for community development projects in South Africa.

Uthando South Africa conducts Philanthropic Educational Excursions visiting community development projects to which the income of the organisation is distributed to introduce visitors, donors and potential donors to the community to the projects that they support and to create awareness of the social needs in South Africa.

The costs of running the Philanthropic Educational Excursions are integral and directly related to the sole and principal object as stated in the aims and objectives of the organisation.

Accountant : Demath Accounting and Taxation Services (PTY) Ltd
Registration no 2017/063488/07
Maryna Smith
PO Box 720, Yzerfontein, 7351

Auditors : Ad Valorem Chartered Accountants (SA)
Registration Number 963374-00000
Per : H.M Faull, CA (SA), RA
Registration Number : 765937
15 Sunset Clam Lane, Melkbosstrand, 7441

Donations Income	R6 539 154.00
Interest received on bank balances	R 20 183.00
Total Income 2022 /2023	R6 559 337.00
Operating Expenses	R1 506 964.00
Total Allocation to Community Development Projects	R5 084 267.00
Bank Balance on 31 March 2023	R 596 722.00

ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

Full registered name Uthando Social Development Projects, South Africa
 Registered Section 21 Company 2007/030289/08
 NPO 061-321
 PBO 930 026 218
 Income Tax Number 9519014162
 Physical Address : Office 5, Harfield Village Centre, 48 2nd Avenue, Harfield Village, Claremont, 7708
 Postal Address : PO Box 16491, Vlaeberg, 8018, South Africa
 Office Telephone : +27 21 683 8523
 Twitter : UthandoSouthAfr
 Facebook : Uthando (Love) South Africa (group) / Uthando South Africa (page)
 Instagram : uthandosa
www.uthandosa.org



8. MESSAGES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Professor Kerstin Heuwinkel (Germany) – Reflections on Uthando

Uthando had the great pleasure of hosting Professor Kerstin Heuwinkel from Germany on an excursion on 8 April, she subsequently sent the following blog post on her experience with Uthando.

Future of Tourism?! Community-based tourism in Cape Town

“Academic papers on community-based tourism and strategic tourism management are one story. To stand in a garden built on the sandy soils by 70 years old who believe in social change and uplift through tourism – is quite different.”

During her sabbatical, Prof Dr Kerstin Heuwinkel (University of Applied Sciences Saarbrücken, htw saar, Germany) focussed on community-based tourism, i.e., tourism that not only includes local communities but understands community members and projects as central drivers of tourism.

Thanks to her colleagues, Wiebke Nedel from Educo Africa and Peter Kraan from TSIBA Business School, Kerstin Heuwinkel got in touch with different NGOs that organise excursions to communities. Those tours are often referred to as township tours. But the expression township is misleading as it highlights aspects such as poverty, crime, hate, and despair. Undoubtedly, these issues exist, and no one should naively visit Khayelitsha, Langa, or Mitchells Plain, but the focus should be on those people and projects that actively fight poverty, crime, lack of education etc. Instead of feeling sorry, one should be impressed by the power and creativity that can be found when resources such as material, money, water, energy, as well as skills, and knowledge are available. And - one important financial source or catalyst (James Fernie, Uthandosa) is tourism.

During her stay in Cape Town in April 2022 Kerstin Heuwinkel visited Uthando. Uthando (Love) South Africa is a Fair Trade in Tourism certified non-profit organisation. James Fernie, founding Director of Uthando and social entrepreneur, and Kerstin Heuwinkel met in the Uthando office in Claremont, Kapstadt. They talked about their understanding of responsible tourism and found many similarities. James has coined the term travelling philanthropy which is a very intelligent and elegant way to address the aforementioned dilemma of “township tourism”. In the following weeks, they will find out how Uthando as an NPO and htw saar as an academic institution might cooperate.

“I am sure that Uthando (Love) South Africa will be a perfect partner for our tourism programme. They are very careful about how they organise encounters between locals and tourists. No private homes are visited and the involvement of children is limited.”

After the meeting, Xolani Maseko (Philanthropic Guide) took Kerstin Heuwinkel to nine different projects to illustrate the variety of the supported community and social entrepreneur projects. Examples were a foundation to honour all young men and women who lost their lives to violent crime, an organic gardening project, a senior project, a school building project (built of old tires, plastic bottles, and clay) and a choir. “My highlight was chatting with some 70plus women about German summer and their wish to travel to Paris.”

After two years of travel restrictions, people start travelling again. Many are planning their dream journey – this dream should include respect for the world. Long-distance flights should include compensation and guarantee that international companies are not the only ones that benefit.

Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft des Saarlandes, University of Applied Sciences,
 Fakultät für Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Business School,
 Prof. Dr. Kerstin Heuwinkel

MESSAGES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Message from Michelle Bagley, the Amy Foundation:

"The adage "it takes a village to raise a child" is absolutely still true.

Poor black and coloured youth, face enormous challenges in all aspects of their lives. Their communities are plagued by issues such as extremely high crime rates, drug use, single-parent families, and child-headed households, gangsterism and pandemic diseases such as HIV/Aids and TB. Inadequate education also contributes to these issues. These in turn impact attempts to rise out of poverty; making it more difficult for low-income families to lift themselves and future generations out of poverty, thus perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

Poverty and social exclusion impact outcomes on young people's lives both in the short and long term and across a variety of physical, cognitive, behavioural, emotional, and economic outcomes. Those living in poverty are more likely to suffer low self-esteem, do less well at school, and are more likely to suffer unemployment, low pay, and poor health in adulthood. Poverty has a particularly adverse effect on the academic outcomes of children. Exposure to violence can also predict future violent behaviour in youth, thereby placing them at greater risk of injury and mortality and entry into the juvenile justice system.

Many of the youngsters who join the Amy Foundation are looking to be part of something, to belong, to grow and feel safe. The Foundation is an NPO that offers programmes which educate and empower these youngsters between the ages of 5 and 35 yrs. from poverty-stricken communities. Our after-school programmes in provide an environment that allows school-going children to overcome shortcomings in their education, by focusing on creativity and assisting them to build confidence and stay in school – to break that cycle of poverty and strive for something better.

The Amy Foundation aims to make learning enjoyable while fostering the drive to academic success. We endeavour to provide a safe environment where we develop emotionally well-rounded youth who make positive life choices and become contributing members of society and through our Youth Skills Development programme, we create opportunities and grow, nurture and mentor young adults who we assist and prepare for the world of employment and entrepreneurship.

The youth who attend our programmes become part of the Amy Foundation family and the larger community and these youngsters look to the facilitators and coordinators who run these programmes, to guide and mentor them - a role we take very seriously. The foundation is a safe harbour, where these youngsters can be themselves, and enjoy their time with peers while growing in confidence, experience, and skill.

The Amy Foundation is changing lives and has done so since 1998 and we will continue to grow and continue to make an impact on the future leaders of South Africa.

James, Xolani and everyone who works with and through Uthando South Africa become part of the larger Amy Foundation family, community, and Village and through their contribution and support many more young lives are changed daily.

We cannot thank you enough for all you do, thank you for modelling the Ubuntu Philosophy and for being true Agents of Change.

Enkosi kakhulu! Together changing lives!

With Gratitude, Michelle Bagley

Communications and Fundraising Manager

Michelle@amyfoundation.co.za

Colin J. Fryer

We invited our dear friend and supporter of many years, Colin J. Fryer, to write the introduction to one of the monthly newsletters. Colin was introduced to Uthando by Ince Erasmus in 2008, and at that time Colin was the Vice Chair of SATSA, Western Cape. Colin has a big heart, a love for Africa and a passion for her people. He also has a wonderful talent for writing compelling and beautiful words.



2013 Colin joining Uthando planting trees and working in the vegetable garden at Woodlands Primary School

"As you prepare to absorb the insightful October issue of Uthando (Love) South Africa Newsletter, a thought for you to consider. Where do you fit into the program? An invaluable contributor, an unswerving supporter, maybe a soul who witnesses the magnitude of the challenge and feels underwhelmed by how to be 'a part of ' Today's connectivity is colossal. There is no shortage of news from across our globe not only on the happenings but copious screeds on the why & wherefore, the resultant judgement and positioning of ulterior motives mandates. We are each moulded by what we absorb, are influenced by the spoken & written word, inculcating 'expert advice' as though it is indeed advice for our benefit.

With this constant oft divisive flow arriving upon our doorstep, how does an individual make a meaningful difference within a globe of eight Billion co souls each and all wishing to be a part of the positivity? My background is founded on teachings and learning's from some of this globe's finest facilitators. All family members (Bentall, UK; HILTI, Liechtenstein) whom as individuals set out to establish a high quality offering through sustainable platforms. Through their ethos of being the very, very best they are/were, I learned the value of research & development, investing deeply in your people, customers and caring (yes, really caring) for the environment. The resultant experience instilled within ek (me) and taken forward within my own inbound travel business (now retired) of twenty two years offers two inherent insights."

There is absolutely no limit to your being beyond those you bring upon yourself. By acknowledging, accepting and fully embracing your true (real) self you are indeed making the difference and are very much a solid and valuable part of this wonderful community upon this globe. All else (being a volunteering, contributing financially, inspiring, playing devil's advocate etc) is the resultant flow of your energies in full appreciation of your true self. Know well that your contribution is vital, real and well placed be it a warm greeting, an extended hand of friendship or a few Million Euros/US\$ towards Goal50 Edu Hub, you are a sustainable and vital inclusion of the rich tapestry of life, living and loving..."

Colin J. Fryer

Reduce, reuse & recycle. It makes so much sense...

9.CONCLUSION

Speech by James Fernie at the official opening of Ulwazi Educare – 3 September 2022
Molweni, Good morning, Goeie more
Boys and girls
Ladies and gentlemen

How wonderful to be here with all of you this morning at the Grand Official Opening Ceremony of the most Magical, Fantastical and Beautiful Pre-school in the whole of South Africa.

Our dearly beloved late Archbishop Desmond Tutu would be so incredibly proud of us gathered here this morning. Just look around. YOU ARE THE RAINBOW NATION assembled here to celebrate, not just the opening of a pre-school, not just the completion of one of the most unique and creative buildings in South Africa, but to celebrate a place of early learning education that stands as a beacon of light, hope, inspiration, innovation, creativity, nurturing, education and LOVE.

Enkosi kakhulu (thank you very much) to the Principal of the school, Patiswa Patience Bangani, the teachers, the beautiful gorgeous little children who attend this school and the parents of the children, for having us here this morning. Also, thank you, most sincerely to each and every one of you for taking the time to be present with us on this momentous and joyous occasion.

Please turn to a person close to you, someone that you do not know, and give them the biggest hug.

My dear friends and colleagues, my heart is honestly bursting with joy this morning. It is absolutely breathtaking how this space has been transformed from the very first day that I visited Ulwazi Educare back in 2018 together with the amazing Helen Lieberman from Ikamva Labantu. A heartfelt thank you to Helen for introducing me and Uthando to Patiswa and Peter on that day. That meeting was truly serendipitous and synchronicous. To the children here, that simply means that it was God's plan.

Mama Patiswa and your staff, enkosi kakhulu for the dedication and passion for educating these beautiful young human beings and nourishing their curious and enquiring minds.

Mama Patiswa and your teachers, I wish you many years of happiness and success growing and nurturing young people at this pre-school.

Our society teaches us about "survival of the fittest", but I discovered a saying by attachment scientist, Louis Cozolino, where he states:

"We are not the survival of the fittest, we are the survival of the nurtured."

This beautiful school is more than just a place of early learning, it is a place of nurturing.

Who knows, maybe the creativity of this space and the quality of the holistic education here will be the spark igniting the next Mandela, Biko or Subukwe. People just need opportunity. That's it.

The one consistent comment that we receive from people over the last 14 years of taking visitors to preschools is how well behaved, friendly and loving the children are. To me, they are just magical, and I draw tremendous inspiration from them because I am constantly reminded never to stop dreaming or striving to live in a state of magic and wonder.

As we grow older why do we have to stop dreaming?

Talking of magic and wonder ... Natural Building Collective, Sugarleaf and your respective teams, I am looking at you. The architects, engineers, builders and the workers who toiled on this building come rain or shine with intention and passion over 7 months. I take a bow. Paul Marias, Emma McGregor, William Ruijsch van Dugteren, Peter McIntosh, Shaun Solomon, Robby De Barros and your teams.

You are all artists of the highest order. Thank you for this magnificent labour of love.

We gather here this morning about to officially open not just a pre-school, but "labour of love". This is a masterpiece, not just aesthetically, but energetically, and I experience time and time again how people feel when visiting the school. My sincere wish and hope are that Natural Building Collective is commissioned to design and construct buildings in Cape Town and all around South Africa.

The famous African American memoirist, poet and civil right activist, Maya Angelou, said: "Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud". Well, I can honestly say that this magnificent space that you have all created here is a glorious bright beautiful Rainbow, not just in these children's cloud, not just in this community's cloud, but indeed, this building is a rainbow over the Rainbow Nation.

This might sound like hyperbole, but my goodness, just look at how much media attention this building has attracted. People are fascinated and profoundly impressed. Without fail, every single person that has visited this pre-school with us is just in awe. It is a sight to behold, seeing people smile, they feel the warmth, the care, the intention and the love that has gone into this building. Together with the dedication and passion of Patiswa and her team of educators, it is a winning combination.

Besides the building as a work of art, the school is blessed with indigenous and children's art. Enkosi kakhulu also to Andile Dyalvane from Imiso Ceramics for creating the beautiful and highly symbolic African Dreamscapes on one of the internal walls. The building is blessed with your symbols of love, peace and community.

Thank you, Eric Lendoor, for creating the art on the external walls and the bright minions on the internal walls. The building is a festival of colour and a wonderful mix of indigenous art and western inspired art.

Thank you to all of the stakeholders who have invested in this building. Alex, Diane and Breadline Africa for your vision and enthusiasm to invest in this building. Of course, it is really amazing to have such a reputable organisation like Breadline Africa involved. Greenset and your team, thank you.

Finally, but of course not least to the Donors and people that invested in this building and our joint vision. You took a leap of faith. Our heartfelt and sincere gratitude.

Mitialto, Sharon, Nigel, Steve, Cathrine, Richard and Debbie, 80 Days, Pestana and every single one of you ... just thank you. there are just so many people and companies to thank.

Several of the donors to this building have assisted Uthando with the transformation of the other 5 schools.

The primary donor for this building, Nico Hooijmaaijer from the Mitialto Foundation in Belgium sent the note on the following page:.

CONCLUSION

Nico Hooijmaaijer from Belgium requested that we read out this message:

Nico Hooijmaaijer from Belgium requested that we read out this message:

“For twenty years my wife Corry and I had the great pleasure of visiting South Africa every year. Every time we came, we also visited the townships and were always very impressed and humbled by the positivity and kindness of the people who lived there, often under challenging circumstances. It inspired us to help where necessary through our Mitialto Foundation.

Financing the build of this new Ulwazi education center is one of our most important and dearest projects.

Together with the Uthando organization and everyone involved we are so very proud of this new school that is built ecologically responsible by reusing waste materials. Natural Building Collective, Uthando South Africa and all involved did an amazing job making this unique project possible.

In an area where not everyone automatically has access to an education this school will have meaning for everyone that will make use of it. On first sight this seems to be just another building. However, it is evident that education for everyone is the key to the future, making dreams that before seemed impossible come true and in its own modest way will make its contribution to a better life for all the people in South Africa.

My wife and I are very sorry to not being able to be here today to witness this festive opening of Ulwazi Educare because of health issues. However, our thoughts are with you all and we sincerely hope and trust that this will inspire many of you to contribute in your own way to the next one and then the next one, as we do believe that James is already making plans for this.....

**We from the Mitialto Foundation wish you lots of success and send our love.
On behalf of the Hooijmaaijer family,
Nico Hooijmaaijer”**

Talking of funds, today, as we open this extraordinary new school building, we are also officially launching the fundraising campaign for Goal50 Edu Hub to be built under the umbrella of the Great Commission United founded by Mario Van Niekerk in 2001.

Mario is the quintessential modern-day hero. Like so many young boys in South Africa, Mario found love and acceptance in all of the wrong places, places like the gangs and, of course, we all know that gangsterism is ripping apart the little fabric of society.

I know Mario's story well, because we have known each other since 2009. After having his first child, Mario made a commitment to give other children opportunities that he did not have.

In 2001 he started Great Commission United and today has a staff of 120 tutors, sports coaches and has impacted and helped to transform the lives of thousands of young people.

During the Covid-10 crisis, GCU changed gears to meet the new challenges and started a feeding scheme. They are in the very final stages of launching a multi-million rand kitchen called “Mother City Kitchen” which will churn out 12 000 meals a day.

GCU is operating in all 5 schools in the community of Heideveld, but they identified a massive gap in pre-school foundation phase. The aim of Goal50 Edu Hub is to confront that challenge with the most extraordinary ECD built out of the 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.

Goal50 Edu Hub comes with a large price tag, but what better investment can we make in quality earth-friendly buildings in which quality early learning education can prepare young people for the rest of their lives.

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, we live in such interesting and some would say insanely crazy times. It is true that every generation has its challenges, but truly, collectively the human race is now seriously facing a convergence of challenges unprecedented in its scope and implications for every single soul living on mother earth at this time.

An old Cherokee man is teaching his grandson about life. “A fight is going on inside me.” He said to the boy. “It is a terrible fight, and it is between two wolves. One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.” He continued, “The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too.” The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, “Which wolf will win?” The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one you feed.”

Having grown up as a teenager during the last and most violent gasp of apartheid in the 1980's, I am all too aware of the importance of choosing which wolf to feed. Our daily choices make a difference in this world.



#HerLimitlessLegacy

“In my formative years, I encountered the notion that as individuals of African descent, our cultural roots tend to erode over time, a perspective that motivated me to preserve my Dompas. I consciously chose to hold onto my Dompas with the intention of sharing it with my future generations, a tangible link to the past for my grandchildren and beyond.”

THENJIWE CHRISTINA NYUSHU



CONCLUSION



I wish to close with a quote written by a truly promising young Cape Town girl whose life was taken far too soon by a drunk driver in 2005, but before I mention the quote, I need to provide the background.

In February 2002, Ashley Kaimowitz visited a small counselling centre deep in the heart of Khayelitsha on a Herzlia School outing. The Nonceba Family Counselling Centre was established by local resident Mama Nocawe Mankayi in 1998 and operated from a tiny brick house in a desperate attempt to fight the growing scourge of rape and abuse in that community. Whilst at the centre, Ashley was profoundly touched by the traumatic experience of seeing a very sad little girl who was at the centre.

Young Ashley produced a short documentary on Khayelitsha and the good work of Mama Mankayi and her team of volunteers and the horrors of sexual and violent abuse of women and children in Khayelitsha. She used that video to raise awareness and funds to build a decent centre for abused women and children in Khayelitsha.

On the 19th of March 2005, at 20 years of age, Ashley's was killed by a drunk driver in a motor vehicle accident, but her legacy lives on lives on in the multi-million rand Nonceba Centre which is providing lifesaving care, support and love to many women and children who fall victim to violent abuse.

***"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)**

If ever there was a time for these words, that time is now.

I thank you.

Love

James Fernie

3 September 2022



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