

UTHANDO
SOUTH AFRICA
LOVE FOR PEOPLE & PLANET

Uthando South Africa Annual Report

2025/2026

March 2025 – February 2026



Our Vision

A future where People & Planet thrive together.

We envision strong, resilient communities where people have the opportunity to live with dignity, develop their skills, create livelihoods and build better futures.

At the same time, we believe that community development must care for the environment we all depend on.

Taking Care of People & Planet is at the heart of everything we do.

Our Reach

During the period of 01 March 2025 to 28 February 2026, Uthando and our partners supported communities through education, sports, arts and culture, sustainable building practices, senior care, animal care, mental health & wellbeing, tourism, skills development and food security.

Highlights

83
Community Projects & Organisations supported

R10.39m
Distributed to Community Projects

3
5-A-Side Soccer Piches for Peace built out of Tyres (during the period)

5000+
Tyres diverted from waste through the Waste to Wonder work

1
ECD centre built through Waste to Wonder work

35+
Local jobs created through Goal50 Phase 1

5
Teachers trained in Montessori ECD

1000+
Children reached monthly through Educares




Vicky Sampson, Uthando Ambassador, African Dream

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WASTE TO WONDER by uthando & partners

THE EARTHSHOT PRIZE NOMINEE

TRAVEL+ LEISURE GLOBAL VISION AWARD WINNER 2026



James Fernie, Athi Nbwebi - Uyanda Faith in Movement Foundation

ABOUT UTHANDO

Uthando (Love) South Africa is an award-winning non-profit organisation that uses responsible tourism to support community-led development. By connecting travellers, donors and partners with grassroots initiatives, we help create opportunities for education, empowerment, environmental sustainability and positive social change throughout Cape Town.

OUR MISSION

To build meaningful connections between people and communities, using responsible tourism as a catalyst for education, empowerment, environmental sustainability and lasting positive change.

THE TEAM



James Fernie
Founding Director



Xolani Maseko
Specialist Excursion Facilitator



Roshana Naidoo
Core Project Manager



Mikaeel Bham
Marketing Specialist



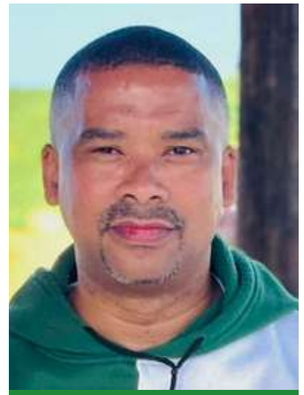
Lydia van der Merwe
Marketing Consultant



Thulani Nxumalo
Tour Guide



Adnaan Stemmet
Lead Videographer & Photographer



Alex Cupido
Event Planner

Behind every project, partnership and success story is a passionate team united by one belief: that love, compassion and collaboration can change lives. Our team comes from diverse backgrounds, bringing together skills in community development, fundraising, storytelling, tourism, marketing and project management.

Together with our board, volunteers and community partners, we work alongside inspiring grassroots organisations and more established organisations across South Africa to help create opportunities, strengthen communities and build a more hopeful future.

We may each play different roles, but we all share one purpose: connecting people through the spirit of Ubuntu and turning compassion into meaningful action.

DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW



James Fernie, Mario van Niekerk (GCU) and Leslie Waterkyn (Amazeballs)

This year has once again reminded us that while South Africa faces many challenges, it is also filled with extraordinary people who continue to create hope, opportunity and change in their communities.

Through the support of responsible travellers, donors, foundations, many friends and partners, Uthando has continued to connect people with purpose. Together, we have supported projects focused on education, youth development, food security, environmental sustainability, skills development and community wellbeing.

One of the highlights of the year has been witnessing the continued growth of the Waste to Wonder campaign, transforming waste materials into spaces that inspire learning, opportunity and dignity. We have also seen communities strengthen their own solutions through initiatives that empower women, support young people and create pathways towards a more sustainable future.

What makes this work so special is that the impact belongs to the communities themselves. Uthando simply serves as a bridge between those who wish to help and those already doing incredible work on the ground.
To every traveller, donor, partner, volunteer and community leader who has walked this journey with us, thank you. Your support continues to prove that tourism can be a powerful force for good.
Together, we are building a future shaped by compassion, connection and hope.

James Fernie
Founder & Director



2025/26 AT A GLANCE

UTHANDO HONOURED ON THE WORLD STAGE

On 10 April 2025, Uthando South Africa's Heart of Cape Town initiative received the Silver Award at the Responsible Tourism Awards, recognising the Heart Campaign's efforts to promote peace, love, unity, kindness and compassion across communities.
The award celebrated the campaign's commitment to creating awareness around social challenges while encouraging collective action and positive change through the values that connect us all.

2025/26 AT A GLANCE



Isibane se Afrika (light of Africa) Choir performing at We Are Africa 2025

ICONS & CHANGEMAKERS

Uthando celebrated 10 years as a community partner to We Are Africa 2025 and was recognised as part of the Icons and Changemakers in South Africa. Through the continued support of “The Tribe”, funding was directed towards community-led initiatives focused on education, youth development, food security, the arts and mental wellbeing across South Africa. Thank you once again to We Are Africa!

We Are Africa is a leading gathering of Africa’s high-end travel community, bringing together influential travel brands, international buyers and media committed to showcasing a dynamic and contemporary vision of the continent. Visit www.weareafricatravel.com to learn more.

2025/26 AT A GLANCE



Isibane se Afrika & Tjommies (friends) performing at the opening of the FHS Africa at the CTICC in 2025

UTHANDO TAKES CENTRE STAGE AT FHS AFRICA

As the official charity partner of the Future Hospitality Summit Africa, Uthando shared its vision for community-led development with hospitality leaders from around the world. The event raised USD $4,000 in support of Moya WeKhaya Agrihub in Khayelitsha and the Amy Foundation, helping advance food security, youth development and sustainable community initiatives. Tjommies (friends) & the Isibane se Afrika (Light of Africa) officially opened the summit with an incredible performance.



2025/26 AT A GLANCE

A KIND HEART LIVES ON

We unveiled the Harry Belafonte Kind Heart Bench at Philisa Abafazi Bethu, alongside his daughter Adrienne Belafonte Biesemeyer and granddaughter Rachel Blue.

It was a moment to honour a man who spent his life standing for freedom, justice and humanity , while reminding us that there is still work to be done.

Adrienne and Rachel spent two weeks with Uthando's team and facilitated an engaging workshop centred on cultural understanding, diversity and our shared responsibility, creating a valuable space for reflection, learning and meaningful exchange.



Clement Hardy visiting Thunariso Organic Garden in Khayelitsha with Thozama Sikiti

2025/26 AT A GLANCE

FROM SUPPORTER TO BOARD MEMBER

Clément Hardy saw the work. Then he chose to be a part of it.

Clément Hardy had supported Uthando from overseas, but in April 2025 he spent three weeks on the ground, visiting more than 20 community projects. Seeing the work first-hand changed something. He saw the people behind the projects, the dedication of local activists and the real difference being made in communities , something he felt could never be fully captured in photographs or videos.

That experience led Clément to take his commitment further. In 2025, he joined Uthando's Board, bringing his international business network and experience to help Uthando grow its support for community projects.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF CHERYL HARPER

In April 2025, we said goodbye to our dear friend and Uthando champion, Cheryl Harper. A passionate community activist and collaborator, Cheryl was the founder of We Can Change Our World, an online platform dedicated to connecting and strengthening collaboration between organisations, businesses and individuals working towards positive social and environmental change in South Africa. Cheryl's kindness, compassion and commitment to uplifting others left a lasting impact on countless lives and communities. We miss you so much dear Cheryl.
www.wecanchange.co.za



IN LOVING MEMORY OF SIBUSISO “DIDA” NKUNKA

It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to Sibusiso “Dida” Nkunka, one of Uthando’s valued community partners. Through Ikhaya Garden, Dida shared his love for nature, indigenous knowledge and the importance of connecting children and visitors with the earth.

His care for people went far beyond the garden. During the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown, Dida helped families in need by distributing food parcels and essential supplies during one of the hardest times our communities faced.

Dida leaves behind his family, his community and many people who were touched by his kindness for others. We miss you Dida.

TOURISM FOR CHANGE

For nearly two decades, Uthando has demonstrated how responsible tourism can be a force for good. Through our Philanthropic Educational Excursions, travellers connect with inspiring community-led initiatives while directly contributing to meaningful social and environmental impact.

WE ARE AFRICA: TAKING PEOPLE BEYOND THE SURFACE

In 2025, Uthando celebrated 10 years as a community partner of We Are Africa www.weareafricatravel.com , a partnership built around showing that tourism can support real change in communities who need it the most.

As part of the We Are Africa press trip, visitors went beyond the usual Cape Town experience to meet some of the community organisations behind Uthando's work, including Goal50 in Heideveld, Moya weKhaya in Khayelitsha and Ulwazi ECD in Delft. The visit gave the group a chance to see the work first-hand, meet the people making it happen and understand where support from the tourism industry goes.

Uthando was also recognised as part of Icons and Changemakers, celebrating people and organisations helping reshape African travel through purpose and innovation.



A SPECIAL VISIT FROM TRAVEL + LEISURE



We had the privilege of welcoming Jacqui Gifford, Editor-in-Chief of Travel + Leisure and her family for a day of true connection, culture and local community impact.

The visit included a performance by the powerful Isibane se Afrika Choir, a mural by artist Ras Silas Motse and a visit to the Philisa Abafazi Bethu Women's Centre in Retreat. Earlier in the year the Legacy Untold, Mark Lakin and the One&Only Global supported the Skill's development hub with solar powered energy which is also helping empower women through the Sewing for Sustainability programme.

The visit highlighted the powerful role tourism can play in supporting community-led development and creating meaningful connections across cultures.

VISITORS BECOMING AMBASSADORS FOR CHANGE



Birgit Bergener (Wild-life Culture Tours) and James Fernie

One of the most powerful outcomes of Uthando's Philanthropic Educational Excursions is the lasting impact they have on visitors long after they return home.

In November 2025 during a visit to the Goal50 Edu Hub in Heideveld, participants from the Women's Journey hosted by Wild-life- Culture Tours witnessed first-hand how recycled tyres, plastic bottles and reclaimed materials are being transformed into a world-class educational facility for young children. Deeply inspired by the experience, they later shared the story with audiences across Europe, helping raise awareness of the innovative community-led solutions taking shape in South Africa.

Their reflections serve as a reminder that every visit has the potential to create new advocates, strengthen global connections and inspire positive change far beyond our borders.

"A great example of how recycling not only saves resources, but creates opportunity."
– Birgit and participants of the Women's Journey, Germany

TIMELESS AFRICA SAFARIS GIVES BACK

In March 2025, the team from Timeless Africa Safaris rolled up their sleeves to help prepare the new Kronendal Music Academy Centre in Hout Bay for its official opening. By contributing their time and energy, they helped support a space that will provide music education and opportunity for children and young people for years to come.
Their visit was a wonderful reminder that tourism can create meaningful impact through simple acts of service and connection.





Timeless Africa Safaris also continues to support Feed the Khaltsha (FTK) in Khayelitsha through monthly funding and ongoing mentorship. The thriving organic garden creates employment opportunities for local youth, provides fresh produce to the community and supports the neighbouring Sibongile Day and Night Care Centre.

MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS

In March 2025 a special moment unfolded during one of our Philanthropic Educational Excursions when renowned musician Sipho Kunene from New York visited IMAD in Khayelitsha. Having performed alongside legends such as Abdullah Ibrahim, Hugh Masekela, Harry Belafonte and Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Sipho shared his passion for music with the talented young performers at the centre.

What followed was an unforgettable exchange of music, joy and connection, reminding us of the powerful role the arts can play in bringing people together across cultures, generations and continents.



GLOBAL AMBASSADORS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

In April 2025, Uthando South Africa and The Heart of Cape Town were featured in a travel industry newsletter distributed by Remarkable Destinations to approximately 800 travel professionals across the Nordic region.

The feature highlighted Uthando's pioneering approach to responsible tourism, community development and social impact, while also introducing readers to The Heart of Cape Town movement and its message of peace, kindness, compassion and love.
Through partnerships such as these, Uthando continues to reach new audiences around the world, inspiring travellers and tourism professionals to become part of a more responsible and meaningful tourism future.

FUTURE HOSPITALITY SUMMIT AFRICA VISITS GOAL50

Ahead of Future Hospitality Summit Africa 2025, members of the planning team visited the Goal50 Edu Hub in Heideveld to experience the project first-hand. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase how recycled materials are being transformed into educational infrastructure, while highlighting the positive impact that sustainable development can have on children, families and communities.

Their visit reinforced the growing interest in community-led solutions that combine environmental sustainability with social impact.





GROWING TOGETHER

In July 2025 during a visit to Feed the Khaltsha in Khayelitsha, learners from Bishops Diocesan College joined local young people in expanding an urban farming project focused on food security and community development.

Supported through Uthando South Africa and Timeless Africa Safaris, the visit created an opportunity for meaningful engagement, learning and collaboration. Working side-by-side, the young people demonstrated how shared effort, determination and community spirit can help build a stronger future for South Africa.







The experience served as a powerful reminder that positive change grows when people come together with a common purpose.



BRANDBJERG HØJSKOLE

In November 2025, Uthando South Africa welcomed students and staff from Brandbjerg Højskole in Denmark for the fourth consecutive year. Through visits to community projects, conversations with local leaders and meaningful cultural exchange, the group experienced first-hand how tourism can contribute to positive social change.

Over the years, this partnership has grown into much more than an educational visit. It has become a lasting relationship built on learning, understanding and shared humanity, connecting young people from Denmark with communities across Cape Town while inspiring future global citizens and changemakers.





A SPECIAL VISIT FROM OUR AUSTRALIAN FRIENDS



In 2025, Uthando had the honour of welcoming a group of Australian Aboriginal women and tour operators, together with two researchers and led by Marnie Graham, to the Goal50 Early Childhood Development Centre in Heideveld.

Although Goal50 had not yet officially opened at the time, the visit was filled with warmth and a real sense of connection. The group gifted two beautiful pieces of Aboriginal artwork to the Educare, creating a lasting link between communities on opposite sides of the world.



"I am excited about the future collaboration with Uthando SA and their various community development partners, especially the urban farming projects such as Harvest of Hope.
I sincerely hope that they receive all the support that they deserve in order to bring their important and impactful projects to fruition"

- Marnie Graham, Senior Research Associate, University of JHB

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON VISITS UTHANDO

In January 2026, Uthando welcomed 32 business executives and MBA students from more than 11 nationalities from King's College Business School London for an afternoon with our community partners. This was the second year Uthando has hosted the group, giving visitors the chance to meet the people behind the projects and see community development in action.

The visit was made possible through Springbok Atlas Tours & Safaris, with community partners opening their doors and sharing their work. Lunch at SEED in Mitchell's Plain was a highlight, with the group enjoying fresh vegetables grown right there in the urban farm.





"It has been a privilege for King's College London to partner with Uthando across these engagements. I remain deeply impressed by the scale of ambition, the integrity of execution, and the transformative potential demonstrated across these initiatives. I therefore offer our full endorsement of Uthando's ongoing work and respectfully encourage stakeholders across government, industry, and civil society to explore meaningful collaboration and support.

- Paolo Aversa, Professor of Strategy and Research lead.

A LESSON IN SOUTH AFRICA'S HISTORY

Uthando welcomed an engaging group of school students from Texas who travelled to South Africa to learn about apartheid, our history and the country's democracy, while also experiencing some of what Cape Town has to offer.

A highlight of the visit was hearing from Ntobeko Peni, Siyazingisa Centre Co-ordinator at the Amy Foundation, who shared his knowledge and deeply personal experience of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Ntobeko was one of the men convicted of the murder of Amy Biehl in 1993 and later granted amnesty through the TRC process. His remarkable journey of reconciliation with Amy's mother, Linda Biehl, and his subsequent work with the Foundation established in Amy's memory, offered the students a powerful, living example of forgiveness, reconciliation and South Africa's journey towards democracy.





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community is built through connection, creativity and continuous care. Throughout the year, Uthando and its partners continued creating safe spaces, experiences and moments that inspire people, that celebrates diversity and that strengthens the bonds that ultimately bring people together for a shared goal.

MAMA YANDI'S BAOBAB TREE OF HAPPINESS, PEACE, LOVE & JOY

Created by the Masiphumelele Creative Hub using recycled plastic and waste materials collected during Mama Yandi's meditation walks on the beach, the Tree of Happiness, Love & Joy found a new home at Ulwazi Educare in Delft.

The colourful installation celebrates creativity, sustainability and the power of community partnerships that brings beauty and inspiration into shared spaces.



Mama Yandiswa Mazwana, Founder at Masiphumele Creative Hub



SPREADING LOVE ACROSS THE CAPE FLATS

At a time when many communities across the Cape Flats continue to face so many social hardships, the Tjommies Lovenaire's continue to bring so many people together through acts of kindness, moment of joy and music.

Through friends and donor support, the lovenaires created opportunities for connection across many neighbourhoods that are often divided by circumstance. It served as a reminder that meaningful change begins when people come together with a shared commitment to care for one another.

In communities facing ongoing social challenges, initiatives such as Tjommies Lovenaire demonstrate the power of unity, empathy and collective action to restore and strengthen relationships and inspire hope for a brighter future.

The Tjommies Lovenaire campaign continued to spread a message of love, belonging and community pride across the Cape Flats. Through music, mentorship and positive community engagement, young people were given opportunities to connect, express themselves and celebrate their communities in a positive way.









GROWING FOOD, SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITY

What began as a small backyard initiative has grown into one of Khayelitsha's most inspiring community development projects. Through Thunariso Organic Garden, founder Thozama Sikiti is helping young people, women, unemployed residents and community groups develop practical gardening and farming skills that promote food security, environmental awareness and economic opportunity.

Today, Thunariso offers hands-on training, school holiday programmes, after-school activities and community workshops that teach participants how to grow their own food and create sustainable livelihoods. Through partnerships with schools, local businesses and community organisations, the project continues to expand its reach while nurturing a new generation of urban farmers and environmental champions.

Uthando South Africa has proudly supported Thozama's vision by connecting the project to visitors, donors, tools, resources and opportunities that have helped strengthen and grow its impact. Together, we continue demonstrating how community-led solutions can address food insecurity, empower local residents and create healthier, more resilient communities.







triangle project

CELEBRATING PRIDE, DIGNITY AND BELONGING

Uthando is proud of our ongoing relationship with Triangle Project and Pride Shelter Trust, two organisations doing vital work to support and advocate for LGBTQI+ communities in Cape Town and beyond.

Triangle Project has a long history of advancing LGBTQI+ human rights, providing health and psychosocial support, community outreach and advocacy, while Pride Shelter Trust provides a safe and affirming home for LGBTQI+ people facing homelessness, discrimination or crisis.

Our relationship with both organisations reflects Uthando's commitment to supporting a South Africa where everyone has the right to dignity, safety, acceptance and belonging. We are grateful to continue walking alongside these organisations and supporting the important work they do in our communities.

Rethinking Waste, Reimagining Possibility with Waste-Ed

Sometimes change starts with something as simple as an empty plastic bottle.
This year, we shine a spotlight on Candice Mostert and Waste-ED, whose work is helping communities rethink waste through education and practical solutions. The ecobrick – a plastic bottle tightly packed with non-recyclable waste – is a simple but powerful example of turning what we throw away into something useful.

Uthando is proud of our growing relationship with Waste-ED, and we look forward to finding new ways to work together and extend their impact across our communities.

Find out more: www.waste-ed.co.za



SINGING FOR CHANGE



Christmas Carols at St Georges Cathedral on 05 December 2025

Through its support of the Heartsong Collective, Uthando South Africa helped create opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to come together through music, connection and the spirit of Ubuntu.

Founded by Lynne Poulsen, the Heartsong Collective uses the power of song to inspire unity, celebrate diversity and strengthen community bonds. During the year, audiences were brought together through uplifting performances that featured local artists and youth choirs, creating shared experiences rooted in hope, compassion and belonging.

The initiative reflects Uthando's belief that meaningful social change is not only built through infrastructure and programmes, but also through the connections like music that bring people together.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE

At the heart of every thriving community are people with the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed. Throughout the year, Uthando and its partners continued supporting initiatives that empower individuals and families through education, skills development, mentorship, food security and community support.

ALCARDO ANDREWS FOUNDATION

Based in Hanover Park, Cape Town, the Alcardo Andrews Foundation provides vital support to families facing some of the Cape Flats' most pressing social challenges. Through daily meals, early childhood care, after-school programmes, support groups, workshops and social support services, the foundation has become a place of hope, healing and practical help.

1,000+	**25**	**25**	**12**
Meals Served Daily	ECD Learners	After-School Learners	Volunteers



- **Weekly support groups for seniors**
- **Fortnightly support groups for mothers**
- **Weekly boys educational club**
- **Weekly educational workshops on GBV, climate change and food security**
- **Ongoing CV support and employment assistance**
- **Ongoing rehabilitation referrals and domestic violence support**



15 March 2025: Adrienne Biesemeyer, her daughter Rachel Blue , James Fernie and Avril Andrews

JP DUMINY VISITS ULWAZI (KNOWLEDGE) EDUCARE

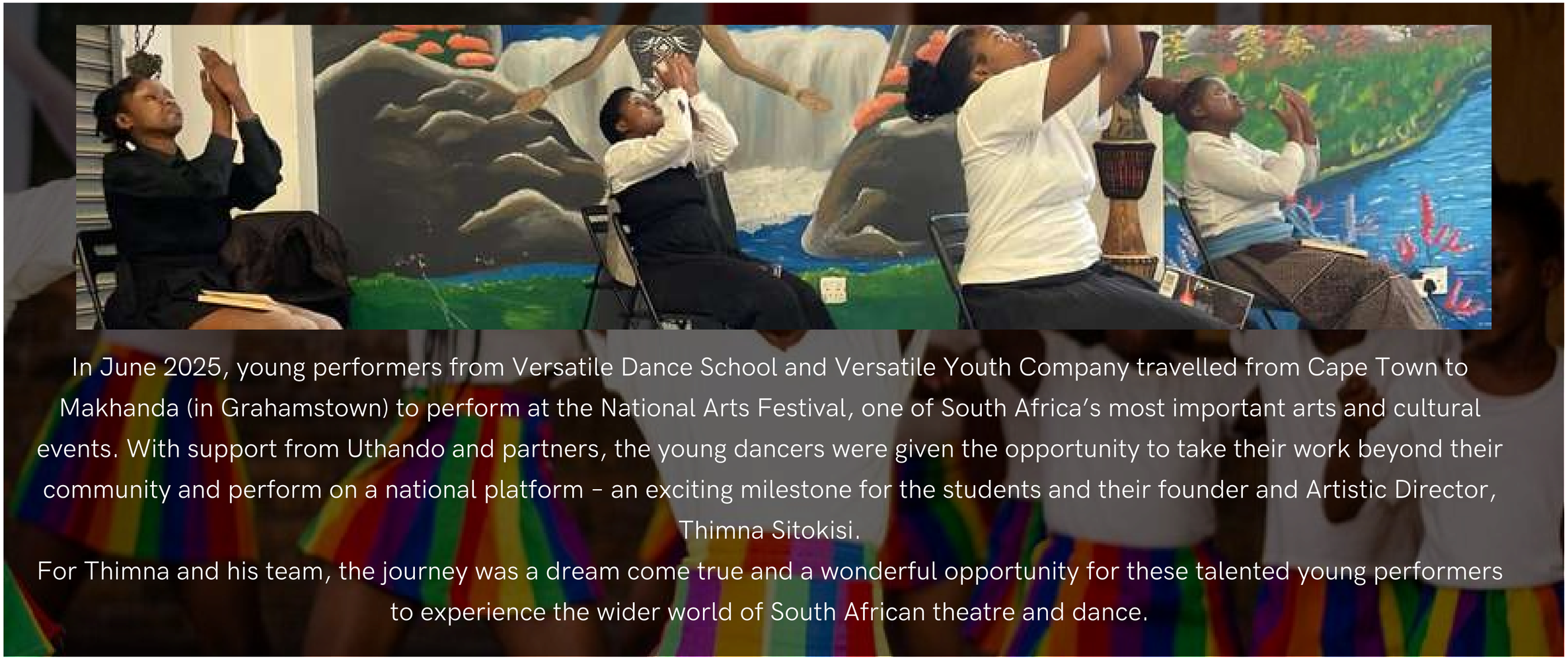
During a visit to Ulwazi (Knowledge) Educare in June 2025, former Proteas cricketer JP Duminy, founder of the JP21 Foundation, joined Uthando South Africa to experience first-hand the impact that quality early childhood development can have on young lives.

The visit highlighted the importance of creating safe, inspiring spaces where children can learn, play and thrive. The energy and curiosity of the children at Ulwazi were a wonderful reminder that investing in early childhood development is an investment in the future of our communities.

The visit also reflected our shared commitment to creating greater educational and recreational opportunities for children across the Cape Flats, helping more young people reach their full potential.



CELEBRATING YOUNG TALENT THROUGH THE ARTS



In June 2025, young performers from Versatile Dance School and Versatile Youth Company travelled from Cape Town to Makhanda (in Grahamstown) to perform at the National Arts Festival, one of South Africa's most important arts and cultural events. With support from Uthando and partners, the young dancers were given the opportunity to take their work beyond their community and perform on a national platform – an exciting milestone for the students and their founder and Artistic Director, Thimna Sitokisi.

For Thimna and his team, the journey was a dream come true and a wonderful opportunity for these talented young performers to experience the wider world of South African theatre and dance.

SEWING FOR SUSTSAINABILITY

What began as a sewing skills programme has grown into a journey of empowerment, creativity and economic opportunity for women from communities across the Northern Cape and Cape Town.

Implemented in partnership with the Philisa Abafazi Bethu Women's Centre and made possible through the generous support of Travel Elevates, the programme brought together women from Groblershoop, Wegdraai, Upington and Cape Town to develop valuable sewing and design skills.






Sis Nzani Saunders, Sis Thobeka Manjezi and Sis Nokupa Kotelana

Most excitingly, three Gogo's from Langa have taken these skills a step further by establishing their own business, 'Beyond Existence', creating and selling their beautiful handmade products to the public.

What started as an opportunity to learn has become a pathway towards greater independence, income generation and entrepreneurship.

For many participants, the programme offered more than technical training. It provided confidence, purpose and the opportunity to connect with other women facing similar challenges. Through months of learning, practice and determination, participants developed new skills while discovering their own creative potential.

As the programme progressed, it became clear that the impact extended far beyond the classroom. What started as skills development soon began creating pathways towards income generation, entrepreneurship and greater independence.

Today, many of the women continue to use their newly acquired skills to create products from their homes, demonstrating how investment in people can create lasting change for families and communities.



Collin, Thulani, the Gogo's from Beyond Existence and James Fernie





Major Voices Choir



VOICES OF HOPE

Throughout the year, Uthando South Africa continued supporting and creating opportunities for a number of community choirs, including the iThemba Youth Choir, Isibane se Afrika, Major Voices, New Powerful Choir and the Khayelitsha Youth Choir.
These remarkable groups do far more than perform. They create safe spaces where young people can develop confidence, discipline, leadership skills and a sense of belonging through music. For many participants, the choirs provide a positive alternative to the social challenges facing their communities while opening doors to new experiences, cultural exchange and income-generating opportunities.

Whether welcoming international visitors, performing at major tourism events, sharing stages with renowned artists or representing their communities with pride, these choirs continue to inspire audiences while changing lives through the transformative power of music. Their voices have become ambassadors for hope, unity and the extraordinary talent that exists within South Africa's communities.
Through ongoing support from visitors, donors and partners, these choirs continue to grow, ensuring that more young people have access to opportunities that nurture both their talents and their futures.

GROWING OPPORTUNITY IN KHAYELITSHA

During a visit to several micro farms in Khayelitsha, representatives from community, business and development sectors came together to explore the growing opportunities within the area's urban farming sector. The visit included James Fernie (Uthando South Africa), MinChan of How's Your Oni? Restaurant, Dean of Last Call, Xolani Maseko (Uthando South Africa), Phumlani Dlongwana and local farming partners working to strengthen food security and economic opportunity within their communities.

These small-scale farmers are producing an impressive variety of fresh vegetables while contributing to local food security and household incomes. Through initiatives such as Harvest of Hope, produce from dozens of micro farmers is aggregated, distributed and supplied to restaurants, hotels and other buyers, creating important market opportunities for local growers.









The visit highlighted both the incredible potential of community-based agriculture and the need for stronger infrastructure to support future growth. This vision is helping shape the proposed Moya weKhaya Agrihub, which aims to create a central hub for training, aggregation, storage and market access, enabling even more farmers to participate in the local food economy.

By supporting micro farmers, communities are not only growing food, they are growing opportunity, resilience and hope.



James Ferie, Vicky Sampson and Lucinda Evans



10 YEARS OF ALCARDO ANDREWS FOUNDATION

In 2025, the Alcardo Andrews Foundation (AAF) celebrated 10 years of service to Hanover Park. Founded by Avril Andrews after the tragic death of her son, Alcardo, in 2015, the Foundation was born from a decision to turn pain into action — working towards a safer, healthier and more caring community.

Over the past decade, AAF has provided nearly two million meals, supported hundreds of women and created safe spaces for children and young people. Its work includes daily feeding, hydroponic gardens, support for mothers who have lost children to violence, fatherhood programmes and youth support.

The 10-year celebration brought together the people who have helped carry this work forward, with music, community, remembrance and a powerful reminder of what is possible when a community refuses to give up.

Uthando was proud to stand alongside AAF at this milestone, with James Fernie sharing a few words at the celebration. The evening also included a moving candlelit procession honouring mothers who have lost their children to gang violence, GBV and crime.

ZAMA'S ANNUAL CHOREOGRAPHY COMPETITION - TRAVERSING TRAVEL







Every year, Zama Dance School brings its young dancers together for its annual concert, a celebration of dance, discipline, talent and hard work. For these young dancers, the stage is more than a place to perform. Zama gives children the chance to build confidence, self-worth and a sense of achievement through classical ballet.

Behind every performance is a team of people and organisations who keep the programme going. Uthando is proud to be one of Zama's supporters, alongside many others.

The annual concert is a chance to see what that support makes possible: young people on stage, doing what they love and discovering what they can achieve. A special thank you to Traversing Travel for sponsoring this annual competition and for Mahlatini Luxury Travel for joining us on the special day.

WASTE TO WONDER

When we care for the planet, we create opportunities for the people. Through our Waste to Wonder campaign, discarded materials are transformed into meaningful community infrastructure, turning waste that would otherwise end up in landfills or illegal dumping sites into schools, sports facilities and other spaces that serve the communities. The campaign brings together sustainability, innovation and community development , showing what is possible when we protect our environment while creating better places for people to live in and learn in.

A PITCH FOR PEACE IN MEMORY OF CRAIG GARROD-SMITH

In November 2025, Uthando and its partners officially opened the Woodlands Primary 5-a-side soccer pitch in memory of Craig-Garrod Smith, founder of New Frontiers Tours.

Craig was remembered as a generous and caring person who believed in making a difference. His partner, Mark-Garrod Smith, chose to honour that legacy by supporting a project that gives children a safe place to play, connect and grow.

The opening brought together football, music, dance and community, turning the pitch into a living memorial rather than simply a place to remember Craig.
For Uthando, it was the beginning of the Pitches for Peace campaign, building soccer pitches from waste, in schools that need it the most. Our goal is to have one of these pitches in every school across the Cape Flats. These soccer Pitches were the idea of Mario van Niekerk (Great Commission United).





AN EARTHSHOT PRIZE NOMINEE

In 2026, Uthando was nominated and shortlisted for The Earthshot Prize, recognising our innovative approach to turning waste into meaningful, lasting solutions for communities.

From Waste to Wonder. From local projects to global possibilities.
This recognition is a powerful reminder that when we take care of People & Planet, small ideas can create big change.





THE EARTHSHOT PRIZE
2026
NOMINEE

PROUD TO BE A

EARTHSHOT PRIZE NOMINEE

LOCAL SOLUTIONS. GLOBAL IMPACT.

WASTE TO WONDER
by uthando & partners



Glynn O'Leary , James Fernie, Dr. Harold Goodwin, Shameemah Salie, Grace Stead and Ashraf Allie

DR. HAROLD GOODWIN VISITS OUR PROJECTS

In April 2025, responsible tourism expert Dr Harold Goodwin visited Uthando's projects in Cape Town with James Fernie. He saw first-hand how old tyres, plastic bottles, glass bottles and waste bricks are being turned into preschools and community sports spaces.

His Travel Tomorrow article shines a light on how Uthando is turning South Africa's waste problem into real, lasting places for communities — work that has now entered the 2026 Earthshot Prize competition.

GOAL50 EDU HUB – PHASE 1

In the heart of Heideveld, where opportunities are often limited but determination is abundant, a bold vision began to take shape. What was once an underutilised piece of land has been transformed into the Goal50 Edu Hub, a Montessori educational facility built almost entirely from recycled and reclaimed materials. Goal50 represents what can be achieved when communities, donors, volunteers and partners come together with a shared belief that every child deserves access to quality early childhood development.

Led by Uthando South Africa and implemented by the Natural Building Collective, Reforge Consulting, GCU and the Goal50, Heideveld community and made possible through the support of Allianz and our fiscal partner in Germany, Sawabona Africa and so many other partners, Phase 1 of the project set out to demonstrate that sustainable building methods can create world-class educational spaces while addressing environmental challenges.



GOAL50 EDU HUB

Using approximately 1,7000 used tyres, 5,000 eco-bricks, thousands of glass bottles, reclaimed construction materials and recycled resources sourced from across Cape Town, the project became a living example of the Waste to Wonder philosophy. Materials once destined for landfill were transformed into a place of learning, creativity and possibility.

Throughout the construction process, community members played an active role in bringing the project to life. Builders, volunteers and local residents worked side-by-side, learning new skills while contributing to a facility that will benefit generations of children to come.

Beyond the environmental benefits, the project also demonstrated how sustainable construction can create employment, transfer knowledge and inspire communities to reimagine what is possible with the resources around them.









Goal50 Edu Hub – Phase 1

Today, the Goal50 Edu Hub provides Montessori early childhood development services to approximately 30 children daily, while also supporting an after-school programme and feeding scheme for the surrounding community.

With Phase 2 nearing completion, the centre continues to grow. Fundraising is now underway for Phase 3, which will expand educational opportunities through additional classrooms, a library, services for children who are disabled and technology-enabled learning spaces.









AMAZEBALLS - GIVING WASTE A SECOND LIFE

Through our growing partnership with Amazeballs, discarded sporting materials are being transformed into valuable community assets. During the year, Amazeballs partnered with Uthando to do a range of sustainable play equipment and recreational elements that now complement the Goal50 Edu Hub, creating engaging outdoor spaces for children to learn, play and grow.

The partnership also supported the Pitches for Peace initiative through the donation of repurposed turf, helping turn waste materials into safe and inspiring spaces for sport and positive youth development.
These initiatives demonstrate how sustainability and community development can work hand in hand to create lasting impact.





Image: Athwood Primary School soccer pitch in Hanover Park with recycled turf.

MOYA WEKHAYA (SPIRIT OF HOME) AGRI HUB

During the year, planning continued for the Moya weKhaya ("Spirit of Home") Agri Hub in Khayelitsha, a sustainable building project that aims to strengthen food security, skills development and economic opportunity in one of South Africa's largest communities.

Designed to be constructed using approximately 8,000 recycled tyres and other upcycled materials, the facility will serve as a central hub for urban farmers, supporting the work of Harvest of Hope and Abalimi Bezekhaya while improving access to training, aggregation, storage and markets.

Seed funding from the Mitialto Foundation and King Baudouin Foundation enabled the development of plans for this ambitious project, bringing the vision one step closer to reality. Once completed, the Agri Hub has the potential to become a world-leading example of how sustainable construction can support community development, food security and job creation at scale.


A render of the Moya WeKhaya Agrihub to be built in Khayelitsha


Moya weKhaya (spirit of home) from a top view - The packshed will be built on the open field adjacent to Moya WeKhaya



MOEEN ALI & JP DUMINY MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS CENTRE

Momentum continues to build behind the Moeen Ali & JP Duminy Multi-Purpose Sports Centre, following an initial investment from PACE in Switzerland. Planned for Hanover Park, the facility will be constructed using approximately 15,000 recycled tyres and will provide safe spaces for sport, music, mentorship and youth development.

The vision is to start breaking ground in Phase 1 in time for the 2027 Cricket World Cup, creating an opportunity for international visitors and cricketing legends Moeen Ali and JP Duminy to experience first-hand how sport can help transform communities facing significant social challenges.

With the growing Pitches for Peace initiative, the project represents an exciting next chapter in the Waste to Wonder movement, where sport becomes a catalyst for people in underserved communities.

PITCHES FOR PEACE

The Pitches for Peace initiative continues to grow, transforming recycled tyres and repurposed rubble into safe spaces where children can play, connect and thrive. What began as a simple idea has evolved into a growing network of community-based soccer pitches across the Cape Flats.

During the year, pitches were established or advanced at Woodlands Primary and Vanguard Primary in Heideveld, Athwood Primary, Blomvlei Primary and Belmor Primary in Hanover Park, as well as the Philisa Abafazi Bethu Family Centre in Retreat.



Exeter Safaris visiting Woodlands Primary School.

These soccer pitches are far more than sporting facilities, these pitches create opportunities for mentorship, leadership development, positive youth engagement and community participation. Together with plans for inter-school leagues and expanded programming, the initiative is helping create safer spaces and brighter futures for young people across some of South Africa's most under-resourced communities.





ATHWOOD PRIMARY: A PITCH FOR PEACE, A DAY OF MUSIC & SPORT

Uthando and its partners brought Athwood Primary School in Hanover Park to life with a day of football, music, art and community.

The event marked the opening of Uthando's third Pitch for Peace, a permanent 5-a-side football pitch built largely from recycled tyres, plastic bottles and rubble. More than just a place to play, the pitch gives children a safe space to spend time, learn and grow.



The day brought together 120 international visitors from North America and more than 150 community leaders, educators, children and stakeholders, alongside local musicians, artists and community organisations.



The visitors also arrived with backpacks filled with school supplies, stationery and sanitary pads, while Race2Adventure handed Uthando a R153,000 cheque to support our work.











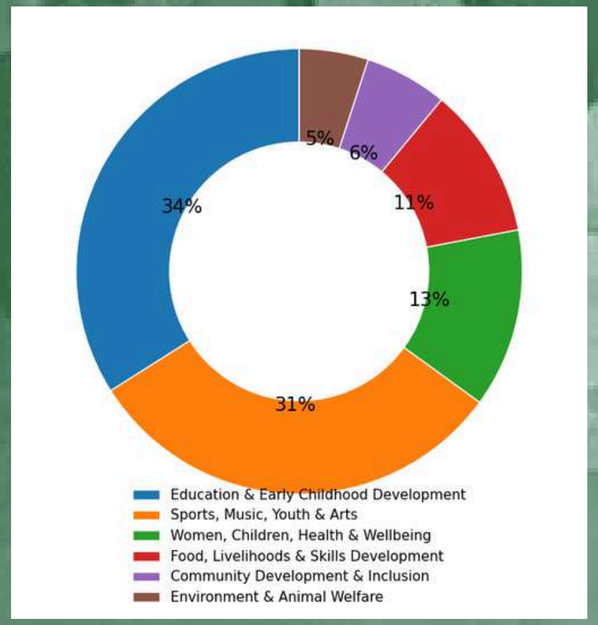
ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

When people come together, resources can become real change. Through Uthando, support from our donors is channelled into so many, deserving community-led projects across Cape Town and beyond. This section looks at the people, organisations and funding behind the work and the communities that benefit from it.

Financial Transparency & Allocation

R10.39 MILLION

DISTRIBUTED TO 83 COMMUNITY PROJECTS & ORGANISATIONS



34%

Education & Early Childhood Development

31%

Sports, Music, Youth & Arts

13%

Women, Children, Health & Wellbeing

11%

Food, Livelihoods & Skill's Development

6%

Community Development & Inclusion

5%

Environment & Animal Welfare

DONORS LIST (2025-2026)

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Amazeballs
Athwood Primary School
Brave Rock Girl
Blomvlei Primary
BruinChild Media NPC
Cape Flats Sports Academy (CFSA)
Cart Horse Protection Association
Christel House South Africa (NPC)
Community Activist
eKhaya eKasi Art & Education Centre
Eyes2Eyes Foundation
Eziko Cooking and Catering School
Fairy Godmother Project
Feed the Khaltsha
Ghetto Gardener
Girls Matter
Goal 50 Eduhub
Great Commission United
Green Experience (Pty) Ltd
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Heartsong Collective
Home from Home
Ikhaya Garden
Ilithalomso Craft from Waste
Institute for Music and Indigenous Arts
Isibane se Afrika
Ithemba Youth Choir
Juma Art Tours
Khayelitsha Youth Choir (Isiphiwo Art)
Kiddies Educare
Kind Heart Bench Project
Kronendal Music Academy
Khumbulani Centre
Ladles of Love
Lamta Musical Theatre Academy
LangaForMen
Learn to Earn
Lerhotholi Food and Herbal Garden
Makukhanye Art Room
Man Stand Tall
Mark Jeneker Foundation
Major Voices
Masibulele Educare
Masiphumelele Creative Hub
Mdzananda Animal Clinic
Moya Wekhaya Co-Op
Neighbourhood Old Age Homes
New Powerful Art Organisation
Olwethu Uthando Marimba and Drumming
Philisa Abafazi Bethu Woman & Children Project
Pride Shelter Trust
Proudly Macassar Pottery
Schools Environmental Education and Development
Seed of Hope Kitchen
Sewing for Sustainability
Sinbongile Day & Night Care Centre
Sinovuyo Seniors Old Age Group
Siyathandwa Seniors
Siyazama Community Allotment Garden Association
Steph's Ladles of Love
The Amy Foundation
The Big Issue
The Pebbles Project
The Zama Dance School
Thokozani Together
Thunariso Organic Garden
Triangle Project
Tjommies Youth Development and Sporting Club
Sir Vva's (Inga's Recovery Legacy)
U-Turn Homeless Cry
Ulwazi Educare
Unknown
Uyanda Serve In Faith Movement Foundation
Versatile Dance School
Wire Crafters Project
Woodlands Primary School
Young Guiding Star Sacred String Band
Youth Impact and Sustainable Solutions
Zizamele Educare Centre



THANK YOU

TO EVERYONE WHO STOOD WITH US

To our donors, supporters, tourism partners, friends and funders. Thank you for believing in Uthando and choosing to invest in people and planet.

To every community partner, Thank you for the work you do every single day. You open your doors, lead your communities, solve problems and keep showing up, even on shoestring budgets. We are incredibly proud to stand beside you.

And to the many organisations, people and quiet supporters whose names do not appear in these pages, we see you and we Thank you too.

This Annual Report can never capture every conversation, every act of kindness, every volunteer hour, every donation or every life touched, but every one of them matters.

OUR WORK IS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE WE DO IT TOGETHER.

Thank you for being part of Uthando.

FOLLOW OUR CAMPAIGNS

Uthando continues to build campaigns that connect people, communities and the planet: from turning waste into useful spaces, to creating opportunities for young people and spreading a message of peace, kindness and unity.

WASTE TO WONDER

Turning discarded tyres and other waste into high-impact community facilities.
EXPLORE & SUPPORT WASTE TO WONDER

GOAL50 EDU HUB

Help complete Phase 3 of the eco-conscious ECD centre in Heideveld.
SPONSOR A TYRE / SUPPORT GOAL50

PITCHES FOR PEACE

Building eco-conscious 5-a-side pitches that use sport to bring young people together.
SUPPORT PITCHES FOR PEACE

MOEEN ALI & JP DUMINY MULTI-SPORTS CENTRE

A major vision for sport, opportunity and youth development on the Cape Flats.
SUPPORT THE SPORTS CENTRE



MOYA WE KHAYA AGRI HUB

Supporting food security, agriculture, skills and opportunity in Khayelitsha.
SUPPORT MOYA WE KHAYA

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