

transform.

LOVE CITIES SA NETWORK PUBLICATION

QUARTER THREE 2025



Love Nelson Mandela Bay Opens Doors to Employment for 25 Lives

PG NO. 10

Love Howick Investing in Early Learning

PG NO. 13

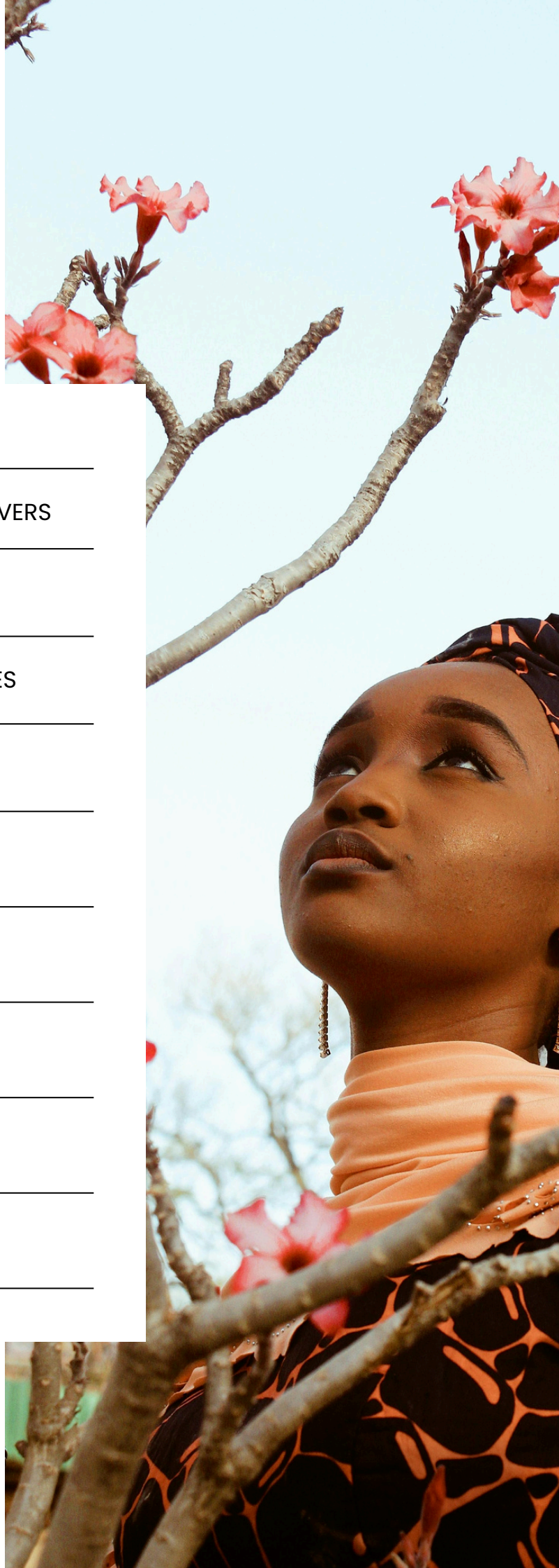
Love Potch Delivers 25,000 Meals and Financial Relief

PG NO. 19

'TOGETHER transforming South Africa – one town at a time'

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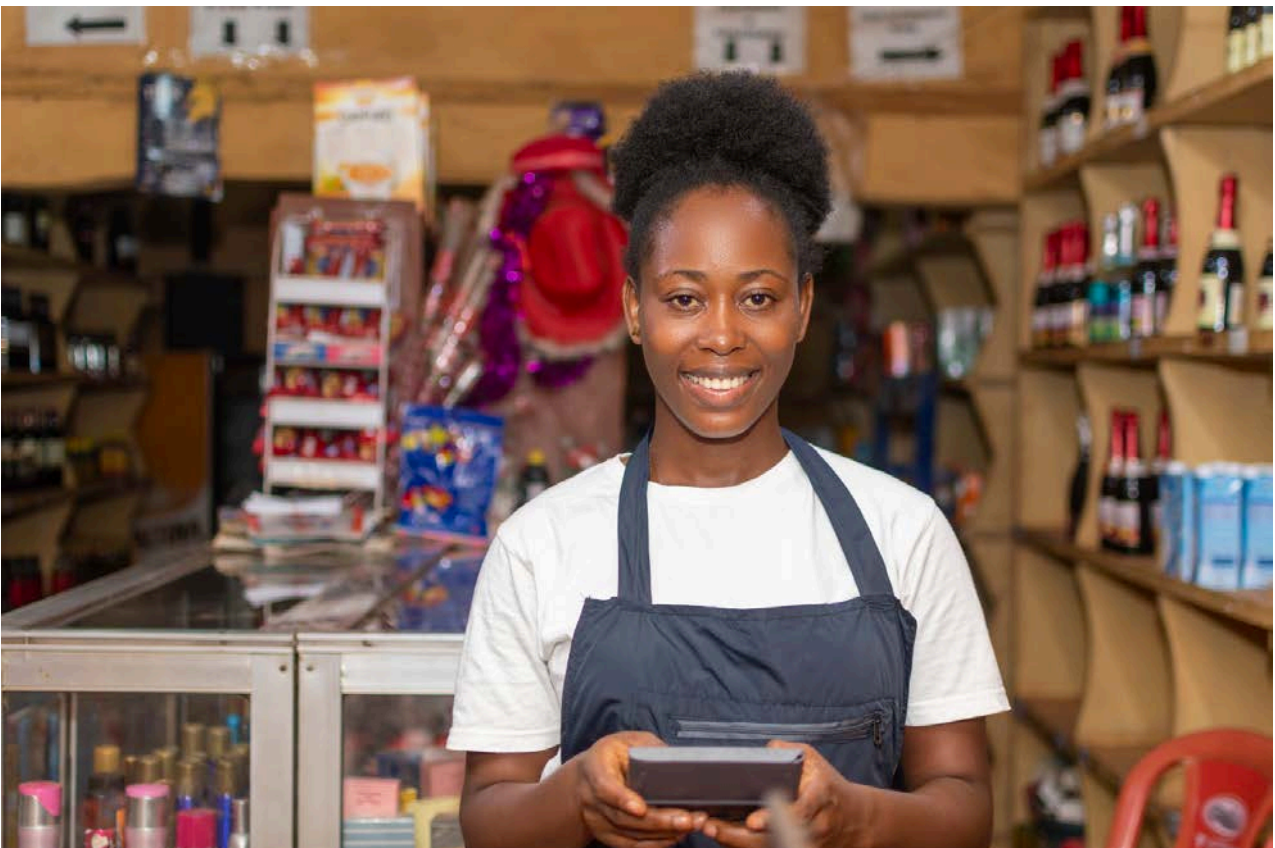


welcome.

This Edition of **transform**, celebrates courage, collaboration, and community-led transformation. From the vibrant murals of Potchefstroom and community clean-ups in Kuyga to the youth skills development in Howick and the entrepreneurial spirit in Paarl, **and beyond**, we're reminded that lasting change begins with ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Through **education, reviving local tourist attractions, and youth programs, each initiative builds a stronger South Africa**. Flip through these pages and join a movement uniting dignity, opportunity, and hope.

This is more than a network—it's a movement. **Let's keep going—together.**





why networks matter.

CEO MESSAGE: THE POWER OF NETWORKS FOR NATIONAL CHANGE

Achieving genuinely sustainable, long-term social change at a national level is the defining challenge of our generation. Isolated efforts, however dedicated, often struggle to scale beyond immediate local impact. For transformation to be embedded and resilient, **we must shift our approach toward robust collaboration.**

This is why networks are not merely helpful; they are absolutely crucial. They act as the circulatory system for social progress, connecting diverse stakeholders—from grassroots activists to policy-makers. **Networks enable the efficient sharing of vital resources, knowledge, and best practices, allowing successful, small-scale models to be replicated and adapted rapidly across different contexts.**

The work achieved through platforms like **Love Cities is a prime example of this imperative in action.** Love Cities specifically provides the structure to bridge local community development initiatives with necessary national support. By uniting disparate efforts under a shared vision, they amplify the collective voice and ensure that local successes contribute directly to broader, systemic national change.

Our ability to foster a more resilient and equitable nation is directly proportional to the strength of our collaborative structures. Investing in and **actively participating in such networks is the most strategic step we can take toward embedding lasting, positive change for all citizens.**

As you read this edition of 'Transform', you will see firsthand what happens when we embrace the power of shared responsibility and action. This is why we are so passionate about creating a unique 'platform for partnership' that moves beyond isolated projects and begins creating the ecosystem of change we need in South Africa and Africa.

We look forward to presenting the 'Love Cities Story' as a case study for sustainable community change at next months National Community Development Conference in Bloemfontein.



Matt Hogarty

FOUNDER & CEO

'CHOOSE COLLABORATION OVER COMPETITION'

love cities network reach.



LOVE
MANGAUNG

LOVE
THORNHILL

LOVE
NELSON
MANDELA BAY

LOVE
HOWICK

LOVE
MPOPHOMENI

LOVE
NOTTIES

LOVE
PAARL

LOVE
POTCH

LOVE
MKHONDO

LOVE
BERGVILLE

LOVE
MULDRSDRIFT

LOVE
'TOTI

"One House a Month" Project: A Beacon of Hope in Kuyga



The spirit of Ubuntu was alive and well in the community of **Kuyga**, as our dedicated volunteers joined hands for a special clean-up initiative.



The day was filled with hard work, camaraderie, and a shared vision for a cleaner, brighter Nelson Mandela Bay. We are incredibly proud of what our team achieved, and we were especially honoured to be joined by our partners from **Sakha Amathuba**. The enthusiasm and dedication shown by the **Zimi's** and their entire team were truly inspiring.

Together, we were able to make a tangible difference, not just by cleaning a physical space, but by strengthening the bonds within the community. This collaborative effort is a powerful reminder that **when we come together, we can create meaningful and lasting change.**



A heartfelt thank you to every volunteer who gave their time and energy.

Blessing Little Angels Pre-School with a Fresh New Look

We believe that every child deserves a learning space filled with hope, colour, and opportunity. By investing in our children, we are investing in the future of our country – and helping set them up for success.

This is why Love Nelson Mandela Bay were so grateful for the opportunity to bless Valerie and her team at Little Angels Pre-School as part of their **One House a Month** initiative. Little Angels provides a safe and loving environment where young minds can explore and grow, and we were thrilled to help them enhance that space.

Our team rolled up their sleeves to **paint the inside of their classroom**, transforming it into a bright and inspiring space that stimulates young learners. This is just the beginning of our support; we look forward to returning soon to complete a much-needed storeroom for them.

The love for Little Angels continues to grow! We are delighted to share that the **Waypoint's Crafty Hub community group** has something special planned for the learners on Mandela Day. They will be gifting each child a **handmade beanie**, lovingly crafted by their dedicated **volunteers**.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are making a tangible difference in our city and helping our community members reach their full potential.



A Well-Deserved Upgrade for Morningside High School's Educators

Love Nelson Mandela Bay showing gratitude where it is most due. The dedicated teachers at Morningside High School consistently go the extra mile for their students, and we wanted to give back to them in a meaningful way.

That is why we are thrilled to announce the **renovation of the staff toilets** at the school. This project is about more than just fresh paint and new fittings; it is a tangible way to say 'thank you' to the educators who pour so much into our community's future.

We are also proud to link this initiative with skills development. Throughout the renovation, we are helping four young people from the area acquire valuable practical skills, ensuring this project gives back in more ways than one.



Recognition of Valued Partners: Mandela Day Clean-Up

Love Nelson Mandela Bay would like to extend its formal gratitude to the **Ward 9 Council** for their participation in the recent Mandela Day Citywide Clean-Up at the **Kragga Kamma** tip site in Gqeberha. Your engagement in this important community initiative was greatly appreciated.

We would also like to acknowledge the generous support of **Wedgewood Garden Services**. Their professional contribution in cutting grass at key locations across the city was instrumental in the success of our wider clean-up campaign.

These collaborative efforts are essential to our mission, and we thank all involved for their dedication to improving our shared urban environment.





25 Young Lives Embark on the Job Readiness Program

Our valued partner Sakha Amathuba began delivering the Love Cities Job Readiness Program to a group of **25 inspiring young people** from our community. Our team is buzzing with as much excitement as the participants themselves! It is a privilege to witness the start of a journey that will unlock potential and **open doors to meaningful employment**. This initiative is a powerful testament to what we can achieve for Nelson Mandela Bay when we collaborate. Together, we are investing in our city's greatest asset: its youth.





A NEW CHAPTER: STREET STORE REOPENS & BABY TOWN LAUNCHES

In response to a clear community need, we are thrilled to have reopened our Street Store and launched Baby Town—a new space where moms can give to moms by donating good-quality baby items. The grand opening was a joyous celebration, well-attended by **local government and many other valued partners**. The most beautiful moments came from hearing the stories of beneficiaries, whose lives are being transformed through both practical support and developmental opportunities.



Enviro-Waste

- **Brush Cutting** of overgrown vegetation (**3,386m²**) at: Love Howick Park, Park Road, the area opposite the Municipality, Post Office, Karkloof Intersection, Main Office, Howick Falls, next to Bears, Dunlop, Harvard Street, Symmonds Lane, Dream Centre, the sports field below the Bowling Club, Middle Park, behind the Police Station, and Howick Clinic.
- **Weeding, Garden and Grounds Maintenance** (**2,810m²**): Bell Street, Somme Street, Howick Post Office, Main Road, Love Howick Park, Karkloof Intersection, Main Road Howick Bridge, Harvard Street, Howick Falls, the sports field below the Bowling Club, and the Howick Clinic.
- **Painting and Surface Care**: Repainted **189m²** of road kerbs at the Howick Post Office, fully repainted the exterior of the Howick Post Office, and undertook additional painting work in the area opposite the Municipality and Post Office.
- **Drain and Pavement Clearing** over **498m²**: Cleared drains and pavements of stones and debris at the Karkloof Intersection, Main Road Howick Bridge, Bell Street, and Harvard Street.
- **Litter and Recycling Collection**: Collected a total of **13 bags of litter** from various sites including Howick Falls, Love Howick Park, Harvard Street, and the sports field below the Bowling Club.



Advanced Coding Classes

What a proud day for our Grade 3, 4, and 6 students as they graduated from the Advanced Coding Classes! The day began with a final examination, showcasing the skills and knowledge they have acquired throughout the course. Following the exam, students proudly received their graduation certificates. It was truly heartwarming to witness their joy, especially knowing that many began this journey with little to no computer experience. Seeing them confidently use a computer and celebrate their achievements was both inspiring and rewarding.



Schools Market Day

Our young entrepreneurs from Nhlanhleni Senior Primary School showcased impressive levels of creativity, teamwork and customer service that truly inspired everyone there. A special thank you goes to our guest judge, Mr Ndlovu of Amangonyama Tours, and to our wonderful sponsors: Fairfield Dairy for generously providing 100 flavoured milk drinks, and Mr Makhaye of Mpophomeni Shopping Centre for the venue and 50 goodie bags.



Literacy Festival

Two schools competed in what proved to be a fiercely contested competition for our Grade 1, 2, and 3 learners at Elijah Community Hall. The judges had a difficult time deciding the winners, as the standard of talent was exceptional. In the end, Qhamukile Full-Service School excelled, taking first place in all categories: Group Guided Reading, Poetry, and Drama. A heartfelt thank you to our judge, Rosanne Hurly-Coyne, Festival Director of the Speech and Drama Association of South Africa (SADASA), for so generously donating her time and expertise. We also extend our gratitude to Office National for their kind donation of the goody bags, which added a special touch to the day.



Trashion Show

It was truly inspiring to see our Nhlanhleni Primary School ECO Club members take the initiative to create costumes from waste materials and organise a 'Trashion Show'. Motivated by the recent Happy Earth Festival, the learners demonstrated fantastic creativity and environmental awareness. They also performed a drama during assembly, to promote sustainability and responsible waste management.

LOVE HOWICK ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACCELERATOR

The Love Howick Entrepreneurship Accelerator is a dynamic program designed to empower 13 ECD principals with the business knowledge and tools needed to transform their centres into thriving, sustainable enterprises. Too often, passionate ECD leaders focus solely on the classroom, while the business side of running a centre becomes overwhelming. This accelerator bridges that gap by **equipping principals with the skills to manage both learning and leadership effectively.**

Through a carefully structured curriculum, participants will explore the essentials of **strategic planning, financial management, and marketing.** This includes **practical training** on tools like **Canva** to help them promote their centres creatively and professionally. Principals will also strengthen their capacity to deliver quality programs that balance child development excellence with **sound business practices.**

The program emphasises practical learning, with each session designed for direct application within the participants' centres. By the end of the accelerator, principals will not only understand how to budget, plan, and market effectively, but also how to **grow resilient organisations that serve both children and communities.**

As a next step, all enrolled participants will engage in a peer learning day with private ECD owners –providing valuable exposure, networking opportunities, and shared insights to broaden their vision and spark innovation.



WOMEN'S MONTH Holistic Health Sessions



Week 1 – Nourish to Flourish

We had the privilege of welcoming Kerryn Jones, a dietitian and nutritionist, who shared valuable insights on the importance of a balanced diet. She highlighted how understanding food labels empowers us to make informed choices for our families, discussed the essential role of vitamins in our daily nutrition, and outlined the profound benefits of breastfeeding in laying the foundation for a child's lifelong health and success.



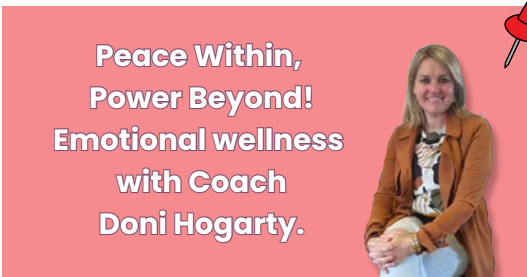
Week 2 – Rooted and Resilient

Week two was a fun and interactive experience with our speakers, Lihle Mavuso and Noxolo Sibiya. The women learned how to become small-scale farmers by planning and cultivating gardens to sustain their families. Beyond gardening, they were also equipped with practical recipes to maximise the nutritional value of their harvests.



Week 3 – Sacred and Safe

Week three was particularly special as we partnered with Angels Care, an organisation dedicated to community upliftment and transformation. Their team of women addressed the challenging topics of sexual health, abuse, and safety with both professionalism and great compassion. This created a safe space for those present to share personal stories and seek assistance in the areas where they needed support most.



Peace Within,
Power Beyond!
Emotional wellness
with Coach
Doni Hogarty.

Week 4 – Emotional Wellness

In week four, Doni Hogarty hosted a session focused on emotional wholeness and finding inner peace. The session proved deeply impactful. The women were encouraged to pause and reflect on their personal well-being, exploring how effective self-management can free us from the need to control aspects of life that are, ultimately, beyond our control.



Work Ready Stars Shine at Halfway Toyota

We are delighted to share the progress of several students from our Work Ready Course who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and professionalism.

Siyanda is currently on contract at Halfway Toyota Howick. He has shown exceptional dedication and a strong work ethic, earning praise from management for his hands-on approach.

Balungile and Thandazile have made a significant positive impression. Manager Mr Glenn commended their professional appearance, reliability, and valuable skill sets, noting they are a real asset to the business.



131 Lives Engaged

At the Dream Centre, we empower our community through skills development and practical pathways to employment. Here's a snapshot of our progress over the past two months:

Student Engagement

- **131** Students' lives transformed through the Dream Centre Courses
- Courses conducted: Work Ready, Office Admin, Sewing, Agriculture, Computer Literacy, and Home-Based Care



Spreading the Mandela Day Spirit!

Love Toti celebrated their very first Mandela Day with a special mission: to spoil some of the incredible people in their community who face great adversity every day.

The team headed over to Jona Vaughan to throw a surprise party in their honour! They created a joyful afternoon filled with treats and gratitude, reminding each occupant and staff member just how valued they are.

Everyone felt truly celebrated for all the joy and beauty they bring to our great town. A huge thank you to all who helped make this day so memorable!

Let's continue to make a difference, every day.



A Fresh New Look for the Bird Sanctuary

The revitalisation of the Amanzimtoti Bird Sanctuary continues! Following our successful community clean-up, you can now come and check out our newly uplifted signage at the sanctuary. This exciting upgrade marks the next phase in our year-long project to restore this cherished local landmark.



Changing Potchefstroom's Narrative – Another Video Done!

What a refreshing experience it was to spend some time at the beautiful Makojalo Venue & Guest Farm for our narrative-changing video. Thank you to Bernadette Engelbrecht for adding your voice and encouraging the people of Potchefstroom to love one another.

Venues like Makojalo play such a pivotal role in our local economy and tourism. They are, in many cases, the first glimpse visitors get of our beautiful town and its people.

In the video, Bernadette shares how Makojalo is a place for people to connect, find calm, and escape life's busyness. She also touches on what makes Potch so special: **its people**. It was the community that opened their hearts to her and her daughter, welcoming them into their lives and homes. It's a powerful reminder of the importance of giving back and being an active part of our community.





25,000 meals packed!

As part of our Mandela Day initiatives, Love Potch volunteers joined forces with Mooi Rivier Mall and Rise Against Hunger Africa to pack a staggering 25,000 meals for crèches in our communities.

It was absolutely amazing to see the hope a simple meal can bring to a child's face—not to mention the hope and financial relief this initiative brings to communities across our country.

It was a true privilege to see our volunteers in yellow go the extra mile, bringing their joy to the packing lines. Some even brought their children along to lend a helping hand.



A Friendship Blooms

Have you ever found yourself becoming friends with the most unexpected individuals?

Hinterland and Protek have teamed up and reached out to Love Potch with a generous donation towards our town and its beautiful green spaces. It is a partnership that beautifully illustrates how new connections can blossom into something that benefits our entire community.

Thank you for Loving Potch! Together, we can change this country, and it starts with simple relationships like these.



A Heartfelt Thank You to North-West University

A sincere thank you to the North-West University for allowing Love Potch the opportunity to engage with students on the Potchefstroom campus to drive our volunteer program.

We are thrilled to see students from all over joining the momentum of positive nation-building.

A Park Transformed by Community Spirit!

The residents of Van Der Hoff Park have shown just how much they Love their park. A brilliant mix of lawyers, physios, stay-at-home moms, and children of all ages came together for a massive clean-up event. Thanks to this incredible effort, we cleared a staggering **5,000m² of land!** The work didn't stop there – we also removed invasive plant species and laid out a charming new path, giving this green space a new lease of life.

A massive thank you to every local and even passers-by who joined the momentum. It truly takes a village to raise a park, and your energy is transforming Potchefstroom.

A special shout-out to Johané van Dyk from The Go-To Guy for writing a fantastic, in-depth article about our initiative and addressing the community's questions. You can read the full piece on their website.

[Read the Article: Love Potch and JB Marks Municipality Unite to Transform Local Area](#)



The Go-To Guy



Something Special is Taking Form on the Bult!

A vibrant wave of creativity is sweeping through Potchefstroom! Love Potch has teamed up with talented local artists and businesses to create a series of spectacular murals. These stunning works of art are set to inspire and captivate students and visitors alike, adding a fresh burst of colour and energy to our beloved city.

A special well done and thank you to the incredible volunteers, students, and Eduvos staff who joined in the creative fun.

Together, we are making Potch a more beautiful and inspiring place for all.





Changing Potchefstroom's Narrative: Bafenyi Trust is Changing Lives in Promosa!

What a privilege it was to join the incredible team at the Bafenyi Trust and capture their work for our narrative change video. This is a grassroots movement worth getting behind!

From the smallest baby to the oldest gogo, every person is handled with so much love and compassion. Through their four core programs – after-school care, kids' clubs, a feeding scheme, and adult programs – Bafenyi is dedicated to both meeting immediate needs and fostering long-term transformation.

As their video so beautifully states, "It takes a team to make the dream work." Bafenyi's work is a powerful testament to the Potchefstroom spirit: a community with a heart for its people, taking initiative and taking hands to lift each other up.

We truly believe that together, we can see our people thriving and winning in life.

Mandela Day Acts of Kindness: Igniting Hope Through Gratitude

This Mandela Day, the Love Paarl embraced the true spirit of 'Ubuntu' and service by honouring the frontline heroes who work tirelessly for our community. In a small gesture of profound thanks, we delivered **freshly baked muffins to those who serve with dedication and courage every day.**

This token of appreciation was our way of acknowledging their invaluable contributions and thanking them for their consistent hard work. We believe that even the smallest act of kindness can ignite hope, renew expectation, and motivate our community's servants to continue their vital work.

We are proud to be part of this movement in South Africa, creating change one small step at a time.



Our kind volunteers visited:

- TC Newman Clinic
- Paarl Police Station
- Drakenstein Municipality
- Paarl Home Affairs
- Drakenstein Traffic Department
- House Bethany, Paarl



Work Ready Pilot: A Promising Start!

Our first Work Readiness course has begun with five inspiring young adults. We are already celebrating brilliant news: two participants are now in full-time employment! Cleo works in a school kitchen, and JP is thriving as an assistant chef. Our students have served at Bethany House Shelter, begun internships at The Gathering café, and are learning to set goals and manage emotions.

A special thank you to our volunteers from Every Nation Church and to Karen Stemmet, Neels Ackermann, and Martie Bleaker for sharing their expert knowledge on work ethic and job-seeking.



A Transformative Entrepreneurship Course

We were truly honoured to host the esteemed entrepreneur, Bill Taylor, for a dynamic three-day Entrepreneurship Course. The workshop was a resounding success, equipping ten aspiring business minds with the tools and confidence to pursue their dreams.

Over the three days, participants immersed themselves in expert knowledge, presenting their business plans for constructive assessment. The atmosphere was charged with purpose and possibility as Bill's seasoned guidance ignited hearts, minds, and hands.

We are delighted to announce that all ten participants successfully completed the course. We feel truly blessed to have had such invaluable expert advice shared so generously.



Barista Training & Internships: Brewing Futures

We are delighted to share some uplifting news from our Barista Training program. It is a joy to see our students gain valuable skills and go on to thrive in local businesses.

We trained another aspiring Barista, who has since been proudly employed by Stony Brook Bed & Breakfast in Franschhoek.

We raise a cup to each of these hardworking individuals and extend our sincere thanks to the local establishments that partner with us to create these opportunities. Together, we are brewing brighter futures.



Volunteer Days at House Bethany Shelter

As part of our ongoing commitment to service, a group of our students recently spent a rewarding day volunteering at House Bethany Shelter.

They assisted in preparing a warm lunch for the residents and spent time in heartfelt conversation with those who call the shelter home. The afternoon was a beautiful reminder of the power of simple human connection, filled with kindness and shared moments.



'Maid-of-Honour' Women's Breakfasts

We were delighted to host two beautiful breakfasts to honour the incredible women who serve as housekeepers in our community.

Each guest was invited to bring a friend and enjoy a full English breakfast in a setting dedicated entirely to them. The mornings were filled with heartfelt appreciation, affirmation, and encouragement, as we celebrated their invaluable contribution to Paarl.



It was a joy to treat these remarkable women as the honoured guests they truly are.

The Beauty of the Work We Do

Five years ago, in the grips of a hard lockdown during the COVID pandemic, we were fortunate to provide food to so many of our community members. Community building is at our core, and today, we are still helping this fabulous human being, who is single-handedly raising seven orphans.

Gogo Makhaya has always touched our hearts, as she would fall to the ground in prayer and gratitude whenever we offered help and support. Humble and faithful, she is a quiet gem in our community, trying to make a difference in these children's lives.



A few pictures were taken during lockdown

Words cannot express our gratitude...

Goodness gracious! This community, and the incredible team from Link Clean Pro, went above and beyond to help Love Notties for Mandela Day. They faced a mammoth task: cleaning our shop from top to bottom with no water, involving a massive declutter and clean-out that took eight hours. This incredible team got stuck in with such wonderful energy.

A huge thanks also to Village Café at Nottingham Road for the gorgeous cupcakes for our Mandela Day volunteers and the delicious coffees from the kiosk.

Thank you to Nottingham Road Hotel who popped in with pizza for our volunteers!

To all our wonderful Notties community members who gave their time and energy, thank you for your Mandela Day contributions. Each one of you is seen and appreciated enormously.

Nottingham Road is truly a special place where the community knows how to support one another. We are so fortunate to call this home.





A Culture of Learning in Notties

Thanks to the great team at Farm Parts in Mooi River for hosting Husqvarna for an informative session on chainsaw and brush cutter maintenance. We love connecting those who can share knowledge with those who are eager to learn!

A huge thank you to Husqvarna for offering to lead the session; we truly value the partnership.

Our Love Notties Dream Centre is always seeking new ways to upskill our community.



FARM PARTS 
SALES | SPARES | SERVICES | REPAIRS



A Splash of Colour for Our Shelter

We've been brightening up our community!

A fresh coat of paint has given the local bus shelter a wonderful new lease of life.

A huge thank you to Wiseman and his team for their valuable time - we love your commitment to community.





A Heartfelt Thank You to Kate Hempton

We extend our deepest gratitude to Kate Hempton for taking the time to lead a special session on environmental awareness for our Dream Centre students.

Her passion, valuable insights, and thoughtful guidance inspired our students to think critically about their role in protecting and caring for our precious planet.



Congratulations, Lihle!

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible success of Lihle Nombulelo Khumalo, who has secured a fantastic new job through our Work Ready Program!

In Lihle's own words:

"The Work Ready Program helped me develop valuable skills like communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and time management, which are essential in any workplace. It prepared me for the job market, built my confidence for interviews, and enhanced my employability and growth mindset. What inspires me most is learning new things, overcoming challenges, achieving difficult goals, and helping others."

A Celebration of Our Heritage

Our students had a wonderful time celebrating Heritage Day—a beautiful reminder of the rich cultures, traditions, and stories that shape who we are.



From vibrant outfits to shared traditions, it was a day filled with pride, joy, and unity. We are so proud of our learners for embracing and honouring their roots, whilst celebrating the diversity that makes our community so strong.

Here's to keeping the spirit of Heritage Day alive every single day

nottingham road.

KWAZULU-NATAL



Love Notties in Action!



Our dedicated clean-up crew was back on the road for a good clean-up along the R103 from Notties to Rosetta. They are at it again – keeping our environment clean, green, and pristine! Well done, team!

Our Incredible Community

We just love a community that works together for the benefit of all! A huge thank you to Jacky and her team from Midlands Garden Centre and the amazing team from the NBA, who spruced up our planters in the village. It is such a pleasure working with such community-orientated businesses.



A Huge Thank You for a Cleaner, Greener Notties!

In celebration of World Cleanup Day, our incredible community came together for a beautiful big spring clean. A heartfelt thank you to every resident who rolled up their sleeves—this was a true display of community spirit!

This event would not have been possible without our local heroes:

- Notts Fuel and Gas for the bold t-shirts.
- Point S for the vehicles and drivers.
- Guardian Hygiene Safety & Umngeni Municipality for the bags and gloves.
- Barry Veenstra for the refreshing water.
- Earth Route Market for the fabulous collaboration.

A special mention to the dedicated Love Notties team for their hard work in making it all happen. It's so important as we work together to keep our village clean for everyone.



Hot conversations - cool facts!



A massive thank you to everyone who made our Love Notties event so special! We are filled with gratitude for the powerful connections forged while celebrating midlife and menopause.

We couldn't have done it without our amazing partners:

- Notties Hotel
- Kirsten Venning Physio & Dr. Peprah
- Hayleigh Hodgson Stanistreet

Turning Frustration into Fixes

Love Mangaung were, like so many, fed up with potholes. So, they launched GAT-vol—a bold, community-powered pothole repair program that gets it done.

For just R150 per bag of cold mix, they cover labour, transport, and materials, while providing work, food, and skills training for the homeless.

The community response has been explosive! They've:

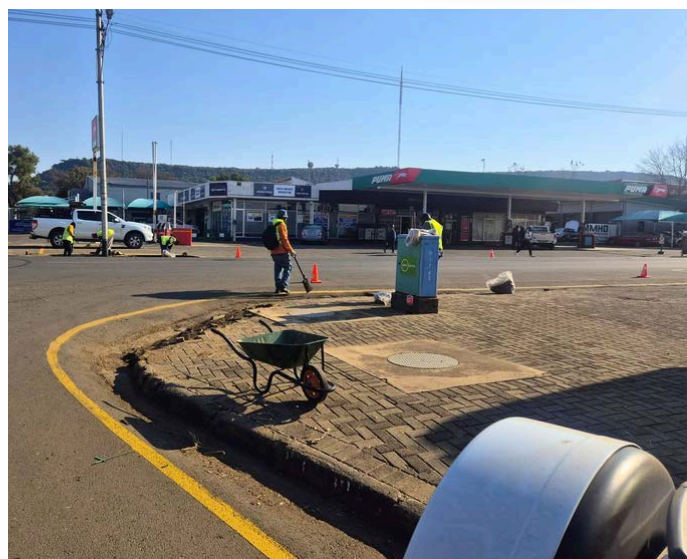
- Repaired dozens of potholes across Bloemfontein.
- Mobilised businesses in a friendly "Pothole Challenge."
- Equipped and trained a dedicated team from their Food for Work program.



This incredible progress is thanks to the generous support of businesses like the Hilton Business Association, Skyband Communication, Iclix, Mega Paints, and Raubex Group, as well as every single individual who has sponsored a bag. Your partnership is rebuilding your city, one pothole at a time.



A Huge Thank You for a Cleaner, Greener Mangaung!



United Businesses for a Better City

What an inspiring morning! Love Mangaung's Business Breakfast marked the exciting start of real connection, collaboration, and community growth.

The energy was palpable as local leaders came together with a shared mission: to network, take action, and be part of the real change we want to see in our city.

A special thank you to these incredible VIP guests for sharing their insights:

Naka Drotské | Harold Verster | Helgard Muller | David Wesso | Dr Ferdi Wesso

A huge heartfelt thank you to **Gavin, Jaco, and the entire Minnie's Pizzeria team** at Bays Village for the amazing hospitality and the delicious food that powered our conversations.



Love in Action!

This Nelson Mandela Day, the community came together in an incredible display of unity and action. In the spirit of Madiba's 67 years of service, volunteers, sponsors, and the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality joined forces to make a visible difference across our city.

A huge thank you to the volunteers from **Iclix** and all community members who rolled up their sleeves to clean up and restore our city.

In a powerful collaboration with **Mr Central SA** and the **Angel Foundation**, Love Mangaung spent 67 minutes at the Reenboog Old Age Home. The impact was transformative:

- **Major Upgrades:** Shelter restoration, landscaping, and the planting of new trees and flowers.
- **Enhanced Security:** A new fence and guard house were erected.
- **Community Care:** Charitable gifts were handed out to the elderly, bringing joy and comfort.
- **Essential Repairs:** Potholes around the premises were fixed.
- **A Fresh New Look:** With paint sponsored by **Build it Corner**, we painted garden benches and revitalised spaces.

This incredible impact was made possible by our generous sponsors: **IMPA Paints**, **Build it Corner**, and the wonderful business and property owners of **Arboretum**. A special thank you to the members of Arboretum for your vital contributions!



Love Thornhill Bridges the Gap for Local Youth

In a proactive move to empower the next generation, the local community group Love Thornhill recently held a dedicated event to support young people in accessing vital educational bursaries.

It came to light that many in the community were unaware of the bursaries available from the local Windfarm Community Trusts, or were finding the application process and its required documentation a significant hurdle. In response, Love Thornhill organised a two-part initiative to demystify the process.

The first session was an information workshop, clearly outlining the specific requirements of the trusts and providing a step-by-step guide on how to apply. Understanding that guidance is often needed beyond theory, the group followed this with a practical assistance session the following week. Here, volunteers worked one-on-one with attendees to help them compile and submit their applications.

The event was a resounding success, with 40 young people participating. Thanks to this direct support, Love Thornhill successfully facilitated the submission of 22 applications for various bursaries and skills development programs.

This initiative not only provides a tangible path for these learners to develop their skills but also brings them a crucial step closer to realising their dreams, strengthening the fabric of the entire Thornhill community.



Stitching a Sustainable Future

Our sewing initiative continues to weave a powerful story of empowerment and sustainability.

- **Giving Back:** In 2024, a group of six trained women sewed over **150 school uniforms**, which were donated to two local primary schools in Winterton.
- **Building Enterprise:** The group is now sewing and selling school sports uniforms for R280 each. To instil the values of saving and financial responsibility, the participants contribute towards the total cost of the food parcels they receive from the program.
- **Growing Capacity:** We have received a donation to purchase **two industrial sewing machines**, significantly boosting our production capabilities. Inspired Hope handles the embroidery on the sports uniforms, ensuring a professional finish.
- **Community & Training Support:** We are grateful for the sewing materials donated by the Winterton Rates Payers Association. The project is currently training **two new students** in a two-month intensive course.





Cultivating Self-Sufficiency

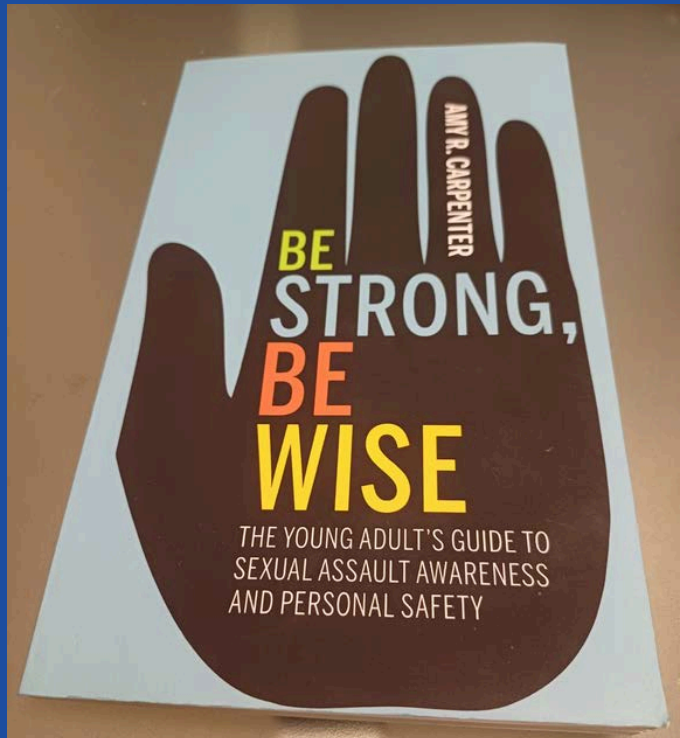
In partnership with members from the USA Memphis Baptist Church, we have built a seedling nursery at our centre. The primary aim is to support our garden program and promote household gardens, particularly among families who receive food parcel support.

We are also selling affordable seedlings to the wider community, making it easier and cheaper for everyone to grow their own food and enhance local food security.



Empowering Our Youth

Our prevention program continues to make a difference by empowering young people. We have successfully delivered the Be Strong Be Wise Sexual Assault Curriculum to **170 youth** across four areas in the Okhahlamba Local Municipality, equipping them with crucial knowledge and personal safety skills.



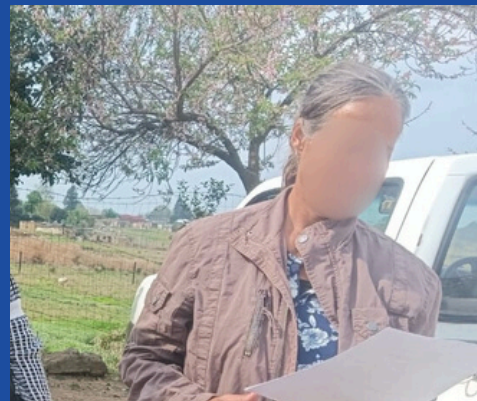
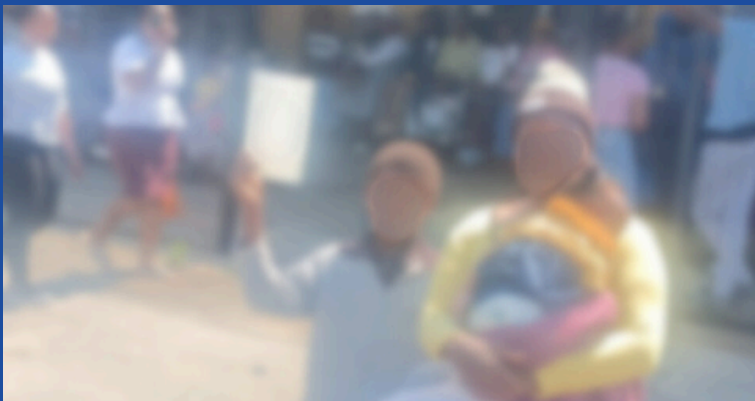
Nourishing Our Community

Through our vital partnership with the Winterton Matthew 25 Ministries, local farmers, and churches, we continue to provide essential food relief to families in need. Inspired Hope's role involves:

- Identifying and assessing needy families.
- Distributing food parcels.
- Conducting follow-up visits and assisting with identity document applications.

Recent Impact:

- August 2025: 70 families benefited
- September 2025: 70 families benefited



Building Tomorrow's Education Leaders in Mpophomeni

selected educators from four Mpophomeni schools will participate in professional Masterclasses through our EduProject program. These sessions focus on leadership development and classroom excellence.

Key components of the program include:

- Literacy development using the **LEGO Six Bricks** approach
- Key occupational therapy classroom inputs
- Emotional wellbeing and **Social-Emotional Learning**
- **Digital inclusion** and **financial literacy**
- **Personal leadership development**
- **Food security** training



Our Business Accelerator ECD leaders from Mpophomeni recently visited top pre-schools in Pietermaritzburg - Clivia, Sunnylea and Settlers Park Pre-Primary. This exposure provided fresh ideas and valuable mentorship, strengthening early childhood education in our region.



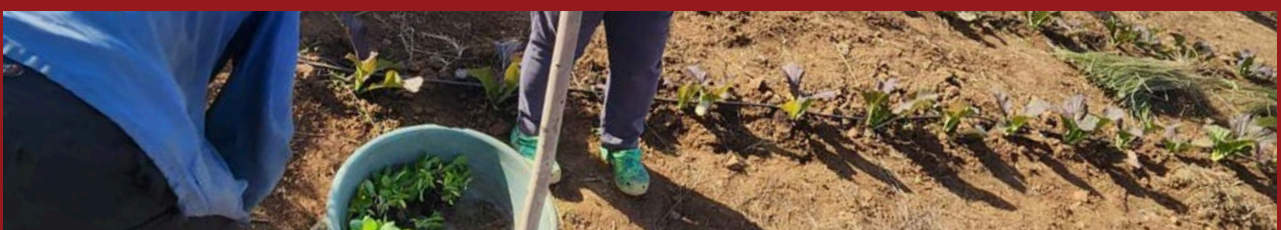
Sowing the Seeds of Change: Uplifting Rural Farmers



A new collaboration under Love Mkhondo is empowering local subsistence farmers. Dipuworx and Simply Rooted have joined forces to teach communities how to grow their own organic vegetable gardens, ensuring food security for their households.

The initiative provides training in cost-effective, organic methods—such as soil restoration and natural pest control—that forego expensive chemicals. The goal is not only to put food on tables but also to identify and inspire farmers with the potential to grow their gardens into small, income-generating businesses.

While the project is newly established, its mission is clear: to instil confidence and provide the knowledge for people to transform their own circumstances, one garden at a time.



My Walk: South Africa's Winning Step Forward

At a time when good news is so welcome, the My Walk Initiative is a brilliant South African success story.

This project tackles two problems at once: providing school shoes for children in lower LSM schools and repurposing hospital waste. Supported by Netcare and Adcock Ingram Critical Care, My Walk recycles uncontaminated PVC drip bags and tubing into durable, recyclable school shoes, donated free to learners.

The impact is profound. A pair of shoes does more than complete a uniform; it restores dignity and boosts a child's confidence and school experience. Since it began, My Walk has recycled over 100,000 kg of waste and given away more than 250,000 pairs of shoes.

It's a true win-win, protecting our environment while supporting our children's future—a wonderful example of South Africa getting it right.



become a partner.

Join our growing network of dedicated organisations committed to community transformation. If you or your organisation is passionate about making a meaningful impact and wishes to collaborate with like-minded partners, we'd love to hear from you!

Providing passionate community activists with training, strategic direction, resources, a help desk, events, project toolkits, financial and legal support, links to partners and MORE!

To explore partnership opportunities, please visit our website at www.lovecities.org.za or contact us directly via email at hello@lovecities.org.za





**APPLY
NOW
FOR 2026**

GAP YEAR PROGRAM

Inspiring. Equipping. Connecting the Next Generation of City Changers.

What You'll Do

- Be part of real **city transformation initiatives**.
- Develop practical skills in **leadership, project management, and social innovation**.
- Receive **one-on-one mentorship** from experienced community practitioners.
- Build a powerful network of like-minded peers and leaders.
- Access a **launch pad** for your future in community development.

Program Info

- **Duration:** 10 Months (Feb – Nov 2026), 3-month options available
- **Location:** Howick, KZN
- **Cost:** R 2800 per month
- **Cohort Size:** Limited to 10 Interns



How to Apply

Send your bio and a motivation letter to:

- Email: info@lovehowick.org.za
- Deadline: 30 November 2025

www.lovecities.org.za

LEAD.inc

online leadership program.

APPLY NOW FOR 2026!

The Love Cities LEAD.inc Academy—a leadership training program in collaboration with NationBuilder— is equipping non-profit leaders across South Africa with practical skills, strategies, and peer support to drive meaningful change in their communities.

Email academy@lovecities.org.za to sign up for the next LEAD.inc co-hort

This course has achieved what therapy could not accomplish in years. In just a few months, I was able to confront deeply rooted, self-limiting behaviours and patterns of self-sabotage, many of which were fuelled by unresolved trauma.

As a leader and project manager, I've experienced a profound shift—I now see things more clearly, with greater emotional awareness, confidence, and clarity in decision-making. **This course has helped me show up more fully for myself and for my team.** I recommend it to everyone on my team—it's been nothing short of transformative."

— Sibhekaphi Sibanda, Project Manager
(READ Education Trust)



Nasha



Sibhe

Over the past five months, participating in the leadership course with Love Cities has been a deeply transformative journey for me. This course has not only equipped me with practical leadership tools but has also encouraged me to reflect on my past, my values, and the patterns that influence how I lead, relate, and respond. It challenged me to confront unprocessed experiences, helping me understand how they shape my behaviour and worldview today. **Through this process, I've redefined what leadership truly means to me—not just as a position, but as a reflection of who I am and what I value most.** It's been an enriching experience, both personally and professionally, and I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity.

— Mdumiseni Simphiwe Nasha (Life Changer)

upcoming.

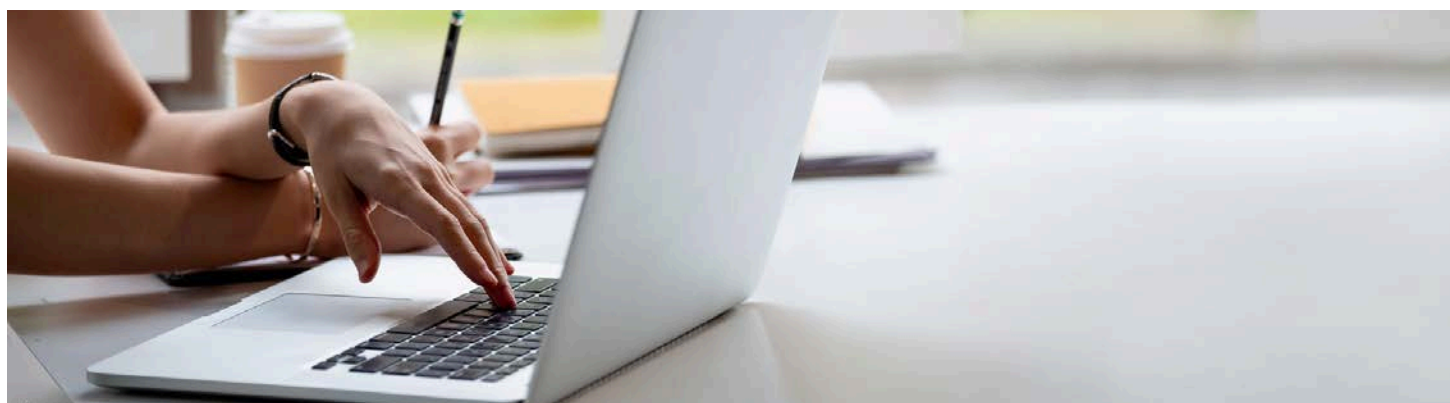
LOVE CITIES SA EVENTS



One of the key ways we support Community Transformation Initiatives across our network is through monthly training and co-lab sessions.

These provide a valuable time for capacity building, sharing of ideas and solution orientated discussions. Please diarise these dates and join us.

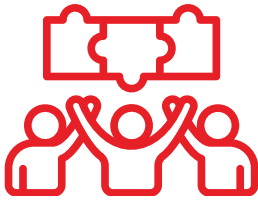
| DATE | TIME | EVENT | DETAILS |
|---------------------|---------------|--|-------------------------|
| 14 October 2025 | 13:00 – 14:00 | Co-Lab | Host: Matt Hogarty |
| 14 October 2025 | 15:00 – 16:00 | Online Info Session | LC Team |
| 28 October 2025 | 08:30 – 09:30 | Training Time: Monitoring & Evaluation / Reporting | Facilitator: Guest |
| 11 November 2025 | 08:30 - 09:30 | Online Info Session | Ian Conolly - FiftyFour |
| 25 November 2025 | 08:30 - 09:30 | Co-Lab | Host: Doni Hogarty |
| 05 December 2025 | 08:00 | Quarter 4 Publication Submission | All Partners |
| 11-14 February 2026 | | Annual Conference in PE | |



support.

LOVE
CITIES

Section 18 (a) Tax Exemption Certificate Available



Participate in our upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.



Consider starting a Love Cities project in your area!



Engage with us on social media to spread the word about our impact and share your stories.



Consider sponsoring a town through our network, providing vital support to kick-start transformation projects.

Zapper™



BANKING DETAILS:

Love Cities NPC

Account no: 630 998 48302

Branch no: 220 725

First National Bank Howick



STAY CONNECTED

Follow our journey on social media for live updates, behind-the-scenes content, and announcements of upcoming events. Your active participation enriches our community and enhances our collective impact



CONTACT US

hello@lovecities.org.za

www.lovecities.org.za

EVERYONE. EVERYWHERE. EMPOWERED.

Love Cities' Programs



PLACE DEVELOPMENT

Creating beautiful spaces, recycling waste, rehabilitating public parks, maintaining infrastructure, urban renewal projects, and promoting environmental sustainability



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Education support services, school outreach, teacher training, work readiness programs, professional skills training, leadership development, and recruitment



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Preventative education to reduce social ills, poverty measurement, community asset mapping and mobilisation, street stores for poor, counselling support, and disaster relief



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Entrepreneurship development, economic growth support in tourism, in-service training to improve labour productivity, agriculture support, and networking events



NARRATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Positive media campaigns, storytelling platform, personal and societal narrative workshops, hosting community forums and dialogues, events that promote community



CONNECT WITH US



PLACE YOUR AD **HERE**

HELLO@LOVECITIES.ORG.ZA

CONTACT US TODAY