



ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022



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WHO WE ARE

As one of the first organisations in South Africa to respond to HIV and AIDS, the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT) has a long track record of making a significant and meaningful difference in the lives of people impacted and in communities with a high burden of HIV prevalence.

Founded in 1990 by the Hillcrest Methodist Church, HACT is dedicated to saving and transforming lives. While our work and services continue to expand throughout KwaZulu-Natal, we primarily focus on eThekweni West, in the Valley of 1000 Hills, where prevalence rates are up to 40%, double the national average.

OUR MISSION

To provide unconditional love and hope to those impacted by HIV and AIDS.

OUR VISION

An AIDS-free future for all.

OUR VALUES

Passion:

To serve with passion, energy and commitment, always acknowledging the privilege it is to be helping others.

Faith:

Seeking to do as Jesus would do: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." NIV John 13:34-35.

'Ubuntu':

'I am because you are' – being community driven and constantly aware that our actions impact on those around us, and that the sum is always better than the parts.

Integrity:

The message and the messenger must be the same, we must practice what we preach and be honest in all things. ' "

Empowerment:

Committed to enabling people to take ownership of their lives through practical and sustainable solutions.

HACT is a registered Non Profit and Public Benefit organisation in South Africa. We are governed by a voluntary Board of Trustees and our team consists of over 90 staff and 30 volunteers. HACT works with a wide range of local and international donors and partners to deliver its life-saving and life-changing projects and services.

WHAT WE DO

HACT adopts a holistic and family-centric approach to tackling HIV and AIDS, striving at all times to deliver practical, sustainable and community-led projects and services which are strategically designed to address the needs and service-gaps identified by and alongside the local communities we serve. Collectively our projects and services directly impact the lives of over 10 000 people every year, the majority of whom are women, orphaned & vulnerable children and young people. **Our Key Focus Areas include:**

1. HEALTHCARE:

HACT offers holistic and comprehensive healthcare services to vulnerable individuals, families and communities which align with South Africa's National Strategic Plan on HIV/ AIDS, TB & STI's. These services, which include; HIV testing, TB & STI screening, home-based and inpatient care for those living with HIV and or suffering from advanced stages of AIDS as well as adherence counselling and ART treatment literacy, are strategically designed to address healthcare access inequality whilst saving lives and promoting dignity and compassion for those living with HIV.

2. HIV PREVENTION & EDUCATION:

HACT is committed to delivering age-appropriate, evidence-based HIV prevention programmes which are proven to reduce new infections as well as inspire and mobilize healthy living advocates. With gender-based violence being one of the key factors contributing to the high incidence of HIV infection amongst adolescent girls and young women across Sub-Saharan Africa, HACT is also committed to delivering HIV prevention programmes which actively address harmful gender norms and stereotypes in an effort to promote gender equality.

3. HIV SUPPORT & FAMILY

STRENGTHENING:

HACT provides targeted psychosocial support to vulnerable and at-risk groups including orphaned and vulnerable children and youth as well as grandmothers caring for such children. Through our pioneering HIV support and family strengthening programming which focus on improving child and parent/caregiver relationships and building sustainable support structures at a household and community level we are able to build the capacity and resilience of both those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

4. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

HACT's award-winning economic empowerment projects help to create brighter futures for HIV impacted individuals, families and communities through practical and innovative skills development and training opportunities which bring about sustainable job creation and poverty alleviation. By focussing our work in these four crucial areas which align with local and national strategic plans as well as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, our team is able to uplift and empower those most vulnerable and at risk within our local, high burden communities. Through hard work, determination and a relentless passion to change the status quo, we believe our projects and services are helping to move South Africa ever closer to achieving epidemic control and ultimately our long-standing vision of an AIDS-free future for all.

OUR IMPACT



164 Patients admitted to the
Respite Unit
(63% passed away with dignity &
respect
37% were discharged)



221 Home-based
palliative care visits



188 Accompanied
hospital visits



105 Counselling
sessions were conducted



115 Caregivers and
125 Children/youth were
supported through
Sinovuyo Family Strengthening
programmes
40 Grandmothers & **40**
Grandfathers attended
parenting courses



Vhutshilo
(HIV Prevention)
45 participants
(10 - 18 years)



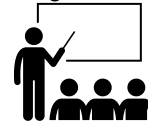
7 staff were employed through
our Izingadi Zethemba Plant
Nursery and Facilities services
enabling them to support
themselves and their families



136 Accompanied
clinic visits



60 Grandmothers graduated
from sewing skills training



277 High School learners
(Grades 9-12) were Peer
Educators within their schools
24 Parents attended Poverty
Stoplight Workshops

620 households received food
hampers
1598 seedlings distributed



264 COVID-19 tests
conducted



350 crafters received an income through
Woza Moya



20 Youth living with HIV
received Adherence Support
(9 - 19 yrs)



654 Adolescent Girls & Young
Women received GBV
Prevention training
(10 - 17 yrs)

42 families were economically
empowered by selling donated clothing
through our Clothing Scheme skills
training



HIV Prevention
391 Youth (10-14 years)
completed Life Skills
programme



1500 Grandmothers from over 60 gogo support
groups across 13 communities were supported and
empowered through our Gogo Support Group
Programme

1566 Gogos received SMS information about
COVID-19, mental health and GBV resources



30 Unemployed Youth
participated in 1-year work
placement internship.

From the Board

As I sit down to reflect on the past year, I feel hugely privileged to have been present to witness the miracle that is HACT. It is an organisation that continued to keep the needs of the community at its core despite the challenges.

The beginning of the period witnessed the tide beginning to turn on the COVID-19 pandemic. Although it was still a huge global challenge, the hope that vaccines brought initiated renewed expectation and optimism. However, with this new hope came new challenges. HACT found itself at the epicenter of the looting and rioting in July, which created more need in the community with food shortages, infrastructure damage and the resultant unemployment. Once again, HACT has risen to the challenge of responding and respond it did, issuing food parcels to those in need, listening with a compassionate ear and offering tangible assistance as resources allowed.

That past year has had its fair share of concerning times for the organisation, but through God's amazing grace and Candace's creative leadership, we came through the period with integrity.

Despite funding issues and a saturated funding platform, we weathered the knocks by doing what the organisation has always done—developing ways of responding to the crisis rather than ways to avoid it.

HACT is a community organisation which has people at its heart. Surviving through this period while continuing to uplift, empower and love people in a practical way is a testament to that. I am proud to be associated with this organisation, which continues to stand meaningfully and compassionately for people.

Julie Hornby
Chairperson
HACT Board of Trustees

From the CEO

The past year has been a testament to HACT's resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to community support. While the world saw the tide begin to turn on the COVID-19 pandemic with the introduction of vaccines, new challenges emerged. In particular, the July 2021 unrest in South Africa severely impacted local communities, leading to food shortages, infrastructure damage, and increased unemployment. Despite these adversities, HACT remained steadfast in its mission, responding with compassion and practical assistance.



Navigating a health-focused nonprofit during periods of pandemic and unrest was both a challenge and a call to action. As an organization committed to community health, we faced unprecedented obstacles—disruptions to essential services, resource shortages, and the urgent need to adapt to new realities. Yet, in the face of uncertainty, we witnessed resilience, innovation, and the power of collaboration, as presented in this report.

From ensuring continued access to HIV treatment and prevention services to addressing the broader health and social impacts of the pandemic, our mission remained clear: to serve, to advocate, and to protect the most vulnerable. The pandemic reinforced the importance of strong healthcare systems, community-driven responses, and sustained investment in public health. It is our prayer that we move forward, the lessons learned will shape a stronger, more prepared, and more compassionate sector. HACT played a crucial role in supporting the community through the ongoing effects of the pandemic. The organisation worked to ensure that vulnerable households received food parcels and other essential support. Field officers engaged directly with the community, promoting vaccination awareness and ensuring access to health resources. These efforts contributed to protecting the well-being of many individuals, particularly those who might have otherwise struggled to access vaccines and healthcare during this critical period.

The July 2021 unrest placed immense pressure on communities in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, and HACT once again found itself at the epicentre of this crisis. Looting, rioting, and the destruction of infrastructure left many without access to basic necessities. In response, HACT acted swiftly, providing emergency relief, including food assistance to affected families and to smaller community-based organisations. Throughout this period of uncertainty, HACT has remained a pillar of support, ensuring that people had a reliable source of help and guidance.

Despite the turbulent economic climate and a highly competitive funding landscape, HACT demonstrated remarkable financial and operational resilience. The organisation faced funding challenges head-on, working creatively to sustain its programmes without compromising its values. Instead of stepping back in times of hardship, HACT remained proactive, finding innovative solutions to continue delivering vital services to the community.

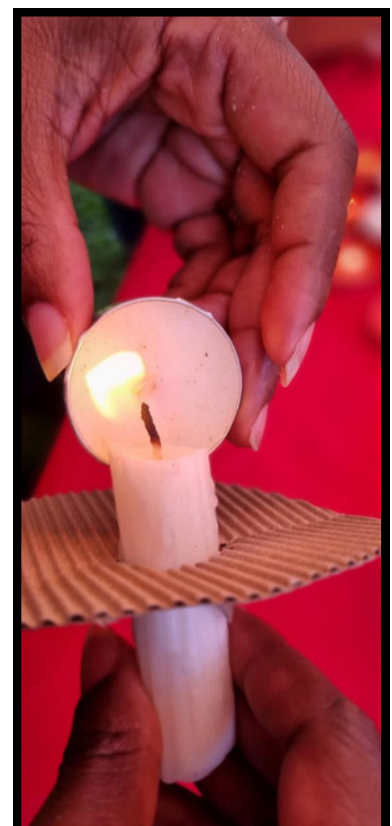
At its core, HACT is a community-driven organisation, dedicated to uplifting and empowering individuals. It continued to provide practical support, education, and skills development, helping to strengthen local communities. Its ability to adapt to crises while maintaining a compassionate and action-driven approach reflects the strength of its leadership and organisational values.

Despite a year marked by uncertainty, HACT has emerged stronger, demonstrating resilience and dedication to its mission. The organisation's ability to respond to crises, uphold its integrity, and continue serving the community highlights its crucial role in supporting vulnerable individuals. With strong leadership, creative problem-solving, and a deep commitment to people, HACT remains a pillar of hope and empowerment.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and community champions. Your generosity fuels our mission, turning compassion into action and hope into tangible change. Every contribution—whether financial, in-kind, or through volunteerism—has played a vital role in transforming lives and strengthening communities.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude and renewed determination, knowing that together, we can continue to uplift and empower those who need it most. Thank you for believing in HACT, for standing with us, and for being part of this incredible journey. Your support is not just an investment in our organisation, but in the future of every life we touch.

Blessings,
Candace Davidson (CEO)





PROGRAMME REPORTS



Othandweni (*Place of Love*) Respite and Palliative Care Unit

HACT's Othandweni Respite Unit, a 24-bed palliative care in-patient facility, remained a vital refuge for patients in need of specialised support. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose difficulties, yet the unit maintained its commitment to compassionate care while prioritising a COVID-free environment. Staff vaccination began in May 2021, with all team members opting to receive either the Johnson & Johnson or Pfizer vaccine, ensuring greater protection within the facility.

As part of our team's collective efforts to raise awareness about the importance of getting vaccinated in the fight against COVID-19, our team has recently implemented #blackshirtfridays and are proudly wearing their "I got my COVID vaccine" shirts to work every Friday. This campaign forms part of a larger partnership whereby our team worked alongside our KZN DoH staff in the latter half of 2021 to deliver a large-scale community-based vaccine awareness and rollout initiative across the Valley of 1000 Hills and surrounds.

The strain on the healthcare system highlighted the increasing need for in-patient palliative care. Many individuals delayed seeking medical attention out of fear of contracting COVID-19 in hospitals, leading to late-stage cancer diagnoses and treatment disruptions. Recognising this gap, HACT reaffirmed its mission to provide essential care for those most vulnerable. However, financial pressures threatened the unit's ability to operate at full capacity.

While the unit has always admitted both HIV/AIDS and cancer patients, there has been a notable increase in cancer cases, particularly those requiring end-of-life care or pain management. Historically, many patients were HIV-positive individuals who had either not yet started antiretroviral therapy (ARVT) or had defaulted on treatment, resulting in critical illness. The increase in cancer cases was also related to the impact of COVID-19 on health services, resulting in an oncology crisis. Before admission, we found many patients had been left at home with inadequate pain control and too many were falling through the cracks with delays in investigations, diagnosis and treatment. Over the past year, Othandweni has become the only in-patient palliative care facility in the region, serving an even broader community in need, seeing a sharp spike in cancer-related care (51% of our admissions).

In general, we continued to have a much higher number of patients opting for home-based care as opposed to in-patient care in our Unit to avoid COVID testing and, understandably, wanting to still be able to see their close family members.

With only three of our nurses having drivers' licenses and the nature of home-based care work which often requires emergency visits and after-hours call-outs, this increased demand for home-based care services presented many logistical and financial challenges for our Respite Unit team over the past year, including staffing challenges within our Unit itself which still operated 24/7 for the many patients who were admitted. However, in keeping with HACT's ethos of being responsive to the evolving needs of our local communities, we adapted our services and schedules as best as we could and remain very proud of our team's hard work and collective commitment to meeting each of our patients' individual needs.

The emotional and physical toll on healthcare workers has been significant. Obtaining adequate food supplies for our services, particularly during varying levels of lockdown, was challenging. Many staff members, already supporting large families, have faced burnout. In response, compassion fatigue training was introduced to provide relief and coping strategies, though ongoing support remains essential.

HACT expresses heartfelt gratitude to the local community and funders for their unwavering support. Donations of essential supplies such as toiletries and food have made a tangible difference. Without the generosity of donors and funding partners, the unit would not be able to continue its life-changing work. The commitment and contributions of all involved have ensured that Othandweni remains a place of love, dignity, and care for those who need it most.

"Being courageous doesn't mean you are fearless. It is doing what needs to be done despite feeling anxious."



SIBU'S STORY

32 year-old Sibu* was admitted to HACT's Respite Unit in late 2021 shortly after her entire world fell apart. In early November 2021, Sibu's 8 year-old daughter died in her arms. ***"I will never forget the night my baby girl passed away. I called the ambulance to come take her to hospital because I knew she was dying, but they told me they were too busy. We tried to get a car, but no one could help us as it was late. The ambulance arrived the next morning, but it was too late."***



Still stricken with grief and struggling to come to terms with the loss of her beloved daughter, Sibu explains how they both fell ill after defaulting on their ARV treatment back in 2019.

"I could not afford to go to the clinic twice a month for our treatment and when I asked the nurses to make our appointments on the same day, they laughed and insulted me instead of helping me, so I stopped going."

Raised by her beloved gogo, Sibu says she still remembers how she sobbed back in 2013 when she first found out she was HIV positive and how she had to convince them both that her status was not a death sentence. ***"I love my gogo so much, she is like a mother to me and I have a matric thanks to her. She cried a lot that day, but still supported me and my sister."***

Thankfully Sibu's own recovery is going well and she appears to slowly be responding to the TB treatment she was initiated onto when she first arrived in the Unit. ***"I am starting to feel better and gaining weight" says Sibu, "for months I had been coughing and having terrible night sweats."***

Despite the tragedy she has endured, Sibu is starting to think of her future and hopes to one day get back to studying. ***"In 2020 I was studying through CareerLinx and trying to find a job in office administration. Hopefully one day I can get back to that. I'm so grateful to be here, the nurses have been so kind to me. They are always smiling, respectful and come to check if I'm OK, they have helped me a lot"***

(*Name changed for confidentiality)



“We are blown away by HACT’s work and the quality of the services it offers to those who are sick and in need of care in our surrounding communities.

It’s an honour for our company to assist HACT in their efforts.”

Mfundo Hlophe, Planning & Procurement Manager

Harsco Environmental, Hammarsdale (Adopt-a-Bed Donor)



“This is such a special place, you can really feel the love, compassion and sense of hope which exists here. Our team loved our visit this morning and we look forward to coming back regularly in future.”

Phillipa Hudson, Angel Paws founder



“Cancer is a terrible thing. As someone facing my own diagnosis, I support HACT because I want to help those facing the same struggles as me and for them to know they are not alone...”

Dumasani Pakkies

Gogo Support Group Programmes

The past year presented significant challenges for the Gogo Support Groups Programme, particularly due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19. Restrictions on gatherings meant that regular group meetings, social activities, and physical exercise sessions had to be suspended. The situation was further compounded by the July 2021 unrest in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, which led to widespread violence, looting, and infrastructure damage. Many grannies struggled to access basic necessities such as food and prepaid electricity. In response, the project team maintained communication with grannies, checking on their well-being, offering emotional support, and reminding them to adhere to COVID-19 safety measures.

Field Officers actively contacted grannies from HACT's 66 Support Groups to ensure they were aware of vaccination opportunities and to address any concerns. The vaccination programme team partnered with local Ward Councillors and Halley Stott Clinic to set up accessible vaccination sites in communities such as South Beach, Ngcolosi, KwaNyuswa, and KwaMashu. These efforts proved successful, with most grannies in support groups receiving their vaccinations. Unfortunately, at least eight members of the programme passed away due to COVID-19-related complications. Despite these losses, the overall impact on grannies was less severe than expected.

In response to food insecurity, **620 households received food hampers and seedlings from HACT**. These donations were well received, with many grannies expressing their gratitude through messages passed to Field Officers. Field officers called group leaders to stay in touch and visited gogo who were housebound.

To expand opportunities, 20 sewing machines were collected from inactive members and redistributed to new sewing groups in Embo, Ngcolosi, Shongweni Dam, and Mpumalanga Township. In Embo, six machines were provided to a group of eight grannies, with a volunteer stepping up to train them. Similarly, in Hammersdale, 14 grannies received machines, including seven broken ones, which a retired seamstress from the group volunteered to repair. Encouragingly, youth participation in these sewing groups has increased, bringing fresh ideas and energy to the initiative.

We saw children and grandchildren helping their gogos register for Department of Health (DoH) vaccination services. HACT often passed on DoH information through to our gogo network to keep them updated on the developments and local health teams often touched based with our Gogo Support Group Field Officers regarding gogos who are most vulnerable, particularly those with mobility issues and couldn't get to local clinics.

With food security a major concern, the project distributed 1,598 spinach and beetroot seedlings to home gardens, ensuring each household received 22 seedlings. Five grannies from KwaNyuswa attended home garden training conducted by HACT Nursery staff, gaining valuable skills to enhance their food production. As a result of these efforts, garden infrastructure also improved. In Embo, a municipality-funded expansion followed HACT's initial fencing project, with a large container installed for storing tools.

A young woman from Embo, Mpume Nikwe, who had attended Farming God's Way Training, shared her knowledge with local grannies, strengthening intergenerational learning. Additionally, garden tools and hippo rollers were donated to 31 households, significantly easing the burden of water collection and garden maintenance.

Several new initiatives emerged from the support groups, including a baking project started by the same group that completed the sewing course. A young granny provided one-day training, after which participants continued practising at home to gain confidence before starting small businesses. One participant was fortunate enough to bake and sell goods for HACT's Ubuntu Ground Café.

The KwaNyuswa Cleaning Project was initiated by grannies who had participated in the HACT Cleaning Up Challenge. Motivated by their success, they committed to cleaning nearby roads monthly. The Department of Solid Waste (DSW) provided garbage bags, gloves, and truck services, and following discussions with local leaders, the official project launch took place in April 2021. Despite rainy conditions, 40 people, including young volunteers, participated, with municipal departments addressing attendees. The initiative has now been handed over to community members for continued self-organisation.

HACT facilitated four parenting courses, two for gogos and two for mkhulus (grandfathers), with participants from Inchanga and KwaNyuswa. Attendance was consistently strong in the gogo groups, with many expressing that the training had significantly improved their relationships with their children and grandchildren. The mkhulu groups, however, had mixed experiences. While Inchanga had lower attendance, KwaNyuswa's group engaged actively, though many felt that systemic government failures limited their ability to influence younger generations.

As part of HACT SInovuyo (Family Strengthening programme) with caregivers/gogo and teens, we became a pilot site for an app version, to facilitate access during lockdown restrictions. Our team, with HACT's Youth Facilitators, also received 5 days of training in July for the in-person programme.

HACT continued to send out SMS messages to 1566 Grandmothers with information about COVID-19, mental health and gender-based violence resources.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



PEER EDUCATION

Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust's (HACT) Peer Education Programme is a flagship initiative that supported 277 high school students (grades 9 -12) across three local schools to become leaders, role models, and advocates for positive change.

Through a structured curriculum, the programme develops leadership, self-awareness, health education, and social responsibility, equipping students with the skills and knowledge to navigate challenges and make a meaningful impact in their communities.

Despite disruptions from COVID-19, local flooding, and political unrest, the programme adapted in 2022, ensuring continued support for participants. It was also challenging to navigate the school closures as restriction levels changed, which included alternating days at school for learners. But the team persevered and key achievements included:

- Debate Competition – The return of the annual competition saw 43 Grade 9 and 10 students debate issues such as teenage pregnancy, social media influence, HIV/AIDS, and peer pressure. The event strengthened public speaking, critical thinking, and awareness of social and health topics.
- Graduation Celebrations – Peer Educators from Grades 9-12 were recognised for their progress and achievements. Activities such as wall climbing, swimming, and games boosted morale and reinforced their commitment to leadership and self-development. The event also marked a milestone: the first-ever matric cohort of 32 students, who had started in Grade 9, graduated after persevering through significant challenges, emerging as confident young leaders
- Our Peer Education staff team (10) were trained to implement Career Guidance within our partner high schools.
- Youth Awareness Campaigns on a variety of topics were held youth, parents, stakeholders and community members.
- Poverty Stoplight Workshops held for 24 parents and subsequent Talk Group.
- Team activities to support food hamper and delivery initiatives



Forty-eight of our Grade 11 Peer Educators (PEs) from our 3 partner high schools took part in a 1-day reconnection event at the Spirit of Adventure based at Shongweni Dam. They participated in a series of fun, outdoor social team-building and leadership activities. For many of our PEs, this excursion represented their first real trip out of their home communities in over a year, and the excitement on the day was palpable.

Highlights of this action-packed day included abseiling, rock climbing, swimming and a river rafting race whereby our peer educators were challenged to work in small teams to build a working raft. Inspired by their own experiences of attending HACT's staff reconnection workshops in October, our facilitators also included a series of other activities into the day's agenda, such as visualisation exercises, which encouraged our PEs to sit quietly and take some time out for self-reflection.

The event was a huge success, and it was wonderful to see our young PEs relaxing, laughing, making new friends and enjoying themselves after another incredibly stressful and challenging year.

Participant Feedback

"Today was the best day ever! I had so much fun and made a lot of new friends..."

"I was scared to go in the water, but we all encouraged and helped each other to overcome our fears..."

"We had a lot of fun today. This year has been really tough and as peer educators we have worked hard, so it felt good to relax and do something for ourselves..."

"Thank you to HACT for making today possible. I had the best day."



In addition to our Grade 11 peer educators' activity, we were able to include **an end-of-year camp for 83 of our Grade 10 peer educators**, which took place in November. Following a sleepover at one of our Peer Education programme facilitators' local church, our PEs enjoyed a fun-filled day at Palmiet Nature Reserve, which was spent hiking, swimming and competing in a series of mini team-building challenges followed by a relaxing braai.

Again, the feedback was heartwarmingly positive:

"I enjoyed being surrounded by nature and spending time with other people again..."

"I had the best time with my fellow peer educators, we had a lot of fun"

"It was good to relax and enjoy ourselves, I like nature and spending time outdoors"



Sizwe's Story

15 years old, Sizwe is a Grade 10 learner at Khabazela High School and one of HACT's Senior peer educators. Sizwe says that COVID-19 has brought him "nothing but pain" and that the past two years have been extremely challenging for him and his family as a result. "First we lost my uncle to COVID, who I was very close to and then my father lost his job, it's been very tough for my family since then..."

Despite these challenges, Sizwe has continued to work hard at school and inspire his friends and peers to do the same through his involvement in HACT's Peer Education programme. "Being a peer educator has meant a lot to me and the facilitators have really helped me to cope with the challenges in my life. They even organised food parcels when my father lost his job and we had nothing to eat at home..."

Speaking of the end-of-year camp he attended last month with his fellow peer educators, Sizwe says; "The camp was so much fun! I enjoyed swimming and the team-building activities the most, it was just a really good day. I'm so grateful to be part of this programme and to take part in experiences like this!"



IMpower: Focusing on Gender-Based Violence Prevention for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW)

The ultimate aim of HACT's IMpower programme is to prevent violence against girls and young women by teaching them how to identify risk, how to say "no" effectively, and if that doesn't work, how to use physical self-defence to escape danger. The programme consists of 6 x 2-hour intensive classes where young women and girls:

- **Gain the mental and verbal skills to prevent attacks**
- **Discover their own power**
- **Understand the importance of risk and situational awareness**
- **Know their rights and how to claim them**
- **Learn physical self-defence skills**



Designed by No Means No Worldwide (a USA-based NGO), the IMpower programme has already been successfully implemented in several countries over the past five years, including the USA, Kenya, Malawi and Uganda. This evidence-based programme has been proven to reduce the incidence of rape and or sexual violence by up to 50%..

The programme covers the following topics:

- **Assertiveness** – Improved verbal skills, how to say “NO” effectively & using your voice assertively as a weapon
- **Boundaries & Body Language** – improved understanding of the use of body language in preventing or responding to an attack
- **Rights & Responsibilities** – improved awareness on your right to defend yourself & the importance of disclosing & reporting abuse to protect others

Feedback from participating girls and young women:

"I feel safer when I walk home from school or am playing with my friends..."

Amahlelanga, 10 years old

"Before I thought self-defence was all about fighting. But your main safety goal when in danger is to get away from your attacker..." Asiphe, 11 years old

"I've learnt a lot from IMpower like how to use my voice as a weapon and not to panic when in danger, but to stay calm so I can focus on getting away..."

Nonkuleleko, 13 years-old

"My mother is so happy I have been coming here, she likes to hear what we learn about self-defence..." Londi, 9 years old

"I have learnt to fight back and that I have power to protect myself..."

Nonthokoza, 12 years old

Lwandile's Story

13-year-old, Lwandile lives in the rural community of Ntshongweni. She was very excited to be selected to take part in HACT's IMpower training programme as she had never participated in anything like this course before.

"When I heard about the programme, I was so excited" smiles Lwandile shyly, "it's been fun and interesting learning how to protect myself."

Lwandile says the training programme has definitely helped to make her feel safer.

"Sometimes you can feel helpless and don't know how you will act if there is danger, now I know how to fight back and keep myself safe."

Lwandile says her favourite part of the programme has been practicing the various self-defence moves they have learnt about throughout the programme.



"My favourite moves are the palm strike and hammer fist. I've learnt you don't need to be big or even strong to defend yourself if you don't panic and focus on the sensitive parts of the body..."

YOUTH WORKPLACE INTERNSHIP



Woza Moya

"For everything there is a season. A time for everything under heaven" Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

As the world returned to normal, Woza Moya tried to make the best of a bad situation as we were still 60 % below our pre-COVID turnover resulting in a massive negative impact on our crafters. Little did we know that we were still at the mercy of what life had to throw at us. Reading this verse, I felt like we had every season thrown at us at once and wondered what more could be thrown at us in a single year.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Although the year was tough, there have been many highlights. Our Artists Wall sponsored by the 100% Foundation, gave wonderful opportunities and a financial lifeline to young artists who were struggling. An order for 2000 beaded mugs for CHEP was a joyous time as we hadn't had a big order for so long, and this was a God-send. We were just so delighted that corporates were making use of local suppliers where it could do the greatest good. It wasn't all plain sailing as many crafters had not returned and were surviving on the Special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress grant of R350. To do an order of this size and in the limited time frame we needed every crafter on board. With much phoning and motivating, we got back some capacity and it has taken an entire year to grow that capacity back to pre-COVID levels. We are very appreciative of those who contributed to our food parcel efforts for crafters. We gave out 4 food parcels to every crafter over the year. This helped but wasn't a solution as things in the community were so tenuous, with households often having 2-3 breadwinners being retrenched. This was one of the catalysts for the riots in June.

Those riots hit just when we thought we were on the road to recovery. After that week, when we were all raw and in shock, all wanting to make sense of this event, we sat and spoke about what happened and interviewed the crafters. Many of the crafters we interviewed were locked in their homes, in fear. They struggled to get food the next week as local shops were burnt and looted, yet some communities had managed to get together to protect their shops. Food was rationed in many homes during that week of chaos as crafters could not leave their homes to find food. Many members of crafters' families directly lost jobs because of the looting, meaning less income coming into already stretched homes. People talk about how little they had already, that COVID has been merciless, that many were surviving on the small orders and the government grant. A crafter explained how terrible she felt as she had taken in a street orphan and at times could no longer feed her as there was so little for her own family. This event has taken more and left even less than there was before - fewer jobs, less resources and more suffering.

We picked ourselves up from that as “it was our time to build” again, we had to re-centre and rediscover our purpose and dig deep and somehow we found strength to carry on and through creativity and creation we found healing. We curated the “*Bloom Where You Are Planted*” exhibition which saw Nobuhle training all our crafters with money from the National Arts Council (NAC) and Mama Africa (long standing customer) and teaching crafters to make flowers. This is a difficult skill and crafters had much fun sitting together and learning how to get the tension right to make the petals and leaves curl. “It was a time to laugh and heal”.... The piece we made – “The Green Goddess” won first place in the Innibos Craft awards and we used the winnings to make one off big pieces and put more work into the community.

Next was a self-portrait exhibition with crafters beading self-portraits. The project was designed to salute and recognise the wonderful women and their families. We started with a portrait drawing workshop run by a volunteer, Savanna. Those portraits were then interpreted into beads. The portraits are fascinating and delightful. Every portrait is as unique as its maker. Every woman depicted is a mother, a sister, a granny, a friend, a daughter. We saluted strong women everywhere. The portraits went on to be exhibited in several locations and at Decorex in Cape Town. When we were donated a whole veranda of trim we decided to give our old storage shed a makeover and turn into the Trim Shack. We also had 10 new additions to the Woza family, 10 feral cats! We eventually caught and sterilized them all and they now earn their keep by helping keep HACT pest-free.

Additional exciting highlights include:

Launching our online shop

Being part of the Beautiful Things exhibition at Graskop

Reaching 10 000 followers on Facebook

Starting a fantastic upcycling initiative with Kearseny College using their unusable uniforms to create bunny Kats and cushions

Hosting a wonderful collaboration with Karen Monk Klijnstra for Durban Fashion Fair

Releasing the Woza Moya song sung by the Ibizo choir

Five movies being made by Qin Dladla with National Arts Council (NAC) funding, featuring local artists and crafters which creates a permanent legacy documenting South African artists that can be used by school children

We continue to learn lessons from one another - in the most difficult time I remember one staff member who had lost almost everything was given a food parcel by a customer and she proceeded to share it with crafters and other staff members. When I asked how she could share it out when she had so little, she said everyone is struggling and I have taken what I need for today and shared the rest. These dark days have taught us a lot, a lot of bad things happened, but these traits shone through at Woza Moya and HACT - Love, Resilience, Kindness, Ubuntu, Strength and Family.

It been a year of opposites and contradictions, of laughing and crying, of breaking down and building up, of mourning and dancing. We have emerged different and ready to grow.

Yours Sincerely

Paula Thomson (Woza Moya Executive Manager)

Connecting During COVID



In August 2021, the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT) was awarded a Social Connectedness Listening grant. Funded by Kim Samuel in partnership with the Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness, the grant was administered and managed by the Synergos Institute South Africa Social Connectedness programme.

Through this generous support, our two key aims were to;

- IReconnect, repair and rebuild the social bonds amongst our 101 staff members and interns whose productivity and overall wellbeing have been negatively impacted over the past 18 months by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the civil unrest and widespread looting which rocked KwaZulu-Natal back in July 2021
- To decrease the social isolation and anxiety experienced by local high school learners whom we work with through HACT's Peer Education programme.

5th – 7th October 2021 Debriefing, Connecting & Team Building Workshop:

Hosted at the Hillcrest Methodist Church, each of our HACT staff and interns attended one of the 3 workshops. The workshops were intentionally held offsite, which not only ensured we had the necessary space to safely accommodate our large groups of team members but also added to the workshop's overall experience and impact.

We are very grateful to have identified and secured the services of a fantastic team of local facilitators from the Imbizo Foundation who specialize in designing and facilitating large team building and debriefing events as well as strategic planning and NGO development & leadership. Together with HACT's senior management, the team from Imbizo Foundation designed a fun and engaging event which centred around enabling our team to reconnect through a series of challenges which had HACT's organisational values of "passion, faith, integrity, ubuntu and empowerment" at their core.

From war cries and archery, to tug of wars and blind-folded painting, each group activity provided an opportunity for our team to laugh, destress and work alongside each other in a new and creative way, which in turned helped to break down many of the social barriers which have built-up over the past 18 months.

Connecting During COVID

Feedback and comments from our team:

"Initially, I was hesitant to attend, but I'm so glad I did! It turned out to be such a special day and so nice to spend time getting to know staff from other departments, some of whom I didn't even know their names previously!"

"As one of HACT's newest staff members, the workshop really helped me to connect and feel part of this wonderful organisation. It was so good to laugh again and get to know new people..."

"The lessons behind some of the activities meant a lot to me. The facilitators explained things so well, I feel much more a part of a team now..."

"I discovered some new things about myself and about those I work with every day. I think I've learnt to be less judgmental of others, we have all had a really hard time..."

"My relationship with my colleagues is better due to the connection we built during that one workshop and now we have a better understanding of one another"



"It was fun to have new leaders for a day and to discover leadership skills in others. I've learnt not to underestimate those who are usually quiet."



What fun and oh how desperately we all needed this! Thank you to the facilitators for making us all feel human again!

As the core group of people who are ultimately responsible for leading HACT and ensuring our wider team remain effective in delivering our life-saving and life-changing community-based projects and services, our aim was to hold a 1-day workshop for our 13 senior staff members in order to equip them with the tools to practice self-care and model positivity and resilience.

For this activity, we really wanted to take our senior team out of their comfort zone and hence we decided to enlist the help of Kaz Wilson, a well-known, local nutritionist, horticulturist and yoga instructor whose restorative retreats and team building activities were highly recommended to our team.

Our senior staff team's reconnection and team building workshop therefore took place with Kaz on the 14th October 2021. Once again, we deliberately held this workshop offsite at the beautiful and serene Eagle's View Yoga Studio located a short distance from our Centre.

In addition to an introductory group yoga session, meditation as well as self-care nutrition talk & demo by Kaz, our team enjoyed some quality bonding time over a delicious plant-based lunch which was made and prepared using wild weeds.

"Today's workshop was really different, but in a good way! I learnt a lot about the importance of taking care of yourself and eating correctly especially during stressful times."

"I found the activities really inspiring... It felt good to take a breather from the office and to reflect on everything we have been through together over this past year."

"Today was very different for me. I have never done yoga before or heard of meditating. It was fun to try new things and laugh again..."

"Thank you for this special time together, we all really needed it!"

"It was great to reconnect as a team. We all have been so busy, it was good to spend time together and remind ourselves that we are all in this together."

"I didn't like the food, but everything else was excellent."



HACT's Santa Dash - Running for a good Claus

On 16th December 2021, the HACT team celebrated South Africa's annual public holiday, the Day of Reconciliation by holding a festive family Fun Run at our Centre's coffee shop, the Ubuntu Ground Café. Over 200 local runners attended the event which consisted of a 5km or 10km run or walk and donating toiletries, blankets, snacks and other festive treats for our Respite Unit patients as their event entrance fee



Our Respite Unit now has its own greenhouse tunnel situated onsite in the HACT Plant Nursery. Complete with its own worm farm, the tunnel is enabling our Plant Nursery team to cultivate and harvest fresh produce which our Respite Unit cooks are using to prepare fresh, nutritious meals for our patients on a daily basis.

"It's been exciting to learn how to make a worm farm and to grow food for our patients. The vegetables are so big and healthy, it works well and we want to now help our gogos in the Valley learn how to use them too!"
Xolani Zondi, HACT's Plant Nursery Coordinator



HACT BIZ



Established in 2019, HACT Biz is a registered Pty (Ltd) company fully owned by Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT), aimed at enhancing the long-term sustainability of HACT's life-saving projects while providing vital skills development, training, and work opportunities for disadvantaged communities. As a 100% NPO-owned initiative, all profits from HACT Biz directly benefit HACT's programmes, supporting our mission to uplift those we serve.

HACT Biz operates social enterprises that are B-BBEE Level 1 contributors, offering businesses the chance to improve their B-BBEE scorecards through tailored opportunities that meet their social responsibility and empowerment goals.

Business success and community impact

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, HACT's social enterprises showed resilience and growth:

- HACT's Plant Nursery achieved a small profit for the financial year ending February 2021, thanks to strategic marketing, the dedication of the Nursery team, and the support of the local community. This success highlights the Nursery's role in sustaining HACT's projects while providing employment and skills development.
- Ubuntu Ground Café completed its first full year of trading, generating a profit of R80,624 despite trade disruptions. The café's consistent sales growth, catering services for private and corporate clients, and support of HACT's onsite Training Centre have all contributed to its success.

Through HACT Biz, we continue to drive sustainable growth while empowering communities, ensuring that our social enterprises not only generate income but also provide meaningful opportunities for those in need.

A photograph of two elderly women standing side-by-side in front of a wooden door. The woman on the left wears a purple turban and a long, flowing dress with a vibrant floral pattern in shades of pink, purple, and yellow. The woman on the right wears a headwrap with a green and black geometric pattern and a matching long dress with a similar geometric design. A large white text overlay 'FINANCIALS' is centered across the middle of the image. In the background, a brick wall and some greenery are visible. A small sign with text is posted on the door to the left.

FINANCIALS

FINANCES

The Annual Financial Statements for the financial year ending 31st March 2022 were approved by HACT's Trustees and signed off by the external auditors, Marwick and Company Inc. on the 7th September 2022.

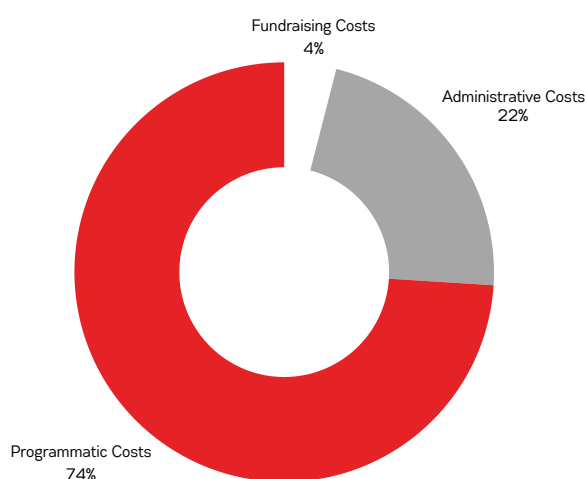
HACT's grant funding income saw a modest increase of 6%, rising from R5,285,952 to R5,615,696 over the past year. However, donations dropped by 21% (R1,105,544), primarily due to the once-off COVID-19 funding received in the previous year, which did not carry over into the current year. As a result, total grant funding and donations combined decreased by R775,800, from R10,577,667 to R9,801,867. Expenditure increased slightly by 4%. The overall impact of the funding reduction led to a shortfall of R946,482 for the year.

Our café, Ubuntu Ground, has performed well and attracted some B-BBEE funding. We expect continued growth in the coming year, including additional B-BBEE funding.

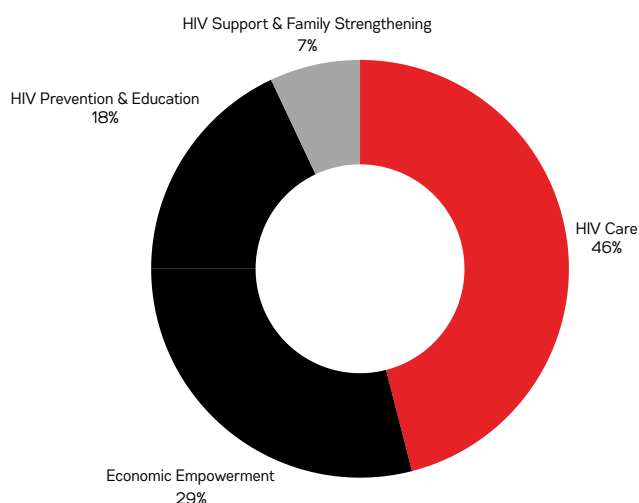
Full copies of HACT's Annual Financial Statements are available upon request.

Expenditure breakdown

Allocation of funds: Where your money goes

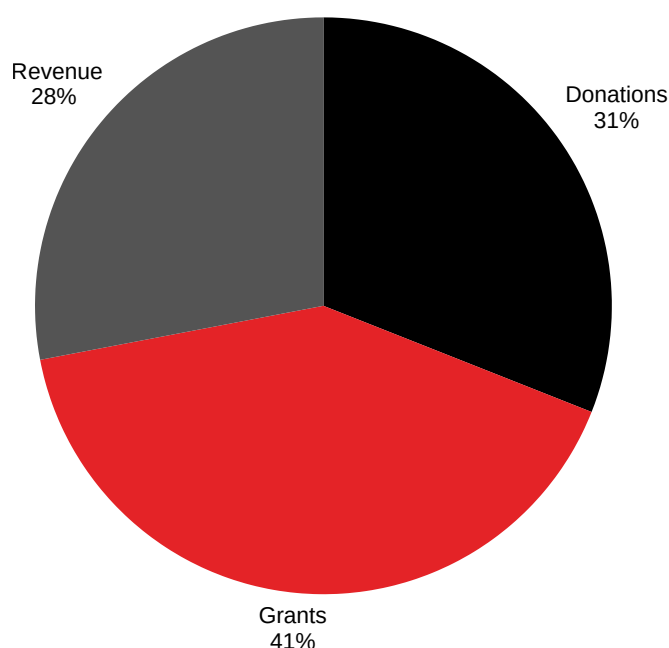


Allocation of funds: Programmatic costs



CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS		
For the Year ended 31 March 2022	2022	2021
	ZAR	ZAR
INCOME	13,662,484	13,869,181
Donations Received	4,186,171	5,291,715
Grants	5,615,696	5,285,952
Revenue	3,860,617	3,291,514
Administration Income	298,586	369,728
Woza Moya Income	3,553,270	2,916,997
Respite Unit Income	8,761	4,788
EXPENDITURE	R14,608,966	R13,154,723
Cost of Sales (Woza Moya)	1,833,378	848,168
Expenses	12,775,588	12,306,555
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(946,482)	714,458



BALANCE SHEET

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
AT 31 MARCH 2022	2022	2021
	ZAR	ZAR
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	4,184,048	4,184,048
CURRENT ASSETS		
Inventories	1,509,950	1,762,967
Trade and other receivables	947,026	639,828
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,850,019	3,305,905
TOTAL ASSETS	9,491,043	9,892,748
EQUITY		
Trust Capital	100	100
Accumulated surplus- Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust	3,979,358	4,900,026
Accumulated surplus- Woza Moya	2,400,640	2,426,452
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	3,110,946	2,566,169
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	9,491,043	9,892,748

HACT BUSINESS (PTY) LTD T/A HACT BIZ

HACT Biz is a registered Pty (Ltd) company that has been created with the aim of increasing the long-term sustainability of HACT's life-saving projects and services whilst facilitating much needed skills development, training and work experience opportunities for those living in disadvantaged communities HACT serves. The current existing services under HACT Business are Ubuntu Ground Cafe and our Plant Nursery (sales and landscaping).

Established as a social enterprise under HACT Biz, the Ubuntu Ground Cafe is inspiring change one cappuccino at a time by providing skills development, training and practical work experience placements to unemployed young people.

Thanks to concerted marketing efforts, the dedication of our hard working Nursery team and the continued support of our local community,

HACT Biz is 100% owned by HACT the NPO, thereby making our NPO beneficiaries the full beneficiaries of all profits made from our business. All social enterprises started and owned by HACT under HACT Biz, are B-BBEE Level 1 contributors.

By supporting HACT Biz your business can boost your B-BBEE scorecard through a number of opportunities specifically designed to meet your B-BBEE and CSI objectives, be they SED, skills development, enterprise or supplier development.



HACT BUSINESS (PTY) LTD T/A HACT BIZ

Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 had a major impact across all our business areas, including our after-school programs, which are catered for by Ubuntu Ground Café.

Despite tremendous efforts from our staff and management team, the Ubuntu Café suffered it's first loss in awhile. Despite the increase of sales, our overheads and cost of sales increased significantly causing the Café to make a loss for the year. The Nursery however, managed to finish the financial year on a small but positive profit.

Overall this was not a good financial year for HACT BIZ and additional business strengthening effort, marketing and cost containing is needed for the new year.

Income statements for period ending February 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
AT 28 FEBRUARY 2022	2022	2021
	ZAR	ZAR
REVENUE	1,350,847	1,265,723
Cost of sales	(522,547)	(353,357)
GROSS PROFIT	828,300	912,366
Operating expenses	(1,052,331)	(914,012)
Finance costs	-	-
UIF TERS	-	29,775
OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)	(224,031)	28,129
Taxation	-	-
PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	(224,031)	28,129
Other comprehensive income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	(224,031)	28,129

HACT would like to acknowledge the generous support of the following donors, partners and grant givers who have played a crucial role in helping us fulfill our mission over the past year:

Our donors and partners

1000 Hills Tourism	Hillcrest Rotary	Optima Management Services
ActionCOACH Marlene Powell	Highway Mail	Pantech (Pty) Ltd
Ainsworth Attorneys	Hollaar - Davidson Family	PerryHill International Trading
Beloved Long Runs KZN	Hornby Family Trust	Philakade Care Centre
Career Connect	Hospice & Palliative Care Association South Africa	PSG Wealth
Careerlinx	Hospice Association of KZN	RB Associated Logistics
Carolyn Nixon	Imbeleko Foundation	RCL Foods Consumer (Pty) Ltd
Cellutology SA (Pty) Ltd	Innibos	Rebekka Stredwick
Chempack Distribution	Isuzu Foundation	Robin Hood Foundation
Child Family Health International	Jes Foord Foundation	Ronald Ingle
CityHill Church	Jordan Maze	Santova Logistics (Pty) Ltd
Dean and Despina Wight	Kent Motors	Saroj Govender
Denis Hurley Centre	Kerry Ingredients South Africa	Siyakhula Sonke
DG Murray Trust	Key Trucks New Germany	SLG (Pty) Ltd
Embo Craft Training Centre Trust	Kloof Round Table 190	Spar Group
Ethekwini Municipality	Konica Minolta South Africa	Synergos
Focus on the Family	KZN Department of Education	Synergy Port Operations (Pty) Ltd
GeoAfrica Surveys Incorporated	KZN Department of Sports & Recreation	Synergy Worldwide Logistics (Pty) Ltd
GeoAfrica Technologies (Pty) Ltd	Linda Wilson	Terrible Twins
George Rotter	Lineage Coffee	The Valley Trust
Gill Browne	Mama Afrika	Thistedown Properties
Global Sourcing Solutions	Margaret Turnbull	Triadco
GMISA	Margie Wilson	UKZN Community Development Association (CDA)
Grassroot Soccer	Marwick & Co.	Ursula Herbert
Grindrod Logistics Africa	Maze Legal Inc.	Villanova University
HACT UK	Meghan Sapp	W & H Smith Family Trust
Haesloop Agencies	Michelle Pugh & Inspire Design	WAG Chemicals
Halley Stott Clinic	Mthuthuzeli Sobantu	Waterfall Methodist Church
Harsco Metal Ilanga	My School	Webdoor cc
Heavyweight Group (Pty) Ltd	Nation Changers	Woolworths (Delcaine)
Hillcrest Baptist Church	Nina Raber	Youth Connected
Hillcrest Methodist Church	Open Door Crisis Centre	

Our grant givers



How you can get involved

MAKE A DONATION

Donate via our website: <https://www.hillaims.org.za/support-us/donate/>

or Donate via EFT:

Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust

Nedbank (Hillcrest)

Account Number: 1147961433

Current Account

Branch Code: 133826

Swiftcode: NEDSZAJJ

HACT is a registered NPO (non-profit organisation) and PBO (public benefit organisation). Contributions are tax-deductible under Section 18A of the Income Tax Act, 1962, and can earn B-BBEE points in the Socio-Economic Development (SED) and Skills Development categories in accordance with the 2013 Broad-Based Black Empowerment codes.

DONATE IN-KIND

Check out our online wish list for our current needs here at the Centre. Donations of new or second-hand books, clothing and household items are also gratefully accepted for use by our various income-generating projects.

SHOP AT HACT

Purchase an ideal gift for that special someone in our Woza Moya stores (or online shop – www.wozamoya.co.za) or pop in and support our onsite Plant Nursery, Charity Shop or Haberdashery. Our creative team also specializes in unique, one-of-a-kind corporate branding and gifting ideas that your clients won't forget!

BOOK OUR FUNCTION ROOM OR CATERING

Hold your next training, meeting or function in our affordable, onsite Training Centre, book an HIV/AIDS Awareness Talk as part of your next Corporate Wellness Day or utilize our Ubuntu Ground Cafe for your meeting or catering requirements.

LEAVE A LEGACY Leave a bequest to HACT in your Will and help us achieve our vision of an AIDS-free future for all

GET A MYSCHOOL CARD Swipe your MySchool card for HACT and help raise much needed funds for our work – it's quick, easy and free to get your card! Sign-up today at: www.myschool.co.za

VOLUNTEER AT HACT HACT welcomes both local and international volunteers – be part of our passionate team and help us make a meaningful difference!

For more info on these are other ways to support HACT, please visit our website or contact our Team on 031 765 5866 or email: fundraising@hillaims.org.za



Unconditional love and hope



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Telephone: +27 31 765 5866

Email: info@hillaims.org.za

Website: www.hillaims.org.za

Trustees

Julie Hornby (Chairperson), Rev Peter Butterworth (Vice-Chair), Dr. Stephen Carpenter, Bishop Linda Mandindi, Rev Gary Thompson, Michael Mkhize, Sbusisiwe Myeni, Portia Mpofu, Silindile Sibiya and Candace Davidson (CEO)