

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023



#unconditionalloveandhope

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WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

Healthy, Empowered and AIDS-free Communities

All off our projects work towards this dream.

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 VALUES

EMPOWERMENT Helping people to take ownership over their lives.

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

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.

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*

Message from the Board

It is indeed an honour to be tasked with the opportunity to write the report on behalf of the Board for the year 2022 to 2023. In my 14 years of being associated with HACT, as a member of the Board, the tempo with which the activities were implemented rarely seems to slow down. As we consider the conditions under which the work and the ministry have been executed, we can only be deeply appreciative and grateful to God and to many who we believe mimic the generosity in obedience to God. To our many partners for their material support and counsel, to all our staff for their diligence, passion, willingness and experience, and to the members of the Board for their time and guidance, we say a very big thank you. Without the combined effort it would not have been possible to touch the lives and make a difference in the lives of so many with whom we **are** able to work.

Our working environment

In three consecutive years starting in 2020 until last year, we had to deal with COVID, looting and flooding. The time between these catastrophic events did not afford the affected communities, families and the local and provincial governments to adequately heal and be restored. We witnessed the decimation of family life, the reduction of employment opportunities and the destruction of homes and infrastructure. It was within this context and against this background, with all the associated challenges, that HACT had to operate. As the attached reports will reflect, amazing life-changing work has been done. The feedback from the many who have benefitted from the activities is an indicator of the value of this work.



**Gary
Thompson**

In addition to the enormity of the socio-political environment, HACT consistently explored ways of generating income, which only partially supported its programmes and services. Even though much is being done, the size of the work remains daunting. But we soldier on knowing we are carried on the shoulders of many in this country and throughout the world.

Going forward

HACT has been in the process of revisioning its programmes in the light of our constantly evolving environment. The 2023 year opened with the leadership team robustly and enthusiastically discussing and debating the current context and the responses through HACT's programmes. After a couple of days of engaging with each other, a new vision was proposed. The new vision is: **EMPOWERED, HEALTHY AND AIDS-FREE COMMUNITIES**. For their dedication, patience, and enthusiasm, the Board wish to encourage them and assure them of its commitment and support as we forge ahead.

With our love and appreciation,

Rev Gary Thompson
HACT Board Trustee

CEO's Report

HACT's new financial year began under dark skies and torrential rains, ushering in a time of immense hardship for our coastal communities. The devastating floods that swept through our province left behind a harrowing trail of destruction: homes collapsed or were badly damaged, roads and bridges washed away, riverbanks eroded, and waterways overwhelmed. Yet beyond the visible wreckage lay even deeper wounds — the heartbreaking loss of lives, the displacement of thousands, and the disruption of countless futures, especially for those who call the semi-rural Valley of 1000 Hills home.

Amid this tragedy, we are grateful that HACT's buildings and infrastructure withstood the storm. However, the pain was personal for many within our HACT family, who experienced the profound grief of losing loved ones, neighbours, homes, and possessions. In the wake of the floods, our team responded with unwavering compassion and urgency. "Emergency response" became our rallying call, as we mobilized food hampers, blankets, and warm clothing to those in need. We provided psycho-social support, conducted needs assessments, visited homes, and extended home-based care, while also working to channel material assistance to smaller community-based organizations. Once again, the crisis revealed the resilience of HACT — the ability to pivot and respond — as we have done for over three decades in the face of the ever-evolving HIV pandemic.

These past few years have tested us all. The global fight against HIV has been gravely endangered by the turbulence of the COVID-19 pandemic, which stalled progress, shrank resources, and put millions of lives at greater risk. Too often, people forget that HIV remains a pressing crisis, one exacerbated by complicated factors such as poverty, gender-based violence, inequality, and stigma.



**Candace
Davidson**

Here in South Africa, and more specifically within the province of KZN and eThekweni (Durban), we remain at the very heart of this ongoing battle. The fight has become even more difficult as over 14 South African hospices have been forced to close their doors due to mounting financial pressures. In 2022, HACT too faced a daunting reality: a nearly one-million-rand deficit that threatened the continuity of our Respite Unit, leaving us staring down the possibility of heartbreaking decisions.

Yet, by God's grace and through the generosity and dedication of many, our doors remained open. Our Unit's services endured. Against this sobering backdrop, HACT's commitment has never wavered. Each day, our remarkable team works tirelessly to address the inequalities that hinder progress in the fight to end AIDS, ensuring that our care reaches those who need it most.

HACT's values and reshaped vision focus us to forge ahead and continue doing what HACT does best, which is to give strength, support, encouragement, education and empowerment.

Daily our dedicated team offers love, care and strength, through a wide variety of ways and projects, to those most vulnerable and with whom we have the privilege of journeying.

As a team, we remain deeply thankful to the community of partners and supporters who continued to walk this journey with us over another challenging year. **We thank you for your ongoing trust and partnership as we continue to put into practice HACT's mission of unconditional love and hope for all.**

Blessings,
Candace Davidson
CEO

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up just as in fact you are doing." NIV 1 Thess. 5:11

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." (Aesop)



OUR IMPACT in 2022/2023



179 Patients admitted to the Respite Unit
(44% passed away with dignity & respect
66% were discharged)



85 Home-based palliative
care visits



153 Accompanied
hospital visits



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



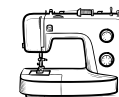
299 Adherence
Counselling
sessions were conducted



124 Accompanied
clinic visits



199 COVID-19 tests
conducted



54 Grandmothers graduated from
sewing skills training

5,400 seedlings were
distributed to 27 Gogo
Community Gardens

29 Adults and 66 Children
Tracked for Adherence
Default and connected
to care



1000 Grandmothers from over 60 gogo support
groups across 13 communities were supported
and empowered through our Gogo Support Group
Programme



350 crafters received an income
through Woza Moya

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



115 Caregivers and
125 Children/youth were
supported through
Sinovuyo Family
Strengthening programmes



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



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



277 High School learners
(Grades 9-12) were Peer
Educators within their
schools



HIV Prevention
280 Youth (10-18 years)
completed Life Skills
programme



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

A woman wearing a red bucket hat with the Nike logo and a red t-shirt stands with her back to the camera, addressing a group of children. The t-shirt has a circular logo at the top, followed by the text "TEAM HACT", a hashtag "#winning", and "Sponsored by Rolando" in a script font. She is wearing a long, flowing plaid skirt. The children are sitting on the ground, looking towards her. The background shows a residential area with houses and trees under a clear sky.

PROGRAMME REPORTS

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

Over the past year, our Othandweni Respite & Palliative Care Unit continued to serve as an essential lifeline for vulnerable individuals in the Valley of 1000 Hills and beyond. Despite the ongoing impact of COVID-19, as well as the devastating floods and social unrest, the Unit remained steadfast in providing crucial palliative care and support to those in need, thanks to the unwavering generosity of our supporters.

The Unit served a total of 195 patients, with 92% requiring in-patient admission and 8% receiving home-based care.

While 71 patients were successfully discharged after recovery, the Unit faced a tragic increase in patient deaths, with 79 individuals passing away with dignity and respect. The rise in fatalities, particularly among terminally ill cancer patients, reflects the critical condition of many patients upon admission.

This shift has placed significant emotional and physical strain on our dedicated nursing staff, who are used to higher recovery rates. Despite these challenges, the team has shown incredible resilience and commitment to providing compassionate care.

The Othandweni Unit faced numerous challenges throughout 2022, but the team responded with adaptability and unwavering dedication. **Following the April floods, HACT sprang into action, providing over 370 emergency hampers containing essential items such as food, water, and clothing, to over 2,200 individuals, including 1,500 children. The Unit continued operations with a skeleton staff while other team members assisted in the wider community**



**Sphe
Gamede
Nursing Services
Manager**

Support for patients and families: Home visits were conducted under challenging road conditions to ensure that patients received necessary medications, food hampers, and check-ups, especially when local clinics were inaccessible.

Recognising the toll of burnout and compassion fatigue on our healthcare workers, HACT prioritised staff well-being through regular Compassion Fatigue sessions, focusing on the emotional, spiritual, and physical aspects of self-care. These sessions help staff reconnect with the empathy and compassion central to palliative care.

“We realise the importance of recognising burnout symptoms and taking the time for self-care. It’s essential for us to be emotionally present for our patients.”

In addition to addressing staff well-being, HACT supported professional growth by hosting an in-person Palliative Care Nursing course in collaboration with the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa and the University of Cape Town. Two of our nurses participated in this year-long training, gaining valuable skills and receiving a specialized qualification in end-of-life care, bereavement counselling, and the principles of palliative care.



“The course transformed my understanding of nursing. I’ve learned how to communicate better with dying patients and to support their dignity and comfort during their final days,” noted C.T Ndwandwe, HACT Enrolled Nurse.

Throughout the year, the Unit carried out 277 clinic and hospital visits, often accompanying patients to ensure they accessed the necessary healthcare services. The team also played a crucial role in tracking and assisting individuals who had defaulted on antiretroviral treatment (ARVs), helping to reintegrate them into care and prevent further complications.

As we reflect on 2022, it is clear that the Othandweni Respite & Palliative Care Unit has remained a beacon of hope and support amid difficult circumstances. The increase in complex cases underscores the ongoing need for compassionate palliative care services, as well as continued support for the mental health and development of our dedicated staff.

Moving forward, we are committed to expanding our services, enhancing staff training, and reaching more patients who need our care.

The resilience demonstrated by the Unit in 2022 is a testament to the strength of our staff, the generosity of our supporters, and the spirit of the communities we serve. With continued dedication, we aim to provide not only essential healthcare but also a sense of dignity, comfort and hope to those facing life’s most challenging moments.



Zanele's comeback

Zanele was a 22-year old young woman from the area of KwaNyuswa. Orphaned from a young age, she had been born with HIV. Zanele's childhood and home life was very challenging because her siblings, who did not contract HIV at birth, would tease her about her HIV status and make her feel alienated and alone. This ongoing behaviour and treatment was very discouraging and depressing for Zanele. Not surprisingly, she hated taking her treatment or even acknowledging her status. As she defaulted on her treatment, her physical condition started to deteriorate.

Zanele was admitted into our Unit for medication default at a time when she was about to write her matric exams, however she was too weak and thin to even consider sitting for her exams. When she arrived at our Unit, she was utterly despondent and refused to take her medication or to even talk about the issue. Tragically, her emotional state was one of absolute hopelessness. Simply put, she had given up and was waiting to die. Having also contracted TB as well prior to her admission, she arrived with severe vomiting and diarrhea. Her CD4 count was very low and her viral load was very high. These factors combined further complicated the treatment plan our Respite Team was trying to develop for her.

As the team dug into her medical history, it became evident that she had had several previous ARV interruptions and had been put on to the 2nd regiment of medication. (NB: In South Africa, although ARV's are freely available, most patients stay on 1st regimen. 2nd regimen is used when patients develop treatment failure for first-line drug regimens. 3rd regimen is not readily available in South Africa unless the patient is in dire straits in terms of their health and there is a lengthy process to access this medication as it requires the assessment by an HIV expert and excessive virology testing).

Having also defaulted on her 2nd regiment we were very concerned that she would not respond well to once again being re-initiated back onto ARVs. To complicate matters, Zanele had resigned herself to die. She was tired of the rejection, tired of taking the medication and tired of the discrimination she experienced from those close to her because she was living with HIV (and her siblings were not).





Despite the odds, our team surrounded Zanele with love, care, counselling and support. It took significant time for Zanele to start trusting and opening up to the counselling process. She still didn't want to take her medication, however we started to see cracks through which hope and a change of perspective were starting to shine. She started taking small steps of progress in eating more and she started making comments about the future. Slowly, bit by bit, she began to believe that she could live, and that she could live with HIV, and that she could indeed have a future.

This was a long road for Zanele, there were no easy answers or quick fixes. She had to find the motivation to not only re-initiate her ARV treatment but to also take a lengthy course of TB treatment. On some days, she would refuse to take her medication or vomit it up with the food she ate. Her weight loss had been significant, so she remained very thin and at one point weighing less than 45kgs.

But, as seen often in the Unit, there was a significant corner turned. Once Zanele grasped hold of some hope and some self-acceptance of her status, she made that critical internal decision that she wanted to live. At this point, she started to recover. She started to sit and talk with other patients. She started to willingly share her story and in turn started to encourage fellow patients and help them to eat. Her physical recovery involved being put back on her treatment and gaining weight but her emotional and spiritual journey was so much more.

When Zanele was well enough to be discharged, she had decided she wanted to go back to school and restart her matric year - she wanted to finish the year well. Just recently, Zanele came to visit the Respite Team to give them an in-person thank you.



PEER EDUCATION

Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust's (HACT) Peer Education Programme is a flagship initiative supporting 277 high school students 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. 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 and 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.



277 PARTICIPANTS

113 Junior Peer Educators
(Gr 9)

90 Senior Peer Educators
(Gr 10)

47 Mentor Peer Educators
(Gr 11)

27 Lead Peer Educators
(Gr 12)

- **Community Upliftment Projects** – Students led outreach initiatives, including substance abuse workshops, youth advocacy campaigns, and volunteer projects, fostering social change and community development.
- The programme's holistic approach — combining mentorship, academic support, and community engagement — has built confidence, enhanced academic performance, and developed practical life skills. The graduation of the first matric cohort underscores its long-term impact, showing how students evolve from Junior Peer Educators into accomplished young leaders.

Looking ahead, HACT aims to expand the programme's reach, refine its curriculum, and continue equipping young people to lead healthier, more resilient lives while driving lasting change in their schools and communities.

The Peer Education Programme remains committed to shaping the next generation of leaders in the Valley of 1000 Hills.



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Grassroots Soccer Graduation & Impact Story

The Grassroots Soccer (Goals4Life) Programme celebrated 4x graduations during the past year at the Hillside Church Sports Field. Each event marked the culmination of a 10-week, 11-session programme, engaging four Grade 5-7 learners from local primary schools.

The graduation events featured a mini soccer tournament, interactive games, quizzes, and drama performances. The drama enactments focused on gender-based violence, teacher-student communication, HIV awareness, and interpersonal skills, reinforcing the program's core objectives.

This initiative has proven to be instrumental in building resilience and interpersonal skills among children, empowering them with knowledge about HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and support. Participants displayed a greater understanding of health-seeking behaviors, gender dynamics, and effective communication with peers and teachers, enabling them to access healthcare and psychosocial support. A remarkable outcome of the programme has been its impact on peer social behavior change, as children influence one another towards positive decision-making and stigma reduction.

In partnership with HACT's counseling team, HIV Testing Services (HTS) were made available on the day of the event for both learner participants and attending family members or teachers.

A Participant's Perspective

Ten-year-old Sye* (not her real name) shared her personal experience with HACT's Coordinator, Pemla Mtshali.

"I loved the games because they helped me interact and make new friends. I didn't know that people living with HIV can't be identified just by looking at them — you need a test to know for sure. This broke the stereotypes I had. I also learned how important listening is and how to interpret messages from my coaches. Now, I feel more confident and informed about protecting myself in the future. I would definitely recommend this programme to my friends because it teaches us important things while allowing us to express ourselves in a safe space."

This success story highlights the transformative power of the Goals4Life programme, ensuring that children in eThekweni West — an epicenter of HIV prevalence — gain the knowledge, skills, and support they need to make informed choices for a healthier future. Thanks to our dedicated donors and partners, HACT continued to create meaningful change in the lives of vulnerable children.

(*Name changed for confidentiality)



Vhutshilo Impact Story: Kwanele's Journey to Healing

Kwanele*, a young boy from KwaNyuswa, initially struggled with severe emotional distress. He often appeared withdrawn, tearful, and reluctant to engage with facilitators or peers. During one session, he became aggressive toward other children, prompting our team to investigate further.

Respecting his emotional space, our team later conducted a home visit — only to discover that Kwanele had been orphaned just two months prior. As the eldest, he had taken on the responsibility of caring for his three younger siblings, with no adult support. Overwhelmed by grief and past experiences of witnessing domestic violence, he felt isolated and burdened beyond his years.

Despite his struggles, Vhutshilo became his safe space — a place where he could feel like a child again, experience love, and receive support. Through counseling and group sessions, Kwanele gradually gained confidence and emotional stability. By the 10th session, he delivered a group presentation with pride and composure, reflecting his remarkable progress.

“This programme has made a huge difference in my life. Our facilitators are kind and patient. Honestly, if it wasn’t for them, I wouldn’t have had a chance to express my feelings. I thought no one cared about me, but through Vhutshilo, I realized there are still kind people out there.”

Kwanele’s story is a testament to the transformative power of psychosocial support, reminding us of the profound impact community programs can have on vulnerable children.

Sinenhlanhla’s Story: Resilience Amid Hardship

Fifteen-year-old Sinenhlanhla* lives in Inchanga with her family of seven children and two adults in a cramped, poorly maintained one-room home. The family struggles with severe poverty, surviving on social grants that often run out before the month’s end. When it rains, their home floods, a situation worsened by the recent KZN floods.

Sinenhlanhla is one of three siblings living with HIV. Her mother, Mrs. Ncala, battling breast cancer, was forced to discharge herself from the hospital, knowing her children would have no one to care for them. She desperately searches for odd jobs, going door to door to afford even basic necessities like bread and tomatoes. ***“It’s hard to concentrate at school when I see my mother struggling. The social grant isn’t enough for food, electricity, or basic needs. Sometimes, we go weeks without power,”*** shared Sinenhlanhla.

Through HACT’s SKILLS PLUS Adherence Club, the family’s dire situation became apparent. The program has provided emotional and material support, ensuring the children receive extra food, counseling, and emergency assistance. After the recent floods, HACT delivered food hampers and blankets to ease their burden.

“Attending GRS SKILLS PLUS has helped me and my family. I take leftovers home so we don’t go to bed hungry. The social workers’ support and counseling have restored my hope. I believe one day our situation will improve, and we will be happy and successful.”

Her story highlights the urgent need for continued support to ensure vulnerable children and families can overcome adversity and build a better future.

(*Names changed for confidentiality)

TRACK & TRACING FOR ADHERENCE:

From July - November 2022, in partnership with Halley Stott Clinic, Love Life, HIV TB Care, and HST, HACT successfully tracked and traced **29 Adults and 66 Children from 81 Families**. These adults and children were identified as having high viral loads, defaulting on treatment, missing medication collection dates, or missing blood work appointments. Through collaborative efforts with HST and Halley Stott Clinic, we **facilitated blood tests, treatment deliveries, and reinitiation of people living with HIV (PLHIV) and Youth Living with HIV (YLHIV) into care**. Additionally, we conducted HIV testing in the communities of KwaNyuswa and Embo, strengthening our outreach and prevention efforts. Beyond medical interventions, we provided food hampers to families in need and distributed school shoes to vulnerable children. During our visits, we identified a critical gap in HIV education, particularly among children with high viral loads. Many had received inadequate disclosure about their status, leading to poor adherence. We stepped in to support parents in disclosure conversations and educate children about HIV, treatment adherence, and the importance of viral suppression.

One particularly impactful case involved a teenager with a high viral load, who admitted that he often skipped his medication on weekends to avoid stigma from his friends who spoke negatively about HIV. He believed that missing doses occasionally would not affect his health. Our team provided intensive adherence counseling, educating him on the dangers of non-adherence, the risk of opportunistic infections, and the long-term benefits of consistent treatment. Through targeted support and mentorship, we worked to change his perspective and reinforce the importance of prioritizing his health.

These interventions underscore the urgent need for ongoing education, psychosocial support, and community engagement to ensure that people, especially youth, understand the importance of adherence and are empowered to make informed health decisions.

Anele & Aphelele's Story

Six-year-old twins Anele and Aphelele have also faced neglect, along with their three older siblings. Their mother, struggling to cope, often left them in the care of their 10-year-old sibling and elderly grandfather, disappearing for weeks at a time. Without their mother's presence, the children missed immunizations and critical HIV treatment. During a home visit, we found them under the care of their older sibling. Recognizing the urgency, we reached out to their grandmother, who immediately returned from her workplace to look after them. With the intervention of a community care worker, a team of nurses visited the twins and ensured they were reinitiated on ART and received their immunizations. Their mother has recently found a job, and our team is actively working to locate and support her, ensuring she can resume treatment and attend counseling to provide the care her children need.

ADHERENCE: Protecting our Loved Ones

Thando's Story

Thando, a 29-year-old mother, faced unimaginable hardship after floods destroyed her home, forcing her to seek shelter with relatives. Instead of finding stability, she encountered abuse, conflict, and trauma, creating a toxic environment for her and her two children (ages 11 and 3). Unable to cope, she made the brave decision to leave, but unemployment and emotional distress led her to neglect her own health — stopping her HIV treatment and missing clinic visits for her child.

When the clinic lost contact with her, our team embarked on a three-day search, tracking her through neighbors and friends. When we finally found her, working as a laundress to survive, she broke down in tears, sharing how the floods had upended her life. She revealed the deep pain of discovering that she had unknowingly transmitted HIV to her daughter and how the burden of treatment had become overwhelming.

Through counseling and support, Thando made the courageous decision to return to the clinic with her daughter, where they were both successfully reinitiated on ART. Thankfully, tests confirmed that her younger child was HIV-negative. To further assist the family, we provided food hampers and school shoes for her 11-year-old, who had been wearing worn-out pairs.

Today, Thando is emotionally stronger and determined to rebuild her life. She has learned that she does not have to face her struggles alone — there is a community ready to support her. She is committed to prioritizing her children and adhering to treatment, ensuring a brighter future for her family. To sustain her progress, community health workers have been assigned to check in on her regularly.

These stories reflect the power of intervention, community, and unwavering support. By reconnecting vulnerable families to essential care, we are not only improving individual lives but breaking cycles of neglect and restoring hope — one step at a time.

GOGO SUPPORT GROUPS

In April, our province faced devastating floods that resulted in significant loss of life and property. Over 500 individuals lost their lives, with some never found. The Molweni area in the Valley of 1000 Hills was among the hardest hit. Many families lost everything, with homes completely washed away. Community members, including elderly grandmothers (gogos), who had just planted winter crops, saw their efforts destroyed. A few of our Gogo's Support Group community gardens were also severely affected. The meeting hall for one of our groups, originally built through a collaboration between the Hillcrest Methodist Church and HACT, partially collapsed. Tragically, one of our grandmothers in Molweni lost her home, grandchild, and great-grandchild in the disaster.



**Phindiwe
Mashiloane
Gogo Support Group
Programme Coordinator**

The compounding impact of COVID-19, social unrest, and the floods has led to a decline in participation in our support groups. Many grandmothers face physical and mental health challenges, trauma, and increased family responsibilities. Our team has worked to mitigate these challenges by maintaining engagement through phone and text support, merging smaller groups, and actively recruiting new members, leading to the formation of new groups.

Sewing Projects

- An advanced sewing graduation ceremony was held in April at KwaNyuswa, where 14 grandmothers graduated and showcased beautifully crafted outfits they had sewn themselves.
- A basic sewing graduation was held in May at ZCC KwaXimba, with 20 grandmothers completing the program — the first group from this area. The event, though delayed due to local customs, was well-attended by community leaders, teachers, and families. Many grannies proudly showcased their handmade outfits, while local leaders encouraged the youth to engage in similar skills development.
- In December, another advanced sewing graduation took place at KwaXimba, where 20 grandmothers completed training in making curtains and bedding. The event also included community discussions on HACT's role, gender-based violence (GBV), and health challenges faced by elderly women, with local clinic staff providing health insights.

Gardening Initiatives

- A total of 5,400 seedlings were distributed to 27 gogo communal gardens.
- Eight households in the Valley received Hippo Rollers and gardening tools, while the Siyaphambili group in Umlazi received two Hippo Rollers along with additional tools for the grandmother community gardens in that area.
- Gardeners faced challenges due to extreme heat and water shortages, particularly in KwaNyuswa.
- The Department of Agriculture visited communal gardens in Molweni, KwaNyuswa, and Inchanga, providing seeds and gardening equipment to support recovery.

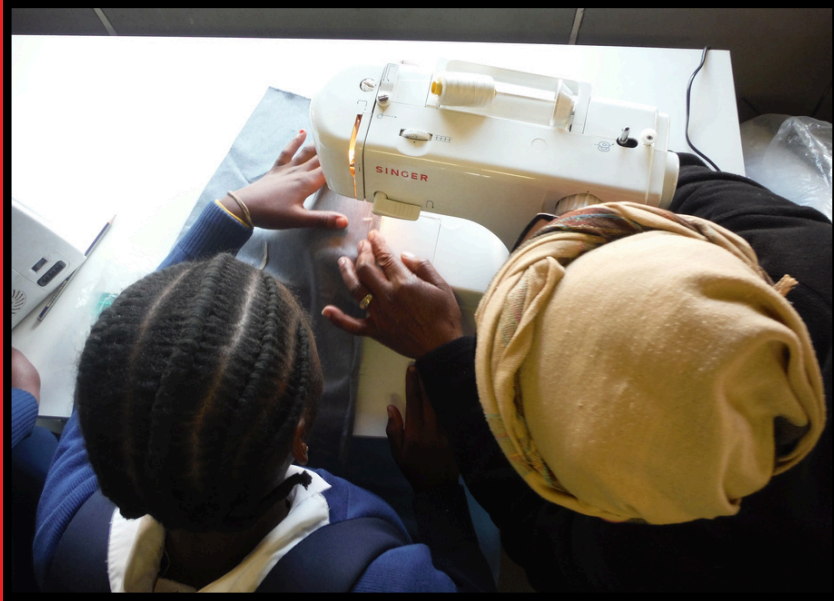
Savings Schemes

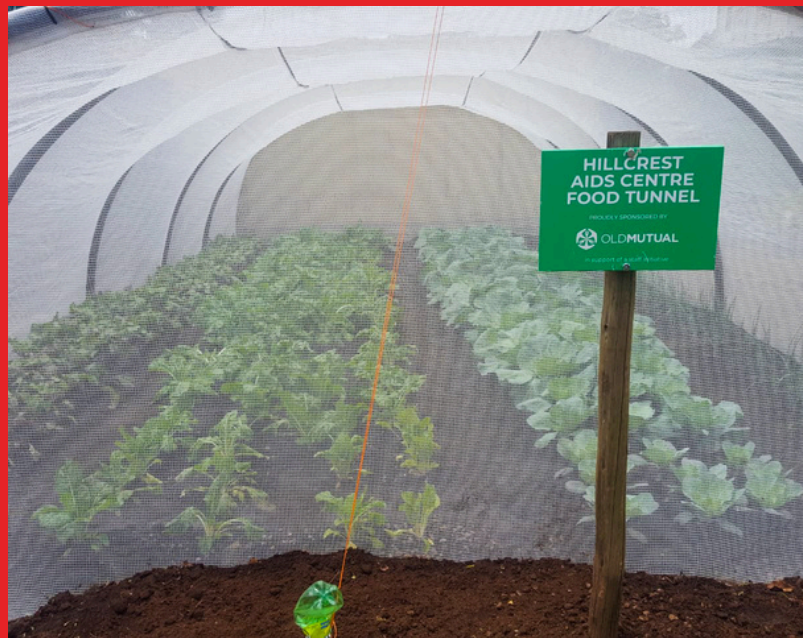
Many of HACT's Gogo Support Groups manage financial saving schemes which assist groups with savings efforts to support their chosen activities. While COVID-19 delayed other graduation ceremonies, there was great enthusiasm as a group from KwaNyuswa successfully graduated from Siyakhula Sonke's savings program.

Workshops & Training

- **Field Officer** Nobuhle Miya attended an Agro-Economy training with eThekweni Municipality and Participatory Guaranteed System South Africa (PGS-SA). This five-month program will enhance market linkages for participants.
- **Team members** participated in a Nutrition Workshop organized by GMISA in KwaNyuswa, focusing on the nutritional benefits of indigenous plants such as imifino.
- The KZN Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture (KZNSAC) conducted **Golden Games training in multiple areas**, including Hammersdale, Skhelekehleni, Shongweni Dam, Embo, KwaNyuswa, KwaNgcolosi, Inchanga, and Molweni ahead of the 2023 Gogolympics in August.
- In February, **28 coaches** from KwaXimba were trained by KZNSAC to prepare grandmothers for the 2023 Gogolympics. Each coach received sports equipment to facilitate training sessions in their communities.

In conclusion, despite the numerous challenges faced this year, the Grandmother Support Groups continue to show resiliency and strength. Through ongoing collaboration, we have maintained vital support systems, expanded training initiatives, and adapted to evolving needs within our communities. Looking ahead, we remain committed to empowering and uplifting the grandmothers we serve.







Woza Moya

This year, Woza Moya made strides in revitalising traditional crafts, welcoming back many artisans and engaging new participants. By the end of 2022, Thursday sessions had grown to over 120 crafters, while Friday groups saw up to 80 participants. With support from our community, including food donations for those travelling long distances, we turned these gatherings into not only productive crafting sessions but also supportive and nourishing experiences. Our focus on youth engagement helped overcome recent challenges from COVID-19, floods, and economic disruptions. Workshops encouraged younger generations to learn beadwork, resulting in a vibrant group of young artisans who embraced the craft with enthusiasm and creativity.

Key highlights:

- *Market Expansion:* Through the Exporting and Advanced Exporting course, we secured new customers and bulk orders from Cape Town retailers, boosting sales opportunities for our crafters.
- *New Crafting Ventures:* Our upcycling team began candle-making after training at the Mariannhill Mission Station, adding a sustainable craft to our programme.
- *Reading Glasses Drive:* Hundreds of reading glasses were distributed to crafters, helping address age-related vision issues and enabling them to continue their intricate work.

The Woza Upstairs Gallery hosted seven exhibitions, showcasing local artists and offering financial opportunities through the Artist Wall initiative, where featured artworks reached both local and international buyers. Additionally, the Dreams for Africa Chair found a new home at the Desmond Tutu Museum, where its inspiring story can now reach a broader audience.

With the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and supporters, Woza Moya continues to preserve cultural heritage, empower artisans, and keep traditional crafts thriving in our community.



**Paula
Thomson**
Woza Moya
**Executive
Manager**





FINANCIALS

The Annual Financial Statements for the financial year ending 31st March 2023 were approved by HACT's Trustees and signed off by the external auditors, Marwick and Company Inc. on the 8th September 2023.

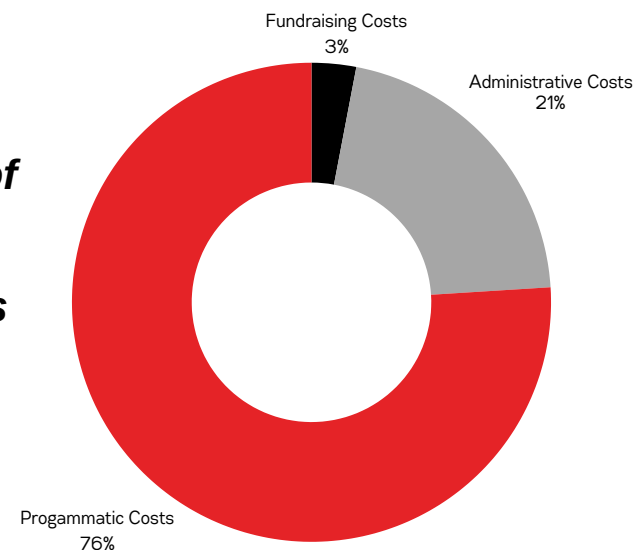
HACT's Grant Funding income decreased slightly from R5 615 696 to R5 400 111 over the past year, however, General Donations increased from R4 186 171 to 5 367 174. This change was largely due to general economic recovery and intensified fundraising efforts after COVID, as well as a much-improved social media presence.

Revenue from Income Generation increased significantly from R3 860 617 to 7 472 128, mostly linked to increased economic activity within Woza Moya as both shop and online sales increased, as did exports and intentional marketing to recover visitors and customers after COVID.

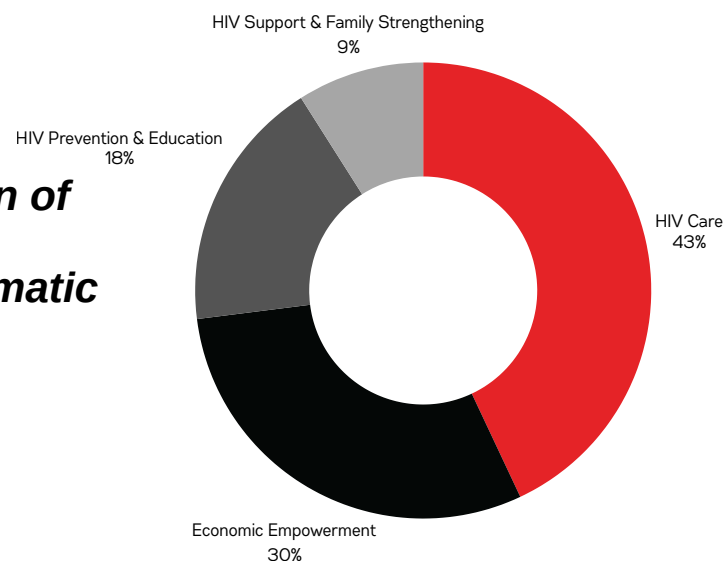
Even though our expenditure rose significantly, due to the increased need for materials and staff for Income Generation by R1 449 409, we generated a profit of R1 609 145. These funds will be used primarily to offset the funding gap in our Respite & Palliative Care Unit.

Presented is a summary of HACT's Annual Financial Statements, full copies are available upon request.

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 2023	2023	2022
	ZAR	ZAR
INCOME	18,239,413	13,662,484
Donations Received	5,367,174	4,186,171
Grants	5,400,111	5,615,696
Revenue	7,472,128	3,860,617
Administration Income	729,010	298,586
Woza Moya Income	6,668,885	3,553,270
Respite Unit Income	74,233	8,761
EXPENDITURE	16,630,268	14,608,966
Cost of Sales (Woza Moya)	3,282,787	1,833,378
Expenses	13,347,481	12,775,588
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	1,609,145	(946,482)

Balance Sheet

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
AT 31 MARCH 2023	2023	2022
	ZAR	ZAR
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	4, 227, 987	4, 184, 048
CURRENT ASSETS		
Inventories	1, 637, 117	1, 509, 950
Trade and other receivables	513, 977	947, 026
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3, 311, 029	2, 850, 019
	5, 462, 123	5, 306, 995
TOTAL ASSETS	9, 690, 110	9, 491, 043
EQUITY		
Trust Capital	100	100
Accumulated surplus- Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust	5, 219, 804	3, 979, 358
Accumulated surplus- Woza Moya	2, 769, 338	2, 400, 640
	7, 989, 242	6, 380, 098
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	1, 700, 867	3, 110, 946
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	9, 690, 110	9, 491, 043

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

Thanks largely to COVID-19 recovery , HACT Biz managed to make an agreeable profit for the year ending February 2023. Our community programmes were back running full time and therefore our catering income increased significantly. Our marketing strategy had improved greatly and we increased our brand awareness and attracted new customers.

The nursery unfortunately went through a few staff changes and this has a negative impact on the yearly financials, resulting in a financial loss in their operations. Thankfully due to the positive improvement to Ubuntu Cafe', HACT Biz made an overall profit of R182 851.00 which was a dramatic improvement from the prior year.

Income statements for period ending February 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
AT 28 FEBRUARY 2023	2023	2022
	ZAR	ZAR
REVENUE	1, 991, 340	1, 350, 847
Cost of sales	(713, 337)	(522, 547)
GROSS PROFIT	1, 278, 003	828, 300
Operating expenses	(1, 092, 452)	(1, 052, 331)
Finance costs	(2,700)	-
OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)	182, 851	(224,031)
Taxation	-	-
PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	182, 851	(224,031)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	182, 851	(224,031)

Thank you to our major Grant Givers



Our Donors and Partners

1000 Hills Community Helpers	Embo Craft Training Centre Trust	Hillcrest Primary School
ActionCOACH Marlene Powell	Ethekwini Municipality	Hillcrest Rotary
Afritrek Logistics	Ewing Trust Company Ltd	Hillcrest SAPS
Amanda Laird	Ezingeni Security & Cleaning	Hollaar-Davidson Family
Ashnee Nankoo	Focus on the Family	Hornby Family Trust
Beacons Closet	Gelmar	Hospice & Palliative Care Association South Africa
BEARE Foundation	GeoAfrica Surveys Incorporated	Hospice Association of KZN
Beloved Long Runs KZN	GeoAfrica Technologies (Pty) Ltd	Imbeleko Foundation
Career Connect	George Rotter	Iqraa Trust
Careerlinx	Gill Browne	Jes Foord Foundation
Carolyn Nixon	GL Events	Jessmic Consulting (Pty) Ltd
CD & LH Moolman	GMISA	Kent Motors
Cellutology SA (Pty) Ltd	Grassroot Soccer	Kerry Ingredients South Africa
Chemerg	Grindrod Logistics Africa	Key Trucks New Germany
Chempack Distribution	HACT UK	Kloof Round Table 190
Chep Pallet Pooling & Supply Chain	Halley Stott Clinic	Konica Minolta South Africa
Child Family Health International	Heather Vivian	KZN Department of Education
Chris Strassburger	Heavyweight Group (Pty) Ltd	KZN Department of Sports & Recreation
CityHill Church	Highway Mail	Linda Wilson
CKR Consulting Engineers	Hillcrest Baptist Church	Lineage Coffee
Clark	Hillcrest High School	Lubrizol SA
Dean and Despina Wight	Hillcrest Library	MACS Maritime Carrier Shipping (Pty) Ltd
Denis Hurley Centre	Hillcrest Methodist Church	Margaret Turnbull
Dennis Gorge	Hillcrest Methodist Church Women's Auxilliary	Marriot Investment Managers

We thank all of the organisations and individuals who help make our work possible!

Our Donors and Partners

Marwick & Co.

MCC Label Durban South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Michelle Pugh & Inspire Design

Mthuthuzeli Sobantu

My School

Nation Changers

Open Door Crisis Centre

Optima Management Services

PerryHill International Trading

Philakade Care Centre

Power Perfection & Electrical Maintenance

PSS Investments (Main Spar)

R Paget Will Trust

RB Associated Logistics

RCL Foods Consumer (Pty) Ltd

RedJuice (DJ Kevin Cotton)

Rent A Loo

Robin Hood Foundation

Santova Logistics (Pty) Ltd

SAPY

Sharon Jones

Siyakhula Sonke

Spar Group

St Agnes Anglican Church

Steven Stuart

Synergy Port Operations (Pty) Ltd

Synergy Worldwide Logistics (Pty) Ltd

The Valley Trust

Theo Aerts

Thistledown Properties

UKZN Community Development Association (CDA)

Ursula Herbert

Villanova University

W & H Smith Family Trust

Waterfall Methodist Church

Webdoor cc

Woolworths (Delcaine)

Youth Connected

We thank all of the organisations and individuals who help make our work possible!

How to help

By supporting the **HILLCREST AIDS CENTRE TRUST**, you enable us to provide vital educational programmes, psychosocial support, and community development initiatives, ensuring that the children, youth and families we serve have the opportunity to thrive. By donating, volunteering and support, you help bridge gaps in resources, uplift disadvantaged communities and empower the next generation with the tools needed for a brighter future. Together, we can make a lasting impact on vulnerable communities.

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

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.



Snap here to pay



Unconditional love and hope

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South Africa

Contact Details:

Phone: +27 31 765 5866
Email: info@hillaims.org.za
Website: www.hillaims.org.za

*Working for Healthy, Empowered &
AIDS-free Communities*



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)