ANNUAL REPORT

HILLCREST AIDS CENTRE TRUST 2024/2025

#unconditionalloveandhope

WHO WE ARE

As one of the first organisations in South Africa to respond to the HIV and AIDS epidemic, Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT) has a longstanding track record of delivering meaningful, life-changing impact in communities with a high burden of HIV.

Founded in 1990, HACT is committed to saving and transforming lives. While its programmes continue to expand across KwaZulu-Natal, the organisation's primary focus remains on the Valley of 1000 Hills, where HIV prevalence rates are more than double the national average.

OUR VISION

Healthy, Empowered and AIDS-free Communities

All off our projects work towards this dream.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VALUES

EMPOWERMENT
Helping people to take ownership over their lives.

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*

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.

HACT's Board of Trustees: Julie Hornby (Chairperson), Rev. Peter Butterworth (Vice-Chair), Candace Moolman (CEO), Dr. Stephen Carpenter, Michael Mkhize, Portia Mpofu, Bishop Linda Mandindi

Appointed but not yet reflected on Letter of Authority: Naomi Alexander, Nomfundo Mthembu

Resigned but still reflected on Letter of Authority: Linda Knox, Sbusisiwe Myeni, Silindile Sibiya, Rev. Gary Thompson

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

“God gives the hardest battles to His strongest soldiers.” This well-known reflection on **2 Timothy 2:1–4** reminds us that we are entrusted with responsibility not by chance, but with purpose. At Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT), we are continually humbled by the privilege of serving the most vulnerable members of our community in Hillcrest and surrounding areas.

Our work is grounded in the spirit of Ubuntu — empowering individuals to take ownership of their lives through compassionate, holistic care. This principle guides both our reflection on the past year and our vision for the future.

The 2024/2025 year has been one of meaningful impact and continued growth. We have seen strong progress in community-driven HIV prevention, care, and training initiatives. Notably, the expansion of our Learning Lab has enabled us to introduce digital literacy training, while our Education and Life Skills programmes have reached over 1,200 learners. Our outreach efforts, made possible through dedicated donor support, continue to extend hope and practical assistance to those who need it most.

HACT Business remains a vital part of our sustainability model. As a B-BBEE Level 1 contributor, we continue to create meaningful opportunities for corporate partners to engage in impactful, purpose-driven collaboration.

Key strategic focus areas this year included:

- Community Empowerment & Training: Expanding vocational and digital skills for young people
- HIV Prevention & Care: Strengthening support for children, youth, and caregivers to build resilient communities
- Education & Life Skills: Ongoing work in schools to support vulnerable learners
- Sustainability: Maintaining strong governance and deepening partnerships with donors

As we look ahead, our priorities remain clear:

- Expanding the reach of our Work Readiness and Learning Lab programmes to address youth unemployment
- Deepening our response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through targeted prevention and support initiatives
- Sustaining the compassionate care provided by our Hospice Unit amid increasing demand and funding challenges

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Candace and the entire HACT team, often unseen yet extraordinary individuals whose dedication and compassion sustain this work daily. Your commitment continues to transform lives and strengthen our community. May you be blessed for the generosity of your time, your talent, and your unwavering care.

Rev Naomi Alexander

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

It's always a mix of emotion wrapping up a year at Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust, where so much seems to happen each day across our campus, shops, schools and community venues. There is an enormous sense of pride in the meaningful programmes and services which took place across our communities, many smiles (and a few tears) as we look back through photos from countless events and special moments, and honest reflection around the infrastructure, systems, and sustainability challenges that still need attention.

One of the major highlights this year was the continued expansion of our gender-based violence (GBV) prevention work. This included strengthening our IMpower programme for adolescent girls and young women, alongside the training and launch of No Means No for adolscent boys and young men. We also expanded GBV awareness and disclosure activities through workshops for grandmothers and discussion forums with faith leaders, recognising the important role communities play in creating safer environments and healthier relationships.

Another intentional area of growth was our focus on young people, a critical stage of life where decisions, opportunities, and support can shape future trajectories for years to come. It was encouraging to see high school learners engaging in peer-to-peer support and training, community upliftment events, educational outings, job shadowing, career workshops, sports activities, and debate days. These experiences help sow seeds of positive community engagement, responsibility, confidence, and personal agency. For youth out of school, we continued entrepreneurship and microbusiness training and launched a new project combining agriculture and business development for young women.

Internally, professional development and staff wellbeing was given added attention. Our team benefited from a formalised health assessment day, as well as training on safeguarding, GBV awareness and referrals, an update on HIV prevention and treatment tools, facilitation skills, and mental health. Our staff team, representing more than 15 communities and ranging in age from 18 to 81 years, continue to demonstrate the importance of lifelong learning and shared growth.

We were blessed to welcome visits from long-standing international friends and partners, including Zulu Aid, Kerk in Actie, Villanova University College of Nursing, and Stephen Lewis Foundation to name a few, alongside many valued local supporters and collaborators. Our wide community of support along with continued partnership, encouragement, and investment in our work remain deeply appreciated.

It was an honour to be a panelist and to have HACT's work featured at the First African Forum on Gender Equality In and Through Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport (PEPAS). Our 2024 **#Run4HACT** campaign culminated in the 97th Comrades Marathon, with HACT's '**Red Dream Team**' out in full force once again which was another reminder of the incredible support and commitment shown by our wider community.

Alongside all this positive activity, the year ends on a deeply concerning note for the broader HIV and health sector. The intentional reduction of HIV-related funding linked to geopolitical shifts is already creating uncertainty across NGOs, healthcare providers, research institutions, and among communities living with HIV themselves. Organisations such as HACT are watching closely to understand how these changes will impact services, staffing, prevention programmes, and access to care.

While substantial progress has been made in the HIV response over the past decades, there is a very real risk that some of these gains could be lost if resources and support continue to decrease. In the face of funding and capacity shortages, we all need to collectively "own" the issue of HIV and AIDS, to ensure that the responsibility for care, prevention, education, and advocacy does not rest with only a few organisations or donors.

Despite these challenges, HACT remains proudly committed to its work, its advocacy, and its vision of healthy, empowered, and AIDS-free communities. Change does not depend on a single moment, but on a movement — and we remain grateful to everyone who continued to walk this journey alongside us.

With deep gratitude and blessing,
Candace

OUR IMPACT IN 2024/2025

182 patients cared for in HACT hospice including
164 new admissions

136 accompanied hospital visits
121 accompanied clinic visits

350 crafters have sustainable income
208 bags of clothing made available for household income
191 individuals from **30** families gained income through our clothing scheme
40 young women trained in agripreneurship for veggie seedling small businesses
19 active gogo savings clubs

397 in-patient counselling sessions
435 counselling and HIV tests

87 home-based palliative care visits

47 Gogo Support Groups reached over **650** grandmothers in **11** communities

540 grandmother home gardens
22 grandmother community gardens

171 caregivers and **179** youth (66% girls, 34% boys) participated in family strenghtening courses

17 art exhibitions
3 crafter skills-sharing workshops

7822 hot drinks sold towards HACT sustainability

677 meals provided for those unhoused

7 youth participated in a 1-year work placement internship onsite
4 art bank students placed within Woza Moya

20 youth living with HIV (9-23 years) enrolled in Adherence Support

291 Peer Educators (grades 9-12) trained & mentored within **3** parther high schools
600 high school learners provided with career guidance
1350 peers reached
50 gold grads supported with post matric training

207 primary school children completed Healthy Living Life Skills (56% girls, 44% boys)
139 children participated in **4** interschool soccer tournaments where **91** were tested for HIV
70 Comrades runners signed up to #Run4HACT

252 youth (10-17 years) received GBV prevention training (72% girls, 28% boys)
63 staff trained on GBV awareness and prevention

HACT Hospice & Palliative Care Unit

182
Patients cared for in the Unit

70
Patients were discharged

136
Accompanied hospital visits

105
Patients admitted on ART

344
Counselling sessions

164
New admissioins

71
Patients passed away with dignity

121
Accompanied clinic visits

87
Home-based care visits

46
Disability grant applications

HACT's Hospice & Palliative Care Unit

Othandweni ('Place of Love') Hospice and Palliative Care Unit provides free, 24-hour inpatient and community based palliative care to children and adults living with advanced HIV, AIDS, cancer and other life limiting illnesses in underserved, semirural communities in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

In a country which is heavily burdened with HIV and health and social inequalities, and with further closures of other hospices across the province, the Unit is an essential service and is part of HACT's continuum of care.

"I was a patient at HACT from July to September. I was given such excellent treatment by all the staff. You are God's instruments; you show us what Ubuntu is all about. THANK YOU SISTERS SPHE, SALLY AND YOUR AWESOME TEAM!" (T. Naidoo)

94 (57%)

Admitted with HIV-related illness

61% Males
39% Females

36 (22%)

Admitted with HIV and cancer

28% Males
72% Females

34 (21%)

Admitted with cancer or other terminal condition

44% Males
56% Females

Beyond Words: A Young Life Marked by Courage and Faith

Siphesihle Dladla* was a 19-year-old young man from KwaNyuswa who lived with his parents. In 2022, his life changed dramatically when he was diagnosed with brain cancer.

Sphe, as he was affectionately known, had been a committed and hardworking student. During his final year of high school, he began experiencing seizures and episodes of fainting, prompting his parents to seek medical care. After initial assessments at a local clinic, he was referred to R K Khan Hospital and later to Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital, where a brain tumour was diagnosed. This marked the beginning of a deeply challenging journey for Sphe and his family.

Sphe was like a son to us.

It was incredibly difficult to witness his passing, especially as we had seen moments of improvement.

He fought so bravely, and we pray that he is now at peace," (Sister Gamede)

Despite treatment for seizures, his condition deteriorated. Through home visits, Sister Gamede and the care team provided guidance and support as Sphe's symptoms worsened, including persistent vomiting and increasing physical decline. He eventually underwent surgery, but by this stage the tumour had significantly impacted his body, leaving him unable to walk and eventually losing his sight. Radiotherapy in late 2023 brought little improvement, and by early 2024, the family received the devastating news that no further curative treatment was available.

It was then that Sphe was referred to HACT's Hospice Unit. Although initially unsettled and missing home, he gradually adapted with the compassionate support of nurses and caregivers. Even without his sight, Sphe formed meaningful friendships with other young patients facing similar diagnoses, finding comfort in shared experiences.

"*Soccer is my passion, and going to church to praise God gives me peace, knowing He is with me through everything*," he shared. Although illness prevented him from pursuing his dream of becoming a professional soccer player, his faith remained a source of strength and hope.

Throughout his time in the Unit, both Sphe and his family received ongoing counselling to help them navigate the emotional realities of his illness. His father, in particular, struggled to come to terms with the diagnosis, holding onto hope for alternative healing.

In April 2024, Sphe was able to return home briefly to reconnect with extended family. He returned to the Unit shortly afterwards but his condition declined rapidly. Surrounded by care and compassion, Sphe passed away peacefully on 06 May 2024.

His passing deeply affected both staff and fellow patients, particularly the young people who had formed close bonds with him. Additional counselling support was provided to help them process their grief.

"Sphe was like a son to us. It was incredibly difficult to witness his passing, especially as we had seen moments of improvement. He fought so bravely, and we pray that he is now at peace," shared Sister Gamede, Nursing Services Manager.

Sphe's story is a powerful reminder of the importance of compassionate, holistic palliative care; care that honours dignity, nurtures connection, and walks alongside patients and families through their most difficult moments. (*Name changed for confidentiality)

Supporting Children and Youth Across the Life Journey: From Early Intervention to Economic Empowerment and Family Strengthening

Programme	Target Group	Focus Area	Key Outcomes
Goals4Life	Grades 5-7 primary school learners	Healthy living, HIV and GBV prevention, life skills	Improved knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours related to health and HIV
Peer Education	Grades 9–12 high school learners	Youth leadership, community action, behaviour change	Increased peer-led awareness, confidence, and positive decision-making
Gold Grads	Post-matric youth	Skills development, training, work readiness, support pathways	Increased employability, access to opportunities, and transition into further education or work
IMpower	Adolescent girls & young women	GBV prevention, self-efficacy, sexual health	Increased confidence, boundary-setting, and protection against violence
No Means No	Adolescent boys & young men	GBV prevention, respect, bystander intervention, conflict de-escalation	Improved respect for women and girls, positive masculinity and reduced harmful behaviours
GRS Skillz Plus	Adolescents and youth living with HIV	Treatment adherence, peer support, health education	Improved adherence to treatment, retention in care, and strengthened peer support networks
Indalo	Young women	Agripreneurship, food security, small business development	Increased income generation, entrepreneurship skills, and household food security
Sinovuyo (Parenting for Lifelong Health)	Children, adolescents & caregivers (gogos)	Parenting support, child protection, family strengthening	Improved caregiver-child relationships, reduced violence, and safer home environments

Goals4Life Healthy Living Courses
(10-week primary school intervention; measured via pre- and post-surveys)

		Pre (%)	Post (%)
Communication about HIV	Youth–adult HIV conversations	**45**	**99**
	Youth-friendly HIV conversations	**32**	**95**
Awareness of HIV Risks	Older partner risk awareness	**66**	**97**
	Multiple partners risk awareness	**56**	**96**
Perception & Stigma	Correct understanding of HIV stigma	**70**	**96**
Risk Factors	Alcohol-related HIV risk awareness	**54**	**96**
	Male circumcision as risk reduction	**64**	**94**
Preventive Measures & Attitudes	Willingness to discuss condom use	**73**	**98**
	Confidence in ability to abstain	**69**	**98**
Attitudes Towards Violence	Correct identification of GBV	**84**	**97**
Peer Pressure & Consent	Confidence to refuse under pressure	**61**	**79**
HIV Testing & Personal Agency	Willingness to test for HIV	**70**	**90**
	Confidence to address HIV in community	**64**	**95**

"As the Goals4Life Coordinator since 2019 I have seen the programme go from strength to strength. I have been challenged and stretched more than I can remember. The impact on the children is real and even though the programme is limited with time after school, I know that what we have been sowing into these young people has been lasting. In this next chapter of mine leading the Programme team I look forward to growing again and being stretched again. I know that this means I will become a better leader and gain so much more insight into what we do in community.

Trusting for empowered, healthy and AIDS-free communities in the lives of children and youth. I am very excited!"

(Pemla Mtshali - Goals4Life Coordinator)
**From January 2025, Pemla was promoted to Community Programmes Manager*

Goals4Life Support Group: A Journey of Change at St. Leo Primary School

At just 13 years old, Ndumiso, a Grade 7 learner at St Leo Primary, has already walked a tough road. Living with his mother, grandmother, and 7-year-old brother, life at home hasn't been easy. Their struggles with very little income meant that most days, Ndumiso went to school without lunch or pocket money. Watching other children eat while he went hungry filled him with frustration and sadness, feelings he didn't know how to express. Instead, he lashed out.

Before joining Goals4Life, Ndumiso admitted that he was often aggressive. He got into fights at school and bullied other learners, both during and after class. ***"I didn't know how to deal with the anger I felt," he shared. "When I saw others with things I didn't have, it made me feel small and angry. I took it out on them. I now see that sometimes bullying comes from what you're going through at home."***

Everything began to change when he joined HACT's pilot support group which was offered the following term after Ndumiso had completed the actual course. These sessions were also held after school, with voluntary attendance. Topics for discussion were not prescribed but are brought or suggested by the learner's themselves based on what they wanted to talk about which often raised issues they are facing. Topics of bullying, abuse and peer pressure are often brought forward for discussion.

Ndumiso chose to attend and for the first time felt that he had a space to talk openly about what he was feeling. With more personal attention with the trusted facilitators, he started to understand that not having something didn't give him the right to hurt others. He began to realise the pain bullying can cause, not just for others, but for himself too. In one powerful session, Ndumiso stood up and apologised to the learners he had hurt. It was a powerful moment of vulnerability and trust amongst the young peer group. that touched everyone in the room. The group acknowledged his growth and agreed that the Ndumiso they knew now was no longer the boy who once bullied them.

Ndumiso now speaks with clarity and compassion about what he's learned. ***"I now understand what bullying is and how it hurts people,"*** he said. ***"I've learned how to stop it, not just in myself, but by helping others too."***

High School Peer Education

291 Peer Educators received year long training and mentorship

116 Grade 9s

90 Grade 10s

48 Grade 11s

37 Grade 12s

64 High school youth led

12 community upliftment events

39 Gr 9 & 10 learners participated in debate competition

124 participated in interschool sports day

1350 High school peers reached through structured activities

210 Skills training sessions

137 Group mentoring sessions

706 Individual peer education training sessions

100 Lesson deliveries

100 Youth participated in job shadowing

18 Matric post-school career workshops

"Our mission for the Sports Day was to allow our Peer Educators to ignite the passion they have within them for sports. Seeing them participate brings joy to our hearts because it's not really about the competition — it's all about teamwork, serving one another, and offering support."
Lady-Love Msomi, Peer Educator Coordinator

GBV Prevention – IMpower and No Means No

This year, we strengthened our commitment to preventing gender-based violence through the ongoing IMpower programme for girls and young women, and the launch of No Means No for boys and young men. To deepen our internal capacity, 63 staff members took part in GBV Awareness and Response Training, ensuring a more informed, responsive, and protective approach across our organisation.

IMpower

180

Girls and Young Women
Aged 10 - 20 years

2 Facilitators

Cohorts **9**

108 hours

NO MEANS NO

70

Boys and Young Men
Aged 10 - 20 years

2 Facilitators

Cohorts **3**

30 hours

GBV Awareness and Response Training

63 HACT STAFF

5 Organisations

6 hours

"As their soccer coach, I've always focused on discipline and teamwork. But through No Means No, I've seen the boys grow beyond the game. The older group of boys, especially, have started taking leadership in talking about boundaries and respect, not just in the sessions but during practices and even in matches.

With the younger boys, it was incredible how quickly they caught on to the lessons. They're learning to respect each other, not only as teammates but as people, which can spill into other relationships. The programme is helping us plant seeds of respect and awareness while they're still young."

Mduduzi Msomi – NMN Facilitator & Soccer Coach

Amanda's Story
From Silent Tears to A Strong Voice

Amanda is just 11 years old. A soft-spoken Grade 6 learner at a primary school in Embo, she lives with her mother and two younger siblings, a sister in Grade 3 and a two-year-old brother who attends a nearby crèche.

Despite her young age, Amanda carries responsibilities far beyond her years. Each morning, she gets herself ready for school, walks her baby brother to crèche, and then makes her way to class. In the afternoon, she repeats the journey, carefully guiding him home.

But this daily walk is not an easy one.

To get home, Amanda and her siblings must pass a spaza shop where a group of boys gather. Day after day, they taunt her, throwing cruel words her way and laughing at her distress. The bullying slowly chipped away at her confidence. Many afternoons, Amanda would run the last stretch home in tears, desperate to escape. She felt small, afraid, and alone.

When our facilitators first met Amanda during a home visit, her pain was clear. She was quiet and withdrawn, her eyes fixed on the ground. She spoke very little. The weight she carried, fear, shame, and responsibility, was simply too much for a child her age.
But change began, gently and steadily.

As Amanda started attending the IMpower sessions, something shifted. At first, she was hesitant. Then, little by little, she began to open up. Her voice grew stronger. She started to participate, to smile, and even to laugh. Most importantly, she began to believe in herself.

At the end of the programme, the girls gathered in a small support group, a safe space to share their stories and reflect on their journey. When it was Amanda's turn to speak, her words were profound:

"I am now able to stand up for myself, especially against the boys who always tease me. I can be in my fighting stance and yell, 'No!'"

In that moment, the transformation was undeniable.

The same girl who once ran home in tears could now stood tall. She had found her voice, her strength, and her confidence. Through the programme, Amanda learned that her body belongs to her, that her voice matters, and that she deserves to feel safe.

Her journey is a powerful reminder of what happens when we invest in young girls. With the right support, tools, and encouragement, they begin to see their own worth. They grow in confidence, in courage, and in the belief that they have the right to be heard and to be safe.

GRS Skillz Plus: Youth Living with HIV Adherence Clubs

Participation in HACT's adherence clubs has led to meaningful improvements in young people's confidence, knowledge, and ability to manage their health. Youth reported stronger self-worth and resilience, with those feeling positive about themselves increasing from **67% to 100%**, and confidence to overcome life challenges rising from **56% to 89%.** Knowledge and skills to manage HIV also improved significantly. Understanding of how to prevent reinfection and how to safely disclose HIV status **both increased to 100%,** while self-acceptance rose from **56% to 89%**.

Participants demonstrated greater confidence in navigating relationships and making healthy choices, including increased awareness of sexual risk factors, improved communication with partners, and a stronger sense of agency to protect themselves.

Support systems also strengthened, with more young people reporting access to trusted individuals for guidance and discussion. In addition, knowledge of HIV, TB, and the importance of consistent ARV adherence improved, supporting long-term health outcomes.

Overall, the programme is building informed, confident, and supported young people who are better equipped to manage their health and future.

Participant Feedback:

"In life, we can talk about everything except our HIV status. So, we really needed a group like this!

"This group has helped us deal with real issues like the day-to-day issues of taking our medication, even when we don't feel like it. That's the hard part. But here we can be very honest and share. It's like playing sports - why do we play a sport we love? Because we can socialise, we're part of a team, we play against opponents, and we have fun. When we attend a support group, we are in this together and we support each other. We prove that living with HIV isn't the end, and when we play with others who understand we can win!

"I know my status, but I did not have enough information about HIV. Since I joined the support group, it has given me a platform to learn and be encouraged to live a better and healthier life. Part of living a healthy lifestyle means taking your medication on time and having a strong support system that helps you through the hard times like when you feel like giving up and you are tired. But you can never forget the dream. If you want to be the champion of the game, you need to press on. You can cry for help, but you need to keep going. Quitting is not an option!"

"Living with HIV on its own needs you to be a positive person. The lessons I have learned being in this programme are helping me stay positive at all times. This safe, supportive space has really helped me."

"Local clinics provide an essential service for teenagers in our communities who are living with HIV. But HACT's GRS Skillz Plus Adherence Club bridges the gap between taking the ARV treatment and the life of treatment these young people must struggle with. It is more than an adherence programme. It is a personal journey and speaks deeply into the psyche of every child we serve. It's difficult to find children during the recruiting process because of stigma but as the programme progresses so do the youth.

The young people literally change together as a group we explore and discover what life can be for them. ***They get to understand the importance of their medication and discover who they really are, far beyond just a positive diagnosis.****"*

HACT GRS Skillz Plus Adherence Club Facilitator & Mentor

Sinovuyo ‘Parenting for Lifelong Health’ Family Strenthening

Strengthens relationships between youth aged 10 to 17 and their caregivers, especially grandmothers, helping families communicate more openly, connect more deeply, and create stable, protective home environments.

A Caregiver’s Reflection:

“We used to shout all the time. Sinovuyo helped us learn how to discipline our children better. Now, my child helps with chores, even with the washing. We support each other more. It’s painful that the programme is ending, and we wonder what will happen if we face issues in the future. But we have learnt so much Even at school, the children are behaving better.”

A Facilitator’s Reflection:

“Sinovuyo is impacting and changing lives more than expected and more than we see the relationships built during the course of the sessions is deep because it makes the participants see how much harm they have done while trying to do good. It gives them a sense of saying ‘I can correct myself and I can lay myself down and apologise’. Especially when in our culture, parents trump children. To see the process happening it is very humbling for me. For a parent to say, ‘I thought I was raising you right, but I see I was harming you’ is very powerful. This is vulnerability at its core, and the depth of the realisation can affect the parent significantly.”

11 Sinovuyo Groups

Facilitaors per session **2**

110 Sessions

660 Hours

165 Caregivers (particularly grandmothers)

165 Youth (Ages 10 - 17 years)

Caregivers reporting being “very happy” with their relationship with their child increased from 41% to 74%

Positive reinforcement of children’s behaviour improved from 55% to 72%

Significant improvements noted in caregiver-child relationships, communication, safety awareness, and positive parenting practices.

Family safety discussions on:

Avoiding sexual abuse increased from 15% to 51%

Inappropriate social media content improved from 12% to 45%

Avoiding unprotected sex rose from 4% to 44%

A Bracelet of Trust
Prisca and Nobuhle's Sinovuyo Journey

Prisca, a 53-year-old mother from Inchanga, carries the quiet strength so often seen in South African women. She holds her family together through financial hardship with love, resilience, and an unshakable sense of hope.

Living with her three children and two extended family members, Prisca depends solely on a child support grant to sustain her household. Although she is unemployed, she remains active and creative.

She finds purpose and connection in the Sizakancane community group, where she sews, beads, and crafts plastic shoes alongside other women who, like her, are resilient, determined, and deeply committed to their families.

In 2024, the introduction of the Sinovuyo Parenting Programme brought a sense of anticipation to the Inchanga community. For Prisca, it offered something more than practical support. It offered the possibility of healing and reconnection within her home.

As a mother who values open communication, she was especially drawn to the sessions that encouraged one-on-one time with her children. She saw in Sinovuyo an opportunity not only to better understand her children but to build something lasting with them, rooted in love, trust, and intentional time together.

One session, in particular, stood out. Parents and children sat side by side, making beaded bracelets. What seemed like a simple activity became something far more meaningful. As Prisca and her daughter Nobuhle worked together, they shared laughter, gentle moments, and a growing sense of appreciation for one another. With every bead threaded, they were building more than a bracelet. They were rebuilding their connection.

That moment did not end when the session did.

Sinovuyo gave Nobuhle the confidence to speak more openly, and it gave Prisca the space to listen patiently and with understanding. Where there may once have been silence or tension, there is now conversation, trust, and support. Their relationship has shifted into something deeper. They walk together not only as mother and daughter but also as partners, grounded in mutual respect.

At the start of the programme, Prisca and the other parents felt unsure of what to expect and what change might look like. But they held onto hope. With each session, that hope began to take shape. Small steps became meaningful progress, and relationships that once felt distant grew closer.

The Sinovuyo Parenting Programme did more than offer parenting tools. For Prisca, it restored something deeply personal. A relationship with her daughter, carefully rebuilt over time, bead by bead, word by word, moment by moment.

NO MEANS NO
WORLDWI

GOALS
4 LIFE
GOALS
4 LIFE
GOALS
4 LIFE
Promoting healthy living
through sport!

NO MEANS

Gogo Support Group Programme: Sewing, Livelihoods & Community Strengthening

"I have nine dresses that I sew. I will no longer buy dresses from the shops anymore because of my small sewing business!"

(Gogo Support Group participant, KwaNdengezi)

During the year, the Gogo (Grandmother) Support Programme continued to strengthen livelihoods, skills-sharing, and community cohesion across 47 support groups reaching over 610 grandmothers in 11 communities.

The sewing initiative remained a key income-generating activity, with groups demonstrating resilience and resourcefulness despite limited access to materials. Donated fabric enabled many Gogos to produce and sell small items for immediate income, while **peer-to-peer learning** strengthened skills development across groups. Several sewing machines were rehomed from Embo and shared with groups in Inchanga. **several Gogos have established small businesses,** including sewing church uniforms and clothing for personal and community use.

Beyond sewing, livelihood activities continue to include communal and homestead gardening, with **22 communal gardens and approximately 90% of Gogos maintaining household food gardens**. Partnerships with the Department of Agriculture supported access to seeds and knowledge-sharing, and some groups in Kwa-Nyuswa are producing their own seedlings. There were **19 active savings clubs** which provided financial stability and collective support.

A key outcome of the programme has been the strengthening of relationships and mutual support between groups. Gogos are increasingly sharing knowledge, resources and opportunities independently, demonstrating growing ownership and leadership. This was further reflected in community-led initiatives such as Heritage Day celebrations, end-of-year events, and emerging micro-enterprises including detergent production and block-making.

Capacity building remained central, with staff and facilitators attending training in child safeguarding, nutrition, GBV response, and updates on HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment. **Internally, leadership development workshops strengthened group management, while the newly piloted GBV awareness sessions created important spaces for dialogue, healing, and support.** For many gogos, this was an opportunity to speak about violence and abuse which they had been carrying for decades.

Despite ongoing challenges, including water access in some areas, **the programme continues to build resilient, connected communities of older women who play a vital caregiving and leadership role within their households and communities**.

"Leadership development workshops have strengthened group management, while the newly piloted GBV awareness sessions have created important spaces for dialogue, healing and support.

For many gogos, this was an opportunity to speak about violence and abuse which they had been carrying for decades. These sessions have been painful, but have provided safety and language and opened a door to healing." (Phindiwe, Gogo Support Group Coordinator)

Woza Moya: Highlights of innovation, creativity, sustainability & craft

Craft Revival & Training

- **Revived traditional crafts**, including:
  - Hardwire trays (a sales success in Cape Town)
  - Beaded waistcoats, culminating in a lively customer exhibition
  - Beaded **animals**, with training for new crafters
- Ran three **skills-sharing workshops to grow capacity and creativity:** flower hair clips, Under the Sea necklaces, and bow-tie making (with a customer volunteer)
- **Developed a new necklace and bracelet range** in collaboration with rural Ladysmith crafters

Innovation & Sustainability

- Expanded our Wondrous Wings of Waste project, **transforming community waste into striking wearable art** — generating national orders and linking with the Litterboom Project
- Improved **product packaging** (salad servers and coasters), boosting sales and appeal

Major Projects & Events

- Produced giant beaded baubles for Oceans Mall — a spectacular success and, **true to Woza Moya style, the largest of their kind anywhere in the world!**
- Welcomed **4 Artbank interns**, who:
  - Grew our newsletter reach
  - Documented crafter stories
  - Assisted with curation and hosted their own exhibition
  - Developed photography and video content
  - Launched the Woza Moya YouTube channel
- **Collaborated with designer** Karen Monk Klijnstra at Durban Fashion Fair, showcasing our Under the Sea jewellery collection, made possible through the MAC Estee Lauder grant
- **Opened a new Pop-Up** at Kloof Fields Centre, partnering with other NGOs and self-help projects

Arts & Culture

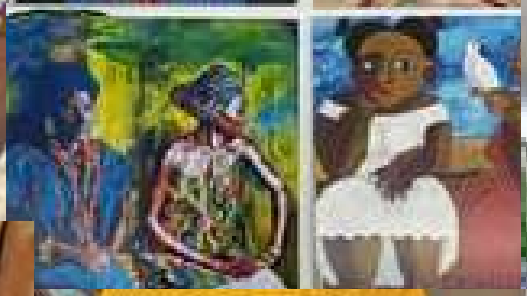
- **Hosted 17 artist exhibitions, providing a platform for emerging talent** — 12 of these were Artist Wall features sponsored by the 100% Foundation.
- Celebrated the success of Khulile Ngobese (an artist supported by 100% Foundation) who, while completing his matric, exhibited at Velvet Gallery, hosted his own Woza Moya show and sold work to an international collector - t**he sky is the limit for this inspiring young man!**
- Supported the **launch of two books**: a children's storybook and a pocket edition of Edible Weeds
- Marked the release of a short film by Qin Dladla on Thulani Gwala and the lost art of beaded animal making

Health & Wellbeing

- Ran **healthy eating workshops** with Kaz Wilson and Nurse Cwengi Myeni for staff and crafters, tackling common health issues including hypertension, diabetes, and weight management
- Partnered with the Lions Club to **provide free diabetes testing for staff and crafters**

Transitions & Thanks

- Closed our Windermere branch with deep gratitude to Charles Liasides for years of support
- Closed our pop up at Kloof Fields shopping centre, but opened a bigger, bolder space that welcomes other NGOs from the area
- Bid a fond farewell to Wendy De Gaspary, with heartfelt thanks for her many contributions
- **Thanks to our incredible volunteers who always go the extra mile!**



FAMILY IS EVERYTHING
A BOND OF LOVE
A LIFETIME GIFT
NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Indalo: Agripreneur Training for Young Unemployed Women

Empowering vulnerable young women to grow income-generating agri-enterprises, strengthening food security and advancing gender equality within their communities.

Sixteen weeks of practical, in-class training in agri-skills, health and wellbeing, entrepreneurship, and GBV prevention, followed by 6 months of structured home-based mentorship to support implementation and agri-business growth.

Phindilie Thusini, has started coaching others on how to grow seedlings.
She says that **"Seedlings are like little babies. I have fallen in love with them and vegetable gardening. I am so passionate about this programme, I already have a market to sell to and through coaching others I will grow my business"**

Another trainee, Olwethu, shared how the programme has helped her access greater work opportunities. The skills and experience she gained through the Indalo Programme not only enabled her to start a 'side hustle', but also led to more consistent employment. She has since progressed into a project management role within the company she works with, an achievement she directly attributes to the confidence, skills, and exposure gained through the Indalo programme.

Planting Seeds of Hope: How Lerato is Building Her Future

My name is Lerato Cele, I am 22 years old, from KwaNyuswa, in the Moonlight area. Being part of the Indalo Project over the past year has been a journey of both challenges and growth, but overall, it has been a meaningful and rewarding experience for me.

When I joined the project, I wanted to learn new skills and understand how to grow seedlings. That motivation has stayed with me. Even when things felt difficult, I kept going because I could see that I was learning something new every day. As much as it has been hard sometimes, it has also been a good experience. I enjoy doing it, and it helps me in many ways.

Over time, I gained confidence in myself and my abilities. I learned how to grow and manage my seedlings and began to understand the basics of running a small business. For example, I realised how important it is to make my contact details visible so that customers can easily reach me. Today, I feel 85% confident because I know it is possible.

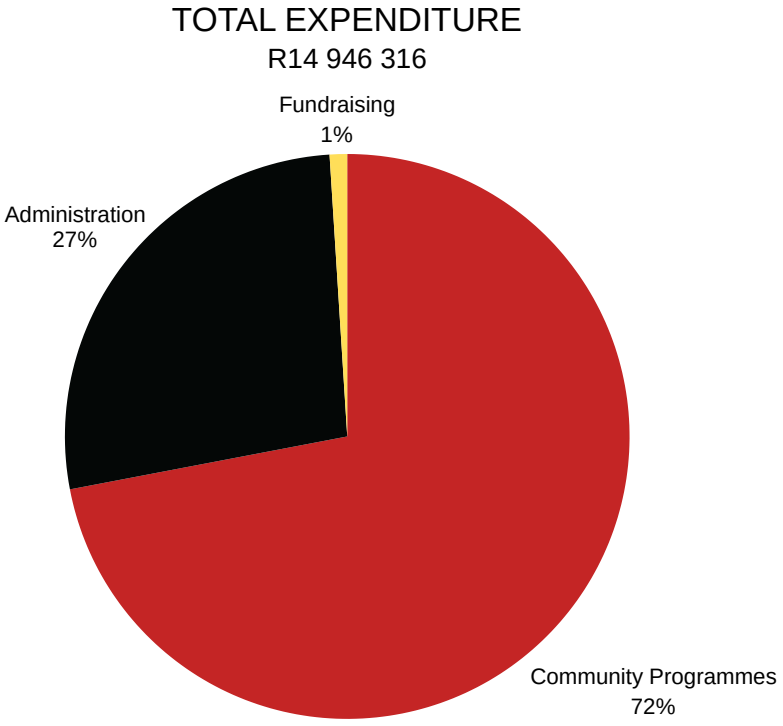
I have started selling seedlings and produce in my community, and when I have extra, I sometimes donate to families in need. This makes me proud because I am not only helping myself but also giving back. Financially, I have made a profit of around R2,000 to R3,000, which has helped me support both myself and my family. The availability of food has increased, and I can now support my family with food and money sometimes.

I also reinvest what I earn back into my business by buying more seeds, so I can continue growing. Although I still face challenges such as a small customer base and water shortages, I remain determined. I am still looking for a marketing strategy that I could use to improve my business.

My goal is to expand by finding a bigger space to plant and increasing my number of customers. I truly believe I am ready to operate independently because I have learned to manage most things on my own. The Indalo Project has given me confidence, skills, and hope for the future.

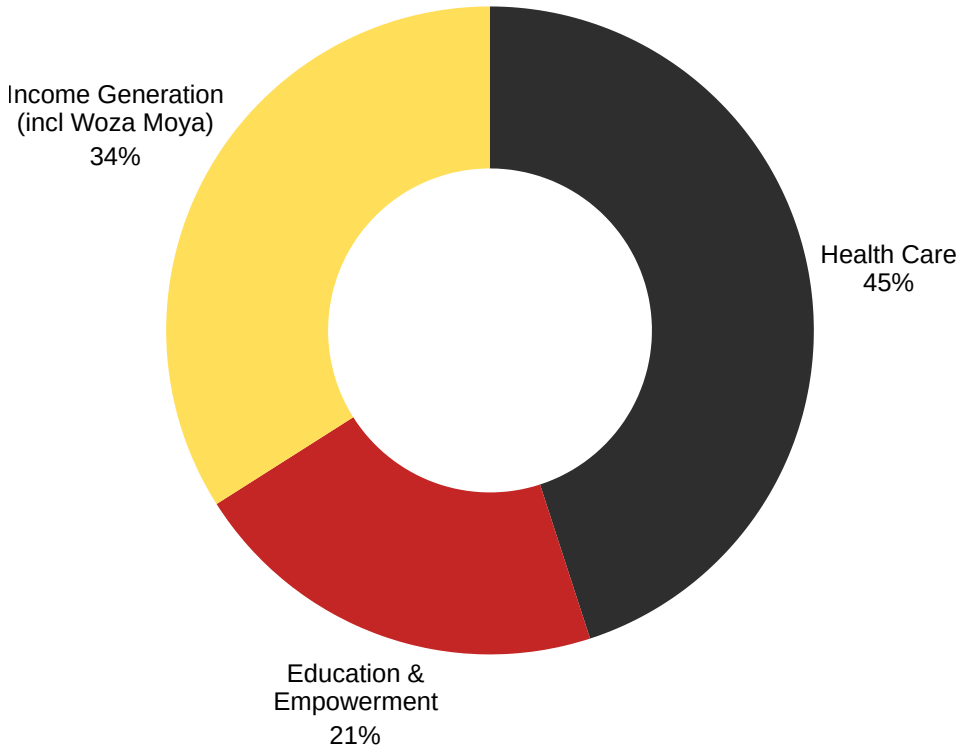
FINANCIALS:
Annual Financial Statements

Income Statement HACT - March 2025			
	2025	**2024**	**2023**
Income	21 333 231	21 201 649	18 239 413
Donations Received	4 435 320	5 753 114	5 367 174
Grants	5 882 158	5 795 599	5 400 111
Revenue	11 015 753	9 652 936	7 472 128
Administrtion Income	951 258	1 349 967	729 010
Woza Moya Income	9 958 444	8 276 287	6 668 885
Hospice Unit Income	106 051	74 233	
Expenditure	20 369 147	19 436 793	16 620 268
Cost of Sales (Woza Moya)	5 422 831	4 787 638	3 282 787
Expenses	14 946 316	14 649 155	13 347 481
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	**964 084**	**1 764 856**	**1 619 145**



Balance Sheet HACT - March 2025			
	2025	**2024**	**2023**
Assets			
Non-current assets	0	0	0
Property, plant and equipment	4 839 666	4 497 312	4 227 987
Investment in subsidiary (HACT Biz)	100	100	0
Current Assets			
Inventories	2 374 874	2 319 925	1 637 117
Trade and other receivables	1 246 578	916 121	513 977
Cash and cash equivalents	3 878 899	3 743 060	3 331 029
Total Assets	**12 340 117**	**11 476 518**	**9 690 110**
Trust Capital	100	100	100
Accumulated surplus - HACT	6 916 803	6 400 678	5 219 804
Accumulated surplus - Woza Moya	3 801 278	3 353 319	2 769 338
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	1 621 936	1 722 421	1 700 867
Total Equity and Liabiliies	**12 340 117**	**11 476 518**	**9 690 110**

Combined Programme Allocation		
	Amount (R)	**%**
Health Care	4 817 738	45%
Education & Empowerment	2 294 892	21%
Income Generation (incl Woza Moya)	3 512 720	34%



HACT BUSINESS (PTY) LTD
T/A HACT BIZ

Income Statement HACT Business - February 2025

	2025	2024	2023
Revenue	**2 116 115**	**1 670 106**	**1 991 340**
Expenditure			
Cost of Sales	840 340	671 443	713 337
Operating Expenses	1 275 775	998 663	1 278 003
Operating Expenses	60%	60%	64%
Operating Expenses	1 000	0	0
Operating Expenses	1 299 749	1 122 165	1 092 452
Operating profit/Loss	-22 974	-123 502	**185 551**
Finance Cost	1 419	0	2 700
Loss before taxation	-24 393	-123 502	182 851
Tax (deferred)	6 219	6 673	0
Operating Profit/Loss	-18 174	-116 829	**182 851**

"HACT is a special place doing amazing things. The cafe is amazing, extremely well priced, whilst supporting a good cause. Everything is made with love. Pay a visit and support!" **(B.de Charmoy)**

Balance Sheet HACT Business - February 2025

	2025	2024
Assets		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	291 689	319 540
Deferred tax	11 892	5 673
Current Assets		
Inventories	112 184	109 633
Trade and other receivables	30 369	49 167
Cash and Cash Equivalents	255 972	274 480
Total Assets	**702 106**	**758 493**
Equity		
Trust Capital	10,000	10,000
Accumulated loss	**-156 073**	**-137 899**
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other payables	858 079	896 292
Total Equity and liabiliies	**702 106**	**758 493**

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 community helpers
A S Black Trust
Acti-Chem SA (Pty) Ltd
Achmat Omar
ActionCoach Marlene
AD Air solutions
Apostolos
Appenate (Pty) Ltd
Ashely Serfontein
Barbara Zietzman
Beare Foundation
Beletha Foundation
Beloved Long Runs
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City Hill Church
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Dean and Despina Wight
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Estee Lauder
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Grindrod Logistics Africa
HACT UK
Halley Stott Clinic
Hand of Grace
Help Our People Everywhere Foundation
Highway Mail
Hillcrest Baptist Church
Hillcrest Library
Hillcrest Methodist Church
Hillcrest Methodist Church Women's Auxilliary
Hillcrest Primary School
Hillcrest Rotary
Hillcrest SAPS
Hollar Family
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Hospice and Palliative Care Association South Africa
Hospice Association of KZN
HSG Attorneys Incorporated
Imbeleko Foundation
Intelligent Web
J D Sitlu
J Switala
Jes Foord Foundation
John Walters
Julie Hornby
Kearsney College
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Kerryn Sidea McIntosh
Kevin Thomas
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Konica Minolta South Africa
KZN Department of South Africa
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L Wilson
Leroy & Ilean Hollaar
Lineage Coffee
Lovell Southey
Lovemore Brothers
Manning Road Methodist Church
Margaret Turnbull
Margie Wilson
Marriott Investment Managers
Marwick & Co
MCC Label Durban South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Michael Tasseron
Michelle Pugh Inspire Design
My School
Natalie Jane Luck
Nation Changers
Neil Lund
Nicky Bezuidenhout
Open Door Crisis Centre
Optima Management Services
Out the box productions
PCI and Electrical
PerryHill International Trading
Philakade Care Centre
Power Perfection & Electrical Maintenance
PSS Investments (Main Spar)
Quest Quantity Surveyors and Consultants (Pty) Ltd
R Paget Will Trust
RCL Foods Consumer Proprietary Limited
RedJuice (DJ Kevin Thomas)
Rent A Loo
Rob Goldman
Robinhood Foundation
Roger and Beryl Saxby Foundation NPC
Rolando Clothing South Africa
Ryan Moolman
Santova Logistics (Pty) Ltd
SAPY
Shu Powders Africa (Pty) Ltd
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SPAR Group
St Agnes Anglican Church
Steven Stuart
Stolt- Nielsen Africa (Pty) Ltd
Suzanne Hofmeyr
Synergy Port Operations (Pty) Ltd
Synergy Worldwide Logistics (Pty) Ltd
TCS Natal
TenPly- Digital Solutions & Custom Software
The 100% Foundation
The Glen Cherry Family Trust
The Valley Trust
Thomas Moore
Villanova University
Waterfall Methodist Church
Waterfall Methodist Church
Webdoor cc
Wilhemina Miller
Wooworths (Delcaine)
Wyebank Marquee
Youth Connected

Our major grant givers

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

Join & Support HACT's Impact

How you can get involved...

- Make a donation
- Partner and/or Volunteer with us
- Adopt-a-Bed
- Join our Hope Club
- Like & share our socials
- Join our #Run4HACT Comrades Marathon campaign
- Sign up for our newsletter
- Shop online or at the HACT Campus, including: Woza Moya & Art Gallery, HACT Plant Nursery, Ubuntu Ground Café, Book Nook, iThemba's Closet, White Elephant and Habberdashery

HACT is a registered Non-Profit (Reg No: 005-800) and Public Benefit (Reg No: 13 000 1231) organisation. All donations to HACT are tax deductible in South Africa.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

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Working for Healthy, Empowered & AIDS-free Communities