



STRONG SCHOOLS COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE



LEAD THE CHANGE ... FROM ROOTS TO FRUITS

2023/2024

ANNUAL
IMPACT
REPORT

www.strongschools.co.za

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Every School
CAN BE A 
Strong School

“

"NGOs are a vital force for social progress, mobilizing communities, and bringing about meaningful change."

— Graca Machel

”

DIRECTORS REPORT

by Berthold Alheit



My first full year as Chairperson of the Strong Schools Board has passed and it is a good time to reflect on an exciting year in Strong Schools, where we've seen tremendous growth in many areas in the schools where we are involved. The drops feeding the roots of our tree have become much more sustainable, and the growth expanded to the extent where we can only look back with humbleness to behold what the Father has done.

The successes of the past year originated in revisiting our founding principles and confirming the transition to "Well-being" and to "Growing the whole Person", rather than only sticking plasters on wounds. The reconfirmation of the SSCC founding Scriptures confirmed the road ahead with the two types of School Support and Well-being Hubs, based on Godly principles, and the adjustment of our own compass. Since early 2023, SSCC was tested through deep financial difficulties and the loss of personnel, resulting in a lot more prayer, reflecting and scrambling to continue to the end of 2023.

After these trying times, God then brought great financial relief via three major funders and a few smaller ones, all resulting in contracts and donations aligned with our adjusted direction - focusing stronger on our well-being initiatives. Opportunities in well-being lead to the formation of Well-being Hubs and in addition to growing effectiveness in the School Support Hubs. More focus is directed at personal growth and understanding of the Principals, their Deputies, School Management teams and Teachers. Learners, Prefects, some members from the School Governing Bodies, as well as the dads of some of the learners also participated in these opportunities for growth.

Despite a daunting South African economic environment, we did survive and then started flourishing to where our next 2024/25 financial year is covered until the end of 2024. We look forward to addressing this challenge, fully aligned with God's directions.

During the year we regretfully lost two of our founding directors in Ms Marguerite Wahl and Mr Vonnie Mostert, who played their parts to bring SSCC from a dream to the reality we have now. We have also said goodbye to our CEO, Mr Campher Serfontein, due to the severe financial constraints we've experienced, as well as a major project that he is busy initiating, requiring more of his time. This project may lead our paths to cross again in the near future. We also pray God's blessing over him and his family for this new project, also strongly related to schools, but focused further afield than the Western Cape.



Reading is fun! Christmas Tinto Primary learners

Dr GJ Joubert Primary learners enjoying Life skills activities

Fortunately we have been able to welcome two new directors, Ms Palesa Qhalane and Ms Juanita Möller. Ms Möller was already the COO and Company Officer, and we express our deepest thanks to her for also accepting this additional responsibility as director.

We have also appointed three new team members reporting to the COO. They are Ms Zelda Coetzee, coordinating the Well-being Hubs, Ms Sharene de Besch, supporting the role of Support Hub Coordinator, and Ms Janine Joubert as a Consultant for Marketing, Social Media, as well as Project Management. We welcome them all and look forward to a fruitful journey as a team together.

Current Operational SSSC Team



Juanita Möller
COO,
Support Hubs



Sharene De Besch
School Support,
Projects



Trudie Schoeman
Acting CEO,
Networking



Zelda Coetzee
Well-being Hub
Coordinator



Janine Joubert
Marketing,
Administration

There is so much more to be grateful for, including the completion of the online Compass Calibration Tool for schools and participation and spin-off activities with volunteers, who are now assuming longer terms and deeper mentoring activities at the schools. Not to mention the supplying of sponsored psychological services, established libraries and many other smaller projects identified at different schools – all to the benefit of our schools, nation and all its people.

Like Moses, we had to look hard at *'what is that in your hand'* and stand on various Word promises we received, like Cor. 9:8-12. It motivated and carried us through these difficult seasons.



"Yes, God is more than ready to overwhelm you with every form of grace, so that you will have more than enough of everything —every moment and in every way. He will make you overflow with abundance in every good thing you do. Just as the Scriptures say about the one who trusts in him: Because he has sown extravagantly and given to the poor, his kindness and generous deeds will never be forgotten. This generous God who supplies abundant seed for the farmer, which becomes bread for our meals, is even more extravagant toward you. First he supplies every need, plus more. Then he multiplies the seed as you sow it, so that the harvest of your generosity will grow. You will be abundantly enriched in every way as you give generously on every occasion, for when we take your gifts to those in need, it causes many to give thanks to God." The priestly ministry you are providing through your offering not only supplies what is lacking for God's people, it inspires an outpouring of praises and thanksgiving to God himself." (2 Cor. 9:8-12)

PURPOSE & MISSION

*Provide support to help build effective, **STRONG SCHOOLS** in disadvantaged communities, so that learners can become independent and productive citizens.*

Inspired by one of our founding verses: *“For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.”*, we empower schools to strengthen and deepen their roots, in order to become strong trees (‘oaks of righteousness’), bearing good and abundant fruit. Our redemptive purpose of ministering healing and restoration through interventions in our Well-being Hubs, is portrayed in this special prophetic painting by Melinda Brummer.



Our bigger dream is that every child will receive effective education in a safe environment and that schools will become beacons of hope and inspiration in the communities they serve. We support schools in disadvantaged communities in order to invest in healthy, wholesome and hopeful futures for our youth and society.

Our mission is to:

- Support sustainable interventions in disadvantaged schools
- Partner with School leadership and stakeholders to form School Support Hubs and Well-being Hubs.
- Facilitate practical and effective solutions through a 5 steps Change Journey
- Collaborate with like-minded and trusted people and organisations to multiply social impact by means of quality education.

“

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant..”

— Robert Louis Stevenson

”

THE YEAR IN A NUTSHELL

by COO, Juanita Möller



During the Financial year under review we were able to really start our journey towards living out the scripture Isaiah 61:1-3..."to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives... to comfort those who mourn and provide for those who grieve..." in order "to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair..." The key vehicle through which we were able to do this was through our Well-being Hubs at each of our Schools.

We saw how our vision of working towards enhancing the well-being of the school ecosystem came to life through financial support, collaboration and generosity. As a result we were able to expand the reach of our Well-being Hubs.

Through our Youth at Risk and Life Skills offering to our Learners, 580 Learners were reached and the following was achieved:

- Schools felt lessons were valuable and that learners grew in their self-confidence
- Individual learners responded to different topics and asked for advice
- Learners became more aware of the Youth at Risk issues and are more pro-active in dealing with these challenges
- We were able to build relationships with the learners and to provide a safe space for sensitive discussions
- 5 Learners received much needed Psychosocial Support

Through our Life Skills offered to Educators and Parents, 263 adults were reached.

Of the 263, 61 Parents have not been through any Life Skills Programmes before. They attended the BrightStar Life Skills Programmes, which included the Legacy Dad programme. 20 Parents attended a Trauma Workshop, which assisted them to overcome their own trauma and to be in a better position to support their children, with all the challenges that they are facing.

Through the Life Skills offered to Educators, our Principals received Strengths Coaching, Executive Coaching, all Educators were taken through Change Management sessions that focused on Conflict Management and Time Management. All Educators were also blessed with a Teacher's Workshop and Teacher's Appreciation, to honour their invaluable service to the Learners they serve.

The above-mentioned programmes equipped the participants with valuable tools, which enabled them to show up and participate in their environment in a more positive and impactful manner.

Strong Schools Community Collaborative (SSCC) has a holistic approach towards bringing about change. Our Support and Well-being Hubs in Schools enable SSCC to live out our motto – **from roots to fruits**. This, in our opinion, is the only way to bring about the fruit of healing in mind, body, soul and spirit.



Support Hub meeting with Dr GJ Joubert Primary School, attended by Cerys Duffty, Circuit Manager Mr Carder Tregonning, Janine Joubert, Zelda Coetzee and the Principal, Ms Tauhira Fanie

From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, 26 School Support Hub meetings took place.

As per Napoleon Hill, we can see our School Support Hub as a Mastermind Alliance, which he defines as follows: *“Coordination of knowledge and effort, in a spirit of harmony, between two or more people, for the attainment of a definite purpose.”*

Our School Support Hub meetings are therefore a space in which participants are encouraged to think creatively and out of the box. During the meetings, there is a collective sharing of ideas in order to co-create strategies to address the needs and priority areas of each of our network Schools.

Through the efforts of the participants in the School Support Hub meetings, partners, collaborators and members of the SSCC team, the following has been achieved:

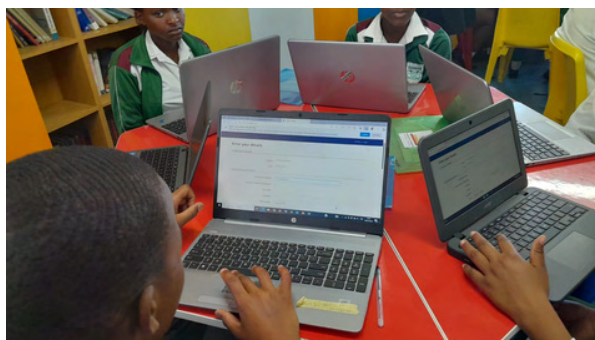
- Stationery provided to the Schools in our network
- Painting and beautification of the Maths Class at Nomzamo High School
- Installation of a food garden at Nomzamo High School
- Counselling Room and Sick Bay installed at Nomzamo High School
- Resourcing needs placed on the ForGoodSA Platform
- Furniture donated to Dr GJ Joubert Primary School by Work4ALiving
- Reading support at Dr GJ Joubert Primary School
- New Prefab Library installed at Christmas Tinto Primary School
- The newly installed Christmas Tinto Primary School Library received much needed resources
- Capitec’s Life Skills Pilot implemented at Nomzamo High School
- Calculators donated to Nomzamo High School
- The Schools where we have installed the Cleaner Greener Nomzamo Project now have regular clean-ups and there is a greater focus on keeping the School clean, as well as a greater focus on the School garden.
- 150 Learners received the required PPE to be able to do the clean-ups in and around their Schools.
- A Mobile Career Café was conducted at Nomzamo High School with 90 of their Grade 11 Learners by Action Volunteers Africa, the first of its kind at Nomzamo High School.



BrightStar First Light Programme for Parents



BrightStar Legacy Dad Programme



Nomzamo High School Learners completing the AVA Mobile Career Café Career Profiling Test

“Changing the world does not require superpowers. It is as simple as helping someone and asking nothing in return.”

— Dave Willis

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPALS

It was a pleasure and privilege to journey another year with our Support Hub Schools. ACJ Phakade Primary School decided to round off their journey at the end of 2023, although some of the initiatives still continue in their School. SSCC started journeying with a new School, Simondium Primary in the Paarl area towards the end of our financial year. We trust this is the beginning of piloting the SSCC Change Journey in other areas of South Africa. Enjoy the feedback from our Principals.

Nomzamo High School: Mr. Chris Mgubanto

Nomzamo High School would like to express its utmost gratitude for your partnership in realizing our vision and mission: 'We, the community of Nomzamo High School, aim to produce learners that are successful, productive and well-rounded citizens through productive learning and teaching that will prepare our learners for the global community'.

Since the report from 2022, our school has been blessed with the following:

- Successful extension of the borehole to the flower and food garden
- Beautification of the Mathematics classroom
- Calculator drive success for learners without calculators
- Senior Management Team development programs
- Monthly Support Hub meetings
- The construction and setting-up of the counseling and sickbay rooms
- Sponsored counselling sessions for learners and staff
- Stationery items for the school
- Motivational and educational Life skills programs for the learners, teachers and parents



We are always grateful and look forward to nurturing this relationship, as the impact leads to tangible outcomes. This is the reason why Oliver Wendell Holmes said "Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than the one where they sprang up." Keep-up the good work, Strong Schools, and be blessed.

Sir Lowry's Pass Primary School: Mr. Charlton De Morney

Sir Lowry's Pass Primary would like to thank Strong Schools for the help and support received during the past year. It is a great pleasure and privilege to be part of your organization. Our school is very fortunate to have you on board.



- The Leadership Training workshops for teachers and learners are of great value.
- Life Skills programs: Personal Development (Gr 6 and Gr 7 learners) - learners are more outspoken and independent.
- Having Support Hub meetings twice per term is a tremendous help and of great value.
- Physical & Spiritual well-being of teachers – therapy is greatly appreciated by the teachers and we notice improvement in their overall well-being. The treats received were most welcome and enjoyed by everybody.
- Assemblies on Monday mornings are really appreciated by our learners and Zelda is a real inspiration.
- The computers and stationery received are a big help.

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- Life Skills for the Senior Management Team of teachers was an inspiration to all members. It was very supportive, valuable and informative.

We would like to make use of this opportunity to thank you all, the management and facilitators for everything you do for our school, teachers, learners and the community.

Dr GJ Joubert Primêre Skool: Me Tauhira Fanie

Ons as skool is so dankbaar om een van Strong Schools se skole te wees.

Vir my is die "Support Hub" sessies baie belangrik, want dit is juis hier waar ons as skool ons suksesse kan gaan deel, maar ook ons uitdagings.



Een van ons groot uitdagings hierdie jaar was ons leerders wat nie skryfbehoeftes het nie. Met die hulp van SSCC was ons baie gelukkig om skryfbehoeftes vir ons leerders te kry deur 'n skenking van Iphepha. Ons was ook baie gelukkig dat Capitec vir ons Gr. 7-groep 'n sessie kon kom aanbied het oor finansiële bestuur en entrepreneurskap. Dit was 'n waardevolle sessie wat ons leerders baie geniet en waardeer het.

Groot was ons opgewondenheid en dankbaarheid toe ons ook vroeër die maand gehoor het dat SSCC vir ons 'n skenking gekry het van 7 witborde en projektors. Dit is een van ons groot drome om al ons klasse toe te rus met witborde en projektors. Hierdie skenking is 'n tree nader aan die verwesenliking van ons droom om kwaliteit opvoeding aan ons leerders te verskaf.

SSCC is ook baie gesteld op die welstand van opvoeders en kinders. 'n Groot verskeidenheid "Life Skills" programme word deur SSCC aan ons aangebied. Dit wissel van leierskap programme met ons prefekte tot lewensvaardighede programme vir ons ander leerders, om hulle beter toe te rus vir die wêreld daar buite en die toekoms. Julle maak dit ook moontlik vir ons om gebruik te maak van professionele en opgeleide sielkundiges, asook maatskaplike werkers vir ons leerders en opvoeders. SSCC reik ook uit na die ouers - vandaar die "Legacy Dad" program.

Ons is ewig dankbaar vir SSCC se toegewydheid aan ons skole, om ons kinders in hul totaliteit te ontwikkel en sodoende opvoeding van kwaliteit vir ons leerders te verseker.

ACJ Phakade Primary School: Mr Thobile Majingo

It is with great honour and privilege that we testify of the positive role of SSCC.

My personal experience of using Gallup Strengths was outstanding. I was enabled to understand my strengths and weaknesses better. It helped me to plan on how to lead and manage, work with my team and how to delegate. Now I know that every year I must set my measurable targets and goals. Juanita was able to help me understand how it works, how to execute my plans and how to deal with pressure from my colleagues and the employer.

- Our learners have benefited a lot from the Life Skills programs you conducted. We are so grateful indeed. A lot of our teachers attest that they benefited a lot from the Well-being sessions.



- Our SMT has been developed in various leadership areas through Support Hubs facilitated by members of SSCC. Principals' support facilitated by Juanita has taught me new ways of dealing with situations as a school leader.
- We had a thought-provoking BrightStar team building facilitated by Juanita. Through that team building, we have witnessed a very positive contribution from the staff on how to speak to each other more effectively and now have better contribution of our sub-committees.
- Our School library has an assistant, thanks to your efforts. It has been renovated and painted by Capitec volunteers. Books are covered and very soon it will be more functional.

There is a lot of difference made by SSCC in our school. We are so blessed to be in partnership with such NGO. May God keep on blessing you with more willing sponsors, to keep on making a difference, especially in our underprivileged schools. Your role in our school was massive and advantageous to our school. You also assisted us by making us aware of some governmental procedures around our school situation, especially in winter times with the flooding around our school. We really appreciate every effort you have made for our school. Learners and Teachers benefited from your unwavering support.

I can firmly say that it was not an easy decision we had to take of taking a break from the SSCC journey, but departmental demands forced us. However, whenever the time presents itself, we will re-join SSCC because of its productive and developmental programs. The well-being program which we tasted, was indeed worth it.

Thank you very much and God richly bless you.

Christmas Tinto Primary School: Mr. Steven Qantolo

Strong Schools Community Collaborative has been a big revelation to us through various interventions and programmes, such as the Support Hubs, collaborating towards building our new library, Legacy Dad workshops for our fathers, various BrightStar Life skills workshops and counselling of children and others.



This has lifted a huge load off our shoulders as Educators. When the going gets tough, it motivates us that we have a big support from the Strong Schools team. We have also improved our literacy through the support from SSCC and have enjoyed a wonderful partnership.



“***It is not beyond our power to create a world in which all children have access to a good education. Those who do not believe this have small imaginations.***”
— Nelson Mandela

STORIES OF IMPACT

During the past year - with most of the pilot phases behind us - SSCC was privileged to experience more impact (true change) through the programs and initiatives in our Support and Well-being Hubs. Allow us to share a few Impact Stories with you to give hope to others and glory to God. He gives us our strategies and resources, opens the right doors and allows us to initiate these various interventions.

Reflections on psychological services with SSCC

It has been a privilege to serve the clients (children, parents and families) of SSCC. Many are grateful for the psychological services, which are often costly or have long waiting lists. The COVID-19 pandemic and social media have prioritised mental health and assisted in destigmatising mental illness and mental health support, aiding more people requesting these services. Holistic and integrative care is also at the forefront of this, which was evident in the way that the staff worked together with referrals and the collaboration in service provision. Collaboration is vital in building and strengthening support for the children, parents and families we serve.



A recent example of collaborative efforts in mental health services, was the identification of a teenager who was struggling to cope. The teenager was referred through SSCC. We were able to identify mental health challenges and suicide risk. The teenager's parent was involved during the process, she was referred for pharmacotherapy, and she was able to access support from her school and the primary healthcare clinic. The teenager worked through her experiences, developed coping tools and her mental health improved. The teenager was able to foster resilience and develop strategies to achieve her goals. She was able to regain hope through the collaborative partnership.

I remain in awe of the commitment, determination, strength, resilience and fortitude demonstrated by our clients. I am reminded of the quote by Victor Frankl, *"they must not lose hope but should keep their courage in the certainty that the hopelessness of our struggle did not detract from its dignity and its meaning"*. I was blessed to have experienced many success stories during my collaborative partnership with SSCC, and I am immensely grateful to be part of the clients' mental health journeys. I truly believe that our paths were meant to cross, and our journeys needed to intertwine for a while until they acquired what they needed to continue on their journeys. In closing, SSCC plays an integral role in supporting, healing and restoration of the people they serve. A heartfelt thank you to SSCC and the Funders for making this process possible. In doing so, we instil hope, foster healing and allow for the holistic development of meaning for the people we serve.

by Abeedah Hendricks-Lalla
Clinical Psychologist, Cedar Psychology)



Trauma workshop for parents by Jannett Skinner.

Impact reporting from Ina Malan - organiser of our Life Skills sessions

- The eagerness and effort schools put into hosting our life skills sessions. When we told the schools that numbers dropped when the slots were moved to after school, they immediately changed it, as they felt life skill sessions were too important and they did not want learners to miss it.
- The enthusiastic response from learners themselves. They are keen and enthusiastic and enjoy the sessions.
- The increasing openness and sharing of their lives with us. They are increasingly engaging more and are not just listening but are starting to share more about themselves and their lives, their problems and challenges.



Ina Malan with the learners of Dr GJ Joubert Primary School

- Although it is hard to know exactly how much we are impacting individuals as we don't see them outside of our one session per week, there are definite changes in some of our learners. Some learners who were too shy at the start, now join in discussions and put forward their ideas. In one class, I especially notice a Grade 7 boy who always seems disengaged and sad, but lately he started to answer questions. Although he sits separately and seems not to be listening, it reveals that he has in fact been paying close attention and has been internalising things being discussed. God is at work – we just have to keep planting seeds.



“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it”
— Proverbs 22:6

Impact report from the Christmas Tinto Primary School's Library project

Mr. Sibone, deputy principal and also in charge of the new library, sent feedback from a few Grade 4 to 7 learners who frequently visit the library.

- *"As learners, when sometimes we are stressed, we go to the library to calm our minds down and it also improves our skills and reading."*
- *"Libraries help many children to improve their marks. It is very good to have a library at our school and we consider ourselves fortunate."*
- *"It also helps children to understand English and their home languages in an easy way. A library is like a playground for our brains. Without the library we wouldn't know about things that evolve around us. It can improve the way we see things, our creativity and our imaginations."*
- *"In our library you do not make a noise. We don't eat in the library because we take care of our books."*
- *"The library helps in reading and writing and improves my spelling".*
- The library prefects said: *"We grow together as the library team."*

Christmas Tinto Primary School in Asanda Village, next to the N2 in the Western Cape unveiled a brand-new 45 m² prefabricated school library on Thursday 23 November 2023. This was brought about through the Support Hub and Change Journey between the NPO SSCC and Christmas Tinto Primary. During the quarterly Support Hub meetings of June and August 2022, the principal raised the fact that the library space available at the school was not functional and insufficient to accommodate all the learners.



Prefects check that hands are clean for the library



Mandi, a funder from the UK visits our schools

During a visit to Christmas Tinto Primary School by a SSCC staff member, and a Capitec volunteer (who later became a SSCC Board member), a dream emerged for the school to have a brand-new library installed that would meet all its needs. SSCC then approached Breadline Africa to partner with them. They collaborated with various other organisations to make this dream come true 15 months later.

The library was finally donated to the school through a collaboration between SSCC and Breadline Africa (an NPO supplying converted shipping containers and prefabricated units towards poverty relief.) Through fundraising efforts by SSCC, contributions from private organisations and citizens, and the collaboration with Breadline Africa, this initiative became a reality and the library is now fully functional. With additional funding from the City of Cape Town and Capitec, the interior was done and books were covered. Capitec and other volunteers played a big role doing all the hands-on work to make the library functional again. The power of collaboration in action is so inspiring!

This ensures that the learners of Christmas Tinto Primary are able to access effective library services and improve their literacy skills. What a joy it was to take some of our supporters and funders to the library, finding the library prefects in place to oversee the activities and seeing the learners lining up to enter (after the cleanliness of their hands were inspected). This also gave an opportunity for learners to become library prefects and develop their leadership skills.

Lito Shone testifies about the Discipleship groups:

“We engaged with a Grade 10 learner who was limping because of a soccer injury. We invited him to our Discipleship group. He got healed instantly after we prayed for him, and then decided to accept Jesus when he found out Who healed him. He now attends our groups regularly, our weekly Youth service, and he brought five friends to become part of our church.”

“The Nomzamo High School kids are responding very, very well and they are growing. This is because of the groups we already started last year when they were still in Primary School. On Fridays (when we are not there), the teacher also gives them opportunities to share what they have learnt during the week. One of them also became part of our church now. Our Life groups keep growing. At another High School, 2 learners committed their lives to the Lord during our Life Group session. The real-life stories in the *Real Deal* Discipleship books are impacting lives. One boy testified that after he read one of the stories, he decided to give his life to Jesus too.”

All glory to God! We plant, others water, but only He can cause the increase! He is the LORD of the harvest and will also send more workers for the field.



“ **Story is what makes us human, not just metaphorically but literally. Recent breakthroughs in neuroscience reveal that our brain is hardwired to respond to story...** ”
— Lisa Cron, *Wired for Story*

SCHOOL WELL-BEING HUBS

by Zelda Coetzee



Through obedience to God, we started our Well-being Hubs with our first small steps towards a big dream - supporting Schools from roots to fruits in body, mind, soul and spirit - in July 2023. We were convinced that we had a mandate to address the diverse challenges our Schools are facing, and felt compelled to come alongside School communities to help develop healthy communities, cities, and our nation. There can be hope and healing - one learner, one teacher, one parent, one God-idea at a time.

We focused on a holistic well-being approach for the principals, teachers, learners and their parents by focusing on four areas:

- Spiritual
- Psychological
- Godly Life Skills
- Physical well-being (Therapeutic Music & Art stress release)

We started off with humble beginnings - weekly Life Skills with a Gr 6 & 9 learner group in our schools, facilitated by myself and one volunteer. Here we are, twelve months later by the grace of God, excited about so many opportunities that were entrusted to us. Together, we have built an infrastructure and committed volunteers for the different Well-being Hub focus areas:

Spiritual well-being

- We are taking the Gospel to the marketplace (schools) by sharing God's love and Godly principles with Principals, Educators, Learners and Parents.
- Assemblies are loved and learners are always excited when they see the SSCC team.
- Teacher workshop appreciations and inspirations were an absolute favourite for all of our teaching staff.

Psychological well-being

- Executive coaching was done for our principals by an Industrial Psychologist, André Venter.
- A well-received Parent Trauma workshop by Jannett Skinner, with lots of interaction and counselling.
- Teachers and Learners had the opportunity to be counselled by a Clinical Psychologist (Abeedah Hendricks-Lalla from Cedar Psychology) and counsellors of the Helderberg Counselling Centre.
- Godly Life Skills - a team of 8 Afrikaans and Xhosa/English speaking Life Skills facilitators was raised and equipped. A volunteer, Ina Malan, oversees the group and the material they use. We spend 6 weeks in each term with Gr 6 - 11 learners in our Schools. Each year we focus on more Learners for 2 Weeks in our Youth at Risk topics. In 2023 we especially focused on Teen pregnancy and Gangsterism.



Sir Lowry's Pass Primary learners having fun with Zelda

Teacher engagement with André Venter

- Monthly Prefect Leadership training sessions are done with our next generation leaders, and it is so amazing to see them grow as servant leaders and role models.
- We realised the need to focus on building bridges to spend more time with the Learners to establish Godly values through weekly Discipleship Groups (Life Groups) in our schools as from February 2024.
- **Real Deal** has trained 3 of our Xhosa team members to use their Your New Life Journey books in the Life Groups. There are so many stories of positive change and growth in our young people's – and families lives.
- **Bright Star Life Skills** Workshops for teachers and parents (Bright Star Core and Legacy Dad).

Physical well-being - Therapeutical music workshops by the talented Ha!man (Francois Le Roux) for 150 Learners in 3 of our schools was an amazing experience in helping Learners to get in touch with their inner-emotions and just being able to express themselves in a new way.

Many lives have been impacted and changed through this holistic approach, interventions and commitment towards well-being, which is key to healthy communities, cities, and our nation. We are saying YES to an exciting last term of 2024 that is filled with even greater opportunities for our Well-being Hubs.

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building." (1 Cor. 3:6-9)



Life Skills at Dr GJ Joubert Primary



Assembly at Sir Lowry's Pass Primary



Gideon's Bible placement at Nomzamo High School



Therapeutic Music workshop at ACJ Phakade Primary School

PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTS

Below are photos of a few of our projects and activities addressing needs communicated in the Support Hub meetings. For more detail on the Projects, read the Feedback and Donor Report on our website.

Various Life skills Programs for Learners, Teachers and Parents



A Legacy Dad workshop



Life Skills facilitator - Fefe Ngaye

Life Groups growing in our schools

We are excited about the Xhosa-speaking facilitators who are willing to facilitate small Life groups for interested learners after school. Thank you to Lito, Prosper and Esethu for ministering to our Learners. May the seed grow to become a great harvest, and may the Lord send more labourers.



Principal Support Hubs

One of our founders blessed our Principals with a Clifton Strengths assessments and feedback sessions. Amanda Swanepoel, facilitated the initial Strengths session.

Juanita facilitated the follow-up Strengths sessions where they discovered what they naturally do best, learnt how to develop their greatest talents into strengths and how to maximize their potential. Niel Stenmann (CEO of Peoples Dynamic Development) blessed our Principals with sessions on **'Finding and amplifying your roar'**.



Fundraising Initiatives: Golf Day and Music Concert

In collaboration with Communities of Abundance, Octofin and many other local sponsors and businessmen, we had our second Golf Day on 15 March at the beautiful Strand Golf course. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed and supported this initiative.



Thanks to Portchie who made his venue, Maria's Manor, available to us, we held a lovely Music concert on 16 February in Stellenbosch with the Ha!man and Trudette Schoeman as performers.



Compass Calibration Virtual Platform launched

We are proud of the work that was done in terms of our Compass Calibration (a whole-school audit) online platform during the past year. With specified funding received, we were fortunate to contract Appolog to develop our online survey, which will greatly benefit schools both in the short- and long-term. The key and critical questions in the survey seek to highlight the areas of development that schools need support with. The survey results enable us to further co-create specific solutions for a specific school. We are able to share the results with funders and collaborators and in so doing garner further support for our network Schools, who have embarked on registering on our online platform. They will shortly be completing their surveys and thereafter individual survey feedback sessions will be conducted.



www.compasscalibration.co.za

The fully automated platform is now available and provides a resource (at a reasonable price) for Schools to perform self assessments and to analyze areas where certain aspects could be improved in order for them to become stronger Schools.

Cleaner-Greener Nomzamo Project

Due to funding received from the Grayswan Charitable Trust and City of Cape Town Grant-in-aid funding, we could sustain this project in 3 of our Schools in the Nomzamo area for another year. Much is still to be done and it will be great if the whole community around the Schools can take hands to work towards this dream of a cleaner-greener Nomzamo.



Counselling network around our Schools

Due to funding received, we started a counselling fund. When funding is received, counselling is made available to specified cases from the schools. We are very grateful towards André Venter, who played a major roll in screening people and organisations to assist our Schools in addressing this very urgent need. Thank you André, Abeedah, Adré, Jannett and Helderberg Outreach for coming alongside schools to assist them with many challenges.



Jannett Skinner



Adré Potgieter



Virtual Workshops to enhance our Team and others in the For Purpose sector

We were able to coordinate and host various Virtual Workshops with excellent facilitators and three-fold purpose: empowering our own team members and other organisations, broadening our network with more like-minded people and as an extra income stream for Strong Schools activities. Topics like Theory of Change, Creating Stories of Hope, Strategising from a Biblical perspective, Management Control and around Leadership Identity. The workshops were well-received by all the participants, and we trust it will bear fruit too. Thank you to all the presenters for sharing your time, passion and talents to enhance the For Purpose sector.

“

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”

— Elizabeth Andrew

”

SOCIAL IMPACT PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Collaboration for transformation

Collaboration is a cornerstone for unlocking new possibilities and catalysing progress in organisational transformations. Transformative leaders should place it at the core of their initiatives to increase impact and success. It will generate more innovative solutions, accelerate progress and improve stakeholder engagement. Collaboration comes with many other benefits on a team and individual level, increasing creativity, leveraging diverse expertise, breaking down silos and enhancing agility.

(EY Belgium, Unlocking Transformational Success: The Power of Collaboration)



SSCC wants to salute and thank every person and organisation that are involved in these interventions.

WE CAN DO THIS TOGETHER!



Johan du Raan, Communities of Abundance

"At Communities of Abundance, we believe that true transformation is born out of collaboration. Our partnership with Strong Schools Community Collaborative (SSCC) has been a testament to the power of united efforts. Over the past year, working alongside SSCC has demonstrated that when communities and organisations come together with a shared vision, the impact is magnified. Together, we have harnessed the 'power of one' to break down barriers, foster innovation, and create lasting change in the education sector. This collaboration has not only strengthened our collective impact but has also deepened our commitment to building thriving, empowered communities."



The R530,000 Christmas Tinto Library Project on which we reported earlier, is another excellent example of the power of collaboration.

“

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”

— Mother Teresa

”

Amanda Swanepoel – BrightStar LifeStyle

“The partnership between BrightStar LifeStyle and SSCC has once again been an inspiring and fulfilling journey. It is with pure joy that we contribute to the purpose of building Strong Schools. At BrightStar LifeStyle, our role is to support SSCC by enhancing the capabilities of facilitators, ensuring they have the tools and training needed to effectively impact the people they serve. By refining and developing our programmes and workshop, we are committed to addressing the specific needs of both learners and educators. This focus allows us to help individuals thrive, both in their professional and personal lives.

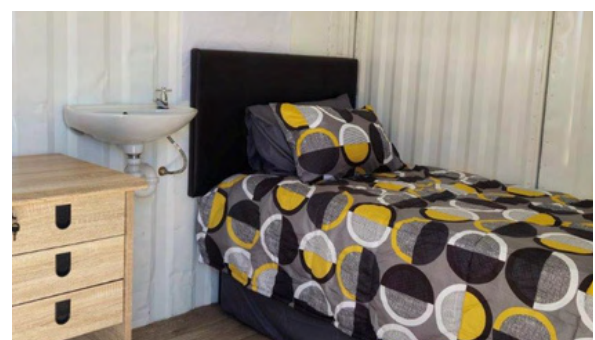


Together, we aim to create a lasting impact that will benefit learners and educators alike, ensuring a brighter future for all. Congratulations SSCC! We celebrate another year of visible and commendable life-changing hard work!”



CAPITEC Volunteers projects in our Schools

We have received wonderful support from Capitec over the past year again. On the photos you will see Nomzamo High School's Vegetable garden being developed, the Maths classroom being painted (paint donated by Prominent Paint). They also donated funding for their Counselling/Sick Bay Room. The Budget Champs programme was thoroughly enjoyed by Dr GJ Joubert Primary learners. What a privilege and pleasure to receive all this support from an organisation like Capitec! THANK YOU!



Lito Shone – Every Nation Zola Church

“It such a great joy and experience to partner with Strong Schools, because it helps us to reach in places where we couldn't reach on our own. It also open doors to touch more lives of young people in our communities. It's true when they say we're better and stronger together. To change our nation, we need each other like never before. May this relationship go far and break borders to bring change in our society.”

André Venter - Industrial Psychologist

“Since joining the team as a volunteer in establishing the Well-being Hubs, collaboration with the SSCC was one of the most meaningful experiences following retirement from corporate life. It gave me a new sense of purpose and an opportunity to make a difference in the field of education. I serve as a volunteer , providing professional psychological related services and advice on all aspects pertaining to the psychological well-being of learners, teachers and principals of the schools involved with SSCC.



During the past year the provision of clinical psychological services to learners of the designated schools, as well as counselling for teachers were firmly established. Executive coaching was provided for the headmasters, focusing on areas of strength and development areas, and action steps to close the gaps in order to perform optimally.

The recruitment of an additional member of the Well-being Hubs occurred during June 2024, to strengthen the team of professionals and to enhance the service delivery to learners in the context of psychological, emotional and social needs.”

(Organisational Psychologist and MD of André Venter Consulting)

Liana Lourens – BrightStar facilitator & Volunteer



“I am overwhelmed by gratitude for every Brightstar moment we get to share with the staff and learners of the SSCC Schools. It is extra special to experience some of the 'fruit' in those who have done First Light in the previous years. What a blessing it is to see how the faithfulness and dedication of the SSCC staff and volunteers is an echo of the our Heavenly Father's love and sustenance. May we together keep on plowing, sowing, tending and harvesting His fields! ”

Nanine Steenkamp – Real Deal



“Real Deal is thankful and glad to work with a partner like SSCC with a heart for discipleship. It is a privilege to journey with your facilitators. We are inspired by people like Zelda, whose heart burns for children to grow in their relationship with God, in spite of this landscape where finding volunteers is a huge challenge.

We honor God for the work that He is doing through you and your organisation and are looking forward to the multiplication of this project and our partnership.”

GOVERNANCE

by Berthold Alheit

A Board of 5 Directors is in place and we meet four times per year. Unfortunately Marguerite Wahl had to resign towards the end of the year and we would like to thank her for her contribution over two years. The Directors are registered with the CIPC, and all meetings are minuted.

SSCC has maintained its clean governance record throughout the year ending 30 June 2024. It includes the required updating and renewing of all licenses, certificates, tax allowances and similar documents required to run the NPC. This is coupled with a good financial system. Even with a change in bookkeepers in the midst of the 2023/24 financial year, we maintained a clean audit for the 2024 Financial Year-end.

Towards donors and based on our 5 steps Change Journey with our Schools, we have launched our on-line Compass Calibration. It is a whole-school audit tool, used in our schools to identify gaps and to help measuring impact. Records of all our monitoring and evaluation activities at each of our current schools and providing feedback on the outcomes to each school's management team, remains the basis of the Support Hub activities and is the benchmark for measuring our progress. This is also used to provide feedback to all the SSCC donors.

In addition, for every identified project, timelines and end goals were set, measured and reported against, both in the School Support Hubs and to the relevant specific donors. Statistics of specific attendances of relevant Life Skills and related programs are kept and followed up on. (Learners, Prefects, Teachers, Senior Management Team members, Parents and School Governing Body members.)

The Well-Being Hubs keep similar records, but with more confidentiality measures in place to protect the persons requiring access to counselling and specific interventions. Statistics for all of these are also kept and scrutinised for systemic or more common problems and its trend in our Schools. Individual feedback is given to all donors where agreed spending objectives have been specified.

The following documentation and certification is in place and up to date:

- NPO & NPC Registration
- PBO Registration
- SARS Tax exemption letter
- Tax Compliance letter
- B-BBEE Certificate
- VAT Registration
- Project Plans and detailed Budgets as required
- Audited Financial Statements



“
***We cannot be mere consumers of good governance,
we must be participants; we must be co-creators.***
— Rohini Nilekani”

LESSONS LEARNT & CHALLENGES

Main lessons learnt and challenges for SSCC

- If this is God's dream and vision, He always provides and is never late and He certainly did again during the past year. We experienced so many miracles this year!
- For a holistic approach to support schools, meaningful change can only be achieved through more collaboration and collective efforts from the community.
- Enough committed volunteers for this huge task are always hard to find, as well as coordinating them properly. Good structured systems are needed and were put in place.
- How to expand the interactive SSCC model into more Schools locally and into other geographical areas is still our challenge.
- Implementation of our new virtual Compass Calibration (whole-school audit) tool to many more schools in order to also create a "new income stream" for SSCC.
- Suitable, competent and affordable additional people to execute all the above.
- 'Finding the right people for the right job at the right time'. This is even a bigger challenge in the NPO sector. We learnt how to use a broader approach towards finding the right people and use professional people to assist with the process.
- It is a challenge to keep committed staff in NPO's because of the huge need in our communities and a lack of proper funding to remunerate them fairly for their work and efforts beyond.
- Finding a broader funding strategy that will help us sustain our own organisations and not be dependent only on donors and fundraisers and additional funders for the combined above requirements to be implemented simultaneously.
- Corporates and individual funders need to understand the need to remunerate staff for a Not-for-Profit organisation sufficiently if you want to draw and keep quality employees.
- A lack of enough prayer support and also to keep ourselves accountable to keep prayer a top priority. Without proper prayer support, the multiplied impact we try to accomplish is not possible.
- Be aware of the different mindsets between the corporate space to the NPO environment.
- People and relationships are key! Results are not always immediately noticeable.

Some of the main challenges in our Schools

- Because of major emotional and physical challenges, it is a big challenge to get parents involved in their children's lives and at school.
- Transport is always a big challenge in disadvantaged communities for almost every event/opportunity. This influences the attendance of our workshops and initiatives and the availability of some volunteers.
- People do not always have data or airtime on their phones, and messages are not always answered, which results in a lack of good communication.
- The workload of the Principals and Teachers is a big challenge in relation to suggested SSCC activities, Support Hub and other required commitments. It has improved this year as better practices are being put in place.
- A lack of time to pay attention to possible needed interventions is a major challenge for everyone. The main focus in schools should still be on education and achieving the academic goals. The challenge is to balance it all and manage time and efforts well.
- Commitment of the people attending the workshops remains a challenge, but it improved slightly this year because of better systems in place and better communication.
- Language and cultural differences: Concepts have to be explained in such a way that it is understood correctly across the various cultures, especially regarding spiritual matters.
- Safety: Some volunteers or service providers do not feel safe to work in the areas where our schools are situated. We pray for safety when we have to work in areas that might not always be safe.
- A lack of basic resources, because the schools we serve are no-fees schools.

VISION & DREAMS TOWARDS 2025/2026

- Strategic Funders, Partnerships and Collaborations with like-minded organisations and people to expand and scale the SSCC model to other Schools in South Africa - with suitably trained and successful School Support Hub and Well-being Hub Coordinators.
- The Support Hubs ('engine rooms' and 'think tanks' of SSCC and our Schools) to become even more effective in more schools in supporting them with our 5-step Change journey.
- A competent Support Hub and Well-being Hub Coordinator for every 3 schools.
- Fully established Well-being Hubs in all our schools in order to bring healing and restoration in body, mind, soul and spirit. The coordination function also needs to be provided, as schools don't have the capacity or means to afford and appoint these critical resources.
- Collaboration with more key service providers, as SSCC will focus to deliver on their Theory of Change through coordination and facilitation. The vision is to allow various service providers to each deliver their core services and contribute towards building stronger schools.
- Our launched Compass Calibration (whole-school audit) to become a tool used across provincial boundaries, providing both good user results and a consistent source of income to Strong Schools.
- A sustainable financial model successfully implemented, giving more certainty to all the committed personnel and the Schools. Increasing to a solid foundation of at least 20 regular long-term primary donors who buy into and support our WHY on an ongoing basis.
- Increasing the number of committed Volunteers to facilitate Life Skills and Discipleship groups to 10 Volunteers for every 3 Schools.
- Improved parent involvement in our Schools through Life Skills workshops and School Government Body training.
- Finding more effective strategies to improve literacy and numeracy in all the schools. Improved literacy through better functioning libraries. Librarians for all our schools' libraries.
- Improved School Management Practices through Change Management sessions.
- More Life Skills Workshops for Educators, Learners and Parents.
- Improved Learner Academic Performance.
- A minimum of two Community Projects per school towards safer school environments and more conducive to learning.
- Improved buy-in from the schools and communities towards a Cleaner-Greener school environment.
- Sufficient funds in our Counselling Fund that enables us to meet the psychosocial needs of each of our network Schools.
- To create more public awareness around SSCC through various marketing initiatives and implement an improved marketing and fund development strategy.
- More Godly strategies so that schools can all become healthy beacons of hope in the communities.



“**You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you think you cannot do.**”

— Eleanor Roosevelt

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FINANCIALS

Our financials confirm significant growth from 2023 to 2024, for which we are so grateful towards God for His provision and for every stakeholder who contributed towards the SSCC cause.

Highlights as basis for the growth includes the full-on institution of Well-being Hubs in addition to the School Support Hubs, the expansion of the Life Skills Programs and the number of Learners, Prefects, Teachers and Parents reached across the Strong Schools. Quite a few of our new donors opted to donate specifically towards our various Well-being Hub activities during the past year.

Our annual financial statements have been audited by independent auditors, FinHub Chartered Accountants Inc, who were given unrestricted access to all financial reports and related data. The Financial Statements for the year 2023/2024 are available on request.

Income Statement

	2024	2023
Revenue	2,240,035	1,132,437
Operating Expenses	(1,471,993)	(1,050,258)
Operating Surplus	768,042	82,179
Investment Revenue	17,620	9,488
Net surplus for the Year	785,662	91,667

On the income and expenditure side the following should be noted:

Income:

- Donations increased from R 985,410 to R 2,111,904
- Fundraising decreased from R122,352 to R103,935

Expenditure:

- Basic Employee costs increased from R365,749 to R609,901, which was due to:
 - The hiring and utilisation of qualified presenters and support staff during many of the Schools' Life Skills and Well-being activities.
 - The appointment of some permanent program/project management personnel to deliver against specific contracted outputs on various of our projects.
 - Appointment of a minimum staff, to ensure quality administration and services to the Schools
- The Compass Calibration project which automates the whole-school audit was successfully launched and is now an intangible asset, starting to generate income.
- Training fees of our staff increased substantially. Our staff and volunteers increased and we believe it is necessary to develop our staff.

"He who plants sparingly also harvests sparingly. Each should give according to what he has decided in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God has the power to provide you with every gracious gift in abundance, so that always in every way you will have all you need yourselves and be able to provide abundantly for every good cause."

(2 Cor. 6-8)



THANK YOU

We want to conclude with a heartfelt expression of gratitude towards all our stakeholders - Principals and their Schools, supporters, donors, partners, volunteers and service providers. Thank you for your continued involvement in 2023/2024. Without your prayers, donations, time, gifts, public and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, none of the work outlined in this report would be possible.

This Annual Impact Report reflects a year of fruitful and impactful interventions, projects, collaborations, and a deep commitment towards making a positive difference in Schools and communities in underprivileged areas. Above all, it reflects God's grace and faithfulness



CURRENT SOCIAL IMPACT PARTNERS & DONORS

Action Volunteers Africa - Career Guidance and Support
André Venter Consulting - Well-being Hubs support
Blackburn Holdings (UK) - Funding support
Breadline Africa - Libraries
BrightStar Lifestyle - Life Skills & Coaching
Camino Consulting - Change Management
Capitec Bank - Sponsorships, Mathematics Programme, Volunteer Teams
Cedar Psychology - Professional Counselling services
Complete Office Solutions - IT Support, Stationery
City of Cape Town - Grant in Aid for various projects
Communities of Abundance - Strategic conduit Funding Partner
Every Nation Zola Church - Volunteers, Discipleship Groups
Grayswan Charitable Trust - Project Funding
HEY! - Gospel Programs
Malan Investment Holdings - Funding support
Mergon Foundation - Funding support, Organisational Development
People's Dynamic Development - Principal Development
Real Deal - Organisational Development, Discipleship support
SHARP & SMD Technologies - Calculators
The Butterfly Foundation - Funding Support
Truth2Kids - Gospel Programs
Private Donors, Supporters & Prayer partners for their valuable contributions
Local businesses from our community for Fundraisers gifts



Strong Schools Community Collaborative



A For Purpose organisation that helps to build effective, STRONG SCHOOLS, so that learners can become independent and productive citizens.

GET INVOLVED

Sign up as Volunteer for a Project

Make a Tax-deductible donation

Organise a drive for a project

Pray for our organisation and Schools

Swipe your MySchool card with SSCC as beneficiary

Follow us on Social Media: @StrongSchoolsza

Support our Fundraisers and Golf Days

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US



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