



**Empowering
Communities
Through
Empowering
Schools**

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2024/2025





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A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

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As we reflect on the past year, we are once again filled with gratitude for the growth and progress within the Schools we support, as well as the welcome addition of new Schools to the SSCC network. It has been a season marked by deepening impact, strategic expansion and the strengthening of our core mission.

Our commitment to *Well-being* and *Growing the Whole Person*, gained real momentum last year. We are very grateful towards Zelda Coetzee, our Well-being Champion, who assisted SSCC for 18 months to pilot Well-being Hubs and various new interventions. At the end of January 2025, she concluded her time at SSCC, leaving behind a record of valued contributions.

At the end of 2024, we bid a fond farewell to Ms. Juanita Möller, our former COO and Public Officer, who has relocated to the USA to begin a new chapter. She played a huge role in establishing well-functioning Support Hubs, strategic interventions in Schools, and our Compass Calibration tool. She continued to support SSCC remotely with strategic input and financial matters in a part-time capacity. It's been a true delight to appoint Ms. Jannett Skinner at the beginning of January 2025 as Executive Manager, overseeing both our growth and scaling strategies, alongside key restructuring efforts. Under her leadership, well-being initiatives have been meaningfully integrated into our School Support Hubs in 2025. We are deeply appreciative of Ms. Skinner, who has also taken on the role of Public Officer, and thank her sincerely for embracing these added responsibilities.

Our Support Hubs have been restructured and geographically grouped—now serving five schools in the Helderberg Basin and three in the Paarl area. With this new structure, we have been able to build deeper connections between Schools and their Communities. We were also pleased to appoint a second Support Hub Coordinator, Ms. Sandra Oosthuizen, in April this year. Both coordinators are now well-positioned to grow the impact and reach of our work.

An exciting development this year was the piloting of our *Strong Schools* scaling model. Grounded in our 5-Step Change Journey, the Compass Calibration tool, and the Support Hub framework (now inclusive of well-being), this model provides each school with a guided process to identify and act on their unique growth areas. With generous support from *Communities of Abundance*, we launched two different pilot scaling projects—reaching three Schools in Paarl and five in Wellington. While these pilots have been encouraging, further training is planned to ensure their full success, and more support from the communities is crucial.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to extend this model to more Schools in other Communities in 2026. We need to find suitable Communities and Partners to test case for long-distance implementation of the proven Strong Schools journey, built and refined in our Helderberg Basin and Paarl Schools.

SSCC Team building with coach Amanda - celebrating our strengths



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

(Continued)

We are also grateful for the continued development of our online Compass Calibration Tool, which has been upgraded in response to feedback from a growing number of Schools. The resulting feedback and review sessions have proven highly effective and meaningful.

There is so much more to be thankful for. Our School interventions have grown through new partnerships and initiatives—ranging from Volunteer-led mentoring, the introduction of psychological services, library establishment, and various community projects. Collaboration with local faith communities and churches has deepened the spiritual support available to both learners and educators.

As we witness stronger Schools, more confident Learners, and inspired Educators rediscovering the joy of their calling, we can only say: **Praise the Lord** for His continued provision and grace. These milestones remind us that this work is more than just structural—it's transformational. It brings real change to Communities and hope to our nation.

All of this, and much more, is explored in greater depth in this report. May it serve as an encouragement and a reminder of what is possible when we work together with purpose, faith, and vision.

Warm regards,



“
Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.
 – Psalm 127:1
 ”

Opening of Nomzamo High School Counselling room & Sickbay



HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Board Members

Appointment of an Executive Manager: This decision has propelled us forward significantly. Since January 2025, Jannett has added and created immense value through her strategic leadership and management of the team, enabling SSCC to operate with greater focus, cohesion and impact.

Strengthening Community ties and growth in support: We have meaningfully increased and deepened our engagement through initiatives such as the Business Breakfast, partnering with local churches and building relationships with new collaborators who are keen to scale the SSCC model. These efforts have strengthened collaboration, broadened our support base, and ensured that the Community is more actively engaged in and invested in our cause. We are also grateful for new funders who came on board to support this cause.

Explosion of Well-being interventions: The official opening of the Nomzamo High School Counselling room and Sickbay (funded by Capitec) and providing much needed psycho-social support, were some of the biggest highlights. These interventions, funded by the Mergon Foundation and various other supporters, proved that addressing well-being is absolutely crucial.

Growth of the Life Groups: Thanks to open doors in these Schools towards sharing the Gospel programmes, our Life Skills facilitators, who already built trust relationships during the Life Skills programmes, experienced much spiritual growth and breakthroughs in their smaller Life groups. We are thankful towards God for opportunities to take the Gospel to the marketplace and for local churches around our Schools who support these efforts and programmes.

Online Compass Calibration Tool Fully Implemented: After three years of development, our whole-school evaluation tool is now fully operational. Expanding the tool from 5 to 13 Schools (3 in Paarl and 5 in Wellington) provided key insights into user experience challenges and started to drive quality improvements. Feedback reports highlighted each School's priority development areas, enabling management teams and Support Hub members to plan targeted, impactful interventions.

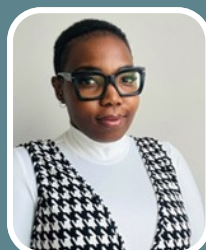
Piloting Our Scaling Model: After five years of rigorous testing and refinement, we were excited to implement two distinct scaling models this year - in partnership with COA - in two different Communities. We collaborated with like-minded organisations who share our passion for empowering local leaders and drive sustainable change in Schools. This was a significant step forward in expanding our impact and reaching more Communities.

Arts and Culture Workshops funded by COCT Grant-in-Aid: Youth@Risk, ArtJamming and Therapeutic Music workshops provided a safe space to Learners for self-expression, stress reduction, and building self-esteem. Youth Leaders from Sir Lowry's Pass Primary collaborated to paint a "Big Picture" from individual canvases, exploring teamwork, communication, and collaboration. The activity fostered unity, hope, and pride in Learners.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”
— Ephes. 3:20



Juanita Möller



Palesa Qhalane



Trudie Schoeman

OUR PURPOSE, STRATEGY & VALUES

OUR PURPOSE

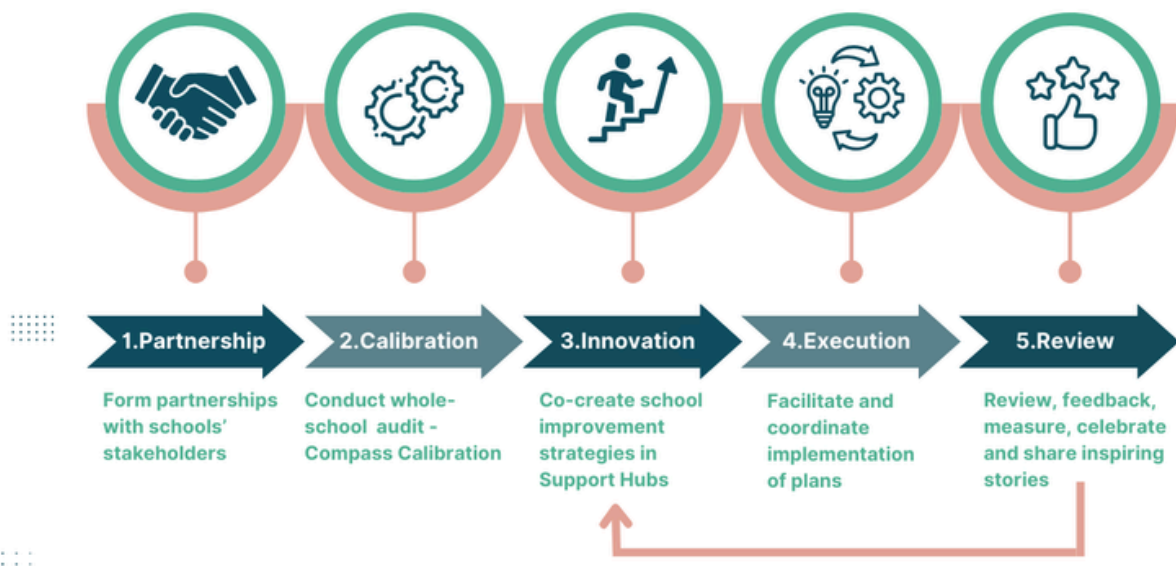
Empowering Schools in disadvantaged communities holistically to be effective, *STRONG SCHOOLS*, so that learners can become more whole, independent and productive citizens.

OUR STRATEGY

- **Partner** with School leadership and stakeholders to form *School Support and Well-being Hubs*
- **Facilitate** practical and effective solutions through the *SSCC 5-step Change Journey*
- **Collaborate** with like-minded and trusted people and organisations to increase social impact by means of a supportive learning environment.
- **Support sustainable interventions** in Schools

THE STRONG SCHOOLS CHANGE JOURNEY

Our streamlined 5-step process ensures effective results



OUR DREAM

Every Child receives effective education in a safe and respectful environment and Schools are beacons of hope and change for the community. Every Child and School flourish through strong spiritual, emotional, educational and leadership support, becoming oaks of righteousness.

*Strong Schools build Strong Communities and a Strong Country;
Strong Communities build Strong Schools.*

OUR VALUES

At SSCC, we aim to **SERVE** our Schools and Community. We can only do it through **TRUST** relationships, staying **ACCOUNTABLE** to our commitments, showing **RESPECT** towards each other, and by investing in **SUSTAINABLE** interventions. We strive to do this with **EXCELLENCE** through **CO-CREATION** and **COLLABORATION**.

“

It is not my ability, but my response to God's ability that counts.

— Corrie Ten Boom

”



REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR

Executive Manager, Jannett Skinner

With renewed focus, we reframed our strategy in 2025 - keeping a sharp focus on purpose, people and impact. Anchored in Isaiah 61:1-3, it has been a year of focusing on what matters most. We've pursued our calling - to "bind up the brokenhearted... proclaim liberty to the captive ... that they might be called trees of righteousness... And they shall build the old wastes ...".

By choosing to focus on resilience, gratitude and clear goals, we've turned challenges into stepping stones. Like a carefully framed photograph, our work this year focused on what's most meaningful: lives transformed, communities strengthened and hope restored.

Caring for Our Teams, Facilitators & Volunteers: We prioritised the well-being of our Staff and Volunteers through intentional debriefs, self-care initiatives and coaching. A powerful *Silent Retreat* at *In Harmonie* allowed our team to reflect, reset and renew our sense of purpose.

Structural Growth in Support Hubs: We strengthened operations by appointing a second, well-equipped Support Hub Coordinator and geographically grouping schools to improve relationships and reduce travel.

Scaling for Greater Reach: In 2024 our model was scaled across Paarl and Wellington in collaboration with Communities of Abundance (COA), expanding our impact to 13 schools. Great motivational sessions kickstarted a purpose-driven school year.

Key Programme Highlights:

Support & Principal Hub Meetings: These meetings deepened trust relationships, encouraged improved communication, literacy and safety practices. Principal Support Hubs facilitated collaboration, peer learning, and shared problem-solving among School leaders.

Life Skills and Life Groups: Increased buy-in led to more Volunteers and one new School joining this journey in the Helderberg Basin.

Teambuilding at the beginning of 2025



REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR

(Continued)

Culture Shift Classroom Management Strategy: The strategy was introduced and rolled out to our network Schools. It is a values-based programme to help Educators “look for the gold.”, and empowers them to manage their classes with a positive strategy.

Check-Know-Prevent: A Breast cancer awareness and education programme that reached 100 girls through nurses, resources, and referrals.

Strategic Growth & New Initiatives

Capitec Support: We are grateful for their funding towards projectors, scientific calculators, educational hikes, Career Day support and classroom Culture shift workshops, as well as a few new Volunteer-based initiatives.

Action Volunteers Africa (AVA)’s Career Day at Nomzamo High: Exposed learners to new possibilities.

Piloting Moms with Purpose: A discipleship and life-skills journey was piloted and is launching soon in two schools, designed to equip moms to lead in their Community and School with confidence.

Community Partnerships

From shade cloths at Dr GJ Joubert Primary (sponsored by Miller Bosman Le Roux Attorneys) to STOP-trafficking workshops, an AI webinar, and new supporters and funders, our collaborations sparked meaningful impact.

Volunteer Development and Events

Four new Volunteers joined this year. Events like the Music Concert, Erinvale Networking Breakfast and the COA Golf Day for engaged donors, raised funds, built relationships and momentum for future growth.

Looking Ahead

As we refine and scale, we remain rooted in hope and resilience. Thank you to every Partner, Donor and Volunteer who walked with us. Together, we are reframing the future — one frame at a time.

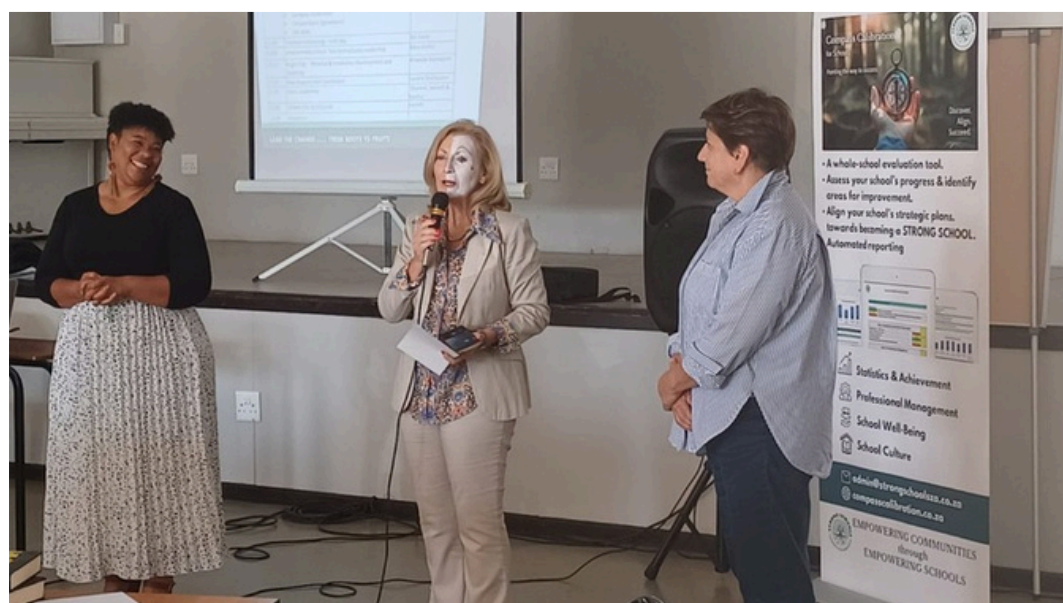
“

Each man should frame life so that at some future hour fact and his dreaming meet.

— Victor Hugo

”

*Sharene de Besch, Jannett Skinner
& Sandra Oosthuizen
at a Principal Support Hub.*





PRINCIPALS FEEDBACK

Mr Blackie Swart: Hope & Light Community Welfare School

From August 2024 until June 2025, Hope and Light Community Welfare (NPC) School started participating in SSCC activities. From the outset, the school experienced a warm and supportive environment, fostering collaboration among educators, managers, and governors. The SSCC guiding principle, "**LEAD THE CHANGE... FROM ROOTS TO FRUITS**", became more than just a motto—it shaped a shared commitment to building strong, resilient Schools, focused on empowering Learners to become more productive citizens.

Our School engaged in several key SSCC-driven activities. We benefited from **School Support and Principal Hub meetings**, which offers a space to exchange ideas, gain professional insights and establish new projects. The **Compass Calibration Survey** was instrumental in assessing the School's operations and identifying areas for improvement. The **Thuma Mina Teaching project** brought digital EMS teaching resources and direct support for the new Grade 7–9 Teacher, enriching classroom experiences for Learners.

Networking opportunities, like the Business Breakfast in March, further connected the School with sponsors and professionals, adding value to its initiatives and involving learners in these platforms. In addition to academic and leadership support, our School also participated in leadership development and sustainability initiatives. A special **Grade 8 Prefect training** session significantly impacted Learners, reinforcing the value of leadership early on. SSCC also facilitated the donation of a waterless urinal, supporting the School's eco-friendly goals.

In summary, Hope and Light School is deeply grateful to SSCC for the partnership and resources provided, and we look forward to continued collaboration to grow as a strong, forward-thinking educational institution.

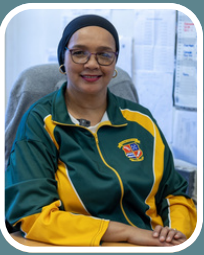


Sponsored workout at Virgin Active for Teachers



Grade 8 Prefect training by Zelda





PRINCIPALS FEEDBACK

Ms Tauhira Fanie: Dr GJ Joubert Primary School

Once again, we can look back with grateful hearts at the positive impact that Strong Schools' involvement has had and continues to have, on our School and Learners.

We are thankful that, with the help of SSCC, we received 7 whiteboards and projectors in 2024 through Capitec funding. New worlds have opened for our Learners, and this has been a great resource for our Educators, especially since most of the learning material is digital and interactive.

During our Support Hub session this year, we mentioned the need for shelter for our learners who are part of the feeding scheme. With SSCC's assistance, we received shade nets from Miller Bosman Le Roux Attorneys. Our children can now enjoy their meals without the worry of rain falling into their plates.

As staff, we also had the privilege of completing the Compass Calibration online school-evaluation. This was an excellent tool to assess what is really happening at our School. It made me realise that our School is not quite where I thought we were. Many strengths were highlighted, but gaps and shortcomings were also identified. As a management team, we were able to analyse the feedback report and started addressing areas of concern. This allowed us to realign our compass in the right direction. Thank you very much, Strong Schools.



Prefects Training in Life Skills



Capitec Budget Champs programme



Life Skills sessions by Zelda Coetzee & Ina Malan





PRINCIPALS FEEDBACK

Mr Chris Mgubanto: Nomzamo High School

It gives me a great honor to bear testament to the impact of SSCC on Nomzamo High School. Our School has now shifted from planning for compliance to **setting realistic strategic objectives**, which would have only been dreams and gathered dust in the cabinet of the headmaster. Operational plans have come to life through the **monthly Support Hubs**, where we *gained thinking partners* that ensured that our plans are realized.

As head of the institution, I am able to deliver more, with confidence, through the development programs and tools that I have at my disposal through SSCC. The **all-round support** has created a School that we own and are proud to be part of.

Our Learners now have calculators and the number of Learners taking up pure Mathematics has been positively impacted in this current year. The investment into our Learners has been tremendous and we are seeing a more positive, proud and accountable Learners in our School.

We are always ecstatic and look forward to nurturing this relationship, as **the impact leads to tangible outcomes**. This is the reason why Henry Ford said *"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."* Keep up the good work Strong Schools and be blessed.



Check-Know-Prevent - Breast Cancer Awareness and Education



Career guidance by Capitec



Career guidance by AVA



PRINCIPALS FEEDBACK

Ms Delphine May: Sir Lowry's Pass Primary School



Our partnership with SSCC has made 2025 **a year of growth, connection, and inspiration for both learners and staff**. Through your support, we have been able to create richer learning experiences and strengthen our school community. From technology in the classroom to stronger community bonds, SSCC has touched many areas of our school life this year. We are grateful for your continued partnership and the lasting impact you are making on our Learners, Staff and Families.

They hosted **a memorable assembly** at our School, inspiring learners with messages of hope, resilience and the importance of quality education. Our Learners enjoyed the **colourful Art Jamming sessions**, letting their creativity shine with brushes and paint. It was filled with laughter, great teamwork and amazing artwork. Their masterpiece was proudly displayed and hung in the school's foyer.

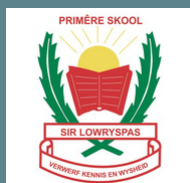
The installation of **Data projectors** in the Gr. 2 classrooms has transformed lessons, making teaching more interactive, visual and engaging for our Learners. The **Culture Shift Classroom Management** session was a brilliant presentation that aims to strengthen our School's culture, support consistent expectations, enhances the overall teaching and learning at our School, promotes Learner engagement, reduce disruptions and foster mutual respect in the classroom.

Life skills (Personal development): Our Grade 6 & 7 learners were encouraged to reflect on their personal strengths and to identify their areas of growth. It also empowered them to take responsibility for their actions and choices, laying a foundation for a positive and productive future.

STOP Trafficking Humans Awareness: These sessions equipped our Grade 5, 6 & 7 Learners with essential knowledge and skills regarding safety. Learners gained a better understanding of the tactics used by traffickers, the importance of personal safety, and how to seek help or report suspicious activities.

Breast health awareness and education sessions empowered our girls at School with knowledge about breast health, early detection and self-care practices. They each received a special bra with instructions on the inside on how to self-check their breasts.

The Legacy Dad workshop provided a safe space for fathers and their sons to connect, communicate and build stronger family relationships. It reinforced the importance of positive male role models, and created lasting memories to inspire stronger Families and Communities.



Legacy Dad Workshop for Fathers



A group of future Sir Lowry's Pass Primary Leaders enjoying Art jamming





PRINCIPALS FEEDBACK

Mr Steven Qantolo: Christmas Tinto Primary School

We have journeyed with SSCC now for over five years and throughout they have delivered the best. In the past year we have **benefitted from the Support Hubs** by being connected with more people who can help the School and our Learners. As a result of that, we had over 500 Learners that have gone to camps at Bridges Retreat centre free of charge for three days. We also had Prefects that went to the **leadership camp** to help with their leadership skills.

SSCC has also helped us with the very **fruitful Culture Shift workshops**, to help us change the learning culture for both teachers and the learners at our school. It is helping our teachers towards a more positive learning culture in our school.

The continued interventions of SSCC have also indirectly **exposed us to more opportunities**. Recently our school was selected by the District Office to join the Room2Read project. At one of our Support Hubs, we met a district official who was impressed by the library, which SSCC established in 2024, and reading work in our school. Our school also won the AVBOB Book trolley this year through the nomination of SSCC.

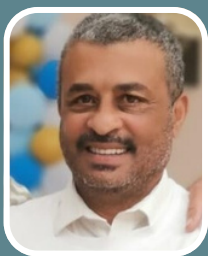


Learners enjoy their reading period in the new library



The Christmas Tinto choir performed at our Spring Music Concert





PRINCIPALS FEEDBACK

Mr Cuan Bergstedt: Joostenberg Primary School

The SSCC model enhances educational outcomes and support Learners, Educators and the School as a whole. They focus on professional development for Educators, improved Learner performance, enhance engagement and community support. It includes a focus on psycho-social and mental health support.

Our School benefitted from **collaboration with other Schools**, sharing best practices and learning from each other's successes and challenges. **Stakeholder Meetings** were held at our School with different people to help support our School: Pebbles - Villiera Wine Farm; Young Entrepreneurs; Vegetables and Seed project - Veggies grown will be used in our kitchen. Learners are taught how to grow and tend the garden.

Compass Calibration Survey: All our Teachers and Staff participated in the Survey. It was informative to see our weaknesses and strengths. We are working together to make Joostenberg Primary a stronger and better place.

Teacher Appreciation Day: Our Teachers had lots of fun joining these activities.

Urinal donation: Thank you for the urinal and chemicals donated to the School.

Nashua printer and telephone: A team from Nashua visited our school to find out about our printer and telephone system. This will help our school as we are struggling with our telephone system.

HOEP for ECD: A lovely program, which learners really enjoy and benefit from. It also helps Grade R learners to get used to working in books, preparing them for Grade 1.

PEBBLES: Thank you very much for connecting us with *Pebbles*. Our School can benefit greatly from them. The Maths tutors who can provide one-on-one sessions are a valuable resource.

The computer bus can help teach our Learners *Green Shoots* Maths and Computer skills.

The library bus can give our Learners exposure to different reading material.

We really enjoyed the **Culture shift programme** by Honey Badger. It taught us how to think differently and approach children in new ways. We are motivated to apply the Culture shift principles in our School and excited to observe the change.



**Signing our
Collaboration Agreement**

Staff motivation





PRINCIPALS FEEDBACK

Ms Liza Matthee: Simondium Primary School

Primary feedback

Learners: The programmes were well received, with Learners describing them as practical, interactive, and relevant to their daily lives. They reported gaining new skills, improved confidence, stronger character, and leadership qualities.

Educators: They valued the sessions as inspiring, relevant, and directly contributing to their professional growth. Facilitators were well-prepared, enthusiastic, and created safe and positive learning environments. Staff gained fresh ideas and skills that could be applied in classrooms and beyond, while also strengthening teamwork and collaboration.

Community: The Legacy Dad programme was highly impactful, equipping fathers with practical tools for parenting, increasing their confidence, and fostering community connections.

Programmes delivered:

- Life Skills (Gr. 6–7): Leadership, study methods, and decision-making.
- Life Groups (Gr. 6–7): Christian values, self-image, and role-modelling.
- Awareness sessions: STOP Trafficking People and Bullying.
- ECD & Foundation Phase: Activities with Gr. R learners, anti-bullying and “superhero” sessions with Gr. 1–2.
- Educator Support: Brightstar Core Program (self-discovery and positive mindset), Mental Health Change Management Awareness with Adré, and training by Judy.
- Culture Shift Training: Mindset change and practical strategies to support learners.



BrightStar CORE
Life Skills Workshop

STOP Human Trafficking session at Simondium Primary





PRINCIPALS FEEDBACK

Ms Florina Julies: Bergendal Primary School

Feedback from a Teacher

“Although it’s still the start of our journey with SSCC, I can already say that the programmes we’ve experienced so far have an impact on us. We come into the room with a specific expectation, but leave the room with a whole new mindset.

We appreciate the way that it is being presented to us. Through your interaction with us as Staff and Learners, we also learn how we should interact with each other.

It is very meaningful, as it creates a space for us to reflect and become aware of things we don’t always get the time to deal with or reflect on. You come into our School as an external organisation and present sessions in such a meaningful and impactful way. It makes one realise how valuable learning is and want to apply it into the classroom, in your personal life and even at home. “

Thuma Mina at Support Hub Meeting



Ms Thomas with Learners at our Network Breakfast



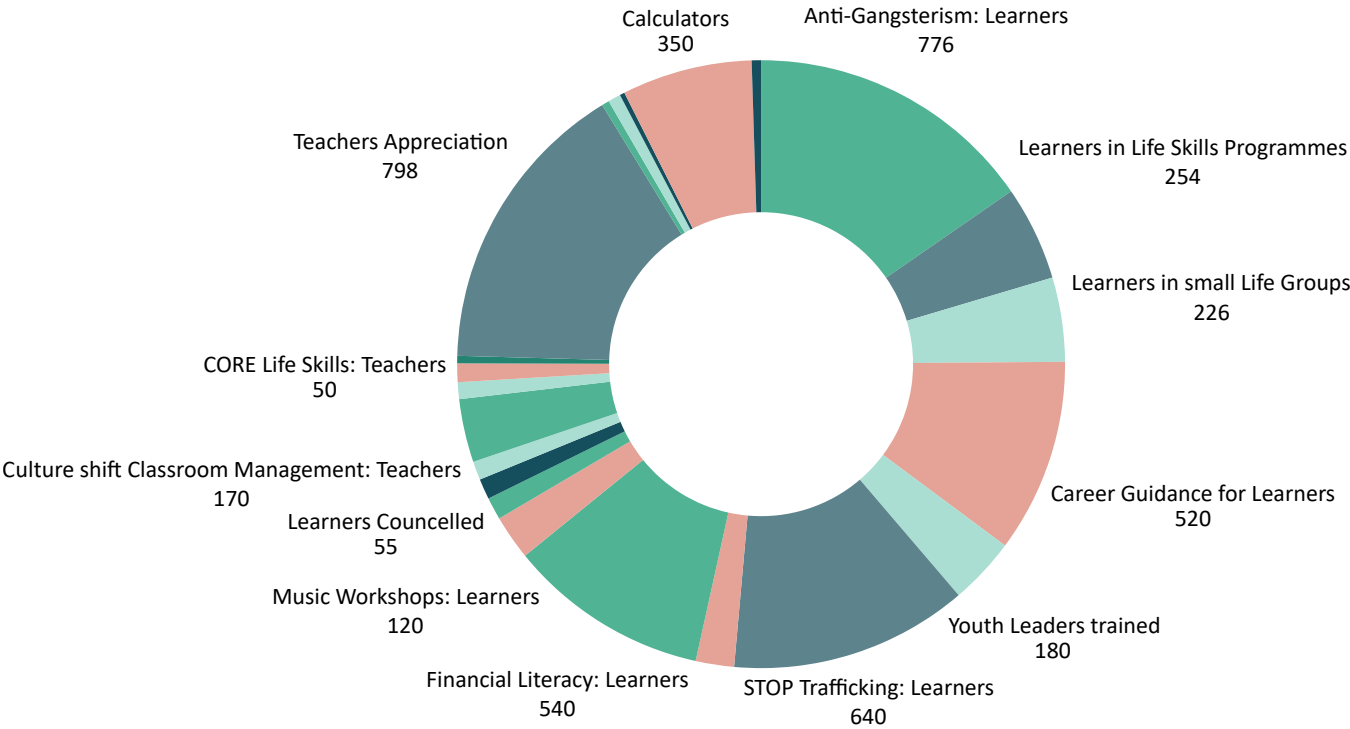
Our ‘Think tank’ in action - Support Hub meeting



PROJECTS & IMPACT OVERVIEW

Strong Schools Team

Main SSCC Interventions
2024/2025



Life Groups & Life Skills - Dr GJ Joubert Learners



Hope House Counselling session at Simondium Primary



Various well-being interventions funded by the Mergon Foundation

We implemented a wide range of programmes across five of our partner Schools. It focused mainly on growing spiritually and enhancing well-being and growth for Learners, Educators, Principals, Parents and for our SSCC team.

Emotional and Spiritual Support:

- Life Group sessions with Learners. (3 Youth workers trained to lead Discipleship groups using RealDeal books.)
- Support for Principals, offering spiritual care, motivation and prayer.
- Activities included Teacher appreciation events, executive coaching, youth leadership development, trauma therapy workshops, and school assemblies.
- Counselling sessions and psycho-social support and interventions in all our Schools
- Legacy Dad Programmes for 45 Fathers

PROJECTS & IMPACT OVERVIEW

(Continued)

Learner Programmes:

- *Youth at Risk Life Skills:* Human Trafficking sessions to empower Learners and Anti-Gangsterism sessions by convicted role models led to many Learners choosing positive life paths.
- *Life Skills:* Topics included identity in Christ, drug awareness, and purposeful living.
- *Leadership Development:* Youth leaders trained in R.I.S.E. values (Respect, Integrity, Servant Leadership, Excellence).

Educator and Staff Development

- Five SMT Teams were trained in the BrightStar CORE Life Skills programme. Educators reported renewed purpose, stronger relationships, and personal growth.
- Ongoing training for Facilitators, including two new Xhosa-speaking BrightStar LifeStyle facilitators from the Zola Community and one of our Support Hub Coordinators.

Anti-Gangsterism awareness: Thulani shares his testimony

Culture Shift Training



Arts-based and Youth-at-risk initiatives funded by COCT Grant-in-Aid:

Initiatives at **Sir Lowry's Pass Primary School** - Arts and culture fostering healing, authenticity, and positive role modelling in the community.

ArtJamming Programme: Youth leaders built teamwork and creativity through collaborative art.

Therapeutic Music Workshops: Learners benefited from healing and self-expression through music.

Youth at Risk Sessions: Human Trafficking awareness and Anti-Gangsterism sessions.



PROJECTS & IMPACT OVERVIEW

(Continued)

Key interventions through other Funding

Capitec interventions & Volunteer Initiatives

- *Infrastructure and Resources:* Calculators, Data projectors (5 schools) and a Counselling room for Nomzamo High
- *Culture Shift programmes:* A values-based Classroom management strategy rolled out in all our Schools
- *Educational hikes for 3 groups of Learners*
- *Career Guidance for Nomzamo High School Learners*

Various awareness programmes by other NPOs & Supporters

- *STOP Human Trafficking sessions* in 5 of our Schools
- *Breast awareness campaigns* by Check-Know-Prevent in 4 of our Schools
- *Anti-Gansterism sessions* in all our Schools
- *Physical and emotional well-being interventions* for Educators and Learners

Fundraising events:

- *On-line Workshops:* We used experts in 2-hour workshops on various topics to empower our Team, other NPOs and individuals and as additional Fund Development of our Projects.
- *Music Concert, Combined Golf Day with COA, Network Business Breakfast, etc.*

Nomzamo High Learners received new Calculators



Brilliant speaker from Nomzamo High at our Network Breakfast



Culture Shift workshop at Simondium



Learners of Dr GJ Joubert Primary enjoying their meals under their new shade cloth (sponsored by Miller Bosman Le Roux Attorneys)



PROJECTS OVERVIEW

(Continued)

Compass Calibration (Whole-School Evaluation Tool)

This past year our online whole-school evaluation tool was successfully tested, refined and rolled out across 13 Schools. Mr. Wynand Cillié (retired principal) supported our Schools by analysing their automated reports and leading feedback sessions, encouraging Schools to use the tool for growth.

Survey Feedback session by Mr. Cillié at Dr GJ Joubert Primary School



Feedback from Mr. Cillié: "The Compass Calibration instrument is a very valuable tool that can add great value to the strategic planning and development of the School. The questionnaire has been compiled in a very thorough and comprehensive manner so that every aspect of the School can be evaluated by the Staff.

The mere fact that each Staff member can participate anonymously and provide input makes the outcome of the questionnaire very credible, because it is the Staff who have "spoken." There is no other measuring instrument in the education sector where every Staff member is involved in this way.

If the School management team studies their feedback report thoroughly and shares it with all those involved, a very detailed development plan can be drawn up. I am convinced that where the entire Staff of a School is fully committed, this instrument can make a significant contribution to the further development and smooth functioning of the School."

This tool measures progress in four areas: Statistics & Achievement, Professional Management, School Well-Being and School Culture. While the process stretched Schools and their teams, feedback was overwhelmingly positive. We all look forward to the follow-up assessments that will track growth and impact over time.

BrightStar CORE workshop for Teachers



Life Group - Nomzamo High School



STORIES OF CHANGE / TESTIMONIES

SSCC Team Members & Facilitators



Janine Joubert

Without a passionate and committed team, SSCC would not be able to deliver our planned interventions effectively. Our **Support Hub Meetings** are more than just routine check-ins—they are dynamic, creative spaces where strong relationships are built, successes and challenges are openly shared, and programme implementation is actively monitored and supported. These sessions are instrumental in ensuring that planning and delivery translate into real, lasting change in our Schools. Mr. Mgubanto calls it our “think tanks”.

At the core of this work are our **Support Hub Coordinators**, who form the vital link between SSCC and the Schools we serve. Acting as the eyes and ears on the ground, they facilitate and coordinate all activities with School Champions and Principals. We are deeply grateful for Sharene de Besch and Sandra Oosthuizen, two talented and dedicated women who continually build bridges between Schools and key Stakeholders, deeply caring for the Communities they serve. Their commitment builds trust, collaboration and improved communication.

Behind the scenes, the operation of our interventions is supported by **Janine Joubert**, who manages our **administration** and keeps our community informed through **impactful storytelling** and social media updates. Thanks to her work, our field team can remain focused on what truly matters—bringing meaningful change to our Schools.



Sharene de Besch

Sharene de Besch

“It surely has been a year full of activities while getting to know SSCC, the programmes, the Schools and organisations we work with. Building relationships and trust takes time. Knowing and understanding the heart of our organisation and what it stands for, plays a big part in building relationships and trust with the Schools and collaborative Partners. We collaborate with organisations that are in alignment with our values and support the work we do. This way we can reach further and make a deeper impact, as we are better together than when we are on our own.”

Sharene is currently Support Hub Coordinator and oversees the Volunteers and Life skills for Sir Lowry’s Pass Primary and 3 of our network Schools in the Paarl area, also supported by COA.

The feedback from our Schools below speaks of the impact of different programmes and collaboratives implemented at our Schools.

Principal: “The Brightstar Core training has given me an opportunity to get to know my staff on another level apart from schoolwork. If it was not for this session, I would not have had the opportunity to get to know them on a more personal level and get a better understanding of them. I believe that this workshop has helped us to improve our relationship as staff and I would have liked it to be offered to my whole staff.”

Educator: “I am thankful for the Brightstar Core Program. It felt like for, the first time in my life, I had a personal Life Coach. I would never have been able to afford a one-hour session with a life coach and here I had the opportunity and access to a life coach for two full days.”

Grade 1 Educator: “The trauma informed training helped us to understand how trauma impact and effect the behavior of a child in the classroom. We learned about different types of traumas, how children process them, the different emotions and importance of acknowledging our emotions and helping the learners manage theirs. It empowered our Gr. 1 and 2 Teachers with the knowledge, skills, tools and techniques to help Learners regulate their emotions in class, to focus better and not to disrupt the class.”



Sandra Oosthuizen

STORIES OF CHANGE / TESTIMONIES

SSCC Team Members & Facilitators

Sandra Oosthuizen

“As I engaged with the interventions being implemented at the Schools, I have consistently been impressed by the quality of individuals and the excellent content of the programmes that SSCC sourced to implement.”

The SSCC team is grateful for our new Support Hub Coordinator, Sandra, who joined the SSCC team mid-April 2025. She coordinates 4 of our Strand and Somerset West Schools, and oversees the Volunteers and Facilitators for the Life Skills programmes.

A Support Hub meeting at Hope & Light School



Janine Joubert

“This year has been one of growth - both personally and professionally. My faith has deepened, and I have truly valued the opportunity to connect with inspiring people and learn more about the incredible work they are doing (and intend to do) in our Communities.

Contributing to SSCC’s communication efforts - from newsletters and social media to event updates - gave me the opportunity to share the heart of what we do with a wider audience and celebrate the impact being made in our Schools.”



Thank you SSCC Team - your efforts are deeply appreciated!

Sandra, Jannett & Janine - on duty at the COA Golf Day



“

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

”

STORIES OF CHANGE / TESTIMONIES

SSCC Team Members & Facilitators

Zelda Coetzee, Well-being Coordinator

Kingdom Impact: Many of our Well-being Interventions had the potential to lead to the expansion of God's Kingdom during the past year. The strategy of presenting Godly Life Skills programmes in the Schools, and building trust relationships from there, is bearing good fruit. Our Life Group facilitators shared many stories of their engagement on the School grounds with the Learners. We rejoice over every shared testimony of Learners coming to the Lord and then also joining their local church in Zola. We have built lovely relationships with local Every Nation pastors and churches, and with the YWAM base near Sir Lowry's Pass - looking forward to further collaboration with them.

Lito and Sesethu, two fine young Youth workers from Zola, both qualified as BrightStar facilitators, and have grown such a lot - a real investment for the SSCC team, the Schools and for the Community.

Teacher Appreciation: Zelda motivating around 300 Educators



Life Skills at Dr GJ Joubert Primary



Ina Malan – Life Skills Coordinator & Facilitator

SSCC is thankful for Volunteers like Ina, giving her time and talents to develop relevant material for the Life Skills sessions and she facilitates in a few of our Schools.

“Two of my highlights as Facilitator: Learners who are now in High School, stopped by one day while I was presenting Life Skills at Dr GJ Joubert Primary School - just so say ‘Thank you’. (This was the only School where there was a continuity of the same Learners attending the sessions for two years.) They missed having Life skills, but felt thankful that they had the benefit of attending it. It remains a highlight every time I am explaining something and I can see how it sinks into their understanding and into their hearts.”



Esethu Mdolomba



Ina Malan



Lito Shone



Zelda Coetzee



Fiela Opperman



Lizhandre Mansfield

STORIES OF CHANGE/ TESTIMONIES

Facilitators

Lito Shone – Life Skills Facilitator for the Helderberg Basin Schools

“As we facilitate Life groups, we've learned the importance of patience and relevance when connecting with the next generation. By entering their world, learning their language, and engaging them in a way that resonates, we can effectively share our message and help them understand.

Testimony- One of our Life Group kids was struggling at the start of the year, but look at her now! She's been transformed by the Word of God and has become a young Bible enthusiast, even asking her parents to buy her a Bible. She's now a regular Life Group attendee, bringing her Bible and engaging with the stories of Jesus.

We have many examples of the amazing spiritual growth happening among our Learners, who are not only deepening in their own faith, but also boldly sharing the gospel with their peers and inviting others to join them. It's incredible to see them owning their Christianity and living out their faith with confidence.

***Esethu (left) & Lito (right) at Every Nation
Zola Church with donations after fire.***



A small Life Group at Dr GJ Primary School



Esethu Mdolomba – Life Skills Facilitator at the Helderberg Basin Schools

Every term there's always something encouraging and something to be grateful for. Looking forward to more! We've seen a powerful impact through The Real Deal book, which continues to be a life-changer for our Learners. The stories reflect real-life challenges from a very young age, that resonate deeply with the youth, helping them relate and feel encouraged.

Through the RealDeal book and the Word of God, Learners have gained valuable insights into decision-making—understanding that their choices affect both themselves and those around them.

One particularly moving testimony from a Learner: “All my teenage life, I thought I was poor because I didn't have the latest sneakers or couldn't go to the movies. But through hearing others' stories and their struggles, I realised I'm actually very blessed—to have a roof over my head, both parents, food, and access to education. Thank you, Strong Schools Team.” Moments like this fuel our passion to reach even more Schools.

“

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

— 1 Timothy 4:12

”

STORIES OF CHANGE / TESTIMONIES

Facilitators

Lizhandre Mansfield – Life Skills Facilitator at Simondium Primary School

I joined Strong Schools in September 2024 as a Facilitator at Simondium Primary. This opportunity came at a time when I prayed for a way to serve God and make an impact in children's lives. The programme has not only brought personal transformation, but also created a space to work meaningfully with learners and the broader community.

At the School, I facilitate Life Skills, which empowers learners to reach their potential. With motivation and a supportive environment, we see children develop positive mindsets, take greater responsibility for their actions, and make better decisions. Quiet learners began to express themselves more confidently, showing the real impact of the programme.

I also lead the Life Groups (discipleship programme), where learners embark on a journey to discover their identity in God. Through stories, teachings, and encouragement, they learn that with God nothing is impossible. For many, what once felt like a hopeless path has been transformed into a journey of faith, hope, and restored identity.

Personally, it has been deeply inspiring to witness children from difficult circumstances find joy, hope, and renewed purpose through discipleship. This reminds me of Matthew 19:14: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."



***Petie (right)
engaging with
Learners &
Lizhandre (left)
facilitating.***



Petie Viljoen – Volunteer for Educational Hikes

On our educational hikes, reaching the forest destination in the Disa Gorge created a powerful atmosphere, as the children gathered to hear inspiring life stories. Speakers openly share their challenges, struggles, perseverance, and eventual successes, with many role models being people of colour who chose resilience and hard work. Capitec Volunteers played a vital role in this, presenting themselves as relatable examples of determination and success. Life skills were also shared, helping children see how lessons apply to their daily lives.

The hike itself, especially the ascent to Disa Gorge, is often a real challenge for many learners who are unfit or hesitant. Some even consider giving up, yet all manage to reach the destination. The journey up is usually quiet and reserved, with children holding back and showing some mistrust. However, the return walk always feels different – more relaxed and filled with laughter, singing, questions, and positive engagement with Volunteers.

The feedback from the Learners, Teachers and Volunteers after hikes was precious. We hope that in future, Teachers and Principals will also join at least one hike a year, as they too could benefit from the experience. Our heartfelt thanks go to Capitec – not only for sponsoring these outings, but also for the dedicated Volunteers whose presence and input have been invaluable.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS FOR IMPACT

SSCC deeply appreciates the fact that we collaborate with like-minded organisations, who are in alignment with our values and beliefs. It's been amazing to see how God connected the dots through our relationships with organisations that support the work we do.

Let's co-create for more impactful change!

Communities of Abundance NPC - Johan Duraan (Managing Director)

"As we reflect on another impactful year, we are proud to continue our partnership with Strong Schools, whose unwavering commitment to empowering Learners and strengthening educational systems aligns deeply with our mission. We see Schools as enablement centres for Communities, and Strong Schools plays a pivotal role in supporting this vision.



Through our combined efforts, we have made significant strides in enhancing educational access and quality, creating more resilient, thriving environments for all. We are excited about the continued growth of this partnership and the future opportunities to expand our collective impact. Together, we look forward to driving success and positive change in the communities we serve. Thank you to the SSCC team for their dedication and to all those who are supporting this important work."

Check-Know-Prevent: Breast Cancer awareness at Sir Lowry's Pass Primary



Network Business Breakfast



Various Funders and Stakeholders at this year's Principals Support Hub.

The 80-year old George Lamb, Funder from the UK (to the left with his notebook) testified how the session built him up too.



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS FOR IMPACT

(Continued)

We are grateful for every Stakeholder, Partner, Service provider and Supporter, who has walked alongside and prayed for us this year. Your commitment doesn't just support our work — it strengthens Communities, uplifts Learners and Educators and builds lasting impact.

Thank you for being a vital part of this journey.



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS FOR IMPACT

(Continued)

BrightStar Lifestyle - Amanda Swanepoel

This past year marked continued growth and meaningful partnership between BrightStar LifeStyle and SSCC. Together, we've deepened our impact within Schools and their Communities through shared purpose and aligned action. BrightStar successfully trained three new facilitators for SSCC, expanding our reach and capacity. Several CORE Programmes and Legacy Dad Workshops were delivered, touching Learners, Educators, and Families with life-changing content.

Highlights of the year included the "Bright Habits" webinar, offering practical tools for intentional living, as well as coaching sessions and team-building initiatives with the SSCC team. These engagements fostered connection, clarity, and purpose. Our role as Implementation Partners for the Community of Abundance pipeline continues to gain momentum.

We are grateful for the shared vision, collaborative spirit, and commitment to long-term transformation. Together, we are building stronger Schools—and shaping stronger futures.

Thuma Mina Teaching - Juliana and Rachel

Over the past year, we've greatly valued the opportunity to collaborate with SSCC to enhance education in our Communities. Attending your Support Hub meetings provided valuable platforms for networking, idea-sharing, and identifying ways to strengthen educational outcomes. It also gave us useful insights into Schools involved in both our Grade 7–9 EMS 20 Schools pilot project and your SSCC network.

We appreciate your active support in promoting our pilot project to your School network, which led to the selection of five SSCC partner Schools. These Schools demonstrated strong commitment, with several standing out for their enthusiasm and willingness to integrate our resources into their classrooms—an important contribution to refining our pilot.

Through your communication channels, we were also able to reach more Teachers, resulting in increased attendance at our EMS Teacher training workshops. This gave several Educators practical tools and resources to enhance their teaching, further amplifying the impact of our partnership on learners.

We're grateful for the collaboration, shared purpose, and the connections formed this year. We look forward to deepening our partnership in the coming year and continuing to build strong, supportive learning environments together.

BrightStar Core Workshop



Thuma Mina visits our Support Hub



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS FOR IMPACT

(Continued)

Cedar Psychology - Abeedah Hendricks-Lalla

During the past year SSCC partnered with Cedar Psychology to expand access to mental health services for Learners in the Helderberg Basin. This collaboration enabled early identification of risks, timely interventions and direct access to specialised care for Learners facing trauma, anxiety, depression, and other high-risk factors.

The sponsored psychosocial support programme prevented the escalation of crises, including suicide risk, and ensured learners received appropriate counselling, specialist referrals, and where needed, pharmacological intervention. By integrating mental health care into the school environment, the initiative removed barriers to access and promoted resilience, coping skills, and stronger academic engagement.

Schools benefited from strengthened capacity to manage emotional and behavioural challenges, while Learners gained tools for well-being and long-term success. The partnership showed the powerful impact of targeted investment in school-based psychological support.

To ensure sustainability, Cedar Psychology proposed a cost-effective model operating from Nomzamo High School's counselling room, including monthly debriefing and skills training for Wellness Counsellors and Well-being Champions — building both learner resilience and the capacity of the school-based mental health workforce.

Adré Potgieter - Therapeutic Social worker and Neuro Life Coach

Testimonies from Learners being coached and counselled:

- A boy struggling to concentrate was guided to change his diet and sleep routine - there was a 30% improvement in his academic performance.
- Learners testified about the value of just having someone who actually listens to their own individual stories and challenges, and paying individual attention to them.
- Quite a few Learners struggling with anxiety - great improvement after teaching them how to breathe properly and how to release their own stress and trauma.
- A boy who was helped and guided to process trauma on a sensory level - great improvement in concentration levels and academic results after three sessions.

Our Schools expressed their gratitude for the Counselling sessions by Abeedah and Adré.

Counselling sessions by Adré in the Nomzamo High School Counselling Room



Honorary ranger, Jacqui Badenhorst, hikes with our Learners



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS FOR IMPACT

(Continued)

Honey Badger for Schools - Amanda Goncalves

During this year, we have partnered with Strong Schools by rolling out the Classroom Culture Shift Programme. This programme focuses on training Teachers to run values-based classrooms. During this period, we have trained Teachers and support Staff from Simondium, Christmas Tinto and Sir Lowry's Pass Primary Schools. The training encourages Teachers to take responsibility for the things they can control, to look for the gold in the Learners in their classes, and to ask for help when they need it. It has been amazing to see the change in Teachers' outlook as the training progresses. Most Teachers enter the training feeling negative and unmotivated, but by the end of the training, they are encouraged, motivated and empowered to make positive changes in their classrooms.

Working in Schools is enormously challenging. Without collaboration with organisations like Strong Schools, making an impact would be an impossible task. It has been beneficial to partner with SSCC, knowing that our individual contributions may not be sufficient to address the huge challenges. Still, collectively, we are making a noticeable difference in the Schools that we work in. I wouldn't want to work in Schools without the partnership of an organisation like SSCC. They see the bigger picture and is so front-footed in seeing lasting positive change in our Schools and Communities. Their staff is passionate, competent individuals, who work with integrity and enthusiasm and have a deep awareness of the real and multilayered challenges that we face while working in Schools. They go above and beyond to find (often very creative) solutions for what needs to be done.

Thanks for your work and effort! It is a joy to work with you as an organisation.

Amanda Goncalves - Culture shift Classroom Management workshop



STOP Human Trafficking session



STOP Trafficking - Mariaan Malan (Operational Manager)

Our experience with SSCC has been nothing but positive, and it's truly a joy to work alongside them. Everything is so well and thoughtfully organized, which makes it easy and uplifting to be part of this initiative. We even received feedback from a Teacher who shared how one Learner came back after the session to open about her home situation. A beautiful reminder of the impact this work is making.

It's also clear to see the genuine care SSCC shows in the way they interact with both Staff and Learners, which really helps to create the space for us to connect. The team members we work with, Sharene, Sandra, and Lizhandre are absolutely amazing women, and their dedication and warmth make all the difference.



GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE

Berthold Alheit (Chair)

The Strong Schools Community Collaborative governance structure is grounded in trust, accountability and shared purpose. Our Board of Directors (three non-executive and one executive), plays a vital role in guiding SSCC prayerfully, with Godly wisdom and integrity. Our decisions remain transparent, ethical and aligned with our vision of empowering Schools and Communities. Regular board engagements (a minimum of four p.a.), financial oversight and strategic reflection continue to strengthen the organisation's foundation and ensure good stewardship of all resources entrusted to us.

We appointed Jannett Skinner as Executive Manager in January 2025 and she forms part of our Executive Team. SSCC has maintained its clean governance record throughout the year ending 30 June 2025, including 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 and even with a change in accountants in the midst of the 2023/24 financial year, we maintained a clean audit for the 2025 Financial Year-end.

For each project timelines and end goals were set, measured and reported against, both in the School Support Hubs and to the relevant specific Donors. Attendance registers for specific relevant Life Skills and related programs are kept and followed up on. Although it is difficult and a real challenge to measure true impact quantitatively, we hear enough God-honouring testimonies of changed lives and small changes that are taking place in our Schools.

It's difficult to prove "We caused this change" vs. "We contributed to this change". Measuring impact in NPOs and Schools is hard because you're dealing with complex human systems, abstract goals, limited resources, and long timelines. Outputs are easy to count; real transformation is not. Recordkeeping of our activities and interventions at each of our current Schools and providing feedback on the outcomes to each school's management team remain the basis of the Support and Well-being Hub activities and is the benchmark for measuring our progress. This is also used to provide feedback towards all the Donors and Collaborators. Individual feedback was given to each donor where agreed spending objectives have been specified.

The following support documents are available:

- NPC & NPO Registration
- SARS Tax exemption letter
- Tax Compliance letter
- B-BBEE Certificate
- Project Plans as required
- Detailed budgets
- Audited Financial statements

Principal Support Hub meeting



“

The 'non-profit' institution neither supplies goods or services nor controls. Its 'product' is neither a pair of shoes nor an effective regulation. Its product is a changed human being. The non-profit institutions are human-change agents. Their 'product' is a cured patient, a child that learns, a young man or woman grown into a self-respecting adult; a changed human life altogether.

— Peter F. Drucker

”

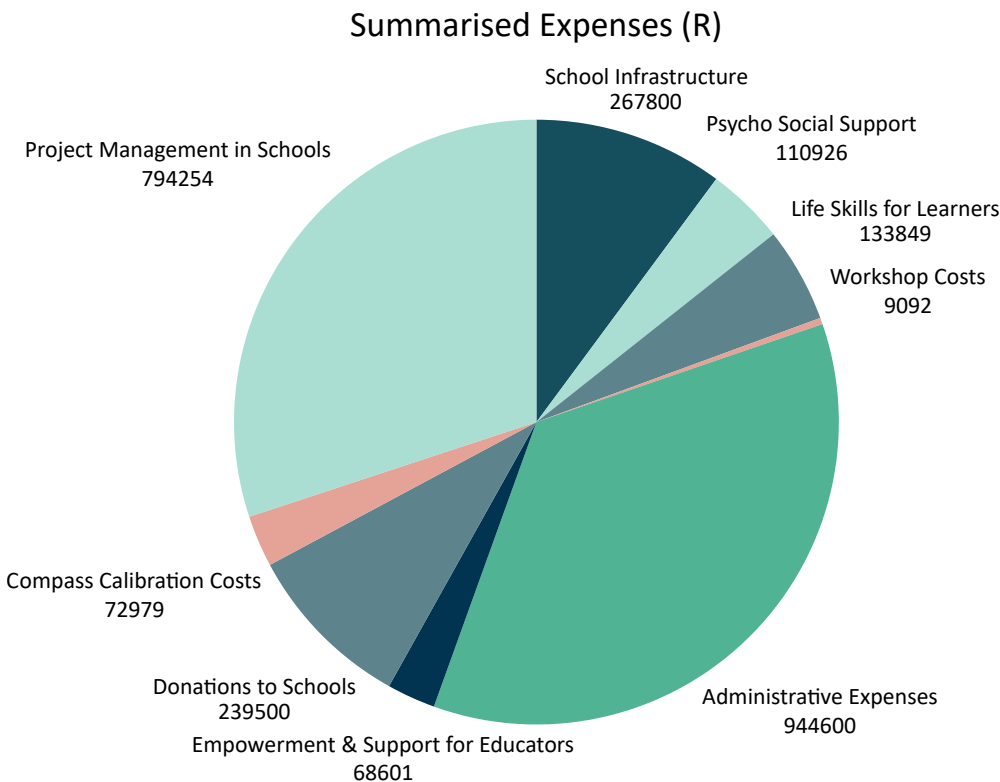
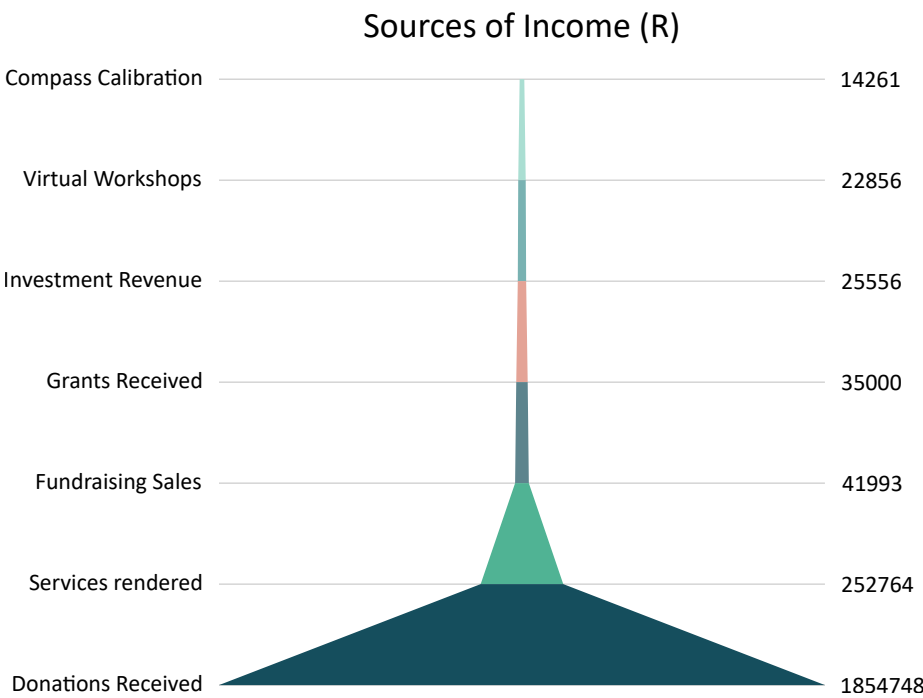


FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Trudie Schoeman (Director)

"Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations". These words from Zig Ziglar inspired me throughout a challenging year. We are once again humbled and grateful for God’s abundant provision and grace in entrusting us with His resources—especially during a season that has been challenging for many Nonprofits.

Our annual Financial statements have been audited by independent auditors, Pyper Turner Chartered Accountants Inc, who has been given unrestricted access to all financial reports and related data. Our audited Financial Statements for the year 2024/2025 are available on request.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

(Continued)

Income Statement

	2025 (R)	2024 (R)
Revenue	2,221,622	2,240,035
Operating Expenses	(2,641,601)	(1,471,993)
Operating Surplus/Deficit	(415,479)	768,042
Investment Revenue	25,556	17,620
Net Surplus/Deficit for the Year	(394,423)	785,662

On the Income and Expenditure side the following should be noted:

Income:

- Donations decreased from R 2,111,904 to R 1,854,748 - primarily due to a major previous donor who couldn't support us this year. Some donations for the remainder of 2025 were received after 30 June 2025.
- Fund Development (Virtual Workshops, Compass Calibration and Services rendered) increased to R 289,881.
- Fundraising decreased from R 103,935 to R 41,865.

Expenditure:

- Programme expenses is 64% of total expenses and Administration expenses is 36%.
- Operating Expenses increased substantially because of the escalation of interventions and additional Staff:
 - The hiring and utilisation of qualified presenters and support staff for the Schools' Life Skills and Well-being interventions.
 - The appointment of a permanent Executive Manager and second Support Hub Coordinator at the beginning of 2025 (at the departure of our COO to the USA), to ensure the retention of quality relationships with Schools & Stakeholders, whilst growing the number of Schools we support to 13.
 - Appointment of competent Staff members to ensure quality administration and services to all the Schools.
- Staff development and coaching costs increased substantially. Our Staff and Volunteers increased, and we believe it is necessary to invest in our Staff and Volunteers.
- The Expenses towards Psycho-social support offered to our Schools was R110,926 and exceeded the Income we anticipated towards these vital interventions.

Learners of Nomzamo High celebrating in front of their new Counselling room



“... 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. 9:8)

MAIN LESSONS LEARNT & CHALLENGES

Main Lessons Learnt

- Building strong, trust-based relationships with Schools and Stakeholders is challenging and requires intentional structure, good communication, and careful management.
- Ongoing feedback from stakeholders is essential to ensure accountability, relevance, and alignment with the actual needs of Schools and Communities.
- All interventions must be aligned with Schools' Improvement Plans, Development Plans and Compass Calibration findings, to ensure meaningful impact and buy-in.
- Guarding against scope creep is critical; clear requirements, change management and regular communication help to maintain focus.

Team & Staff

- Employing the right people in the right roles is key for sustainability.
- Staff wellness (self-care, trauma debriefing, grief and bereavement support) strengthens resilience and effectiveness.
- Team unity, morale and trust need to be intentionally nurtured.

Funding & Sustainability

- Securing sustainable, multi-year funding is essential for both Programmes and to keep competent Employees.
- Volunteer engagement must be deepened and aligned with the SSCC vision.
- The ideal to pursue is committed buy-in from Schools (by November the previous year) and funding for interventions need to be secured at the beginning of each year to improve programme continuity.
- Expanding the SSCC model and actively marketing the Compass Calibration Tool will strengthen growth.
- Continuous prayer support from churches, leaders and businesses remains vital.

Programme Insights

- Some of the Life Skills programmes in their current format, are not sustainable and need rethinking.
- Schools often appear uncommitted due to pressure, a lack of care, and because of increasing workload and time constraints. Educators are overloaded.

Main Challenges

- Maintaining effective communication both between SSCC and Schools and within a remote-working team.
- School timetables are already full, making it difficult to introduce programmes without disrupting academics.
- Funding limitations (especially lack of early-year and long-term funding) hinder consistency, staffing and planning.
- Misalignment between available funding/projects and actual School needs can risk poor implementation and donor disengagement.
- Families in our School communities face severe socio-economic challenges, especially unemployment, which directly impacts learner wellbeing. There is a huge lack of psycho-social support.

School-Specific Challenges

- Overburdened Educators and Principals with limited capacity for additional interventions.
- Safety risks for Learners and Volunteers at some of the Schools.
- Poor infrastructure (e.g. lack of bathrooms, halls, and adequate classrooms).
- Limited Parent engagement due to lack of data or Wi-Fi access, etc.
- Inconsistent learner participation in Life Skills programmes due to timetable clashes, transport issues, and changing groups each year.
- Behavioural challenges and large class sizes make trust-building and effective teaching difficult.
- More community prayer support is required to improve spiritual and relational strength.

ENVISIONING 2026:

A YEAR OF GROWTH AND PURPOSE

Looking ahead to the coming year, we are refining our focus and trusting for secure sustainable funding. This will enable us to scale our model and implement key interventions that will create meaningful and lasting change in our Schools and Communities. Our primary areas of focus will include the following:

- Strategic Funders, Partnerships and Collaborations with like-minded organisations and people to expand the SSCC model to other Communities in South Africa. We want to create centres of spiritual, emotional and educational transformation—through prayerful collaboration, local leadership, and long-term Community engagement.
- A competent, committed Support and Well-being Hub Coordinator for every 3 Schools, who can also help implement and manage identified interventions - specific to each School's unique requirements.
- Many more Schools to use our on-line Compass Calibration (a whole-school survey to identify gaps and necessary interventions for every School). This will provide both good user results and a consistent source of income to Strong Schools.
- Collaboration with more key Service providers, to each deliver their expert, core services in Schools.
- A sustainable financial model successfully implemented, giving more certainty to the committed SSCC personnel and the Schools we serve, increasing to a solid foundation of at least 20 regular long-term primary Donors.
- Increasing the number of committed Volunteers to facilitate Life Skills to 10 Volunteers for every 3 Schools.
- Improved Parent involvement in our Schools through Life Skills workshops for Moms and Dads, and School Government Body training.
- Launching our new Moms with Purpose programme to equip Moms with Life Skills and as volunteers in their Schools, to better support their own children.
- Support with Improved Literacy and Numeracy strategies. Librarians for all our Schools' libraries.
- Improved School and Classroom management practices through Cultureshift and Change Management sessions, which aligns with the WCED's **Transform to Perform** strategy.
- A minimum of two Community Projects per school towards a safer, more conducive School environment.
- Enabling Schools to do effective fundraising for their own projects, programmes and sports.
- Using digital innovation (apps, dashboards, data analytics) to track impact, monitor School development plans, and communicate outcomes with Communities and Funders.
- Ongoing focussed development of Youth Leaders (Prefects and Monitors) through leadership development programmes and Camps, to enhance social cohesion amongst Learners and improve overall Learner discipline.
- Building stronger connections between Schools and local churches/faith-based organisations to promote holistic well-being and shared responsibility – ownership and funding.
- Strengthening prayer networks around Schools and Communities.
- Sufficient funds for our Counselling Fund that enables us to meet the overwhelming psychosocial needs in our network Schools - for both Learners and Teachers.
- An improved marketing and fund development strategy to create more public awareness around SSCC through various initiatives.
- Improved buy-in from the Schools and Communities towards a Cleaner-Greener school environment.
- More Godly strategies so that Schools can become healthy beacons of hope in their Communities.



“

"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet"

—Aristotle

”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS

Thank you



Your unwavering support for the Strong Schools initiatives means the world to us. Because of your support, we're building brighter futures together - one Learner, one School, one Community at a time. Thank you for being such a vital part of this journey!

SOCIAL IMPACT PARTNERS & DONORS in 2024/2025

Acorn Private Equity Holdings (PTY) LTD - Funding support
 Action Volunteers Africa - Career Guidance and Support
 Adré Potgieter - Psychosocial Support
 André Venter Consulting - Well-being Hubs support
 Appolog - Compass Calibration website
 Blackburn Holdings (UK) - Funding support
 BrightStar Lifestyle - Life Skills & Coaching
 Check-Know-Prevent - Breast Awareness
 Entle Empowerment - Funding support
 Capitec Bank - Funding, 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 - Project Funding & Shoes
 Key Recruitment Group - Funding support
 Malan Investment Holdings - Funding support
 Mergon Foundation - Project Funding, Organisational Development
 Nashua - Installation of Data Projectors, Donations towards Technology
 People's Dynamic Development - Principal Development
 Real Deal - Organisational Development & Discipleship material support
 Rupert Foundation - Teachers Appreciation Donation
 SHARP & SMD Technologies - Calculators
 STOP Trafficking - Awareness of Human Trafficking Programmes
 Thuma Mina Teaching! - Digital Teaching Resources
 Truth2Kids and HEY! - Gospel Programme support
 Unashamedly Ethical - Programme support
 Private Donors, Supporters, Volunteers & Prayer partners - Valuable support
 Local businesses from our community - Gifts for Fundraisers

“

Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)

”

CONCLUSION - CALL TO ACTION

We believe that God has given SSCC a mandate according to Psalm 1:3 and Isaiah 61:1-4

- to help grow trees to bring forth fruit in its season,
- to proclaim good news to the poor,
- to bind up the broken-hearted and proclaim liberty to the captives,
- *so that they may be called **oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified**,*
- to help rebuild the ancient ruins

Your unwavering support for the Strong Schools initiatives means the world to us. Because of your support, we're building brighter futures together - one Learner, one School, one Community at a time. Thank you for being such a vital part of this journey!

Warm regards,
The SSCC Board, Team & Facilitators

*Invest in Schools Today,
Empower Communities Tomorrow*



BECOME PART OF THE CHANGE

- Sign up as Volunteer for a Project
- Organise a drive or Fundraiser for an Intervention
- Pray for our organisation and Schools
- Make a Tax-deductible donation
- Support our Projects, Fundraisers and Golf Days
- Follow us on Social Media: @StrongSchoolsza

“

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

— Margaret Mead

”

“

*It's not about being the best **IN** the world...
It's about being the best **FOR** the world.*

— Clint Pulver

”



Every School
CAN BE A
Strong School



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