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**IKAMVA LABANTWANA**  
OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

# NEWSLETTER



**Commit. Believe. Grow. Inspire. Respect.**

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# Dear supporters and friends,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm thrilled to share with you our second newsletter of the year.

After 3.5 years of studying, it's been incredibly rewarding to return to the field—to step outside the classroom, roll up my sleeves, and re-engage with the heart of our work. I've truly missed the energy and purpose that comes from being actively involved in the day-to-day efforts of our organisation.

Between June and September, we welcomed 75 additional out-of-school youth into our skills development training. Through the Social Employment Fund program, we've also supported 35 young people with direct employment opportunities, helping them build valuable skills while making meaningful contributions to their communities. Each day, these young people show up with purpose, hope, and a drive to make a difference.

We've also made a significant investment in digital resources, adding 40 new tablets to our education program for learners at our Nyanga and Tarkastad After School Branches. For children attending public schools with limited access to technology, this is a vital step toward bridging the digital divide and empowering their futures.

We're also excited to invite you to a very special event!

Our learners will be showcasing their musical talents at their **first public performance** at the **Baxter Theatre on Saturday, 25th October 2025**. This performance is the culmination of months of dedication through Saturday music workshops provided by the UCT South African College of Music. It promises to be a joyful celebration of growth, creativity, and community.

**Please RSVP here.**

We would love to see you there and share this proud moment with you.

I hope you enjoy reading more about our work and continue to stand with us in creating lasting impact.

Warm regards,  
**Siviwe**

# Events & Updates

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## A Full Circle of Hope: The Story of Axolile Booyesen

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In 2015, a young boy named **Axolile Booyesen** joined our after-school programme. He arrived curious, eager to learn, and full of potential. Along the way, life presented him with challenges that could easily have discouraged him. During a difficult period, he chose to return to the place that had once believed in him, and our doors were open to welcome him back.

Today, Axolile's journey has come full circle. He is now a **mentor, tutor, and positive role model** to the children in our care. He supports learners with patience and dedication, helping them to grow both academically and personally. He also plays a key role in **nurturing our vertical garden**, tending to the plants while also cultivating confidence and resilience in those around him.

His story reminds us that when young people are given guidance, care, and opportunity, they flourish. When we invest in their growth, we invest in the future of our communities.



## Kick for Change Soccer Tournament

The **Kick for Change Soccer Tournament** at Van Riebeck Stadium in **Tarkastad** brought our community together in a vibrant celebration of sport, unity, and awareness. Beyond goals and trophies, the event shone a light on mental health and gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) – important issues that affect us all. Through open dialogue, SAPS officers, community leaders, and youth engaged in conversations that encouraged young men to stand as advocates for positive change.

Congratulations to all teams, especially **Zola Sundowns FC** and **Spain FC**, for their outstanding sportsmanship. Together, we're using sport as a force for healing, respect, and hope.



## Empowering Youth for a Brighter Future

Our **Youth Café Programme** continues to equip young people with the skills, mentorship, and confidence they need to thrive. The latest 8-week cohort began in Crossroads on 6 October and will run through 28 November, offering hands-on training and real-world insights in business, work readiness, and personal growth. We're also thrilled to launch the programme in **Tarkastad**, extending opportunities to even more youth eager to learn and grow. Together, we're not just building skills – we're building futures.



## Celebrating Inspiring Leadership: Ongeziwe Nxokwana

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We are proud to celebrate **Ongeziwe Nxokwana**, a valued member of our Board, for being recognised as one of the Mail & Guardian Top 200 Young South Africans. This honour reflects her dedication to youth development and her commitment to building communities of opportunity and hope.

Ongeziwe also recently completed the prestigious **Mandela Washington Fellowship** in the United States, further strengthening her leadership journey and expanding the impact of her work. Her growth continues to inspire our team and the young people we serve.

We are grateful to be guided by leaders who serve with purpose, humility, and vision, and who show through example what empowered leadership looks like in action.

## Arts, Nature, and New Horizons

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Our holiday adventures continued at the **National Arts Festival in Makhanda**, where ten young trailblazers immersed themselves in theatre, music, and visual arts. They returned home inspired by creativity and imagination.

The trip also included a stay at **Seven Fountains Farm**, where mornings were filled with fresh air and hands-on farm life. Between nature walks, animal care, and evenings around the fire, learners discovered peace and connection beyond township life. It was a journey that expanded horizons and created memories to last a lifetime.



## Spotlight on Creativity: Siya's Sculpture

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At our Crossroads Hub, art facilitator **Siya** is crafting a clay sculpture of an African woman — head held high, gaze forward, embodying the strength and grace of the women who shaped him. The piece, inspired by mothers, sisters, and healers, will serve as the centrepiece of a new gallery that celebrates resilience and creativity. Though unfinished, the sculpture already speaks volumes — a powerful tribute to women's stories and the transformative power of art.



## Celebrating Community and Growth in Nyanga

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At **Hlengisa Primary School**, our **Nyanga Branch** hosted a day filled with warmth, unity, and hope. Learners, parents, and facilitators gathered to share a meal, celebrate milestones, and reflect on the progress of our after-school programme. Witnessing young people from one of the country's most challenged communities so focused, respectful, and full of joy was truly moving. We extend heartfelt thanks to Hlengisa Primary for their steadfast partnership and generosity in providing classroom space — a foundation for safe, inspiring learning.



## Building Brighter Futures, One Holiday at a Time

During the school break, our **Crossroads Branch** came alive with learning and laughter as children participated in our **holiday programme**. Learners revisited earlier academic work, prepared for the terms ahead, and received emotional and mental wellness support.

A highlight was the excursion to **Intaka Island**, where they explored wetlands, discovered indigenous plants, and learned about conservation and sustainability. These experiences fostered curiosity, confidence, and joy – building strong foundations for the future.



## A Breath of Fresh Air Above the City

Our **Youth Café students and foster mothers** took a well-deserved break with a soul-refreshing outing to Table Mountain. From the summit, the city stretched out below, the ocean shimmered, and the crisp air renewed our spirits. More than just a day out, it was a time of laughter, reflection, and connection. These moments of peace remind us that even amid life's challenges, we can always rise above.



## Marimba Returns to Tarkastad!

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In August, marimba made a joyful come-back at our **Tarkastad Branch** in partnership with **Nkosiyakhe Senior Primary School**. Auditions were filled with excitement as learners stepped forward with rhythm, energy, and pride. This initiative is about more than music – it's about creativity, culture, and community. Through teamwork and performance, students are rediscovering the power of self-expression. We can't wait to see them take the stage in the months ahead, their marimbas echoing the vibrant heartbeat of Tarkastad.



## After School Basics Training Programme

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Two of our Programme Coordinators recently attended the **After School Basics Training Programme**, hosted by **The Learning Trust**. Over four days, they explored emotional intelligence tools, stages of child development, and the principles of effective after-school practice. The experience was not only an opportunity to deepen skills but also a call to action – strengthening our commitment to creating safe, supportive learning environments. Together, we're empowering practitioners so that every child can thrive long after the school bell rings.



## Celebrating Heritage Day with Pride and Joy

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We closed the month with a vibrant **Heritage Day celebration**, honouring our nation's rich diversity. Young people showcased their talents through dance, song, and art, while partner schools, NGOs, and the **Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport** joined in the festivities.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to the incredible mothers who brought warmth and flavour with traditional dishes. The day was a joyful celebration of culture, unity, and the spirit that binds us as one community.



## Portraits of Crossroads

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This powerful podcast series captures the voices and stories of young people in our community. Featuring honest conversations about identity, resilience, and daily life in Crossroads, each episode is a window into the lived experiences that shape our youth.

Listen now at:

[portraitsofcrossroads.com/episodes](https://portraitsofcrossroads.com/episodes)



## Download Our Latest Annual Report

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Discover how Ikamva Labantwana Bethu made a difference in 2024 – from launching a new youth centre in Tarkastad to empowering young leaders through education, skills training, and international exchange. Our Annual Report highlights key milestones, impact stories, and our vision for 2025.

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

## Get Involved

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You can help us build a future where every young person has the support, skills, and opportunities to thrive.

### Donate

Your contribution helps us provide:

- After-school academic support
- Skills training and job placements
- Workshops and nutritious meals
- Safe learning environments and mentorship

Every donation makes a difference. **Donate via our website:** [ikamvalabantwana.org/make-a-difference](https://ikamvalabantwana.org/make-a-difference)

### Volunteer Your Time

Share your time, talent, or voice as:

- A tutor or youth mentor
- A speaker or trainer
- A supporter at community events
- A skills-based volunteer

### Spread the Word

Follow and share online:

- Facebook: [@ikamvalabantwana](https://www.facebook.com/ikamvalabantwana)
- Instagram: [@ikamva\\_labantwana](https://www.instagram.com/ikamva_labantwana)

#IkamvaLabantwana

#YouthEmpowerment #KuyakhanyaPride

### Every Action Counts

Whether you give a little or a lot, your support helps us break cycles of poverty, violence, and exclusion. Together, we're not just changing lives—we're building a better future for all.

Join us. Let's shine a light where it matters most.

## Get in Touch

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Ikamva Labantwana Bethu is a registered Non-Profit (NPO 122-695) and Public Benefit (PBO 930051378) Organisation.

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