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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 trust that 2026 has begun well for you. We enter this new year with renewed optimism and a continued commitment to advancing our mission and vision.

Towards the end of 2025, we made a further strategic investment in the rural Eastern Cape town of Paterson through the acquisition of a former family business property. This property will be redeveloped into an education and youth development hub, aimed at creating meaningful opportunities for learning, skills development, and youth empowerment.

Historically, Paterson was a thriving and industrious town, sustained by agriculture, local enterprise, and strong community networks. Over time, however, the town has experienced economic decline, deteriorating infrastructure, and increasingly limited opportunities – particularly for young people. These challenges have contributed to a sense of stagnation and diminished hope within the community, underscoring the importance of focused and sustained intervention.

We are also pleased to welcome new staff members and to acknowledge the continued growth of our organisation. Over the past year, our staff complement has increased from 30 to 50 employees, reflecting our collective efforts to expand essential support services and programmes in the communities we serve.

As we look ahead, we remain confident in the year before us. We invite you to continue walking this journey with us – through your partnership, advocacy, and financial support – as we work to strengthen communities and create lasting opportunities for young people. Your continued commitment enables us to deepen our impact and extend our reach where it is most needed.

We thank you sincerely for your ongoing support and belief in our work.

Warm regards,
Siviwe

This Quarterly Newsletter reflects on Ikamva Labantwana Bethu's work from October to December 2025 – a period shaped by learning, access, creativity, and meaningful connection. Across education, youth development, and community partnerships, the past quarter highlights the depth of our commitment to expanding opportunity and strengthening the communities we serve.

Education and skills: learning that opens doors



Scholarship achievement: Katlego Mxhonywa

We are proud to celebrate **Katlego Mxhonywa**, one of our scholarship recipients, who achieved a place in the *Term 3 Top Ten* at Tarkastad High School.

Achievements like this reflect the commitment of our learners – and the power of sustained educational support to unlock potential and open doors for the future.

Digital learning in our after-school programme

Learners in our after-school programme continued to engage with digital learning tools that support academic progress and classroom success. Through projector-supported lessons and hands-on sessions in our computer lab, learners are developing essential digital skills that support their academic growth and future career readiness.

Initiatives like these help ensure our children are not only keeping up – but gaining the tools they need to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

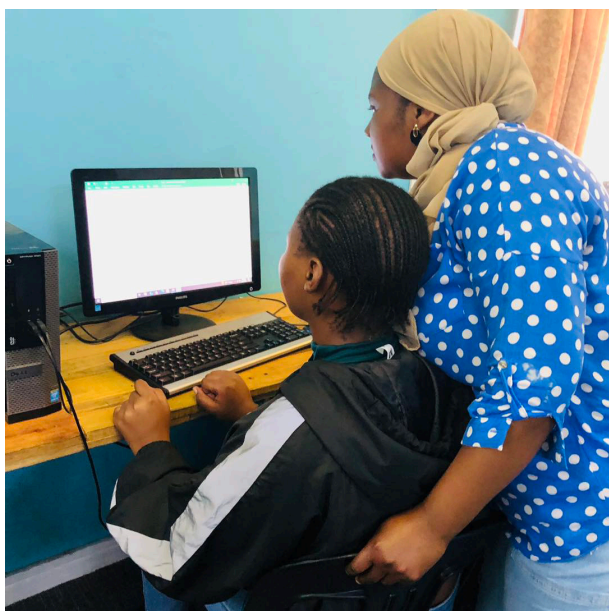


Youth Café computer literacy programme

At the Youth Café, young people completed a structured computer literacy programme designed to strengthen essential digital and workplace skills.

The programme covered key competencies including online job applications, professional email communication, CV and cover-letter creation, data management using Excel, presentations with PowerPoint, and an introduction to AI tools to enhance digital confidence.

By building these foundational skills, young people are better prepared to navigate the digital world with confidence and purpose.



Youth financial literacy programme (Momentum partnership)

Through a dedicated financial literacy programme, Youth Café participants explored practical tools for managing money, understanding credit, and planning for the future.

The programme equips young people with practical knowledge around budgeting, responsible spending, debt and credit management, investments, and the relationship between mental wellbeing and money habits.

By strengthening financial confidence and decision-making skills, initiatives like this support young people to take greater control of their futures and build long-term financial resilience.

Removing barriers: access, opportunity and partnerships



Free transport access for youth (City of Cape Town partnership)

In November, Ikamva Labantwana Bethu, in partnership with the City of Cape Town, the Western Cape Mobility Free Ride Programme, and Golden Arrow, transformed the Youth Café into a hub of opportunity – connecting hundreds of young people from Crossroads and surrounding areas with free bus tickets.

Demand for the initiative was overwhelming, highlighting the critical role that affordable transport plays in accessing education, employment, and services. Through strong collaboration and a commitment to inclusion, every young person who arrived was supported.

Initiatives like this reflect our commitment to removing barriers and ensuring that no one is left behind as young people move toward brighter futures.



Empowering girls and building Safer communities

International Day of the Girl Child programme

Girls from schools participating in our Girls Empowerment Programme came together to mark the *International Day of the Girl Child* through dialogue, reflection, and learning. The Saturday meet-up created a safe and supportive space for meaningful conversations around personal goals, healthy decision-making, preventing teenage pregnancy, and committing to positive community leadership.

We are grateful to our staff, parents, and community partners who continue to uplift and amplify the voices of young girls – helping shape confident, empowered leaders for the future.



Girls Empowerment and Learn for Life year-end reflection

Participants in our *Girls Empowerment* and *Learn for Life* programmes came together to mark the close of the year with a reflective beach gathering. The day celebrated their shared journey and commitment, with each participant receiving a Certificate of Attendance in recognition of their dedication throughout the year.

These gatherings highlight the value of providing supportive spaces where young people can reflect on their journeys and move forward with confidence.





16 Days of Activism: Community action against GBV

Ikamva Labantwana Bethu joined Women For Change and community partners in the National Women's Shutdown, marking the start of the *16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children*. Staff and community members marched through Crossroads and Nyan-ga in solidarity with women and children affected by gender-based violence.

This collective action reflects our ongoing commitment to creating safe, supportive environments where children can grow and women can live without fear. We are grateful to our partners and community collaborators who continue to stand with us in advocating for dignity, safety, and justice.

Creativity, confidence and leadership beyond the classroom



Learners Perform at the Baxter Theatre

Learners reached an important milestone when they performed at the Baxter Theatre as part of the UCT South African College of Music (SACM) outreach programme. Learners from Crossroads, Nyanga East, Khayelitsha, Philippi, and Langa presented vocal work, instrumental pieces, and traditional African music, reflecting growing confidence and creative development. Performing on a professional stage supports discipline, self-belief, and a sense of possibility outside the school environment. A recording of the concert is available to [view online](#).



Drumming programme: Rythm, connection and expression

Through drum-beating sessions, our children explore more than music – they learn unity, collaboration, and self-expression. Each rhythm becomes a shared language, reminding us that together we create something far greater than the sum of our parts.

We are deeply grateful to our facilitator, **Kofi**, for creating a space where sound and movement become meaning, and connection becomes healing.

Orange Grove adventure leadership camp

Learners participated in the Orange Grove Adventure Leadership Camp, where hands-on activities were used to build teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills. Through collaborative tasks such as shelter building, outdoor cooking, and communication exercises, learners from different backgrounds worked together, built confidence, and formed meaningful connections.

Hands-on leadership camps provide young people with opportunities to develop resilience, cooperation, and problem-solving skills.



Health, wellbeing and joy In childhood



Year-end outing: Harmony Park

Children from our Crossroads and Nyanga after-school programmes enjoyed a special year-end outing to Harmony Park in Strand. The day offered a joyful space to reflect, play, and celebrate the relationships built throughout the year.

As we look ahead to 2026, creating safe, joyful experiences plays an important role in supporting children's wellbeing and development.



Sports and physical activity at Hlengisa Primary

At Hlengisa Primary School, learners regularly take part in sports and physical activities that encourage teamwork, confidence, and healthy lifestyles. Opportunities for play and movement play an important role in supporting children's physical wellbeing and social development.

Celebrating achievement and transitions

Cape Town end-of-year awards ceremony

Learners from our Cape Town–based after-school and Youth Café programmes were recognised for their commitment and progress at the End-of-Year Awards Ceremony.

Certificates were awarded to Cohort 3 and 4 Youth Café graduates, as well as Cape Town–based after-school learners, recognising their commitment and progress throughout the year.

We also bid farewell to our Grade 7 learners, many of whom have been part of the programme for four years. As they move on to high school in 2026 – and as Youth Café graduates begin new paths in employment and further education – we celebrate their resilience, determination, and potential.

Our sincere thanks go to the parents, educators, school leaders, and community representatives who continue to walk this journey with us.

Tarkastad end-of-year awards and branch development

Learners at our Tarkastad branch celebrated the end of the academic year with an outing and awards ceremony at Cradock Spa. The event recognised academic improvement and leadership growth, honouring the dedication and resilience shown by learners throughout the year.

As we congratulated our Grade 7 learners on reaching an important milestone, we also looked ahead with excitement. In the coming year, the branch will open a new purpose-built facility equipped with 21st-century technology – strengthening digital access and learning opportunities for the children we serve.



Our organisation: People, growth and purpose

Community partnership highlight: Topeka Spur

Our children and staff were treated to a festive meal thanks to the generosity of **Topeka Spur Steak Ranch**. The day offered more than food – it created a shared moment of joy, connection, and celebration for our community.

The initiative formed part of **Spur Steak Ranches'** 58th anniversary celebrations, through which the organisation hosted hundreds of special events for NGOs and NPOs across South Africa. This partnership demonstrates how collective care and generosity strengthen community wellbeing.



Tarkastad staff appreciation gathering

Staff from our Tarkastad branch gathered in Cradock for an end-of-year appreciation lunch, recognising the consistency and teamwork that sustained programmes throughout the year.

Investing in staff wellbeing and connection is central to our ability to deliver consistent, high-quality support to children and youth. As we look ahead to the coming year, a strong, motivated team remains one of our most important foundations for impact.



Year-end staff reflection and organisational milestones

The Cape Town team gathered at year-end to reflect on organisational growth, expansion, and the values that continue to guide the work. As we look ahead, we are excited to share that 2026 will mark important milestones for Ikamva Labantwana Bethu, including the opening of our new Tarkastad branch building and the expansion of our work to Paterson in the Eastern Cape.

The gathering also coincided with 16 December, a day on which we honour the memory of Julian Mxhonywa, the brother of our founder, whose life and legacy continue to inspire our commitment to building safer, stronger communities for children and youth.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our staff, partners, and donors whose support makes this work possible as we move forward together.



2026 Organisational planning and infrastructure development

Planning sessions at the start of the year focused on shaping Ikamva Labantwana Bethu's 2026 priorities, infrastructure growth, and programme impact. The year ahead will prioritise high-impact programmes that strengthen educational outcomes for learners and expand opportunities for out-of-school youth.

The planning process concluded with a visit to the Tarkastad Educational and Youth Centre currently under construction, alongside the distribution of essential resources – including tablets, laptops, and learning materials – across our branches. These steps mark a strong start to the year and a continued commitment to growth and transformation.





Looking ahead with purpose

As we reflect on the work of the past quarter, what stands out most is the collective effort behind every programme, milestone, and moment of growth. Across our centres and communities, children and young people have been supported to learn, create, build confidence, and access opportunities that extend outside the traditional classroom. These outcomes are made possible through sustained commitment, collaboration, and a shared belief in the potential of every learner.

The stories in this newsletter reflect more than activities or events – they speak to long-term investment in education, youth development, and community wellbeing. From academic progress and skills development to safe spaces for expression, leadership, and belonging, each initiative contributes to a broader vision of opportunity that is inclusive, resilient, and rooted in care.

As we move forward, Ikamva Labantwana Bethu remains committed to strengthening this work through thoughtful growth, strong partnerships, and dedicated teams. With gratitude for the support and trust of our communities, partners, and supporters, we continue this journey with purpose – focused on expanding access, deepening impact, and building a future in which children and young people are empowered to thrive.



Further Reading

Our most recent Annual Report provides a detailed overview of our programmes, governance, and financial information.

Download the Annual Report

Get involved

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**

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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Connect with us:



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

Donation Account:

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