THE ANGEL NETWORK

Newsletter January 2024



A message from our founder, Glynne Wolman



The past six months have been nothing if not challenging. That said, we are forever indebted to you, our valued members, who help us make a difference to the lives of others every single day.

Angel

As a result of your continued generosity, kindness and support, we are reminded that success is not only measured by profit and growth but by the difference we make to the lives of others and that our true worth lies in the positive impact we have in the world. While the numbers below may reflect how many meals we have provided, houses we have built and students we have educated, they cannot predict the impact this assistance will have on these families for generations to come.

For the first time since our inception 8 years ago and as a result of an incredibly generous donation from an anonymous donor of R1 million, we were able to provide lifesaving heart surgery to 3 little children who would otherwise not have survived. In addition, we reunited a young girl from Congo with her parents in America which was another first.

May 2024 be filled with many more positive firsts in our quest to uplift others and leave the world a little better than we found it.

Gauteng



Meet Brian Davey Ndlovu, a car guard, who approached The Angel Network at the beginning of 2022 to finance his HC Law studies at UNISA. Not only did Brian pass everything with flying colours, but with the help of good samaritans was able to secure a job at a law firm and is currently studying for his BCom Law, financed by The Angel Network.



From being able to assist a school in Malawi with stationery, backpacks and school shoes, to raising enough to send 60 SA made fire fighter suits to Ukraine, as well as selling some of our beneficiaries wares in Switzerland, we are proud of how we have been able to extend our reach beyond our borders.



That said, nothing will ever compare to what we were able to do in July 2023, when we reunited a child, not yet a teenager with her parents who she hadn't seen for 5 years. They fled Congo and she remained in SA with her aunt. It is said that it takes a village to raise a child and with the incredible help from some amazing women in the States, Nadine (not her real name) is safely and happily with her family in America. #bettertogether



Born with a cyst on his forehead, Siphiso has become severely disfigured as the cyst spread across his entire eye. He has tried to be assisted at state hospitals but has not been successful. Siphiso's job involved repairing and replacing windscreens but sadly the company was taken over by a big car dealership and he and others were retrenched. Every evening Siphiso receives a meal from Deli One in Rivonia road, for the rest, he stands and begs.

Heartfelt thanks to Dr's Bloch & Partners Inc. Sandton Radiology who did an MRI, ultrasound and CT scan on Siphiso. He was treated with such dignity and allowed to shower and feel human again. The great news is that not only is the congenital cyst benign, his orbital sphere is clear and there have been no mutations. The next step is to arrange surgery to remove it and ensure that he has full use of his eye as luckily the eye is functional. THEN...together, we will help Siphiso find employment enabling him to live the life he so deserves. It takes a village. Thank you everyone and especially Lerato Breesh for arranging all of the above. We are overwhelmingly grateful.

Pamela Zolkov approached us after she found an elderly man lying on a pavement across the road from a golf course. He was unconscious, in a diabetic coma, and an ambulance had been called but unfortunately it only arrived about three hours after he first passed out and he was in a bad state. Pamela learned that Banana works as a caddy at the golf course and travels by taxi every morning, sitting on the pavement, hoping to be allocated "a bag' to caddy. The paramedics tried to revive him but he remained unresponsive. He was rushed to the hospital, where he recovered.

Thanks to the generosity and kindness of you, our members, we were able to raise enough money to provide Banana with the necessary medication and food as well as enough to support himself and his family for a few months.





With grateful thanks to The Dis-Chem Foundation for the incredible donation of 500 blankets during a particularly cold spell this past winter



"By paying my fees for the past 3 years, your support has made me, a child of a domestic worker, a final year medical student. My upcoming graduation owes everything to your unwavering kindness"

> Lilyossa Mandizvida -Final year medical student

Lilian Isaacs introduced us to 10 amazing men who make up JAM (Johannesburg Awakening Minds).

JAM was started as the skills arm of a soup kitchen which has been run in Hillbrow for the last 26 years. Renowned actress Dorothy Ann Gould has been teaching and working with the group for twelve years, mainly doing Shakespeare and T S Eliot and

other literary friends, including Margaret Attwood & Robert Frost, as well as some of their own writing. The purpose of the group is to uplift and teach skills as well as provide a sanctuary where they can come to find relief from difficult lives on the streets, gain self-respect, dignity and a sense of belonging. Almost all the group are now no longer homeless but staying in rooms, shelters and halfway houses. Performing gives them pride, helps to keep them drug and alcohol free and



they earn a little money. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic hit this little company very badly. In 2020 they had performances booked throughout the year, but all sadly cancelled. These men are nothing, if not stoical and still rehearse with great gusto, dedication, and good cheer. Should you or your organisation be interested in being entertained by JAM, these amazing men will leave you inspired and hopeful. Please support local talent and assist with giving a hand up, we promise you won't be sorry. For further information contact Glynne 083 777 1621.

Emergency relief



"The Angel Network is a symbol of hope to our communities, it gives out help where help is needed most. Our hero is The Angel Network"

> Clive Mashishi -The Clive Mashishi Foundation

Fundraisers and events



We hosted 2 very successful events at Theatre on the Square, The Undone and Nik Rabinowitz which allowed us to keep a soup kitchen open for 3 months, supplying 9 600 meals.

"The Angel Network promotes unity within households, fostering progress and positive change. It helps us find meaning in life and encourages respect, embracing the principles of Ubuntu"

> Jean Bwasa -Rights2Live Africa

We can do none of what we do alone. When a horrific fire claimed the lives of 77 people in downtown Johannesburg recently, YOU, our incredibly kind and generous donors, jumped into action so that the hundreds of survivors could be assisted. Thanks to your benevolence, we were able to provide hundreds of meals daily for weeks, deliver 4 truckloads of clothing and bedding and gift over 400 people with essential toiletries.

Special thanks to amazing people who never say no and have taught us all about generosity of spirit. The inimitable Clive Mashishi who dropped everything to ensure people would he fed and clothed and did collections and deliveries day after day as

well as a really capable can-do woman, Noreen Chidomaya Moyo who shopped, cooked and fed so many for days on end. Thank you to Annie Hodes and Gourmet Grocer for always offering support and being a drop off point whenever we need help. Thank you Best Before Clearance Store for donating toiletries, Jodam Manufacturers for the toiletry bags and Seth Lunz and Casa Mia for all the chips and biscuits.

Heartfelt gratitude to Tracy Paiken and Andrew Chinnah for "being the change". They didn't hesitate when we asked for help recently. Tracy works closely with Andy who she describes as a human rights activist and says "Andy always makes sure to co-ordinate everything and gets the medication needed. He deserves the greater praise because he is outstanding and so selfless. It is truly wonderful to meet people like that".

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You CAN make a difference

SAVE THE DATE 05/05/24 VENUE: TEATRO - MONTE CASINO TIME: 18H00 PRICE: RASO





MANDELA DAY – Hearts Build Homes. 800 people came together at DP World Wanderers Stadium to celebrate the spirit of ubuntu and the legacy that was our great statesman, Nelson Mandela. We sang, danced, made sandwiches and packed food parcels and household contents. We cut fabric for towels and blankets and engaged with awesome people who gave back and made a difference to so many. As a result of this enormously successful fundraising event, 42 homes an ECD centre and a soup kitchen were built in Orange Farm and KZN.



Gratitude to our sponsors who never say no

Agt Foods Africa, Chamdor Krugersdorp, Aquazania, JB Recording Studios, DJ's Deli, Johnson workwear, Nando's, LITA Water, McCafe, Medi Response, Orit's Bakery, Randplastics

Shattered Glass, 67 Blankets, The Crazy Store, Waltons, Whitehouse & Continental Linen Special thanks to Michelle Gordon of Finer Details who went above and above the call of duty to ensure that everything ran smoothly, very often working till way into the night and then again early the next morning, to Adam Pelkowitz of The Media Distillery for being one of the nicest people and spending long days and nights producing amazing design and video footage.

There is a reason that Jono Leaf-Wright is the CEO of Lions Cricket. He is truly an incredible human being who just gets things done so effortlessly and makes everyone feel special. Jonathan Birin, David Opperman and Clemance Tsomondo were sensational in providing the most fabulous entertainment, our volunteers who never turn down an opportunity to give back and make a difference and our partners in the event, Fingertips of Africa, Yehuda and Jacqui.

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Golf Day

ANNUAL GOLF DAY - What a wonderful day of golf, of giving back, of making a difference.

We could do none of what we do without every player, every sponsor, every donor and every volunteer so all thanks belong to each and every one of you for ensuring that not only was the day happy, enjoyable and memorable but that we are able to continue upskilling, training, educating and developing people as well as making sure that nobody we assist goes to bed hungry. Our heartfelt thanks to all our sponsors who never say no ,360NE Asset Management, 3G Mobile, Amani Spa and Wellness, AMROD, Bellagio Illovo, Betway, Bidvest, Blue Label Data Solutions, Blue Label Telecoms, Bogart Man Sandton, Bridgement, Bulldog Carwash, Candylicious SA, Catercorp, Club Como Restaurant, Crowe Forensics SA, DB Events, Executive Solutions, Fila South Africa, Food by Flavours, Frozen Drinks Africa, GA Creative Brands, Geo Cloud, Gifts of Note, JB Recording Studios, JK Productions, Kitchenique, KOI Restaurants, Larry Nestadt, LIFT Airline, LITA Water, Mahikeng Lodge, Mandelle Bernstein Photography, Mantis Security, Marc and Tali Romberg and family Marica Hair and Beauty Salon Specialists, McCafe,

McDonald's, Meticulate, Morgan Taylor, MSC Sports

Nandos Kosher, NetFlorist, Newmark Hotels, Nutribullet,

One Golf, Ooh La La Artisan Confectionery

Pogir Group, Rand Plastics, Retail Lab Media Co, Sasfin,

Sibylle Sharon, STYLECO, Teljoy, The Capital Hotels & Apartments¹ The Moscon Group PPE, Thirst, Twist and Co, Vat It Melrose Arch, Wax on/Wax off, Whisky Brother & Co, Wian, You Realty



Special thanks to Danny Blumberg from DB Events and Christy Hughes for being a truly incredible team to work with. You both had everything under control from the get go which made the day run so smoothly. Thank you to Mandelle Bernstein for capturing each 4 ball, the inimitable Jonathan Birin for the brilliant idea of a "party hole", Fortune Maseko of Whisky Brother for the fabulous whisky tasting, Phil Holder for providing beautiful music and to the truly remarkable and unique Wian for bringing real magic into the room.

THE ANGEL NETWORK

The Western Cape Mandela Day



Mandela Day Cook-a-Thon: Nourishing Hearts and Tummies

The Angel Network Western Cape, in collaboration with Mensch, orchestrated an inspiring Mandela Day Cook-a-Thon, embodying the true spirit of Ubuntu. This extraordinary event brought 120 volunteers together from diverse backgrounds who peeled, chopped and diced to prepare a hearty stew, feeding 4000 meals to those most vulnerable across 15 Soup Kitchens. It was an inspiring day of #connectingkindness.

Toiletry Bag Campaign

As part of our Mandela Day Campaign we were thrilled to hand out 670 toiletry bags filled with essentials which so many who live in marginalized communities cannot afford. We are very grateful to all the donors and volunteers who helped to make this such a successful campaign to make a difference in the lives of those in need by restoring dignity to them.

Sanitary Pad Drive

Thank You to Mama Flo for facilitating this incredible Mandela Day drive on behalf of The Angel Network Western Cape. They continue to be the voice for thousands of women, advocating the fight against period poverty! We were able to distribute 230 packets of sanitary pads to women and girls in need.





Adult Nappies for Ithemba Old Age Home



Our appeal for adult nappies for Ithemba Old Age Home in Khayelitsha, who care for 30 aged residents, received an overwhelming response. Given the high cost of these essential items, we are committed to making this an ongoing initiative to support our elderly.



Disaster Relief Efforts for Flood Victims

The Western Cape experienced disastrous floods in September 2023, leaving a trail of devastation for thousands of residents in vulnerable communities, many of whom lost everything they owned. The immediate response and support from donors, members and partners enabled us to provide those hardest hit with essential aid such as food parcels, clothing and toiletries .





A heartfelt thanks to The Angel Network Kwazulu Natal,

The Angel Network Australia and the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies for their incredibly generous ongoing support.

Yebo Fresh's rapid delivery of aid assisted us in getting the much-needed relief to these communities in record time.

Bountiful Harvests at Salt River High School's Vegetable Garden

The thriving vegetable garden at Salt River High School is a testament to the power of education and community support.

This garden is more than just a source of fresh produce, it is teaching students valuable skills in planting, harvesting, and garden care. It opens up a world of possibilities, from farming and agriculture to culinary arts. Students are not only learning to cook nutritious meals but are also exploring opportunities in creating and selling their own mulch and compost.

We extend our deepest gratitude to The Angel Network Australia for their unwavering support, and special thank you also to the Gugulethu Urban Food Forest Initiative for their invaluable guidance and commitment

"You have been with me all the time my wish to you is to work together even in 2024 in others words happy new years thank you for all"

Khanyisa Lawrence Vedala









Mensch Mitzvah Day



On November 19th, Mensch's Annual Mitzvah Day treated the Pathfinder Girls of CBD Helping Hands to an unforgettable experience with Baba Yaya, where the 52 girls engaged in an uplifting afternoon of 'mindfulness and movement'.

This initiative, aimed at empowering girls aged 14-18 years from challenging backgrounds, provided much-needed respite from their daily struggles and a chance to build leadership and coping skills.

"Alone we can do so little. together we can do so much" Helen Keller

Empowering Futures: Celebrating Success at Salt River High's Valedictory

We had the honour of attending Salt River High School's valedictory for the Class of 2023, where special awards were presented, recognizing academic excellence. We provided a meal, and cupcakes which were kindly decorated by Rubi from Rubi's Rainbow Of Hope. The camaraderie and pride shared among the students for their peers' achievements was heartwarming.

Thanks to the continued support from The Angel Network Australia and their generous donors, these deserving students are getting a much-needed second chance in life. Our efforts have significantly boosted their school attendance and grades. As part of our ongoing support, we ensured that all the matrics received a hot meal before each exam, helping them reach their full potential.

Back to School Backpack for Backpack Campaign



On 31 December 2023, Saskia and Levi Todes embarked on an incredibly gruelling 106 km hike over 6 days, along the picturesque Amatola Trail. They chose to use this opportunity to raise funds for backpacks and school supplies for the children at The Homestead Projects for Street Children, and through their incredible efforts, we were able to distribute 350 backpacks! Thank You, and Well done to them both!

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step"









Exciting Household Vegetable Garden Initiative

The Tafelsig/Mitchell'sPlain CAN, Seed2Harvest and The Angel Network Western Cape are very excited to be collaborating in an initiative to roll out household vegetable gardens within the Tafelsig/Mitchells Plain community. We are very proud to be supporting this project which aims to ensure food security and sustainable living, empowering families to grow and potentially sell their own produce. Seed2harvest will be teaching them all the necessary skills to successfully grow their vegetables and will oversee the project. We are looking for potential partners to join us on this exciting journey of upliftment. If you are interested please contact us for more information.

" Words can never express the amount of gratitude we feel from Tafelsig"

Joanie Fredericks Tafelsig CAN

MANGEI Network

MAMMA MIA FUNDRAISER

We are very excited to be launching our Mamma Mia Fundraiser which takes place on 4th April. We will be collaborating with Mama Flo, who are passionate about fighting period poverty in marginalized communities. All the funds raised from the Mamma Mia fundraiser will go towards buying sanitary towels, a luxury for these girls, so that they can attend school without being embarrassed. We hope that you will support this very worthy initiative. Watch our Facebook and Instagram for







The Angel Network Western Cape Standard Bank Account no 10134201203 Branch 051001 Swift code SBZA ZA JJ "Thank you Angels for awesome support in 2023. We wish you a fantastic year. May your dreams and wishes be loaded with blessings to reach fruition beyond expectations."

Loads of love from all our volunteers at RAM.

Kwazulu-Natal

We are most grateful to all who contributed towards helping our city, over the past 6 months. Thank you!

Projects

A Happy Ending for Bucumi

Bucumi was brought to our attention after suffering a stroke. No longer able to support himself as a car guard he was uncertain of his fate. Fortunately, we were able to provide a wheelchair for him and, once discharged from hospital, we paid his rent and groceries. It was ultimately decided that his best option, in light of his medical condition, was for him to return home to Burundi. After sponsoring him with a JAM clothing voucher to shop new clothes for himself and his family, we are happy to report that he is now reunited with his family in Burundi and is recovering well.

Teach a man to fish...

We have been blown away by a young lady named Thandeka. After receiving a sewing machine at a discounted price, we also sponsored for her to attend a course at Sizanani Sewing School. She thrived and graduated with two awards including The Top Student Award. We are extremely proud of her commitment, passion, talent and achievements and look forward to watching this young lady grow and thrive.





"I am very grateful to the **Angel Network.** I'm so excited to help people with computers. Thank you very much, I feel a sense of gratitude"

DUMI- MISSION THANDO



Giving a hand-up to Lwanele Lwanele was close to graduating as a Mechanical Engineer at DUT however, due to Covid, he was unable to work and pay for his final module. In addition, the course content had gone online and without a computer he was unable to access the material. The Angel Network Durban stepped in by donating a laptop and funding his final module. Lwanele is now able to graduate, apply for a job, and provide for his family. We will be watching this young man closely, we know he has a bright future ahead of him.

"The Angel Network cleared my historical debt and paid for my fees to complete my outstanding module. Without them I would never have completed my degree. I am so grateful."

LWANELE



From a Shack to a Home

In October, we received an urgent phone call requesting assistance for a mom of new born triplets who was having to feed them sugar water as she did not have access to formula or the ability to produce enough breastmilk. We managed to secure accommodation at a babies home to assist in increasing the babies' weight. When delivering donated formula, we were further shocked to discover this family, with 6 children living in a tiny shack.

Thankfully, our Comrades runner donor decided his funds should be utilised to build them a new and bigger home. Located in Ntumzuma, in the middle of a mountainous area, the build proved extremely challenging with all material carried via wheelbarrows through rivers and up steep, slippery pathways. We are incredibly grateful to our builder, Ernest who persevered, through much blood, sweat and tears, to build a beautiful 3 bedroom house. This precious family are now safe and protected living with a little more dignity and much-needed space.







Life-Saving Operations for 3 Special Kids

In October, the Angel Network SA was delighted to receive an anonymous donation of 1 million Rand. The only stipulation was that it was to be used to pay for life-saving operations for children in South Africa. The Children's Cardiac Foundation of Africa was brought to the attention of the Angel Network Durban and in November, we used some of these funds to sponsor life-saving operations on 3 young cardiac patients. The cardiac team enlightened us to the harsh reality that 4 500 children in South Africa are currently on a waiting list for heart surgery. About 500 of these children are on a list at Albert Luthuli Hospital here in Durban. Our three special little patients are all doing well and have a healthy future ahead of them. We are in awe of the passionate and committed doctors who form part of the team for the Foundation and look forward sponsor more of these life-saving miracles in the future.



We have connected with another wonderful NGO called The Nappy Initiative. They kindly sponsored a bunk bed after an appeal was sent out by us. We then went together to King Edward government hospital, for world Preemie day and handed out some treats to the nurses and some goody bags for the moms with babies in the NICU.





A safe learning spaes



We love working with passionate, caring individuals who care so deeply about others. One such person is Victoria from House of Dorcus. Victoria identified the need for an after-care facility for the underprivileged children in the informal settled area of Cato Manor. With grateful thanks to our Angel Network Australia team, who helped secure an incredibly generous sponsor, this little project has really grown beyond our wildest expectations. Victoria was able to purchase a container which serves as a classroom from which her and her team run computer literacy, reading and maths lessons. They were also able to purchase tables and chairs and erect a perimeter fence ensuring a safe playground even for those

children from the informal settlement who are not part of the after-care programme. The Angel Network Durban also donated educational toys and books and hosted a graduation Christmas party at the end of the year. We are committed to ensuring the success of this humble project which is literally changing the lives of these little kids.

Back-to-School Backpacks

With grateful thanks to our numerous sponsors, we were able to hand out over 200 backpacks filled with treats and stationery to various beneficiaries around KZN. These included the grade R's at Thandimfundo School in KwaMashu; a local refugee community, as well as underprivileged children around Durban. We look forward to being able to hand out even more backpacks next year.



"I am humbled by your continuous support and care."

LINDIWE -HEADMISTRESS Thandimfundo Primary School

Ongoing Foreigner Support

The situation for refugees and foreign nationals living in Durban is really quite heartbreaking. We are inundated with requests for assistance on a monthly basis. During the course of the year, with grateful thanks to the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, we were able to provide monthly food vouchers to the Burundi and Tumaini community which greatly eases their daily burden. We were also able to pay school registration fees for 2 children from this refugee community. Our deep gratitude always to the Victor Daitz Foundation for providing ongoing funding towards school transport and sanitary pads for the foreigner community in Durban.









Shack Fire relief

Shack fires are a huge problem nationwide. There were two devastating fires which broke out in different areas in Durban towards the end of last year. We were able to help the Malacca settlement community by donating food, clothing and other necessities. When the second shack fire broke out in Isipingo, we were also able to assist by working alongside the Red Cross by distributing water and food to fire victims.

Christmas Cheer

Each year, it gives us so much joy to provide some festive cheer to the young beneficiaries we support. With your help, hundreds of children received delicious party packs and we hosted Christmas parties at 5 different venues. We also supplied 100 Christmas grocery packs to an NPO in Umlazi as well as 100 treat -filled buckets to Dumi's soup kitchen for the children in his community in Inanda



In line with our mission, to give a hand-up as opposed to a handout, we jumped at the opportunity to assist one of our beneficiaries, Dumi, who identified the need for an internet café in his community in Inanda. Having donated both a laptop and a printer, this little café is slowly taking shape. Dumi is currently planning a computer literacy skills day with an NPO, LoveMark, who runs upskilling programmes. We can't wait to see how access to the internet, a photocopy and printing service will empower community members.

Inanda Soup Kitchen Update

We are pleased to report that the Inanda soup kitchen, which was set up after the devastating floods in April last year, by a lovely volunteer, Emmanuel, is still providing a real need for this underprivileged community who are sadly still being housed in temporary structures. The soup kitchen feeds 230 community members twice a week. A second soup kitchen for the elderly community members feeds 120 people on a weekly basis. We are most grateful to Investec and the SA Jewish Board of Deputies for making this project possible.

CURRENT APPEALS AND WAYS YOU CAN HELP

















SAFRIPOL

The Angel Network is once again incredibly grateful to Safripol for choosing us as their charity of choice for their "Let's Plastic Responsibly Toy Campaign". Pre-loved toys are collected at various schools in our three regions - Gauteng, KwazZulu Natal and Western Cape and are sorted and checked by our very kind and dedicated volunteers. We then distribute them to all our respective beneficiaries to hand out at Christmas.



To see the excitement on the childrens' faces when receiving their gift is both heartwarming and heartbreaking, knowing that this is the first gift most of them have ever received. That is why we are so passionate about this project, knowing that this small gesture makes these children feel seen, loved and worthy. We look forward to another successful campaign again this year, hoping to spread the love to even more children through #connectingkindness.



Visit our website and socials to see how you can help



