



GIVE A CHILD A FAMILY AFRICA

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024

CHILDREN BELONG IN SECURE FAMILIES

## JULY IMPACT: GCF'S JOURNEY OF HOPE AND HELP

### Evaluation of the National Foster Care Programme

As one of only three non-profit organisations, GCF's Executive Director, Monica Woodhouse, spent two days in Pretoria workshopping the recent implementation evaluation draft of the national Foster Care Programme. This event included 60 attendees from the National and Provincial Departments of Social Development, the National Department of Home Affairs, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), and the Department of Justice.

The presentations, discussions, and plans for future implementation focused on identifying what the Foster Care Programme does well and where it needs improvements, helping to shape policies to make the programme more effective and sustainable.

Monica says, "Being part of this process was a valuable experience, and we look forward to further collaboration to enhance the foster care programme in South Africa. GCF has been working in this field for over 20 years and has many systems in place, some of which could be used as benchmarks."



### Celebrating Mandela Day with Purpose

As part of our Mandela Day celebrations, GCF's Monica Nomlala and Thuli Shozi led a Protective Behaviours session at Inathi Child and Youth Care Centre in the Oribi area. During this session, 55 children learned about their right to feel safe and their responsibility not to make others feel unsafe.

GCF welcomed Thami, a remarkable young man dedicating his 67 minutes of service to us. Inspired by his mother who worked with us until 2012, his dedication is a testament to the spirit of giving back. His presence reminds us of the power of compassion and the importance of continuing the legacy of those before us.

We are grateful to the Two Mountains Group Port Shepstone team for their generous donation of beanies, socks, gloves, and party packs for the children. Your support made this Mandela Day extra special!

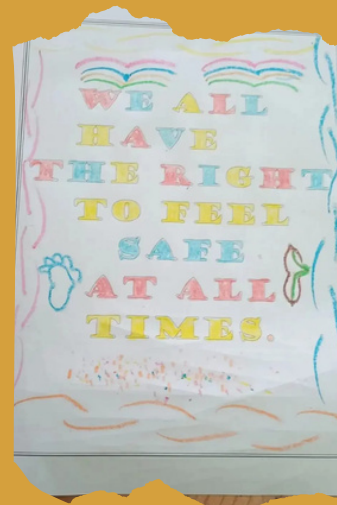
At GCF, every day is Mandela Day. We are committed to giving back and making our community a safe place for children to grow up and thrive. Join us in our mission to create a lasting impact!

### Protective Behaviours Project: Next Steps & Teacher Insights

This year's Protective Behaviours (PB) project has progressed to the next phase. Early Childhood Development teachers have received training, and starting in July, their classes with young children are participating in 10 sessions aimed at teaching them how to feel safe in an unsafe world. The teachers are observing the sessions and will thereafter run with the programme themselves. The children's parents will eventually also be included so that all are on the same level of knowledge and understanding.

Here are a few comments from the teachers about how they plan to use the programme in the future:

- "I will get all parents, staff, and children to participate and understand its importance."
- "I will be actively aware when dealing with children, paying attention to their actions and body language."



### Progress Update: Transitioning from Residential to Family-Based Care

As many of you are aware, GCF has continued the hard work of transitioning from residential care to family-based care within our communities since April 2023. Currently, the number of children residing at our centre has decreased to 15, compared to 51 when this journey began. While this process has been challenging at times, we have seen many successful reunifications with family members and placements in foster care as solutions for the children. Additionally, we currently have six children placed with four of our approved temporary safe care families, ensuring they receive the care and support they need while their future is secured.

### GCF Annual General Meeting

You're invited to Give a Child a Family Africa's Annual General Meeting, where we'll be reporting on our achievements and activities for 2023. Join us on Friday, 16 August from 11:00 at Freedom Gate Church.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our work and impact in the community. Kindly RSVP to Roelien at roelien@gcf.org.za or 039 317 2761. Light refreshments will be served.

We look forward to sharing our progress and future plans with you!



If you want to know what we get up to on a more regular basis, make sure to follow us on Facebook or Instagram @givechildfamily



EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING! MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY AND BECOME A MONTHLY CONTRIBUTOR OF GCF'S WORK.

www.gcf.org.za