



Annual Report 2024

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Message from The Chairman

I extend warm greetings to all members of the Give a Child a Family Africa (GCF) family - both locally and abroad, to the GCF Management Team, and to all staff - in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I am grateful to God for the opportunity to once again share a brief report on behalf of the Board of Trustees. As we reflect on 2024, we recognise the grace and faithfulness our Heavenly Father has shown to GCF throughout another significant year of growth and transition.

The year began with encouraging developments, including the potential addition of a new Trustee. After an interview process conducted by members of the Board, the prospective candidate was found to be suitable. We look forward to welcoming this individual once the formalities are complete, trusting that they will bring fresh insight and dedication to the work of the Trust.

While anticipating this new addition, we also experienced the departure of one of our long-standing Trustees, Mr. Roger Jasson, who resigned during the year. We are deeply grateful for his faithful years of service and commitment to the vision and mission of GCF. We wish him God's continued guidance and blessing in his future ministry within the Kingdom.

The year 2024 also marked a significant milestone in GCF's journey toward full deinstitutionalisation. As we have shared previously, we believe this is the direction God has called us to pursue in the care of vulnerable children. This transition to family-based care is not only a step forward operationally - it is a spiritually guided shift that aligns with our commitment to nurturing children within loving, secure families. We trust that many strong families will be built through this work, leading to transformed lives and a ripple effect of hope and care throughout our communities.

Another important development was the successful leadership transition from our founding Executive Director, Monica Woodhouse, to our new ED, Mr. Steven Wetton. When this process began, we acknowledged the significant challenge ahead - Monica has served faithfully in this role since the inception of GCF. However, God's hand was evident throughout the process. In less than six months, the Board was led to appoint Steven, and we are confident that he is the right person to lead the organisation into its next chapter. Congratulations, Steven - we pray that your leadership will be marked by wisdom, grace, and fruitfulness.

I plan to hand over the Chairmanship next year to another capable leader, while continuing to serve on the Board in support of GCF's mission. I give heartfelt thanks to God for the privilege of serving Him through this organisation. I am especially grateful to Basil and Monica for inviting me to be part of this remarkable journey, and to my fellow Trustees for the Godly, collaborative spirit we have shared over the past twelve years. My deep appreciation also goes to the GCF Executive and all staff, whose sacrificial service to vulnerable children continues to inspire. May we remain steadfast and faithful in our service to the Lord - until the very end.



Dr George Mnisi

Executive Director's Report

2024 was a landmark year for Give a Child a Family Africa (GCF), marked by bold transformation, enduring faith, and our continued belief that every child deserves to grow up in the love and safety of a family.

This year has been especially significant – not only because of the tremendous strides we've made in our shift to family-based care, but also because it marks the beginning of the succession process for my role as Executive Director. After much prayer, reflection, and a thoughtful internal process, the Board appointed Steven Wetton as 'Executive Director Designate' in November 2024. I am grateful to be able to pass the baton to someone who shares GCF's vision and heart and believes that the spiritual dynamic of families are of eternal value.

Leading GCF through its transition from institutional to family-based care has been one of the most humbling and challenging seasons of my life. We believed this shift would be welcomed widely, yet we have faced unexpected resistance. That people still do not see the irreplaceable value of a secure family for every child defies all logic. Nevertheless, our commitment remains firm: children do not belong in institutions. They belong in secure families.

This year also brought painful decisions. Retrenchments were unavoidable as our staffing model shifted alongside our care model. These decisions were made with transparency and care, and we honour the dedication of every staff member who walked this journey with us.

Advocacy was another major focus. As Chair of the South African National Child Rights Coalition (SANCRIC), I saw growing momentum for systems change. In 2024, SANCRIC was formally registered, submitted key policy inputs to the UN, and engaged in critical dialogues on kinship care and the National Strategic Accelerated Action for Children (NSAAC). This will be a role that I will fulfil in the coming year.

Internationally, we deepened relationships with supporters and partners in Sweden and the Netherlands. These were more than fundraising trips – they were moments of reconnection and shared vision.

Despite financial pressures, we moved forward – thanks to our faithful donors, resilient team, and God's sustaining grace. The need for unrestricted funding remains a priority, and we continue to seek partners who will walk alongside us to build a future where every child has a secure place to belong.

For our team, our Board, our volunteers, our donors, and especially the families who continue to say "yes" to love, we are grateful for each and every one of you all play a pivotal part of this organisation.

Let us continue walking forward with courage, compassion, and unshakable faith. The journey is not over – a new chapter begins. And in that, we rejoice.

"He who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it."
– Philippians 1:6



Monica Woodhouse

Community Based Care

Parenting 4 Life

The Parenting 4 Life programme continues to play a vital role in strengthening families and empowering caregivers across communities. With a firm focus on prevention and early intervention, this initiative seeks to build the capacity of parents and caregivers to provide safe, nurturing, and stable environments for children. Led by Nozuko Mkhwalo, the programme integrates community-based outreach, direct family support, and group interventions to address a range of challenges faced by vulnerable households. In the reporting period, significant efforts were made to engage local war rooms, identify families in need, and provide holistic support from GCF's basket of services - all with the goal of preserving families and ensuring children grow up in loving, secure families.



27 War Room presentations in Gamalakhe, Margate, Nositha, Nyandezulu, Betania, and Boboyi

117 Families assessed for potential inclusion in the Parenting 4 Life programme

GCF's basket of services, including:

- Assistance with acquiring IDs and birth certificates
- Distribution of food parcels, clothing, and school uniforms
- Family counselling
- Health and medical referrals
- Budgeting and financial education
- Recovery of SASSA cards withheld by cash loan institutions

In partnership with the Ward 24 War Room, a food donation drive was organised as part of the Women's Day commemoration. A total of **68 elderly beneficiaries** from Betania Home of Care received food parcels.



Awareness and Community Events

Throughout 2024, **17 awareness sessions** were conducted in schools, clinics, and community venues, addressing critical social issues affecting children, youth, and families.

Key Topics Covered:

- Bullying
- Substance abuse
- Children's rights and responsibilities
- Human trafficking
- Gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF)
- Protective Behaviours
- Teenage pregnancy
- Roles and responsibilities of parents

Reach & Impact

2,159

Total number of learners reached

120

Total number of individuals reached

12

Total number of schools reached

Community workers provided **support in 44 reported VEP cases**.

A significant **Women's Day event** was held at KwaNzimakwe Hall, focusing on women's empowerment and the importance of leaving toxic relationships. The event drew approximately **600 participants**, including various stakeholders and service providers.



Foster Care

Unrelated foster care plays a vital role in placing children within family environments rather than institutional settings. This approach is particularly significant in the way GCF promotes and capacitate families according to the philosophy of "Forever Families." Even when birth families are able to resume care, the connections formed between all involved families remain essential. Children need both roots and wings in order to truly thrive.

The success of the programme is built on several key components: **a strong recruitment drive, thorough family assessments, comprehensive training, and a carefully managed introduction process.** Ongoing support groups also play a crucial role in sustaining the success and integrity of the GCF model and protection of children, reinforcing the principle that no caregiver should walk this journey alone.

Matching children to suitable foster parents remains particularly **challenging** in cases involving children with special needs, disabilities, or those from non-African backgrounds. Many applicants on our current database are hesitant to foster children in these categories. Recruitment efforts therefore need to focus more intentionally on diversifying our foster care base to meet these specialised needs.

As part of our continuous improvement, GCF **updated its Foster Care Training Manual** during the year to include current information and essential additions. This ensures that future foster parents are well-prepared for their role, with the knowledge and tools needed to provide quality care. The update reflects the organisation's ongoing commitment to supporting foster families and ensuring children receive the best possible care in a nurturing family environment.

Throughout 2024, we maintained **five active support groups** across our service areas. By the end of the year, a total of **37 foster parents** were recorded as active participants. Sadly, we mourn the loss of two valued members during the year.

25

Trained and approved foster parents on database

1

Foster parent training conducted

7

Foster parents approved

9

Foster parent requests received

7

New foster parent screenings conducted

7

GCF children placed in foster families

1

External child placed with foster family

0

Breakdowns in foster care placements

4

Children referred to alternative programmes (reunification, safety parents, etc.)



Help Desk

Access to services for adults in our district continues to present **significant challenges**, with many still unaware of where to seek help. Each case requires considerable time and resources, as tailored support must be provided to address complex and often deeply rooted issues.

Tragically, we assisted in **cases involving suicide**, where children were direct witnesses to these traumatic incidents. Addressing the emotional and psychological effects of such events remains a vital part of our response. We are committed to ensuring **trauma-informed support** is accessible to affected families.

We provided much-needed **social relief** to vulnerable families. This included the distribution of food parcels and food vouchers. Where possible, we also assisted children in need of school uniforms, inviting parents to select the uniforms themselves from designated shops. This approach fostered **dignity and pride**, allowing them to feel empowered in providing for their children.

A total of **106 cases** were managed through the Help Desk this year. These included:

- 2 Adoption queries
- 56 Child protection matters
- 7 Social relief support
- 4 Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP) and trauma counseling
- 41 Referrals to other agencies and government departments
- 37 Other matters (domestic violence, substance abuse, material assistance, identity documentation, adult abuse, family disputes, and referrals to specialised care for adults)

Social Work

In 2024, we were pleased to host **one international student** for her practical placement. The student, from Jönköping University in Sweden, completed a 10-week internship as part of her academic programme. Her placement offered valuable cross-cultural learning opportunities and contributed meaningfully to our daily operations.

We also successfully hosted **three Social Work Forums** during the year, with a total of **126 social service professionals** in attendance. Participants included representatives from government departments and fellow non-profit organisations. Notably, this year marked a positive increase in attendance by social workers from the Department of Social Development (DSD), reflecting growing collaboration and sectoral interest in shared learning. The Social Work Forum continues to be an important space for professional engagement, debriefing, and peer support. It provides a platform for social workers and social auxiliary workers to **strengthen partnerships and share resources**—recognising that effective child and family care cannot happen in isolation.



Protective Behaviours (PB)

In 2024, the Protective Behaviours programme continued to empower children, parents, and educators with vital skills to recognise and respond to unsafe situations, supporting the right of every child to feel safe at all times.

Within our local municipality, a total of **175 children from four Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres** participated in a **10-hour PB workshop** series. Capacity-building extended to adults as well, with **11 ECD educators** completing **PB Level 1 training**.

56 children residing in a Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC) attended an introductory **PB information session**.

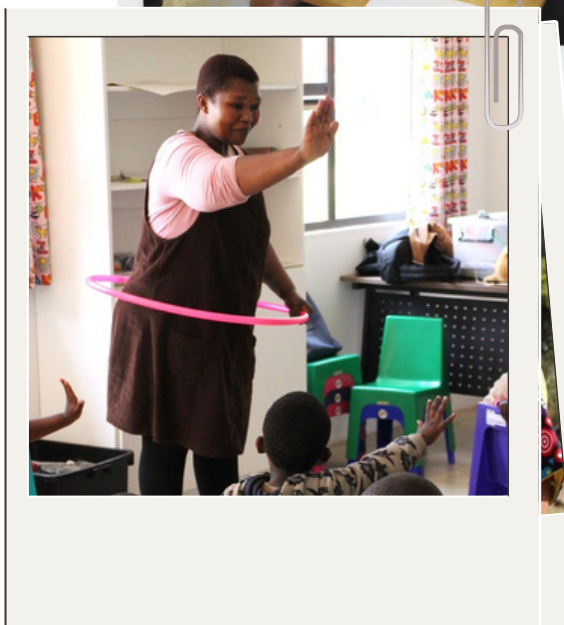
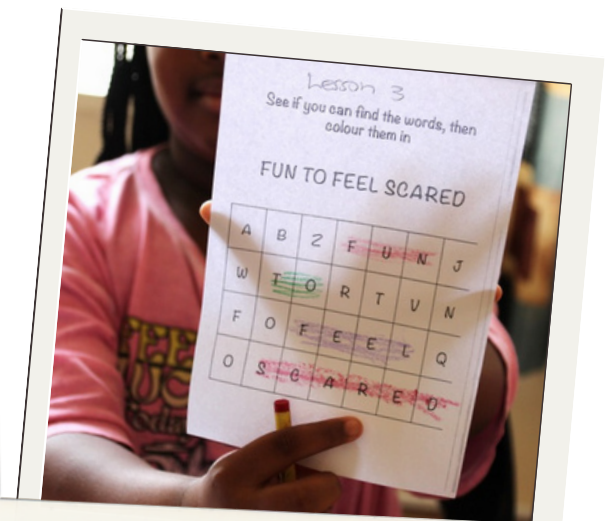
22 parents, including Temporary Safe Care and foster care applicants, took part in a **PB for Teens workshop**.

Beyond our immediate area, we reached **510 children** across the Umngeni, Umgungundlovu, and eThekweni municipalities with **PB workshops**. The activities in Umngeni and Umgungundlovu formed part of our ongoing partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council (KZNCC), while the engagement in eThekweni was initiated through a direct request from an independent organisation **seeking our expertise**.

Our PB senior trainer, Monica Nomlala, also contributed to sectoral development by actively participating in board meetings and senior trainer meetings throughout the year, helping to **strengthen the collective impact** of Protective Behaviours across the province.

56 Children residing in a CYCC attended an introductory **PB information session**

22 Parents, including Temporary Safe Care and Foster Care applicants, took part in a **PB for Teens workshop**



Temporary Safe Care

Child and Youth Care Centre

In alignment with global efforts to phase out residential care for children removed from their families, GCF's Strategic Plan (2018-2030) prioritised deinstitutionalisation. In preparation for this shift, we began developing our Temporary Safe Care (TSC) parent programme in 2019 as a family-based alternative to institutional placement. Since 2023, GCF has ceased admissions into our Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC), instead placing children in the care of trained and approved emergency safety families, offering them a more nurturing and home-based environment during times of crisis.

Childcare

The transition from institutional care to a family-based care model had its most significant impact on the Child Care Department. At the beginning of 2024, we had **35 children** in our care. As part of GCF's strategic shift towards family preservation and reintegration, **30 children** were successfully discharged before year-end and placed in safe, loving family environments. It was a bittersweet process - while we celebrated every successful placement, saying goodbye to the children and letting go of our exceptional Child and Youth Care Workers (CYCWs) was deeply emotional for all involved.

Throughout this transition, our dedicated CYCWs ensured that each child's physical, emotional, and developmental needs were met, despite the difficult situation they were facing. They played a key role in follow-up and home visits, often accompanying social workers to support reintegrated children and ensure stability in their new homes.

By December, the remaining **five children** moved from the residential facility to a smaller, on-site house, designed to offer a more homely, family-like environment. As part of this transformation, retrenched CYCWs were invited to apply for four newly created Housemother positions. A team of two Housemothers now independently manages a household, providing daily care - including cooking, cleaning, laundry - and nurturing a safe, loving space where children can thrive.

Health

In 2024, GCF continued to provide holistic health care support to children with a wide range of medical, developmental, and emotional needs. Through a combination of internal and external interventions, our team ensured that children received consistent and appropriate care in line with their individual health profiles.

The integration of preventative and responsive health care remained a priority in 2024. While no major outbreaks were reported, the team focused on strengthening individualised care, especially for children with disabilities and chronic conditions. Ongoing collaboration with local hospitals, therapists, and dieticians enabled consistent access to specialised support.

Training was delivered to CYCWs on the following topics:

- Medication administration
- Dehydration and Asthma
- Diarrhoea management
- Vital signs
- Immunisation
- Cold and flu care
- Epilepsy
- Milk preparation
- Dental hygiene
- Head injuries
- Appendicitis

424 External interventions (incl. hospital therapy)

155 Internal interventions (excl. therapy)

1,173 Internal therapy sessions (by CCWs)

3 Hospitalisations

Our services to the children in temporary safe care continues after being placed in a family.

5 TSC home health assessments conducted

7 TSC children seen at home

39 TSC home health sessions conducted



Special Needs & Occupational Therapy

Children with special needs include those with physical and/or intellectual disabilities, developmental delays, or medical conditions that require additional care and specialised support. In 2024, **eight children** in our care continued to receive focused attention to ensure their well-being and development.

We were privileged to have the continued support of Occupational Therapist Danielle Leigh Mulder, fondly known by the children as Aunty Dani, who provided **weekly sessions**. Her work extended beyond the centre, as she also offered follow-up therapy to **three children** who had been placed in families.

Some of the children were also referred to local hospitals, where they accessed physiotherapy and occupational therapy services to support their specific needs.

11 Children received ongoing special needs support

267 Sessions conducted by the Occupational Therapist

1173 Sessions delivered by CYCWs

400 Ozone Therapy sessions administered

30 Hospital visits for physiotherapy and/or occupational therapy

2 Dietician consultations

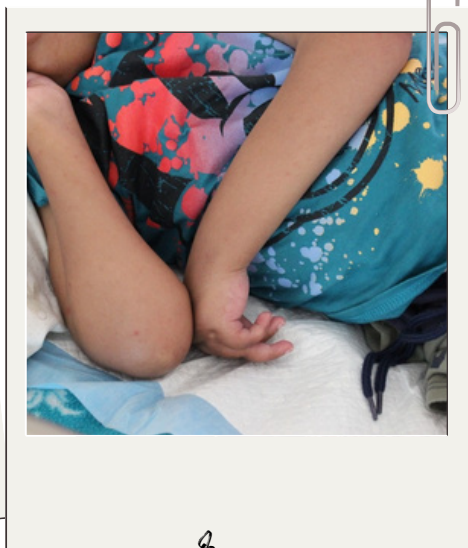
5 Children with disabilities

7 Children with chronic health conditions

1 Children with developmental delays

2 Children on special diets

3 Children with psychiatric conditions/treatment



Education

The Education Department experienced immediate changes as a result of the transition from institutional care to a family-based care model. At the beginning of the year, one of the educators opted for voluntary retrenchment, leaving the Early Childhood Development (ECD) teacher responsible for all children receiving education at the centre.

As of January 2024, **13 children** were enrolled in community schools. However, this number steadily declined throughout the year as children were discharged from the programme and reintegrated with families.

Despite the changes, education services continued to be delivered with dedication and care. On 28 November 2024, we celebrated the graduation of **two Grade R learners**—a proud moment marking the end of their foundational learning phase. Through each stage, we remained committed to ensuring that all children, whether in our care or transitioning to families, had access to age-appropriate, quality education that supports their growth and future learning success.

2 Children in nursery BrainBooster programme

7 Children in ECD BrainBooster programme

2 Children in Grade R at GCF's Happy Days ECD

13 Children attended local community schools

1 Child in Grade 1 at GCF's Happy Days ECD



Residential Social Work

GCF remains dedicated to providing aftercare and support services to children and their families after placement, ensuring continued child protection within their new family environments. Most families were visited periodically to monitor the child's wellbeing and to offer additional support where needed.

During these visits, it became evident that some families were facing significant socio-economic challenges. GCF responded by raising funds through the Different.org project, enabling us to donate essential items such as furniture and household appliances to **two families** in need before children could be placed back with their families.

While our unwavering goal is to see every child grow up in a loving family, we were deeply challenged by the reality that, for some children - particularly those with disabilities, special needs, or older children - suitable family-based care options could not be found. These situations were especially difficult for us, as they go against the very heart of our principles. After long and careful consideration, and always placing the best interest of each child at the centre, these children were placed in carefully selected alternative care centres that could meet their unique needs. Though not the family environments we advocate for, these placements ensured safety, stability, and access to specialised care when no other option was available.

We are committed to extending support wherever possible and remain in contact with many of the families whose children were previously in our care, as well as children placed elsewhere.

13 Reunifications with biological families or relatives

10 Children transferred to other CYCC's

7 Unrelated foster placements from GCF database

30 Total discharges

Therapeutic support and training:

2 Children seen at public hospitals (psychologist)

8 Children seen by private psychologists

58 Individual Development Plans (IDPs)

7 Children seen by external professionals:

8 Psychologist sessions

52 Occupational Therapy sessions

1 Session with SAPS (Thuthuzela Care Centre)

Case Management:

7 Case reviews conducted

14 Case conferences held

External meetings included family conferences, reunification planning with case managers, and coordination with professionals such as psychologists, doctors, nurses, and occupational therapists. In some instances, GCF staff were required to attend court hearings to provide clarity regarding children still in our care.

Internal meetings were held regularly with the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) to discuss the progress, challenges, IDPs, and care plans of children. Additional meetings included Matching meetings with the Foster Care Department and Movement Report sessions with Executive Leadership during the transition process.

Therapy

In 2024, a total of **35 children** received therapeutic support from our Therapy Assistant. The primary areas addressed during sessions included anger management, self-esteem, trauma, emotional regulation, and preparation for reunification or alternative placement.

The Therapy Assistant played a vital role in emotionally preparing children before their transition from the Centre to suitable placements. These sessions focused on helping the children understand and process the changes, offering them tools to adapt to new environments with confidence and emotional readiness.

A special focus was placed on children who had experienced sexual abuse before admission. Dedicated trauma counselling sessions were provided to support their healing. Close collaboration between the Therapy Assistant and residential social workers ensured that children received holistic support to navigate the challenges they faced.

Challenges:

- Placement challenges persisted for **two children with special needs** who remain on the GCF register, as no suitable facilities or foster homes could be secured due to the severity of their conditions. Efforts are ongoing to find the most appropriate and supportive placements for them.
- The shortage of government psychologists posed a significant challenge. As a result, GCF had to engage private psychologists to ensure that critical therapeutic needs were met.

11 Children prepared for reunification with family

4 Trauma counselling cases related to sexual abuse

10 Children prepared for transfer to other CYCC's

12 Children prepared for foster care placement

Temporary Safe Care Parents

The Temporary Safe Care programme continues to serve as a critical intervention, offering short-term, family-based care for vulnerable children while statutory investigations and care planning are finalised. Recruitment for new TSC parents in 2024 was primarily conducted through word-of-mouth referrals. **Eight families** underwent a thorough screening and assessment process, which included comprehensive home visits.

At the start of 2024, there were **22 parents** listed in the TSC database. Following a review, candidates who were no longer available or interested were removed. By year-end, **10 fully assessed, trained, and approved TSC parents** were actively available for placements. A total of **67 monitoring visits** were conducted to help ensure the safety and well-being of children placed in TSC families.

Fifteen case reviews were conducted in collaboration with case managers. These reviews focused on progress of investigations, placement planning, psychological, medical, and developmental assessments.

The year began with **nine children in TSC**. An additional **seven children** were admitted, bringing the total to **16 children** served. **Five children** discharged from TSC parents into foster care with the same families, **two children** in TSC were placed in CYCC's, **seven children** were reunified with their biological families.

In 2024, GCF engaged with stakeholders through:

- **Five presentations and engagement sessions** with NGOs and government departments in UGU Municipality
- Meetings with DSD district officials, magistrates, case managers, and local municipal officials

These engagements focused on:

- Promoting TSC as the preferred first option for alternative care
- Demonstrating the benefits of family-based care over institutional placement
- Raising awareness of the programme's successes and ongoing needs

Further advocacy is required to broaden awareness and increase consistent utilisation of the TSC Parent model.

One of the ongoing challenges has been securing consistent and timely payment of TSC daily fees from the Department of Social Development. GCF continues to follow up with the Department to ensure that parents receive their payments timeously. Despite ongoing challenges, we remain hopeful that these will be addressed to further strengthen the programme.

Learning Brief - Moving Temporary Safe Care into Families

In early 2024, GCF compiled an internal learning brief, *Moving Temporary Safe Care into Families - Learning from the Implementation of GCF's New Programme*. It captures the experiences of TSC parents, case managers, and GCF's TSC team as they transitioned from institutional care to family-based placements.

GCF's Strategic Plan (2018-2030) prioritises deinstitutionalisation (DI), aligning with global efforts to phase out residential care for children removed from their parents. Since April 2023, GCF has stopped admitting children to its CYCC, focusing instead on placing them with screened, trained, and approved TSC families in the local communities.

The brief highlights both successes and challenges. While TSC is acknowledged as a form of alternative care in South Africa and research supports TSC, the programme is underutilised, as many social workers still favour CYCC placements. TSC parents appreciate GCF's support but express the need for more information about children before placement and find separation difficult when children leave their families. Recruiting new TSC parents, especially from diverse backgrounds, remains a challenge, and a lack of financial governmental support makes families reliant on their resources and GCF's assistance. Case managers' inconsistent adherence to programme processes also impacts outcomes.

Key recommendations for GCF's TSC Parenting programme include:

- Expanding recruitment efforts to attract a diverse pool of TSC parents.
- Strengthening advocacy for DI to improve understanding and utilisation of GCF's database of approved TSC parents.
- Establishing formal agreements with DSD and Child Welfare to streamline processes.
- Ensuring placements consider location and access to services for better outcomes.

Despite the many challenges, the children placed through GCF's TSC Parent programme are not just coping – they are flourishing. Each smile, each milestone, and each moment of healing is a powerful reminder of what we believe with all our hearts: every child deserves to grow up in a safe, loving family. The stories of transformation continue to affirm that no institution can ever replace the warmth, stability, and belonging that a family provides.

Development

Safeguarding

Over the past year, significant progress has been made in strengthening safeguarding practices across Zimbabwe and South Africa. In partnership with NGOs and schools, we promoted safeguarding awareness and helped foster a culture of protection within organisations that support children and vulnerable adults—particularly in contexts where formal safeguarding systems are still developing.

A key focus was delivering training at both community and institutional levels. These sessions equipped participants with practical skills to identify, respond to, and prevent safeguarding concerns, encouraging organisations to integrate safeguarding into everyday practice—not just as a policy, but as a core value. We conducted **20 online sessions** and **six in-person trainings** with Zimbabwean partners, reaching teachers, NGO staff, and community leaders. In addition, we provided targeted training at the Alfred Walter Hostel in Masvingo on the Basics of Residential Youth Care Work, a vital component of safeguarding in residential settings.

Through this collaborative, capacity-building approach, we are helping to create safer, more responsive environments for vulnerable children and adults across the region.

Advocacy

Advocacy in 2024 remained both dynamic and purposeful, reflecting a balance between swift progress and steadfast persistence. A central lesson was that true systemic change – particularly in transforming mindsets – is a long-term commitment requiring patience and sustained collaboration. This year marked a key milestone for the South African National Child Rights Coalition (SANCRIC), which was officially registered as a non-profit on 25 January 2024. With the resignation of our first National Coordinator, Zita Hansungule, we began the process of securing new leadership, with Monica Woodhouse continuing as Chairperson. Advocacy highlights included submissions to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development, and a national consultation on Draft General Comment 27. Our focus on kinship care and ongoing engagements with the Presidency – notably the Office on the Rights of the Child, the National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children (NSAAC), and the Department of Social Development – ensured child rights remained a national priority.

Key partnerships strengthened our efforts: We signed an MoU with Hope and Homes SA and contributed to policy reform via roundtables, consultations, and inputs to strategic documents such as the Kigali Declaration and Southern African Policy and Development Nexus' (SAPDN) evolving policy work. Through South African Parenting Programme Implementers Network (SAPPIN), we published position pieces and hosted a roundtable on universal parental support. Our global reach extended through participation in high-level events, including the Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children (Colombia) and the UN Summit of the Future. Capacity building was significantly boosted by KinderNotHilfe (KNH), who facilitated three workshops to deepen our Coalition's expertise. As co-chair of the National Child Care and Protection Forum, SANCRIC continued to advocate for the long-overdue National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) 2024-2029. Looking ahead, we are working closely with the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund to prepare for the African Children's Summit in 2025 – inspired by the call to action in President Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address, where he challenged us to imagine and shape a better future for democracy's children.

Support Services

Human Resources

The year 2024 marked a period of significant transition for GCF, as the organisation deepened its shift from institutional care to a family-based care model. With the closure of the Child and Youth Care Centre and all new child admissions directed to Temporary Safe Care families, the number of children in residential care decreased substantially.

This strategic shift, while aligned with our vision of ensuring that children grow up in secure families, had a profound impact on staffing requirements. As a result, the organisation underwent two rounds of retrenchments to align with the new model of care.

In January, staff were offered the opportunity to opt for voluntary retrenchment. This was followed by additional retrenchments in March and again in December, as the organisational structure continued to adapt. In total, **31 employees were affected** during the course of the year.

These decisions were not made lightly. Throughout the process, GCF prioritised transparent communication, support for affected staff, and compliance with labour legislation. We remain deeply grateful for the dedication and contributions of all employees who have walked this journey with us.

STAFF HEADCOUNT		REASONS FOR TERMINATION		LONG SERVICE AWARDS	
Beginning of the year	55	Resignation	1	Nomonde Mqikana	20 years
Appointment for vacancies	7	Absconded	0	Veliswa Mzotho	15 years
Terminations	33	Illness	1	Le Nhlumayo	10 years
Head count at Year End	29	Deceased	0	Thulile Shozi	10 years
Number of Casual workers	6	Contract expired	0	Sarah Govender	10 years
STAFF MEETINGS		Retrenchment	31	Dudu Hadebe	5 years
General and Info meetings	5			Roelien Morrison	5 years

STAFF DEVELOPMENT TRAINING		ATTENDANCE
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-house Health: Dental hygiene 	18
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-house Health: Vital signs 	12
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop: The Effective Assessment of Prospective Foster and TSC Parents 	1
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-house Health: Appendicitis 	11
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course: Understanding Children Exposed to Domestic Violence 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course: Child Sexual Abuse Behaviour That Harms 	2
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-house Health: Milk Preparation for PEG Feeding 	9
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop: Child Abuse 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop: Teenage Parenting 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop: Parenting Programme 	1
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop: Children's Act and the Child Protection Social Worker 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop: Safety and Risk Assessment in Child Protection 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-house Health: Guidelines for Giving Medicine 	11
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-house Health: Diarrhea 	11
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training in Reflective Practice for Social Work 	1
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course: Managing Results for Time 	15
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-house: Temporary Safe Care Training 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety and Risk Assessment in Child Protection 	1



Maintenance and Logistics

The maintenance team plays a critical role in ensuring the upkeep of GCF's facilities, including the CYCC (Alexander Avenue), Family-Based Care (Raleigh Road), Lotto House (Lihle Lane), and two additional cottages (across the dam). Their work is guided by a high standard of quality and strictly adheres to the National Building Regulations.

In 2024, the team responded to a total of **512 maintenance requests**, successfully **completing 491** of them. In addition, they carried out **874 scheduled maintenance tasks**, covering building repairs, infrastructure improvements, and garden services.

Key projects completed during the year included:

- Conversion of the Girls' Section into office spaces
- Conversion of the Boys' Section into training rooms
- Underpinning and rebuilding of a structural pillar at the carport

The team also manages the organisation's fleet of **12 vehicles**, ensuring they are cleaned, serviced, and kept in good working condition to support daily operations.

5 Driver assessments conducted

3 Vehicle accidents reported (no injuries)

233 Vehicle inspections completed

The combined efforts of the maintenance and logistics teams have ensured that GCF's physical infrastructure and transport resources continue to operate efficiently and safely in support of our programme delivery.

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

GCF prioritises health and safety aligning ISO 45001 standards. We believe in proactive prevention for the safety, health and welfare of employees, residential children, volunteers, visitors and service providers.

39 Safety inspections conducted

5 OHS info and training sessions to drivers

1 OHS Committee meeting held

Housekeeping and Kitchen

The housekeeping team plays a vital role in maintaining a clean, organised, and welcoming environment across all GCF facilities, sorting and managing donated items, overseeing the daily operations of the laundry.

6 Tonnes of laundry washed and ironed

Income from second-hand sales: **R7,121** – generated through the sorting and sale of quality donated goods.

The kitchen team is responsible for preparing nutritious and culturally appropriate meals for children, staff, and visitors, including catering for internal training sessions and special functions.

33,040 Meals and tea-times prepared

GCF is grateful for ongoing food support from generous partners, including:

- Woolworths Hibiscus Mall
- Food Lover's Market, South Coast Mall
- FoodForward SA

Finance

In 2024, total expenses declined by 25%. However, a further unfortunate decline in income sources led to an operating deficit exceeding R1 million. All major income streams declined compared to previous years, with the exception of internally generated income. The focus is on securing new funding partners for 2025 to protect the organisation's dwindling cash reserves.

GIVE A CHILD A FAMILY TRUST AFRICA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at

		31 December 2024	
	Notes	<u>2024</u> R	<u>2023</u> R
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	6 379 344	6 622 558
Deposits	3	20 899	19 770
		<u>6 400 243</u>	<u>6 642 328</u>
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	4	158 615	703 715
Cash and cash equivalents	5	5 266 504	4 507 239
		<u>5 425 119</u>	<u>5 210 954</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>11 825 362</u></u>	<u><u>11 853 282</u></u>
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Funds			
Trust capital	6	100	100
Accumulated funds			
- Funds representing fixed assets values		6 179 090	6 937 825
Total Trust Funds		<u>6 179 190</u>	<u>6 937 925</u>
Liabilities			
Non-current liabilities			
Project funds	7	1 120 234	1 320 731
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8	390 308	274 930
Project funds	7	4 135 630	3 319 696
		<u>4 525 938</u>	<u>3 594 626</u>
Total liabilities		<u>5 646 172</u>	<u>4 915 357</u>
TOTAL FUNDS and LIABILITIES		<u><u>11 825 362</u></u>	<u><u>11 853 282</u></u>

GIVE A CHILD A FAMILY TRUST AFRICA

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR EN

	31 December 2024	
	<u>2024</u> R	<u>2023</u> R
Revenue	5 057 670	7 471 760
Other income	4 060 013	4 945 690
Total income	<u>9 117 683</u>	<u>12 417 450</u>
Operating expenses	(10 372 731)	(13 832 732)
Operating deficit	<u>(1 255 048)</u>	<u>(1 415 282)</u>
Investment revenue	186 313	61 134
Capital recoupment	-	977 518
Total comprehensive deficit for the year	<u><u>(1 068 735)</u></u>	<u><u>(376 630)</u></u>



Fundraising

In May 2024, Mareli Schwartz, Anna-Karin Öhrnstedt, and Monica Woodhouse completed a full year of weekly coaching with Asna Bhana from Funding Solutions. This phase of growth was marked by focused learning, consistent action, and a renewed commitment to strengthening our fundraising practices. Our efforts have centred on building authentic relationships with donors, refining our fundraising strategy, and strengthening internal systems. We've learned that effective fundraising depends not only on compelling proposals, but on trust, transparency, and persistence.

While our programme funding remains strong, the reality is that unrestricted core cost funding – for essentials like salaries, insurance, fuel, electricity, and property upkeep – is still difficult to secure from new donors. As we've often reminded ourselves:

“Fundraising is not just about asking for money – it’s about building trust. The real skill lies more in cultivating authentic relationships than in crafting perfect proposals.”

This year has reminded us that fundraising is rarely a straight path. There were moments of discouragement, many turn-downs, and shifting global priorities that have made the funding environment more competitive than ever. Yet, the “never give up” principle guided us. Set times were dedicated to fundraising – a discipline that’s still growing in our team – and with each setback came new ideas and new approaches. Despite the challenges, we moved forward with creativity and determination.

As our work expands deeper into the community, the excitement is real – lives are being transformed. But this work requires more than vision. It requires fuel: resources for staff, travel, insurance, vehicles, electricity, and property upkeep. And that is where you come in.

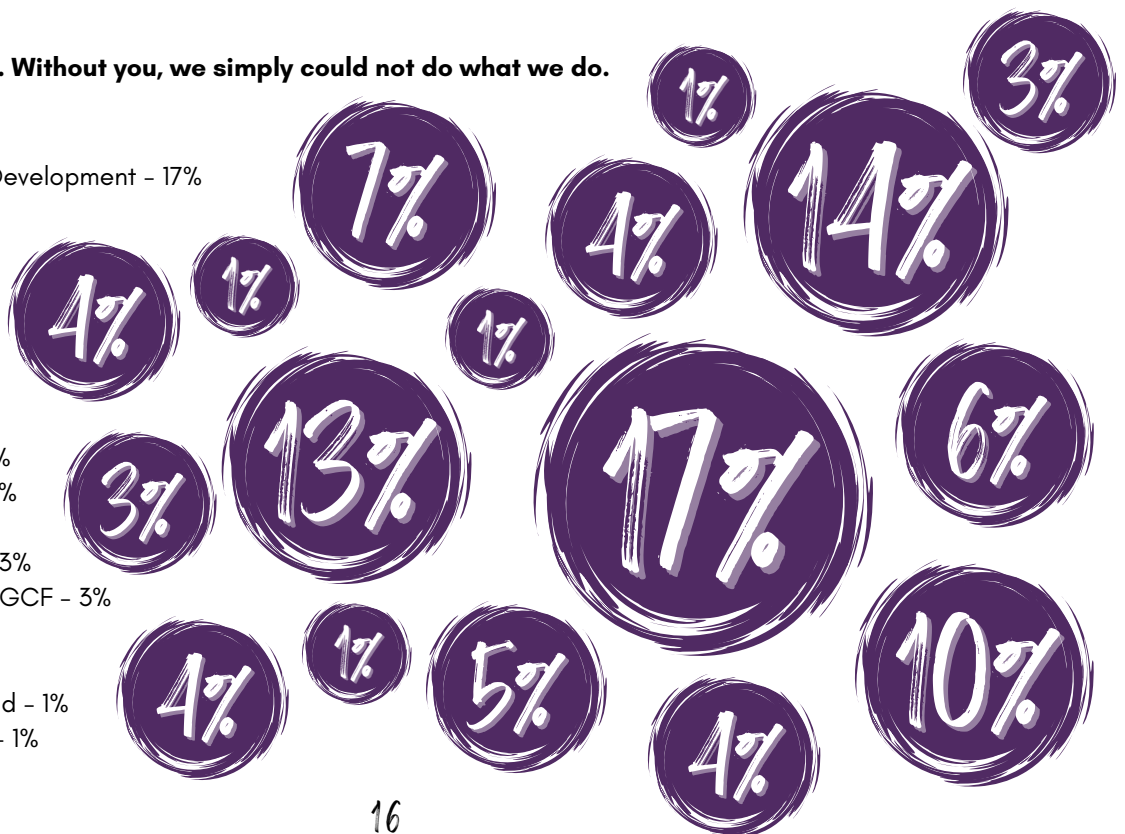
To all who have given – and to those who continue to stand with us – a very BIG thank you for your faithfulness and generosity. You are part of this movement, and a true Guardian of Hope for the children and families we serve. Together, we remain committed to the vision of **Children in Secure Families** – because that is truly where they belong.

We are especially grateful to our loyal funders, whose steadfast support sustains the very heart of our mission. Your ongoing commitment ensures that children can grow up in safe, nurturing families – not institutions. You make it possible for us to respond when families are in crisis, to prevent unnecessary removals, and to give children a chance at lasting belonging.

We are eternally grateful. Without you, we simply could not do what we do.

2024 Funding > R65,000

- Department of Social Development - 17%
- Oak Foundation - 14%
- Läkarmissionen - 13%
- Wilde Ganzen - 10%
- GCF Sweden - 7%
- Various (Local) - 6%
- Wereldkinderen - 5%
- DG Murray Trust - 4%
- Sackaios Stiftelsen - 4%
- Mergon Foundation - 4%
- Fresenius Kabi SA - 4%
- Evangeliska Frikyrkan - 3%
- Stichting Vrienden van GCF - 3%
- Fulton Trust - 1%
- UK Online Giving - 1%
- Friends of GCF Scotland - 1%
- Various (International) - 1%



Sweden trip

Over the course of six weeks, Monica Woodhouse and Anna-Karin Öhrstedt travelled through various parts of Sweden, reconnecting with long-standing supporters and cultivating new relationships. The focus of their visit was to share GCF's evolving work beyond the CYCC, with a strong emphasis on the critical importance of family-based care for vulnerable children. One of the key highlights of the trip was the opportunity to speak at the annual meeting of Läkarmissionen, a loyal funding partner. Monica and Anna-Karin presented the growing need for alternatives to institutional care and outlined the benefits of placing children in families. Their message was met with great interest and encouragement.

They also engaged with other committed partners such as Sackaios, whose ongoing support is a testament to their alignment with GCF's mission. Throughout their journey, Monica and Anna-Karin visited supporting churches and businesses, and spoke at a university seminar at Högskolan Väst, where GCF's insights into child protection and family preservation sparked meaningful dialogue with students and professionals.

Beyond formal events, the trip included home visits, information sessions, and a stop at a second-hand shop that raises funds for global development projects. These intimate moments allowed for deeper conversations and the strengthening of personal bonds with Swedish friends of GCF. Meetings with like-minded organisations also opened doors for potential future collaborations.

A special highlight of the journey was the celebration of Monica's 65th birthday, marked by heartfelt gatherings in four different locations. Friends and supporters came together to honour her life's work and the impact she continues to make in the lives of vulnerable children and families. The trip concluded at the EFK (Interact) Conference, a large Christian gathering featuring seminars and networking. GCF had a presence in the Tent of the World, where former volunteers shared how their time at GCF had deeply influenced their personal and professional lives. These testimonies were both affirming and inspiring.

Each encounter served as a powerful reminder of the steadfast support GCF receives in Sweden. We are sincerely grateful for every meeting, handshake, and conversation – and especially for the ongoing commitment and assistance of the GCF Sweden Foundation. Your partnership continues to play a vital role in sustaining and strengthening our work. We look forward to walking this meaningful journey together.

Dutch trip

Maria Hufner continues to lead fundraising efforts in the Netherlands and serves as the primary contact person for the Foundation GCF Netherlands. Throughout the year, five online meetings were held with the Foundation to provide updates on the work and strategic direction of GCF, and to explore potential funding opportunities and awareness-raising events. While on leave in the Netherlands in January, Maria supported an information evening organised by the Foundation GCF Netherlands. The purpose of the event was to share the organisation's transition from residential care to a family-based care model. The evening was well attended and featured a performance by the choir Living Words, whose musical contribution added warmth and inspiration to the event.

A dedicated fundraising trip took place in October, with engagements across various cities. Key highlights include:

- Meetings with major funding partners, including Wilde Ganzen, Wereldkinderen, and Weeshuis der Doopsgezinden
- Engagement with smaller funders, such as De Eekhoorn
- Alongside a GCF Netherlands board member, GCF participated in the Better Care Network Netherlands afternoon presentation.
- Community outreach, including a visit to a church youth group and a creative fundraiser involving a collection at the gate before a soccer match.

We are deeply grateful for the continued commitment and enthusiasm of the Foundation GCF Netherlands. It is a privilege to collaborate with such a dedicated team of individuals who share our passion for placing children in safe, loving family environments.

Marketing



In 2024, marketing and communication efforts at GCF were focused on increasing public awareness, engaging supporters, and raising vital funds to support our programmes. Through a variety of events, campaigns, and digital outreach, we were able to strengthen community ties and share our story more widely than ever before.

- **January - Different.org Campaign**

We kicked off the year by promoting a targeted fundraising campaign via Different.org, aimed at supporting two families from our community who had previously cared for children placed at GCF. The campaign gained great traction and brought attention to the ongoing support needed by families post-placement.

- **May - Child Protection Walk at Beaver Creek**

Held annually during South Africa's Child Protection Week, this year's walk included both an in-person event at Beaver Creek and a virtual component, allowing broader participation. The event raised awareness around child protection and generated much-needed funds to support our work. It remains a flagship campaign in our annual calendar.

- **May-July - Monica's 65th Birthday Campaign (Sweden Trip)**

During Monica and Anna-Karin's fundraising visit to Sweden, Monica marked her 65th birthday with a special campaign to raise funds for GCF. The campaign was warmly received and raised over R161,177 – a testament to the generosity of our international supporters.

- **August - GCF Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The AGM provided a platform to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the previous year (2023), share impact reports, and engage with stakeholders and supporters. The recording of this meeting can be found on GCF's YouTube channel.

- **September - #TeeOff4Kids Golf Day at San Lameer**

One of the highlights of the year, our Golf Day fundraiser was a tremendous success. We are grateful to all the participants and sponsors who contributed to making this event impactful—both in visibility and financial support.

- **September - Family Fun Walk at Mac Banana**

Mac Banana hosted a walk to support GCF. This family-friendly event provided a wonderful opportunity for the community to get active while supporting a meaningful cause.

- **December - Christmas Hat Walk at Mac Banana**

Following the success of our September event, we were invited back to Mac Banana for a festive Christmas Hat Walk, allowing us to end the year with joy, visibility, and continued community engagement.



Our brochures were redesigned and updated to reflect our current programmes and focus areas. These remain an important tool for awareness, advocacy, and donor engagement. Our digital newsletters have been consistently well received. Supporters have responded with positive feedback, citing the stories and updates as both informative and inspiring. Real-life stories from the field, shared by our colleagues working directly with children and families, were compiled into beautifully written blog posts, now available on our website. These personal accounts offer a powerful lens into the impact of our work and the heart behind it.

We extend our sincere thanks to all donors, sponsors, volunteers, and individuals who supported our events and campaigns throughout the year. Your generosity enables us to continue our vital work in communities and make lasting change in the lives of vulnerable children and families. We simply could not do it without you.

Thank you!

A Pandohe
Aaron Bate
Allan and Son Engineering
Allison Winrow
Alungile Yekani
Angela Ford
Anne McGowan
Annette Ingram
Austen Mobile Welding
AVI
Basil Woodhouse
Beaver Creek
Berit o Roland Lund
Beyers Joubert
Blake Taylor
Bulela Makaba
Caddies Café
CAFSA
Cathrine Kubayi
Cathy Grant
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Errol Woodhouse
Food Lovers
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Fulton Trust
Fuzzy Roots
Gaby Meyer
Gatti Ice Cream
Gayle & Charles Wallace
George Mnisi

Giorgios Express
Gitta Birk
Halfway Toyota SB
Harvey World SB
Henk & Esther Botha
Hollard
Industrial Supply Centre
Inga Kabane
Irene
Jean-Marc Bouic
Jenette van Zyl
Joan Robbins
Johan Eloff
Julia Ljung
Kathleen de la Hunt
Keagan van der Bergh
Kevin Ingram
Koki
Lacovelli
Läkarmissionen
Larensia Rabe
Lettie du Plessis
Liana Rautenbach
Lifewave Belinda
Lilian Chioma Chikaolizi
Lilly Green Pharmacy
Lune van Wyk
Lutho
Mac Banana
Malcolm van Rooyen
Mandlenkosi Kheswa
Mandy McGrath
Margate Baptist
Marlinette Newman
Mayke Huijbregts
Mbango Valley
MD24 Pharmacy
Megan & Mason Aub
Mergon Foundation
Misha Ramdharie
Moipone Ndlamla
Monica Woodhouse
Nadia Ismail
Natalie Abbott

Neliswa Madziba
Nelly Mpetshwa
Nhlakanipho Mbambo
Nicky Groeneveld
Oak Foundation
Pamela Ndovela
Pasha Morgan
Pat Moore
Peggy Dyer
R & B Timbers
R Dyer
R Höfler
Ramsgate Lions
Ravin's Auto Centre
Renata Tobler
Rhulani Mdumela
Rhys Mills
Roto Tank
Sackaios Stiftelsen
Saint Margaret Anglican Church
San Lameer
Seth Kettle
Shaun Botha
Sheppie Hospital General Surgery
Simamkele Nyathi
Sthembile Dindi
Stichting Vrienden van GCF
Syd Howe
T Downham
Tanya Grobler
Thandiswa Memela
UK Online Giving Foundation
Uvongo Spar
Veronica Gunkel
Viwe Tokwe
Vuyokazi Nontsele
Webster
Wereldkinderen
Wilde Ganzen
Yacoob Moosa
Zamanda Nqoko
Zimkita
Zipho and Lusanda
Zwelihle Dlamini

Networking

Aaron Makhubela
 ABH Children's Home
 Abounding Hope Development Centre
 Advocacy Aid
 Africa Cooperative Action Trust (ACAT)
 Africa Union (AU)
 African Children's Summit
 Alfred Walter Hostel (Masvingo)
 Association of Christian Schools International (Zimbabwe)
 Association of Trust Schools (ATS) (Zimbabwe)
 Buhlebezwe Primary School
 CAFOD Zimbabwe
 Centre of Concern Sewing School
 Chapter One
 Child Rights Network Southern Africa (CRNSA, Africa)
 Child Welfare Izingolweni
 Child Welfare Margate
 Child Welfare Port Shepstone
 Childline SA
 Childline Zimbabwe
 CINDI
 Citizen Justice Network - Phoenix
 CMD - Port Shepstone
 Community Policing Forum
 Community Safety and Liaison
 Connect Network
 Creston College
 Department of Agriculture
 Department of Education
 Department of Health
 Department of Home Affairs
 Department of Social Development - National, Provincial, District and Local
 Department of Social Development Bizana,
 Department of Social Development Gamalakhe
 Department of Social Development Phungashe
 Department of Social Development Port Shepstone
 Department of Social Development Umzumbhe
 Doveton Farm - Ramsgate
 Eagle Learning (Bulawayo)
 Economic Development and Tourism
 Faith to Action (USA)
 Family First for Children without Family (FAFICA)
 Freedom Gate Church
 Friends of GCF Scotland
 Friendship Bench
 FST Consortium
 Gamalakhe Junior Primary School
 Gateway Primary School (Harare)
 GCF Sverige
 Gender Based Violence & Substance Abuse Network
 Genesis Hope
 Good News Radio
 Heartlines
 Hope and Homes SA
 Ignite Revolution
 Ikamva Labantu
 Ikhayaletu Home of Love and Care
 Interact Africa
 Izingolweni Court
 JF Kapnek Trust
 Kin Culture
 Kindernothilfe
 KwaMavundla Tribal Court
 KwaNdwalane Church of Council
 KwaNzimakwe Tribal Court
 KwaXolo Tribal Court
 Kwelanga Training
 KZN Hotspots
 KZN NPO Network
 Läkarmissionen
 Legal Aid
 LGBTI NGO
 Life Line
 Liv Village
 Local clinics
 Local ECD's
 Inanda FM
 Machovin Trading
 Mampunga Primary School
 Margate Baptist Church
 Margate Clinic
 Margate Methodist Church
 Margate Primary School
 Mergon Foundation
 Michael Project - Zim Care
 Mothers Design
 Murchison Hospital
 National Association Child Care Workers (NACCW)
 National Strategic Accelerated Action for Children - NSAAC
 Nelson Mandela Children's Fund
 Netcare Margate Hospital
 Norwegian Settlers Church Pastors Fraternal
 One Child One Family - Hope and Homes for Children SA
 Operation Sukuma Sakhe
 Petra College
 Platform 54
 Port Shepstone Correctional Services
 Port Shepstone Court
 Port Shepstone Hospital
 Port Shepstone Magistrate Court
 Protective Behaviours Southern Africa
 Ray Nkonyeni Special Programmes
 Rensia House
 River of Life Church (Graystone Park)
 Robert Glover from Care for Children
 SA Identity Rights Network
 Save the Children South Africa
 Siyakwazi Resource Centre
 Siyamthanda Home of Care and Love
 Siyavuna Abalimi Development Centre NPC
 Siyavuna Kumnandi
 Sonja Krivacic - Consultant
 South Africa Social Security Agency (SASSA)
 South African Human Rights Centre - Albert Luthuli
 South African Human Rights Commissioner (SAHRC)
 South African National Child Rights Coalition (SANCRIC)
 South African Parenting Programme Implementers Network (SAPPIN)
 South African Police Services (SAPS) Gamalakhe
 South African Police Services (SAPS) Margate
 South African Police Services (SAPS) Port Edward
 South African Police Services (SAPS) Port Shepstone
 South African Theology Seminary (SATS)
 South Africa-Sweden University Forum - University of Pretoria with SASUF - Voice of the Child
 South Coast Academy
 South Coast Food Support
 South Coast Herald
 Southcity Christian Schools
 Southern African Policy Development Nexus (SAPDN)
 Stichting GCF Nederland
 Surpop (Wildegaaizen Partner)
 Technical Task Team - Children's Sector
 Thandiswa Memela - Miss KZN Exquisite
 The DG Murray Trust
 The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa (TEASA)
 The Office of the Presidency
 The World Needs a Father (TWNAF)
 Thuthuzela Care Centre
 Transform Alliance Africa (TAA)
 Ubuhlebethu
 Ugu Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC)'s United
 UGU Intersectoral Child Rights Child Protection Forum (UICRCPF)
 Ugu Youth Radio
 Uncommon
 United Nations Child Rights Convention (UNCRC)
 University of Zululand
 Waynol
 Wellbi
 Wits University Para- Legal Department
 World Without Orphans (WWO)
 Zimcare Trust



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Trust Reg No: IT 5570/1992 (N)

PBO No: 130001118

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Bank: Nedbank

Account No: 1398 047 244

Branch: Port Shepstone

Branch Code: 198 765

Swift Code: NEDSZAJJ

Swish: 123 161 15 57

Bankgiro nr: 5279-9954

NL84RABO 0364618051

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