



GIVE A CHILD A FAMILY AFRICA

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

CHILDREN BELONG IN SECURE FAMILIES

## A NEW YEAR OF HOPE AND IMPACT

### Holiday Care and Family Connections

For the first time in GCF's history, our offices closed over the Christmas and New Year period to give our team some well-deserved rest. However, even while we were at home with our own families, some of our work continued.

A few children from Child and Youth Care Centres in the area continued their introductions to GCF foster families as part of their preparation for future placements. At the same time, six children from different centres were able to spend the holidays with some of our other foster families. We are grateful to have been able to offer these children the experience of celebrating the holidays in a family environment, especially as they had no one to go to while many of their peers were able to visit relatives.



### Strengthening Our Team for the Year Ahead

Over the past few months, several exciting changes have taken place at GCF, and as we begin a new year, we would like to share these updates with you.

We are pleased to welcome **Maria Hufner** into the role of Fundraiser. Maria previously served as our HR Manager and brings valuable fundraising experience and great enthusiasm to this position. HR responsibilities are currently being transitioned to **Nasiphi Menziwa**, who has proven to be a real asset to GCF through her professional and compassionate handling of staff matters. This shift marks a very positive step for our organisation.

We are also delighted to announce the appointment of **Hazel Gigaba** as our Director of Social Services. Hazel continues in her role as a Senior Social Worker and will oversee our helpdesk and statutory work. **Anna-Karin Öhrstedt**, who now also serves as a Senior Social Worker, oversees temporary safe care and foster care and brings extensive experience in both social work and foster care.

These changes strengthen our team and reflect our ongoing commitment to delivering the very best for children and families.



Anna-Karin Öhrstedt, Hazel Gigaba, Maria Hufner, Nasiphi Menziwa

### Amplifying Children's Voices at a National Level

We are proud to share that our Founder and Director of Advocacy, **Monica Woodhouse**, has been selected to serve on the **Interim Task Team** of the **National Dialogue Steering Committee**, a national body comprising 99 representatives from 40 sectors.

Following her recent induction onto the Steering Committee, Monica was elected by members to help establish the Interim Task Team, which has been tasked with activating the committee and setting up clear terms of reference, roles, and responsibilities to ensure effective collaboration.

Through this platform, our voice in the children's sector is growing stronger nationally, with direct access to the Presidency. Monica represents the children's sector and plays a vital role in ensuring that children's voices are heard at a national level.



### Our International Volunteer Programme Is Back!

We are happy to announce that our International Volunteer Programme has resumed! After having to send home our volunteer team at the start of the pandemic in 2020, we are now finally up and running in a new way, on a smaller scale.

Since December, we have had two young volunteers from Sweden, **Jennifer and Noel**, with us, and in the coming weeks, a few more will be joining us. It's wonderful to see them assisting where they can, while also exploring and getting to know the organisation and the surrounding area.

Questions about the programme can be directed to [volunteers@gcf.org.za](mailto:volunteers@gcf.org.za)



### Padel 4 Purpose

We are excited to invite you to our very first padel fundraiser, taking place on **7 March 2026** at **Southbroom Padel**, starting at **10:00**. With only 16 playing spots available, this promises to be a fun and friendly event. The cost is **R250** per person, and all proceeds will go directly towards supporting the work of Give a Child a Family.

If you would like to take part, please contact **Maxine** on **072 877 5508** to book your spot. Alternatively, you can contact **Mareli** on **076 792 4748** or [mareli@gcf.org.za](mailto:mareli@gcf.org.za) to reserve a spot for you. We would love to see you on court as we rally together for the protection of children and families.

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](https://www.instagram.com/givechildfamily)



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

[www.gcf.org.za](http://www.gcf.org.za)