

transform.

LOVE CITIES SA NETWORK PUBLICATION

QUARTER ONE 2026



More Than a Rebrand: Love Howick Expands to Become Love uMngeni

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A Little Yellow Running in the Rain

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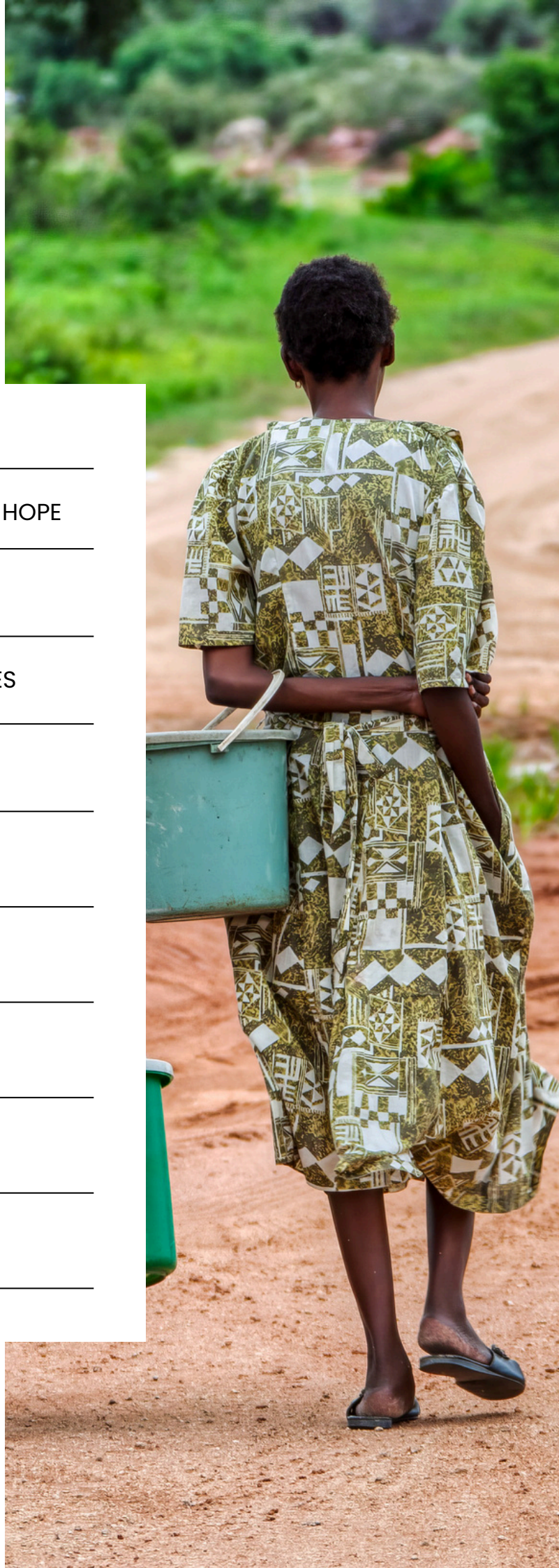
Edu Dance: Transforming Classrooms Through Creativity

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'TOGETHER transforming South Africa – one town at a time'

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welcome.

This edition of transform captures a **season of growth, movement, and deepening impact across the Love Cities network**. From the expansion of Love uMngeni, to powerful stories of skills development, community collaboration, and grassroots leadership, one thing is clear, transformation is not slowing down.

Across towns and cities, we're seeing what happens when people **take ownership of their communities**. Whether it's creating pathways to employment, restoring public spaces, developing young leaders, or building local economies, each story in these pages reflects a shared commitment to meaningful, lasting change.

What stands out this quarter is not just the scale of the work, but **the strength of connection behind it**. As partnerships deepen and collaboration increases, isolated efforts are becoming collective impact—reaching further, growing stronger, and unlocking new possibilities.

As you read, we invite you to see yourself in this story. This is more than a report, it's a reflection of what's possible when ordinary people choose to show up, work together, and build with purpose.

Together, we are transforming South Africa, one community at a time.





why networks matter.

HABITS OF HOPE: HOW SMALL ACTIONS ARE REBUILDING A NATION

South Africa is facing real pressure, failing systems, declining service delivery, rising unemployment, and the daily strain felt in communities: broken infrastructure, unsafe public spaces, waste mismanagement, and limited access to opportunity. At a grassroots level, many people are navigating survival, not because they lack potential, but because the systems around them are not working.

Yet, hope is not something we wait for—it's something we build.

At Love Cities, we speak about '**HABITS OF HOPE**', simple, consistent actions that, over time, begin to restore dignity, ownership, and progress in communities. Across our partner network, we see this every day: local leaders stepping up, small businesses growing, public spaces being restored, and communities choosing participation over passivity.

TWO HABITS STAND OUT:

First, show up and take responsibility where you are. Change does not start with big plans—it starts with consistent presence. Whether it's keeping a space clean, mentoring one person, or running a small project well, these actions build trust and momentum.

Second, connect and collaborate. Hope grows faster when people work together. When communities, businesses, and organisations align, small efforts become scalable impacts.

The reality is tough—but it is not final. Because every time someone chooses to show up, to care, to build, a new story begins, and that is how a nation rises.



**"HOPE IS NOT SOMETHING WE WAIT FOR,
IT'S SOMETHING WE BUILD."**

Matt Hogarty

FOUNDER & CEO

love cities network reach.



More Than a Rebrand: Love Howick Expands to Become Love uMngeni

The necessity of this move stems from the natural growth and evolving scope of the organisation's work. Over time, Love Howick's initiatives have increasingly extended beyond the immediate boundaries of Howick, encompassing surrounding areas. "Our projects have consistently led us to engage with communities in places like Mpophomeni, Hilton, and Lions River," explained Matt Hogarty, CEO of Love uMngeni. "This rebrand to Love uMngeni is a vital step in formalising our commitment to these areas and better reflecting the comprehensive reach of our efforts. It allows us to serve a bigger footprint, ensuring that our impact is felt across the wider uMngeni region, where needs are prevalent."

Love uMngeni will continue to focus on its established mission of fostering positive change through community development, social support, skills development and collaborative projects. The same passionate team will remain at the helm, ensuring continuity and the sustained quality of its programmes. This rebrand is not merely a change in name but a clear signal of an expanded vision and a deeper integration into the diverse communities of uMngeni.

"Community members expressed excitement that the initiatives they have come to value and trust are extending their reach. Many shared that the new name reflects a larger vision and aligns with the growing momentum they are witnessing."

- The official transition from Love Howick to Love uMngeni
- In February, the team hosted four "Community Connect" events in Howick, Hilton, Mpophomeni, and Lion's River to listen to residents' hopes and ideas
- Promotional activations at supermarkets met with "overwhelmingly positive" excitement





Pathways out of poverty video & description - WATCH THIS HERE

From Beneficiary to Business Owner: Thobile's Journey Through the Street Store Token Program

Meet Thobile, a Street Store beneficiary from Shiaz. Using tokens earned through the programme, she completed our Work Ready course, then moved on to the Crop Production course to further build her skills. Thobile's journey from beneficiary to skilled individual is exactly the kind of empowered transformation we love to see! This is a great example of co-ordinated pathways for development instead of isolated projects - where poverty is intersected by purpose. Here's some stories that show this approach:

- Community members earn tokens by recycling or volunteering, which they use to choose clothing or "pay" for skills courses
- Outreach in Jabavu (Howick West) brought 26 new members into the program in March
- In February, 10 beneficiaries from the Street Store were enrolled in an Agriculture Training program

March **114** clients received support **101** food items **362** bags of recyclables were received
321 clothing items distributed **22** pairs of shoes were distributed





From Training to Harvest: How a 3-Day Course is Growing Entrepreneurs and Food Security

- In late February, 20 participants (16 from SEF, 4 from the Street Store) completed a 3-day Crop Production course covering soil health, seedlings, and irrigation
- All 20 were required to start their own home gardens immediately after the training
- All 20 were supported through online support and visits from our agricultural support team.
- In March, 48 community members in Impendle received Financial Literacy training (saving, budgeting, entrepreneurship)



"This group harvested their fresh produce, which they also sell in their communities and to their peers if they order it. This is the visible impact of business sessions, which are held twice a month by business training team"

From Data to Dignity: How Greenlight Surveys Are Unlocking Community-Led Change in Shiaz

Over three months (Jan-Mar), the team was present in the Shiaz informal settlement every Tuesday and Thursday, conducting



64

**Greenlight
Indicator surveys**

Poverty

The goal of this approach is to **understand** grass-roots community problems and amplify the 'voices' of community members, as the most vital contributors to sustainable solutions. After the survey phase is complete, it provides a credible dataset grounded in the community's own priorities

Our next step is to convene an "Innovation Hub," where residents and public-private stakeholders will co-create solutions. These will be tested by an "Action Team" elected at this workshop.

The work has also expanded to Teapots Valley, Hilton College.



"Where there was once only visible hardship, we are beginning to see possibility." Reflection from some of the Love uMngeni team

Beauty, Bricks, and Jobs: How Green Work is Building a Skilled Workforce



Environmental Impact (Cumulative Q1): Photos by Penny Carolan

ALIEN PLANTS REMOVED:

**56,000 m² (Jan) +
49,000 m² (Feb) +
10,980 m² (Mar) =
115,980 m²**



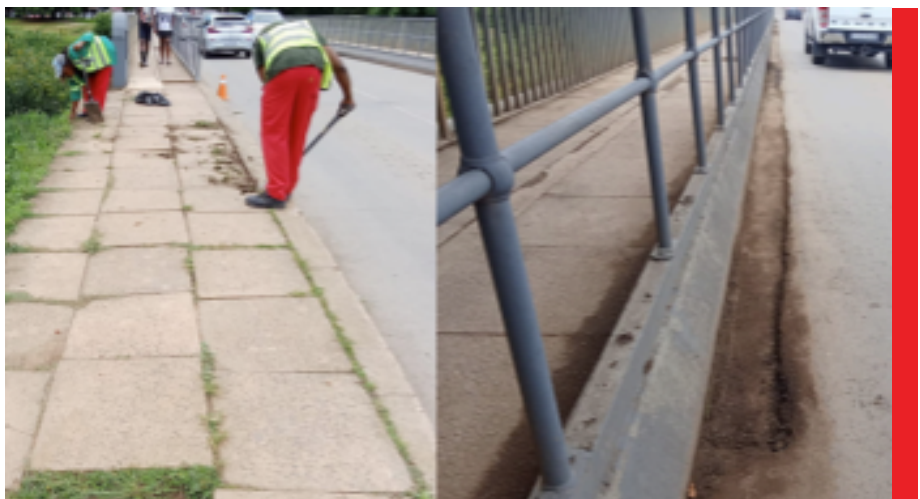
BRUSH CUTTING & BEAUTIFICATION WORK:

**39,560 m² (Jan) +
60,000 m² (Feb) +
90,000 m² (Mar) =
189,560 m²**



DRAINS/PAVEMENTS CLEARED:

**5,200 linear
meters each
month**



INDIGENOUS PLANTS/TREES PLANTED:

The 'Green Legacy' Program launched this month with the goal of planting 100 Indigenous Trees in various schools/clinics in the region.



FROM WASTE TO WALKWAYS:

Launched a project to turn recycled glass into durable paving bricks

They turn recycled glass into strong concrete pavers, made with purpose by our Love uMngeni SEF participants.

 Green skills. Real products. Local impact.

 Find them at 19 Morling Street, Howick
 From Tuesday, 7 April 2026

Prices (each):

- 50x50 cm – R60
- 40x40 cm – R50
- 40x20 cm – R40
- 22x22 cm – R30
- 22x8 cm – R20

Support the green economy 



Green team training at Brahman Hills Gardens



"Our goal is to ensure that the skills learned translate directly into economic resilience and independence ... One group is already selling cabbages and spinach from their backyards, splitting profits evenly, a visible impact of our business sessions!"

The cleaner the safer community we all want

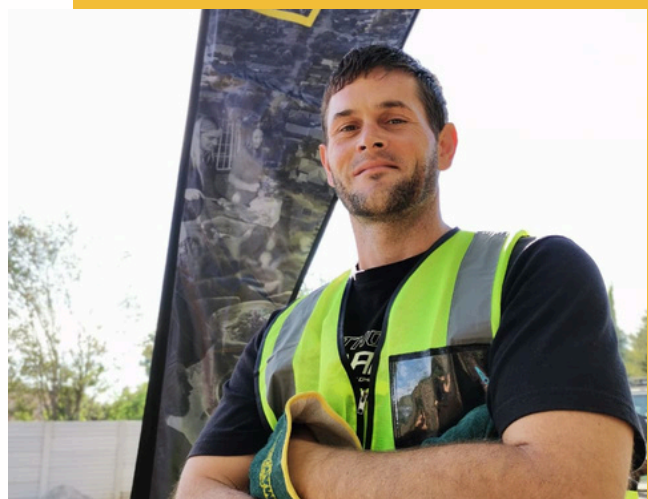
Love Potch took to the streets to clear verges and alien vegetation, amounting to a staggering 5,600m² (squares), in the Van der Hoff Park area in Potchefstroom, where specific crime-related incidents were traced to dense shrubbery next to the road. Our actions had a definite impact on overall safety as well as overall visibility and beauty of the area.



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH RECAP VIDEO](#)

A transformed life is transforming lives!

One of our volunteers who joined our cleanup campaigns has just come out of Rehab and is finding new purpose and stability in serving his community. The streets he once walked as a forgotten addict, he now helps maintain and clean as a transformed man. Adjacent accommodation, individuals, and passersby all contributed to this project, and there is scope to scale further, adding to the immense value Love Potch can bring to the community.





A Little Yellow Running in the Rain

A little rain doesn't scare us away! On the 21st of March, Human Rights Day, Love Potch put on our running shoes and brought a splash of yellow to the Potch 10k race!

We don't only run for PB's, we run for a cause greater than ourselves. This run helped to promote the Love Potch mission that is set on transforming communities, driving holistic change throughout our vibrant city. Special thanks to our two Love Potch runners, Alrich Smit and Mzwandile Vice, as well as all the other enthusiastic students who regularly join in the work we do.



One of our runners (Mzwandile Vice) was profoundly impacted by the opportunity to run for Love Potch. He still shares his experience with friends, family and social media about how being sponsored for the race re-kindled his love for running and his love for his community

Caring for the unborn by caring for our trees

Shout out to Kruispunt Student Church Potchefstroom, for teaming up with us to give the baby trees on the 'Bult' some love.

'For The One' Pregnancy Crisis Center also joined us - they're fighting for baby humans to receive the love they deserve in Potch, standing up for the rights of the unborn, leading up to Human Rights Day.

Together as a team, we were able to tend to more than 70 small indigenous trees planted in one of Potch's most iconic parks in an area known as the "bult". We were also able to pick up litter across the entire 32 000 square meter area.



Our first desk job

You might think that donating a desk wouldn't have any impact, but let me tell you: delivering these four huge work desks to 'Elarah Leather' and 'Towering Tree' made a world of impact! These two companies employ local residents, and Elarah Leather specifically employs foster mothers from Ikageng. This support helps to grow economic opportunities for many!

We're not only aiding in community development, but we are also actively involved in the growth of our community and using our network to channel donations to the right place.



'Golf for Life' Event

We had the incredible privilege to team up once again with the 'For The One' Pregnancy Crisis Center to collaborate on hosting a golf day. All in all, we were able to raise more than R70 000 on the day, which will be used at the center for upgrades, resources, training, and equipment, all to better serve the mothers who find themselves in unplanned and crisis pregnancies. It's wonderful to see what happens when a community comes together behind a cause. And in this case, a cause for those who do not even have a voice yet.



From campus to community

Community transformation usually happens mostly behind the scenes.

Hours of planning, research, stakeholder engagement, relationship building, paperwork, site visits, networking, analysis, monitoring, project planning, etc. The list goes on and on.

... But when projects roll out, you can be sure lives will be changed.

We had the privilege of playing a pivotal role in identifying and connecting local impact-driven community projects with the North West University, which, in turn, has major initiatives in community development, known in Potch as SRCS/SJGD (Student Rag Community Service/Studente Jool Gemeenskaps Diens).

Through our network, we matched four hostels with four projects across our communities, totaling more than 240 university students!

These projects will run for an entire year, on a weekly basis, with hands-on volunteers, budget allocation, and diverse solutions implemented as needed across the projects.

We are thankful to be earning the trust of local NPOs and big impact role players throughout Potchefstroom.



240 students mobilized



Your old clothes can help us save lives!



Clothing donations bring hope to women in crisis

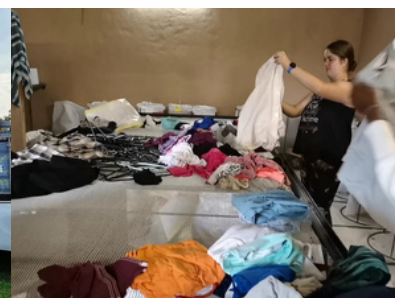
A collaboration between Love Potch, NWU's Community and Stakeholder Engagement (CSE), and RAG (Reach-out And Give) is helping turn donated clothing into an opportunity for women in crisis.

Collected through the *Barefoot Day Initiative*, the clothing supports the 'For the One' Crisis Pregnancy Center's Knit Together project — an initiative focused on reducing textile waste while creating income-generating opportunities. Through sorting, recycling, and upcycling, clothing is redirected for resale, donation, and small-business stock. The project works closely with crisis centres and local support networks to equip women with skills, mentorship, and pathways to independence. This initiative not only reduces environmental impact but also restores dignity, confidence, and hope.

**Collected through
Barefoot Day
(Annual Campaign)**

**10–12 tons
of clothing
donated**

**Transport
completed in
±1 hour**



Walking in Hope: Love Paarl Distributes 293 Pairs of School Shoes

Through the generosity of partners, donors, and volunteers, Love Paarl recently brought hope and dignity to hundreds of learners across the Paarl community through the distribution of 293 pairs of MyWalk waterproof school shoes.

In partnership with Khula Development, the initiative reached nine schools in and around Paarl, providing durable school shoes made from recycled IV bags – combining care for children with environmental sustainability.

The schools impacted included **Amstelhof Primary, Magnolia Primary, Orleansvale Primary, Nederburg Primary, Paarlzicht Primary, Klapmuts Primary, Pieter Langeveldt Primary, Cloetesville Primary, and Rietenbosch Primary.**

This meaningful outreach was made possible through the support of every donor who contributed and the dedicated volunteers who assisted with the distribution. Beyond meeting a practical need, the initiative served as a reminder to each learner that they are seen, valued, and filled with purpose.

Inspired by Jeremiah 29:11, the team shared a message of encouragement over every child who received a pair of shoes – that they would walk confidently into the future God has prepared for them, carrying hope even in difficult circumstances.



Through partnerships like these, Love Paarl continues to make a tangible difference in the lives of local families and communities.

Edu Dance: Transforming Classrooms Through Creativity

At Love Thornhill, our main focus has been getting our Edu Dance Project off the ground.

We got a teacher to train two young people from the community that spends time with the children. It connects the curriculum with dance, music, and movement. The idea is to get children moving and learning and to make education fun. We have had a lot of success, and we hope to see absenteeism reduce in the school through programs like this.

The Edu Dance Initiative has also created an opportunity for two people from the community to use their skills and to give back to young children.



Building confidence, creativity, and consistency in the classroom through movement.

Cradle of Humankind - Cleanup Campaign grows in leaps and bounds

Thanks to Trevor Brough and the Muldersdrift Neighbourhood Watch for facilitating the generous donation from Ricardo and his suppliers at Build It Pinehaven.

Cebisa / Cradle Management Authority: The COHWHS received a donation from Build It Pinehaven of 10 spades and 10 industrial-quality brooms. This contribution is particularly valuable for cyclists, as the build-up of sand and glass in cycle lanes has been identified as a hazard in previous clean-up campaigns. Until now, there has not been adequate equipment available to address this issue.

"This project is significant because it brings together several tiers of government, communities, and the private sector," said Ms Cebisa Mdekazi, Project Manager for Clean-up Campaigns in the COHWHS.



Present on the day were Mr Ricardo Baptista of Build It Pinehaven; Mrs Sam Barale from the Muldersdrift Neighbourhood Watch; Mr Trevor Brough from the COHWHS Association; Mr Glen Ndlovu; Mr Anthony Paton; Mr Thabo Matsafu; Mr Sandile Msomi (photographer); and Ms Cebisa Mdekazi from the COHWHS Management Authority.

"A huge thanks to Build It Pinehaven, and particularly to owner Mr Ricardo Baptista," to which he responded, "It is our pleasure, and we pledge to continue supporting initiatives that build collective action and create a better environment for all."

Running for a Cause:

Turning Kilometres into School Shoes



Craig Rowe, a Love Cities partner in Muldersdrift and leader of CDR Equipping, began fundraising for 'My Walk Made with Soul' school shoes after discovering how many students had walked to school barefoot or without proper footwear while growing up.

"When I started running, I wondered: what if every kilometre I ran could put a pair of shoes on a child's feet?" says Craig.

His first campaign challenged friends and businesses to sponsor a pair of school shoes for every kilometre he ran during his first Two Oceans Half Marathon. Despite suffering a fall early in the race, Craig completed the run, motivated by the children who would benefit from the initiative.

2 800+ children
received school shoes

Nearly R100 000
raised

The 'My Walk Made with Soul' shoes are made from upcycled PVC diverted from landfill, creating durable, waterproof footwear that protects children from harsh conditions while supporting environmental sustainability and local manufacturing.

Craig continues to champion the initiative, with Mandela Day fun runs planned for 18 July 2026 in Johannesburg and Pietermaritzburg, to raise further support for children in need.



stories from our partners.

Sheldon Hallis - Love Mkhondo (Mpumalanga)



LOVE
MKHONDO

Working with Love Cities has been a transformative experience for our community. While the hard work of revitalizing our towns lies ahead, the foundation they have built is invaluable. Love Cities hasn't just handed over a plan; they have shown us exactly how to execute it, providing the expertise and leadership needed to move forward.

What truly keeps us going is their unwavering commitment to walk this journey alongside us. Seeing the tangible impact of their work is deeply inspiring. Their dedication serves as the fuel that encourages us to carry on, proving what is possible when a community is empowered with the right vision.

Craig Rowe - Love Muldersdrift (Gauteng)



LOVE
MULDRSDRIFT

Being part of Love Cities has strengthened both my heart and my hope to serve. Through the collective partnership of organisations within Love Cities—especially alongside Love Muldersdrift—and through the My Walk programme, we've been able to raise and distribute over 4,000 school shoes this year.

Together, this collaboration enables children to walk with dignity and step confidently into a future filled with possibility. What inspires me most is the shared Kingdom heart—people united to serve, uplift, and transform communities. Love Cities is more than an initiative; it's a movement where partnership becomes purpose and impact becomes lasting change.

Arno Van Den Berg - Love Potch



LOVE
POTCH

A grassroots level movement reshaping our entire nation! Now that's a statement, one that almost feels too good to be true and too big to even grasp where one begins. Being part of the Love cities movement truly brings inspiration, motivation, support and practical connections to the table.

Not only would our "Love Potch" NPO not exist if it wasn't for the incredible team at Love Cities, countless lives would have been left unchanged, streets left uncleaned and dreams for a different future left Un-dreamt. Thank you Love Cities for giving us a grander vision of what our community can become And for giving us the tools to get the job done! Ons sê baie baie dankie 🧡

lead.inc online platform

Building Leadership Capacity across South Africa

Why South Africa's future depends on developing leaders below the surface

In South Africa today, leadership is being tested like never before. Economic pressure. Social complexity. Rapid technological change. And beneath it all—an invisible weight carried by people trying to lead while still trying to survive. Recent data shows that over a third of working South Africans experience excessive daily stress, with around 35% reporting severe anxiety symptoms in today's workplace. ([SA Federation for Mental Health](#))

This is not just a health issue, it is a leadership crisis.



What LEAD.INC Focuses On

The programme develops the internal foundations of leadership:

- Self-awareness & identity
- Emotional intelligence
- Resilience under pressure
- Mental health & wellbeing
- Values & integrity
- Relationships & connection
- Purpose & direction

How the Programme Works

A structured journey designed for lasting change, including:

- Short, practical video sessions
- Curated readings and podcasts
- Weekly online coaching and support

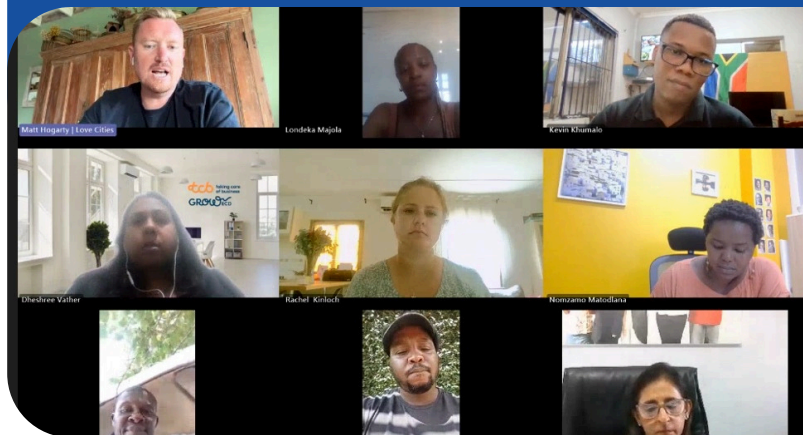
A Different Kind of Leadership Programme

LEAD.INC is not a typical leadership course focused on performance or strategy. It is a personal development journey designed to build leaders from the inside out.

Because the greatest risk facing leaders today is not a lack of skill—but a lack of internal health, emotional maturity, and self-awareness.

The truth is simple:

When you strengthen the person, you strengthen everything they touch.



lead.inc online platform

Building Leadership Capacity across South Africa



LEAD WHOLE Getaway

At the heart of the program is the LEAD WHOLE Getaway, a space to step away from daily pressure and reconnect with what matters.

It creates room for reflection, honest conversation, and realignment of identity and purpose. Because you cannot lead others well if you've lost connection with yourself.

Why This Matters for South Africa

South Africa doesn't lack talent—it lacks healthy, sustained leadership.

Unhealthy leaders create unhealthy organisations, communities and systems.

Whole leaders build thriving systems.

For Partners & Investors

LEAD.INC invests in people, the multiplier of all impact.

Why?

While skills and systems can be built quickly, character and leadership depth are developed over time.



Because when you change the person, you change everything.

lead.inc 2026 co-hort

The Legacy Scholarship Program

In Partnership with Sanlam Foundation



Vanessa Theophilus | Director | KZN

Organisation Name: Ethelbert Child and Youth Care Centre

Nickname: None

Describe yourself in one phrase: Lover of God and people

What is your big WHY for enrolling in this program: Learn leadership skills to impart to others and leave a legacy.



Kevin Khumalo | General Manager | Howick

Organisation Name: uMngeni Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal

Nickname: None

Describe yourself in one phrase: Tenacious animal protector

What is your big WHY for enrolling in this program: Learn leadership skills to enable me to leave a lasting legacy and ensure the future protection of animals in uMngeni area.



Rachel Kinloch | Regional Manager

Organisation Name: The Angel Network

Nickname: Rach

Describe yourself in one phrase: Here comes the sun

What is your big WHY for enrolling in this program: Become more confident.



Gugulethu Radebe | Learning Coach

Organisation Name: Linc Foundation

Nickname: Gugu

Describe yourself in one phrase: Championing young leaders, educators, and creativity.

What is your big WHY for enrolling in this program: Learn from this inspiring community of leaders and to grow both personally and professionally

lead.inc 2026 co-hort

The Legacy Scholarship Program

In Partnership with Sanlam Foundation



Leonard Mfanafuthi Zibula | Manager

Organisation Name: DA Secretary & Coffee Shop

Nickname: Mfana

Describe yourself in one phrase: Humble, always learning.

What is your big WHY for enrolling in this program: I want to sharpen my leadership skills to better serve my team and community, and grow as a person who inspires positive change.



Nomzamo Matodlana | Branch Manager

Organisation Name: Taking Care of Business CPT

Nickname: None

Describe yourself in one phrase: I am intuitive, compassionate and live Ubuntu values.

What is your big WHY for enrolling in this program: Looking to learn new techniques to create balance between work and personal life goals.



Dheshree Vather | Branch Manager

Organisation Name: Taking Care of Business JHB

Nickname: Dhesh

Describe yourself in one phrase: Change maker that leads by setting an example.

What is your big WHY for enrolling in this program: To live with purpose and make the world a beautiful place.



Zuma Thuthuka | Principal

Organisation Name: Isibongo Primary

Nickname: Sijjoh

Describe yourself in one phrase: Curious

What is your big WHY for enrolling in this program: Just wanted to enhance my leadership skills and expertise

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The Legacy Scholarship Program

In Partnership with Sanlam Foundation



Londeka Majola | Business Buddy

Organisation Name: Love Umngeni

Nickname: Londy

Describe yourself in one phrase: Always excited to join new adventures.

What is your big WHY for enrolling in this program: Having recently registered an NPO focused on youth empowerment, I enrolled to strengthen my leadership skills.



Nkosikhona Ndlovu | Founder & Chairperson

Organisation Name: Ubuntu Foundation NPO

Nickname: (Chanaman 🤔)

Describe yourself in one phrase: I regard myself as an assets in every opportunity that might present to me

What is your big WHY for enrolling in this program: I am hear to gain more knowledge in leadership role



Samkelo Madlala | Project Administrator & Pathways Coordinator

Organisation Name: DUCT

Nickname: Sam

Describe yourself in one phrase: Systems thinker who turns chaos into momentum.

What is your big WHY for enrolling in this program: To build the skills and credibility to scale GreenBeacons (coaching & consulting) — and to recruit talented individuals/leaders into meaningful, well-paying occupations they actually deserve.

JOIN NOW



2027 Co-Hort

email hello@lovecities.org.za

our **partners** in impact.

Behind every story of transformation is a network of partners who believe in building stronger, healthier communities. We are proud to collaborate with organisations that are not only leaders in their fields, but are deeply committed to sustainable change.



Andermatt is a global leader in biological agricultural solutions, pioneering innovative, eco-friendly alternatives to traditional farming methods. Founded over 30 years ago, the organisation focuses on transforming how food is grown—prioritising soil health, crop resilience, and environmental sustainability.



Drop Inn Ministries is a humanitarian organisation based in Northern Ireland, committed to serving vulnerable communities across the globe. What began as a local initiative has grown into a global movement, now delivering aid and support in over 20–30 countries through a wide network of partners and projects.



Von.D Believes in people and their dreams. Their comprehensive suite of services includes cutting-edge website and graphic design, reliable website hosting, and expert technical assistance, among others. VonD, doesn't just provide solutions; they cultivate partnerships, nurturing each client's vision with personalized care.



Established in 2011, it focuses on improving lives across South Africa by investing in education, financial literacy, health, and enterprise development. Through funding and community initiatives, it aims to address inequality and support long-term, sustainable growth in underserved communities.

our **partners** in impact.



MERGON

mergon.co.za

Is an entrepreneurial investment company that exists to create Kingdom impact and equip others to do the same. Through Mergon Integrate's Nation Builder and Ziwani, it inspires and equips the business community to use their business as a force for social good.



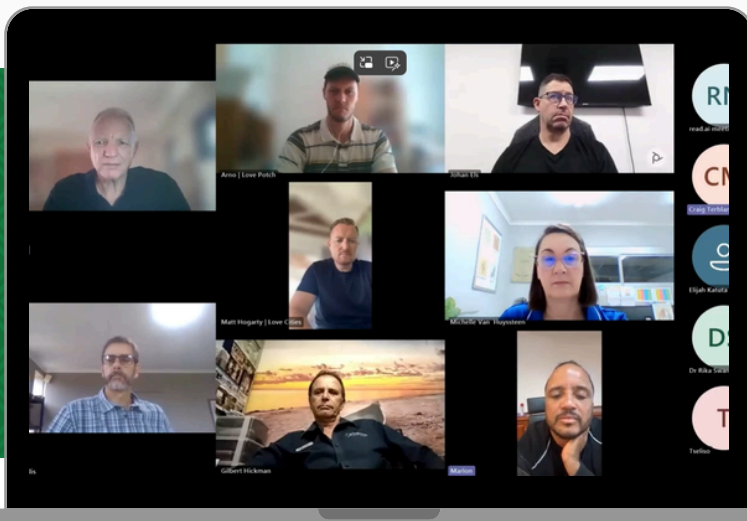
NATION
BUILDER

nationbuilder.co.za

Nation Builder is a South African social impact organisation that connects nonprofits and funders to drive collaborative, lasting change. By strengthening partnerships and building capacity, it helps organisations amplify their impact and better serve communities.

Become a Love Cities Collaborator

One Network. Many Cities. Shared Impact.
Building stronger communities across South Africa.



Join a growing movement
transforming cities.



admin@lovecities.org.za
lovecities.org.za

Statement of Endorsement – Local Government



uMngeni Local Municipality OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Fax: +27 (33) 330 3006
Email: mayor@umngeni.gov.za
Website: www.umngeni.gov.za

Date: 15 February 2024

RE: LOVE CITIES ENDORSEMENT

To whom it may concern,

As the Mayor of uMngeni Municipality, it is my honour to extend our wholehearted endorsement of the Love Cities programme, an initiative with a vision to foster sustainable community development and social transformation. Our municipality's official partnership with Love Cities reflects our joint commitment to creating thriving, inclusive communities where every individual has the chance to prosper and contribute to our collective wellbeing.

The mission of Love Cities to catalyse a movement of Nation-builders and support the creation of impactful non-profit organisations aligns seamlessly with our ambitions for economic growth, skills development, environmental stewardship, and social enhancement within the uMngeni Municipality. The programme's focus on collaboration across all sectors of society is a testament to its all-encompassing approach to tackling the complex challenges our communities face.

The proven model of sustainable development promoted by Love Cities, built upon the remarkable six-year success of Love Howick NPC, provides a blueprint for positive change that is both inspiring and attainable. We have been particularly impressed by the tangible results achieved in Howick, where initiatives in skills development, economic growth, and social enhancement have made a significant impact on the lives of its residents.

In partnering with Love Cities, the uMngeni Municipality is enthusiastic about the opportunities this collaboration presents to empower our citizens, rejuvenate our neighbourhoods, and forge a path of hope and prosperity for future generations. We are committed to working alongside Matt Hogarty and the Love Cities team to implement transformative programmes that will 'love our cities back to life.'

I wholeheartedly recommend Love Cities to any community looking to embark on a journey of sustainable development and social transformation. Together, we can realise the dream of thriving communities that are safe, prosperous, and filled with hope for all.

Kind regards,

Cllr. C. PAPPAS
MAYOR

MAKING PROGRESS TOGETHER

NGOKUBAMBISANA SIQHUBEKELA PHAMBILI

join our network.

Be part of a growing movement of organisations, leaders, and community builders working together to see real, lasting change.

Whether you're looking to partner formally or collaborate around specific initiatives, there's a place for you in the Love Cities network. We believe transformation happens faster—and deeper—when we work together.

By joining, you gain access to practical support and shared resources, including training, strategic guidance, project toolkits, networking opportunities, and connections to a wider ecosystem of partners. From grassroots activists to established organisations, we exist to strengthen and amplify the work already happening in communities.

If you're ready to contribute, collaborate, or explore how we can work together, visit www.lovecities.org.za or reach out to us at hello@lovecities.org.za



One of the key ways we support Community Transformation Initiatives across our network is through monthly training and co-lab sessions.

These provide a valuable time for capacity building, sharing of ideas and solution orientated discussions. Please diarise these dates and join us.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
30 April 2026	8:30 - 9:30	Network Co-Lab	Host: Doni Hogarty
14 May 2026	8:30 - 9:30	Online Training	Matt Hogarty
26 May 2026	8:30 - 9:30	New Partners: Information Session	Host: Matt Hogarty
28 May 2026	8:30 - 9:30	Network Co-Lab	Matt Hogarty
17 -20 June 2026	Wed - Sat	LC Annual Conference	Gqeberha
22 - 29 June 2026	One Week	PACSE (Pan African City Symposium & Exposition)	Nelson Mandel Bay University





annual conference 2026

HOSTED BY LOVE NELSON MANDELA BAY

2026 THEME AMPLIFY

FROM GOOD WORK TO REAL IMPACT

Across South Africa, there is no shortage of effort, but not enough of it translates into lasting impact.

This conference is about closing that gap.



Become our
Official Event

SPONSOR

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is not a passive conference

- ✓ High-impact keynote sessions
- ✓ Interactive workshops
- ✓ Panel discussions with key voices in community transformation
- ✓ Real case studies from across South Africa
- ✓ Practical tools you can apply immediately
- ✓ Time to build meaningful partnerships

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- ✓ Love Cities Partners + Collaborators
- ✓ NGOs and community transformation organisations
- ✓ Business leaders and corporate partners
- ✓ Foundations, philanthropists and funders
- ✓ Academic institutions
- ✓ Government and civic leaders

If you care about real change, this is for you.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



TOMMY DEUSCHLE

Faith & Culture Strategist |
Movement Builder | Leadership Architect



GAYE EVANS

Management Consultant | Organisational
Development Specialist | Executive Coach



ELIZABETH SCOTT GLENN

Chair of the
US Africa Collaborative



Pine Lodge, Nelson
Mandela Bay
Marine Drive,
Summerstrand



17-21
June 2026

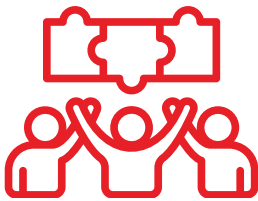
SCAN
HERE
TO
REGISTER



support

LOVE
CITIES

Section 18 (a) Tax Exemption Certificate Available



Participate in our upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.



Consider starting a Love Cities project in your area!



Engage with us on social media to spread the word about our impact and share your stories.



Consider sponsoring a town through our network, providing vital support to kick-start transformation projects.

Zapper™



BANKING DETAILS:

Love Cities NPC

Account no: 630 998 48302

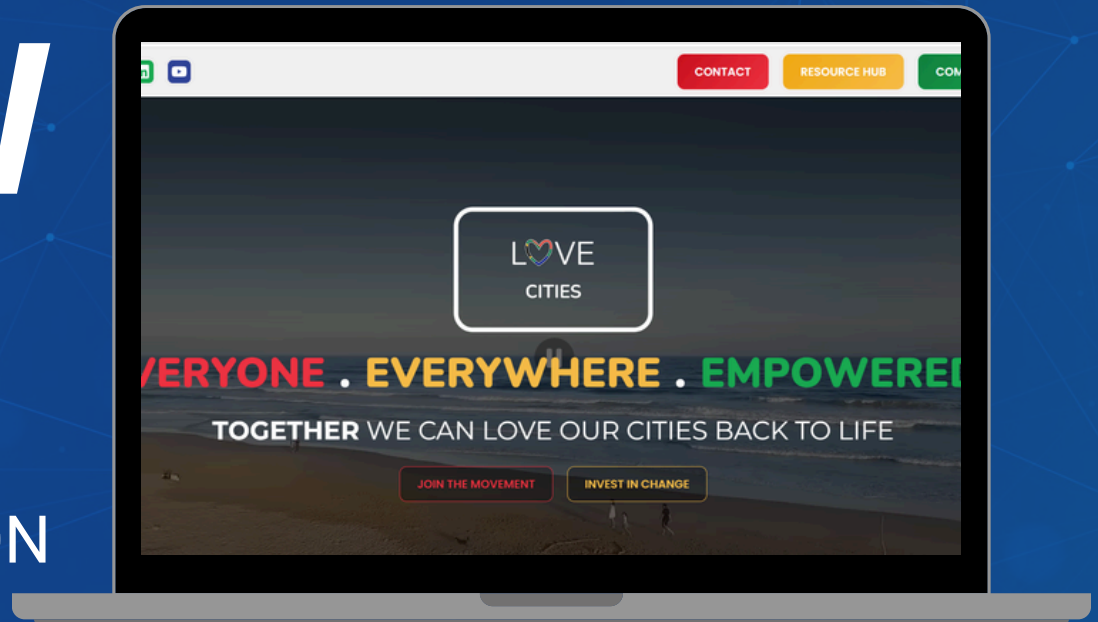
Branch no: 220 725

First National Bank Howick

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NEW WEBSITE

COMING SOON



STAY CONNECTED

Follow our journey on social media for live updates, behind-the-scenes content, and announcements of upcoming events. Your active participation enriches our community and enhances our collective impact



CONTACT US

hello@lovecities.org.za

www.lovecities.org.za

EVERYONE. EVERYWHERE. EMPOWERED.

Love Cities' Programs

LOVE
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PLACE DEVELOPMENT

Creating beautiful spaces, recycling waste, rehabilitating public parks, maintaining infrastructure, urban renewal projects, and promoting environmental sustainability



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Education support services, school outreach, teacher training, work readiness programs, professional skills training, leadership development, and recruitment



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Preventative education to reduce social ills, poverty measurement, community asset mapping and mobilisation, street stores for poor, counselling support, and disaster relief



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Entrepreneurship development, economic growth support in tourism, in-service training to improve labour productivity, agriculture support, and networking events



NARRATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Positive media campaigns, storytelling platform, personal and societal narrative workshops, hosting community forums and dialogues, events that promote community



CONNECT
WITH US



PLACE YOUR AD **HERE**

HELLO@LOVECITIES.ORG.ZA

CONTACT US TODAY