

transform.

LOVE CITIES SA NETWORK PUBLICATION

QUARTER TWO 2026



LOVE
CITIES

**My Walk School Shoe
Distribution**

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**Students take to the
Streets**

Pg no. 9

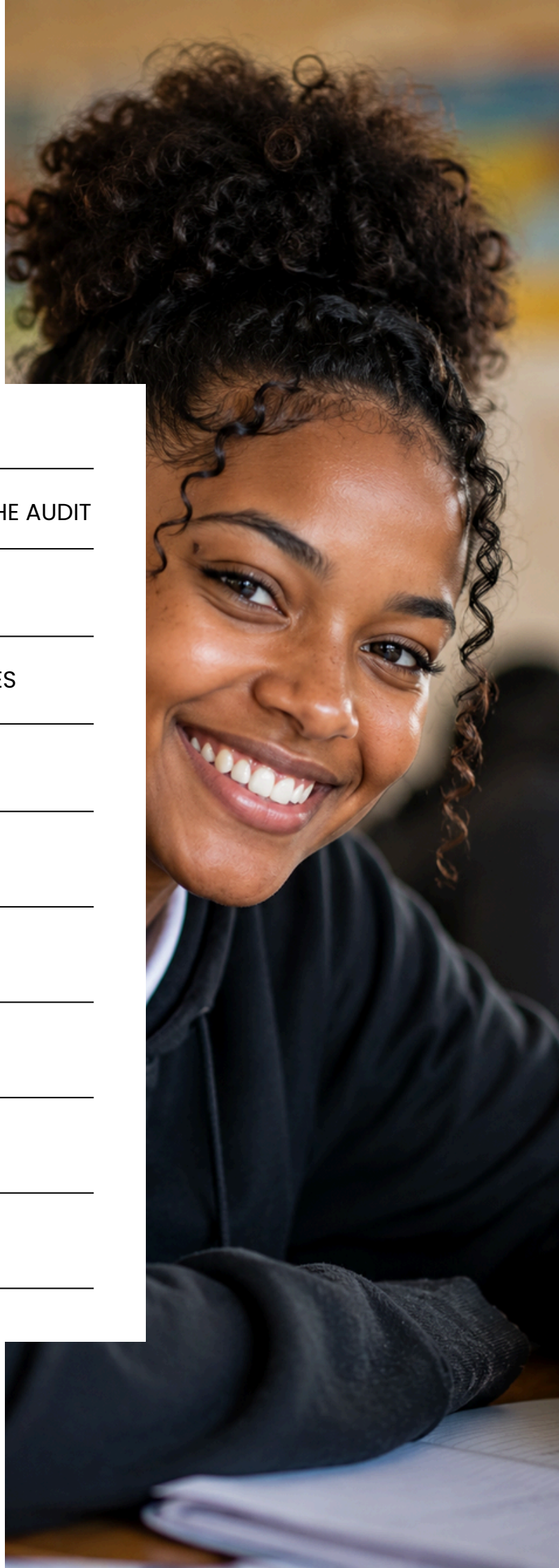
Hard work bears fruit

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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.



beyond the audit.

Beyond the Audit: The Real Story of South Africa's Cities

When the Auditor-General released the 2026 Municipal Audit Report, the headlines were difficult to ignore. Only 39 of South Africa's 257 municipalities (15%) achieved clean audits. Many municipalities continue to battle financial instability, declining infrastructure and increasing pressure on service delivery. Yet, tucked within the report was a phrase that deserves just as much attention: "green shoots." Signs that where leadership, accountability and collaboration exist, progress is possible. ([SAnews](#))

At Love Cities, we believe those green shoots aren't just found in municipal offices—they're growing in communities across South Africa. This year's AMPLIFY Conference brought together leaders from towns and cities across the country with one shared conviction: the future of South Africa will not be built by government alone. It will be built when schools, businesses, churches, NGOs, municipalities and ordinary citizens begin working as one.

We've seen it happen.

We've watched neglected parks become gathering places. Young people move from unemployment to entrepreneurship. Businesses adopt streets. Communities restore beaches, plant trees, mentor families and create opportunities where none previously existed.

The Love Cities movement has never been about replacing local government. It has always been about strengthening the social fabric that enables cities to flourish. Great cities are not defined only by the quality of their infrastructure, they are defined by the strength of their relationships.

The Auditor-General measures governance. We celebrate something equally important: community participation. Because every volunteer who shows up, every local business that gives back, every church that opens its doors, every young leader who chooses hope over apathy, strengthens the foundations of a flourishing city.

South Africa undoubtedly faces significant challenges. But our greatest asset has never been our institutions. It has always been our people.

As the AMPLIFY Conference reminded us, transformation doesn't begin with perfect municipalities. It begins when ordinary people discover that they have extraordinary power to shape the places they call home.

The future of South Africa won't be written by a handful of leaders.

It will be written by millions of neighbours who choose to build together. Please send us your story ([CLICK HERE](#)) of how you are shaping your community for the better (no matter how big or small).



Matt Hogarty
FOUNDER & CEO

love cities network reach.





"This is what community looks like" | Winter Warmer Distribution

"We are very happy to know that there are people who care for us, who bring us warm blankets in this cold winter. Our children got jerseys and beanies to keep warm."

- Winter Warmer recipient, Area: Jabavu

In partnership with JAM Clothing, Love uMngeni distributed blankets, scarves, and beanies to vulnerable families in Jabavu.



Students take to the streets

A group of friends, all students from the North West University and a local church, contacted Love Potch to serve in their local community. An event was organized to get this rowdy bunch out and onto the streets of Potchefstroom. We targeted a dense bush area known for illegal dumping and we gave ourselves to picking up litter and restoring this green space. We removed 25 black bags of litter and illegal dumping, all while spreading some 'yellow' positivity into the surrounding community.



During the cleanup, an old resident who lives in the nearby old age home passed by. He was emotional seeing young people dedicating their time to voluntarily clean up the environment. It brought joy to the entire cleanup crew to talk to the old man, as we were able to start a collective conversation about what Potch could become if we work together.

Hard work bears fruit.



The Dipuworx and Simply Rooted collaboration has grown since it began in 2025. The initiative now supports 33 participating households, each responsible for cultivating their own garden spaces.

Two types of gardens have been established:

- **Kitchen Gardens**
Small fenced gardens designed primarily for household food production.
- **Market Gardens**
Larger garden plots (approximately 20m × 30m) where emerging farmers grow surplus produce for local sale.

A variety of vegetables are grown to support both household nutrition and potential income generation. Access to water is supported through solar boreholes and JoJo tanks, helping ensure year-round production despite rural infrastructure challenges.

The long-term vision is to transform farm dwellers into independent, productive farmers who are able to sustain their families and contribute to the local economy. We are changing our story!





Creating Cleaner Neighbourhoods



Transform Waste Into Value



Cleaning & Restoring Public Spaces

150 jobs created. Learn, Earn, Work. Real change.

Our Green Learn to Earn (GL2E) program is creating green jobs, restoring our environment, and building entrepreneurs, all at the same time.

What our teams achieved in May & June:

- 19 km of pavements cleared
- 5.5 hectares of alien plants removed
- 15,675 kg of waste recycled
- 14 illegal dumpsites cleared
- 205 bugweed & unwanted trees cut
- 74 trees planted and more

Green Learn to Earn turns environmental challenges into economic opportunities, equipping unemployed people with the skills, confidence, and support to build sustainable livelihoods. By restoring communities while developing entrepreneurs and future leaders, the programme creates lasting social, environmental, and economic impact.

The greatest impact of Green Learn to Earn is not the waste removed or businesses started, but the people whose confidence, purpose, and belief in their own potential have been restored—creating ripple effects that strengthen families, communities, and future generations.



Making All Things Beautiful



Preserving Parks & Natural Spaces



Join the
**LOVE
CITIES
TEAM**
at the



This year, Love Cities is taking on the **Nelson Mandela Marathon** to raise funds for 'MyWalk' school shoes and 'Love Cities' work readiness training, helping create lasting opportunities for young people across our partner communities.

Whether you're an experienced runner or simply looking to be part of something meaningful, we'd love to have you join the Love Cities team. We'll be running together in our Love Cities kit and making every kilometre count.

Interested?

Email admin@lovecities.org.za or WhatsApp 071 423 8210, and we'll send you an invitation to sign up.



From Neglect to Restoration

Change happens when we take hands and unite! Love Potch was asked to clean one of the oldest sites in town (The President Pretorius Museum) in preparation for an event. When reaching out to local service providers, the whole cleanup was sponsored within 15 minutes. Entire teams of professionals, a tractor with a grass cutter, vehicles, leaf blowers, and other equipment were made available, and within two days we were able to collectively clean the staggering 4 000 square meters, redo landscaping, and even plant a few trees before the event. A huge shout-out and thank you to the Servest team, CID on the Bult, Danie Oosthuizen, and other individuals involved.



These museum grounds have been neglected for over a decade, leading to the total degradation of this historical area and national monument. With Love Potch's help, we were able to restore the area and this valuable piece of national history.

From Dreams to Champions: How Boxing for a Change is Transforming Young Lives

What began as a simple act of compassion has become one of Muldersdrift's most inspiring community stories.

Recognising that the cost of sport often prevents talented young people from reaching their potential, Marlon and Lisa launched 'Boxing for a Change' to give children and young adults access to elite coaching, professional-standard facilities, and competitive boxing opportunities—completely free of charge.

More than a boxing programme, the initiative builds discipline, confidence, resilience, and life skills, helping young people develop both inside and outside the ring. One of its greatest success stories is Andre Mulumba, who progressed through four 'Boxing for a Change' tournaments before turning professional. Today, he competes at Emperors Palace, inspiring the next generation to believe that with opportunity and hard work, anything is possible.

Now home to around 40 aspiring fighters, 'Boxing for a Change' continues to transform lives by creating pathways to success and hope for the future. Operating under the Love Muldersdrift footprint, the initiative shares a vision of empowering local youth and strengthening the community. Together, they are proving that investing in young people creates lasting change—because sometimes all it takes is someone willing to open the door.





History made in Mpophomeni!

More than 300 learners from seven local primary schools took part in the community's first-ever KFC Mini-Cricket Festival, hosted by Cricket South Africa and the KZN Inland Cricket Union in celebration of the International Day of Play.

With the support of Love uMngeni NPC, the event brought fun, teamwork, and the joy of cricket to young learners, while opening the door to exciting new opportunities to grow the game in Mpophomeni.

For many children, it was their first opportunity to experience organised cricket, discover new talents, and build confidence through sport. The festival also demonstrated the power of partnerships to create opportunities that inspire healthy lifestyles, develop future leaders, and strengthen communities.

This was more than a festival—it was the beginning of a long-term vision to use cricket as a platform for developing character, creating opportunity, and building a brighter future for the next generation.



When nations reconcile

123 years ago, our nations met at this very hill as enemies, killing each other. Today we are here to extend a hand of peace and reconciliation," said the 7th-generation grandson of King Mzilikazi himself at the historical battlefield where the Ndebele fought the Voortrekkers/Afrikaners. This weekend saw a peace declaration between the two groups during a unique time of sharing history, stories, experiences and conversations about what can be done when unity is taken as a decision to be made and not a result.

[Read the full story here](#)

This event saw incredible interaction between previously warring nations. The event caught the eye of one lady in particular who happened to be part of the royal Zulu family.

She left the event with a hopeful mission to invite the Zulu nation into a similar peace declaration that could see the very history of our nation change as we endeavour to be the change in the very narrative we live in.





LEAD.inc

Leadership starts from the inside out.

Great leaders don't just build successful organisations, they build healthy teams, thriving communities and lasting impact.

LEAD.inc is a six-month leadership development journey designed to help leaders grow personally and professionally. Through practical learning, coaching and a supportive community, participants discover how leading themselves well enables them to lead others well.



Why join LEAD.inc?

1. Grow in self-awareness and emotional intelligence
2. Build resilience and confidence as a leader
3. Strengthen your communication and relationships
4. Create healthy leadership cultures within your organisation
5. Receive personal coaching and mentorship
6. Connect with a network of purpose-driven leaders from across South Africa



What you'll experience

Over six months you'll take part in:

- Weekly online learning modules
- Practical leadership assignments
- One-on-one coaching
- Interactive online tutorials

Real impact

- **100%** of participants would recommend LEAD.inc to others.
- **96%** reported positive growth across leadership and personal development.
- **93%** said the programme helped them become more intentional, resilient and effective leaders.

Applications Opening Soon

If you're a leader in a business, church, school, NGO, community organisation or government who wants to grow in both character and leadership, we'd love to hear from you.

Register by sending us an email to: **hello@lovecities.org.za**



FROM UNEMPLOYED TO BARISTA

Spesihle's Journey

"Before attending the Love uMngeni Skills Development Program, I was doing nothing. Now I'm a great barista, and I want to open my own coffee shop."

Meet Spesihle Mokeona. Last year, he walked through the doors of the Love uMngeni Dream Centre feeling stuck. He completed the Work Ready course, gained confidence, then trained as a Barista, doing his practicals at Coffeeberry Restaurant (one of our valued partners). Before his course even finished, he was employed.

Now, Spesihle has a dream: to launch his own mobile coffee shop. And we believe he will. This is what the Dream Centre does. Not handouts. A real pathway. Our three-phase journey (Work Ready, Professional Skills, and Job Centre & Entrepreneurship) moves people from survival to agency, from training to employment, and from hopelessness to leadership.

Spesihle's story is proof that when opportunity meets potential, lives change. Let's inspire a generation to reach for their dreams!



A school day turned into cleanup

Love Potch teamed up with a local primary school, Bailie Park, whose school leaders took it upon themselves to clean one of the town's entrances. Love Potch cut the grass, provided the black bags, and brought the energy to the event. In turn, the school brought the willing hands. We were able to cleanup this key entry point to our town, collecting over 40 black bags of waste.



See who crossed our path

Slowly but surely, we are winning the community's trust and cooperation. One success story to share is the story surrounding a cross planted right in the center of one of Potch's most iconic parks, known locally as the ATKV or Bult Park. Arthur Bullock, through his landscaping business, was generous enough to sponsor us with more than 100 plants, and Leandro DE beer from the CID was kind enough to organise a sponsor for beautiful stepping stones. Love Potch managed the installation and planting, and we can proudly say we turned the space around. One unique part of this story is that a local resident, Helena Hoffman, decided to "Adopt" our newfound garden and will tend it in the future. This is active citizenship at its best. Imagine a whole town adopting spaces to care for?



100 plants are quite a lot for one person and his 3 year old son to plant alone, so we called in the cavalry. One of Love Potch's most faithful volunteers, Heino, jumped at the opportunity to help out with the planting, during which he became emotional.

When I asked what was up, he replied that he used to pray at the very same cross he was now decorating. The only difference is that then he was a rejected drug addict wandering the streets, but today he is entirely changed.



My Walk School Shoe Distribution 17 June 2026

A simple pair of shoes can do far more than protect little feet—it can restore confidence, dignity, and the excitement of going to school. Thanks to the generosity of the My Walk Campaign, Love uMngeni was able to place 345 pairs of new school shoes on the feet of children across Mpophomeni and surrounding communities.



On 17 June, our team visited nine local crèches, personally fitting 105 children with shoes that many had never owned before. The following day, a further 240 pairs were distributed to two partner schools and two additional crèches, bringing smiles to hundreds more young learners.



One principal shared that the very next morning, children arrived at school walking a little taller, proudly showing off their new shoes to friends and teachers. It was a powerful reminder that sometimes the smallest gifts can make the biggest difference.

We are incredibly grateful to the My Walk Campaign for helping us ensure that hundreds of children can step into their classrooms with greater confidence, comfort, and hope for the future.



When mission unites

Potchefstroom has long been known as a town of strong, independent churches—each faithfully pursuing its own mission, but often doing so separately. The Missions Market began to tell a different story. Love Potch was privileged to help facilitate an initiative that brought six churches together around a shared vision: raising funds for their own local and international mission projects while demonstrating the power of unity.

The evening was a celebration of collaboration, with each church contributing its own unique menu item, creating an atmosphere of warmth, generosity, and community. What started as a simple idea exceeded all expectations, drawing more than 500 people and proving that when churches choose partnership over isolation, they can inspire an entire community. More than a successful fundraiser, the Missions Market became a powerful symbol of what is possible when people unite around a common purpose—laying the foundation for deeper relationships and greater collective impact in the years ahead.



Business expo | ... If you want to go far, go together...

It was an incredible experience to be the only NPO at the Innovation Hub's business expo. We used the entire day to network, build relationships with stakeholders, plan possible projects, and establish ourselves as the company's strategic partner in town transformation. Close to 30 other businesses also joined the Expo, and we are excited to see what becomes of the Innovation Hub grounds, as local businesses are given an opportunity to function properly.



Get the **uMngeni Community Hub App Today!**



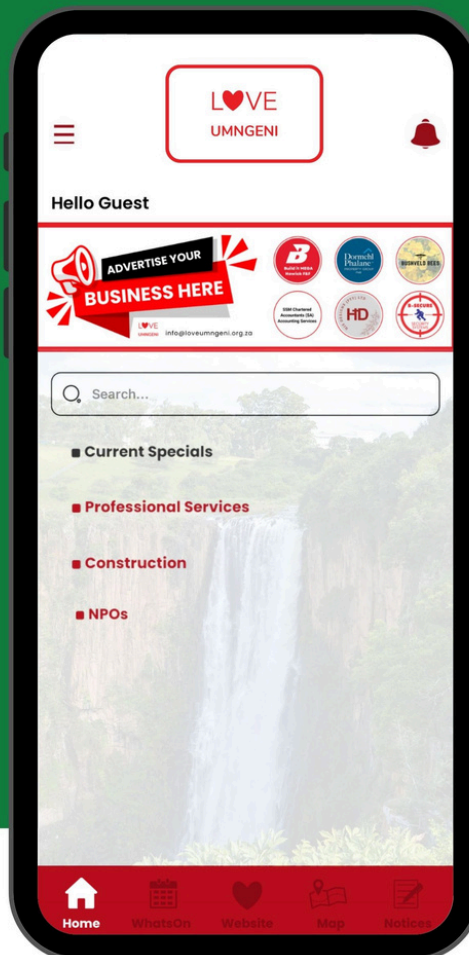
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- ✓ Update your hours, prices, and specials anytime from your phone
- ✓ Track engagement with your own dashboard
- ✓ Customers contact you directly
- ✓ Featured in the events calendar and interactive map

Local Brand Visibility

Instant Customer Connections

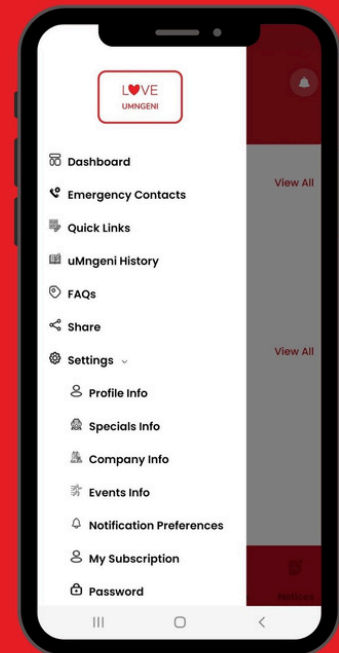
Build Trust, Do Good

Free listings for NGOs and faith communities.

www.loveumngeni.org.za

How to List YOUR Business

- ✓ Download the app
- ✓ Select a 'Business Owner' account
- ✓ Sign up
- ✓ Add your business information
- ✓ Upload your logo and photo
- ✓ Submit for approval
- ✓ Choose your subscription (after approval)
- ✓ Go live (after payment, your business will be visible to the public)
- ✓ Update hours, prices, events, and specials anytime from your phone



SCAN. DOWNLOAD. CONNECT



iOS
(App Store)

**Scan the QR
code for
your device**

**FREE to download and
FREE to use for every
community member.**



Android
(Google Play)

Maths transformation at scale | SIMI's 2026 impact so far

One of Love Cities' most strategic national partners in transforming education is the Shaya Izibalo Maths Institute (SIMI), whose innovative approach is helping to improve the quality of mathematics education across South Africa. By equipping learners with the confidence, skills, and support they need to excel, SIMI is proving that meaningful educational change is both possible and scalable.

The programme has experienced remarkable growth in 2026, expanding from Grades 8 and 12 to include Grade 9, with Grades 10 and 11 set to launch soon. SIMI has also grown from supporting 3,500 learners last year to more than 14,000 learners across 54 schools in six provinces, significantly increasing its national impact.

The results have been equally impressive. After just one year in the programme, dozens of learners improved their mathematics marks by more than 20%, several achieved improvements exceeding 40%, and the highest recorded improvement was an outstanding 45%. Early results from the Grade 8 programme have been especially encouraging, reinforcing the importance of strong foundational learning as the key to long-term success in mathematics.

As Love Cities continues to pursue flourishing communities, partnerships such as SIMI demonstrate that investing in quality education is one of the most powerful ways to unlock human potential, strengthen future workforces, and create lasting opportunities for young South Africans.

Love uMngeni is proud to partner with SIMI at Howick Secondary School. We have funded workbooks, video lessons, and teacher training for Grade 8, 9, and 12 learners this academic year.

But we want to do more.

We need to raise R188,960 to bring SIMI back in 2027, ensuring continuity and lasting impact.

How you can help:

- Sponsor one learner for R160 per year (covers their workbooks)
- Donate via EFT: Love uMngeni NPC | FNB Howick | Acc No: 627 747 27 039 | Branch Code: 220 725 (Ref: SIMI + Your Name)
- Donate online:

<https://loveumngeni.org.za/get-involved/>



IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP



Keeping communities safe has become an increasingly difficult challenge, particularly as policing resources come under growing pressure. In response, SAPS Potchefstroom and the Community Policing Forum (CPF) launched the **Community in Blue (CIB)** initiative—a volunteer program that strengthens visible policing by partnering dedicated community members with active police officers.

The CIB team is made up of 20 unemployed young men from a nearby informal settlement who have chosen to invest their time, energy, and commitment into making their communities safer. Although they receive no financial compensation, they patrol alongside SAPS officers, demonstrating that active citizenship can play a vital role in crime prevention and community wellbeing. Recognising their commitment, Love Potch mobilised local businesses and community members to provide each volunteer with essential winter clothing, including a jacket, trousers, shoes, and a shirt. More than simply meeting a practical need, these donations were a tangible expression of appreciation for individuals who are selflessly serving their community.

Community in Blue is a powerful reminder that safer communities are built not only by law enforcement but by ordinary people who choose to step forward and become part of the solution. Love Potch invites businesses, organisations, and residents to partner with this initiative by sponsoring equipment and essential items that will enable these volunteers to continue making a meaningful difference.

Books find their way to new homes

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Love Potch was contacted to handle some book donations stored in an old house. When we arrived, we were surprised at the amount of books stored there. Thousands of books have been donated, and we were able to facilitate the further distribution of these books to many different projects, ranging from old age homes and school libraries to individuals and even disaster victims. We are grateful that the Potch community is starting to trust us with the identification and distribution of assets such as these books.



One project in particular that brought a smile to everyone's faces was that of a social worker who arrived to collect books for a school's library. This school has, to date, never had books, and this donation would form the bulk of their start-up books. Books that were stored away now became valuable tools to once again inspire, equip and invest in young futures.

Stronger leaders. Stronger schools. Stronger communities.

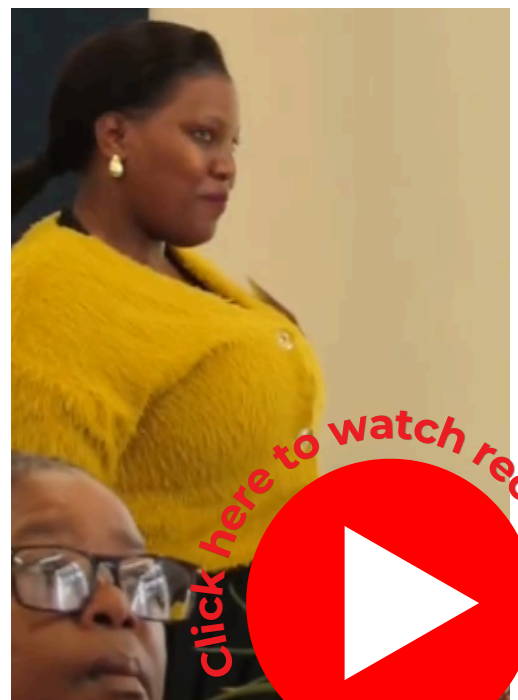
Great schools are built by great leaders. With this vision in mind, Love uMngeni hosted its Education Leadership Development Workshop on 25 June at Hilton College, bringing together 30 principals, department heads, and senior leadership team members from 16 local schools for a day of learning, collaboration, and professional growth.

The workshop featured insights from respected education leaders, including George Harris (Hilton College), Henko Jansen (Grace College), and Cath Slevin (Linc Foundation), who explored practical ways to develop teachers into confident, capable leaders. Doni Hogarty challenged participants to lead with greater intentionality through a thought-provoking session on time management, encouraging leaders to ask themselves, "Really?" as they reflected on what they needed to stop doing in order to focus on what matters most.

Janine Ward (S.P.A.C.E.) introduced the principles of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD), inspiring school leaders to shift their focus from deficits to strengths and to recognise the assets already present within their schools and communities.

One participant reflected, "This has been one of the best workshops I have attended. There are definite takeaways I will be implementing."

Love uMngeni extends sincere thanks to Hilton College for generously hosting the workshop, the Sweetwaters Education Trust for sponsoring lunch, and every school leader who invested time in their own growth. Because when leaders continue to learn, schools become stronger, teachers flourish, and learners are better equipped to reach their full potential.



Running for a Cause:

Turning Kilometres into School Shoes

Run so others can Walk



We're only halfway through 2026, yet the impact of the My Walk Campaign is already changing thousands of young lives.

Together with Love Cities partners—Love Muldersdrift, Love uMngeni, Love Potch, Love Mkhondo, and various collaborators—we have placed 4,641 pairs of My Walk school shoes on the feet of children, giving them not only comfort and dignity, but the confidence to step into school ready to learn and thrive. This remarkable achievement has been made possible through the generosity of businesses, schools, churches, NGOs, community groups, and individual donors. Children across six South African provinces have benefited, supported by partners from five countries. We have even seen two incredible runners take on the Two Oceans and Comrades Marathons so that others could simply walk to school with pride. Yet our work is far from finished. Thousands of children are still waiting for their first pair of school shoes.

The next chapter begins this July with My Walk Emeris, and we'd love you to be part of the journey. Whether you run, give, sponsor, or partner with us, every step you take helps another child take theirs. Together, we can ensure that even more children walk into school—and into their future—with confidence, dignity, and hope.





US AFRICA
COLLABORATIVE

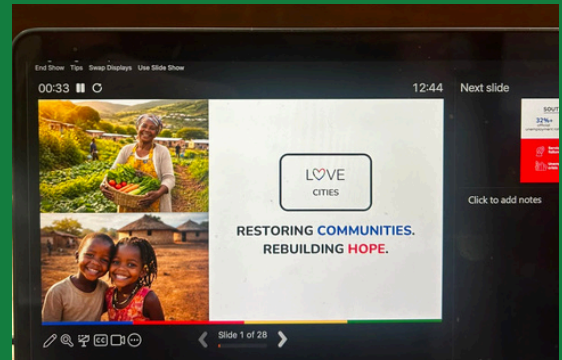
LOVE CITIES AT THE PAN AFRICAN CITY SYMPOSIUM & EXPOSITION 2026

Love Cities was privileged to participate in the Pan African City Symposium & Exposition (PACSE) 2026 at Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha, where CEO Matt Hogarty joined urban leaders, academics, policymakers, and practitioners from across Africa and the United States to explore the future of thriving cities and stronger communities.

Presenting the Love Cities model, Matt challenged one of the greatest barriers to community transformation: fragmentation. While investment, policy, and effective governance remain essential, he argued that the future of African cities will ultimately be determined by their ability to build trust, align diverse stakeholders, and cultivate a shared vision for flourishing. The Love Cities approach demonstrates that when local government, business, schools, faith communities, NGOs, and citizens move beyond working in isolation and begin collaborating intentionally, cities become more resilient, innovative, and capable of addressing complex social challenges together.

The symposium also created valuable opportunities for collaboration with delegates from the United States, opening conversations around shared urban challenges, innovative community development models, and future international partnerships. These cross-continental relationships reinforce Love Cities' commitment to learning from global best practice while contributing a uniquely South African model of collaborative, place-based transformation.

PACSE provided an important platform to share this vision with leaders from around the world, demonstrating that the principles of collaboration, shared ownership, and local leadership have the power to transform cities far beyond South Africa.



SHAYA IZIBALO MATHS INSTITUTE

...because a decent Mathematics education should be a right for all



A NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP TO TRANSFORM MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

South Africa's mathematics crisis is one of the greatest barriers to unlocking opportunity for the next generation. Today, only a small percentage of learners achieve strong mathematics results, limiting access to careers in science, engineering, technology and many other high-demand fields.

To help address this challenge, **Love Cities has entered into a national partnership with SIMI Maths (Shaya Izibalo Maths Institute)** to expand access to quality mathematics education in under-resourced schools across the country. The SIMI program combines innovative teaching methods with printed learner workbooks, online and AI-supported learning resources, engaging teaching videos, teacher training, revision workshops and ongoing educator support. Backed by the Department of Basic Education, the programme equips both learners and teachers with the tools they need to succeed.

Most importantly, **the model is already delivering measurable results.** Over a three-year period, schools using the SIMI programme recorded significant improvements in their Grade 12 Mathematics pass rates, demonstrating the life-changing impact that quality support can have in communities.

Love Cities is now working to implement this program in as many schools as possible across South Africa. To make this vision a reality, we are seeking corporate partners and sponsors who share our commitment to educational transformation. Together, we can equip thousands more learners with the mathematical skills they need to build brighter futures and strengthen our nation's economy.

Interested in partnering with us?

Contact Matt to discuss how your organisation can help bring this program to more schools across South Africa.

matt@lovecities.org.za

Measurement & Evaluation

SIMI provides termly assessments to measure success, with memos and marking guides provided.

Grade 12 – 2025:

Of the 21 schools measured:

- ALL have shown nice improvement since using SIMI

Schools where SIMI has worked for last 3 years...

Matric Pass rate over the years

	Shea O Connor	Eminyezaneni	Senzokuhle
2020	69%	16%	60%
2021	52%	10%	41%
2022	48%	66%	22%
2023	100%	73%	50%
2024	100%	71%	71%





KFC Mini Cricket Conference Hosted by Cricket SA

Love Cities CEO Matt Hogarty recently addressed delegates at the Cricket South Africa and KFC Mini Cricket National Conference, presenting a keynote titled "Hope: The Currency of Community Development." His message challenged delegates to see hope not as an abstract ideal, but as the essential ingredient that unlocks human potential, inspires action, and enables communities to flourish.

Using the growing partnership between Love Cities, Cricket South Africa, and KFC Mini Cricket as a practical example, Matt demonstrated how sport can become a powerful platform for social transformation. Beyond teaching cricket, the programme creates safe spaces for young people to belong, builds confidence and character, develops future leaders, and strengthens the social fabric of communities.

Together, these organisations are helping young people discover purpose, realise their potential, and create pathways to brighter futures—proving that when communities invest in their children, they invest in the future of South Africa.



The session reinforced the incredible impact that collaborative partnerships can have when organizations unite around a shared vision: creating hope that leads to lasting change.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

HOSTED BY LOVE NELSON MANDELA BAY

Our 2026 Love Cities Annual Conference was an inspiring few days of learning, connection, and collaboration as community leaders, practitioners, churches, businesses, and partners gathered from across South Africa.

Together, we explored how we can move from good work to real impact through practical workshops, powerful keynote sessions, honest conversations, and the sharing of real stories of transformation happening in our cities.

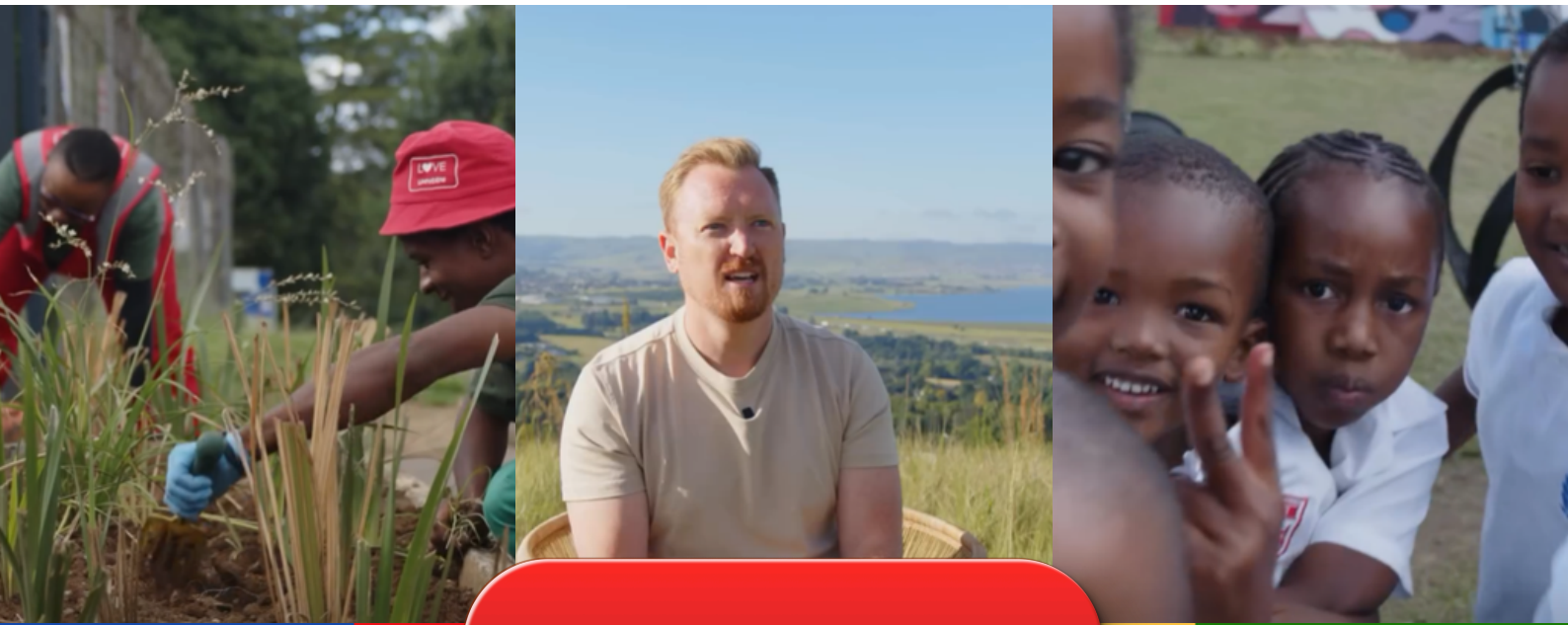
Get ready for 2027 Annual Conference - you don't want to miss it!



A huge thank you to our incredible speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, volunteers, and every delegate who contributed to making this year's conference such a success. Your passion, experience, and willingness to learn from one another continue to strengthen the Love Cities movement.



TOGETHER, WE CREATE LASTING CHANGE



[CLICK HERE TO PLAY THE VIDEO](#)

Real change doesn't happen through one big solution—it happens when people come together, each playing their part.

Across South Africa, there are people investing their time, skills, resources, and influence to help create pathways of hope and opportunity. That's what we're committed to at Love Cities: **building ecosystems where people can thrive, communities can flourish, and lasting change can take root.**

Whether you're a volunteer, a partner, a supporter, or simply someone who believes our country can be better, there's a place for you in the story.

Take a moment to watch this conversation with Matt. We hope it inspires you to imagine what's possible when we work together. 🇿🇦

If you'd like to find out more or explore ways to get involved, we'd love to hear from you: hello@lovecities.org.za



My Walk @ Emeris: Every Step Made a Difference

This year's My Walk @ Emeris was a remarkable celebration of generosity, purpose, and community, with inspiring events held at the Emeris Pietermaritzburg and Ruimsig campuses. Students, staff, families, and supporters united to walk and run for something far greater than themselves—giving children across South Africa the opportunity to walk into school with confidence, dignity, and hope.

The response was extraordinary. Together, participants raised enough funding to provide approximately 3,500 pairs of My Walk school shoes for children in under-resourced communities. Every step taken and every rand raised represents more than a pair of shoes—it is an investment in a child's education, self-worth, and future.

The impact of this year's event will be measured not only in kilometres covered, but in thousands of young lives given the confidence to take their next step towards a brighter tomorrow.



We were also proud to have members of the Love Cities network represented on the day, including **Love uMngeni**, **Love Muldersdrift**, and **Love Potchefstroom**, who joined in the event and helped demonstrate the power of communities working together for lasting change.

A heartfelt thank you to **Emeris**, **MyWalk Made with Soul**, **Run/Walk For Life**, **every volunteer, participant, sponsor, and supporter** who made this event possible. Together, we proved that when people unite around a shared purpose, every step truly makes a difference.

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.



ander matt.co.za

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.



dropinn.net

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.



vond.co.za

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.



sanlam.com

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.



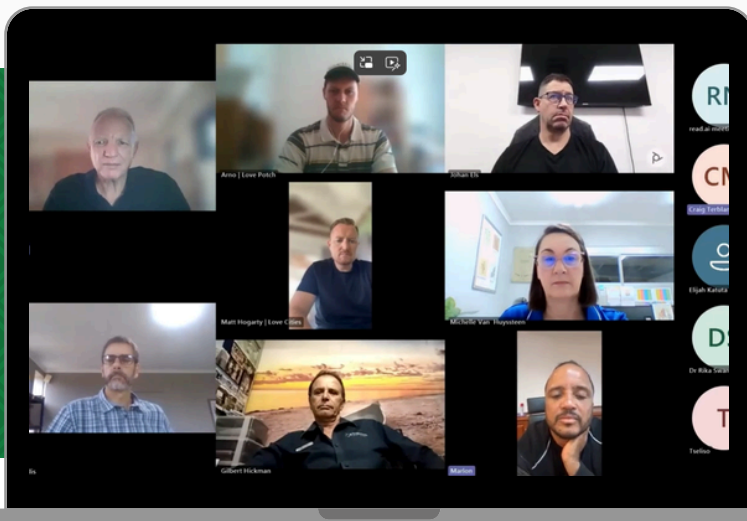
NATION
BUILDER

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



Government Partnerships

Stronger Communities Through Collaboration

Creating thriving communities is not something any one sector can do alone. Lasting change happens when **government, businesses, non-profit organisations, and local residents work together around a shared vision.**

As **Mayor Chris Pappas of the uMngeni Local Municipality** shares in his video message, municipalities have a vital role in delivering services and enabling development, but strong partnerships are what unlock the full potential of a community. Love Cities exists to help bridge those partnerships—bringing together passionate people, organisations, and local government to identify opportunities, respond to local challenges, and create meaningful, lasting impact.

From skills development and environmental initiatives to community beautification and economic development, collaboration allows every partner to contribute their unique strengths for the benefit of the whole community.

Watch Mayor Chris Pappas share why partnerships between local government and organisations like Love Cities are essential for building stronger, more resilient communities.



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



upcoming.

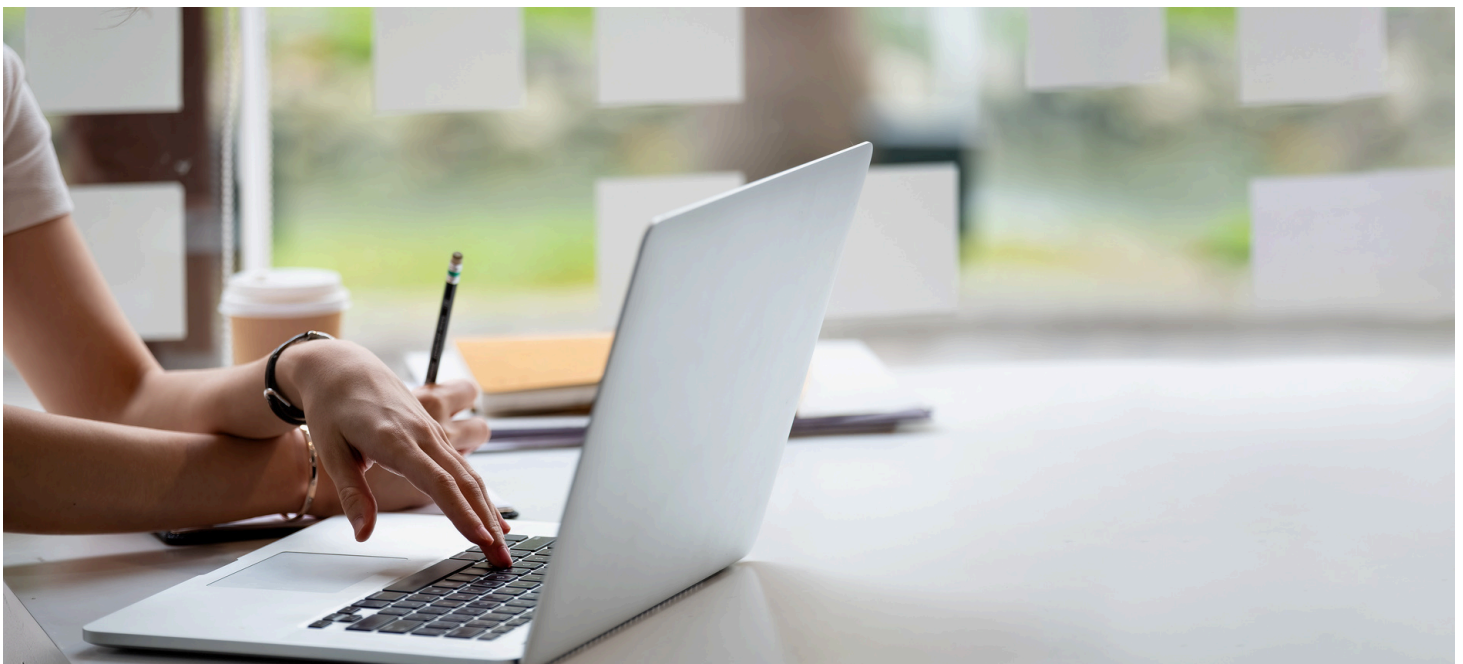
LOVE CITIES SA EVENTS



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.

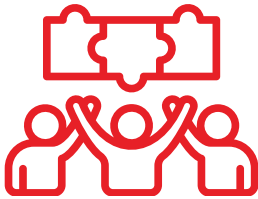
DATE	TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
Aug 6, 2026	8:30 - 9:30	NO LC Training	1-to-1 Check Ins
Aug 13, 2026	8:30 - 9:30	LC Info Session	Matt Hogarty
Aug 20, 2026	8:30 - 9:30	LC Colab	Host: Matt Hogarty
Sep 24, 2026	Whole Day	uBuntu at the Table	(More to come)
Oct 18, 2026	Whole Day	Nelson Mandela Marathon	Cape Town



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

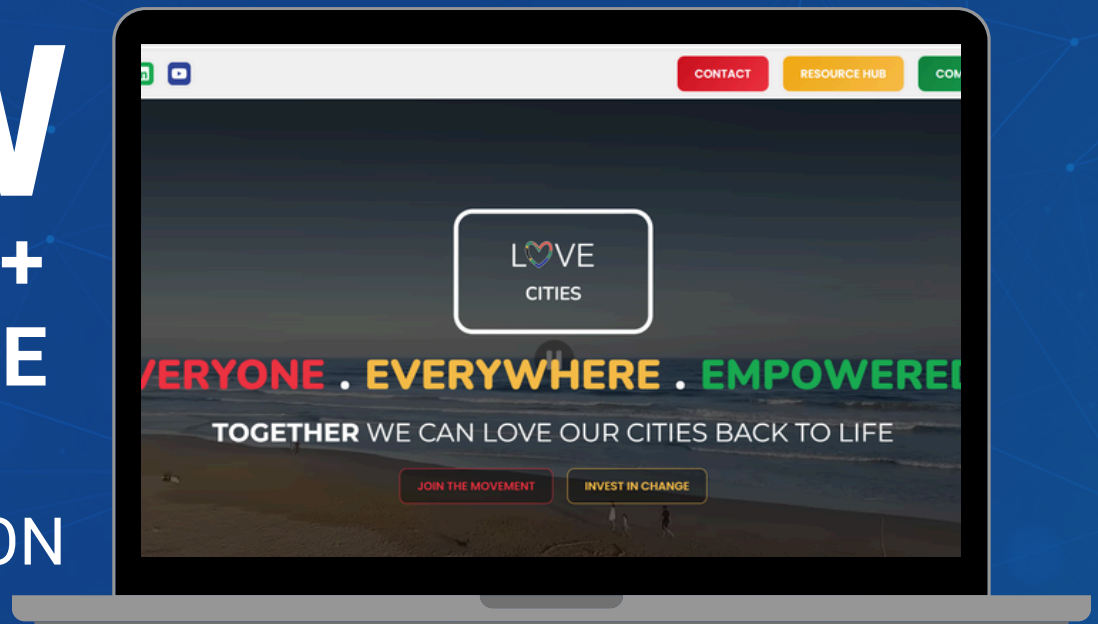
Account no: 630 998 48302

Branch no: 220 725

First National Bank Howick

LOVE
CITIES

NEW WEBSITE + RESOURCE HUB 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
CITIES



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