

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

UTHANDO (LOVE) SOUTH AFRICA



DATE :

April 2023 - March 2024

www.uthandosa.org.za

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Director's Overview



As I look back on the past year, I am filled with both pride and gratitude for the remarkable strides we have made and the unwavering support we have received. This year has been a testament to our resilience and dedication to our mission of spreading love and creating positive change in our communities.

One of the most significant milestones we achieved this year was the official groundbreaking for Goal50 in August. This project represents a major leap forward, as we embark on building another Early Childhood Development (ECD) center in Heideveld, using recycled materials like plastic bottles and tyres. This project not only addresses critical needs in our communities but also exemplifies our commitment to environmental accountability.

This year has not been without its challenges. We have faced numerous trials and a prevailing sense of negativity that has impacted our communities deeply. In response, we have embarked on a mission to continue flooding the world with love and hope. This mission is more than just a statement; it is a vital tool aimed at the continuous support at improving food security, developing skills, and offering meaningful experiences to underserved communities in Cape Town. Addressing these needs is central to our mission, and we are passionate about providing opportunities for those who have been overlooked.

Our financial performance this year has been pivotal in enabling these ambitious projects. The generous support from our donors, partners, and community has been crucial in sustaining and expanding our initiatives. Their commitment ensures that we can continue to pursue our goals and make a tangible impact.

Leading Uthando through this transformative year has been both challenging and rewarding. Our governance structure has provided the stability and guidance necessary to navigate these changes effectively. I am deeply grateful to my team and our board for their steadfast support and dedication.

As we look to the future, our focus will remain on expanding our impact and pursuing innovative solutions to community challenges.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been part of this journey—our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters. Your belief in our mission and your unwavering support have made all the difference. Together, we are turning challenges into opportunities and dreams into reality.

As we move forward, let us continue to work together with love and purpose, making a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve.

James Fernie
Founding Director, Uthando (Love) South Africa



Executive Summary

Overview

Founded on October 17, 2007, Uthando (Love) South Africa is a Cape Town-based non-profit with a mission to uplift communities facing poverty and inequality. Driven by a belief in shared humanity and sustainable development, Uthando offers financial and practical support to vetted grassroots projects. These initiatives span sectors like early childhood education, urban agriculture, youth development, and animal welfare. By blending philanthropy with experiential learning, Uthando connects international donors and tourists to the heart of South African communities, creating meaningful and lasting change.

Key Findings and Recommendations

Uthando's mission to expand its impact aligns with its Theory of Change, focusing on addressing poverty and inequality through grassroots initiatives. By extending support to more community projects, Uthando can create a ripple effect of sustainable change across additional areas. Strengthening the connection between tourism and community development through immersive experiences will facilitate deeper engagement from tourists, encouraging continued investment and a shared commitment to long-term community upliftment.

Goals and Objectives



Expansion and Reach

- **Increased Project Support:** Uthando plans to increase the number of supported projects, broadening its impact in more communities in the next year.
- **Boost Global Support:** By increasing international awareness, Uthando will attract more global donors and resources for local initiatives.



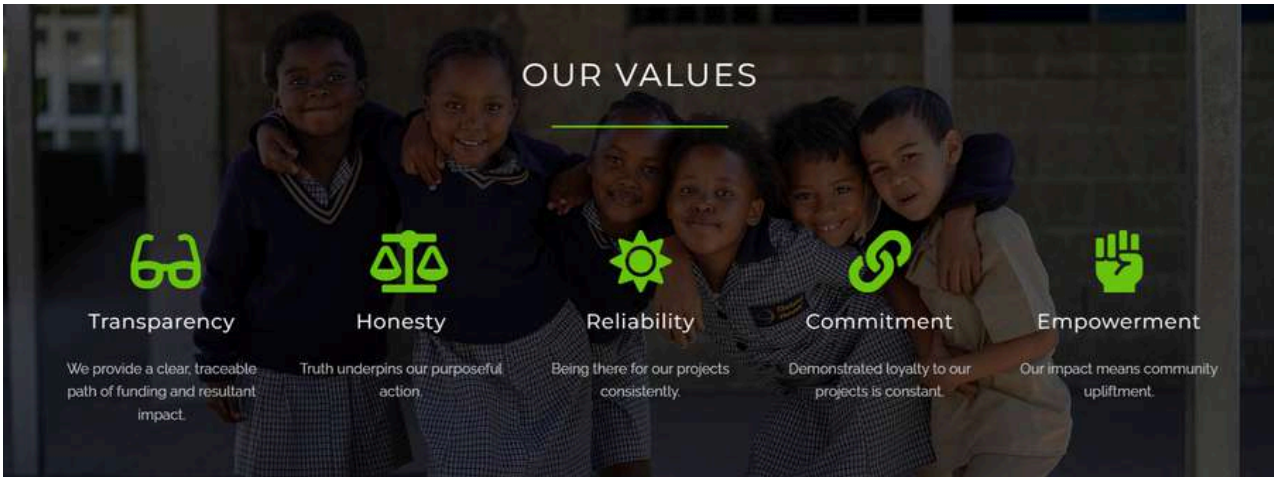
Strengthen Tourism-Community connections

- **Enhanced Tourist Engagement:** Uthando will offer more immersive tours that directly connect tourists with local projects, deepening their involvement and support.
- **Stronger Partnerships:** Uthando will foster closer collaboration between tourism operators and community initiatives, ensuring mutual growth and sustainable impact.



Beneficiary summit

- **Facilitate Collaboration:** Organize a summit to foster networking and collaboration among beneficiaries, aiming to strengthen partnerships and align resources for greater collective impact.
- **Increase Project Visibility:** Use the summit to showcase each project's achievements and needs, enhancing visibility and attracting potential investors and supporters for expanded funding and support.



Vision

To foster a world where every community can flourish, free from the constraints of poverty, hunger, and inequality. We strive to empower grassroots initiatives that build resilience, promote shared humanity, and champion sustainable development. Through collective effort and collaboration, we envision a future where all individuals have the opportunity to thrive, contribute, and live with dignity.

Mission

Uthando (Love) South Africa partners with community-driven projects to provide financial and practical support, addressing critical socio-economic challenges. Through innovative philanthropic tourism and strategic partnerships, we connect global citizens with transformative community initiatives, ensuring lasting impact and shared growth.

Meet Our Team



James Fernie

FOUNDING DIRECTOR

James Fernie is a social entrepreneur and founder of Uthando (Love) South Africa, a tourism initiative linking travel with philanthropy. He also chairs the Harfield Village Association, fostering community development and social justice.



Xolani Maseko

FOUNDING DIRECTOR

Xolani, a specialist guide at Uthando since 2012, focuses on responsible tourism and community empowerment in Cape Town. He holds an Advanced Diploma in Education and has been recognized for his cultural guiding work.



Melissa Foley

**DIGITAL/MARKETING/
SUSTAINABILITY**

Melissa, a seasoned marketing executive with global experience in 83 countries, focuses on sustainability in tourism. She leads All About Africa Consulting in C.T and serves on the board of the International Mountain Explorers Connection, promoting ethical tourism and impactful collaborations.

From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

DWAYNE MORGAN “FAIRY TALES”

We were honored to host a special visit from Dwayne Morgan, an iconic figure in the Canadian arts scene. Dwayne, often hailed as the 'Godfather of Canadian Spoken Word,' generously shared his book, *Fairy Tales*, with several early childhood development centers.

With over two decades of experience, Dwayne Morgan has been a trailblazer in the world of spoken word, inspiring countless artists and audiences across Canada and beyond. His impactful performances and workshops have resonated deeply with people of all ages and backgrounds, leaving a lasting impression on all who have experienced his work.



The children at Masibulele Educare enjoying “Fairy Tales”

From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

Uthando sponsored an outing for the patients from Eyes2Eyes who gained their vision as a result of this remarkable foundation. The visit took place on Saturday 10 June and was really quite magical. It was a beautiful and heartwarming experience to see people who only recently obtained their eyesight due to the special scleral lenses which Eyes2Eyes sponsor.

Talking to some of the patients who live in some of the most dangerous crime areas in Cape Town, we were humbled and inspired by their tenacity, courage and determination despite the severe challenges, made even worse by having no vision. Thank you Eyes2Eyes2020 for providing the gift of sight to so many deserving people and helping to improve their lives dramatically.



Part of the 2023 We Are Africa donation sponsored young Likho to receive this scleral lenses. Director of Eyes2Eyes, Amanda Secombe sent the following email to describe the feeling of the lenses being fitted into Likho's eyes :

“WOW!

What an incredible morning!

Young Likho travelled all the way from rural Butterworth, in the Eastern Cape to receive his precious gift of sight!

That's quite a #journey - and when you can't see its an even bigger challenge.

Likho's bus trip across 10 hours on his way #home will be a whole lot easier. He is also going to see the beautiful countryside for the first time in many years. @uthandosa we are so incredibly grateful to you for hearing this young man's story! He has never given up hope of seeing again - thanks to your incredible support Likho can finish Grade 11 this year with crystal clear sight. His final year at school is now well in sight! His mom is overcome with gratitude and excitement that her son no longer has to live with unnecessary blindness. #restoresight #vision #charitablegiving #school #Ubuntu #learning”



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

HANOVER PARK EASTER EGG DRIVE

While we didn't reach the impressive 14,000 eggs we collected in 2022 for the children in Hanover Park, the joy brought by even a single child's smile made our special delivery of 2,500 Easter eggs truly worthwhile. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual Hanover Park Easter Egg Drive. Your support has been nothing short of magical, and each of you played the role of the Easter Bunny. The Alcardo Andrews Foundation is such a worthwhile organisation, and we continue to bring joy to the spaces where people cannot reach. We extend our sincerest gratitude for the support we receive, we cannot do it without the kind hearts of our partners



The Alcardo Andrews Foundation



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICA TRAVEL WEEK

Thank you to Africa Travel week for sponsoring the floor space so that Uthando SA could exhibit at the tourism trade show held at the Cape Town Convention Centre.

The unique and unusual installation constructed from tyres and located in the “Sustainability Village” attracted a lot of attention. The goal of the installation was to raise awareness and funding for the construction of **Goal50 Edu Hub**, the next pre-school to be built from tyres, plastic bottles and recycled materials.



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICA TRAVEL WEEK PRESS TRIP

During Africa Travel Week, Uthando had the privilege of participating in a media and press trip. We were delighted to host a dynamic and diverse group of journalists from around the globe, who thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon with us. Their engagement and enthusiasm highlighted the impactful work of Uthando and helped share our mission with a wider audience.

David Brown from the Two Bad Tourists wrote :

“It was by far one of the best parts of the trip to South Africa”



The media group visiting Zama Dance School

From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

VERSATILE DANCE GROUP

Education extends beyond the classroom. In many government schools across the townships, after-school opportunities are often limited or nonexistent. At Uthando, we are dedicated to supporting a range of youth development projects that offer children the chance to engage in activities such as dancing, singing, playing musical instruments, and participating in sports. Our commitment is to provide these enriching experiences that nurtures growth and creativity beyond traditional education for children from township communities to visit and experience attractions outside of the township, planting seeds of inspiration and igniting dreams within them.

On 1 April 2023 Versatile Dance School hosted a repeat of its 2022 Dance Showcase IDENTITY. Director Thimna Sitokisi wrote after the performance :

“Thank you so much to everyone who came to support and watch these talented souls and our huge gratitude to Uthando SA for your continued support always.”



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

CHRISTEL HOUSE SCHOOL “A WORLD WHERE POVERTY DOES NOT LIMIT POTENTIAL”

Christaylor Booyesen’s education at Christel House School has been fully sponsored throughout her time there. Christel House is one of only nine unique non-profit schools globally, dedicated to preparing nearly 1,000 students for upward economic mobility, responsible citizenship, and the realization of their personal and professional potential. Christaylor aspires to a career in tourism. Her advice to her younger self is: “Ignore the distractions, focus on honing your skills, and strive to make a difference, no matter how small.”



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

LADLES OF LOVE THANKS

Uthando began its support for Ladles of Love in 2020, during the National Lockdown when access to food was a critical issue for many South Africans. At the onset of the pandemic, Ladles of Love was providing approximately 15,000 meals per month. Since March 2020, their growth has been nothing short of extraordinary. They have become a vital lifeline, delivering an impressive 36 million meals and significantly impacting countless lives in the process.



“Our mama warriors are an inspiration to us all, and their selfless acts of love and kindness are a reminder of the importance of giving back to our communities on such special occasions as true #LoveActivists.

Let us use this long weekend to remember those in need and join together in our mission to alleviate hunger in children and families.”

– LADLES OF LOVE (Easter Weekend)

From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

ABALIMI BEZEKHAYA “FARMERS OF HOME”

With 41 years of dedicated experience in urban micro farming, Abalimi Bezekhaya (Farmers of Home) empowers communities across Cape Town by providing the resources needed to create and sustain their own organic vegetable gardens. Rooted in a philosophy of respect for the earth, people, and the planet, Abalimi fosters sustainable agricultural practices that benefit both individuals and the environment.



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

AMY FOUNDATION “TOGETHER CHANGING LIVES”

In South Africa’s challenging climate of rising youth unemployment, the Amy Foundation is a crucial lifeline. By providing essential skills and mentorship, they empower young people to become motivated and inspiring role models. Our support helps amplify their impact, transforming adversity into opportunity and fostering hope for a brighter future. Through this partnership, we are investing in the next generation of leaders who will drive positive change in their communities.



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

TABLE TENNIS FOR PHILISA ABAFAZI BETHU (HEAL OUR WOMEN)

We Are Africa sponsored a tennis table at the Philisa Abafazi Bethu (Heal Our Women) SA Centre. We had the table painted by an artist Ras Silas Motse. We are incredibly grateful to We Are Africa for their ongoing support and commitment towards meaningful projects in Cape Town.

THE ARTIST, -RAS SILAS MOTSE WROTE THE FOLLOWING ON SOCIAL MEDIA AFTER PAINTING THE TABLE:

"I had such an incredible energy painting this tennis table sponsored by We Are Africa at the Philisa Abafazi Bethu SA Centre. The theme is 🇷🇺 Love is Love 🇷🇺 in support and solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ Community, so many of whom continue to suffer terrible violence, injustice and discrimination all around the world. Personally I have always longed to see my work along the nation! It feels so good and as you can see! it fits! #rainbownation"

Nicole Joy Alexander, Director of the shelter, shared the following message:

"I truly must admit the amount of gratitude from Pride Shelter Trust to Uthando South Africa for the incredible support in this partnership. Your donation towards the Shelter has gone towards expenses such as food, utility expenses and other general daily expenses. Continue the magic that Uthando contributes in the community. Stay warm and safe."



From the past year...

HIGHLIGHTS

CHRISTEL HOUSE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Another significant highlight on the Uthando calendar is the General Assembly of Christel House School South Africa. This nonprofit institution delivers world-class holistic education to nearly 1,000 children. Key components of the school's holistic model, in addition to quality education, include daily transportation, nutritious meals, professional healthcare, career planning, and much more. For 2023, the cost per learner was R70,125.00.



A warm greeting from the junior learners



So good to see the learners having fun on the Uthando table tennis table



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

IKHAYA "HOME" GARDEN CELEBRATES 10TH BIRTHDAY

Over the past decade, Ikhaya (Home) Garden, envisioned by founder Xolisa Bangani, transformed into a flourishing urban food forest, redefining the essence of gardening. With Uthando's support since July 2013, the garden not only grew but emerged as a symbol of community empowerment and sustainability. On October 27th, the garden celebrated its 10th anniversary with a vibrant event that brought together school children, community members, and donors in a joyful and unifying celebration. This milestone highlighted the profound impact of a visionary project that turned gardening into a powerful source of pride and connection for many.



Children at the Isikhokelo Primary School getting excited about vegetables





From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS



**GILTEDGE TRAVEL
TEAM VISIT TO AMY
FOUNDATION**

Connecting people is at the heart of what we do. Thanks to Giltedge Travel's generous support, the Amy Foundation continues to transform lives. Their impact is profound: 1,485 students have entered employment and internships, and 175 new businesses are fueling the local economy. Through their After School Centres, 1,200 children discover and develop talents, while their Youth Skills Training Centre empowers young adults with the skills and confidence needed to thrive. This partnership is not just support; it's a catalyst for change and opportunity.

From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

EYES2EYES – THE “GIFT OF SIGHT” FOR BRONWYN

We are incredibly grateful to have sponsored another patient, Bronwyn Klaasen, through the Eyes2Eyes initiative. This support means so much, as it not only provides Bronwyn with the gift of sight but also empowers her to embrace life with renewed confidence and opportunity.

We were delighted to receive a lovely photo and heartfelt message from Amanda Seccombe, the founder of the Eyes2Eyes Foundation. Her dedication to making a difference in the lives of those in need is truly inspiring, and we are proud to be part of this impactful journey. Together, we are transforming lives and fostering hope within our community.

Super excited - soon Bronwyn will be able to see again!
We are so grateful to our friends Uthando South Africa for your very generous donation to help restore this young lady's sight. Huge love for your support and faith in what we do!

Bronwyn is over the moon to hear the news about getting her custom-fitted scleral lenses.

She has been battling #keratoconus since her high school years. Now 30 years old, we are elated that very soon her struggle will be over.

Bronwyn's grace shines so brightly, despite a really tough 13 years of horrendous eye problems. She had to stop working because of her sight loss and that's put an added strain on her life. If you look closely, you will see one of her eyes is blue, due to corneal scarring.

Bronwyn is focused on getting back to work as soon as possible - financial independence is high on her priority list. At the same time, she wants to work in a sector where she can give back and help others.

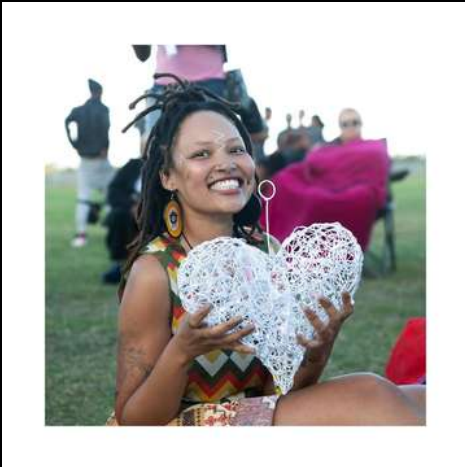
I loved sharing the news with her - she's so filled with compassion and enormous gratitude to all Uthando South Africa
Here's a real eye warrior who is going to thrive with her new "eyes".
Thank you from all at eyes2eyes2020 for this incredible gift!



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

“READY TO RISE FOR FREEDOM” INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY EVENT



The Kaalvoet “Barefoot” Princess



Zaida, whose daughter was murdered in Gender Based Violence 4 years ago found great comfort in receiving a heart.



Beautiful illuminating hearts were handed to many of the activists by the Uthando team in recognition of their kind and courageous hearts.

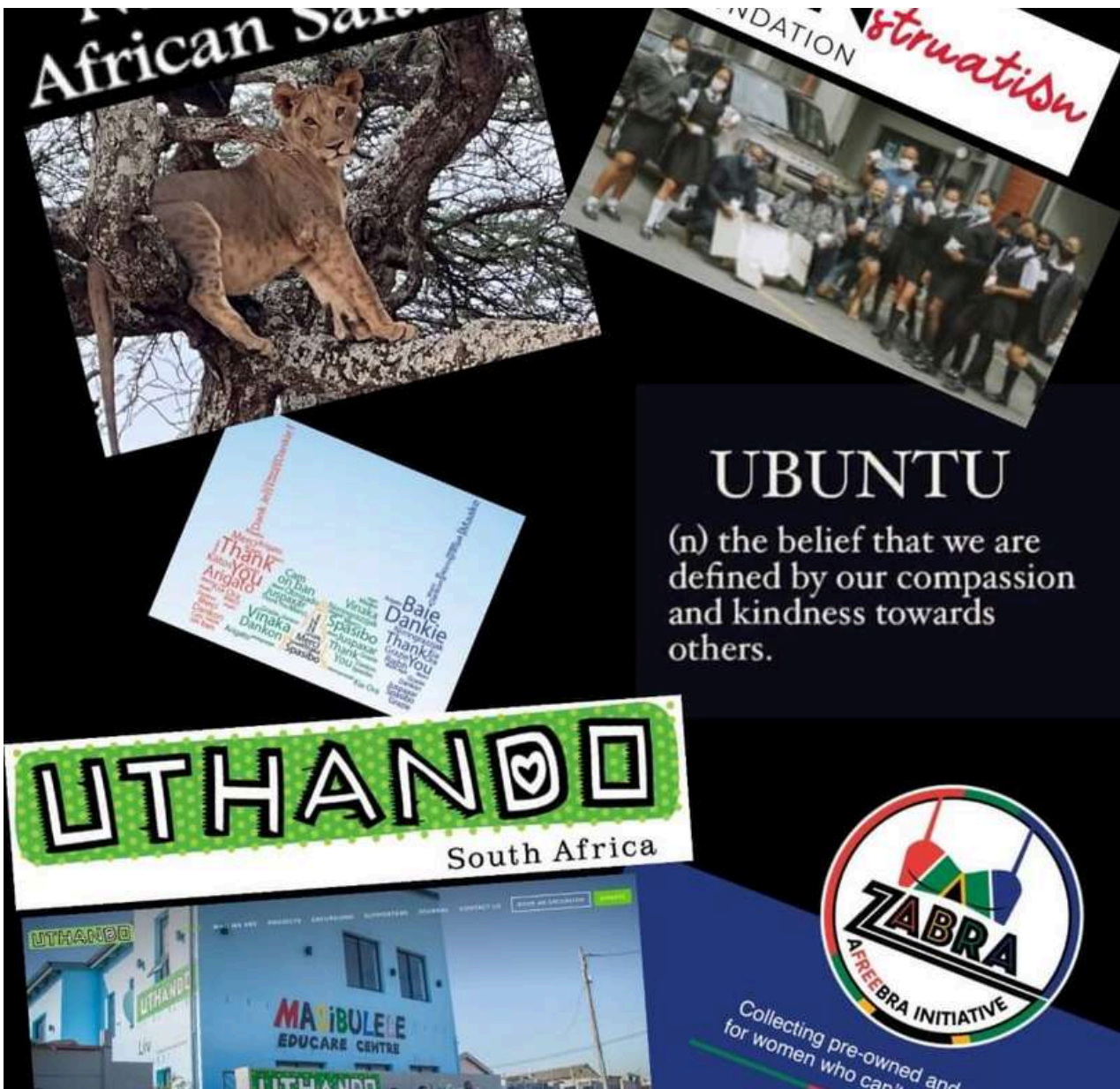
We were honoured and thrilled to participate in the 2024 event, uniting incredible women and LGBTQI+ activists from across the Western Cape. Uthando added to the love and joy of this already remarkable gathering by bringing illuminated hearts, which infused the event with warmth and positivity. This celebration of solidarity and inclusivity was made even more special through these vibrant symbols of connection and support.

From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

ZABRA : AFREEBRA INITIATIVE - COLLECTING PRE-OWNED AND NEW BRAS FOR WOMEN WHO CAN'T AFFORD THEIR OWN

Uthando is proud to be part of the ZABRA: AFREEbra Initiative, an international effort to collect pre-owned and new bras for women who cannot afford them. This collaboration is helping to restore dignity and confidence, changing women's lives one bra at a time, and furthering our commitment to community empowerment.



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

WE ARE AFRICA PRESS TRIP: FAIR TRADE SAFARIS (USA) RETURN VISIT TO SINOVUYO “WE ARE HAPPY” SENIORS CENTRE

In 2017, Uthando and Fair Trade Safaris (USA) funded a borehole for the Sinovuyo (We Are Happy) Seniors Centre in Khayelitsha, enabling the creation of a thriving vegetable garden. Driven by "ghetto gardener" Ludwe Qamata, the garden has provided fresh organic vegetables to seniors, even during the challenging 2020 Covid-19 winter. Last year, we brought Fair Trade Safaris' founder back to witness the enduring impact of their investment and the strengthened community ties.



June 2017



2023

From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

PHILISA ABAFAZI BETHU (HEAL OUR WOMEN) FAMILY CENTRE – WALL MURAL

Following the installation of a cement table tennis table at the Philisa Abafazi Bethu (Heal Our Women) (PAB) Centre, featuring the theme "Love is Love," Uthando furthered its commitment to support the LGBTQ+ community by sponsoring a striking mural on the centre's main entrance. This powerful artwork was crafted by the renowned local artist Ras Silas Motse.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Lucinda Evans and the Philisa Abafazi Bethu (Heal Our Women) Centre for welcoming Uthando into their community and allowing us to contribute to their impactful work. Our gratitude also goes to Ras Silas Motse for his exceptional and expressive artistry, which beautifully embodies our shared values of love and acceptance.



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

LADLES OF LOVE

We took great pride in supporting the vital efforts of Ladles of Love. In September 2023, Uthando responded to their urgent call for assistance by providing relief to 1,000 individuals through their dedicated network. Our support helped deliver crucial aid during a time of need, reinforcing our commitment to community welfare and the impactful work of Ladles of Love. Below was the call for assistance.

“One week ago, the Western Cape was filled with excitement for the Heritage Day long weekend. But the weather warnings turned our anticipation into concern. The relentless storm left a devastating impact, particularly in the Overberg area.

Our Ladles of Love community, fuelled by compassion and kindness, swiftly responded to the crisis. Our Women Warriors and our team in Hermanus, led by Hilary and Bernard Stern, rallied local support to aid flood victims.

However, we face a humanitarian crisis exacerbated by soaring food prices. To provide food relief, we urgently need funds to purchase over 20 tons of essential groceries, including rice, samp, and potatoes. Clothing and blankets are also in high demand.

We desperately need funds to buy fresh produce and staple foods to feed vulnerable people left destitute and displaced from storms and floods in the Western Cape. For every R1,000, we can feed 200 people via our network of community soup kitchens.

This is a time for drastic action and unwavering compassion. The sun may be shining, but the crisis continues. With your support, we can make a difference.”



**Flood Victims
Food Relief**

For Western Cape
affected communities.

“Gratitude and blessings”
Daisy

HOW TO HELP? VISIT HERE TO DONATE

Visit: ladlesoflove.org.za

LADLES OF LOVE
Feeding the soul

Image by: PETER LUHANGA
www.groundup.org.za

From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

FEED THE KALTHSA URBAN MICRO FARM – A LOVELY STORY OF RESPONSIBLE TOURISM IN ACTION

In early 2022, Uthando connected with Feed the Kaltsha, a micro farm in Khayelitsha started by five young men during the Covid-19 crisis. The farm, initially supporting a local center, expanded to sell produce and receive support from Timeless Africa Safaris. A Canadian family's visit in July 2023 highlighted the farm's impact, leading to a generous donation that was reinvested into the garden. This reflects the powerful role of tourism in fostering community growth and grassroots change.

"To the Kaplan family

I hope this letter finds you well.

Firstly, we would like to thank and appreciate your generosity and kindness.

Your donation to Feed The Khaltsha has been helpful. We have managed to purchase uniforms for our staff members, which best accommodates winter. It's always a pleasure knowing that everyone is kept healthy and warm when working. This makes us even more productive and motivates us to work even more harder.

It's been hard for the past few months during heavy rains, working wasn't easy as we work in a garden, so as much as we need rain for our crops, too much rain can be a setback for us. Even worse, not being able to consistently work when its pouring was a major issue, but now that we have our uniforms, we'll be able to improvise and be productive.

We also got labels so that we can keep record of where a certain crop has been planted. It is good to label your beds especially when they are in seed stage. It gets hard to identify where you planted your seeds when your yield is big. It is also going to help us identify which tourist came and helped us plant on that certain day. We are also going to label their names and send them pictures when the harvest is ready. We also added more stationary to help us keep track of our records.

This will help our brand by showing that we are united and were a team. At Feed The Khaltsha we believe nothing beats working together, not just as a team but working together as the "Khaltsha"(community). These uniforms are a symbol of unity. Our Vision is to unite everyone, feed the Khaltsha (community) and create jobs.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude; we couldn't do it without you Uthando SA.
Thank you x.

Thapelo Xabanisa, Baluleka Sisusa, Buhle Gantsho, Luthandao Base, Mandla Bhomela"



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

THUNARISO GARDEN WINTER PROGRAM - TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT GARDENING AND HEALTHY DIET

Sponsored by Our.Africa and Uthando SA, the winter holiday program at Thunariso Urban Farm engaged 110 children in hands-on learning about growing organic vegetables and healthy living. Activities included soil preparation, planting, and fun games. Each child received a certificate to share their achievements with teachers at the start of the school term.



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

IKHAYA “HOME” GARDEN CELEBRATES 10TH BIRTHDAY

The founder of Ikhaya (Home) Garden, Xolisa Bangani, envisioned creating an urban food forest and making gardening ‘cool.’ Uthando was honored to support his inspiring efforts since July 2013. Over the past decade, the garden blossomed and thrived. The 10th anniversary was celebrated on Friday, October 27th 2023, with a vibrant event featuring singing, dancing, and joy, bringing together school children from Isikhokelo Primary School, community members, and donors. We are immensely grateful for being partners in this remarkable journey and supporting the vision of making gardening an exciting and engaging pursuit.



This is what Xolisa wrote:

“Wow! What a way to celebrate love with nothing but positive vibrations. It was a special day for Ikhaya Garden. I believe we made history and some good memories, especially for the kids who participated. The aim of the celebration was to make an impact and inspire growth while having some fun as well. As Ikhaya Garden, we are grateful for all the support we have received for all these years and also the support we received on celebrating our success. We want to extend our gratitude to Uthando South Africa and all the donors who made the day possible. It’s always good to know that in this quest to change our community for the better, we not alone. Sithi apho nithatha khona makwande.

From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

DRAGONFLY GOODIES FOR PHILISA ABAFAZI BETHU (HEAL OUR WOMEN) CENTRE

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dragonfly Africa and their clients for their remarkable generosity. Their thoughtful donation of numerous boxes of school supplies had a profound impact on our community. These supplies were distributed to Philisa Abafazi Bethu (Heal Our Women) SA and Uthando South Africa, addressing a critical need in our educational systems.

Given the high cost of quality school supplies in the country, this generous contribution made a substantial difference in supporting young people with their educational needs. Their support greatly alleviated the burden on these communities and provided essential resources to help students succeed in their studies.



Philanthropic Educational
EXCURSIONS

VISIT FROM NINA PATEL: VACATIONS THAT MATTER – USA

We extend our sincere gratitude to Nina Patel from Vacations That Matter (USA) for taking time out of her busy schedule to spend another morning with Uthando in Cape Town. Nina's passion for genuine sustainability aligns closely with our mission, and we deeply appreciate her ongoing friendship and support



Philanthropic Educational

EXCURSIONS

SIMONE SUNKEL: CONNECTING HEARTS THROUGH COMMUNITY PROJECTS

In 2016, we had the pleasure of hosting a remarkable teacher from Bavaria, Germany, named Simone Sunkel, during one of our excursions. Captivated by the beauty of South Africa, Simone was inspired to make a difference. Under her leadership, students at Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium (High School) organized a second-hand book sale, raising funds to support the construction of the new Masibulele (Give Thanks) Educare building. We were thrilled to welcome Simone back to Cape Town, where she had the opportunity to visit the completed Masibulele (Give Thanks) Educare and witness the impact of her efforts.



Simone with principal of Masibulele (Give Thanks) Educare Nwabisa Xaba

Philanthropic Educational
EXCURSIONS

ZAMA DANCE SCHOOL ANNUAL CONCERT



It was an absolute joy to attend the Zama Dance School Annual Concert. We are immensely proud of Mr. Andrew, Ms. Leanne, all the dedicated dance teachers, and the incredibly talented children at Zama Dance School. Watching these young performers express themselves through dance filled our hearts with pride and reminded us of the beauty in the world. This concert is truly a highlight on the Uthando calendar, showcasing the extraordinary talent and spirit of our community.



This piece is called "Spiritual Awakening"

Philanthropic Educational

EXCURSIONS

BRANDBJERG HOJSKOLE GROUP FROM DENMARK

We had the pleasure of hosting our 2nd group of 45 very interesting and interested students from the Brandbjerg Hojskole in Denmark. The day was packed with learning, engaging, dancing, singing and JOY. One of the group members reflected on their day with Uthando on Trip Advisor :

“Some of the most authentic and important genuine knowledge you can obtain, if you want to know more about the legacy of apartheid (which you should). But also about hope and what’s being done to change the lives of less privileged people of Cape Town. An amazing experience, that I can highly recommend for anyone visiting Cape Town. Actually, it’s a must.”



The group with Sihle Tshabalala from Quirky30, an organization providing training on coding to unemployed youth.



Listening to Lucinda Evans, Founder of Philisa Abafazi Bethu “Heal of Women” talk about the challenges around Gender Based Violence in South Africa

Philanthropic, Educational
EXCURSIONS

MAHLATINI TRAVEL DAY OUT WITH UTHANDO

The entire team at Mahlatini Travel dedicated an afternoon from their busy schedules to visit Uthando and engage with two of the community projects they have supported over the past year. The group worked alongside micro farmers in the garden at Moya We Khaya(The Spirit of Home) and observed the children preparing for their dance exams at Zama Dance School. It was a truly enjoyable and rewarding experience for all involved, highlighting the meaningful impact of their support.



Philanthropic, Educational

EXCURSIONS

GLOBAL CITIZEN PROGRAM (USA)



We had the pleasure of hosting a dynamic and engaging group of students from the USA through the Global Citizen Program. This educational travel initiative is tailored for middle school, high school, and college students, offering them a unique opportunity to learn about global citizenship. Participants engaged in meaningful conversations and immersed themselves in new cultures. The group, including both students and facilitators, hailed from various states such as New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Connecticut.

Philanthropic, Educational

EXCURSIONS

AFRICAN MOMENTS VISIT TO SEED

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dennis Speath and Nicole Wagner from African Moments for dedicating a day to Uthando. Their continued support for SEED (**SCHOOLS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT**) in Mitchells Plain is invaluable. Dennis and Nicole shared their experiences at SEED on social media, highlighting the impact of our work together. We appreciate their partnership and commitment to making a difference in the community.

What an amazing day! Thank you to James, Xolani @ Uthando and the incredible people doing such passionate work at the various, truly inspirational projects! 😊



Philanthropic, Educational

EXCURSIONS

ALCARDO ANDREWS FOUNDATION WINTER CAMP FOR YOUTH OF HANOVER PARK



Uthando sponsored a winter camp for the children and young people from Hanover Park. 19 Youth members and 2 Youth leaders from the Alcardo Andrews Foundation attended the 5-day camp at Camp Genesis. The focus and objective of the camp was to empower youth on the different aspects of life and leadership. It was also a perfect opportunity for the youth to break away from the many social ills and daily challenges they face in the gang and crime ridden community of Hanover Park.

These challenges detrimentally impact their confidence, emotional and physical wellbeing, so time away is truly a breath of fresh air for them. Besides having fun, the camp also focused the development of leadership skills for the young people. In the daily games and activities, the youth were taught:

- How to act in leadership roles
- How to take the lead
- How to be assertive
- Boost confidence
- How to be team players

Philanthropic, Educational

EXCURSIONS

INSTITUTE FOR MUSIC & INDIGENOUS ART DEVELOPMENT (IMAD)



Eluxolweni Primary School



We often marvel at how much our visitors enjoy their experiences during our excursions, but it's crucial to also recognize the profound impact on the local community projects. These visits mean so much more than just the interactions; they bring vital awareness and deeply honor the dedication of those involved. Recently, we were touched by a heartfelt note of thanks from IMAD, who expressed their gratitude for bringing visitors to their music school at Eluxolweni Primary School in Khayelitsha. Their appreciation reminds us of the meaningful connections we foster and the positive difference we make together.

Philanthropic, Educational

EXCURSIONS

ROBBEN ISLAND TRIP FOR PHILISA ABAFAZI BETHU "HEAL OUR WOMEN" FAMILY CENTRE

A heartfelt thank you to Elevate Destinations (USA) for their generous annual sponsorship, enabling 60 youth and seniors from Philisa Abafazi Bethu (Heal Our Women) to visit Robben Island for the first time. Special thanks also to Springbok Atlas Tours & Safaris for their discounted transportation. The visit, marking the 15th anniversary of Philisa Abafazi Bethu (Heal Our Women), was met with deep gratitude from participants and was a fitting tribute to their ongoing advocacy against gender-based violence. We're certain Mandela would have been proud.



Philanthropic, Educational

EXCURSIONS

FEED THE KALTSHA URBAN FARM RECOGNIZED BY WESTERN CAPE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

On September 18th, it was a true delight to see the young micro farmers at the Feed the Kaltsha urban farm recognized by Dr. Ivan Meyer, the Western Cape Minister of Agriculture. The minister was visibly moved and greatly impressed by the high quality of the vegetables, the impressive state of the urban farm, and the inspiring leadership of these young men. Their dedication and hard work were powerfully validated, marking a significant moment for urban agriculture in our community.



Philanthropic, Educational

EXCURSIONS

THUNARISO ORGANIC GARDEN SPRING HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

In many township communities, school holidays can be uneventful for children. After the success of our winter program, we were delighted when Africa Safaris sponsored the spring holiday initiative. This support gave over 60 children the chance to work in the garden daily, learning about soil care and vegetable growth.

Led by Thozama Siswana, a visionary and dedicated founder of the organic urban farm, the program provided a valuable learning experience. The children not only gained knowledge about sustainable farming, nature, and teamwork but also enjoyed a fun and engaging holiday activity.



Philanthropic, Educational

EXCURSIONS

VERSATILE DANCE SCHOOL HOLISTIC WINTER CAMP

We were thrilled to have sponsored the Versatile Dance School's Holistic Winter Camp at Rocklands Campsite in Simonstown. The founder of Versatile Dance Group sent the following note:

What a wonderful and beautiful weekend we had this past weekend. Versatile Dance School hosted its first-ever school camp, it was such a life-changing experience for all our students, spending 3 wonderful days in a quiet, peaceful and welcoming environment with beautiful ocean views, mountains, plants and therapeutic sunrise and sunsets.

We facilitated a unique and special program that came out with themes of being "mindfulness, connected, focused and digging deep into our spiritual selves. It was lovely to witness our students being able to share mostly everything amongst themselves, being kind to one another, being able to adapt in a different environment to what they are used to on a daily basis and just to have a team-building experience of connecting, understanding and learning a bit more about each other. The fun-filled activities we had for them made them to be able to work as a team, support and help each other to grow and develop as a unity.

Thank you so much to our wonderful friends Uthando (Love) South Africa alongside my Versatile Dance School Friends who contributed towards this special weekend.





Philanthropic, Educational

EXCURSIONS

MAHLATINI TRAVEL DAY OUT WITH UTHANDO

The entire team at Mahlatini Travel took time out of their very busy schedules to spend an afternoon with Uthando visiting two of the community projects that they supported over the last year. The group spent the afternoon working in the garden with the micro farmers at Moya We Khaya (The Spirit of Home) and then watching the children preparing for their dance exams at Zama Dance School. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for everyone.



Community, Development

PROJECTS

MASI CREATIVE HUB

Over the past two years, many at We Are Africa have had the privilege of meeting Mama Yandiswa Mazwana, affectionately known as Mama Yandi. Her captivating storytelling is as compelling as her remarkable journey.

Through Masi Creative, Mama Yandi leads various impactful initiatives, but one of the most vital is the feeding scheme. With our support, this scheme now provides daily meals to 1,100 children across seven feeding sites in the township of Masiphumelele.

Mama Yandi's dedication and the nourishment provided through this scheme are transforming lives, offering hope and stability to children in need. Our partnership with Masi Creative underscores our commitment to making a meaningful difference in these communities.



Community, Development

PROJECTS

SOUL DESIGN & LEARN TO EARN



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Soul Design for their kind donation to Uthando. When we shared that the donation would support Learn to Earn, an inspiring story emerged. It turns out that Nontembe, a casual worker employed by Soul Design twelve years ago, was a participant in Learn to Earn. Today, Nontembe is still with Soul Design, thriving and contributing significantly to their team. This full-circle moment underscores the profound impact of Soul Design's support, illustrating how their contribution not only enhances current initiatives but also nurtures long-term success and growth within the community.

Community, Development

PROJECTS

BRAVE ROCK GIRL

Thank you to WEEVA for the support for Brave Rock Girl. We received such a lovely photo as a token of gratitude from Brave Rock Girls. We are so proud of the Girls for their courage, tenacity and fortitude and our message to them is “never stop dreaming”.
The Vision of Brave – African girls, speak up and create safe spaces.
Mission of Brave – To inspire and empower girl leaders.



Community, Development

PROJECTS

EZIKO (IN THE OVEN) COOKING SCHOOL GRADUATION

We are very proud to support Eziko Cooking School in Langa, which is providing young people with skills in the catering and hospitality sector. The 2023 class graduated recently with proud parents in attendance. The school provided tuition and training to 33 students in 2023, many have been placed at some excellent restaurants around Cape Town.



*Community, Development***PROJECTS****SIGHT FOR LIKHO**

Amanda Seccombe, the founder of Eyes2Eyes, exemplifies the power of transforming personal tragedy into triumph while helping others along the way. We extend our heartfelt thanks to We Are Africa for funding the gift of sight for Likho Mtotway. Read on to discover his remarkable story.

“This is an unbelievable story of hardship, perseverance and hope. The Eyes2Eyes Foundation is overwhelmed with gratitude for the support received from uThando and We Are Africa in helping us restore Likho's sight!

Likho lives in rural Eastern Cape, with his grandmother. He started losing his sight five years ago, due to keratoconus. This is an eye disease that has caused his corneas to progressively bulge and thin, resulting in severe vision loss. His eye sight cannot be remedied with ordinary glasses or contact lenses. Living with progressive sight loss has presented this young man with extraordinary challenges.

Not only has finishing school been immensely challenging, but Likho's mom had to make the heartbreaking decision to send him to live with his grandmother, far from Cape Town. She simply could not give him the day to day assistance he required as she struggled to survive economically and support her young family in Crossroads.

Whilst Likho's friends have done their best to help him with his homework, he has really struggled to keep up with his grades. Aged 21, he has never given up and remains determined to finish Grade 12. He is terribly excited that soon he will also be able to re-join his friends on the soccer pitch! Not being able to engage with a sport he loves, has been another big obstacle during a trying time.

We are over the moon that Likho will start his journey to sight restoration in June and simply could not have done this without your generosity and kindness.

With much love from Amanda and all at Eyes2Eyes



Community, Development

PROJECTS

CHRISTEL HOUSE SCHOOL "BUCKETS OF HOPE"

Every year, Uthando issues a call to raise as much money as possible to sponsor "Buckets of Hope" for the families of students at Christel House School, an incredible institution providing holistic education to 1,000 children from the most vulnerable communities in Cape Town. Thanks to one of our generous donors, we sponsored 300 buckets for 2023, ensuring that 300 families had extra food on the table during the festive season. Each bucket cost R250.00.





*Community, Development***PROJECTS****HOME FROM HOME**

We are immensely proud to be part of the Home from Home family and support their vision of “Creating families for vulnerable children.” Through community-based foster care, they help children grow into healthy, well-adjusted adults who contribute positively to society.

With 65 homes providing cluster foster care to 173 children, Home from Home offers a wide range of impactful development programs, including educational support, therapeutic interventions, sports, reading, art, and vegetable gardening. Their commitment to transforming young lives is recognized both nationally and internationally. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to South Destinations for their long-standing support of Home from Home through Uthando. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of vulnerable children.



*Community, Development***PROJECTS****GOAL50 EDU HUB EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

We have begun the groundbreaking and construction of the next Early Childhood Development Centre, which will be built using tyres, plastic bottles filled with waste, and film set bricks. The building plans for this unique and historic ECD centre has been approved by the City of Cape Town. This pre-school will be prominently visible from the N2 Highway, welcoming visitors entering Cape Town from the airport. It aims to tackle significant challenges in education, early childhood development, recycling, litter, climate change, and combatting gangsterism, among others.



The location of Goal50 ECD in Heideveld



Community, Development

PROJECTS

LEARN TO EARN

Learn to Earn plays a crucial role in equipping South Africans with essential skills for a brighter future. They offer training and skills development in various fields, including baking, basic computer skills, handyman services, office administration, graphic design, barista training, sewing, and life skills.

During the 2022 financial year, they welcomed 635 registrations across their courses, with an impressive 600 participants completing their training at their campuses in Khayelitsha, Hermanus, and the Ground UP Barista Academy. This reflects a remarkable 94% completion rate. Following their training, 76% of graduates became economically active or continued their studies, with 92% of those employed sustaining their positions for at least three months. Notably, 26% of graduates have started their own businesses.

Before joining Learn to Earn, the average declared monthly income was R539 per person. After completing their course, graduates who secured employment reported an average monthly income of R4,400 after three months, totaling at least R4.8 million in combined quarterly earnings. This transformation highlights the significant impact of their training interventions on individuals and their communities.



Community, Development

PROJECTS

ALCARDO ANDREWS FOUNDATION FEEDING THE COMMUNITY

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were thrilled to sponsor the shade ports at the Alcardo Andrews Foundation's "Container of Love" in Hanover Park. This essential container serves as a hub for cooking and distributing food to those living on the breadline in the community. Our support enhances the foundation's ability to provide vital assistance, ensuring a safe and comfortable environment for their important work. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.



The new shade port providing shade to people waiting in line at the feeding scheme

Aunty Avril Andrews wrote on social media :

The Alcardo Andrews Foundation daily feeding is a blessing to so many community members. Whether rain or shine, they know we will be there for them.

Recently, Uthando South Africa through their partners, blessed the organisation with shade ports to grant our recipients some form of respite against the weather conditions in our city, offering shelter in winter and shade in summer.

**It has definitely made their experience more pleasant.
#OurCommunityMatterToUs**

Community, Development

PROJECTS

LIVINGSTONE SAFARIS 30TH BIRTHDAY GIFT

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Livingstone Safaris for their unwavering love and support over the years. In celebration of Livingstone Safaris' 30th anniversary, the "Dream Team" received a special gift: a box filled with fresh, healthy, and organic vegetables from "Harvest of Hope." This cooperative plays a vital role in providing micro farmers from the townships with a valuable market for their produce. This thoughtful gesture not only recognizes our partnership but also highlights our commitment to supporting local communities and sustainable agriculture.



Community, Development

PROJECTS

TRANS AFRICA SAFARIS

Thank you to Trans Africa Safaris for the amazing support. Their contribution supported the youth development and after-school programme of the Alcardo Andrews Foundation, purchased a truckload of organic compost for the Moya We Khaya (Spirit of Home) Garden, and assisted the Philisa Abafazi Bethu (Heal our Women) centre for abused women, children and LGBTQIA+ community.

Moya we Khaya (Spirit of Home) Farmers receiving manure for the winter



The "Garden of Healing" at the Philisa Abafazi Bethu (Heal Our Women) Centre



Alcardo Andrews Foundation Youth Programme

Community, Development

PROJECTS

NEW UNIFORMS FOR KHAYELITSHA YOUTH CHOIR

The Khayelitsha Youth Choir proudly unveiled their brand-new uniforms for all 60 choir members, marking a significant milestone in their journey. The vibrant new uniforms not only reflect the spirit and talent of these young singers but also symbolize unity, pride, and the dedication of the community that supports them.

As the choir took to the stage in their stunning new attire, they were not just showcasing their musical abilities; they were also representing hope and aspiration for the youth of Khayelitsha. This initiative is a testament to the power of community collaboration and the positive impact that music can have on young lives.

The new uniforms will enhance their performances and create a greater sense of belonging among the choir members, encouraging them to pursue their passions with confidence.



The Khayelitsha choir in their new uniforms

Community, Development

PROJECTS

MASI CREATIVE HUB

Over the past two years, many at We Are Africa have had the privilege of meeting or listening to the inspiring Mama Yandiswa Mazwana, affectionately known as “Mama Yandi.” Her extraordinary storytelling truly captivates, reflecting the incredible journey she has experienced. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to We Are Africa for supporting their feeding scheme, which nourishes 1,100 children daily across seven locations in the township of Masiphumelele. Your unwavering commitment makes a profound difference in the lives of these children, and we are deeply thankful for your partnership.





Community, Development

PROJECTS

TREE-ATHLON AT CHRISTEL HOUSE SCHOOL

Thanks to the generous support of We Are Africa and &Beyond, 300 large indigenous trees have been planted at Christel House School over the past two years. This initiative has not only transformed the school grounds but also contributed significantly to the local environment. The impact of this project was recognized in a local newspaper with the fitting headline, "Tourism Gives Back." This initiative exemplifies how tourism can play a vital role in fostering environmental stewardship and enhancing the well-being of local communities.

Photo: Uthando South Africa
By Ryan Wallace
Page 2

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Tourism gives back

Over 70 tourism industry professionals gathered at Christel House South Africa, a non-profit school in Ottery, on Friday 19 May to plant 150 indigenous trees.

The tree planting was made possible by We Are Africa, and their community development partner, Uthando South Africa.

James Fernie, founding director at Uthando, said it is a privilege and joy to be associated with Christel House SA and support learners through their partnerships.

"Christel House SA must be applauded and congratulated for helping to transform lives and develop holistic human beings through dedicated teaching, compassionate support and visionary life-skills training."

"The partnership between We Are Africa, a gathering of luxury African travel brands, and Uthando also extended to the sponsorship of a learner who expressed a keen interest in pursuing a career in the tourism and hospitality industry.

"We are thrilled and filled with hope for her future," added Fernie.

Christel House South Africa offers no-fee scholarships to students from some of Cape Town's poorest neighbourhoods.

Ryan Wallace, Director and co-founder at We Are Africa, commented: "Christel House really is far more than a school and is one of those special places where you see the transformation of lives, first hand. It gives us a huge amount of hope for the future and we look forward to continuing the partnership."

Last year, We Are Africa donated trees to the school which were used for its junior school space. This year, the trees will be used to beautify the high school area for learners and staff to enjoy.

Adri Marais, CEO of Christel House SA, expressed her gratitude for the generous donation of trees and the one-year sponsorship of a Christel House learner.

"Our career development programme involves frequent connections with diverse industries, which creates opportunities for our learners to gain industry exposure and network with professionals.

"We are therefore extremely grateful for the opportunity to introduce our school to the We Are Africa community, and for the support of Uthando South Africa."



The planting of 150 trees was made possible by We Are Africa and their community development partner Uthando South Africa. PHOTO: UTHANDO

Community, Development

PROJECTS

“GHETTO GARDENER” LUDWE QAMATA GROWING VEGGIES WITH THE SINOVUYO SENIORS

Uthando proudly sponsored the manure, seedlings, and compost for the urban farm at the Sinovuyo Seniors Centre in Khayelitsha. We firmly believe that every school, community center, home, and seniors center should be cultivating fresh, organic vegetables to promote health and sustainability. This movement, already in full swing and gaining impressive momentum, was beautifully captured when we received photographs from Ludwe Qamata, the "Ghetto Gardener." His images showed the timely delivery of these essential supplies, perfectly aligned with the spring planting season. This initiative underscored our commitment to fostering sustainable agriculture and enhancing the well-being of our communities.





Community, Development

PROJECTS

BELMOND MOUNT NELSON HOTEL SUPPORTS BEADING PROJECT



We extend our deepest gratitude to the Belmont Mount Nelson Hotel for its unwavering support of the women's beading initiative at the Ekaya Ekasi (Home in the Hood) Centre in Khayelitsha. In a time when South Africa faces unprecedented levels of unemployment, this local skills development project has become a vital lifeline. By empowering women with sustainable skills, we are not only providing immediate economic relief but also fostering long-term resilience in the community. This partnership exemplifies the power of collaboration in creating meaningful, lasting impact in the lives of those most affected by these challenging times.

Community, Development

PROJECTS

ZIZAMELE EDUCARE SUPPORT

we had the pleasure of hosting a generous father and son from the USA who were impressed by Mama Bukeka and Zizamele Educare. Their donation provided crucial educational toys and equipment for the school, greatly benefiting the students. We are grateful for their impactful support.



THUNARISO GARDEN CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Under the exceptional leadership of Thozama Sikiti, the Thunariso Garden hosted another holiday program. This initiative engaged 98 children in educational activities focused on healthy living, the benefits of vegetables, and environmental respect. The program concluded with a festive Easter egg hunt in the garden.





DOCUMENTARY ON "THE HEART OF CAPE TOWN"

We had the pleasure of working with Eric Gauss, Odette, and Oskar Van Rensburg from Dogs on the Run Production on an exciting documentary project.



They beautifully captured the essence of the Heart of Cape Town and showcased the inspiring stories of extraordinary South Africans making a significant impact. The documentary, which premiered at We Are Africa, highlights the remarkable achievements within our community and the dedication of those who often go unrecognized.



Laston Sachikonye:
The amazing artist and creator of the hearts

From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS

LET'S START A REVOLUTION OF THE HEART.

At Uthando South Africa, we are reaching out to our friends and supporters with a heartfelt message, hoping it will resonate and inspire collective action.

Uthando, which means Love, is driven by the core belief that Love emanates from the heart. We are excited to announce the launch of a new initiative that aligns with and enhances our existing vision and program of action. This initiative aims to shine a light on the transformative community development projects we support, sharing their profound impact with the world.

We invite you to join us in this vision to flood Cape Town, South Africa, and beyond with symbols of love and compassion. In a time when the world is deeply in need of kindness and empathy, our initiative seeks to counteract the prevailing atmosphere of conflict and deprivation. We are navigating through extraordinary and challenging times, and it is clear that humanity is in desperate need of healing.

In an era marked by confusion, misinformation, and a distortion of truth, we believe that the only reliable truth is the one that comes from our hearts. Every individual has a role in shifting our collective consciousness from fear to love, from conflict to peace. This can be achieved through healing our hearts on both personal and communal levels.

The reality we see in the news often feels surreal, and the urgency for peace has never been clearer. We must all take active steps to create the world we wish to see. Apathy is no longer an option. With the extraordinary events unfolding globally, it is evident that we must act differently.

Let us flood the world with hearts of all shapes, sizes, and colors. Just as a small mosquito can disrupt the sleep of a giant, a modest effort towards love can make a significant difference. If a fraction of humanity embraces this vision, we can indeed shift global consciousness from war to peace.

Our commitment is not merely symbolic; it is essential for the well-being of future generations. Let us extend unconditional love to one another amidst these turbulent times. South Africa, with its history of Truth and Reconciliation, has demonstrated that profound change is possible. Visitors from around the world often remark on the unique energy and warmth of South Africa's people—a reflection of the country's immense heart. Projects like the Secret Love Project in Cape Town exemplify this spirit, providing heart stickers to homeless individuals, enabling them to support their families through their sales. This initiative embodies the belief that peace and change are achievable.

We must have faith and draw inspiration from past visionary leaders who believed in and worked tirelessly for change. As we stand on the shoulders of these giants, let us trust in the power of love and reconciliation to guide us towards a brighter future.



From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS



THE TJOMMIES (FRIENDS) YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FROM HANOVER PARK EMBRACING THE HEART

From the past year....

HIGHLIGHTS



WE ARE AFRICA TEAM



FOUNDER OF GLOBAL SOJOURNS GIVING CIRCLE (USA), PRISCILLA PLUMMER



RELTON MEYER, HE IS A "THE SECRET LOVE PROJECT"

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

In honor of Nelson Mandela, we invited participants to decorate their bins with hearts. You can create your own hearts or show support for the Secret Love Project by purchasing hearts from them.

PRESS RELEASE
Cape Town - The '67 Days Mandela Campaign' launches on July 18, 2024, and ends on September 22, 2024, coinciding with the Spring Solstice. **Decorate your bin with hearts!**

IT'S A COLLAB OF LOVE
UTHANDO

67 DAYS FOR MANDELA
Cape Town Celebrates Unity, Compassion, Peace, and Love

The Competition
Nelson Mandela's values inspire Cape Town's '67 Days Mandela Campaign.'
On the 22nd September 2024, all participants are encouraged to place their decorated bins outside their homes across Cape Town. Neighbourhood watch and resident associations will be collecting bins that will be used to further raise funds for Social Development projects.

Step 1: Buy a sticker pack from any of The Secret Love Project vendors, or use your creativity by making your own! Use markers, paint, or whatever inspires you to share your love with heartfelt designs

Step 2: Decorate your refuse bin using the multi-coloured hearts.

Step 3: Post your beautifully decorated bins through social media and tag @heartofcapetowncpt & @secretloveproject to stand a chance to win fantastic prizes.

Step 4: Follow @heartofcapetowncpt & @secretloveproject to stay up to date with the competition

The Impact
Set a Guinness World Record for most heart-decorated bins
Encouraging participation to spread love & support local communities.
Honoring Madiba's legacy with a city-wide initiative promoting Love.
Supporting job creation through The Secret Love Project, empowering 640+ individuals.

For more information on this campaign, visit: www.heartofcapetown.org

GET Creative
buy a sticker pack, or create your own, use markers or paint & DECORATE YOUR BIN

SHARE LOVE
tag @heartofcapetowncpt & @secretloveproject



*Financial***REPORT**

Uthando Social Development Projects, South Africa NPC (“Uthando”) is a non-profit and Fair Trade in Tourism accredited organisation that aims to raise funds for community development projects in South Africa.

Uthando South Africa conducts Philanthropic Educational Excursions visiting community development projects to which the income of the organisation is distributed to introduce visitors, donors and potential donors to the community to the projects that they support and to create awareness of the social needs in South Africa.

The costs of running the Philanthropic Educational Excursions are integral and directly related to the sole and principal object as stated in the aims and objectives of the organisation.

Accountant : Demath Accounting and Taxation Services (PTY) Ltd
Registration no 2017/063488/07
Maryna Smith
PO Box 720, Yzerfontein, 7351

Auditors : Ad Valorem Chartered Accountants (SA)
Registration Number 963374-00000
Per : H.M Faull, CA (SA), RA
Registration Number : 765937
15 Sunset Clam Lane, Melkbosstrand, 7441

Donations Income:	R9 443 878 .00
Interest received on bank balances	R 28 416 .00
Total Income 2023 /2024	R9 472 294 .00
Operating Expenses	R1 903 933 .00
Total Allocation to Community Development Projects	R6 532 809 .00
Bank Balance on 31 March 2024	R1 035 552 .00
(Note: Bank balance is allocated to specific community projects)	



MESSAGES OF LOVE



Dear Uthando Team. Compliments of the season
I want to take a moment and let you know how much you are appreciated, you are true angels to our organization and I'm more grateful to you than words can express us.
I know we are blessed to have you in our lives, please keep it up with your good work you are doing for our people” –

'Mama Gloria Bebeza, Founder and Principal at Khumbulani Centre (Khayelitsha)'



Mama Gloria (far left) with the children at Khumbulani Centre

MESSAGES OF LOVE



“Having experienced the power of Uthando (Love) South Africa's impact first-hand, I wholeheartedly believe in your cause. Wherever I am in the world, my advocacy will be. “

“Amy Dawson - Amy Foundation”

Amy is a South African living in Scotland, and is very busy promoting Uthando in the United Kingdom. We are so incredibly grateful for our cherished friends and benefactors like Amy.

Uthando (love) South Africa is a Non-Profit Organisation located in Cape Town, South Africa. We link the tourism industry with a range of inspiring and innovative community development projects and social entrepreneurs and activists across a very broad spectrum of sectors including youth development, early childhood development, urban micro farming, senior citizens, skills development, animal welfare and protection and much more.

Uthando offers culturally sensitive Philanthropic Educational Excursions, taking visitors into communities across the City of Cape Town, shining a light on the many deserving, unsung community heroes, whilst supporting them in the process.

The money that Uthando generates goes directly to highly impactful, meaningful and sincere community development projects which are truly changing peoples lives on the ground in South Africa.

MESSAGES OF LOVE



We had the pleasure of hosting our second group of 45 enthusiastic students from Brandbjerg Højskole in Denmark. Their visit was an enriching experience filled with engaging activities. The day unfolded with a schedule that included in-depth learning sessions, discussions, and interactive activities. The students participated in local cultural experiences, which included dancing and singing, infusing the day with a sense of joy and excitement.

Their genuine interest and enthusiasm brought an additional layer of energy to our activities, making the day not only educational but also profoundly enjoyable for everyone involved. We were thrilled to witness the students' eagerness to immerse themselves in our community and culture, and their presence truly enhanced the vibrancy and spirit of our programs.

One of the group members reflected on their day with Uthando on Trip Advisor :

“Some of the most authentic and important genuine knowledge you can obtain, if you want to know more about the legacy of apartheid (which you should). But also about hope and what’s being done to change the lives of less privileged people of Cape Town. An amazing experience, that I can highly recommend for anyone visiting Cape Town. Actually, it’s a must.”

MESSAGES OF LOVE



**UTHANDO “PHILANTHROPIC
EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION” –
“QUOTE OF THE MONTH1”**

We just love taking visitors to see, experience and engage with the inspiring community development projects on our excursions. We also just love spending time with visitors who come from all over the world, and who are so interesting and interested.

We introduce authentic local leaders impacting their communities and inspire visitors by sharing their nation-building efforts that often go unrecognized and unrewarded.

WE'VE DONE IT AGAIN! WINNING THIS ESTEEMED DESIGNATION EVERY YEAR SINCE 2012 BY PROVIDING ETHICAL AND CULTURALLY SENSITIVE LIFE-CHANGING PHILANTHROPIC EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS.

Review of the month

“I reconnected with my humanity and shared values across all people. I thought about solidarity, community and making alliances and friendships across all nations. The most inspiring and moving day of my visit to Cape Town. The choir moved me to tears, I loved the school made of tyres and the organic garden project was wonderful. Solidarity and humanity to us all, thank you –“

Eugene Doherty and Cate Nisbet from Leeds, UK.

MESSAGES OF LOVE



UTHANDO "PHILANTHROPIC
EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION" –
QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Thank you very much for the enlightening us. Your projects are really making a difference. All 3 of them which we saw today are such warm safe spaces. The hope that you bring inspires. To give a place for young people where they can be themselves, explore, experience, learn and play.....this is so important and the way you make this happen is unbelievable. It makes me think and speechless. I will never forget the spirit and people that we met. Thank you. Dankjewel !"

K. STEVENS (BELGIUM)

"I am so thankful for this amazing experience. I am so touched by the people who do such a great job for everyone. I will never forget this day. You make me think about what's happening. It touched me, it brought me to silence on the inside. I can only encourage you, please keep up the love, the hope and the happiness. You are really inspiring me. Thank you so much."

M. EVER (BELGIUM)



MESSAGES OF LOVE



UTHANDO "PHILANTHROPIC EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION" – QUOTE OF THE MONTH

This experience with Uthando really makes a difference. Don't miss this when you travel to Cape Town! We have traveled many times to Cape Town and South Africa, but we have never experience this before. You will not only get emotionally touched, in the most positive sense, but also inspired and more aware. Our teenage daughter who was also very positive about this day. Not just to about how fantastically nice you were treated - this whole day tour impresses, broadens your mental horizons, inspires and touches you to the core. So much friendly people, energy, joy and love!

The Gospel surprise, at the end of the excursion, was one of the best and most energetic performances I've seen in my life.

Christina N
The Highest rating. The Best!
Jan 2023 • Family

Cannot sing the praises of Uthando tours enough. Get an AUTHENTIC experience visiting township projects and get a glimpse into the lives of the kind, talented, and giving people who live there. This was our THIRD Uthando tour, each project we visited was unique and different. An organic garden, where women are taught the skills involved to grow vegetables ...soil preparation, planting seeds, irrigation etc., creating an opportunity for healthy food to eat and to sell to hotels and the community, providing the women an income. They also educate students at the nearby school about gardening. We visited a preschool where the environmentally sustainable building was creatively constructed with tires and other recycled items... absolutely INCREDIBLE! And the bright, adorable children who are being educated there are South Africa's future. We also heard the Khayelitsha Youth Choir sing at the Senior Center...these talented musicians are accompanied by a drummer showed their passion for singing and dancing. And the senior citizens who were there are BEAUTIFUL people!

mckenzie davidsonh
Palm Springs, CA4 contributions
Experience the heart of the South African People
Mar 2023 • Couples

MESSAGES OF LOVE



ZAMA DANCE SCHOOL'S HEARTFELT TRIBUTE TO HARRY BELAFONTE

Zama Dance School choreographed a special piece in memory of Harry Belafonte, with the following message

“For our dear, new friend Adrienne Belafonte Biesemeyer in honour of the remarkable legacy passed on by her father, the late Mr. Harry Belafonte. His brave and honourable stance opposing inequality, discrimination and hate has never been as relevant as it is today. With love and gratitude, as represented by the beautiful, illuminating hearts from “The Heart of Cape Town”, Zama Dance School and Uthando (Love) South Africa, who also stand for love, peace, compassion and unity in our frequently fractured world.”

PHILISA ABAFAZI BETHU “HEAL OUR WOMEN”

The Philisa Abafazi Bethu (Heal Our Women) Centre is truly a place of healing, nurturing and safety for a diverse group of people. We are beyond proud to be supporting their important work and sponsored the magnificent artwork done by Ras Silas Motse at the entrance. Founder, Lucinda Evans posted on social media;

“Uthando South Africa we are immensely grateful, we have no words to quantify how we are feeling. [#ArtMedicineForTheCenter](#) thank you so very much Ras Silas Motse Studios for capturing our passion and the mandate of the healing centre. [#ArtHeals](#) May your hands continue to be a blessing to our work in the GBV field. Color as Medicine to our Healing space.”

Lucinda Evans, Philisa Abafazi Bethu



Lucinda Evans, Philisa Abafazi Bethu in front of the painted mural by Ras Silas Motse

MESSAGES OF LOVE



SCHOOLS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (SEED)

SEED are doing very important work teaching established systems that actively demonstrate the principles and practices of Permaculture Design, abundant food systems and social innovation supporting local entrepreneurship to grow the local green economy. After a recent visit with guests to SEED, they posted the following comment.

“We would like to extend our appreciation to Uthando South Africa for their ongoing support to our organisation.

Today a curious group from California explored our system sparking insightful questions. Uthando, your dedication to sustainable tourism makes a world of difference. Thank you for being part of our journey 🌍👏”



MESSAGES OF LOVE

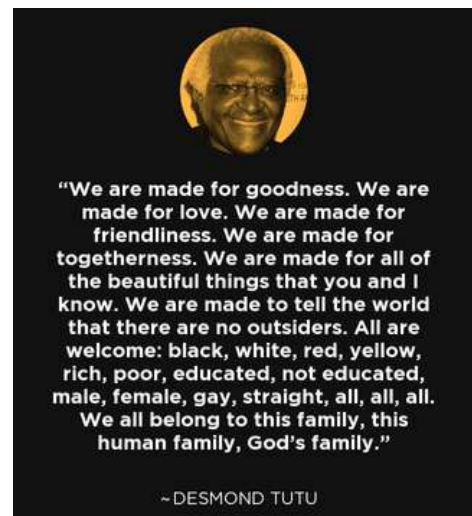
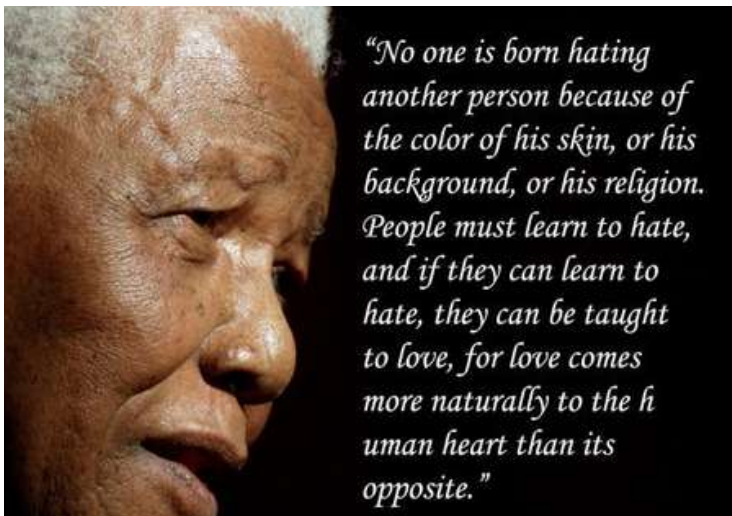


AFRICA TRAVEL CENTRE (USA)

Thank you Karen Cockburn for sending such lovely feedback following a morning spent with Uthando.

Karen wrote :

“I am speechless - this morning is one of the best experiences of my entire 5 week trip. I had no idea of the scope of Uthando’s projects. Xolani was a wealth of information. An amazing ambassador for Uthando. Most travellers will drive by places like Khayalisha and only see poverty. They have no idea that there are community gardens, senior centers, nursery schools built from upcycled materials and more. Projects that have grown organically from passion and purpose. How wonderful that Uthando is helping to support these innovators. An excursion and learning experience like today’s should be on everyone’s agenda!”



IT'S A WIN

UTHANDO WINS RESPONSIBLE TOURISM AWARD

Uthando is dedicated to creating respectful, meaningful connections between visitors and local communities, activists, and development partners. In 2023, we were honoured with the prestigious "Best for Meaningful Connections" GOLD award, a recognition we attribute to the collective efforts of our community partners and supporters.

Uthando's approach to tourism emphasizes building lasting relationships, where visitors are treated as "temporary residents" and often return year after year. Through authentic storytelling and culturally sensitive experiences, we foster mutual understanding and respect between hosts and guests, enhancing the positive impact of their interactions. Since 2008, we have provided "Philanthropic Educational Excursions" around Cape Town, allowing thousands of guests to experience South Africa's spirit of Ubuntu. By connecting tourism with community development, Uthando will continue to inspire many visitors to become regular supporters of local projects.



IT'S A WIN

UTHANDO IS THE COMMUNITY WINNER AT OURAFRICA.TRAVEL 2023

We were thrilled to receive the wonderful news from the team at OurAfrica.Travel: **“With community and conservation being a vital aspect of our African and Indian Ocean tourism industry, our Nominated Causes continue to be a big part of OurAfrica.Travel. You were chosen based on both combined views on the virtual platform and through social media to receive one of two winning prizes. We realize it is not the largest amount, but we also know that every little bit helps.”**

The funds from this prize allowed Uthando to sponsor the holiday programme at Thunariso Garden in Khayelitsha. In townships, school holidays often present a challenge, as children have limited activities to keep them engaged. Through the holiday programme, Thunariso Garden has provided these children with meaningful, positive experiences, such as learning to grow vegetables. We commend Thunariso Garden for their passion and commitment to enriching young lives, turning idle time into an opportunity for growth and learning. This partnership is a testament to the impact that community-focused initiatives can have on the lives of those in need.



IT'S A WIN

SKAL INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AWARDS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Skal International for honoring Uthando with the “Certificate of Appreciation” in recognition of our involvement in the 2023 Sustainable Tourism Awards. We were particularly proud to be acknowledged in the category of Community and Government Projects. This certificate, bearing the caption:

“This achievement highlights your commitment towards sustainable practices and the implementation of an environmentally friendly business model,”

reflects the core values and dedication we strive to uphold. This award not only celebrates our efforts in promoting sustainable tourism but also reinforces our ongoing commitment to implementing environmentally responsible practices. We are deeply appreciative of Skal International’s recognition and support, which inspires us to continue our mission of creating positive, lasting impacts within our communities and the environment.



IN...

CONCLUSION

As we reflect on the 2023/24 year at Uthando, we are filled with immense pride for the hard work, dedication, commitment, and love that our beneficiaries, partners, and donors have poured into our mission. It truly takes a village to raise the consciousness of love, and we stand on the brink of this transformative journey together.

In a world often overshadowed by violence, crime, and conflict, we remain steadfast in our belief that love can prevail. As we embark on another year, we hope it will be infused with this vital energy, trusting that the universe will present us with opportunities that align with our mission. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, whose support makes a profound difference in the lives of community changemakers and their beneficiaries.

Through collaboration and ongoing efforts, we believe we can create ripples of change that will resonate throughout our communities. It is the love and appreciation we show one another that will uplift Cape Town and beyond. As we continue to confront visible disparities and marginalization, we are committed to showcasing the talent and beauty within these communities through our philanthropic excursions and meaningful events.

We invite you to join us in this vital work. Your support can help us expand our reach and deepen our impact, ensuring that the light of love and opportunity shines brightly for all. Together, we can create a future filled with hope, empowerment, and lasting change. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

With Love,
Uthando (Love) South Africa
October 2024



The Tjommies (Friends) Youth Development Group

UTHANDO (LOVE) SOUTH AFRICA

Uthando Social Development Projects, South Africa

Registered Section 21 Company 2007/030289/08

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Uthando (Love) South Africa is committed to the principles and philosophy of Fair Trade Tourism and at all times ensures that Responsible Tourism best practices are applied and integrated into our organization and Philanthropic Educational Excursions. Our excursions bring significant benefit to local communities by providing income and other forms of assistance, while cultural exchanges are conducted in a sensitive, respectful and mutually beneficial manner.

2023 Global Winner Responsible Tourism Awards – Best for Meaningful Connections 2020 WTM World Responsible Tourism Awards. Highly Commended 2020 Trip Advisor Travelers Choice Award 2020 Winner : Africa Responsible Tourism Awards, Caterogy : Benefitting Local People 2019 Certificate of Excellence – Trip Advisor 2018 Award Winner : Cape Town Tourism Future Forward Thinking for Community Benefit 2018 Certificate of Excellence – Trip Advisor 2017 An Ashley Award :Recognizes,celebrates,creates & guides people to perform deeds to help communities 2017 Certificate of Excellence – Trip Advisor 2017 We Are Africa Innovation Awards – Joint Winner in category Engage Africa 2017 African Responsible Tourism Awards - Winner Best Tour Operator for Impact in Urban Areas 2016 National Winner, Lilizela Tourism Awards, Best Cultural Tour Guide in South Africa 2016 Western Cape Winner, Lilizela Tourism Awards, Best Cultural Tour Guide 2016 Certificate of Excellence – Trip Advisor 2015 Certificate of Excellence – Trip Advisor 2015 Best Charitable Organisation in Africa – The Good Safari Guide 2015 2014 Best Charitable Organisation in Africa – The Good Safari Guide 2014 2014 Certificate of Excellence – Trip Advisor 2013 Winner - Cape Town Tourism Responsible Tourism Award 2013 James Fernie Finalist on the “Who’s Who” in African Diaspora World Tourism Awards 2013 Certificate of Excellence - Trip Advisor 2012 Winner - Skal International Sustainable Development in Tourism Award – Category Cities-Villages 2012 Certificate of Excellence - Trip Advisor



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