

# NEWSLETTER



## Partners in Progress

As we reflect on our community's progress this year, I'm reminded that no achievement happens in isolation. In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to compete for attention, funding, or influence. Yet lasting change springs not from rivalry, but **collaboration**.

Our challenges—poverty, education gaps, food insecurity, waste, infrastructure, and social isolation—are too complex for any one group to solve alone. They demand **unified action**. We must choose cooperation over competition, unity over ego, and shared vision over siloed ambitions.

That's why we're forging stronger partnerships across sectors: nonprofits, businesses, faith groups, and government. Together, we align resources, share knowledge, and build foundations for collective thriving. As the saying goes: **"A rising tide lifts all boats."**

Let's not allow petty differences or scarcity fears to distract us. Turf wars and competing agendas delay the progress we urgently need. Our dream—safe neighbourhoods, empowered youth, a stronger economy, resilient families, and reliable infrastructure—requires **setting aside small divisions for a greater purpose**.

I challenge every leader, volunteer, donor, and resident: embrace collaboration with renewed resolve. Let's build bridges, not walls. Listen deeply. Lead boldly—**together**.



### In this newsletter you can expect:

Project Updates

Community Impact

Upcoming Events

How to get Involved

Join our Journey

# THE LOVE HOWICK WAY

info@lovehowick.org.za



## 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 dialogues, events that promote social cohesion

## EXPLORING OUR MISSION

Love Howick exists to champion the transformation of our local community. Through strategic partnerships and co-ordinated social investment, we provide a platform that creates sustainable, long term, and measurable change in our five key focus areas. Our dream is to see a connected, healthy and prosperous people who are empowered in all areas of life.

## JOINING OUR MOVEMENT

Love Howick is a platform that enables collaboration between all stakeholders in a community for the sake of sustainable social change. We align social investors, volunteers and philanthropists with key projects to ensure maximum impact and measurable results. We invite you to join the movement for positive change today!

Visit our [website](http://www.lovehowick.org.za) for more info ✨

19 Morling Street, Howick

# PLACE DEVELOPMENT



## Paws, People, and Plaster

"*This is the best birthday gift,*" said General Manager Kevin Khumalo.

Love Howick brought community spirit to life during a recent Reno Day at uMngeni SPCA. Twelve volunteers contributed 28 hours, plastering **6 kennels**, building **2 concrete stands** for JoJo tanks, planting **3 gardens**, and thoroughly cleaning the property.

The transformation created a significantly safer, cleaner space for animals and staff.

The impact extended beyond the physical work. The volunteers' dedication inspired local companies, with several reaching out to Love Howick afterwards, eager to find meaningful ways to contribute to the Howick community.



## Painting Hope Across Generations

The historic Howick bridge isn't just a structure; it's a gateway to **opportunities, connections**, and our town's very heart.

Carrying the weight of history and the pulse of modern life, the Love Howick team was proud to give this vital landmark a much-needed facelift this May, ensuring it continues to stand strong and welcoming as our proud emblem for years to come.



## Miller Street Cemetery Revival

Overgrown and neglected no more! Our 20 SEF participants worked hand-in-hand with Renoverge. We dedicated our time and energy to revitalise Miller Street Cemetery.

Clearing **696m<sup>2</sup>** of brush, removed **154** alien plants, and filled **10** bags of litter.

“*Praise to them all giving peace and beauty back to a place of rest we thank you.*” -Facebook comment

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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## 55 Lives Supported: Street Store

55 community members accessed vital resources through our unique community-supplied Swop Shop token system.

Essential goods accessed:

- **281** Food Parcels
- **314** Items of Clothing
- **10** Pairs of Shoes
- **7** Homeware Items
- **120** Toiletry Items



## Snack & Stack: Community in a Cup

Volunteers gathered over cake and coffee to sort donations for those in need. These cosy sessions at our Street Store are where friendships form and compassion turns into action.

Our **Street Store Swop Shop** where community members exchange recyclable waste or volunteer hours for tokens. These tokens unlock access to **Nutritious Food Parcels and Pre-Loved Clothing**

**How You Can Help:**

Donate Goods: Drop off at The Street Store (19 Morling St, Howick), support financially, or join our next Snack & Stack!



## Mental Health Community Training

*"True healing begins when we courageously face our inner world."*

– **Doni Hogarty**

Howick's greatest resource is its people. This 4-week course responds to South Africa's growing mental health crisis by equipping neighbours, teachers, and volunteers with practical tools to:

- **Guide others** through anxiety, grief, or trauma
- **Spot early signs** of emotional distress
- **Build resilience** through mindful self-awareness techniques
- **Create safe spaces** for vulnerable conversations

# SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



## Classroom to Career

**Midlands Hospice** hired Dream Centre Retail Course graduate Itumeleng!

Radhika from **Hilton Quarry Spar** also praised our Dream Centre students: *"Almost all of the volunteers who have worked with us have been excellent. We have tried employing them on numerous occasions, and some of the volunteers from Love Howick have been with us for over two years now. They still uphold the values and practices that you instilled in them. Thank you again for your help."*



## Blanket of Hope

AMAHLE BUTHELEZI

**O**n a crisp autumn morning in Howick, warmth came not only from the sun but from a powerful act of kindness.

A member of the Sakhisizwe Young Leaders programme, Thandolwethu Buthelezi, donated blankets to children at Angels' Care Centre, bringing comfort to those who need it most.

"Today, I've pledged my tithe to helping those in need, especially young people," Buthelezi said. "I'm so excited

about this journey. It speaks to me deeply as an orphan myself, I know what it means to be in need."

This act of giving is not merely an expression of personal goodwill but also a reflection of the renewed spirit within the Howick community.

It also reminds us that when local people uplift each other, true change begins.

Through initiatives like this, hope, grace, community, and leadership can emerge to inspire others.

## "You Let My Light Shine"

Dream Centre graduate, Thandolwethu, shared: *"I wanted to share this article 'Blanked of Hope' with you. Thank you for letting my light shine again. I came to Love Howick with no hope, but **you revived my life.** Today I can **do good to others.**"*



## Tapping Into Change: Hands-On for a Greener Future

Our Edu-Team (operating in 4 Mpophomeni primary schools) and passionate Eco Club learners turned knowledge into action. Inspired by the **Sustainability Schools** and **One Planet SA** curricula, one highlight has been the introduction of Tip Taps—ingenious, water-saving handwashing devices. While regular taps use 2–3 litres per wash, **Tip Taps use just 0.1–0.5 litres.** By building and using them, learners are reducing water waste while developing valuable skills in sustainability, innovation, and teamwork.

In another initiative, learners led a **community Clean-Up**, tackling litter on school grounds and nearby areas, including a local dumpsite. They collected litter and organised it into different types of waste to support recycling efforts. These young change-makers are proving that small actions can lead to big impacts.

# SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



## Grade 6 Advance Coding Course

Twenty top Grade 6 coders have been selected for an advanced course at the Dream Centre's computer lab! Among them shines an inspiring learner who, despite past challenges including repeating Grade 4 and difficulties with reading/writing, has discovered **exceptional coding talent**.

For many, this is their first time using a computer – navigating keyboards and typing are major milestones. Progress Highlights: Computer basics, file management, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), email, and starting to code. These young pioneers aren't just learning tech – **they're building futures!**



## Stitching Hope: SETA-Accredited 6-Month Sewing Program

Empowering the community with a new 6-month Garment Making course, starting June. The course offers 30 places: **20 for able learners & 10 for disabled learners**. Each student will also receive a monthly stipend.

We believe teaching practical skills is the most reliable way to lift people out of poverty. A skilled individual becomes a role model and benefits the whole community.

Why Sewing? It's highly practical and accessible. Skills learned can be used immediately at home and **open significant doors** to entrepreneurship – from simple alterations to creating custom garments (like matric dresses) for income.



## Empower Your Staff Team

We recently facilitated a highly successful financial literacy workshop for field workers at the **Institute of Natural Resources**. The result? A room full of motivated professionals now equipped with practical skills to **manage their finances** and thrive.

This workshop underscores a vital truth: **soft skills are critical for workplace success**.

We create tailor-made professional **Staff Development Programs** designed specifically to meet your organisation's unique needs. We offer:

- **Customisable Modules** (Emotional Intelligence, Financial Literacy, Time Management, Workplace Ethics, Job Search Skills, and more)
- **Flexible Scheduling**
- **Convenient Onsite Training**

# SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



## 165 Lives Engaged (Mar-May)

At the Dream Centre, we empower our community through skills development and practical pathways to employment. Here's a snapshot of our progress over the past three months:

### Student Engagement

Month	Total Students	Course Breakdown
March	63	Work Ready (22), Home-Based Care (15), Retail (15), Computer Literacy (5), Crop Production (6)
April	47	Work Ready (27), Home-Based Care (14), Graphic Design (6)
May	55	Work Ready (23), Barista (5), Microbusiness (10), Retail (7), Computer Literacy (10), Office Admin (9)

### Practical Work Placements

All learners completed hands-on work placements, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from host partners. **Current placements include:**

**Anew Hotel, Bears Furniture Store, Build it, BP Garage, Coffee Berry, Coffee Box, Howick Secondary School, Injoloba High School, Midlands Café, Mpophomeni Shopping Centre, Spar Greendale, Spar Merrivale, Spar Quarry Hilton, Toyota, Siphuthando Step-down, Sheriff's Office, Pick n Pay Fairways, Pick n Pay St. Johns, and Wimpy.**

### Get Involved in Our Transformation Journey!

Your partnership fuels our impact:

- **Sponsor a Student:** Cover R850 for a Work Ready scholarship.
- **Donate Equipment:** Support courses with tools/furniture/computers.
- **Volunteer:** Mentor learners or share professional expertise.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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## Entrepreneurship Bootcamp Triumph

10 graduates completed our intensive Business Bootcamp at Halliwell Country Inn! Topics such as business strategy, finance, marketing, and legal compliance were mastered.



## Financial Literacy Boost

FNB's training empowered our SEF team with budgeting and business skills.



## Sweet Success at Schools

Grade 6 entrepreneurs at Sifisesihle Primary launched a tuck shop selling sweets and chips. Profits bought classroom supplies – a sweet lesson in self-sufficiency!

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# NARRATIVE DEVELOPMENT

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## SUBMIT YOUR STORY AND WIN!

Share stories of hope, courage, and collaboration for #WhyWeWin

We believe real transformation begins with ordinary people doing extraordinary things. That's why we're asking YOU:

### Do you know someone in uMngeni who...

- Turned struggle into strength?
- Built bridges where others saw barriers?
- Inspired others through simple acts of kindness?



Their story deserves to be told! Help us shine a light on our community's unsung heroes by nominating them for our #WhyWeWin series.

These stories will be published on multiple platforms and will run to 31 July.

How to share:

Email: [marketing@lovehowick.org.za](mailto:marketing@lovehowick.org.za)

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# COMMUNITY IMPACT APR-MAY



## Social Development

- **55** community members supported
- **314** items of clothing, **281** food parcels, and **120** essential toiletry items distributed
- **23** Work Ready students transformed their futures through intensive mentorship, including deep-dive psychology workshops focused on self-awareness, resilience, and personal growth

## Skills Development

- **1,917** learners empowered (literacy, coding, entrepreneurship, and environment education)
- **111** adult learners empowered (Work Ready, Home-Based Care, Graphic Design, Barista, Microbusiness, Retail, Computer Literacy, and Office Admin)



## Place Development:

- **15,983m<sup>2</sup>** brush cutting
- **1,837.5kg** of waste recycled
- SPCA → **6** kennels restored + **3** gardens planted + **2** concrete stands built for JoJo tanks
- **692** alien plants removed to protect indigenous ecosystems

## Economic

- **10** entrepreneurs completed our intensive Business Bootcamp covering business strategy, finance, marketing, and legal compliance.
- **30** sewing scholarships launched
- **19** Inservice-training partners for our Dream Centre students



**Thomas Gray**  
Thank you for giving back, what a tremendous determination! You are a legend!!!!

**Colin High SA**  
Thanks so much **Love Howick** ❤️ We really appreciate all your hard work! 🙌🙌🙌

**Catherine Ruyssen**  
Gee you are FANTASTIC

**Leanne Marshall**  
What a transformation, thanks once again to you and your team for everything you do, Howick will always be the place for me 🥰🥰

**Penelope Reid**  
Love the dedication of your team! Awesome work indeed. 🙌



# UPCOMING EVENTS ✨

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**05  
JUNE**

## **ALUMNI DAY**

Dream Centre graduates reunite at Howick Sports Hall 08:00 AM - 13:00 PM.

**06  
JUNE**

## **BUSINESS & NGO BREAKFAST**

Retain Top Talent with experts at the Hall Café 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM.  
Thank you to Rawson Properties Midlands for coming onboard as an official sponsor.

**07  
JUNE**

## **THRIFT MARKET**

First Saturday of every month, 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM at 19 Morling Street.

**20  
JUNE**

## **GOLF DAY** ✨

- Audi Centre Pinetown presents the Love Howick Golf Day. Starts at 09:30 AM Bosch Hoek Golf Club, Balgowan.
- The Harvard House Annual Founders Day Golf, in support of Singakwenza and Love Howick.  
Victoria Country Club, Pietermaritzburg

**25  
JUNE**

## **EDUSEMINAR**

100 Teachers from under-resourced schools gather for professional development.  
08:00 AM - 14:30 PM at Michaelhouse.

**JUNE**

## **WINTER WARMER**

Donate blankets/scarves at 19 Morling Street. All donated items will be distributed to those in need on Friday, 27th of June.

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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## 100 CLUB | FINANCIAL PARTNER

Become an official 100 CLUB MEMBER - Donate R100 per month

**R100**

Payment Reference: *Your name* + 100Club

## SPONSOR A FOOD GARDEN

Sponsor one person through our growers program + includes a startup kit **R850**

Payment Reference: *Your name* + FoodGarden

## SPONSOR A STUDENT

Sponsor one person through the one month Work Ready Program **R850**

Payment Reference: *Your name* + WRStudent

## VOUNTEER

- Help at our monthly Thrift Market
- Monthly handyman services for our facilities
- Knit scarves and collect blankets for winter
- Join our monthly garden day at Park, Falls, CBD
- Help source donation for poor and vulnerable
- Join our Reading Buddies to read to students in schools

## BANKING DETAILS

Love Howick NPC  
Account no: 627 747 27 039  
Branch no: 220 725  
First National Bank Howick



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*thank you for supporting us!*

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