# Newsletter

Sept / Oct 2026




## A Message from our CEO

### YOUR VOTE MATTERS. WHAT YOU DO AFTER YOUR VOTE MATTERS EVEN MORE

Voting matters. It is one of the most important rights and responsibilities we have as citizens. It gives us a voice in who leads our communities and how decisions about our future are made.

But here's the challenge: **Democracy cannot be something we practice only once every five years.**

At Love uMngeni, we believe that while voting is essential, building a better community requires something more. It requires **active citizens, not just voting citizens.** We cannot expect elected leaders to solve every problem while we stand on the sidelines. The future of Howick, Hilton, Mpophomeni, Merrivale, Lidgetton, Lions River, Karkloof, Currys Post and our surrounding communities is a shared responsibility.
The good news? You don't need a title, a big budget or political influence to make a difference. You simply need to start where you are.

Here are six simple ways to become an active citizen in uMngeni:

1. ***Adopt your space.*** *Keep the pavement, verge or public space outside your home or business clean and beautiful. Imagine if every business and household did just this!*
2. ***Give two hours a month.*** *Join a community clean-up, volunteer at a local school or support a neighbourhood project.*
3. ***Support local.*** *Choose a local small business, buy from an emerging entrepreneur or help someone find work. Every rand spent locally can help strengthen our local economy.*
4. ***Be part of the solution.*** *Don't just complain about potholes, litter or broken infrastructure. Report problems, follow up and work with others to find solutions.*
5. ***Invest in a young person.*** *Mentor someone, share a skill, offer workplace experience or help a young person take their next step towards employment.*
6. ***Get to know your neighbours.*** *Cross the divides that separate our communities. Build relationships, listen and find something you can do together.*

For more than a decade, Love uMngeni has seen what happens when ordinary people decide to take extraordinary responsibility for the place they call home. Our experience has taught us something powerful: **We don't have to wait for everything to change before we start changing something.**

So yes, register. Vote. Hold your elected leaders accountable. But don't stop there. **Your vote helps choose the leadership of our community. Your everyday actions help shape its future.** Let's not simply be residents of uMngeni. Let's be citizens who take ownership of it.

Matt Hogarty




www.loveumngeni.org.za

LOVE UMNGENI

- Social Development
- Place Development
- Skills Development
- Economic Development
- Narrative Development
- Place Your Ad Here

# Closing Our Birthday Month with Gratitude

**THANK YOU FOR 10 INCREDIBLE YEARS OF SUPPORT!**

## Celebrating the People Who Said YES 10 Years Ago

As we celebrate ***10 years of Love Howick / Love uMngeni***, we honour the people who said YES — yes to giving, serving, and believing in a better community. What began with a simple belief that ordinary people can change the place they call home has grown into a movement creating meaningful change.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey. Together, we celebrate our past, honour our heroes, and continue building a brighter future for uMngeni.









## GOLDEN HEART AWARDS

As Love uMngeni celebrates 10 years of community impact, we proudly recognise the businesses and partners who have invested in our vision of a thriving uMngeni, from Day One.

We were proud to present Golden Heart Awards to **Build It, Harvard House, Amber Glades and Fairfield Dairy** in recognition of their support and commitment to our community. These four businesses have supported us since the beginning of this journey, turning our dream of a better future for all into reality.

**10 years. Shared investment. Shared impact. A stronger uMngeni.**










## 10 YEARS FROM NOW...

As part of **Love uMngeni's 10-year celebrations,** Grade 4 learners and educators from **Howick Prep and Thrive Christian Academy** came together to create a special TIME CAPSULE, capturing their hopes and dreams of our youth for the decade ahead.

The learners contributed letters and drawings reflecting their dreams for our community, offering a glimpse of what they hope the next decade will bring. We buried the time capsule as a symbol of hope, possibility, and our shared vision for a thriving uMngeni community. In 10 years' time, this time capsule will be unearthed, and we will see how many of these dreams have become a reality! What a great way to declare a better tomorrow!

A special thank you to **Sign Co** for generously donating the plaque to commemorate this meaningful milestone.

As we celebrate ten years of community impact, we remain committed to inspiring the next generation, nurturing young dreams and building a brighter future together.



***To partner or find out more: email info@loveumngeni.org.za***

# Closing Our Birthday Month with Gratitude

## THANK YOU FOR 10 INCREDIBLE YEARS OF SUPPORT!








## DRIVING DREAMS FORWARD: MELUSI DRIVING SCHOOL INVESTS IN OUR YOUTH

As Love uMngeni celebrates 10 years of community impact, we proudly recognise **Melusi Driving School** for its generous commitment to investing in the future of our young people. In celebration of this milestone, Melusi Driving School sponsored free learner's licence training for **10 top-performing Dream Centre students,** helping them take an important step towards greater independence and future employment opportunities.

Going above and beyond, the driving school also sponsored **one student's full driving course,** creating further opportunities for mobility, independence and access to work.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Melusi Driving School for turning its support into meaningful opportunities for our youth. This partnership demonstrates the power of local businesses in shaping brighter futures and strengthening our community.

**As we look towards our next 10 years, we celebrate partners who do more than support our vision — they help make it possible.**

## CAPTURING POTENTIAL

## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF OUR TOP 10 DREAM CENTRE STUDENTS

As part of our 10-year anniversary celebrations, we are proud to have selected our **Top 10 students from Dream Centre for a professional photoshoot to enhance their CVs and support their transition into the professional workplace.**

We believe in empowering our students with the tools, confidence, and opportunities they need to take the next step towards a successful future.

A heartfelt thank you to **Ashleigh Wegener Studios** for partnering with us and generously contributing to this initiative. Your support helps us invest in our students' futures and create meaningful opportunities as they embark on their professional journeys.

Here's to celebrating 10 years of impact and continuing to open doors to brighter futures!



***To partner or find out more: email info@loveumngeni.org.za***

# Social Development News

## FROM SURVIVAL TO AGENCY

## OUR IMPACT THIS QUARTER

**101**
Families Fed & Clothed

**27**
Pairs of Shoes Donated

**35**
Community members who supported the Store

**13**
Households listed on National Jobs Database

## FROM BASIC NEEDS TO BUSINESS, CREATING PATHWAYS TO INCOME

This quarter, Love uMngeni continued its commitment to sustainable community development by **supporting 22 community members** as they moved from accessing essential resources to exploring entrepreneurship. Their journey began through our Street Store initiative, where recyclable waste was exchanged for tokens to access food, toiletries, and clothing.

However, we believe that meeting immediate needs is only the beginning. Through our **Resellers Program,** participants are developing practical business skills, including product selection and pricing, sales, financial management, understanding profit, and customer service, while building confidence and exploring opportunities to generate an income.

This initiative reflects our commitment to connecting immediate support with long-term economic empowerment, helping community members work towards greater independence and sustainable livelihoods.

***This is what true transformation looks like! Dreams are taking flight right here in the uMngeni Municipality through initiatives like this.***










## Removing Barriers to Essential Services

In November, **Love uMngeni's Street Store** will continue providing practical support to beneficiaries by assisting families with opening bank accounts and accessing essential documentation for their children.

Beneficiaries will receive guidance on **bank account requirements**, as well as assistance with **birth certificate and identity document applications.**

These initiatives aim to promote financial inclusion, improve access to essential services and empower families to take meaningful steps towards greater independence and sustainable livelihoods.

**TOGETHER, WE ARE HELPING PEOPLE MOVE FROM SURVIVAL TO AGENCY AND BUILDING A MORE EMPOWERED COMMUNITY**

**How you can help: Volunteer, sponsor a student, donate, host a collection bin**

Contact: info@loveumngeni.org.za

# Social Development News

## FROM SURVIVAL TO AGENCY

### Building Digital Skills for Employment

At Love uMngeni, we believe empowerment goes beyond meeting immediate needs — it is about equipping people with the tools, knowledge and confidence to build a better future. This quarter, our Street Store beneficiaries received practical digital skills training to help them take the next step towards employment. The session covered basic computer skills, setting up email accounts and searching for job opportunities. By strengthening their digital literacy and job-search skills, we aim to improve participants' access to employment opportunities, build their confidence and help them take meaningful steps towards a more independent future.



### Creating Employment Pathways Through SA Youth

Love uMngeni's Street Store beneficiaries participated in a session on creating SA Youth profiles and accessing employment opportunities. **They learned how to complete their profiles and search for jobs, learnerships and skills development programmes.**

This practical training equips beneficiaries with the digital skills needed to take steps towards employment. Through these initiatives, the Street Store helps bridge the gap between poverty and sustainability.

Together, we are creating pathways to opportunity, independence and a brighter future.

### STREET STORE IMPACT FOR SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

| | |
|---|---|
| **13** | SA Youth Profile and Employment Pathways setup |
| **84** | Food Parcels distributed |
| **465** | Black bags of recycling collected |
| **95** | Households stuck in poverty received support |

***SUVIVAL TO PERSONAL AGENCY***



### STARTING A BUSINESS: MOTAUNG'S STORY

One of our former **Street Store beneficiaries,** who participated in our Resellers Programme, is turning opportunity into action by selling cakes at the taxi rank every morning from 6:30 am.

Through the Street Store and the Resellers Programme, she gained an opportunity to take steps towards building her own income and creating a more sustainable future.

Her journey reflects what Love uMngeni strives to achieve: bridging the gap between poverty and sustainability by equipping people with the skills, knowledge and opportunities to become self-reliant. **Her story is a powerful reminder that, with the right support and determination, small beginnings can lead to meaningful change.**

**How you can help: Volunteer, sponsor a student, donate, host a collection bin**

Contact: info@loveumngeni.org.za

# Place Development News

## REVIVING PUBLIC SPACES & CREATING A GREENER FUTURE

| 16 019 m² | 4650 m | 9840 HA | 27 |
|---|---|---|---|
| BRUSHCUT | PAVEMENTS CLEARED | ALIEN INVASIVES PLANTS REMOVED | TREES PLANTED |

### CLEANER, GREENER UMNGENI

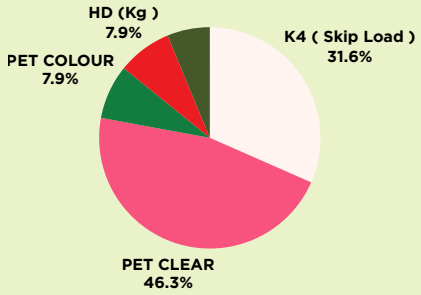
The Love uMngeni Enviro-Waste Department continues to support uMngeni Municipality through environmental maintenance, waste management and urban rehabilitation.

These initiatives help maintain clean, safe and accessible public spaces while promoting environmental sustainability. The department remains committed to improving community spaces and creating a cleaner, greener uMngeni.

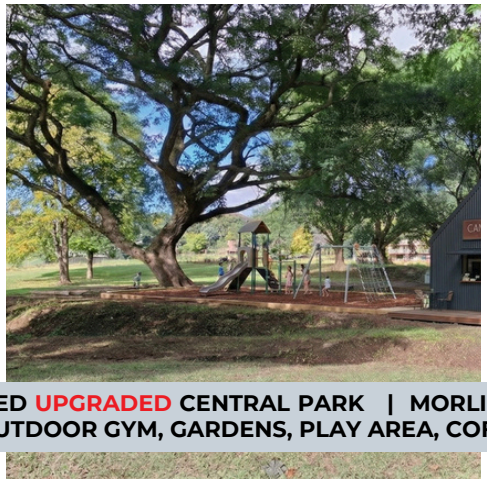
### ENVIRO-WASTE RECYCLING

**Waste Items Recycled:**

- K4: 1,543 Kg
- PET Clear: 850 Kg
- PET Colour:700 Kg
- White Paper: 113 Kg
- HD: 144 Kg








CONCEPT IMAGES OF OUR PROPOSED UPGRADED CENTRAL PARK | MORLING, HARVARD, BELL STREET GREEN SPACE RE-IMAGINED TO INCLUDE OUTDOOR GYM, GARDENS, PLAY AREA, COFFEE KIOSK, WALKING PATH.

## KEEPING UMNGENI CLEAN, TOGETHER

Every day, our 30 Love uMngeni workers help keep our communities clean, green and places we can be proud of. Their work matters, and with community support, we can make an even greater impact.

We have **5 more Waste Bikes waiting for sponsors.** For just **R890 per month,** your business can support local jobs, reduce illegal dumping, and help create a cleaner, greener uMngeni. One-year commitment, renewable each year.

A special thank you to ***MILLS FITCHETT*** for sponsoring a Waste Bike! They are leading the way in creating a town we can be proud of. **Sponsor a Waste Bike today and make your brand part of the change - email info@loveumngeni.org.za**



# Skills Development News

## UNLOCKING POTENTIAL AND CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

### Schools Supporting Schools: Sharing Resources, Creating Opportunities

**Howick Prep** has generously donated over **100 Grade 7 textbooks**, which Love uMngeni distributed to three local schools: **Thrive Christian Academy, Mount Carmel and Nogqaza Primary.**

All three schools warmly received the donation, and these valuable learning resources will support learners on their educational journey.

We extend our sincere thanks to Howick Prep for choosing to pass these textbooks on instead of discarding them. This thoughtful gesture demonstrates the power of schools supporting schools, where sharing resources can create meaningful opportunities for learners across our community.

**Together, we are building a community where every learner has the opportunity**









Hilton College Boys volunteer session where they to made educational resources for our EduProject

### HOW YOU CAN HELP THE EDU-PROJECT

***Become a Volunteer:*** Passionate about helping develop our local schools? Have time and skills to offer? We have an Edu-Project Volunteer group that goes out each month to help in our schools - why not join us?

***Partner with us:*** We are looking for schools, businesses, and organisations that share our belief that every child deserves access to quality education.

***Donate or sponsor:*** Once off donations or regular monthly contributions help us expand the Play to Learn Program and facilitate termly educator development workshops.

## From Scrap to Safety at Mount Carmel Christian School

As part of our EduProject **90-Day School Makeover Challenge**, Mount Carmel Christian School turned unused scrap metal into a practical solution for leaking roofs that affected their Grade RRR classrooms, Grade 6 classroom, and library. By selling the scrap, the school raised funds to purchase roofing materials, ensuring safer, drier learning spaces by the start of Term 4.

The initiative continues, with additional scrap sales planned to fund playground repairs, toilet door locks and an expanded garden. The school has also introduced weekly Friday maintenance checks to help keep the environment safe. **Mount Carmel's** story demonstrates that meaningful change doesn't always require a big budget. Innovation, hard work, and vision are game-changers



**How you can help:** Sponsor a student and change a life | Contact: info@loveumngeni.org.za

# Skills Development News

## UNLOCKING POTENTIAL AND CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

### Thank You to Our Workplace Partners

Through partnerships with local businesses and organisations, young people across uMngeni are gaining valuable exposure to the workplace, helping them bridge the gap between learning and employment. These opportunities let students experience real work environments, build practical skills, understand workplace expectations, and gain the confidence to pursue future employment. By opening their doors to young people, our partners are helping prepare the next generation for the world of work, strengthening the local skills base, and supporting economic growth in our community.

We extend our sincere thanks to **Build It, BP Garage, Merrivale Spar, Greendale Spar, Fairfield, The Hall Cafe, Save Hyper and Hilton Quarry SPAR** for investing their time and creating opportunities for young people to learn through practical experience.

What a great business community we have!




### DREAM CENTRE SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

#### GRADUATES READY FOR EMPLOYMENT

**Work Ready (One Month)**
17 Learners Graduated

**Financial Literacy**
120 Learners Graduated

**Home Based Care**
12 Learners Graduated

DREAM CENTRE
empowered to make a change

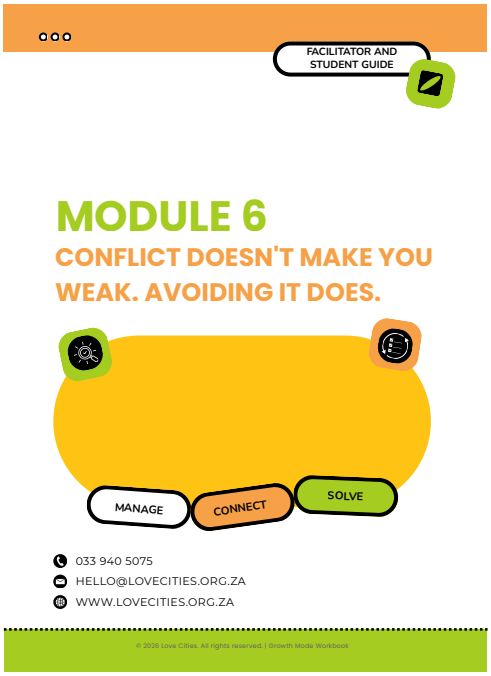
## Growth Mode Launches NOW!

We are excited to announce the upcoming launch of **Growth Mode, an ONLINE mentorship course that helps young people take ownership of their lives and build the future they want (developed by Love Cities)**

Through self-reflection, emotional awareness, and practical goal-setting, participants learn to break unhealthy cycles and grow in confidence and resilience. This is about moving from surviving to thriving.

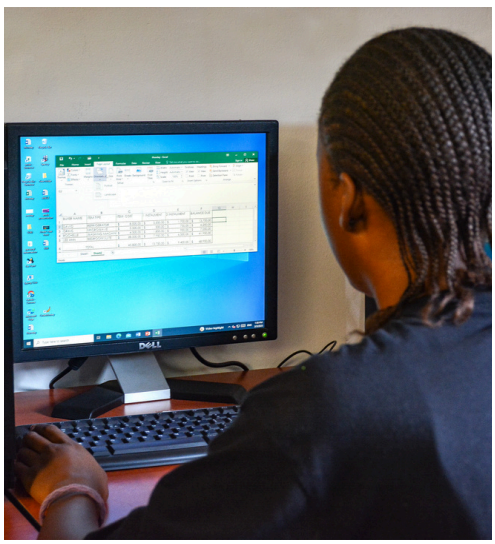
This learning tool is available to all high schools, youth clubs, and training centres to help teach vital life skills in our community.

For more information, email info@loveumngeni.org.za









This is what community looks like. Businesses creating opportunity. Young people stepping into their potential. Want to join them? **Email dreamcentre@loveumngeni.org.za.**

# Economic Development News

## GROWING LOCAL STRONGER ECONOMIES

## VENTURE LAB - ONLINE BUSINESS STARTUP HUB




An innovative idea developed in **Howick** is making an impact across **KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.** We are proud to celebrate Matt Hogarty, founder of VentureLab, who has been appointed as the **Social Employment Fund (SEF) Business Start-up Program Coordinator.**

Matt will lead the training and support of **1,000 emerging entrepreneurs**, equipping them with practical business skills, mentorship and tools to turn their ideas into sustainable businesses.

Locally developed. Regionally implemented. Creating opportunities for the future. **Discover more at venture-lab.co.za/about or contact matt@lovecities.org.za.**

## 130 NEW PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES LAUNCHED THIS MONTH THROUGH THE LOVE UMNGENI LEARNERSHIP PROGRAM

Love uMngeni has launched the next phase of its Green Learn to Earn program, creating opportunities for **130 uMngeni residents to earn an income,** develop practical skills and work towards sustainable livelihoods. **Funded by the National Social Empowerment Fund (SEF)** and implemented in partnership with **DUCT, the program combines paid work, skills development and business start-up support.**

Participants will contribute to recycling, environmental rehabilitation, street cleaning, pavement repairs and maintaining public spaces across **Hilton, Howick, Mpophomeni, Howick West, Lions River, Lidgetton and Merrivale**. Beyond improving the local environment, the initiative aims to develop entrepreneurial skills and create pathways to long-term economic opportunities. Love uMngeni invites local businesses and residents to support the program through equipment donations, mentorship, skills sharing and access to market opportunities.

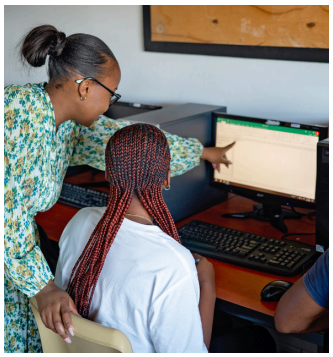
**As CEO Matt Hogarty explains, *"Real community transformation happens when we stop seeing people as beneficiaries of change and start recognising them as the drivers of it."*** **Donate Funds:** www.loveumngeni.org.za/get-involved/







## MI-WIFI: CONNECTING UMNGENI THROUGH DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY



**Love uMngeni, AtomGate, Mi-WiFi and uMngeni Municipality** have partnered to provide free public Wi-Fi at four sites in Howick: Howick Taxi Rank, Howick Falls, Nelson Mandela Capture Site and Howick Clinic.

The network is already reaching over 2,500 devices, creating opportunities for digital access and community connection. Through advertising revenue, the partnership supports the uMngeni Digital Futures programme, **providing digital literacy, technical skills training, work experience and employment pathways for local youth.**

**VIEW THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT FOR MORE INFORMATION & GET INVOLVED!**

# Narrative Development News

## CRAFTING STORIES THAT SHAPE OUR FUTURE

Love uMngeni successfully hosted a water table at the annual **Go Gravel** event, in partnership with **Go Gravel** and **Sir Fruit.** The event provided an opportunity to raise funds for our organisation, connect with the sporting community and strengthen relationships with local partners who share our vision for a thriving community.

We are grateful to **Go Gravel** and **Sir Fruit** for their support and for helping us create opportunities to make a lasting difference in uMngeni.

Partnering together for change!






## Love uMngeni 2025/26 Annual Impact Report. Get yours now!

Thank you to every volunteer, donor, partner, and supporter. We are so proud of what our community has achieved together. From skills training and job creation to environmental restoration and disaster relief, your support has made a tangible difference in the KZN Midlands. We especially appreciate our monthly donors whose regular contributions keep this work going. You are the backbone of our sustainability. If you would like to become a monthly donor. We are also proud to announce we received a CLEAN AUDIT for 2025-26 FY.

**Sign up here: https://loveumngeni.org.za/product/monthly-donation/**
**View the report here: https://heyzine.com/flip-book/3177855a37.html**

## Our Growing Reach

Our message of hope and transformation is spreading! Across our digital platforms, we reached over **159,929 people on social media alone.** We invite you to join the conversation and see the heartbeat of our community. Exciting new video projects are launching!

**Please subscribe to our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@loveumngeni**

## Rethinking Success, Purpose and Impact at

# THE ASCENT SUMMIT KZN

Love uMngeni founder and social entrepreneur Matt Hogarty joined The Human Journey at The Ascent Summit KZN for a conversation about purpose, impact, and what it means to live in alignment with our values.

Drawing on his work connecting businesses, NGOs and communities, Matt challenged conventional ideas of success and burnout, reminding us that meaningful impact goes beyond numbers — it is also about restoring dignity, helping people find purpose and creating opportunities for others to thrive.

The conversation encouraged us to reflect on how we define success, measure impact, and build lives that truly matter.

**People. Perspectives. Possibilities.**



**Donate Funds:** www.loveumngeni.org.za/get-involved/

**Contact us:** info@loveumngeni.org.za

# Upcoming Events| November 2026

**STAY TUNED FOR WAYS TO JUMP ON BOARD**

**5** — **Growth Mode Launch, Thursday 5 November 2026**
Love uMngeni launch new online youth mentorship App to help train EQ, Life Skills

**10** — **CEO Speaks at the National Homelessness Conference in Pietermaritzburg**
Tuesday, 10 November 2026

**13** — **Hilton College Community Service Day**
Friday, 13 November 2026

**17-20** — **Love uMngeni Entrepreneurship Team runs Resellers Bootcamp with LINC FOUNDATION** Tuesday 17 - Friday 20 November 2026 in Salt Rock, KZN

**23-24** — **Business Clinic with Gaye Evans (Lead Change) at ACAT Lidgetton**
Monday 23 - Tuesday 24 November 2026

**25** — **Staff Development Day**
Wednesday, 25 November 2026

**26** — **NEW 'Digital Futures' Hub launches to train and support digital enterprise startups**
Thursday, 26 November 2026




To sign - up as a vendor, or for more info please email

033 940 5075 info@loveumngeni.org.za




LOVE UMNGENI

This October, wear your red socks from Love uMngeni with purpose!

STEP UP FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS, EARLY DETECTION AND SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE AFFECTED.

**JOIN US FOR ONE OF OUR EVENTS!**

**EMAIL INFO@LOVEUMNGENI.ORG.ZA**

iOS
(App Store)

# Get the uMngeni Community Hub App Today!

Android
(Google Play)

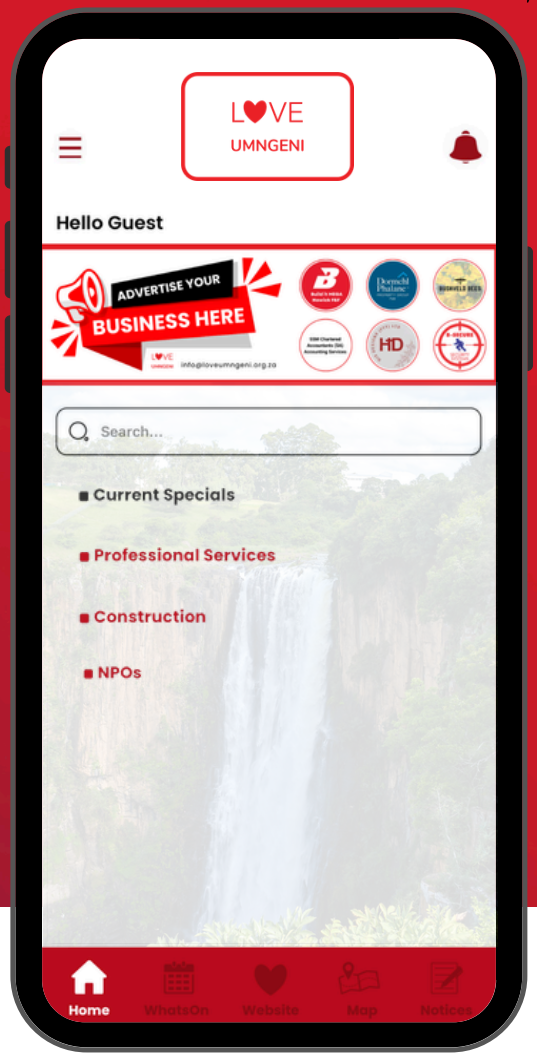
## SCAN. DOWNLOAD. CONNECT

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

Municipal and public notices delivered straight to your phone.

Call councillors, emergency services, or local shops instantly.

Interactive map, What's On calendar, and all key contacts in one place.

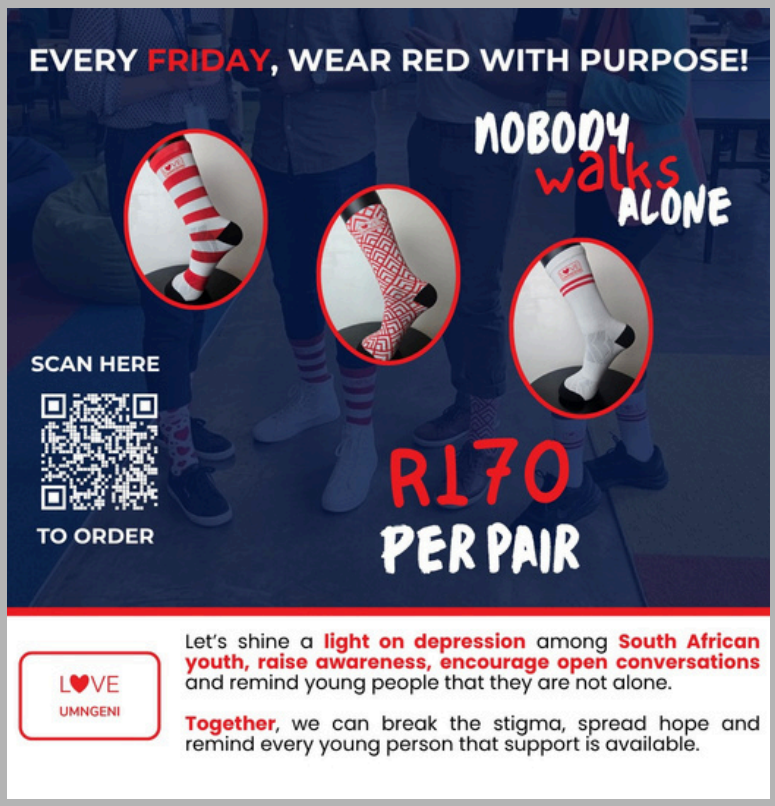



**List your business on the app, starting from R275 per month**

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

**Local Brand Visibility** | **Instant Customer Connections** | **Build Trust, Do Good**

Free listings for NGOs and faith communities. | www.loveumngeni.org.za







**SIGN UP YOUR BRAND NOW to sponsor a Waste Trailer**




## Thrift store!

- Baby Items
- Bags
- Shoes
- Clothes
- Homeware
- Toiletries
- Bargains




**OPEN TO PUBLIC | 9AM - 2PM WEEKDAYS | 19 MORLING ST, HOWICK**

All proceeds support the purchase of food parcels and training programs for the unemployed.

# PLACE YOUR AD HERE

MARKETING@LOVEUMNGENI.ORG.ZA

R350 ¼ PAGE

REACH = 3500 BUSINESSES, ORGANISATIONS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS

**CONTACT US TODAY**