



FOR TRANSFORMATION

A Message from our CEO

DISRUPTING POVERTY WITH PURPOSE

South Africa doesn't just need more programs; we need clear pathways that disrupt poverty with purpose.

At the Annual Banquet, **the Pathway to Purpose** was shared as a simple, tested approach built over the past decade. It focuses on creating structured journeys that help people move forward, starting with mindset and opportunity, building practical skills, and leading to real work, income, and dignity.

What made the evening powerful was seeing these pathways in action. The stories were real: young people stepping into jobs, entrepreneurs growing businesses, and communities taking ownership of their spaces. These are not one-off wins; they show what happens when people are given a clear path to follow.

We've learned that poverty is not only about lack of resources; it's about lack of access and direction. When pathways are clear, connected, and supported, people begin to move from survival to purpose.

None of this is possible without our partners. To every donor, business, volunteer, and stakeholder, thank you. Your belief, investment, and willingness to walk this journey with us are what makes these pathways real and sustainable. You are not just supporting a programme; you are helping build a system that works.

As we look ahead, **the focus is simple: build more pathways, strengthen what works, and ensure more people can walk them.**

Because when pathways are clear, poverty is disrupted and purpose begins to rise.

Matt Hogarty



FOUNDER & CEO

www.loveumnengi.org.za

LOVE
UMNENI

Social Development

Place Development

Skills Development

Economic Development

Narrative Development

Special Thanks



Our Greenlight Poverty Indicator surveys are the foundation of meaningful engagement.

What is the Greenlight Survey?

Real transformation begins when people are heard.

The Greenlight Survey is a practical tool that helps communities identify their own needs, challenges, and opportunities. It creates a safe space for residents to pause, reflect, and honestly acknowledge what is working, and what isn't.

More than just collecting data, it is the first step in a journey of engagement. It invites local leaders, residents, and stakeholders to take ownership of their shared future. When communities identify their needs together, they move from passive endurance to active participation. From feeling stuck, to becoming strategic. Because sustainable transformation doesn't happen to a community. It happens with a community.

WATCH HERE

Thobile's Story of Transformation

Meet Thobile, a Street Store beneficiary from Shiaz. Using tokens earned through the programme, she completed our Work Ready course, then moved on to the Crop Production course to further build her skills. Thobile's journey from beneficiary to skilled individual is exactly the kind of empowered transformation we love to see!



541 Clothing items distributed

818 Bags of waste recycled

6 Street Store beneficiaries completed agricultural training (using tokens)

20 Completed Greenlight surveys in Shiaz Informal settlement

The data now guides our next step: the Innovation Hub (12 May, Shiaz One Life Church).

The Street Store

At our Street Store, community members in need can use tokens earned through recycling or volunteering to choose quality clothing with dignity. These tokens also open doors to further training. Participants can use them to "pay" for skills courses at our Dream Centre, like Thobile did, creating a powerful pathway out of poverty.



BRUSHCUT



**PAVEMENTS
CLEARED**



**ALIEN INVASIVES
PLANTS REMOVED**



TREES PLANTED

MY SPACE CAMPAIGN



**27 businesses in.
Will yours be next?**

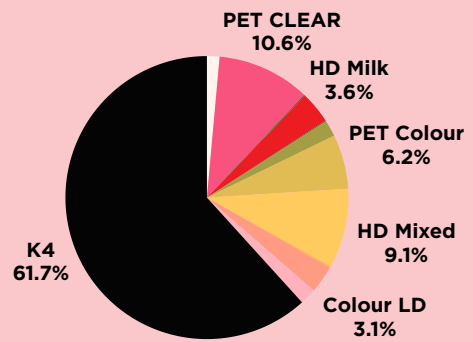
Clean-ups. Recycling.
Soon: planting,
painting, visible pride.

info@loveumngeni.org.za



40 SEEDLINGS PLANTED

RECYCLING



Waste Item Recycled:

- K4: 6753 kg
- PET Clear 1162kg
- HD Mixed 991kg
- PET Colour 679kg
- HD Milk 398kg
- Other: 956.5kg



New Community Services

We're thrilled to launch two innovative projects that turn waste into worth and service into opportunity.

1. Recycled Glass Pavers!

We're turning recycled glass into durable paving bricks to fix curbs and enhance our parks. Each paver is R60, and every purchase supports local job creation and a cleaner environment.

2. Small Appliance Repairs

In December, we celebrated GL2E participants who completed training in appliance repair and e-waste reduction with expert trainer Koena Mabitsela. We're offering affordable repair services for small household appliances. Just R150 per item to give it a new life. We repair: Kettles, Toasters, Air Fryers, Irons, Sandwich Presses, Microwaves, Fans, Hairdryers, and Blenders.

27 Pavers Built from Recycled Glass



Photos by
Penny Carolan





Jobs. Hope. Progress.



Two of our Office Admin students have been placed into YES learnerships: gaining income, experience, and a future.

Level-Up Staff Development with Dunranch group



We delivered Level Up training to managers from **Spur, Talisman, Rockafellas, and John Dory's** (Dunranch group). The result? Participants showed a clear shift toward greater personal responsibility and better relationships: at work and at home. **We can train your team too. [Apply here.](#)**

Dream Centre

- 77** Work Ready graduates
- 12** Animal Production graduates
- 07** Office Admin graduates
- 06** Barista graduates
- 48** Financial Literacy graduates
- 15** Computer Literacy graduates
- 912** Community service hours
- 2,432** Practical work experience hours with local businesses

Edu-Project (Play to Learn)

- 34** Teachers reached
- 10** Learner assessments completed

A huge thank you to our partners who made workplace practicals possible: **Cascades, CoffeeBox Athlone, Wimpy Howick, Coffeeberry Hilton, The Hall Café, & BP Wild Bean Café.**

Brewing Success: From Training to Employment



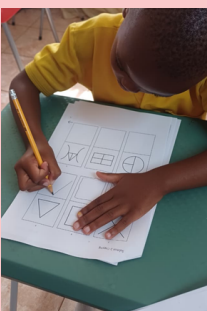
Our **Barista Training Course** equipped **6 participants** with both technical skills and real-world coffee experience. **The model:** 1 in-person training day + 4 days of practical, in-service training each week at local coffee shops.

The result:

2 students already employed: one at Wimpy, one at Coffeeberry

Facilitator: Thabiso Damane

Edu-Project Update (with Linc Foundation and Care for Education)



We've completed the **Investigation Phase** in our partner schools (Isibongo and Neverneverland Primary).

- 34 teachers & principals reached with our 50-question Needs Indicator
- 10 learner assessments completed
- 8 video demonstrations shared on WhatsApp for remote support
- 1 new volunteer (isiZulu translation) onboarded

Early win: Educators starting to use Six Bricks daily. Hesitant learners are showing **more confidence, better participation, and growing trust.**

From Street Store Client to Homeowner



Xolisile first came to Love uMngeni as a Street Store beneficiary, a place where recycling can be exchanged for tokens.

Xolisile then used her tokens to enroll in these Dream Center courses: Crop Production, Micro Business, Retail, She's the Boss, and Re-sellers. After her Micro Business course, Love uMngeni gave her stock to start selling clothes. Her business grew. And grew. And grew.

Today? Xolisile has built a big house for her family with the money from her business.

"I want to say thank you, thank you, Love uMngeni for the opportunity. From now on, I will build a big house for my family with this business."

80 Home Gardens: Growing Food, Growing Hope

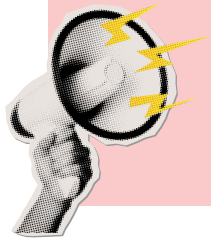
Across the uMngeni area, **80 families** are growing their own food and their own futures.

Behind that number is a quiet revolution. Beneficiaries from the **Street Store** (many of whom had never planted a seed before) joined our **Agriculture Accelerator**. They learned:

- **Crop production:** how to plant, nurture, and harvest vegetables
- **Water management:** making every drop count
- **Micro-business skills:** how to sell surplus produce at local markets

One of the six graduates from April is now feeding her children from her back garden and selling the extra tomatoes and spinach to neighbours. Another is using her harvest to supplement what she used to buy with tokens.





We believe that the story of uMngeni should be told by the people who live here. This pillar is about amplifying those voices and shaping a new, uplifting narrative.

Listen

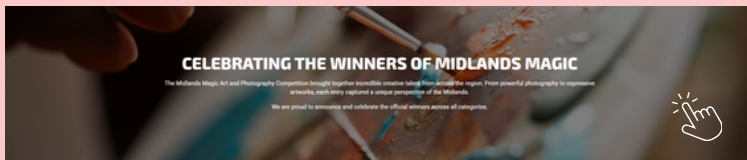
Connect

Share

Create

Midlands Magic Art & Photography Competition

Guided by the theme "Midlands Magic Through Our Eyes", artists (professionals and youth alike) captured the soul of our region. Their work was exhibited at the Gala and is now featured [online](#).



Our Growing Reach



Our message of hope and transformation is spreading! Across our digital platforms, we reached over **504,300 people on Facebook 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

Coming up Every event is a story we choose to tell: about creativity, courage, and community.

- **Red Socks Campaign (May – Mental Health Awareness Month):** Recent data shows that mental health disorders are prevalent, with depression affecting over **27% of South Africans**. Too many are not being heard. Too many are walking alone. This is a red flag issue and we cannot be silent. When you see someone wearing red socks, they are saying: "I'm here. I'm listening. You don't have to walk alone." We are creating a space where conversations can start, where we can empathise, acknowledge that what you are going through is real, and remove the shame. Because once it is spoken about, healing can begin. **Buy red socks** and wear a message that says: I see you. I'll listen.
- **Thrift Market (Saturday, 9 May):** Every item you buy makes a difference. **100% of the proceeds** go toward feeding the unemployed and supporting the vulnerable in our community. Come find clothes, homeware, furniture, and more. Shop with purpose. 19 Morling Street, Howick. 9am-12pm.
- **Golf Day - Bosch Hoek Golf Course Balgowan (Friday, 5 June):** Join us for a fundraising golf day, all proceeds support Love uMngeni's programs. To book a team, hole sponsor, event sponsor, or prize sponsor, please complete this form.
- **Harvard House Day Golf - Victoria Country Club PMB (Friday, 19 June):** A joint fundraiser for **Love uMngeni** and **Singakwenza Early Childhood Education**. Come play, network, and give back. Email clarem@hhgroup.co.za.
- **Rawson Midlands Hot Wing Challenge (Saturday, 27 June):** A community event for everyone. A percentage of proceeds will go directly to Love uMngeni to support our community programs. Come for the heat, stay for the heart.
📄 Tickets: www.webtickets.co.za | Contact: 065 098 2017

Sponsor the MIDLANDS MAGIC 'I AM HOME' Video Series

We are launching a premium four-part video series: 'Midlands Magic: I Am Home' to position the KZN Midlands as a top destination for investment, relocation, and long-term living.

Each cinematic film will showcase:

- 📍 Where the next generation thrives: education, safety, community
- 📍 Confidence you can build on: service delivery, leadership, clean towns
- 📍 Well cared for, for life: healthcare, retirement living, wellbeing
- 📍 Live well outdoors: nature, movement, mental reset

WHY SPONSOR?

Your brand will be associated with trust, quality of life, and sustainable growth, reaching families, entrepreneurs, and investors who are choosing the Midlands.

Only 6 sponsorship places available | R30,000 per corporate partner.

Includes logo placement in all 4 videos, brand presence across media releases, access to video assets, and visibility at key launch events.

Contact Matt Hogarty

matt@loveumngeni.org.za

082 882 2019

Previous Sponsors



MIDLANDS
084 346 8084



Special Thanks

Annual Banquet & Midlands Magic Gala (16 April)

Thank you to 130 guests, Mayor Chris Pappas, our Golden Heart Award winner Thandolwethu Buthelezi, and every artist who shared their Midlands Magic.

Prize Sponsors

JS Automotive – Bosch Car Service • Zulu Lulu Arthouse • Ashleigh Wegener Studios • Bushveld Bees • Midlands Magazine • Scotch Macaskill – Optical Laser Cuts • The Framery • The Dlamini Collection



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th *Framery*

The Midlands Magazine



ASHLEIGHWEGENER.CO.ZA | 082 699 8971

Scotch Macaskill



Event Sponsors

Amber Glades (fabulous host) • Highgate Wine Estate • M&N Electrical • Labola • Muirheads • Merrivale Spar • Greendale Spar • Yirah Films by Ruth Peckham • Candle Dipping • Jurgens Bekker Attorneys



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films

SUPERSPAR
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amber glades
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Labola
FLORALS | DECOR | STYLING

Media Partners

The Village Talk and The Hilton Newspaper | Thank you for telling our story.

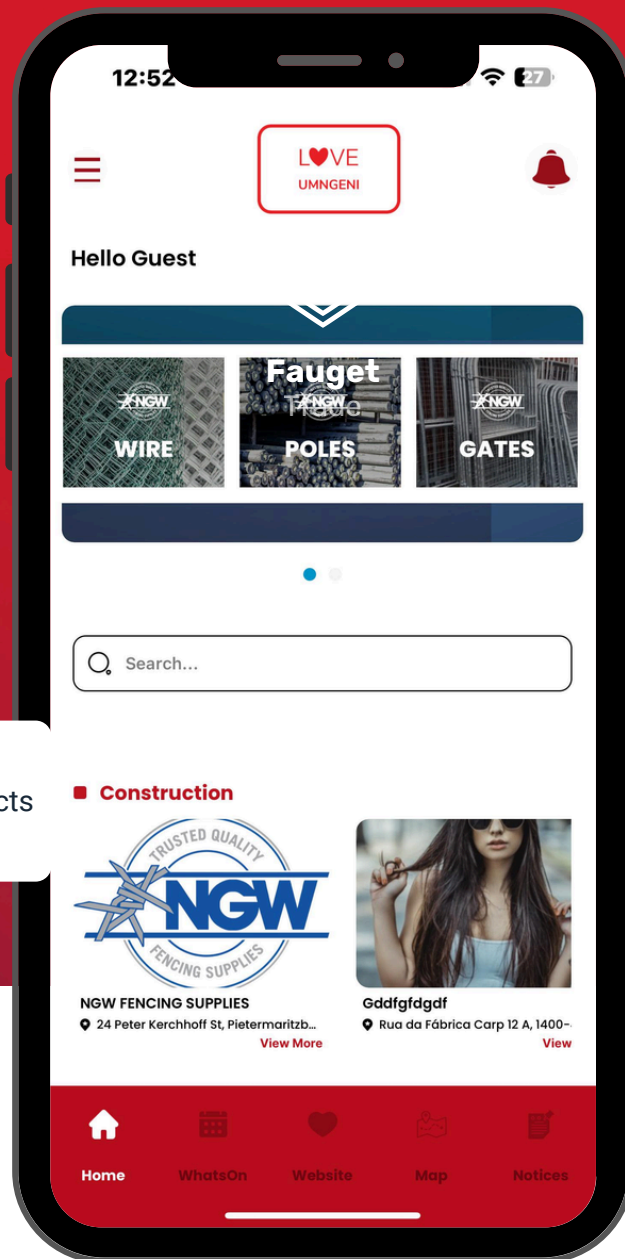


THE **Hilton**
NEWSPAPER

village
Talk



uMngeni Community Hub App



Direct dial councillors, emergency services, or local shops instantly.

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

Businesses: Update your hours, prices & specials in real-time from your phone.

Instant Alerts: Get emergency notifications & official news straight to your phone

Free listings for NGOs, churches, schools, clinics.

[Apply Now](#)



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

NOBODY
walks
ALONE

R170
PER PAIR

LOVE
UMNGENI



CORPORATE GOLF DAY

LOVE
CITIES

LOVE
UMNGENI

LOVE
HOWICK

**BOSCH HOEK GOLF CLUB,
BALGOWAN**

Book a Team: R3,950
Sponsor a Hole: R2,000
Registration from 09h30
Shotgun start at 11h00



Friday, 5 June 2026
marketing@loveumngeni.org.za

RAWSON

Property Group

PMB • HILTON • HOWICK
0861 MY HOME

MIDLANDS
HOT WING
CHALLENGE
& MARKET

LOVE
UMNGENI

27 JUNE @ 11AM

STOCKOWNERS OUTDOOR PARK

FOOD, DRINKS, MARKET STALLS & KIDS ENTERTAINMENT



PLACE YOUR AD **HERE**

✉ MARKETING@LOVEUMNGENI.ORG.ZA

📈 R350 ¼ PAGE

👥 REACH = 3500 BUSINESSES,
ORGANISATIONS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS

CONTACT US TODAY