

Newsletter



Together

FOR TRANSFORMATION .

A Message from our CEO

South Africa is under strain. Unemployment strips dignity, poverty deepens inequality, food insecurity turns survival into a daily battle, and failing services erode trust. In this reality, organisations like Love uMngeni (and many more!) are not simply helpful - they are essential.

Restoring dignity where opportunity is scarce

Work is about more than income; it is about purpose. When people are excluded from opportunity, communities fracture. Love uMngeni creates pathways for participation, skills, and contribution, reminding people they still matter and still have agency.

Acting where systems fall short

When service delivery fails, communities cannot wait. Grassroots organisations respond quickly, locally, and relationally. Love uMngeni works alongside residents to meet urgent needs like food security, waste recycling, and beautification while strengthening long-term community capacity. Proximity builds trust – and trust enables change.

Turning hope into action

Hope is not abstract; it is practical. Visible acts of care stabilise communities under pressure. Love uMngeni translates compassion into action, strengthening the social fabric that keeps communities standing.

South Africa's future will be shaped by those willing to stand in the gap between broken systems and resilient people. Love uMngeni is committed to working with key partners to do exactly that – and this work has never mattered more.

Matt Hogarty



www.loveumngeni.org.za



Community Hub App

Place Development

Social Development

Skills Development

Economic Development

Narrative Development

Place Development *News.*

10.4
km

**DRAINS &
PAVEMENTS
CLEARED**

25

**TREES
PLANTED**

29

**PLANTS
PLANTED**

10.5
ha

**BRUSH
CUTTING**

ALIEN INVASIVE PLANTS REMOVED

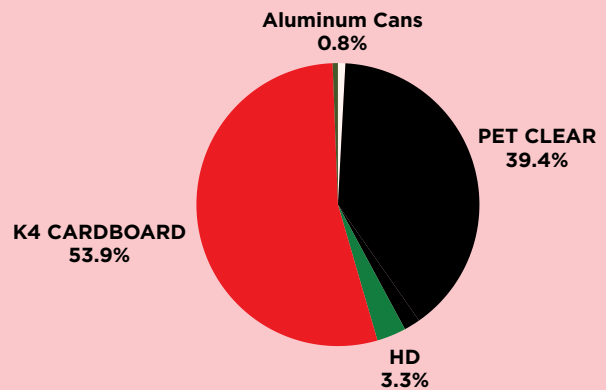


105,000 m²



We loved partnering with Hilton College for their recent CommServe Day at the park.

RECYCLING



Waste Item Recycled:

- ALUMINUM CANS → 28 kg
- PET CLEAR → 1,311 kg
- POLY PROP → 62 kg
- HD → 111 kg
- K4 CARDBOARD → 1,792 kg
- STEEL CANS → 20 kg



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.

Inspiration at Brahrman Hills

Our dedicated green team enjoyed an immersive outing to the world-class Brahrman Hills Gardens. This hands-on experience, made possible by a generous transport donation from KA Travel & Tours, provided fresh, creative vision to enhance our town's green spaces.



Social Development *News.*



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.

56 Completed surveys in Shiaz Informal settlement

120 People enrolled in our Street Store Token Program.

35 Total Household Surveys Completed

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.

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!



Introducing Growth Mode

We're excited to launch Growth Mode, a new mentorship course helping young people build emotional intelligence, mindset, and life skills to move forward with confidence and purpose. Topics covered:

- Personal story and identity (Tree of Life)
- Beliefs and internal narratives
- Emotional awareness and regulation
- Healthy conflict resolution
- Stress management
- Responsibility and accountability
- Goal setting and action planning

Skills Development *News.*



The Dream Centre

The first two months of 2026 have been a period of remarkable achievement. We successfully implemented a range of practical courses opening pathways to employment, and we are excited to have started March with our largest Work Ready intake yet; 54 students beginning their journey to thrive in the workplace.

25%

2 of 8 Retail students secure employment at SPAR Quarry.

1,824

Cumulative workplace experience hours provided to students

15

Students gained skills in Microbusiness Development

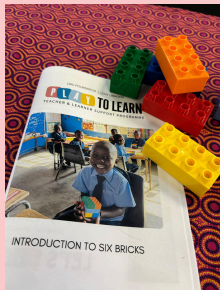
11

Students gained skills in Home Based Care

40

Students completed practical agricultural training. They are now establishing home gardens to boost food security and income.

A huge thank you to our partners who made workplace practicals possible: SPAR Merrivale, SPAR Quarry, Pick n Pay Fairways, Fairfield, The Step Down Facility, and Greendale House.



Launching the EduProject PLAY TO LEARN with Linc Foundation!



We are thrilled to announce the launch of Play to Learn, a powerful new partnership with the Linc Foundation and Care for Education! This initiative is boosting literacy and social-emotional learning in our local schools.

Led by our Occupational Therapist, Casey Beningfield, Phase One is launching at Isibongo Primary (Mpophomeni) and Neverneverland Primary (Emandleni Cedara), training 17 educators and reaching 540 students weekly. The programme uses the brilliant Six Bricks tool; a playful, hands-on method using LEGO® DUPLO® bricks to build foundational skills. We are deeply grateful to Care for Education for inventing and sharing this incredible tool with the world.

Economic Development *News.*

1. Training



2. Doing



3. Selling



Our goal is to ensure that the skills learned translate directly into economic resilience and independence.

- **From Training to Harvest:** After the 3-day Crop Production training in late February, all 20 participants (16 from SEF and 4 from The Street Store) were required to start their own small gardens at home. One group is already selling cabbages and spinach from their backyards, splitting profits evenly, a visible impact of our business sessions!
- **Resellers Bootcamp:** We kicked off a new Resellers Bootcamp, teaching aspiring entrepreneurs how to start and run a business by reselling trusted products. Participants are mastering skills like:
 - Strong Work Ethic
 - Digital & Branding Strategy
 - Sales & Market Research
 - Managing Finances

OUR SEF FIRST BIG MARKET DAY!

A major highlight was our Love uMngeni New Entrepreneurs Market Day on 6 March 2026 at the Shoprite Centre Car Park. The community came out in full force to cheer on our local SEF small business owners! It was a vibrant celebration of young entrepreneurship and a powerful reminder of the talent in our community



Narrative Development *News.*

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

Community Connects: Your Voice Matters

In February, we hosted Community Connect events in Howick, Hilton, Mpophomeni, and Lion's River. These gatherings weren't about presenting a plan, they were about listening. We invited residents to share their hopes, ideas, and where they'd like to see positive change. The response was open, honest, and inspiring, laying the foundation for genuine co-creation.



Our Growing Reach



Our message of hope and transformation is spreading! Across our digital platforms, we reached over **604,400 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

Help Restore the Sizakancane Senior Centre

Donate Your Skills:

Builders, electricians, plumbers, roofers, security installers, and gardeners.

Donate Materials:

Cement, roofing, building blocks, steel windows, doors, and fencing.

Donate Goods:

Tables, chairs, a stove, freezer, and crockery for 50 people.

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



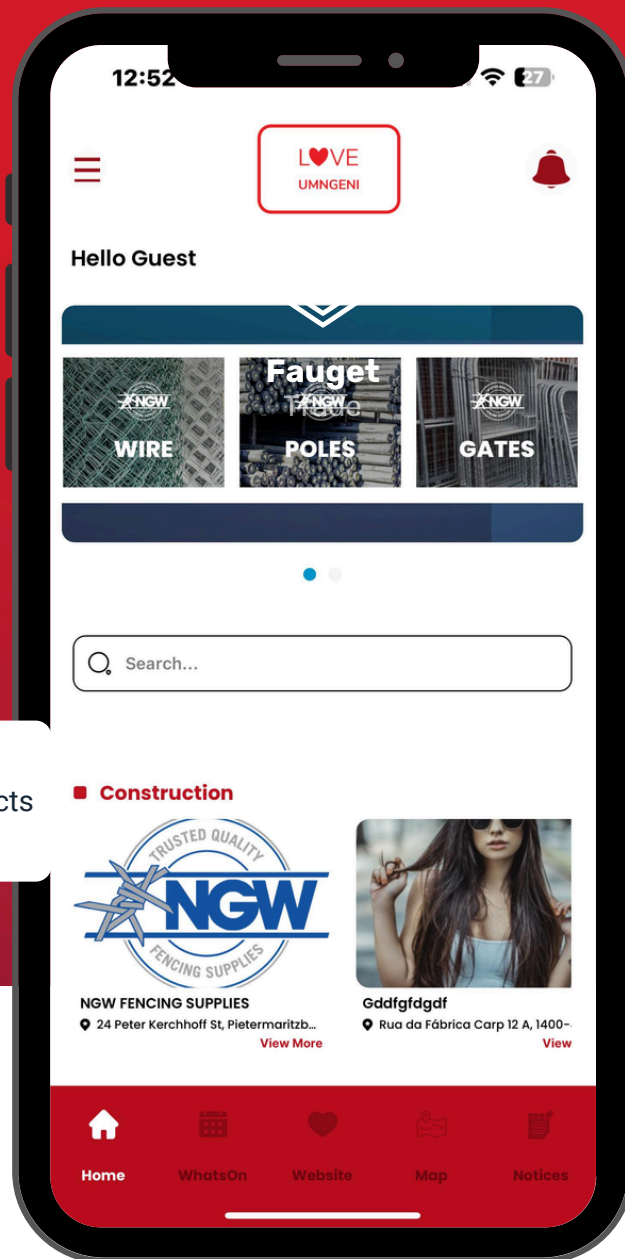
The Midlands Magic Art & Photography Competition is capturing the imagination of our region, inviting everyone to see the KZN Midlands through new eyes. There's still time to enter! Theme: "Midlands Magic - Through Our Eyes"

- Categories: Professional/Amateur/Youth in Photography & 2D Art.
- Entry Fee: R100 (Adults), R50 (Youth 12-18)
- Deadline: 30 March 2026

To enter or learn more, visit: www.midlandsmagickzn.co.za/enter



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.

info@loveumngeni.org.za



art & Photography COMPETITION

Theme: Midlands Magic Through Our Eyes
R15000 WORTH OF PRIZES + EXHIBITION + EXPOSURE



ENTER NOW



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WED, 25 MARCH 2026 FROM 9AM

- 🐾 **OFFER YOUR SKILLS:** Welder, builder, plumber, handyman.
- 🐾 **DONATE MATERIALS:** Concrete, bricks, plaster, white enamel paint, plumbing fittings, shade net poles, gardening supplies.
- 🐾 **VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME:** For socialising with animals, gardening, or sorting donations.

marketing@loveumngeni.org.za



CORPORATE GOLF DAY



**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

Fresh from our farm to you.

FAIRFIELD DAIRY

Driving positive change together.



PLACE YOUR AD HERE

✉ MARKETING@LOVEUMNGENI.ORG.ZA

📈 R350 ¼ PAGE

👥 REACH = 3500 BUSINESSES,
ORGANISATIONS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS

CONTACT US TODAY