



2023 Combined Annual Reports of the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund

Tanya Harvey
info@HABandBF.co.za



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Summary Report For 2023

Income from donations was **UP 17%**

Expenditure per **Tertiary Fund** beneficiary was **R19490**

43 Tertiary Students assisted achieving a **95%** pass rate

300 School Children in 15 schools assisted with uniform

40 Food Parcels issued to 12 Advice Bureau Families

111 Clients helped by Advice Bureau

74 Matriculants helped by the **CAO Project** to access NSFAS funded university places

630 Matriculants benefitted from **CAO Personality Type & Course Choice workshops**

1100 Grade 9's benefitted from the **CAO Subject Choice workshop**

Admin Costs 4% of expenditure

WE NEED...

- 2nd hand laptops which we can have refurbished
- 2nd hand smartphones
- CAO Project Assistant

2023 was a year during which we were able to significantly increase the numbers of Beneficiaries who we were able to help to help themselves: specifically the low cost high impact CAO Project workshops for over 1700 high school learners. This is an area of our work which relies heavily on suitable volunteers being available for ever moving dates in our network of Quintile schools. Partnering with Caitlyn's Pass the Panties initiative the Schools Fund has effectively expanded to include motivational talks about respect and personal hygiene. Pass the Panties has provided girls at our schools with panties and bras.

The majority of 2023's Tertiary Fund graduates are now employed or embarking on further study. For example:

- Siphamandla Dladla (M. Chemistry and Chemical Technology, UKZN) now employed by Skyside as a Quality and Water Quality Control intern.
- Nomvuyo Ndlovu (B.Eng, (UNISA) and Project Management (MANCOSA)) who is working as a Junior Civil Engineer for Kuma Consulting Engineers.
- Mandlenkosi Nkala (MSc Medical Pharmacology, UKZN) who is a Marine Field Technician with the SA Association for Marine Biological Research.

The success of the CAO Project in helping the majority of 'high flier' matrices to be offered NSFAS funded places in tertiary institutions has led to a welcome and huge reduction in January applications to the Tertiary Fund. The Tertiary Fund now gives priority to CAO Project alumni who do not have relatives who can assist them with the areas of financial shortfall left by NSFAS.

The Advice Bureau had some success following their meetings with Senior Management at the various SASSA and Home Affairs branches. There has been an improvement in attitude in most of the branches. The time taken to resolve cases has reduced somewhat due to

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Nokuthula accompanying clients and advocating for them, however the process is still extremely slow, for example it took 2 years to have a client's disability benefit reinstated, during which time the client had no income and relied on our food parcels.

Marketing wise there has been progress in bringing HABandBF into the 21st Century: Giving Tuesday launched our Zapper account and branded golf and t shirts (– marketing budget courtesy of Ann and Tanya's old school, Lady Eleanor Holles in Hampton, Middlesex). The aim is for more people to know about us, volunteer with us and donate to us.

Finance

Income was up 17% with expenditure down 11% which left us with a small surplus to start 2024 with. This was not enough to build up reserves.

Thanks

Thanks to **C&S Accounting** for compilation and auditing of the Annual Financial Statements, to **Stimela Consulting**, to our team of **volunteers** for donations of Thank You gifts, their petrol, airtime, printer ink and paper, to **Netelligent Consulting** email service providers for their discount, to **Holy Trinity Anglican Church** and the **African Gospel Church** for donating space and facilities.

Also to the Diapalante Trustees who continued to allow us to use their online funding platform which enables UK donors to increase their donation by 25% due to the UK Gift Aid scheme where tax is refunded on donations to registered charities.

Thanks especially to the Trusts, Charities, Corporates and individuals who donate the money, second hand laptops and smartphones that we use to do our work, helping to make '**A Better South Africa, One Degree At A Time...**'

Team Members

Our team of volunteers are invaluable to our work, none of which could be done without their time, knowledge and skills. Despite the tragic and untimely death of Martyn Harvey in June 2023 the Team is still strengthening which is improving the sustainability of the Fund. We have been lucky to benefit from the services of an intern in 2023.

Tanya Harvey

12th August 2024

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Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund Donations Received During 2023

	Financial Donations	Non Financial Donors	
January	Solon	Holy Trinity Anglican Church	Space, storage, photocopying, use of telephones
		African Gospel Church	Space
February	Diaplane	Kearsney College	Venue for meetings, Manzini Zungu's time
	Anonymous Individual	Volunteers	Time, petrol, airtime, printing, wisdom, advice
	Coker Family Trust	Gordon Allen	Reconditioned Laptops
	Solon	Jenipher Lavander	Email
	Comburs	Netelligence Consulting	Email hosting discount
	R Paget Will Trust	Diapalante	Allowing use of their VirginGiving platform for UK based sponsorship funding and matched giving
		Sam Luckett	Time, expertise in developing Cloud based software to record Beneficiary Interactions and Beneficiary History
March	Beare Foundation	Kevin Andrew	Discounts on refurbished laptops and laptop repairs
		Vicki Taricska	Laptop and 'phone
April	Anonymous Individual	Matt Shaw	2 tablets
		Angela Knock	2 tablets
May	Anonymous Individual		
	SPAR		
	Solon		
	Gordon Allen		
	Maureen Stone		
	Uma Balakrishna		
June	Ramsden Trust		
	Anonymous Individual		
	Greenacre Foundation		
July	Anonymous Individual		
August	Key Pinetown		
September	Anonymous		
October	Comburs		
	Robin Hamilton Trust		
	Anonymous		
	Molly Reynolds Trust		
November	Concert, In memorium Martyn Harvey		
	Anonymous		
	R Paget Will Trust		
December	LEH BeBold		
	Giving Tuesday Zapper		
	Fulton Trust		
	Anonymous		
	Mary Grice Bequest		

MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

Overview

The past year has been an exciting one as we sought innovative ways to increase our visibility, our outreach and to be better known in our community. We were able to create a group within our volunteers for strategic marketing and social media, working closely with the fundraising team. We have raised a little more awareness of the organisation, engaged with potential donors and well-wishers, and created a mailing list database.

A significant highlight of this year was the joining of a new volunteer, Dudu Msimanga and the return of Nicky Sibaya from maternity leave – their enthusiasm, creativity and experience have allowed us to shift our marketing focus and practices.

Overview of Campaigns

Our marketing strategy for the year revolved around community engagement and re-introducing the organisation. We aimed to shed light on the challenges faced by underprivileged individuals in our community while highlighting the impact of our initiatives.

Key actions included:

- Branding:

We acquired branded t-shirts for our team of volunteers. This improved our image with uniformity, identification and presenting a unified and professional look for the team. Brand colours, font and style were streamlined and adapted to our letterhead, forms and all marketing material.

- Giving Tuesday:

We organized a pop-up stall at Richdens Centre to raise funds for the Schools Project to prepare for the back-to-school season. We were able to distribute information flyers about the organisation as well as encourage sign-ups for our newsletter and updates

- Facebook:

Our social media presence experienced considerable growth this year, with an increase of approximately 10% in Followers, engagement increased by 340%, with an average of 166 interactions per post. We have made considerable headway though we are still to utilise the analytics tools that will enable us to better understand our audience and tailor our content accordingly.

- Collaborative Initiatives:

The Marketing and Social Media team helped forge collaborations with local Non-Profit organisations for sponsorship opportunities, which provided additional resources for our campaigns.



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Future Directions

Looking ahead, we plan to build on the momentum generated this year. The Marketing and Social Media team aims to:

- Grow our following on the newly created Instagram account, engage with a wider and more diverse audience.
- Update and clean up our existing website to improve user experience and donation capabilities.
- Engage in door-to-door type meetings with local businesses, office visits with potential collaboration partners as well as pop-up stalls at local shopping centres.
- Volunteer Spotlight: Aimed at promoting volunteer opportunities, by highlighting the contributions of our volunteers and their personal experiences, attracting new members to our team.
- Develop a volunteer ambassador program to leverage the enthusiasm of our current volunteers in promoting our mission within their networks.

Conclusion

This year has been a remarkable journey for HABandBF. With the successful implementation of our campaigns and Marketing and Social media team, we have set a strong foundation for future growth. Together with our dedicated volunteers and supporters, we are committed to continuing our mission to uplift underprivileged individuals in our community, ensuring that hope and support remain at the forefront of our efforts.

Thank You

We express our sincere gratitude to all our volunteers, donors, and partners who have played an essential role in our success this year. Your support continues to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Dudu Msimanga

On behalf of the Marketing and Social Media Team

Date: 11/08/2024

CAO PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Overview

2023 was our busiest year yet. We held workshops with about 630 Matrics and 1,100 Grade 9 learners at seven schools, and signed up 74 high fliers to receive the R250 CAO administration Fee support. We communicated regularly with the 50 high fliers we had supported in the previous year, as well as a few from 2021, and advised and assisted them as needed.

The Team

We welcomed Dudu Msimanga to our team of volunteers. Dudu is young and creative and has brought a breath of fresh air into our workshops. Her talent is showcased in the videos she has created of some of our school visits. We also invited two BEd students currently being assisted by HAB to accompany us to some schools to share their stories,

The Workshops

During the first term we visited each school to conduct a workshop with the Matric class focussing on the importance of having a dream and understanding your personality, and encouraging them to research ways of achieving their dream.

For the workshop in the second term CAO provides us with superseded copies of the CAO Handbook, so that every learner can take away a copy. During the workshop they have an opportunity to measure their current performance against the published entry requirements for the programmes they propose applying for. As well as explaining the CAO Handbook and application process we give some guidance on TVET college programmes, skills training and access to support for budding entrepreneurs. We also met the high fliers from each school and got them to complete application forms and agreements, which are subsequently scanned together with the most recent examination results.



Our Grade 9 workshops focus on the relationship between subjects chosen and career possibilities and encourages learners to focus on their preferences and their dreams. Setting dates with schools for these workshops is more difficult than for the Matrics as schools often like to invite parents and other visiting speakers, and we try to fit in with these where we can.



In 2023 we held three grade 9 workshops in August and four in October, which is really too late as most learners have already made their subject choices by then.

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We also conducted a Saturday morning workshop at iKhethelo which was attended by orphans from Lily of the Valley.

We held a workshop for those from the 2022 and 2021 Matrics who were still looking for study opportunities. Hillcrest Aids Centre Trust kindly allowed us to use their Computer Lab for this, which meant that the five who attended were able to research their own plans under guidance. One was accepted by DUT for 2024.

Kwantebeni Comprehensive High had exceptionally good matric results with two learners achieving seven distinctions, and we were invited to participate in a celebration of their success.

Challenges

Our workshops demand flexibility from the facilitators which can be problematic for facilitators with family commitments. One school contacted us on the day to bring the workshop forward by three hours because they had no water.

Some schools have a large number of learners who have been 'progressed' to Grade 9 having failed Grade 8. This is often evident in their level of English.

School venues are not always conducive to learning. One school that has no assembly hall asked us to conduct the Grade 9 workshop in three separate classrooms, which looked as if they had not been swept for months. Fortunately on that occasion we had three facilitators so we could work concurrently with all three groups. On another occasion we met the matrics under trees surrounded by cars and portaloos.

Emergency Support

From our emergency support budget we were able to pay acceptance deposits to UKZN for 2; Change of mind fees for 4, including data for one; travel to campus, rental deposits and food money for a total of 4 students while waiting for NSFAS to start paying; travel to campus for audition for 1 student making a second round of applications; travel to attend HAB Drop-Ins and Workshops for 19; and the balance of Elangeni College fees to allow one student to graduate

We lent laptops to two while waiting for NSFAS laptops to be issued, and donated one to a third student at a university where laptops were not offered.

Matrics from earlier years

Of the 50 Matrics supported in 2022, 37 had at least some contact with us in 2023, together with 9 Matrics supported in 2021. In some cases this turned into ongoing advice and support. Five are currently being supported by the Tertiary Fund.

Siyabonga did badly at Matric in 2019, changed schools and went back to Grade 10. He did better second time around, but failed to be admitted in 2023. He persisted, and was finally admitted to the Diploma in Drama at DUT in 2024 – but it was touch and go with NSFAS because of his age. He is now funded by NSFAS and assisted by the Tertiary Fund and he passed his first term exams with an average of just over 70%.

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Sindiswa has no family support. She achieved a Diploma pass in 2022, but failed to gain admission. She spent 2023 upgrading, but still had no success. She was finally accepted into the Diploma in Security Management by Unisa for second semester 2024. We have helped her with data and learning materials while waiting for NSFAS to start paying.

Workshops we conducted in 2023 (2022 in brackets)

CAO Programme 2023	Khabazela	KwaBazothini	Kwantebeni	Maqhutshana	Mnyameni Zenex	Siyajabula	Thabela	Total
Number of Matrics 2023	133 (155)	55 (58)	110 (149)	71	86	117 (216)	59 (46)	631 (624)
Pass Rate 2023	75% (55%)	74.1% (79.2%)	88.2% (92%)	67.6% (74%)	93.8% (86%)	90.4% (60.4%)	80% (70%)	
1st Workshop	24 Feb	10 Mar	3 Feb	3 Mar	28 Feb	17 Feb	7 Feb	
2nd Workshop	23 May	26 May	19 May	12 May	25 Apr	16 May	18 Apr	
Number of Grade 9's	228 (155 est)	87 (93)	124 (149 est)	157	110	260 (275)	134 (46 est)	1100 (792)
Grade 9 Workshop	26 Oct	11 Aug	30 Oct	17 Aug	27 Oct	18 Oct	17 Aug	

The team clocked up a distance of 2180 kilometers (sharing vehicles to reduce cost) and printed a total of 7 238 A4 handouts.

Going forward

During the second semester we developed a growing relationship with the Hillcrest Aids Centre Trust (HACT) who work into several schools with a system of peer educators mentored by interns. We are aiming to work more closely together in 2024 and we shall take our workshops into Tholulwazi and Siphesihle with them.

We realise that some 80% of the learners we meet are unlikely to attend university, so shall give more information about TVET colleges, cv building and entrepreneurship in future workshops.

Finally

It is a real privilege to be able to share with so many young people as they start out in life, and I am very grateful to our donors and to everyone who has made this possible.

Ann Braine



Annual Report Of The Advice Bureau For The Year 2023

For the year 2023, we assisted a total number of 111 clients, all with varying cases at SASSA and at Home Affairs. We have managed to help resolve a number of cases, with some cases still pending because of the slow pace of system at the government departments services. Along with Mr Maabaso we met with the Heads of Department at Pinetown and Durban SASSA and Home Affairs which resulted in an improvement in attitude from one of the difficult venues.

With cases that we have helped resolve successfully for the year 2023, the few clients who reported back received a total sum of R17 061, 93. Unfortunately, due to loosing contact with some of our clients who do not come back to give us a report after successful applications, we are unaware of the sum of money they have received. Following up on clients is an area of work which we need to improve on. Many clients don't actually seem to believe that we will not want a percentage of their benefits so are reluctant to report on the amount of financial benefits which they receive as a result of our advocacy.

Among support being provided to our clients, we assist by accompanying them to SASSA, they are provided with transport money and they receive food parcels, whilst awaiting successful response of their applications.

We still would benefit from simple access to a lawyer's support for the more difficult cases.

<u>Problems</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Status</u>
Eviction	2		2 Pending
Birth Certificates	6		2 Successful 4 Pending
Child Support Grants	11		1 Successful 10 Pending
Foster Care Grant	2		2 Pending
Death Benefits	11		6 Successful 5 Pending
Disability Grants	31	R5970	1 Successful
Identity Books	20		17 Successful 3 Pending
Care Dependent Grant	2	R6140	1 Successful 1 Pending
Provident Fund	11		Pending
Old Age Pension Grants	7	R18000	1 Successful 6 Pending
Miscellaneous	6		2 Successful 4 Pending
UIF	2		1 Successful 1 Pending
Total	111	R17.061.93	

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Going into 2024: We would like to improve the record keeping and reporting aspect of the Advice Bureau work. All records are currently paper based.

Thanks

We would like to thank to all the Stakeholders and individuals who assist us with food parcels and uniforms. Everyone who's supporting us to make our office bring the services to the community, making it possible.

B. W. Mtakwende _____ dated: _____

Examples of Advice Bureau Clients Seen in 2023

Client Name	Client Needs Duration of case	Current Status	Next Steps	Problem & Help
Hlongwa Thembi ID- 691217083081	Advice, food Parcel and application for Disability Grant	Was Receiving D.G now lapsed – 13 Months	Wrote a letter to the Doctor	DG. Food Parcel and accompanied
Dladla Sthembiso ID- 8308115738089	Letter confirming that he is disabled		Referring him to the Doctor	Access to Special School
Gumede Lindiwe ID – 5908310581086	Bus fare to SASSA / Pinetown Home Affairs, OAP Lapsed -ID problem - 18 Months	Received her grant and ID Problem solved . -18 Months -She got R18000 Arrears and grant re-instated and New ID	None	Pension & ID Accompanied to SASSA and Home Affairs
Mzimela Hloniphile ID – 6709040789083	Wishes to apply for D.G, Food parcel and bus fare to Pinetown SASSA	Still in process to apply for D.G , 7 Months	To go to SASSA for application.	D.G , Food parcel and bus fare.
Majola Nokwanda Nokuphila ID - 93041179088	Trying for birth certificate for her child , but without any success . They need Foreigners letter from Home Affairs.	No progress but as soon as she get foreign letter and come to us. We will accompany her 1 day	None , She has not come back to us yet.	Birth certificate for her child.

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Khanyile Thembisile Mildred ID- 6911160541084	Re-Application for disability grant.	In progress for re-application for D.G	In progress	D.G Re-application wrote to the Doctor
Nzama Bongekile ID- 8309300438089	Application for her child birth certificate/	In progress for doing it. 7 Months	In progress to get the letter.	Child birth certificate , Bus fare to the hospital to get birth letter.
Gwala Khandalamadoda	Eviction Case	In progress 9 Months	Not back yet	Eviction case .We advised him to see Induna.
Gwala Busisiwe ID – 6504150765084	Review her G.G	Not yet back 12 Months	We will see when she comes back	D.G Renewal , Wrote a letter to the Doctor.
Ngwane Senzeni Date of Birth – 16/10/ 1983	Birth certificate for the child .	In progress for doing it 11 Months	Waiting for an interview	Accompanied to Home Affairs for Interview. Bus fare , Photo Money to Home Affairs
Ndlovu Patric ID - 7012120726084	D.G lapsed , food parcel and bus fare to Pinetown SASSA	He is receiving D.G . It Re-instated. 24 Months	None	Re-instated of D.G ,food parcel and Bus fare
Cele Zama BOD - 9507210726084	Application of ID	In progress of identity document application 3Months	Will go back to Home Affairs with Nokuthula	ID and Bus fare
Mabaso Jabulile ID - 6505150815084	D.G Application	She is receiving D.G 5 Months	Wrote a letter to the Doctor	D.G Application , wrote letter to the Doctor.
Gwala Zandile ID – 9402121285082	ID Application , bus fare and food parcel.	In process for ID Application 3 Months	Go to Home Affairs	Has been trying to get an ID with no progress.
Nzama Thokozani ID- 9707055297080	ID Lost , need to re-apply for R350 Grant.	He is receiving R350 12 Months	None	ID problem solved and given food parcel
Ndlovu Thembelihle ID - 7904070834089	Needs Grant C.S.G to be under her name and cancel step mother of her child.	Cancellation has been done. 5 Months	None	Wrote to SASSA Cancellation of C.S.G for her children.



HILLCREST ADVICE BUREAU & BURSARY FUND SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Our first request for the year came from **Hlengiwe Msomi** of **Future Stars cc NPO** in Ngcolosi. Rosie, Caitlyn and Caitlyn's two young children went down to the Future Stars Church building in Ngcolosi to do the hand over and fittings of these uniforms in January. Hlengiwe is a wonderfully kind woman who serves her community in so many ways and this was again highlighted for us during this handover. Apart from the temperature being in the high 30's and there being no electricity in their community that day, we were greeted with warm smiles and singing by the children. Hlengiwe demands respect and is a strong influence in the area. She told the learners about HAB&B: that they must be proud of their uniform and care for it; attend school regularly and on time; take their school work seriously and work hard. Her manner is strong and rather abrupt however the message she shared was so appreciated by us.

The remainder of January and into February were a blur as instead of spreading out our school orders, we opted to submit many of our newly received lists from the various schools across the Valleys, at once to **Pinetown Bargain Bazaar**. This proved efficient from our side however we were disappointed with many of the sizes of pants, skirts and jerseys being incorrect on delivery to us. The sorting of these was thus time consuming however Bargain Bazaar were very obliging in collecting the incorrect items and exchanging them for better sized ones.

Last year, we had the joy of buying **Nqobi Sithole**, that exceptional young man, at Hillcrest High whose mother is a domestic helper and father a gardener, the uniform that he required. He did not need a new uniform this year but we did supply him with a matric jersey and scarf. We also went shopping for his stationery requirements.

Caitlyn had also done a small monetary collection of her own for school shoes for impoverished children. These school shoes came along with us on the above mentioned school visits, where we then spontaneously fitted them onto little feet that had no school shoes on at all or very old ones on.

Lungi Khwela, the Development Services Worker gave us her uniform request list. On a Sunday morning Rosemary met the learners at Lungi's house. 9 uniforms were then fitted and a total of 5 schools covered.

Winnie from the **Advice Bureau** in KwaNyuswa requested uniforms for 5 learners from 2 different schools. Winnie handled these fittings.

NOTEWORTHY OBSERVATIONS

One highlight was our visit to **Laboure Primary School**, where Caitlyn had walked outside the room we were in to see if there were any children walking by with old



shoes or no shoes at all. She asked one learner as to whether he had any friends without good shoes. He didn't seem to understand and off he trotted. About 20 minutes later, this little boy returned to the room we were in, with 3 little Grade R's in tow all wearing very very old shoes. It was a very precious moment for us and one we won't forget.

Another interesting drop off was when we visited **Hlahlindlela High School** in Ngcolosi. We know this school relatively well and usually enjoy visiting them. On this given day though, we noticed on our arrival that 3 students were lying outside the reception area, on the floor. We were rather taken aback on hearing that these children were being bothered by evil spirits and were acting up. The children were thrashing themselves around, screaming and the girls had torn open their shirts. We heard from the new headmaster at the school, who was present at this scene, that this had become a regular occurrence at the school and that they had even had to close the school for a day the week before due to over 40 students being overcome. * Caitlyn has since looked into this and it appears that it is happening more and more in the schools around the Valley, and took place at Pinetown Girls High on 1 occasion last year too.

UkuKhanya KweAfrica Primary School in Molweni was a new school that we were requested to provide uniforms for this year. The request came from **Pastor Naboth** (we did food parcels with him during covid). We were informed that these uniforms could be made and supplied by a lady in Molweni itself. We had the privilege of visiting her home (and small container factory) and were hugely impressed. She runs a sewing business where 6 young men are employed to sew for her, and she does everything from making the uniforms to embroidering on the labels. We then went to the school for the drop off which proved to be a particularly interesting drop off and fitting. The school looks like any model C school in Sector 1 and has over 900 students enrolled there. We were treated with enormous respect however the school were not organised and many of these students on our list had already now received uniforms elsewhere. We did however manage to find students who were needing uniforms and fitted these on them.

Other schools visited were **Khanyakhwezi**, **Khanyisani** where the Principal was delighted to welcome us as we have been associated with his school for many years. Caitlyn showed Mr Mamba a photo of Rosemary handing him a donation (from Ruetli Bank) taken in 2007 which resulted in much hilarity! **Kwabazothini** High was disorganised as several of the uniform recipients were writing exams. We found the girls to be ungrateful with an attitude of entitlement – no thanks received. When speaking to Mrs Ntombela – a teacher who has been at the school for well over 20 years, she told us that the learners at present are often the offspring of school going mothers. Family life with discipline and guidance was often lacking.

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Rosemary and Caitlyn visited **15** schools and provided some item of school uniform to about **300 Learners**.

FOOD PARCELS

This year we have tried to find the best prices for the items in the food parcel bags resulting in more invoices than usual. Every month 3 are delivered to our office in KwaNyuswa where Winnie and Nokuthula select worthy recipients. Occasionally there have been requests from other desperate folk and we have been able to assist them. One student received 10 kg of mealie meal so the number of parcels is approximate at 40. The price per parcel being about R180.00

PINETOWN UNIFORM BAZAAR This retail outlet has given us excellent service and we have a convivial working understanding.

The Hillcrest Advice Bureau received an invitation to attend the **Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC) Launch of KwaNgcolosi Schools**. We were honoured to attend. Subjects such as **Social Ills** (eg child-headed families, crime, bad behaviour at home); **Security** problems, **SGB** - lack of support by parents and the community etc. were discussed.

We also received an invitation to a **Farewell Celebration to Paul Govender from INKAZMULO** school in KwaNyuswa. The obvious love and respect that the staff felt for him were touching. He is highly regarded and admired by other school principals, the Councillor and members of the community. It was a great honour to be present and to hear the wonderful accolades for this fine man.

As always, thanks is never sufficient to describe our gratitude to the donors for allowing us this privilege of serving our local school-going poverty stricken families.

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Caitlyn de Beer and Rosemary Dickinson
Administrators – School Programme
Hillcrest Advice Bureau & Bursary Fund



Report of the Tertiary Fund For 2023

Highlights:

- **18** Students Graduated in 2023, 12 of whom are employed, and 2 have gone on to further study and 4 job seeking whilst working in areas out of their field
- **Two** Academic Excellence Awards, **One** Scholarship Awarded
- **Online student record system** working

Past Students News

- **Siphamandla Austen Dladla**, Master of Science Degree in Chemistry and Chemical Technology, UKZN, (2023) is an **intern at Skyside SA**, an environmental engineering company based in Pinetown.
- **Nosipho Gretel Ndlovu**, Masters of Medical Microbiology, UKZN, (2023), is contracted as a **HIV pathogenesis**, in a program Lab.
- **Thaba Mbonambi**, MUT, Diploma in Agriculture Animal Production, (2023), Thaba works for an engineering company in Claredon. He is **assistant to executive assistant** in administration.
- **Andile Melody Mbili**, Honours Bachelor of Education, Foundation Phase (2023), is employed at **SPARKS Riversands**, Gauteng.
- **Mandlenkosi Nkala**, (2023) works at The South African Association For Marine Biological Research as a **Marine Field Technician**
- **Nomvuyo Happiness Ndlovu** (2023) Advanced Diploma Civil Engineering and Project Management works at Kuma Consulting Engineers as a **Junior Civil Engineer** in Mpumalanga.

2023 Students News

We supported 43 students in their studies and helped 21 graduates with transport, data, accommodation and relocation towards job seeking. A CV and Interview Training workshop was held, for our graduates and final year students. We had to stop support for 2 students on our books because they had failed repeatedly due to ongoing, permanent and substantial medical issues sustained during the course of their studies. The need for laptops and smartphones is continuous: There are always a few phones which get stolen every year. One student recently contacted us suffering from PTSD after having been shoved into a car at gunpoint and had 2 guns pointed at him whilst he was on his way to do grocery shopping. All they wanted was his 'phone. Laptops are given to NSFAS students at certain institutions. Some last for the period of study whereas others get damaged (often due to the intermittent electricity supply and resultant power surges). Other reasons for damage include floods and storm damage allowing rain to enter through the roof. Second hand laptops are given out on loan while students wait for their NSFAS laptop. They are also given out to replace permanently damaged laptops. It is an expensive and ongoing problem.

Volunteers

We welcomed Mrs Dudu Msimanga who relocated from Cape Town with a wealth of knowledge. Dudu comes from an HR background and assisted us with graduate and alumni engagement relating to employment and CV writing.

Thanks

Thank you to all the volunteers for their steadfast support and dedication and to the donors who persist in providing funding during these challenging financial times. Nicky Sibaya

Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund

A Better South Africa, One Degree At A Time...



Hillcrest Advice Bureau And Bursary Fund			
Forty Three 2023 Students, Records of Studies			
<u>Qualifications Studied For:</u>			
<u>SIXTEEN Postgraduate Degrees/Degree Equivalents In:</u>			
MSc. Environmental and Geographical Studies	1	Masters Med Science Pharmacology	1
MSc. Chemistry & Chemical Technology	1	Masters Medical Microbiology	1
MSc Finance, Banking & Investment Mngmt	1	Masters Medical Law	1
Masters Pharmacy	1	BA Hons Psychology Health & Soc Services	1
Postgrad Dip Finance, Banking & Investment Manag	1	BSc Hons Economics	1
Postgrad Dip in Engineering Project Management	3	Chartership in Accounting CTA Level 1	1
Advanced Dip. Mechanical Engineering	1	B. Ed Hons Foundation Phase	1
	9		7
<u>NINETEEN Degrees/Degree Equivalents In:</u>			
B.Ed.	5	BSc Pharmacy	1
LLB	2	MBCHB	2
B Com Accounting	4	B Soc. Sc Government, Business & Ethics	1
BSc Civil Engineering	1	BA PPL	1
BA Development Studies	1	B.Sc Electrical Engineering	1
	13		6
<u>EIGHT Diplomas In:</u>			
Dip Management Accounting	1	Dip Graphic Design	1
Dip. Agriculture	1	Dip Civil Engineering	1
Dip Home Based Care	1	Dip Electrical Engineering	1
Dip Health Promotion	1	Dip Tourism	1
<u>TWELVE 2022 Graduates Assisted in Job Seeking</u>			
(A further NINE went into further education, ELEVEN are in a Career and ONE is still job hunting)			
BSc Pharmacy	1	Hons Public Administration	1
BSc Maths	1	BA LLB	1
BSc Business Science	1	BSc Microbiology & Biochemistry	1
Civil Engineering Project Management	1	B.Ed.	3
Dip Professional Cookery	1	Dip Home Based Care	1
	5		
<u>EIGHTEEN Students Graduated in 2023</u>			
(ONE with 3 different diplomas*)			
Chartership in Accounting CTA Level 1	1	Masters Medical Microbiology	1
Civil Engineering Project Management	2	Masters CHEMISTRY & CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY	1
MSc Medical Pharmacology	1	HONS Psychology HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	1
B.Ed.	3	BA LAW, PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS	1
B. Com	2	Advanced DIPLOMA MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	1
Dip. GRAPHIC DESIGN	1	Dip Office Admin	1 *
Dip. Agriculture	1	Dip Health Promotion	2 *
		Dip Home Based Carer	1 *
<u>Institutions:</u>			
<u>THIRTY SIX At Universities</u>		<u>TWO At FET</u>	
DUT	2	Elengeni	2
MUT	2		
UNISA	8	<u>FIVE At Private Colleges</u>	
UNIZULU	1	Abafundi	1
UKZN	21	Mancosa	3
VUT	1	Creative Arts College	1