



Pebbles Project
CHANGING LIVES

Chairperson's Report 2022 - 2023

Dear Friends of The Pebbles Project,

I would like to extend my warmest greetings and appreciation to all of you. On behalf of the Pebbles Project Trust, I present the Chairperson's report, reflecting collective efforts and accomplishments over the past year. My first year as Chairperson has left me humbled and deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside my fellow board members, the management team, our employees and volunteers, and our esteemed donors and partners.

Key to Pebbles Project Trust's vision and mission is to help children and young adults reach their full potential. We do so by ensuring the positive impact of the Trust's programmes and initiatives on the communities. Celebrations this year include the launch of the Youth Development Centre in Stellenbosch, leadership development and upskilling of Pebbles Ambassadors, and the opening of our Thrift store.

I am grateful to work alongside all of you as we remain committed to fostering sustainable development and positive change in the lives of the communities we serve. I thank you for your continued support and collaboration as we aim to create lasting change and impact in children and young adults, giving them hope, opportunities, and a brighter future.

Regards,

Leigh Adams
Chairperson 2022

CEO's Report 2022 - 2023

In 2003, I arrived in South Africa with the intention of setting up a small, simple education project and staying for just three years. It was never my intention to permanently relocate to South Africa and to adopt this country as my home. It was not in my original plan to share my life with two precious and deeply-loved South African children. Neither was it on my bucket list to become the CEO of a large organisation that has supported thousands of children and created hundreds of jobs. But here I am, 20 years later; the universe has led me to this point and I couldn't imagine my life any other way.

Every year, I promise the Pebbles team that we will focus on our current programmes and that we will not start any new projects, but then an irresistible opportunity, that could significantly benefit our Pebbles children, crosses our path and it's too hard to say no.

And so each year, Pebbles has evolved, not always according to the original plan but always with the needs of our beneficiaries at the forefront of our minds. Our beneficiary numbers have fluctuated a bit depending on farms joining Pebbles / farms continuing on without us / COVID / seasonal workers etc. but the depth of our support has increased significantly in the regions where we work. We have made some mistakes along the way and we have had to re-think our ideas occasionally but on the whole, the trajectory has been steadily upwards.

And so, looking forward to Pebbles' 20th birthday in 2024, we will continue with our golden spiral direction, with the daily reminder of a quote from my beloved father, "If something is worth doing, it's worth doing properly."

Thank you to our dedicated Board of Trustees, Pebbles UK Directors, Senior Management Team, incredible staff and volunteers, partner farms and generous donors for making this all possible.

Sophia Warner
Founder & CEO

Pebbles Project Trustees 2022 – 2023

Leigh Adams (Chairperson), Peter Koch (Treasurer), Zanele Xaba, Lucy Warner, Peter Blaine, Sophia Warner

Senior Management Team 2022 – 2023

Sophia Warner (Chief Executive Officer) Estèe Heyns (Chief Administrative Officer), Samantha Davids (Chief Operations Officer), Michael Petersen (Financial Manager), Angela du Plessis (Human Resource Manager)

Pebbles Project UK Directors 2022 – 2023

Ray Abercromby, Elizabeth Clifton, David Wainwright, Sophia Warner

Our year at a glance

R 37.9 MILLION RAISED **700 024 MEALS COOKED AND DISTRIBUTED FROM THE PEBBLES KITCHEN**

5435 APPOINTMENTS AT THE CLINIC

73 LEARNERS ENROLLED AT THE PEBBLES ACADEMY

118 STAFF EMPLOYED DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

1575 TOTAL BENEFICIARIES

37 PARTNER FARMS

121 PRACTITIONERS TRAINED BI-MONTHLY

19 VEHICLES IN THE PEBBLES FLEET

21 BABY BOXES HANDED OUT TO EXPECTANT MOTHERS

1896 BOOKS CIRCULATED FROM THE FACET MOBILE LIBRARY



The Pebbles Project Footprint:
Stellenbosch, Wellington, Citrusdal,
Clanwilliam, Grabouw & The
Hemel-en-Aarde Valley in Hermanus.

This is us

Farm worker communities in South Africa often lack access to quality basic services such as education and health care.

At the Pebbles Project, we envision a world where farm worker communities are supported and have equal access to essential services, programmes and opportunities.

The Pebbles Project enables children from farming communities to access quality education programmes, health and wellness, nutrition and social work services. Since our inception in 2004, we have positively impacted the lives of thousands of children by partnering with local farms to establish and manage Early Childhood Development Centres and After-School Clubs for farm worker's children who either live on the farm or whose parents are employed by the farm.

Through these education centres, we are able to render our support programmes and services to the children and wider community.

Early Care and Education Programme (ECEP)

According to the ECD Census Report 2022, only 38% of children in rural areas are enrolled in early learning programmes. Early childhood represents a period of great opportunity. During this period children will develop emotionally, socially, cognitively and physically.

Since our inception 19 years ago, Pebbles Project has partnered with farm owners to implement and manage Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres for farm worker community children to have access to quality early care and education from a young age. Our programmes will set them up for a successful academic life and a positive future.

During this reporting period, our Early Care and Education Programme supported 32 different ECD centres across 5 geographical areas and impacted 678 learners daily.

Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 The Bonding and Attachment Training Initiative trained 29 mothers in Infant Massage techniques which assists with positive bonding and attachment between mother and baby. The mothers who attended the workshops formed a strong bond and kept in touch with each other to provide support and advice.
- 👉 During this reporting period, we focused on early identification of Special Educational Needs and ensured developmental screenings took place with all new learners entering the Pebbles Early Care and Education Programme (ECEP). Early identification of learners with learning barriers is vital to facilitate provision of adequate resources and services.
- 👉 Through a partnership with BookDash, 602 learners received a book to take home and to read with their families. Each ECD centre also received "Finding Thabo" posters from The Reach Trust. This is an interactive play based game designed to stimulate key parts of the brain for lifelong learning.
- 👉 168 ECD children received a school pack containing age-appropriate stationery, a backpack and a water bottle when they commenced their new school year in January 2023.
- 👉 134 baseline assessments were conducted with all children aged between 4-5 years. This assessment found that literacy skills have improved, however there is still room for improvement with numeracy skills.



School Enrichment Programme (SEP)

Evaluations by the Department of Education have recorded very low pass rates in numeracy and literacy among both Grade 3 and Grade 6 learners. International comparative studies have repeatedly found South Africa's performance to be poor even when compared with other countries in the region. At the Pebbles Project we understand the importance of providing extra academic support to school-going children while their parents are still at work in the afternoon. We also acknowledge the importance of creating opportunities for the children to express themselves through art, sport and extra-curricular activities. During this reporting period, the School Enrichment Programme supported 20 After-School Club Centres across 4 geographical areas. 688 learners ages 6-18 years are impacted daily through the School Enrichment Programme.

Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 At the commencement of the new school year in January 2023, the education programme staff members accompanied all Grade R learners to their new school on the first day. It sparked such positive feedback and left a good impression amongst the local schools.
- 👉 A total of 25 After-School Club practitioners received online computer and digital literacy training.
- 👉 The Scratch Junior programme was implemented at the After-School Club Centres. This programme proved to be an invaluable method of teaching computer literacy and especially coding skills to all learners. Through coding, they learned to problem solve, design projects, and to express themselves creatively on the computer.
- 👉 481 learners participated in sports and extra-curricular activities across 15 farms. Flairs Rope Skipping Academy was so impressed with one of the Pebbles learners taking part in rope skipping that they nominated him to be trained as a rope skipping coach.
- 👉 The FACET Mobile Book Library made 97 visits to the After-School Club Centres during this reporting period. The Mobile Library gives all learners an opportunity to access reading materials and learn general library etiquette and skills.

👉 In November 2022, 188 learners in Grade R - Grade 4 took part in literacy baseline assessments. The results found that 86% of our learners scored below their reading age, 7% were on par with their reading age, and 7% scored above their reading age. This is a complex problem to solve and one that will take time even with the input and effort of all parties - learners, parents, teachers and Pebbles Literacy Tutors. For now, all Foundation phase learners (Grade R - Grade 3) have received reading books and literacy support resources that focus on gaps identified through the assessments. Currently, we have three Literacy Tutors supporting 362 learners (120 learners each). Our goal is to have a Literacy Tutor dedicated to each After-School Club Centre.



Early Adulthood Programme (EAP)

Youth unemployment (aged 15 - 24) was at nearly 60% in September 2022 in South Africa. The Early Adulthood Programme (EAP) aims to provide young adults from farming communities between the ages of 15-25 years with sufficient information and guidance to make informed tertiary education and career decisions. This initiative also offers practical and emotional support and skills to young adults so that they can enter adulthood with the confidence they need to reach their full potential. This programme has been extremely busy with many new and exciting developments and supported 61 young adults during this reporting period.

Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 A new Youth Development Centre in Stellenbosch was completed and the official handover took place in September. After interviewing and meeting with applicants and their parents, we enrolled 11 young adults into the programme. Orientation took place in January 2023 and classes officially began in February. Together with local service providers, we provided a range of skills and practical training. This will continue over a 2 year commitment period.
- 👉 In February 2023 the Early Adulthood Programme also expanded to the Hemel-en-Aarde Education Project where 18 learners enrolled. They made use of an unoccupied art classroom to host classes as they awaited the renovation of their new Youth Development Centre.
- 👉 17 young adults were assisted with booking appointments to write their learners licence driving test. After intense training, support and preparation, we are very happy to report that 11 of them passed their learner's licence test.
- 👉 The programme manager hosted three support group sessions with the young adults throughout the year, as well as one camp where 23 young adults were in attendance.
- 👉 Six young adults were assisted with work placements, four of which were placed internally at the Pebbles Operations Office and ECD centres. One learner was placed at a local fashion designer, while the other was placed at a medical equipment company. Gaining practical work experience is vital in ensuring sustainable employment.
- 👉 17 young adults were assisted with registrations and bursary applications for tertiary studies for the 2022/2023 academic year. They all settled in well and we are so proud of them for persevering through transport cost issues and load shedding.



The Hemel-en-Aarde Education Project - Pebbles Academy

The Pebbles Hemel-en-Aarde Education Project was established in January 2017 and aims to ensure that the children and families living in and around the valley have access to quality education, health, and social work support.

The project is based on a non-working farm and has an ECD centre, which consists of First Thousand Days (FTD) and Early Childhood Development (ECD) classrooms catering for children ages 3 months - 5 years. The ECD centre has 33 learners

attending daily. The project is also home to the very first Pebbles Academy. This independent school opened in 2019 and has the capacity to accommodate learners from Grade R - Grade 7. The Academy has 73 learners attending daily. The project has a dedicated team of staff which includes a Principal, Academy Educators, ECD Practitioners, Drivers and Admin staff.

Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 The Pebbles Ambassadors at the Academy joined the Fundraising Team during the Cape Wine 2022 event to host a group of 20 delegates from around the world. They handed out branded goodie bags, assisted with the tour of the facilities and gifted each delegate with a hand painted pebble of gratitude.
- 👉 The Grade R learners received a new play area which included hand-painted picnic benches, a sand pit, two mud kitchens, bean bag toss and sandpit toys. This is thanks to a generous corporate sponsorship and engagement activity hosted at the project.
- 👉 In January 2023 renovations began on an old onion shed on the farm. Once completed, it will be a new Youth Development Centre for young adults from surrounding farms in the valley to access theory and practical skills training and development.
- 👉 A 'Chill Zone' for the senior learners (Grade 5 - Grade 7) was built under an old oak tree. The zone included tree swings, benches and bean bag couches.
- 👉 Sport and extra-curricular activities have really gained momentum with the Pebbles Academy Educators taking initiative and implementing activities during break times, guided by the Sport and Extra-Curricular Programme Manager. The learners enjoyed dancing, music movement, swing ball as well as playing football and netball.



Pebbles Kitchen and Nutrition Services

In South Africa, 27% of children are stunted, meaning that these children will likely not reach their full growth and developmental potential because of the irreversible physical and cognitive damage caused by persistent nutritional deprivation. The Pebbles Project Nutrition Programme began feeding Pebbles beneficiaries in 2014. After extensive research and planning, the Pebbles Kitchen opened its doors in 2019. The Pebbles Kitchen prepares, cooks and delivers meals to all learners attending Pebbles Project education centres daily. The kitchen also prepares additional meals that other schools and non-profit organisations can purchase at a subsidized fee.

Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 1264 Pebbles beneficiaries accessed the Pebbles Nutrition Programme daily. All ECD children received a hot breakfast, lunch and two snacks a day. Provision is made for babies who are in the process of being introduced to solid foods. They received puréed lunch meals cooked and prepared by the kitchen. The After-School Club learners received a cooked lunch meal and snack daily.
- 👉 The service expanded to include pregnant mothers who form part of the Maternal Health Initiative with the assistance of the Pebbles Health Clinic. Six expectant mothers opted into this additional service and received a nutritious cooked lunch meal daily.
- 👉 Persistent load shedding caused disruptions on the daily operations of the Kitchen as well as equipment breakdowns. During this reporting period, we have adapted and acquired a new gas tilt pan and additional generator capacity to alleviate the disruptions.
- 👉 The Food Truck Initiative supported unregistered ECD centres in communities and informal settlements across the Cape Winelands. We sold roughly 7500 meals per month at a subsidised price to ECD managers and owners. This was made possible through our generous food donors.
- 👉 The Nutrition Programme vehicle received a much needed modification. We replaced the single door with a double door, which allows a forklift to pack full pallets inside the vehicle which makes the collection of large donations much easier. The vehicle also received new branding.



Pebbles Health Service

Rural communities in South Africa have less access to health care. Facilities are limited, the information insufficient and there are fewer health professionals to attend to the population, which results in them having a poorer health status. The Pebbles Health Service takes place at two locations. The Pebbles Health Clinic is located in Stellenbosch, and includes two Clinical Nursing Practitioners, one Oral Hygienist, one Clinic Administrator and one Driver.

The Twinings Mobile Health Clinic is located in Clanwilliam and provides farmworkers and their families with healthcare services across 16 certified Rooibos tea farms. The Project is run by one Professional Nurse and is assisted by a Driver/Admin Assistant.

All clients under the age of 18 who live on the Pebbles partner farms received healthcare, medication and transport free of charge. Adults, parents and other farm workers accessed the service at a nominal fee.

Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 5435 appointments took place at the clinic, of which 66% were clients under the age of 18 years.
- 👉 Additional nutritional support for stunted and underweight learners was implemented in partnership with the Pebbles Nutrition Programme. 35 learners were identified during this reporting period and assisted with supplementary portions of food.
- 👉 27 expectant mothers formed part of the Maternal Health Initiative and attended two workshops. Topics covered included the harmful effects of substance abuse while pregnant, what to expect when expecting, healthy eating habits, and warning signs to look out for during pregnancy.
- 👉 185 teenage boys and girls attended 6 Sexual Health Education workshops during this reporting period. 62.5% of learners receive family planning from the Pebbles Health Clinic. This statistic is a clear indication of the need of the service and how vital it is to make the service accessible to our Pebbles beneficiaries and community members.
- 👉 The Pebbles Health Clinic has an ongoing service partnership with a local Optometrist. 36 patients were assessed and 13 spectacles were distributed.
- 👉 132 clients were seen throughout the year by the Pebbles Project Social Workers. 46 parenting support workshops also took place on 4 farms. 35 parents and 32 children attended these sessions. The workshops covered topics such as positive parenting, conflict management, communication and setting healthy boundaries. The aim was to strengthen the family unit and dynamic.
- 👉 135 sippy cups and 105 toothbrushes and toothpastes were distributed to learners under the age of 3. Targeting this age group is important to create a good foundation for healthy teeth and hygiene practices.



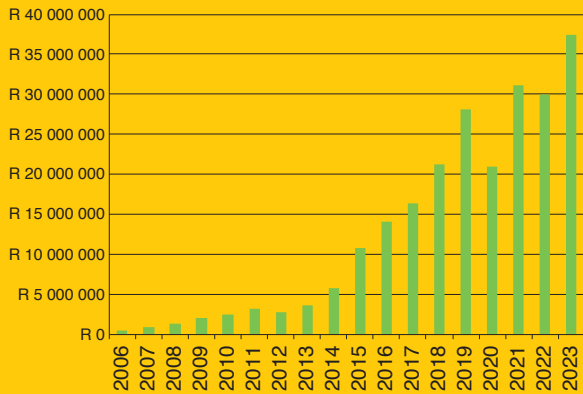
Twinings Mobile Health Clinic

This initiative is proudly sponsored by the Twinings 'Sourced with Care' ethical programme and began in February 2021. This initiative provides farmworkers and their families with healthcare services and preventative Health Education workshops. It also hosts fun outings with children to learn about their local heritage and surroundings.

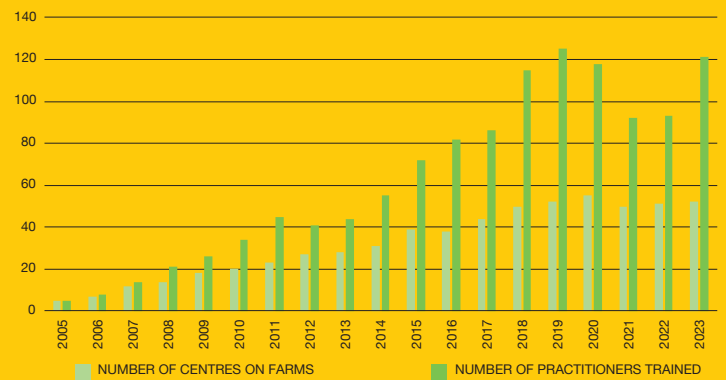
Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 4796 appointments were managed through the Twinings Mobile Health Clinic and of those appointments, 35% were for patients under the age of 18.
- 👉 148 direct beneficiaries under the age of 18 years accessed the Mobile Clinic services free of charge. This included wellness screenings and primary health care services.
- 👉 2597 children and adults were reached through Health Education workshops. Some topics covered included Gender Based Violence, Breast Cancer, HIV, TB, Family Planning, FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders), Lifestyle Diseases and Fire Safety.
- 👉 Five new mothers received a baby box full of much needed items through the Maternal Health Initiative. We also assisted new parents with clothing and toiletry donations as and when possible.
- 👉 At the Pebbles staff year end function, a collection of toys and stationery took place to assist the children in Clanwilliam with much needed resources.

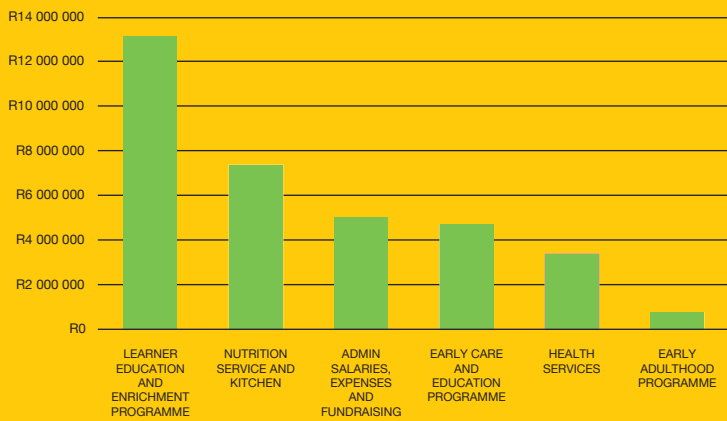
SA and UK Income
2006 - 2023



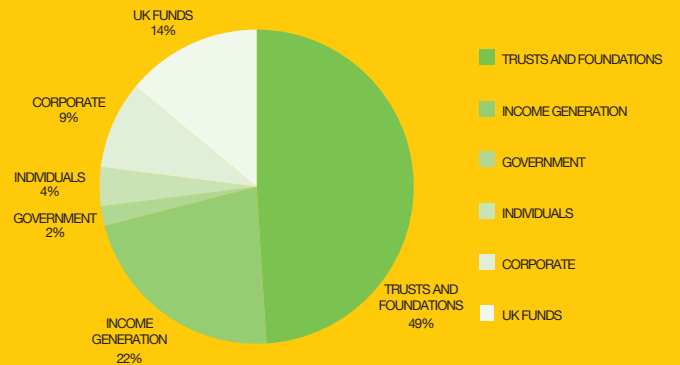
Number of Centres and Practitioners Trained
2005 - 2023



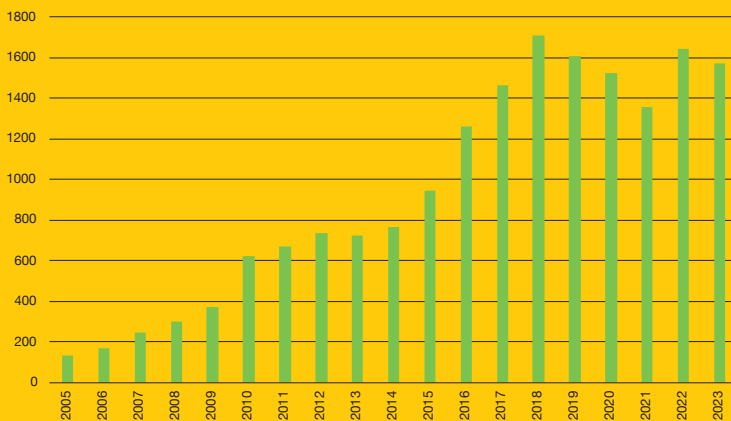
Expenditure
2022 - 2023



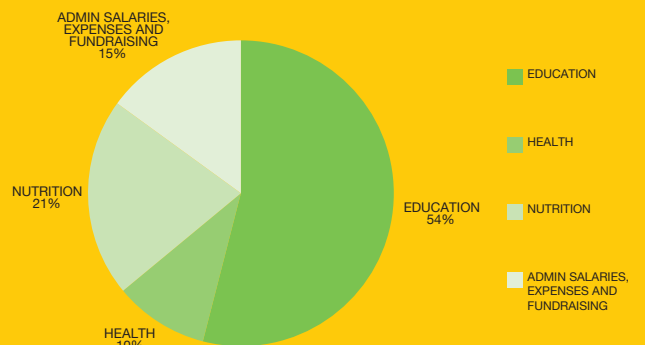
Income Sources
2022 - 2023



Beneficiary Numbers
2005 - 2023



Programme and Admin Expenses
SA and UK 2022 - 2023



Pebbles Project Registration Numbers

Educational Trust: IT4088/2004

NPO Number: 049-950

PBO Number: 930017224

UK Charity Number: 1123172

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Impact Stories

Pebbles has impacted many people's lives, including staff and beneficiaries. Here are a few of their inspiring stories.

Robin



"Life is tough out there, I see it every day out on the farms. I hope to inspire other young adults on my farm to follow their dreams."
- Robin, Early Adulthood Programme Learner.

"Pebbles is made up of a team of people who look at who you are as a person and really try to find a way for you to shine and make a success out of your life."
- Nydene, Pebbles Project First Thousand Days Classroom Assistant.

Nydene



Jesmin



"Pebbles gave me a new perspective on the way I view the world around me. The work that Pebbles does reminds me of advice my mom always gives me: 'If you are asked to wash someone's hand, wash both hands.'"
- Jesmin, Pebbles Project Kitchen Assistant.

"I can confidently say that Pebbles had a positive impact on my life. Pebbles have taught me so much, especially at the practitioner training sessions. The training that Pebbles offers gives you an opportunity to grow and improve your skills."
- Lezaan, Pebbles Project After-School Club Practitioner.

Lezaan



Perchwin



"When I am making art, I feel relaxed and like I can let go of all my stress and worries."
- Perchwin, Pebbles Project After-School Club Learner.

"If it wasn't for Pebbles, I would be stuck in a job that didn't make me happy. I am proud that I made the decision to study and will forever be grateful to Pebbles who was ready to take my hand and help me succeed."
- Ernestine, Pebbles Project Early Adulthood Programme Intern.

Ernestine



The Pebbles Project Team 2022-2023

Thank you to our loyal donors, sponsors and supporters:

Accolade Wines, Africamarine Ships Agency, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropies (advised by Ian Liddle), Alusi Asset Management (Edge Capital), American Elements, André & Elsabé du Plessis, Andrea Anderson, Anel and Daniel Olivier, Anfest Invest (Ralph Pinckaers), Areni Live, Baluta Trust, Bargain Books, BookDash, Bosman Family Vineyards, Brackenfell High School, Burgiss, Cape Wine, Casidra, Cathy Milner, CDS Vintec, Chenin Blanc Association, Citrogold, Classic Escapes, COFCO International, Comersion, Creation Wines, Delaire Graff Estate, Department of Social Development: Children and Families, Diepgat, Donkerhoek Data, Drefus Ashby, Edward Powell, Electric Ink Media, Elizabeth Clifton, Erich Ahlers, FACET Foundation, Fine & Country Helderberg, Finnivo, Fruitways Farming, Fuchs Foundation, Gately Rotary, Gerard Basset Foundation, Gielen Family, Gilchrist Educational Trust, Grandslots, Harold Eedes Charitable Trust, Hartenberg Wine Estate, Haute Cabrière, Haygrove Heaven, Herrmann & Vogel spol. s r.o., Hillebrand Gori, House of Wine, Iress, Jannie Mouton Foundation, Jordan Wines, Karen and Bruce Collins, Kathy Robins, Ken Forrester Wines, KFC Add Hope Foundation, KVV Foundation Trust, Tom and Kirsten Laithwaite, Lewis Group, Lighthouse2Lighthouse Ladies Walk, Liyad Child Foundation (Adriaan Gilde and Liyan Yu), Lubanzi Wines, Maastricht University, Magda Venter, Majestic Wines, MammaClinic, Maxie and Moo, McFarlane Family Foundation, Meerlust, Medallion Mushrooms, Meerlust Wine Estate, Mike Hedges, Mikhulu Trust, Mothers of Enterprise, MySchool, National Lotteries Commission, NIGAB, Nutritional Institute Centre Stellenbosch University (NICUS), Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, PEP, Ray Abercromby, Relate Trust, RENNIES Farms, Reuse-A-Form, Rhodes Food Group, Rohlig Logistics, Rotary Club of Bonn, Rotary Club of Hermanus, Rotary Club of Somerset West, Rotary Club of York, SA Chenin Association, Savinis, SBA South Africa, SEESA, Shiraz SA, Souter Charitable Trust, Southern Cross, Southern Cross Solutions, SPAR Western Cape, Stichting Garcia Foundation, Terebinth Capital, TFG/Prestige Clothing, The Cape House, The Cape Wine Auction Trust, The Grier Family and Villiera Wines, The Project Wines, The Reach Trust - Andrew Rudge, The Singapore South African Wine Club, Theresa Hall, Tshikululu GBVF Relief Fund, Twinings 'Sourced with Care', Uthando, Valcare, Veritas, Vinimark, Virtual Resource, Warner Family Wines (Lucy Warner), Whittington Fairtrade, wine.co.za, Wines2Whales, WOSA, Yo El Rey.

Thank you to all the establishments that generously take part in our Hospitality Fundraising Initiative.

Thank you to all our Sponsor a Child donors who contribute every month and to everyone who sponsored a school pack.

A special thank you to Haumann Smal Design Studio for the design of this Annual Report.

Photo credits: Anna Lusty (Made in my Camera)

