angels' care

Annual Impact Report 2025

Transforming children's lives, by inspiring hope, enabling healing, and nurturing potential.















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Chairlady's Message

Reflecting on the journey of the Angels' Care Centre in 2025 fills my heart with joy. The completion of our new facilities has been a dream come true, ensuring every child who walks through our doors receives a high level of care in world-class spaces. Our staff, many of whom have been with us for over a decade, continue to be an inspiration. Their love and dedication foster closer, trusting relationships, and it's no wonder the children view Angels Care as their "home away from home."

As an anchor in the uMngeni Municipality, the Centre navigated a socioeconomic landscape of inflation and unemployment, delivering strong outcomes for our beneficiaries. Following the completion of our facility improvements in 2024, 2025 was a year of implementation where we witnessed the power of our holistic approach - nurturing the whole child across mind, body, and spirit.

The highlights of 2025 illustrate the incredible impact the Centre has on hundreds of young lives. Through our focus on health and nutrition we served a record 95, 960 meals directly addressing the food need in KwaZulu-Natal. We are proud that 99% of our children met their physical growth targets, an achievement that defies the national stunting rate of 29%.

Our healthcare team managed 449 medical cases, ensuring minor ailments did not become obstacles to a child's development. Addressing the high levels of rape and child abuse in our community, our crisis centre provided a crucial haven. We assisted 36 survivors of gender-based violence, including 29 cases of rape and sexual abuse. Beyond crisis intervention, our social workers actively assisted 131 children suffering from trauma, provided emergency overnight care for 48 children, and delivered a total of 528 counseling sessions.

In terms of education and academic achievements, our literacy interventions for Early Childhood Development led to an 85% aggregate score for Grade R and a 100% level of school readiness for those entering Grade 1 in 2026. Our structured high school tutoring program was successful with 75% of students showing measurable gains in grades and 85% demonstrating mastery in critical thinking.

Our journey to break the cycle of poverty in our municipality is far from over, but we remain committed to providing safety, love, and professional care every step of the way. Thank you to all who walk this path with us; your kindness and generosity ensures no child is left to navigate hardship alone, and it fuels our hope for the future of every young life we touch.

Dr. Carolyn Hancock

Chairlady, Angels' Care Centre



Context

> **Transforming children's lives; by inspiring hope, enabling healing and nurturing potential**

Angels' Care Centre's focuses on aiding and empowering vulnerable children. We achieve this through comprehensive programs focused on providing nutritious meals to combat food insecurity, ensuring a strong educational foundation through quality early childhood education, and offering crucial after-school programs that include homework support, life skills development, empowering initiatives, and engaging sporting activities. Furthermore, we prioritize the children's overall well-being with general healthcare assistance and offer critical crisis care, delivering essential support and protection for victims of child abuse and gender-based violence.

At Angels' Care Centre many of our children are orphans, members of child-headed households, living with HIV and AIDS, either personally or with their caregiver or living with grandparents or relatives who survive on minimal state pensions. For others, their caregivers are largely unemployed and have moved from rural areas in search of employment. Their living conditions are very harsh and many of our children come from homes with no running water, electricity or sewage systems.



Nutritious Meals to Combat Food Insecurity

Strong Educational Foundation through Quality Early Childhood Education

Children's Overall Well-Being, General Healthcare Assistance & Critical Crisis Care

Homework Support, Life Skills Development, Empowering Initiatives & Engaging Sporting Activities

Angels Care Children



68%

Of Households Have No One Employed

77.5%

Have Witnessed Or Have Been Directly Affected By Domestic Violence





67.4%

Have Someone In Their Home Living With HIV

80%

Of Our Pre-School Children Cannot Afford School Fees





57%

Of Our After School Children Say Teenage Pregnancy Is An Issue

Early Childhood Development:

World Class Preschool

Access to high-quality education is a primary tool for social upliftment and breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Early childhood is a sensitive window where the brain develops at its fastest pace and requires proactive support and stimulation.

Our focus is to ensure that every child is empowered with the foundational skills necessary to enter mainstream schooling on an equal footing with their peers, despite many entering our preschool program with no prior exposure to English.

At Angels' Care Centre, we provide an excellent preschool education for 150 children, maintaining small classes of just 25 learners. This intentional ratio allows our teachers to provide the individualised attention and nurturing support every child needs to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning.



Quantifying Impact & Benchmark Comparisons:

Angels' Care Centre Early Childhood Development (ECD) provides excellent educational opportunities to the children of our community, especially those facing challenging circumstances. The educational environment fosters innovative thinking and holistic development of each child enrolled within the educational program.

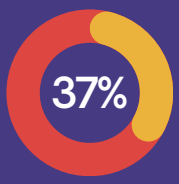
The ECD provides a nurturing haven where children learn, play, and grow. Our play-based curriculum, enriched with themes, literacy, and numeracy, empowers children for future success. We reviewed our formal academic aims for each grade in 2025 focusing on 4 main developmental areas namely: Emergent Literacy and Language Development, Emergent Numeracy and Mathematic Development, Fine-Motor and Gross-Motor Skill Development and lastly, Social-Emotional Functioning Skill Development. The data used for the purposes of this report is based on learners' final academic progress reports for 2025.

The national Thrive by Five Index reports that only 35% of 5-year-old South African children are developmentally on track. In contrast, our pre-school monitored learners significantly outperformed national averages across all assessed developmental domains.

Angels' Care Statistics



Emergent Literacy
3-4 years
- Significant reduction in below-reading-age entry for Grade 1.
- Achieved satisfactory



Cognition & Executive Function
3-4 years
- Advanced ability to solve complex problems and build creatively.
- Exceeds expectations



Emergent Numeracy
3-4 years
- Competence in quantifying objects and pattern completion.
- Achieved satisfactory



Fine & Gross Motor Skills
4-5 years
- Proficiency in pencil grip, balance, and coordination.
- Achieved & Exceeds expectations



Social-Emotional Functioning
4-5 years
- Strong peer interaction & emotional regulation.
- Achieved & Exceeds expectations

The Literacy Breakthrough:

To combat the national reading crisis, where 81% of Grade 4 learners cannot read for meaning, we implemented the Time2Read (T2R) program in our Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD). By year-end, 75% of Grade R learners could identify phonetic sounds and 70% could read simple three-letter words following a Consonant-Vowel-Consonant pattern such as “cat, dog, or sun”, which are the foundational building blocks for decoding and phonemic awareness in early reading.

T2R

Time2Read Program for
the Early Childhood Development Centre



75%

of Grade R learners identifying phonetic sounds

70% Reading simple 3 letter words

Bridging Class

The Angels' Care Bridging Class is a **specialised, high-impact sanctuary** designed for children who have been **excluded from the formal education system** due to extreme poverty or crisis. By maintaining an intimate setting of **just 10 students per year**, the program provides the **individualised, intensive instruction** necessary to close significant learning gaps in a single academic cycle. **Operating alongside our Health and Crisis Centre**, the class offers a holistic "stepping stone" that addresses both academic foundations and emotional well-being, successfully transitioning previously unschooled children into mainstream environments like Thembelihle School.



The Bridging Class has been a great success this year. The children have shown remarkable growth and development academically, emotionally, and spiritually. Each learner has worked diligently to build the skills needed to progress confidently into the next grade. We are especially proud to celebrate two success stories: One pupil who has successfully graduated from the Bridging Class at Angels' Care and transitioned into Grade 1 at Thembelihle and Lepolesa & Noluthando in the Journey of Resilience below. Two wonderful achievements and testament to their hard work and perseverance.



Story Of Hope

From the Bridging Class to Matric

For Lepolesa and Noluthando, the journey toward a future began in the gap left by years of missed schooling and the weight of extreme poverty. They entered the Angels Care Bridging Class having never received a formal education, facing the daunting task of catching up on years of lost learning.

Their progress was made possible by a powerful partnership: while our educators worked to bridge their academic gaps, our Health and Crisis Centre worked alongside them to provide the vital therapeutic and medical support needed to navigate their difficult backgrounds. This holistic approach ensured that as their minds grew, their well-being was also protected.

After graduating from the bridging programme, they transitioned to Thembelihle School. The stability of this long-term educational foundation allowed them to thrive, ultimately completing Grade 7 with the confidence and skills needed for the road ahead.

The resilience they built at Angels Care and Thembelihle carried them through high school and culminated in a major milestone: in 2025, both Lepolesa and Noluthando matriculated.

Their success is the ultimate proof of our mission. By providing both specialized education and holistic support, we don't just help children catch up - we empower them to change their life stories forever.

After School Program

Academic & Personal Empowerment

The afternoon hours are a time of heightened vulnerability for children in informal settlements, often characterized by a lack of supervision and limited resources. Our After-School Program provides a secure, stimulating environment where 220 children receive a nutritious meal, professional homework assistance, and specialized tutoring.

This support is a nurturing ecosystem designed to bridge the academic gap for children whose home environments are not conducive to learning. By providing access to IT facilities and structured play, and sporting league and coaching, we prepare children with 21st-century skills, such as critical thinking and digital literacy which is needed for the future workforce.

Nutritious meals, Professional Homework Assistance, and Specialized Tutoring.











Secure & Stimulating Environment.

Integrating Sport as an Opportunity to Learn

Preparing Children with 21st-Century Skills



Holistic Development for Younger Learners (Grade 1–5)

For our **younger primary school children**, the program focuses on fostering **resilience and curiosity through structured activity zones:**

The Reading Sanctuary:

A library corner that encourages a love of books. Children explore independently, which improves vocabulary, comprehension, and self-regulation.

Creative Construction (LEGO & Puzzles):

Activities that meticulously refine fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination while enhancing spatial reasoning and logical thinking.

Fantasy Play:

Nurturing "pretend play" allows children to use their imagination to create stories, significantly boosting language development and social-emotional tools.

Strategy Zone:

Engagement in chess and board games to cultivate foresight, strategic thinking, and patience.



High School Tutoring

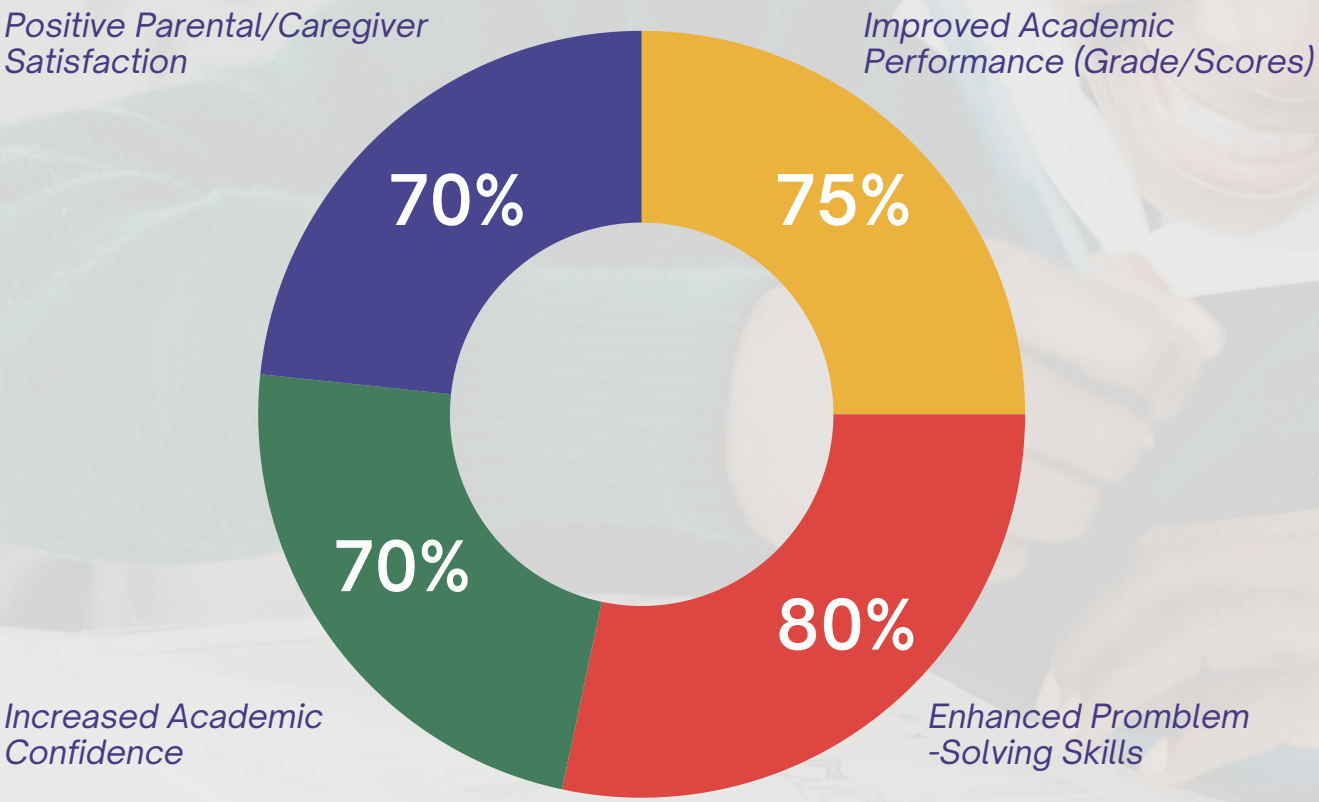
The 2025 high school program achieved exceptional results through a holistic partnership for specialized instruction in Mathematics, Science, and English.

Instructional Success:

75% of students recorded improved grades

85% demonstrated mastery in analytical problem-solving, signaling deep conceptual understanding beyond simple recall.

Measurable High School Academic Success



Instructional Shift:

We identified a "Curriculum Alignment Crisis" where tutors spend **80%** of their time teaching new content because regular schools fall behind the national plan. To alleviate this issue, we will be launching the Early Start Initiative on January 14, 2026, to allow tutors to get ahead of the curriculum and dedicate more time to targeted reinforcement.

Digital Literacy: Rapid Growth and Future Skills

The 2025 holiday programmes, managed by Angel's Care and delivered through Howick Academic Tutoring Centre (HATC), focused on digital literacy. They demonstrated substantial student demand and affirmed the necessity for technology investment.

The digital skills initiatives grew rapidly throughout the year. An initial basic computer literacy program engaged 50 students. Following this success, the program was expanded in July 2025 to include Coding Fundamentals (using Scratch and Python). Enrollment surged to 70 participants, demonstrating a 40% growth in demand.

This rapid expansion confirms the high, unmet need for future-ready technical skills within the community.



Sport

Participation in sport offers a particularly powerful set of benefits for young children, especially those growing up in underprivileged contexts where opportunities for structured play, safety, and social support may be limited.

Physically, regular engagement in age-appropriate sport supports healthy growth and motor development, improves cardiovascular fitness, coordination, and bone strength, and contributes to the prevention of early childhood obesity and related non-communicable diseases.

Socially, sport provides a structured environment in which children learn cooperation, communication, rule-following, and conflict resolution, while fostering a sense of belonging, teamwork, and positive peer relationships that can counteract social exclusion.

Psychologically, participation in sport is strongly associated with improved self-esteem, emotional regulation, and resilience, offering children a constructive outlet for stress and trauma and reinforcing a sense of competence, agency, and hope.

Taken together, these physical, social, and psychological benefits position sport as a low-cost, high-impact intervention for promoting holistic child development and mitigating the long-term effects of socio-economic disadvantage.

uMngeni Sport League Overview

The uMngeni Sports League is an Angels' Care Initiative driven by our very own sports coach Desmond Sokhela. The 2025 league featured three boys' divisions - Under 13, Under 15, and Under 17- each of which displayed impressive levels of skill and commitment. Participation remained strong across all age groups, demonstrating the continuous growth and popularity of youth football within the community. To accommodate the high number of teams, each division was organised into Stream A and Stream B, ensuring fair competition and balanced fixtures.

Junior Soccer League

The 2025 season featured the start of a soccer league by our sports coach. The league comprised **62 teams** from the **uMngeni Municipality** across three age divisions. Our **Girls' Team** earned a remarkable **3rd place in the league**, being the **only girls' team in the region competing against boys.**







Story Of Hope

Hope Provided for a Child-Headed Household

A 16-year-old student faced a heartbreaking tragedy when her mother passed away during the October exams. Overnight, she became the head of her household, caring for her 4-year-old sibling.

The Aftercare team rallied: caregivers provided emotional stability, and tutors provided free weekend sessions to ensure she didn't fall behind. In a triumph of resilience that moved our entire team, she passed her exams with improved marks and continues to receive monthly food parcels to assist her in caring for her family.



Nutrition

Every Day That Our 160 ECD Children Attend School, They Are Each Provided With:

Porridge

Fruit (snack)

Hot Cooked Meal

To the best of our ability, these young children receive **a well-balanced diet**, and every attempt is made to cover all food groups.

The **220 children attending our After-School Youth Development Program** each receive a package consisting of sandwiches, fruit, and yoghurt and at least two hot meals in a weekly cycle (Monday - Thursday).

We feed **350 children every Saturday** of the year with a package consisting of sandwiches, fruit, and yoghurt.

The Centre provides **10 families a month with food parcels** for their households. With approximately 5 members per family, this equates to **approximately 8,000 meals annually.**

Angels' Care Children	32 000 MEALS
After-School Program	45 760 MEALS
Every Saturday	18 200 MEALS
In Total We Feed	730 CHILDREN PER WEEK

Meals in 2025

95 960

Health and Crisis Care:

Healing the Body

Malnutrition and untreated health issues are severe barriers to a child's ability to learn and thrive. We address this "triple burden" of undernutrition, stunting, and micronutrient deficiency by providing daily, nutrient-dense meals and professional healthcare through our on-site nursing team.

Beyond physical health, a guaranteed meal serves as a powerful incentive for caregivers to send children to school regularly. By monitoring physical growth and providing primary care, we ensure children have the physical stamina and "brain food" necessary for cognitive development and immune resilience against chronic diseases.



Primary Healthcare

In 2025, our nursing team successfully managed 449 individual medical cases. While many involved minor ailments, these interventions are critical in preventing chronic illness and identifying neglect.

Common Ailments Managed:

- Ringworm
- Skin infections
- Abscesses
- Dog bites
- Chickenpox
- Seasonal flu





99%

Of our ECD children met their height and weight gain targets, with Grade RRR learners showing an average height gain of **7.2 cm over the year.**





Empowering Young Women

A transformative 2025 milestone is the launch of our Contraceptive Drive for teenage girls and young mothers.

Discreet Access

In partnership with the local clinic, our professional nurse now provides an on-site pathway for contraceptive services. This model negates the need for a general doctor's visit, significantly reducing the social stigma that often prevents young women from seeking reproductive care.

The Support Cycle

This initiative is paired with the Young Mothers' Group, which educates participants on neglect prevention, nutrition, and family planning. Angels' Care also provide the mothers and babies with any essential items that they need, as well as conduct educational talks on topics such as the importance of the first 1000 days and the importance of contact stimulation.

Story Of Hope

Enabling Bukosibakhe to Walk with Ease

A 17-year-old young man with Cerebral Palsy had lived for years in silence with limited mobility, deserted by his mother and suffering from historical neglect.

In 2025, our medical team facilitated multiple specialist visits at Grey's Hospital, culminating in a successful Achilles Tendon operation. Seeing him transition from a heavy walking stick to independent mobility in his new specialized footwear has been a highlight of the year, restoring both his movement and his dignity.



Crisis Care

A Shield Against Child Abuse

South Africa faces a **devastating epidemic of gender based violence (GBV),** with Interpol naming the country a **global capital for sexual assault.** At our Health and Crisis Care Centre we offer a "nurturing haven" through a facility providing forensic nursing, safe emergency shelter at our emergency overnight facility, and trauma counseling. Our **trauma-informed care restores dignity to survivors and ensures that vital forensic evidence** is collected timeously to increase the likelihood of successful prosecution. This is essential for breaking the intergenerational cycle of violence that erodes the fabric of our community.

Quantitative Impact: Securing Safety and Justice

Our Crisis Centre assisted **36 survivors of GBV** through both professional nursing care and the provision of a title of **130 crucial counseling sessions**. The Angels Care Crisis Centre provides a minimum of 3 counselling sessions per case. Of the cases requiring psychosocial support, **29 were survivors of rape**, with **8 cases (30%) involving children under the age of 12.**

Our social workers additionally provided **personalised trauma counseling** to **131 individual clients** navigating **grief, abuse, and chronic disease** through **398 counselling sessions.**

Our **emergency overnight care facility** provided a nurturing place of care and safety for **48 children**, **32 of whom were rape victims**, **6 were neglected and 11 victims of domestic violence**.

528
Total Counselling Sessions



131
Trauma Cases

36
Survivors of GBV



Story Of Hope

Hope and Justice for a 14-year-old Rape Victim

A 14-year-old girl was brought to the Centre after being raped at knifepoint in her own home by a man known to the family. In the critical hours following the assault, our forensic nurse provided a shield of professional care, conducting a thorough examination and collecting DNA evidence timeously.

By completing the compulsory documentation for the police investigation and providing immediate medical treatment, our team ensured her path to justice was secure. The case is ongoing, and our team are well prepared to testify in court ensuring justice and accountability.



Spiritual Nurturing

A Shield Against Child Abuse

For children coming from environments of extreme trauma and neglect, our spiritual program provides a vital sense of belonging, purpose, and unconditional love. By creating a nurturing and spiritually vibrant environment, we allow children to experience simple joys and find resilience in their daily activities.

Spiritual grounding is also provided for our dedicated staff, offering them the emotional support needed to continue their ministry of care in high-risk communities.

Morale and Connection:

Weekly devotions provided spiritual grounding and encouragement for our educators, medical team and support staff.

Classroom Engagement:

Weekly visits by our Chaplain fostered joy and curiosity among our 160 pre-school children, through scripture and prayer.



Community Outreach

Strengthening the entire ecosystem surrounding a child creates a more resilient support network. We engage families through outreach, educational talks, and social initiatives to challenge harmful societal norms and build a safer environment. By providing material aid and health information, we empower families to advocate for their children's safety and well-being.

Outreach

Educational Talks:

Conducted **46 talks** reaching **3,460 people** on topics like **GBV prevention, teenage pregnancy**, and **personal hygiene.**

Winter Warmth:

In 2025 Angels Care Centre distributed **375 blankets, beanies, and jerseys** to **vulnerable children.**

Partnerships

Hilton College Support:

Our partnership continues to be **invaluable,** with the boys assisting in the **after school program** and Saturday morning **feeding scheme**. Through their own fund-rasing efforts they provided much needed **comfort packs for victims of sexual assault.**

Young and Enlightened:

This **vital partnership** has enriched our **Girls' Group** with workshops on **self-esteem and goal-setting**, helping teenagers recognize their **dignity**.







The Hall Café

The Hall Café serves as a vibrant heartbeat for Angels' Care Centre, functioning far beyond a traditional coffee shop by acting as a **powerful engine for economic empowerment.** By providing meaningful employment to previously unemployed individuals from the local community, the café offers more than just a paycheck; it provides **professional training and a dignified pathway out of poverty.**

As a **strategic marketing tool,** it invites the public to witness the impact of the Centre's work firsthand, turning every cup of coffee sold into a conversation about **social change.**

Furthermore, the café has played a pivotal role in **urban regeneration**, breathing new life into a once-quiet corner of Howick. By creating a welcoming destination that draws in both **locals and tourists,** the Hall Café has successfully transformed the area into a bustling hub of activity, proving that **social enterprises** can be the primary catalysts for both **community healing and local economic growth.**

"Drink Great Coffee for a Change"













2026 Strategic Priorities

Our Aspirations:

1. To be a leading model of holistic child development in South Africa, combining education, nutrition, healthcare, and trauma support
2. To grow into a centre of excellence and hope, demonstrating best practice in community-rooted care that can be replicated by others.
3. To achieve sustainable independence, with diversified income streams supporting consistent delivery of services without overreliance on single donors.
4. To ensure every child served is safe, nourished, educated, and empowered to reach their full potential.
5. To build a community of resilience, where families and children are not only supported in crisis but equipped with skills and opportunities for long-term success.

Younger Learners:

Launching the **Afternoon Arts Club**. This initiative will provide a creative outlet for self-expression, fostering emotional intelligence and confidence through painting, music, and drama.

High School:

Launching the **Early Start Initiative** on January 14, 2026, to allow tutors to get ahead of the curriculum and dedicate more time to targeted reinforcement.

Health Care

Implementing a **systematic height/weight monitoring** program for Aftercare children to track health status into adolescence. This will allow us to adapt our programmes as necessary to ensure that we are always providing the help that is needed.

Crisis Care

Officially joining the **uMngeni Child Care and Protection Forum** to improve intersectoral prevention of child abuse.

Spiritual Nuturing

Introducing more frequent **girls' and boys' empowerment groups** after school hours to provide consistent mentorship on self-esteem and goal setting.

Thank You. Donors and Sponsors!

Sponsors of Children's Fees:

- Brentwood United Methodist Church (*Brentwood, Tennessee USA)*
- Individual sponsors in South Africa and abroad

General Fund Donations, Corporate and Trust Gifts:

- CUSP Foundation, Inc. *(Brentwood, Tennessee USA)*
- Brentwood United Methodist Church *(Brentwood, Tennessee USA)*
- DNI Invest *(Johannesburg, RSA)*
- Fanaka Foundation *(Johannesburg, RSA)*
- W. L Hancock Gifts Trust *(Durban, KZN)*
- Tim Hancock Charitable Trust *(Durban, KZN)*
- Anderson Foundation
- New Settlers Foundation
- Santova Logistics *(Durban, KZN)*
- Donavan Coetze *(South Africa)*
- Tony Christopher *(South Africa)*
- Andermatt PHP Pty Ltd. *(Midlands, KZN)*
- Global Manufacturing Solutions *(Pietermaritzburg, KZN)*
- Bree Probiotic Skin Care *(South Africa)*
- Brokoop Insurance Brokers *(Pietermaritzburg, KZN)*
- Zylem Pty Ltd. *(Pietermaritzburg, KZN)*
- Burg Wheelers *(Hilton, KZN)*
- Kelly Jay Jewelry *(Hilton, KZN)*

Key Partnerships and/Donations in Kind:

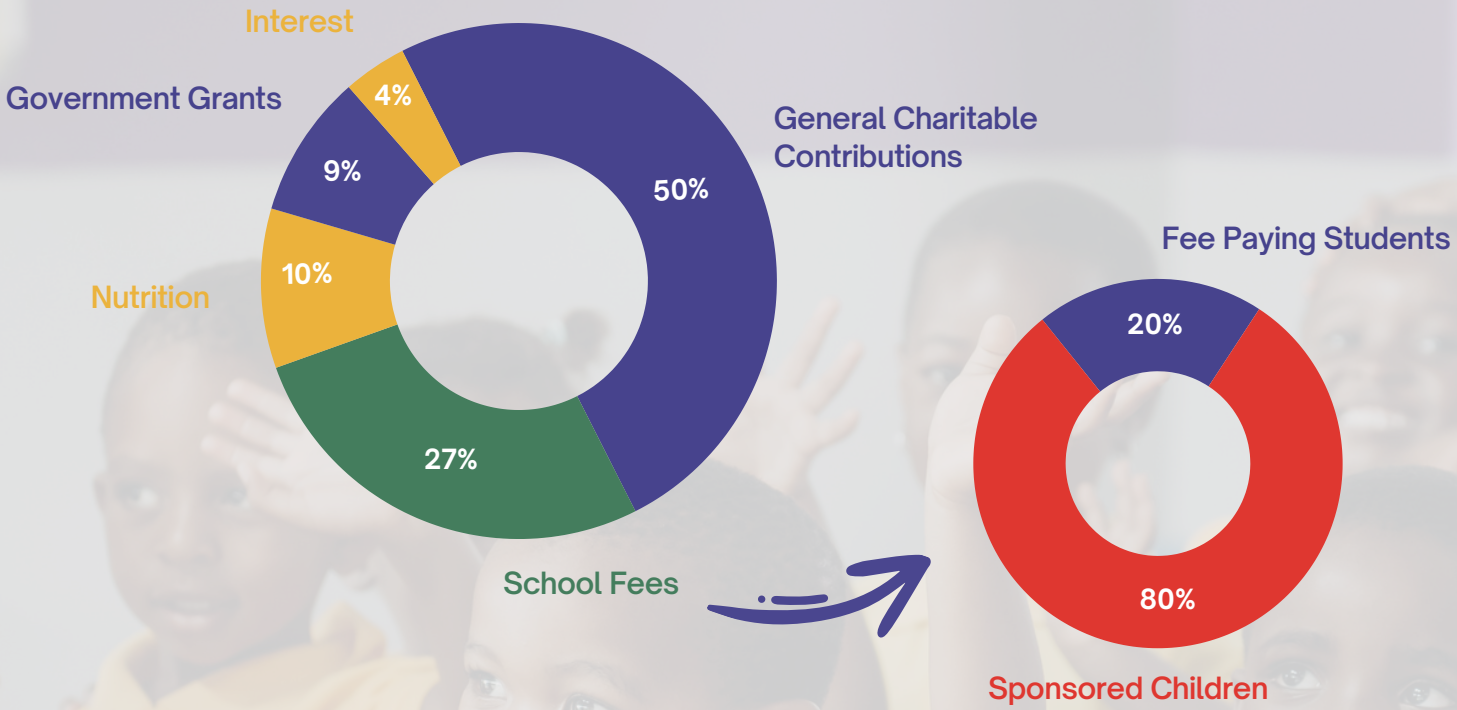
- Hilton College *(Hilton, KZN)*
- Cordwalles Preparatory School *(Pietermaritzburg, KZN)*
- Howick High School *(Howick, KZN)*
- Entembeni Tribe of Hope *(Howick, KZN)*
- Maritzburg College *(Pietermaritzburg, KZN)*
- Greendale SPAR *(Howick, KZN)*
- Harcourts Ambers *(Howick, KZN)*
- THIRSTI Water *(Pietermaritzburg, KZN)*
- Capital Caterers *(KZN Midlands)*
- Rotary *(Howick and Hilton, KZN)*
- Pick N Pay *(Athlone, KZN)*
- Young Enlightened *(KZN)*
- Love Howick *(KZN)*



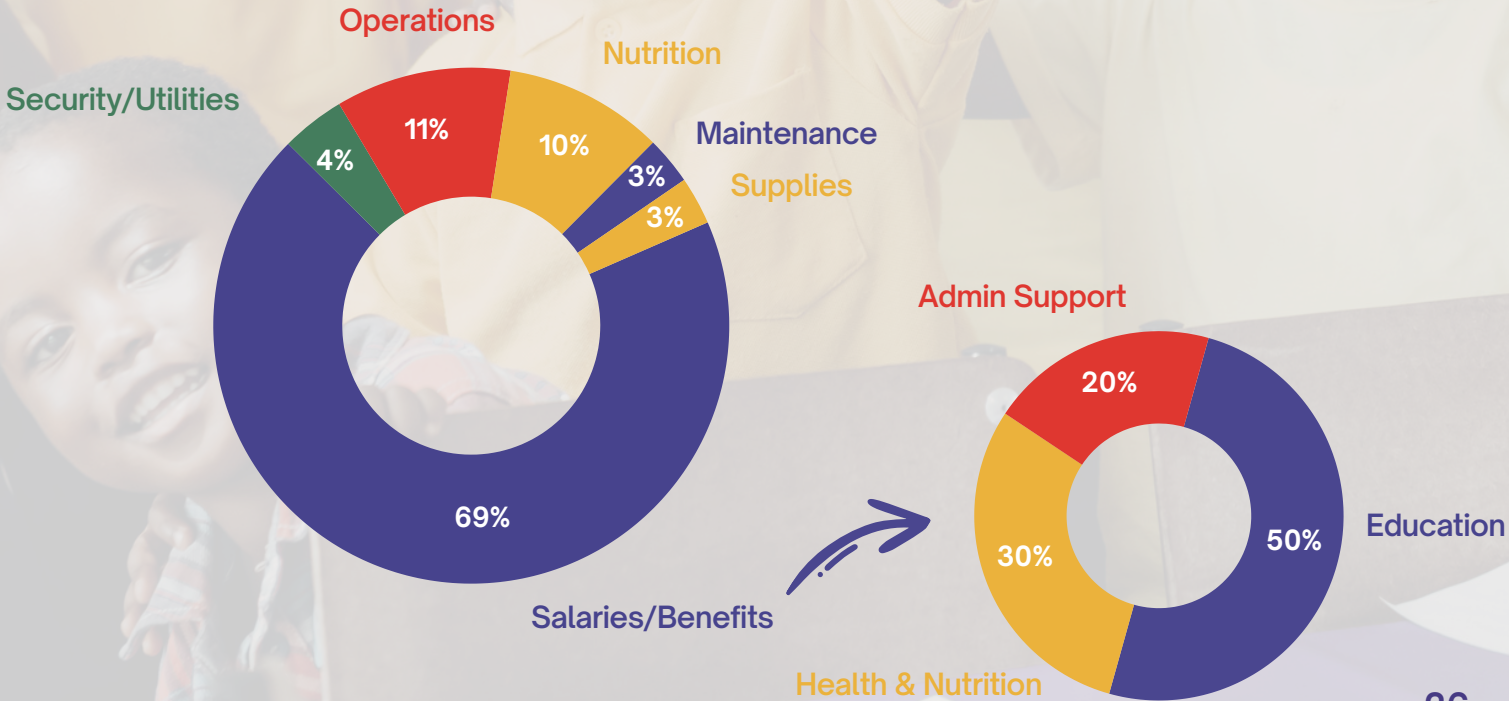
Financial Accountability

***Audited Financials Upon Request*

Income



Expenses



Angels' Care Links





Website Link





Video Link







Details

Visit the Website: *www.angelscare.co.za*
NPO Number: 020-084
NBO Number: 930004928

Follow the Angels' Care Centre Journey on Social media:
Facebook: *https://www.facebook.com/angelscarecentre*
Instagram: @angels_care_centre

angels' care









Thank You

On behalf of the Board, staff, and, most importantly, the children we serve, thank you for your generosity and continued belief in the work of Angels' Care Centre.

Your support in 2025 enabled us to move beyond building facilities to fully realising their purpose. Because of you, children received daily nutritious meals, access to quality early learning, academic support after school, professional healthcare, trauma counselling, and, when needed, immediate protection and safety. In a context marked by economic pressure and social vulnerability, your contributions translated directly into stability, dignity, and opportunity for hundreds of young lives.

What you have helped create is more than a programme or a place. It is a trusted space where children are seen, protected, and nurtured, and where families know they are not alone. Every milestone achieved this year, from improved educational outcomes to lives restored through crisis care, carries your imprint.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and your confidence in our mission. Your commitment strengthens our resolve and sustains our hope as we continue working to ensure that no child in our community is left to navigate hardship alone.