




**THE
2021
ANNUAL
REPORT**



the
**BHAMBAYI
PROJECT**

IGNITING HOPE

Hope shines brightest when surrounded by uncertainty, darkness and mess. We certainly have witnessed uncertainty, darkness and mess in KZN in 2021, with the July unrest compounding the already abysmal economy and extensive Covid impact. Most still carry the scars.

To talk of igniting hope in this context may seem naïve. The nature of poverty so easily restricts hope to a scarce, short-term and inaccessible commodity. This report reflects on our ability to ignite tangible hope in increasingly challenging circumstances, whether it be through our daily youth group programmes, our counselling and social services support, our RISE Skills Training Course, our sustainable gardens and food security programme- and so much more.

We would like to thank every staff member, volunteer, and donor for your part in impacting lives. We thank our Special Stars, Rising Stars and guardians as well- you too are looking to positively impact lives in the organisation and in your community. We thank our Heavenly Father for His provision in so many ways and the miracles witnessed on the ground that have led to tears, laughter and re-storied lives.

We celebrate our broader impact outside of the community of Bhambayi as the Bhambayi Project challenges people on how they see others and how they give- whether through our Mandela Day campaign in the midst of the riots, or our inputs into schools, organisations and churches through our H.O.P.E. Building Model. We have seen mindsets transformed and hope reignited in many.

The current circumstances highlight the need for our work. It is messy work and not without pain and failure, but much needed as we journey in creating a contagious beacon of hope in one of the most shunned and disadvantaged communities in South Africa. This will happen as those who see themselves as powerless are given the opportunity to change the world for good.

Thank you for playing your part in igniting hope- hope that we believe can change a nation.

Mandy Pearson

Executive Director

On behalf of the Bhambayi Project Board



‘Hope is being able to see that there is light, despite all of the darkness’.

- Desmond Tutu -



1. BREAKING CYCLES. CHANGING LIVES.

The Bhambayi Project starts developing positive cycles of growth with our orphans and vulnerable children (**Special Stars**) and continues once these children leave school (**Rising Stars**). Input into their guardians (**Guiding Stars**) is imperative at every step of the process.

1.1 Special Stars

ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN



1.1.2 WEEKLY YOUTH GROUPS

Currently there are seven weekly youth groups which build essential life skills and grow identity and belonging.



Shine and Impact Groups

Targeting Grade R-3 and Grade 4-7 respectively. These two groups are led by Sneh Mdibi and Sinamandla Mgcisane who are passionate about impacting each child's life, and are supported by a team of volunteers. In 2021 they used the iThemba Lethu curriculum as a base for the lifeskills input. The beginning of 2022 is seeing us write and implement our own curriculum focused on growing identity and agency in each child. It is wonderful to see our team creating engaging and age-appropriate lessons which, not only build essential life skills that develop a strong sense of identity and belonging, but also educate our Special Stars about the larger world they are a part of. In each lesson we take into account important dates and holidays, pressing community issues and environmental awareness. We tackle them all with as much fun as possible!



The Game Changers

Our high school group started in 2021 and is now overseen by the dynamic team of Ernest Mngomeni and Thuli Mngadi. In addition to their weekly programme, the high school Special Stars attended a day at Zoe-Life's Career Guidance Centre, a day on a leadership bootcamp and some of the girls were able to attend the Durban Girls' College GirlTalk programme on mental health. On returning, these girls were so inspired that they asked to run the next two Game Changers, passing on all that they had learnt. This group has been particularly hard hit by Covid and the July unrest and face temptations to succumb to crime, drugs, teenage pregnancy and dropping out of school. One on one mentorship with regular home visits helps to build stronger relationships, encourage positive life choices and offer an open door when wrong choices are made.

The Young Men's Group

Started in 2021, led by Mandla Ntshingila, this group plays a vital role in growing powerful male leaders with a serving heart and respect for all those they encounter.



Gale Course

This weekly course for our high school girls started in 2022, led by Gugu Radebe. It teaches our teenager girls to find their voice and use that to bring about positive change in the community and in their lives.



Weekly Dance Groups

For our children Grade R to 3 and Grades 4 to 7. These two dance groups started in 2021, led by Sbonelo Bhengu, are incredibly popular. Through dance the children grow their confidence and learn many valuable life skills.



1.1.3 EDUCATION

Our primary school youth groups are moving to contain an element of basic literacy each week and the high school students are able to study online, including the **Advantage Learn** maths programme, generously provided by Advantage Learn.

Weekly Maths Club

Continued throughout the year, although often had to be restricted to online teaching of the high school group only with each new wave of Covid. The brief times of in-person learning were treasured. The beginning of 2022 has seen grade R to 12 lessons happening in person, thanks to all our helpers and, in particular, the Durban Girls' College support. Not only is improved maths being seen, but relationships across the material divide are growing.

Inanda Seminary bursaries

Bursaries have increased from 3 in the school year of 2021 to 5 in the 2022 academic year. Xoliswa Cele matriculated from Inanda Seminary at the end of the year with 4 As and 95% in Maths and has gone on to study civil engineering at UCT, thanks to the sponsorship of The Light Trust. She continues to be linked in to the Bhambayi Project and will help with weekly Maths Club when home from university in the holidays.



ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN IMPACTED WEEKLY

151 Total OVCs involved in programmes

81 Total Special Stars

15 New in financial year

05 Matriculated in 2021

36 Shine Group

63 Impact Group

30 Game Changers

19 Young Men's Group

23 Gale Course

05 Special Stars on bursary at Inanda Seminary (2022)

18 Advantage Learn online maths

132 Friday Maths Club

1.2 Rising Stars

SCHOOL LEAVERS



Rise Skills Development Course

2021 saw the launch of our Rise Skills Development Course. 27 unemployed young adults attended and the commitment was exceptional. From healing of past traumas, to setting goals, to healthy relationship lessons, the life skills component covered vital areas. The business skills were practical and easily applicable, as were the practical skills from carpentry to sewing, from plumbing to beading, from light electrical work to vegetable farming. Weekends were spent putting these skills into practice.

The Gale Course

The Gale Course followed on from the Rise Course, developing assertiveness and growing a sense of advocacy in our young women who had attended the Rise Course. It was encouraging to hear practical ways that these young women started implementing what they had learnt in their homes and in their communities to increase safety and improve health.



A job preparation workshop

A job preparation workshop was held for 8 of our Rise Course attendees who had obtained learnerships with Meridian. The assumptions made and questions asked highlighted the need for this training workshop. Today we celebrate a close community that has formed between these 8. They have an active phone chat where they encourage one another to be on time, to study and even have video calls to help each other study and prepare assignments. They also share amongst themselves some of the difficulties they encounter, and work to keep each other going through the ups and downs.

One-on-one coaching and mentorship

In addition, there has been one-on-one coaching by a trained coach, small business mentorship and various individual support initiatives to empower our young adults.

Ensuring that our young adults can make a positive contribution is not only **vital for the economy of our country**, but for themselves individually, to grow agency and a feeling of worth as they are enabled to make a difference themselves, rather than be dependent on others.

27 Rise Course attendees

08 Of which learnerships

07 Other employment

1.3 Guiding Stars

GUARDIANS

The guardians of orphans and vulnerable children are usually under immense financial and emotional stress. For this reason, journeying with our orphans and vulnerable children must incorporate journeying with their guardians.

Support is offered through small support groups facilitated by our social worker, as well as monthly training to equip them in their role. Training covered a range of essential areas and included input from iCare and SANCA (substance abuse), Famsa (unresolved family conflicts), Inanda SAP (advice on behavioural issues), Childline (rape) and Malibongwe Shabalala (helping guardians to heal from past traumas) to name a few.



In addition to emotional support, financial assistance plays an important role. For us this assistance must decrease dependence and offer dignity. For this reason, we offer sewing lessons and a space where they can sew to sell and the ability to work in the vegetable gardens or clean the facilities in exchange for a food voucher.

The Bhambayi Project also supported one guardian whose home was destroyed by fire. Through generous donations, we were able to help her rebuild her home.

Rentals are exorbitant for guardians not owning their own property. We obtained land for 2 of our guardians and helped build on these sites. They are repaying the cost at half what they would pay for rental and end up owning their own property after 1 year. One guardian has completed her payments and the other is still in process, but neither has missed a payment date! The saved money on rent is able to go to much needed items, rather than requiring monthly handouts to sustain.

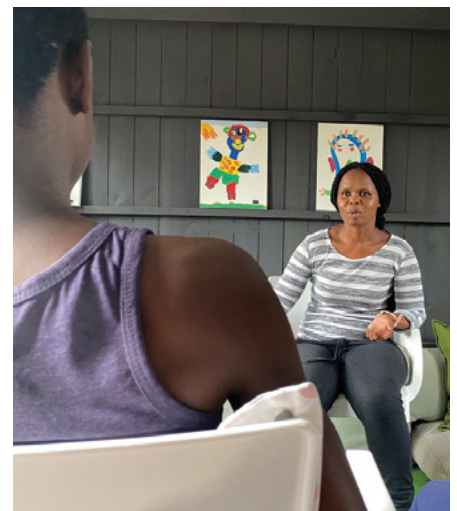
2. SOCIAL WORK AND COUNSELLING

Covid and the July unrest have definitely increased the number of school drop-outs, teenage pregnancies, substance abuse and teenagers getting involved in crime. Having a registered social worker, has meant that Bhambayi Project is able to offer far more holistic support to children that are faced with temptation or who succumb to it. We celebrate the number of children who have returned to school and have come off drugs, but the challenges are definitely immense.

Our social worker has been able to ensure that:

- All orphans who did not have a birth certificate or grant were registered (bar one who had no birth certificate and that is in process with DSD).
- Home visits are done to all our orphans, especially those where we have concerns. This builds close relationships and this helps ensure we are working together with the guardians.
- Support groups were started at the beginning of 2022- small groups of orphans and vulnerable children with similar circumstances. It has been incredible to see some of the children helping the younger ones and those recently orphaned, and so being strengthened themselves in this process.
- Specialists have been brought in to offer training to our guardians and orphans in relevant areas.
- Important support was given to one of our orphans who was called to testify in her mother's murder case in Pietermaritzburg. Not only was she prepared well beforehand by our social worker, but our social worker was there with her throughout and took her out for a treat meal afterwards. This case continues but the child involved has gone from being quiet and withdrawn to being bubbly and confident.
- In dealing with trauma and challenging situations, we partner with teachers and organisations such as Phoenix and Inanda SASSA.

The purchase of a Gemini hut at the beginning of 2022 has transformed the counselling offering given, as previously there had been no private, confidential place for our social worker to meet with the children or guardians.



3. FOOD SECURITY

Our vegetable gardens grew in quality and output during 2021 thanks to the hard work of Lillian Mokoatle, Nkanyiso Zikode and the many others that assisted, as well as thanks to the input of Deep Rural and the sponsorship of CitiBank and the Angel Network. In September our young adults and some other community members were trained by Enock Cindi. The healthy organic produce is given to some of the most vulnerable, as well as sold into the community at affordable prices.

We are thankful to those who ensure that, in addition to the fresh vegetables, we have Woolworths food (past its sell by date, but before its best before date) 2 days a week. Your faithful transporting of this food is appreciated!



4. HOW WE DO THINGS IS AS IMPORTANT AS WHAT WE DO

The Bhambayi Project's approach is not the powerful giving to the powerless- we are all equals, giving to each other in different ways as we journey together. This 2 way eye2eye giving brings dignity and empowerment rather than dependency, and transforms all involved.

4.1 HOPE MENTOR EVENTS

Not only do our hope mentors play a critical role in each orphan or vulnerable child's life, but the reverse is also true.

Our Heritage Day function in September, Guardian Appreciation Lunch in November, Christmas Celebration in December and Stationery and Uniform Function in January were wonderful celebrations focused not on handouts, but on growing relationships and learning together. Covid has limited the involvement on the ground of hope mentors- we hope to grow this again in 2022.



4.2 BROADER IMPACT



The Bhambayi Project's **H.O.P.E. Building Model** is about a new way of thinking that enables this process of transformation. We are an organisation that **Honours** rather than pities, that focuses on long-term sustainable **Outcomes** rather than handouts, that develops **Potential** rather than focusing on lack, and that **Empowers** people to solve their own problems, rather than solving them on their behalf.

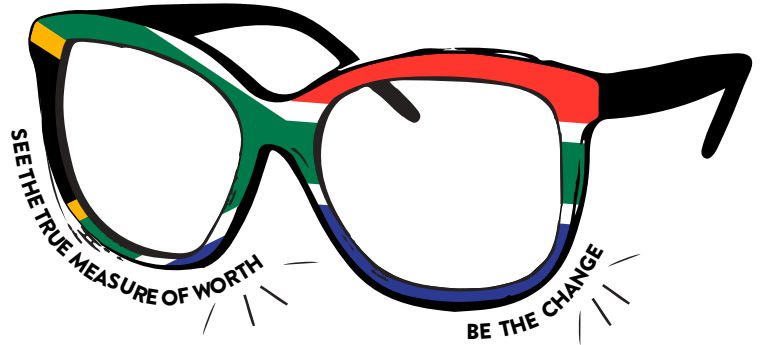
4.2.1 H.O.P.E. WORKSHOPS AND TALKS

A number of talks were given in various schools, businesses and churches, often with our staff sharing their own story to open eyes to how we see others and how we give. In late November, two interactive workshops were held at Durban Girls' College on the HOPE Building Model – the resulting changed mindsets was so encouraging to witness. We look forward to more of these workshops in 2022.



4.2.2 MANDELA DAY CAMPAIGN 2021

Once again, the Bhambayi Project challenged everyone in how they see others. This year the focus was on seeing others through Mandela's lens of equal worth- rather than the world's lens of wealth, status, job, or any other outward measure. This, together with sermons and 2 weeks of 5-minute voicenotes went out to many within South Africa and abroad. Mandela Day fell within the July unrest and the voicenotes and messages, pre-recorded, could not have been more apt.



5. STAFF

This financial year saw the growth in our staff to a total of 9. All our staff on the ground live in the community of Bhambayi and were orphans or vulnerable children themselves, enabling them to have far greater impact as role models. Zama Zikhale joined the organisation as administrator, Natalie Naude as empowerment manager, and Thuli Mngadi and Ernest Mngomeni as our two interns.

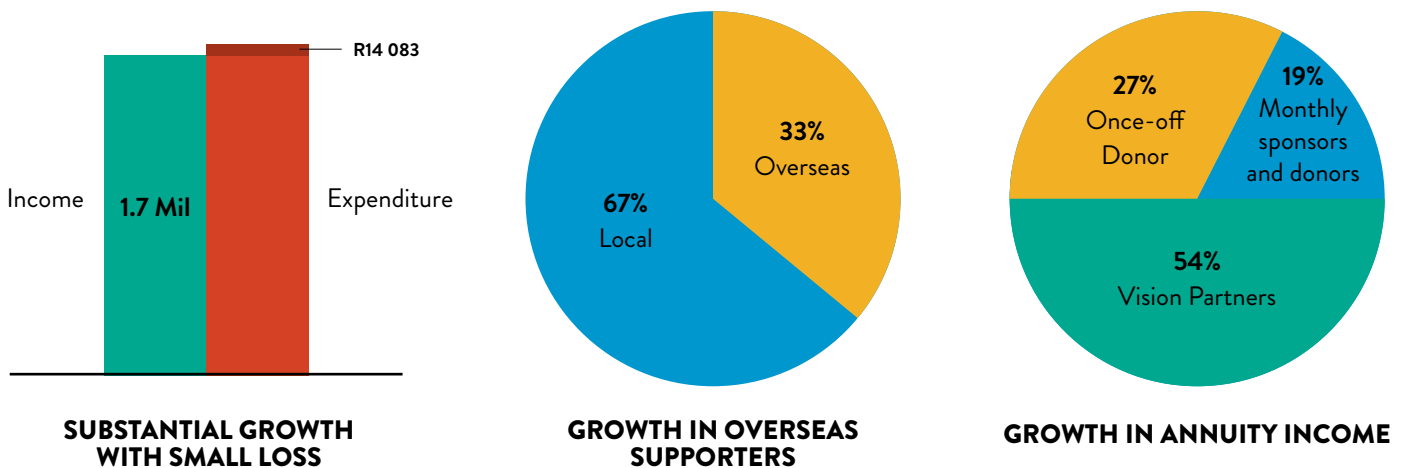


6. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Bhambayi Project takes the sustainability of the organisation and the stewardship of funds very seriously. A detailed Sustainability Strategic Plan is available on request. Our focus is on impacting lives on the ground and that is where we direct our funds.

The Bhambayi Project continues to be overseen by a strong and active diversified **Board of Trustees** of 10 individuals, with both the range of skills and experience needed to support and grow the work (see our website for details). Our **finances** are managed by Shirley Holmes and our annual financial statements independently complied by Guy Brazier, an experienced chartered accountant.

Growth was needed in 2021 to enable us to give holistic support to our orphans and vulnerable children, thus, we have invested in additional key staff, as well as much needed resources. We sustained only a minor loss of R14 083 off an income of R1.746 million for our financial year end of 28 February 2022. Anyone wishing to receive the full set of signed annual financial statements can contact the office. We continue to grow partnerships with those who will support this vital work into the future to increase our recurring income, thus ensuring sustainability and impact.



The Bhambayi Project continues to be integrally involved in the larger community and is an active part of the Ward 54 ‘war room’ and various community leaders’ meetings. Immediately following the July unrest, the Bhambayi Project facilitated meetings with community leaders to look at needs and a constructive way forward. We also ensured that those in need were supplied with necessary food, distributed through trusted community leaders. On an ongoing basis we are involved in helping where crisis needs arise in the community caused usually by flood or fire. This close partnership with the community is essential to the integrity and sustainability of the Bhambayi Project’s work of transformation.

We are grateful to the Phoenix Settlement Trust for the use of the land to transform lives and build for a peaceful future- in line with Mahatma Gandhi’s life principles.

7. HOPE MENTORS, VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

Every hope mentor and volunteer plays a role in building a community of hope through their impact on lives and their enabling of our work. Thank you, to each one of our donors- whether the sum you give is small or large, you are making a difference (see insert).

We are thankful to every one of you, and those who remain anonymous, for giving of your time, talents and treasure to building hope.



VISION INTO THE FUTURE

'We are a people who have come together and shared extraordinarily to remake our society. We live the rainbow.' (2030 National Development Plan)

Our dream is that we, as Bhambayi Project, live the rainbow and ignite courage in others to join us in doing so - across the cultural and material divide. Our work will continue to be 2-fold:

- Transforming the lives of orphans and vulnerable children through relationships and empowerment.
- Transforming mindsets across South Africa on how people see others and how they give.

Our 2022 'Be the Change' theme is igniting hearts and minds- we are seeing increased agency, growing relationships and empowered choices. Our focus will continue to be on transformed lives, our own included.

We invite you to join us (or continue) on this journey of igniting messy, contagious hope in our nation as we look to be the change we want to see.

CONTACT US

admin@bhambayiproject.co.za

Zama - 071 936 1578

Mia - 083 445 5097

EFT: The Bhambayi Project Trust, FNB, Acc: 62701584709,
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NPO 185-843 PBO: 930059603 All donations are tax deductible.



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO PARTNERED WITH US

1 March 2021 – 28 February 2022

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Pamela Alexander
A-Light
Debbie Allan
Tanya & Kira Altshuler
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Thomas Maitland
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Enid & Shawn Meaker
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those who have given
anonymously, and any
not captured in this list.