

# ANCHOR NEWS



## IN THIS ISSUE

Langlaagte becomes a Girls-only Campus

2

Tertiary students

2

AKB Changed my life

3

Learning at my own pace

3

Relieving emotional distress with therapy

3

Visit from an old friend

3

Our children need your help

4

## ANSWERING THE CALL FOR 35 YEARS

Paul Momsen has been heading up the Abraham Kriel operation in Johannesburg since his late twenties. In that time the organisation has undergone a profound transformation. From a children's home at one site, serving primarily white children between the ages of six and eighteen it has grown into a multiracial, and inclusive organisation that serves from babies to youth up to 25 years and older. This it does today on thirteen sites spread over the Witwatersrand and East Rand areas.

In that time, Paul has become synonymous with the organisation. Still he continues to build the legacy for generations to come.

This is what he said after celebrating his 35th anniversary at the institution:

**“To be in service of a calling, is special. Not many people have the opportunity to live their life purpose through their daily work. I experience that privilege through my career at Abraham Kriel Bambanani and that is a blessing.”**

**THANK YOU! Ngiyabonga... Enkosi... Dankie... Nakhensa... Uiteboho... Umbulelo... Siyathokoza... Ke a leboga... Ndo Livhuwa...**

When I think about the 120 years of existence of Abraham Kriel Bambanani, the word that comes to mind immediately is gratitude. I want to say thank you, thank you Lord, thank you Lord for so many blessings...

I am grateful to our founders .... men and women of faith, prayer, dedication, and obedience to God.



I am grateful to our donors for their support and the resources they entrust to us. I am grateful to donors who respond wholeheartedly to our requests when they can, with what they have to offer.

I am grateful to volunteers serving with us, serving our beneficiaries, but also, governing and leading our organisation.

I am grateful to our staff, who are willing to serve, to care, to love, to make sacrifices and to live their calling.

I am grateful for the beneficiaries that came to us over the many years and gave us the opportunity to protect them, care for them, and to empower them for life.

Most of all, I am grateful that we are privileged to serve God. Thank you!

**Paul Momsen**

# LANGLAAGTE BECOMES A GIRLS-ONLY CAMPUS

The “best interest of the children in our care” is the number one value directing decisions and actions at Abraham Kriel Bambanani. Sometimes this leads to hard and uncomfortable actions.

When we decided to transform the Langlaagte Campus into a female-only care centre for traumatised girls, it was a tough decision. However, we are convinced that the transformation was both necessary and has now proven successful.

Due to the nature of their trauma, the girls provided for at our Langlaagte Campus need a safe therapeutic environment, free from factors damaging their healing process and development. Did we achieve that?

The girls enjoy more freedom of movement and greater variety in recreational and developmental activities, as less control over their movements is required. Staff responded positively, as they experience less stress, anxiety and burn-out. We found

that the therapeutic growth in the girls is deeper and longer-lasting. The girls feel safe. Substance abuse and vandalism are virtually non-existent. Their school performance improved and conflict among girls reduced dramatically, with the result that fewer disciplinary interventions are required.

In general, the atmosphere on the campus is relaxed and calm, resulting in happy children that respond more readily to the therapeutic and developmental opportunities available to them.

Was this the right strategy? I believe we can confidently say that the traumatised girls cared for at the Langlaagte Campus are benefiting tremendously. I am eternally grateful to my colleagues who conceptualised

and managed the implementation of this transformation process, as well as our donors who enable us to continue with the protection, care and therapy these girls so desperately need.



## TERTIARY STUDENTS

There are a host of success stories in the Community Services programme both from Soweto and Westbury in Johannesburg.

All these students come from severely disadvantaged backgrounds and are the first members of their families to move on to formal qualifications. Their success signifies a major breakthrough for their families and will hopefully shift them out of the poverty cycle.



Masego is job hunting after she completed BSc Honours in Pharmacology.

Ayanda is still completing her LLB and will be in the market by next year.

Four students are continuing their three-year courses after doing well last year. Two of them are doing diplomas and two B.Com. We have every reason to expect Mapontsho to complete her degree in Accounting by the end of the year and Zandile to finalise her degree in Marketing Management.

Three more students hoping to obtain a tertiary qualification after completing matric in 2021. Lebogang is working towards a BA in Journalism at the University of the Free State, but Bongani and Lungile still have to jump through some hoops, either to get NSFAS funding or to be accepted at their chosen tertiary institutions.



\*Bella and \*Nomzamo, who completed school last year are well on their way with their studies at Wits. Both of them want to study B.Ed.

**Residential care** had six students in Tertiary education in 2022. Millie and Lucinda passed their respective courses and will continue their studies in 2023.

Fethume passed 80% of his Engineering subjects and will continue his third year studies in 2023. Ntobeko failed and is

unlikely to complete her studies.

Thabiso dropped out in the second semester due to health reasons. He will continue his studies in 2023.

Lucky must complete his internship in Hospitality and Catering, after successfully completing his studies.

Two new students started tertiary studies in 2023, namely \*Thembi, who will be doing a 1 year professional cooking course and \*Chanel will be doing a Higher Certificate in Travel and Tourism Management.

To sum up, Community Services programmes have eight students actively doing courses in tertiary institutions, with two aspirant students still hopeful to get access to tertiary courses.

The Residential Care programme had six students in 2022 and seven students in this year. One 2022 student failed and dropped out, whilst two new students started their studies.

***We wish them all the very best for another year of hard work and success.***

\*The real names of children under eighteen were not used in this newsletter



# AKB CHANGED MY LIFE

\*Sizakele is being raised by a single parent. The entire family depends on a social grant of R820 for all their basic needs.

Sizakele had the extraordinary opportunity to be admitted to the Curtis Nkondo School of Specialisation due to her outstanding performance. Unfortunately, the school uniform for Curtis Nkondo costs R2 500 and there was no way the family could afford it. However, **ABSA CSI projects paid for her full uniform** and saved the day.

Since the AKB Community Services registered her on the programme, she received proper meals, proper clothing and the necessary supplies for school. In addition, her psychosocial and spiritual

needs are attended to.

Sizakele achieved an 83% average in the last term of 2022. She received a trophy, a medal and a certificate for her outstanding academic performance. Her confidence has improved greatly since she started with AKB. She is an example to other children with her respectful attitude and good manners.



## LEARNING AT MY OWN PACE

\*Charnel matriculated in 2022. She attended Lantern School (a remedial School). She is planning to do a Higher Certificate in Tourism and Travel Management in 2023.

Before she was taken in at Abraham Kriel, Charnel was abused by a family member and struggled to make progress in school due to trauma. She was determined to overcome her trauma and break the chains that held her back. Her Social worker described her as determined and disciplined. She worked very hard and although she attended a remedial school, she was able to write the national senior certificate exam.

Our beautiful girl won a competition and her entire matric dance was sponsored from the dress, make-up right through to the photographer and the fancy car!

Like Charnel, we have other learners with learning difficulties, who have been placed in schools that cater to their educational needs. They are doing well and we look forward to seeing their progress.

**Beneficiary 01:** is a 16-year-old teenage girl in Grade 6. She was promoted from the first grade. Our office referred her for therapy and the therapist recommended that she attends a special school. She was transferred and her performance as well as her self-esteem improved.

**Beneficiary 02:** is an 11-year-old boy in Grade 4. He also has been promoted from first grade. After attending all his sessions, the therapist recommended that he too attends a special school. Since then his marks and self-esteem improved drastically.

## RELIEVING EMOTIONAL DISTRESS WITH THERAPY

While \*Ariana was in the care of AKB she received therapy from Minke Saayman. Ariana faced questions concerning her identity amongst other things. She opened up to Minke about these concerns and Minke guided Ariana's house mother on how to deal with this very shy girl. Ariana is now a confident girl who believes in herself and enjoys acting.

A 16-year-old girl in grade 11 had an anxiety and eating disorder. Amongst other concerning behaviours, the anxiety manifested in her cutting her hands. After therapy, the cutting stopped and she obtained good marks in her final exams. She is doing grade 12 this year and to deal with this further challenge, she will continue with therapy.

A three-year-old boy admitted to the Maria Kloppers Campus, was very anxious in social interactions. He avoided his childcare worker as much as he could.



Early in February last year, he began attending attachment therapy with her. It took time to see progress, but in August 2022 he started to interact a little more with other kids in the unit. Nowadays, when he is not well, he goes to his childcare worker for affection, whereas previously he would sit in the corner or hide behind a curtain.

Although he has made progress, this little boy still avoids strangers and it takes time for him to warm up to them.

## VISIT FROM AN OLD FRIEND

Mr Willem Jacobus and his wife, Mrs Elma Kriel visited the campus. He is a former beneficiary and shared a few stories with us about his time here. He told us why he had been in a children's home and how Abraham Kriel had made him a stronger person. He had lived here with his brothers from 1955 – 1963.



\*The real names of children under eighteen were not used in this newsletter



# OUR CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP

Do you want to make a difference? Can you assist with any of the following?  
Additional Educational support and developmental opportunities are most needed!

- ▶ Tutors, homework assistance and Kumon would be great. Tutors cost R200 per child.
- ▶ You can help 2 primary school girls in LSEN classes to learn to read or \*Rachel who needs help with spelling, reading and speech in your personal capacity.
- ▶ Millie, who also grew up at Abraham Kriel Bambanani, is helping already with maths and homework, but she needs guidance on study methods.
- ▶ \*Nathi is a star cricketer and he competes on a national level, but he needs transport to practice and back.
- ▶ 18 Children in our community Care programme were offered an opportunity to attend must needed extra Saturday Classes. R250 per learner per month is needed for additional educational support.
- ▶ There are children in our community services programmes, with mild to serious developmental challenges, who need Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and assessments by an Educational Psychologist or a Neuro-Paediatrician. Public hospitals are not much help. It takes a very long time to secure an initial appointment and then therapy is only offered once a month.
- ▶ The classroom floors at Johanna Malan Early Childhood Centre need to be replaced and the jungle gyms require urgent maintenance.

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING EXCITING HAPPENING AT AKB!

Watch this space...

**Mom's Memory Lane – Mother's Day event:** 13 May 2023,  
Contact Annamart Viljoen – [av@abrahamkriel.org](mailto:av@abrahamkriel.org) for more information.

**#Pamper4Purpose:** Spa Day at Mowana Spa, Inanda Hotel Fourways: 18 July 2023  
Contact Ricci Boonzaaier – [rb@abrahamkriel.org](mailto:rb@abrahamkriel.org) for more information

**Golf Day:** Date to be confirmed – Contact Sandra Nel – [sn@abrahamkriel.org](mailto:sn@abrahamkriel.org) for more detail.

**Stars For Charity Gala Event:** Date to be confirmed  
Contact Annamart Viljoen – [av@abrahamkriel.org](mailto:av@abrahamkriel.org) for more information.

**#ride4hope – cycle challenge:** Contact Ricci Boonzaaier – [rb@abrahamkriel.org](mailto:rb@abrahamkriel.org) for entry details.

*Keep an eye out on our social media pages for updates and details of events.*

