

# ANCHOR NEWS

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## A YEAR IN REVIEW

The first thing that came to my mind when asked to take the past financial year in review, is the fact that Abraham Kriel Bambanani was able to continue living its calling to protect, care for and develop children and young people in need of care. It is truly a privilege to have been able to serve, despite challenges and uncertainties.

Yes, the financial year 2023/24 was characterised by an ongoing tug of war between non-profit organisations (NPOs) providing services to the neediest in our society, and the Department of Social Development in respect of the funding of welfare service in the Gauteng Province, and yes, that battle is still raging on. In essence, the Department of Social Development adopted and initiated the execution of a policy whereby it is reducing its financial contribution to NPOs with the intention to be less dependent on services provided by the NPO sector. The NPO sector is convinced that this policy is motivated by political ambitions towards total control and power over financial

resources in the Gauteng Province.

In its quest to improve the sustainability of Abraham Kriel Bambanani, the organisation is continuously working on the diversification of its income streams to be less dependent on the Department of Social Development, which is funding roughly thirty percent of our income. An important element of our diversified income streams is income generated by providing accommodation to university students. The funding for student accommodation is administered by universities and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). Sadly, the past three years have seen significant instability in the allocation and distribution of this funding, impacting severely on the revenue of Abraham Kriel Bambanani.



The challenges mentioned above harmed Abraham Kriel Bambanani financially, to the extent that we had to restructure and reduce some of our community services to children living in the communities of Westbury and Soweto. Although this was a sad and difficult process, it was necessary to ensure the sustainability of our organisation, enabling us to continue with services, albeit to fewer beneficiaries.

In all of this, we are immensely grateful for the continued support of our donors, who in some cases increased their contributions, enabling us to continue our service. While state-run institutions let us down in the past year, the donor community conscientiously stepped up. We salute you!

We tackle the new financial year with new hope, encouraged by the knowledge that God has been providing in the needs of our organisation through willing people and institutions for almost 122 years. In Him we trust!

*Paul Momsen*



# SMILING THROUGH THE TRAUMA

Abuse and neglect have far-reaching effects on a child. The trauma often leaves them scarred for life. But, to live through the abuse and neglect, and make it to the other side with a smile is remarkable. And, that is the story of, ten-year-old, Dana (not her real name).

Dana experienced severe sexual abuse and neglect at the hands of her biological parents. Thus, was removed from their care and brought into the Abraham Kriel Bambanani Langlaagte Campus in 2021. Dana is described as a very energetic child who loves to play, has a soft spot for animals and is always smiling. "Therapy plays a very important role in our children's lives and, at times, it can take a while to measure or see the impact of therapy, due to the severity of a child's trauma. Dana

and her siblings need long-term therapy but we are willing and are determined to make sure that they heal and become upstanding members of society", says Darlene Cigarmony – Assistant Manager of the Langlaagte Campus.

Therapy is helping Dana to deal with her trauma and she has made great progress. Unfortunately, her circumstance caused her to fall behind at school and she has a lot of catching up to do. Not being able to attend school and learn at the same pace as her peers is frustrating and one can often see a tear rolling past the beautiful smile that is always visible on her face.

Dana was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and needs one-on-one tutoring. If you want



to be part of Dana's healing process and should you be able to assist with tutoring for Dana and/or other children, please contact us: 011 839 3058 or [info@abrahamkriel.org](mailto:info@abrahamkriel.org).

## EMDENI SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE GRADUATION

We will never completely know and understand the hardship of our students, but at the Emdeni Skills Development Centre graduation, we only saw **BIG SMILES, HAPPINESS and BEAUTIFUL PROUD** people. They did not only receive a certificate and a skill but have also overcome great obstacles, unknown to the many attendees at the beautiful graduation ceremony held on the 1st March 2024.

We celebrated the tremendous achievement of 107 students who obtained certificates for completing their training in the following courses, Agriculture (7), Assistant Chef (35), ICDL Computer Training (51), Business Administration (8) and Tiling and Painting (7). Congratulations to all the students who attended, applied discipline and persevered to finish their course.

Twenty of the graduates managed to secure full-time employment after completing their course and others will further their studies or start their own businesses. We are keeping an eye on your future endeavours, wishing you all the best for the future.

These great achievements serve as motivation for Abraham Kriel Bambanani to continue to upskill and uplift the youth of Emdeni and making a difference in their lives.



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

# SKILLS TRAINING REDIRECTED MY LIFE PATH

Bongani was a young college dropout and figured that education beyond matric was not for him. That was until he came across a Facebook post calling for people to apply for courses at the Emdeni Skills Development Centre (ESDC). He visited the centre the very next day to apply for the Tiling and Painting three-month course.

Bongani described the environment and atmosphere at the centre as "green", positive and friendly. Filled with hope and possibilities. "I felt like this place was the beginning of a good thing for me" – Bongani describing his first day at the centre.

"While doing the Tiling and Painting course, I realised that I could improve my skill set by enrolling for the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) course – what a surprise, because I had no interest in learning about computers. "I have always associated computers with boring office jobs. Boy, did this course change my mind! I thoroughly enjoyed it. The facilitator was patient and he took us through course material with such ease



and made it all understandable", adds Bongani.

In August 2023, Bongani volunteered as a coordinator's assistant at the centre. "It was challenging at first because I had no work experience. But, with the help of the training coordinator and the other staff members, I was able to work through the challenges. Today, I am an intern at the Centre, gaining much-needed experience. I will achieve great things in the future. It all starts with believing in yourself and making the right choices. Abraham Kriel Bambanani offered the support and guidance and the Emdeni Skills Development Centre was the right choice for me, says Bongani.



## REMEMBER BABY LUNATHI?

The underweight, malnourished baby boy who was brought into the Maria Kloppers Campus due to neglect by his parents. His tiny hands and feet were rat food and he needed extensive occupational therapy and medical care to help him heal.

Well... he's two years old and progressing well. "Lunathi needed serious occupational therapy to help him with his development milestones. He was very scared of people and it took many sessions and interventions to get to where he is today. He is bubbly, opens up to people and likes singing" – Pheli Baduza, Maria Kloppers Campus manager.

Lunathi has had occupational therapy since 2022 and has 2 sessions per month. He is running and walking but we are still struggling with his weight. He currently weighs 9.6 kg and his dietician has given us a goal - to get him to at least 10 kg. To reach this goal, we need help with his supplements. If you can assist, please contact Pheli on 011 648 1394 or kb@abrahamkriel.org.

### Please note! SARS has new requirements for information about the donor to appear on the 18A receipt!

In order for Abraham Kriel Bambanani to comply with the new requirements and to ensure that you, our valued donor receives the intended benefit of an S18A receipt, kindly visit our website for more information.

Or contact us on 011 839 3058 / [info@abrahamkriel.org](mailto:info@abrahamkriel.org)



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# THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH MY DREAMS

Westbury is a complicated suburb in the west of Johannesburg, that can be described as the epicenter of gangsterism and a "no-go" area when a drug war breaks out. Abraham Kriel Bambanani (AKB) has served in the community of Westbury for 17 years. Although we have had a few challenges in the area, we are proud to say that we have made an impact on the lives of many children and their families. With the help of donors and dedicated staff, we were able to open doors of opportunity for many children.

Nineteen-year-old Bernice (not her real name) a Westbury native, like many other beneficiaries, found refuge at the Abraham Kriel Bambanani Westbury offices. She has been with AKB since she was in Grade 2. She lost her mother at the age of 10 and has lived with her aunt and uncle since. With the support of her family and the AKB staff, she has been able to heal, make it through some of life's challenges and joys and reach her full potential academically.

Bernice has always been one of the beneficiaries that actively participated in programme initiatives and made sure that she used the opportunities made available to her. Through hard work and

sheer determination, this young lady matriculated in 2021 and is currently a second-year student at the University of Witwatersrand. She is studying towards a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degree.

"Studying is such a pleasant experience for me. I'm coping with all the study material and I'm doing quite well. I'm grateful to Abraham Kriel and all the people who make it possible for me to be here. I know my family wouldn't have been able to afford to further my studies. This opportunity means that I will be able to fulfill my dream of buying a house, a car and look after my family after graduating", says Bernice.

Bernice and many others like her, have made us very proud of the work we do. It was our Westbury Programme that was impacted the most when the Department of Social Development announced funding cuts to non-governmental welfare organisations (NGOs) in 2023. "We were forced to provide our services differently. Our Westbury office moved to the Langlaagte head office and we can only provide basic services. We are saddened by the fact that we had to reduce the number of beneficiaries in our programme." – Virginia Mutana – Social Worker: Westbury Care Services.



Virginia Mutana went on to say that there are many children like Bernice, who will not be reached and who will not have a success story to tell. We hope and pray that we will be able to do more in the Westbury community in future and that we will have more success stories to tell.

AKB is grateful to the donors who have stuck with us through the good and bad times. If it were not for you, many more children would find themselves in undesirable situations. THANK YOU!

Banking Details:  
Abraham Kriel Bambanani  
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Branch: 632005

Abraham Kriel  
Bambanani  
NPO

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## PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: .....  
Postal address: .....  
Tel: .....  
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## I WOULD LIKE TO...

Receive the e-newsletter .....   
Make a once-off contribution – contact me .....

## DEBIT ORDER INSTRUCTION

Acc Holder: .....

Acc No: .....

## Type of Account

Current:  Transmission:

Bank: ..... Branch: .....

Branch code: .....

10% annual increase authorised  Yes  No

**Please note:** Your signature is required to authorise any deduction.



Signature

## MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION

I hereby pledge a monthly contribution of:

R100  R120  or more  R. ....

Please choose an option with X in the appropriate box:

- Via a scheduled EFT (cell number as reference on deposit):
- Via direct deposit:
- Via my credit card:

Please deduct R ..... on the ..... day of 2024 and every month thereafter, to support the children of Abraham Kriel Bambanani.