

Annual Report 2019

Mar - Dec • 2019



TEACHING

EQUIPPING

IMPARTING

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9 miles project
Going the Distance...

"I just saw the need for an intervention in my community and I saw that mentorship and surfing are two powerful tools that can really shape and transform a society.

We offer a safe space for kids to come find shelter, safety, love and affirmation...they start to influence their family, influence their community, and influence the younger generation..and that's the power of 9Miles Project "

Nigel Savel, founder



Founders' Note



2019 was our best year yet with many things that came to fruition.

Some highlights include:

- Growing our team to over 20 people
- The first of our children writing their matric exams
- Setting up a full-time operation at our Elands Bay branch
- Expanding our feeding programmes by serving more vulnerable people on a daily basis.
- Strengthening our social enterprises with our Surf and Board repair shop opening 6 days a week
- Forging stronger partnerships with many companies, organisations, and local government.
- Launching an education programme for children who have fallen through the cracks and cannot attend mainstream schools.
- And of course, the arrival of our little baby Ella.

We were all smiles as it came to a close and our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for every individual, company, organisation, institution or Trust, and government department that partnered with us in any way – even just spreading the word about the work we do.

The fruits of our year are thanks to them, and the incredible 9Miles staff that gave their all during the year. We look forward to everything that 2020 holds!

Nigel & Sher'Neil Savel

P.S. We are only reporting on 10 months because we recently took the decision to align the dates of our financial year with our programmes.

Who We Are

9Miles Project is a registered nonprofit organisation that was founded in Cape Town in 2013 by Nigel & Sher'Neil Savel.

We provide safe spaces and structured afterschool programmes for vulnerable youth in coastal informal settlements and surrounding communities; and offer surf therapy, mentorship, and holistic support to at-risk youth and their families in the areas of Cape Town, Elands Bay, and St Francis Bay.

With headquarters at Strandfontein Pavilion, Cape Town, our clubhouses are a haven and safe space for youth who have very few opportunities and positive role models in their lives.

Our Mission

Through the provision of literacy programmes, supplementary education, surf therapy, feeding schemes, poverty relief, job creation, life skills and leadership programmes, 9Miles Project creates sustainable opportunities that engage, uplift, equip and empower impoverished and high-risk youth from coastal informal settlements and surrounding communities.



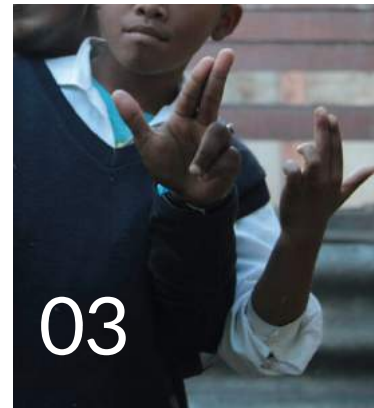
Our programmes are aligned with 10 of the 17 United Nations sustainable development goals:



- 01 No poverty
- 02 Reduced inequalities
- 03 Good health and well-being
- 04 Gender equality
- 05 Zero hunger

- 06 Responsible production & consumption
- 07 Quality education
- 08 Partnerships
- 09 Life below water
- 10 Decent work and economic growth

Our Harsh Reality



- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 01 | Teenage pregnancy | 05 | Food insecurity and Poverty |
| 02 | Domestic violence, neglect and abuse | 06 | Rampant unemployment |
| 03 | Gangsterism | 07 | Pollution and lack of sanitation |
| 04 | Illiteracy | 08 | Substance abuse |



Our programmes are designed in a holistic manner in recognition of the fact that you can't change a child's life in isolation without impacting his family, and community.

Our goal is to offer safe, structured, afterschool and welfare programmes that nurture and empower vulnerable youth, and to build healthier and more resilient families and communities.

We Build Stronger:

children

- Basic needs e.g. food, clothing, toiletries, stationery
- Psycho-social support
- Surf therapy & fitness
- Life empowerment & mentorship
- Art & music therapy
- Literacy & Academic Support
- Learning adventures
- Health & dental care
- Skills development



communities

- Holistic family support
- Job creation & Skills development
- Feeding & family support eg. CAB ("Come and buy without any money")
- Positive community events e.g. Aqua Day
- Local school engagements
- Social enterprises e.g. 2nd Chance Surf shop which makes positive and healthy recreational activities more affordable and accessible, and creates jobs.
- Youth and school surf clinics
- Public speaking engagements (life empowerment sessions)
- Youth events e.g. Activate Youth Conference



*** 600+ direct beneficiaries**

Everything we do for our children and their families filters down to the greater community and society at large. We envision that the fabric of the informal settlements will transform in the next 10 years due to more of our children being literate, finishing school, and pursuing further studies and attaining gainful employment, which will allow them to break the socio-economic barriers they currently experience.

100% Black beneficiaries from disadvantaged, and diverse backgrounds

ELANDS BAY

(West Coast)

50 children from the local community

CAPE TOWN

Masinedane, 7de Laan, City Mission and Oppermans Oord (informal settlements) and the greater Strandfontein and Mitchells Plain area

***50 children in core programme**

ST FRANCIS BAY

(Eastern Cape)

10 boys from Sea Vista settlement

** we reach more people via our community programmes, surf clinics, events etc.*

WE BUILD STRONGER

Children

149

Surf therapy
sessions

134

Life skills
sessions

137

literacy
sessions

23

Learning
adventures

248

Mentorship &
Leadership
sessions

102

Art and Music
therapy
sessions

6331*

PLATES OF FOOD
SERVED

*excluding community meals

2019



“

The Project has been such a blessing to us. They help us by serving food to our kids when we are not by the means to. Janodene has changed so much too! Her behaviour has improved and she is so obedient and respectful now. Thank you for everything that you guys do for us.

Jennifer, mother of Janodene

“

I'm so glad for this Project...The change in Chadlee is so great. He is not like he used to be and is so excited to go to work. My heart is so happy.. I appreciate you guys so much.

Maggie, mother of Chadlee



“

For the times when we didn't know if we would make it, they were there for us. Nigel became Marci's brother, uncle, father, everything to him...9Miles is a part of Diago and Marci's life now, I can never take them away from it...

Michelle, mother of Marcheleno and Diago



we build stronger children....

Surf therapy & Fitness

Our Surf, fitness and water safety programmes improve health, fitness, and mental wellbeing.

Surfing is not only a great way to keep physically fit but it has many psychological benefits too. It is a profound activity that assists in decreasing anxiety and stress, imparts discipline, and instills gratitude and responsibility for the marine life and equipment used. Students have shown determination, endurance and drive in and out of the water - attributes that every successful individual requires in order to cope and achieve their goals in life.



we build stronger children....

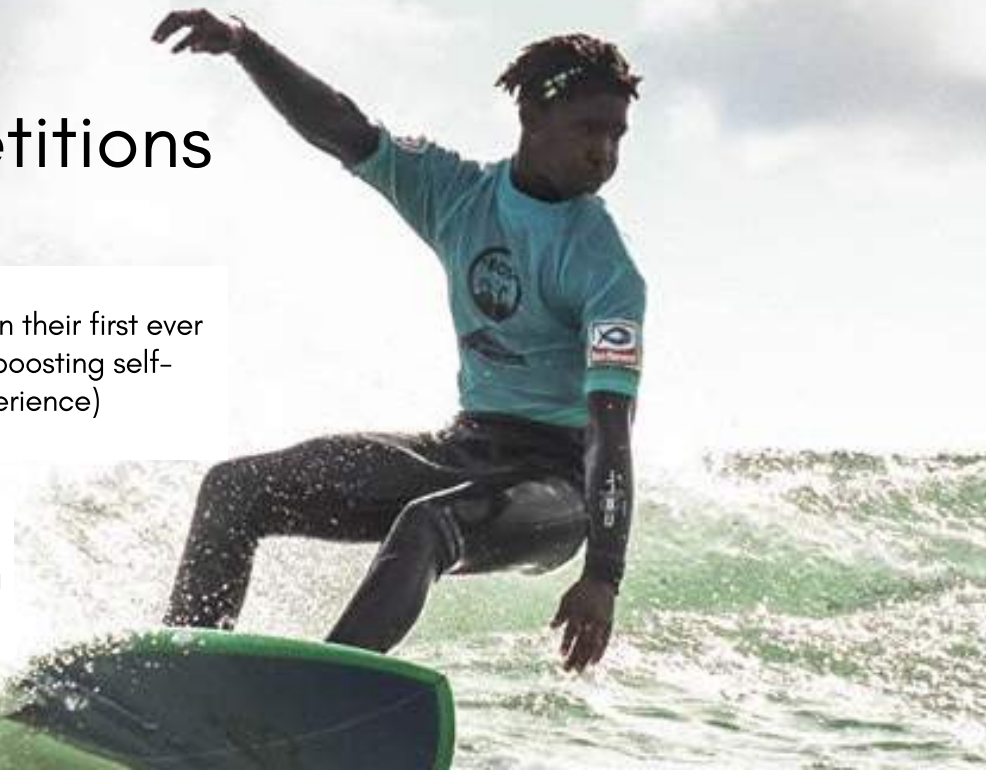
Surfing & Competitions

10

of our students participated in their first ever individual surf competitions (boosting self-confidence and building experience)

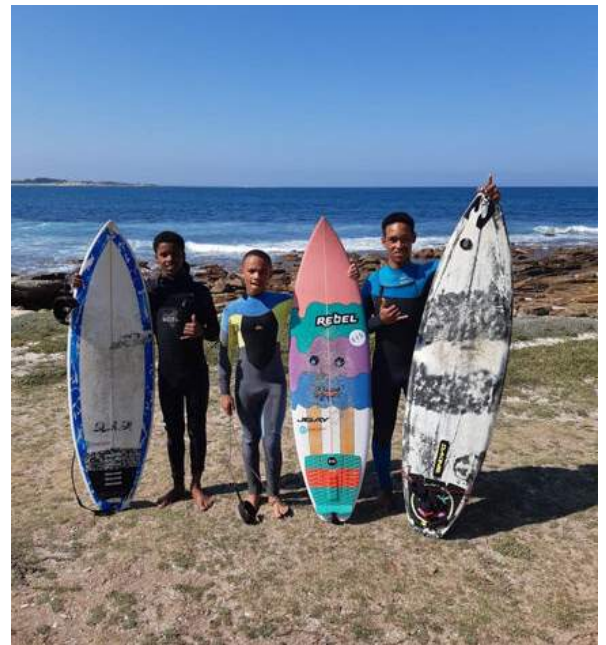
15

participated in their first tag team surf competitions



Some other highlights include:

- Two of our girls placed 2nd and 3rd at the Sea Harvest SummerSurf event in Muizenberg in December 2019
- Two of our St Francis Bay boys participated in the Billabong Junior Series competition (their first competition) and were also fortunate to receive training from renowned surf coach, Graham Hynes.
- They also competed in The Nelson Mandela Bay Surfriders Trials held in Jeffreys Bay.
- One of our Cape Town boys participated in the BOS Cape Crown Competition in Long Beach and also received 3 training sessions with high-performance coach, Llewellyn Whittaker.
- Ten of our students competed in the Tigers Milk Classic Outreach Surfing Games held at Muizenberg,
- Three of our students participated in a Junior Men & Women QS (Qualifying Series) 1000 rated event as part of the World Surf Series Junior Championships.
- Various students competed in the Western Province Surfing Champs, Sea Harvest SA Interclub Championships, and Western Province Grom trials.
- Our Cape Town children enjoyed regular surf sessions with big wave surfer, Matt Bromley, and our girls had monthly surf coaching sessions with coach Taryn Swales.

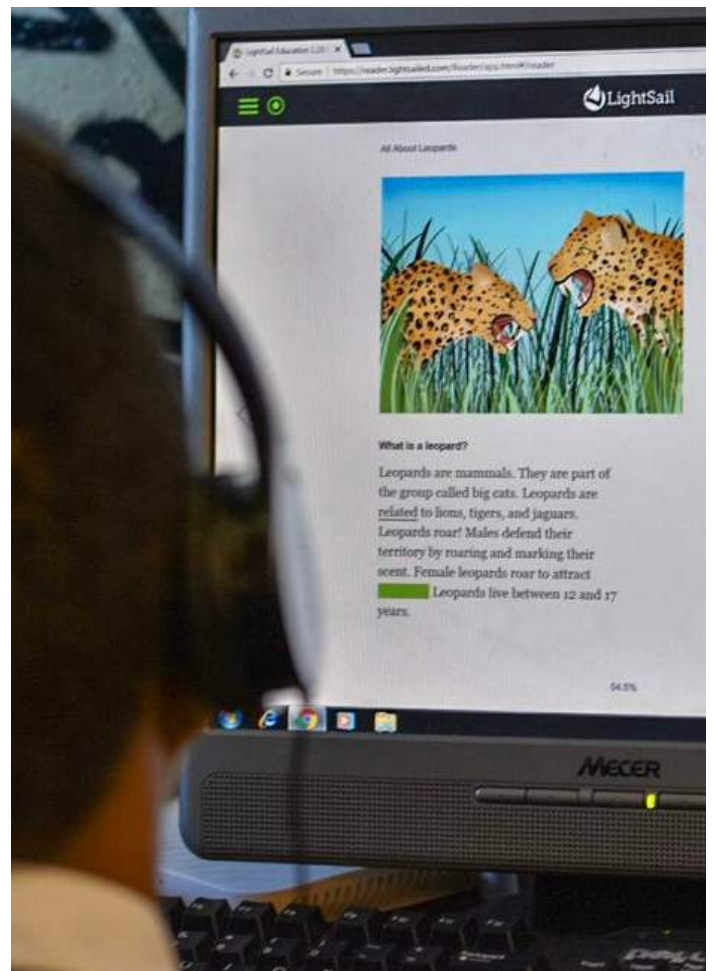
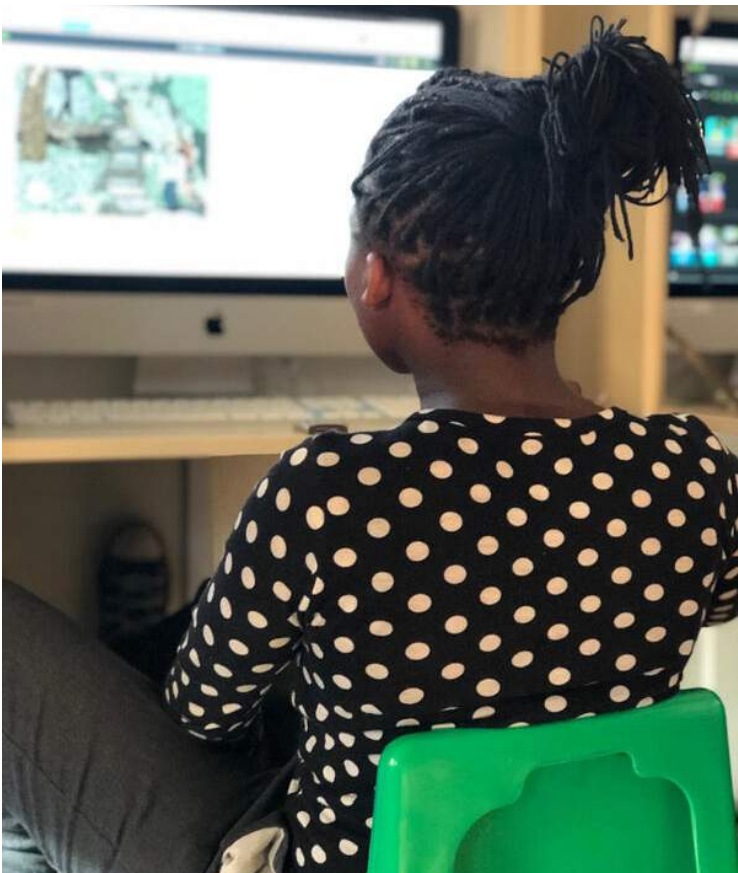


we build stronger children....

Literacy & Academic Support

Due to the high rate of illiteracy, absenteeism, discouragement, and drop-outs in our communities, literacy remains one of the most important pillars of our programme, and one of the greatest challenges in our country.

In addition to assisted reading using the Help2Read methodology, tutoring, **LightSail** Online reading program, and our academic support programme (which includes school and transport fees, school placements, stationery and uniforms etc), we also introduced the **Reading to Learn** (RtL) methodology into our curriculum in 2019. We received extensive training from Reading to Learn South Africa which provided practical tools and support in order to effectively teach marginalised learners.



we build stronger children....

Literacy & Academic Support

"School of Love & Hope"

There are many children in our communities who fall through the cracks because they are unable to return to mainstream schools due to literacy levels far below the norm for their age, social ills, and overcrowding at nearby schools. The local adult learning centres are also situated too far and are no longer adequate for their requirements. This has resulted in a large number of children aimlessly roaming the streets during the day...

With that in mind, we launched a remedial/foundation-phase programme together with a learning programme (to follow a homeschooling curriculum) in Strandfontein which teaches basic reading, phonetics, numeracy etc. in order to raise up the youth and to change the profile of their communities by empowering them with functional literacy skills.

11 kids . 3 days per week . 842 meals served



we build stronger children....

Art & Music therapy

In addition to surfing therapy, art and music were formally introduced into our curriculum in 2019 in order to improve our children's mental, physical and social health; and to provide them with a positive outlet for their creativity, stress, anxiety and trauma.

Drumming, art, and dancing are enjoyed by our kids as part of our afterschool and weekend programmes. Art theory was also introduced by Lucy, our German volunteer, who spent 3 months with our children and also used art as an alternative way of teaching learners on our literacy programmes.



we build stronger children....

Art therapy: The Gratitude Project

6 of our girls were chosen to participate in the Gratitude Project, an initiative by The Butterfly Art Project (a nonprofit based in Cape Town) which encourages healing and creativity in children through art. Three staff members were also trained as art therapy facilitators.

Using art and sewing, the girls bravely wove their lives and stories into their art pieces which were sewn into a wall hanging that went on display at various art galleries as part of the official exhibition.



WE BUILD STRONGER Communities



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

301

Visits to distribute items

879

Parcels distributed i.e. clothing, food parcels, household items, toiletries

1678

Persons directly impacted

we build stronger communities...

CAB Day: Come and Buy (without any money)

In addition to distributing clothing and household items which are matched to our family needs analysis data, we launched CAB days in 2019. This allowed community members to "come and buy" items which were sourced from our clothing bank (items donated by the public) in a shop-style setting using allocated tokens.

Giving them the freedom to choose items themselves is our way of restoring a sense of dignity to the way that we distribute donated items, and the experience has really delighted community members.



WE BUILD STRONGER
Communities



*new

3360

plates of food served in the
community in 6 months

Although our kids receive meals at our daily programmes, the sad reality is that many of their siblings or family members do not, and they are often sent out by their parents to beg in the evenings.

With that in mind, we extended our feeding programme and one of our community support members now prepares meals at her home twice a day, seven days a week for the children in 7de Laan - one of the Strandfontein communities that we serve.

We started out feeding 15 kids only, but that quickly grew to 40 kids every day once the word spread that there were warm meals and snacks available at "Aunty Toema's" house...



"Is there seconds Miss?"

Our children enjoyed an incredible variety of wholesome meals and snacks this year thanks to:

- A dedicated Food manager who diligently supervised the sourcing, distribution, and preparation of food
- A larger FoodForward SA package
- Committed community partners and private individuals who donated food or groceries.

“Aunty Toema”

I really love my job and feeding the children... 9Miles made it possible for me to purchase everything my child needed for school with my own money for the first time ever...This was a very emotional experience and such a proud moment for me as a mom.

KALTOEMA SAMODIEN

Community Support



we build stronger communities....

Women and young girls

Our projects and programmes empower, skill, motivate, and inspire women and girls via the following activities:

- Bi-weekly Thursday night girls' dinner and mentorship sessions.
- Monthly girls-only surf Saturdays with a dedicated female coach.
- Women's mentorship and devotion sessions conducted in our communities by our Community liaison officer.
- Employment - **65%** of our staff members are female and reside within the communities that we operate in.
- Skills development - support for personal development and upskilling e.g. obtaining learner's and driver's licenses, on-the-job training etc.
- GEM (Girl Empowerment Movement) camps and empowerment sessions.



we build stronger communities

Environmental



Our environmental programme went from strength to strength in 2019 thanks to educational excursions, hikes, talks and cleanups with the following ocean partners:

- Sea The Bigger Picture (x4 Programmes)
- Strandfontein N.S.R.I
- Strandfontein Lifesaving
- The Beach Co-Op & Captain Fanplastic
- IamWater Foundation
- Blue Flag Foundation



we build stronger communities....

Activate Youth Conference

The inaugural event, in partnership with Ward 43 Councillor, Elton Jansen and the City of Cape Town, took place from 14-15 June at Strandfontein High School hall and impacted more than **400** youth over the two days.

The aim of the event was to provide a platform for young people in the area to connect with one another, access information, activate their purpose and potential, and be empowered and inspired by motivational talks, music, poetry and dance. The speakers and performers delivered all that and more!

"I wish the whole of Cape Town could put all their youth day events on hold and go to this conference. It was such a blessing!"

Christoffel Maneville, attendee & performer



Activate Youth Conference



we build stronger communities....

Aqua day



March & December 2019

**over 1000 people impacted*

A partnership between 9Miles Project, Strandfontein MFMC (Municipal Facilities Management Committee) and the City of Cape Town, Aqua Day was conceived out of the desire to offer positive beach recreational activities to children who don't always have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of aquatic activities and all that our coastline has to offer.

Children and community members come from far and wide to enjoy activities like kayaking, surfing, beach soccer and volleyball, environmental talks, displays by the NSRI and Strandfontein Lifesaving and much more.

In March over 300 people enjoyed the activities but the December event was bigger and better than ever and reached 750 people, taking our total impact for both events to over 1000 people.



Agua day - December 2019





Sustainability

6 years of sustained impact

Our sustained impact and reach is made possible by strong governance and compliance, an active and experienced board, strategic partnerships, committed donors, and a passionate database of supporters and volunteers who share our vision of creating agents of change in impoverished communities, and raising up future leaders.

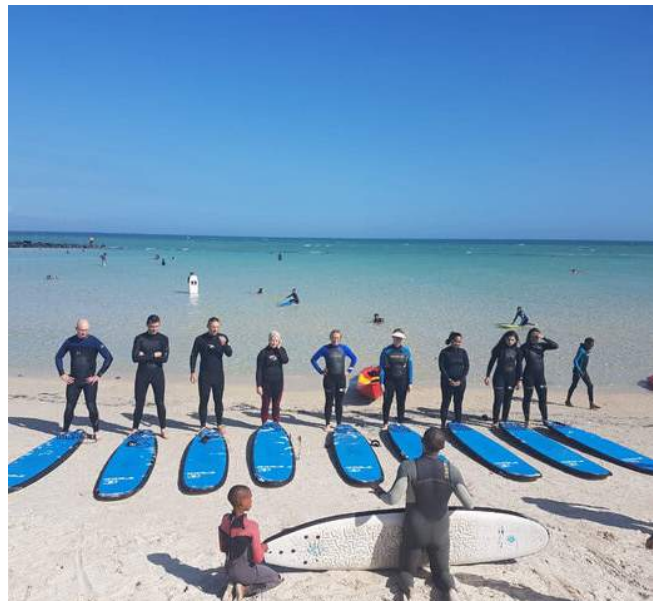
We have a mixed funding portfolio which includes corporate sponsorships, private donors, grants, organisation fundraisers, EPWP (wages) government funding, and income-generating social enterprises.

Social Enterprises

Our objective is to strengthen communities via social enterprises by skilling youth and unemployed community members, and providing employment opportunities which uplifts the family unit, creates a sense of dignity, and in turn generates sustainable income for the organisation.

Our enterprises include:

- The 9Miles Cafe which runs at Strandfontein Pavilion during the warmer months.
- Offering surf lessons, SUP and board rentals to the public.
- 2nd Chance Surf shop and Board Repair Shop which now operate 6 days per week.
- Life empowerment and team building sessions, surf clinics etc.



Highlights



Elands Bay Clubhouse



Our plans for a West Coast clubhouse was given a huge boost when the N.S.R.I kitted out a shipping container for us which was graciously delivered by Dibana Logistics to the Elands Bay Caravan Park at the end of November 2019.

The container has allowed us to appoint a West Coast coach, store our surf equipment, and start offering programmes to our children four days per week.

We are thankful to the Cederberg Municipality and all our West Coast partners who are helping us to create a safe space for our Elands Bay children.

Our First Matriculants



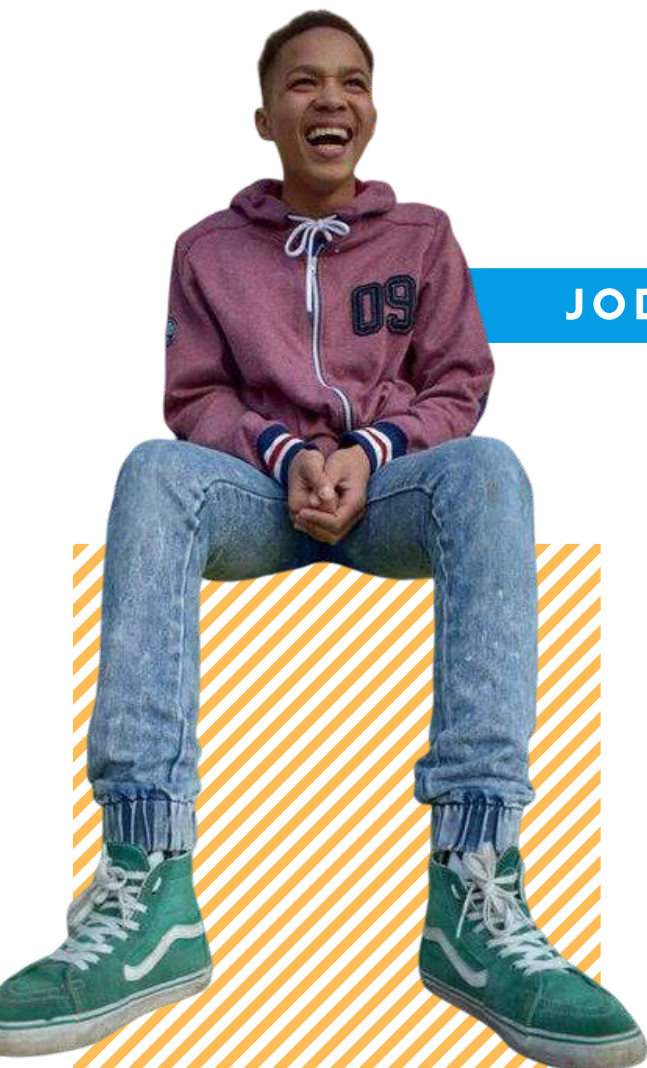
*The first individual to matriculate in his community of 7de Laan, Strandfontein.



MARCHELENO ANTHONY

"I didn't believe in myself when I first started...but 9Miles taught me to be a dreamer, a leader, and an achiever"

**"Blood doesn't make you family,
love does"**



JODY LOUW

"9Miles has contributed a LOT to me through the years because I received lots of support from the project...whether it was moral or academic support, or tutoring and encouragement... it meant so much to me"



The "boys"

One of our great highlights is the fact that 3 boys who joined our programme at the very beginning (but subsequently left) returned to our fold as staff members in our surf repair shop.

They came back because of Faieq's encouragement and guidance (peer to peer mentorship) and because they started reassessing their life choices and future direction. They are now employed, learning new skills, and are motivated to lead a healthy and positive lifestyle.



FAIEQ SAMODIEN
Senior Surfboard Technician



“

I'm so glad to be back... there are far better things to do at the clubhouse instead of being at home... and I love the work that I'm doing and being able to interact with the young kids.

Jade Jacobson

9Miles First Crew* and surfboard technician

*1st Crew = 1st intake of students in 2013



“

When we left we missed out on lots of opportunities and we could've been further had we stayed. But I love that I can now work with people that I trust and who look out for me, who love me, and who are only a phone call away when I need assistance.

Jeremiah Diegaardt

9Miles 2nd Crew and surfboard technician

“

I'm very happy to be back in the project...coming back was a great decision and good start, and made me reevaluate my decisions and changed my negative behaviour.

Chadlee Kampher

9Miles 2nd Crew and surfboard technician



Staff Growth & Training

20

Thanks to a growing partnership with the City of Cape Town we were able to expand our team to 20 people who benefited from the City's EPWP (Expanded Public Works i.e. wages) programme.

19

Staff received 19 training opportunities and completed courses which included Surfboard shaping, First Aid, Refinitiv Life skills, Reading to Learn, Passport to Success, Butterfly Art Project (Art therapy), Asset Based Community Development, Food handling, Learner's Licenses and one staff member graduated from The Communiversity of South Africa's 4-month-long job and workplace readiness programme.



MORE HIGHLIGHTS....



▲ Great Optimist Race

9Miles raced a boat sponsored by Victron Energy which will become a great annual fundraising tool for us in the Great Optimist Race. Our children were also fortunate to attend numerous events and sailing adventures hosted by Greg Bertish and The Little Optimist Trust.



▼ Christmas Shoebox Campaign

Our first Christmas Shoebox campaign was a rousing success! Individuals and corporates exceeded our expectations by signing up for **97** boxes which allowed us to provide children with amazing personalised Christmas gifts.



▲ Sports Awards

Nigel Savel was a finalist in the Western Cape Government's Afterschool "Sport Coaching Excellence" Category.



Meet our Board



PAUL SAVEL
CHAIRPERSON



KAREN SEDRES
SECRETARY



ANDREW STEWART
TREASURER



SAVEETHA MATTHEWS
PORTFOLIO: FUNDRAISING



MEAGAN STANBUL
PORTFOLIO: EDUCATION



NIGEL SAVEL
PORTFOLIO: YOUTH



REAGAN O'MALLEY
PORTFOLIO: BRANDING

Meet our A-Team



NIGEL SAVEL
FOUNDER



SHER'NEIL SAVEL
FOUNDER



DANICA LE FLEUR
HEAD OF OPERATIONS



CARMEN DAVIDS
COMMUNICATION & FUNDRAISING



CHAD SMITH
SURF SHOP MANAGER



EMMA PERRIES
PROGRAMMES COORDINATOR



CARMEN EVERTS
FOOD MANAGER



DANIELLE PAULSEN
PROGRAMMES ADMINISTRATOR



SHAMINAY PERRIES
OPERATIONS ASSISTANT



LEE-ANNE PERRIES
CUSTODIAN



JOLANDA
LE FLEUR
COMMUNITY LIAISON



KALTOEMA
SAMODIEN
COMMUNITY SUPPORT



SHANTAL
HERMANUS
CAFE STAFF



CHANTEL
HERMANUS
CAFE STAFF



FAIEQ SAMODIEN
HEAD SURFBOARD TECHNICIAN



JADE JACOBSON
SURFBOARD TECHNICIAN



JEREMIAH DIEGAARDT
SURFBOARD TECHNICIAN



CHADLEE KAMPHER
SURFBOARD TECHNICIAN

The Nitty Gritty

9Miles Project is a registered nonprofit and public benefit organisation with Section 18A tax exemption status.

Registered name: Nine Miles Project

NPO 116-995 | PBO 930 046 181

Level 1 BBEEE | 100% Black beneficiaries

This reporting period:

1 March 2019 – 31 December 2019

*our financial year is now 1 Jan – 31 December

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Email: sher@9milesproject.org



Together we can do so much more



PARTNER WITH US

Join our team of monthly individual and corporate sponsors to help us impact vulnerable youth, and transform communities.

SPONSOR I DONATE

Sponsor a child or donate towards any of our current campaigns

SIGN UP

Sign up for our monthly R100 Campaign
(Goal: 100 people x R100 per month)

Give back while shopping – add us as a beneficiary on your MySchool MyVillage card

Sign up for our newsletter

VOLUNTEER

We always value extra hands who can help out, or impart skills and knowledge

For more information on our current campaigns please follow us at @9milesproject on all social media platforms, visit www.9milesproject.org or email info@9milesproject.org





Thank You

to everyone who made this our most successful
and memorable year yet!

We value all our committed partners,
ambassadors, supporters, donors, volunteers and
staff who went the distance with us!