

A group of young people, mostly Black, are walking along a sandy beach towards the camera. They are wearing black wetsuits with blue and purple accents. Each person is carrying a surfboard under their arm. The surfboards are various colors, including blue, white, and black. In the background, there is a rocky pier or breakwater extending into the ocean. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall mood is active and community-oriented.

# 9Miles Project

## Annual Report

JAN - DEC 2021

NPO 116-995 | PBO 930 046 181 Section 18A approved  
[www.9milesproject.org](http://www.9milesproject.org) | [info@9milesproject.org](mailto:info@9milesproject.org)

**9miles  
project**  
Going the Distance...





"It's not a transactional relationship we have here at 9Miles - the essence and the core of our organisation is LOVE.

Love is what's going to transform a heart, and change a community.

It's about going the distance, loving, affirming, and becoming the light in dark places...and the agents of change"

Nigel Savel



# Founders' Note

"There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in." ~ Archbishop Desmond Tutu

2021 truly was a phenomenal year and one of the things we're most humbled by is that some of our community and youth programmes offered to the public, and in the vulnerable communities we serve, truly got to the root of addressing why people "fall into the river".

We've started seeing very tangible fruits of our job creation, job readiness, life skills training, and holistic support programmes - fruits which are uplifting youth and women-led households.

Transformation and community development takes time - it's about connecting with people, getting to the heart of where issues lie, providing solutions, giving people hope and purpose again, and capturing opportunities.

In spite of the macro environment, we've seen a lot of love, care and commitment to helping others being displayed all around us. That says a lot about the kindness of people!

We've once again managed to not only retain, but also grow our amazing team. Strategic partnerships and grants also allowed us to impact thousands across Cape Town with our community feeding, surfing, girl empowerment, and life skills programmes.



We've also strengthened our organisational resilience and sustainability via our expanding social enterprises, fundraising strategy, broadened pool of donors, and even tighter due diligence. Our 9Miles Cafe is now self-sustaining and is funding some of the operational costs of our community feeding programme which serves 700 meals per day.

We fully recognise that our work is made possible through our very many partners and friends who are not at the coal face, but have the heart to believe in the future of others!

We are sincerely thankful to everyone who has come alongside us, and who continue to go the distance with us. Everything in this report is to your account.

*Nigel & Sher'Neil Savel*

# Who we are

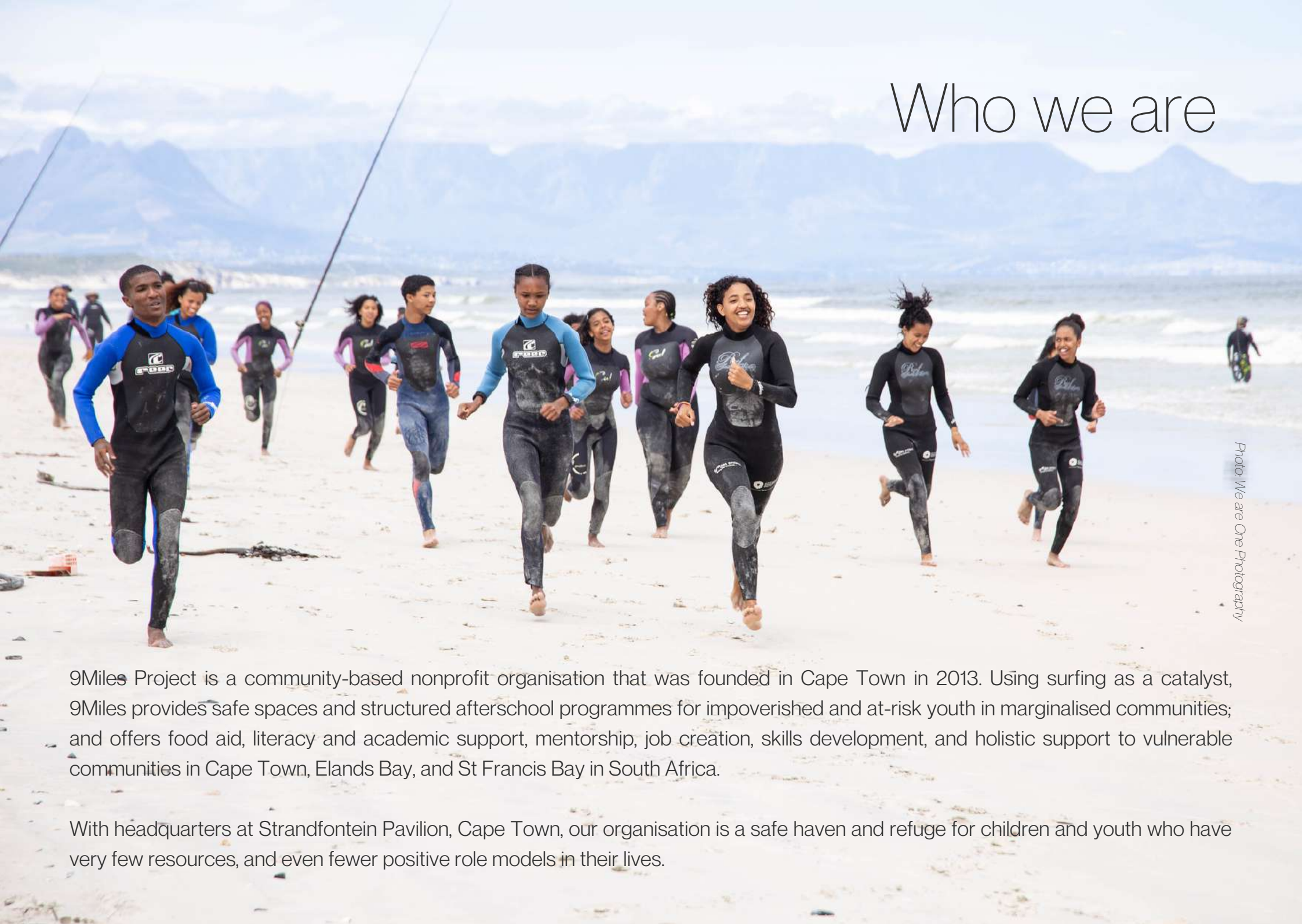


Photo: We are One Photography

9Miles Project is a community-based nonprofit organisation that was founded in Cape Town in 2013. Using surfing as a catalyst, 9Miles provides safe spaces and structured afterschool programmes for impoverished and at-risk youth in marginalised communities; and offers food aid, literacy and academic support, mentorship, job creation, skills development, and holistic support to vulnerable communities in Cape Town, Elands Bay, and St Francis Bay in South Africa.

With headquarters at Strandfontein Pavilion, Cape Town, our organisation is a safe haven and refuge for children and youth who have very few resources, and even fewer positive role models in their lives.

# 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

Reporting period:

1 January - 31 December 2021

**Contact persons: Nigel & Sher'Neil Savel (Founders)**

Mobile: +27 082 042 7701 | +27 082 997 8754

## Vision

A transformed society where created opportunities are maximised and our youth are effectively developed, empowered and integrated into their communities and society.

## 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.

[info@9milesproject.org](mailto:info@9milesproject.org) | [www.9milesproject.org](http://www.9milesproject.org)



@9milesproject







# Sustainable Development Goals

Our programmes and services align with 10 of the 17 United Nations Strategic Development Goals:

## SDG:

No Poverty  
Zero Hunger  
Good Health and wellbeing  
Reduced Inequalities  
Quality Education  
Gender Equality  
Decent Work and Economic Growth  
Responsible Production and Consumption  
Partnerships  
Life Below Water

## Our Approach /Services:

Job creation, skills training, food aid, holistic support  
Community feeding programme, community garden  
Food aid, psycho-social support, surf and fitness programmes  
Skills development, empowerment programmes,  
Literacy, academic support, and digital learning programmes  
GEM (Girl empowerment) programme, job creation  
Social enterprises, training and community development  
Reduce, reuse, recycle operating principles  
Strategic partnerships and collaborations  
Environmental programmes with ocean partners

# 8 years of sustained impact...

9Miles Project's slogan is "Going the distance" which speaks to our vision of sustainable programmes, extended reach, and long-term impact. Our sustainability plan is three-tiered and encompasses Community, Financial, and Organisational sustainability which aims to ensure that we not only survive, but thrive in the long-term.

Our sustained impact and reach in these areas are made possible by grassroots-level community engagement, strong governance and compliance, an active, experienced (but continually developing) board, strategic partnerships, committed donors, engaged beneficiaries, a community-based team who love what we do, and a passionate database of supporters and volunteers.

In addition, the following social enterprises create jobs, and generate income which is ploughed back into our youth and community development programmes:

- 2nd Chance Surf shop
- Surfboard Repair Bay
- 9Miles Cafe
- Surf lessons to the public
- Teambuilding
- Surf Club membership fees



Photo: Hannah Beth Photography

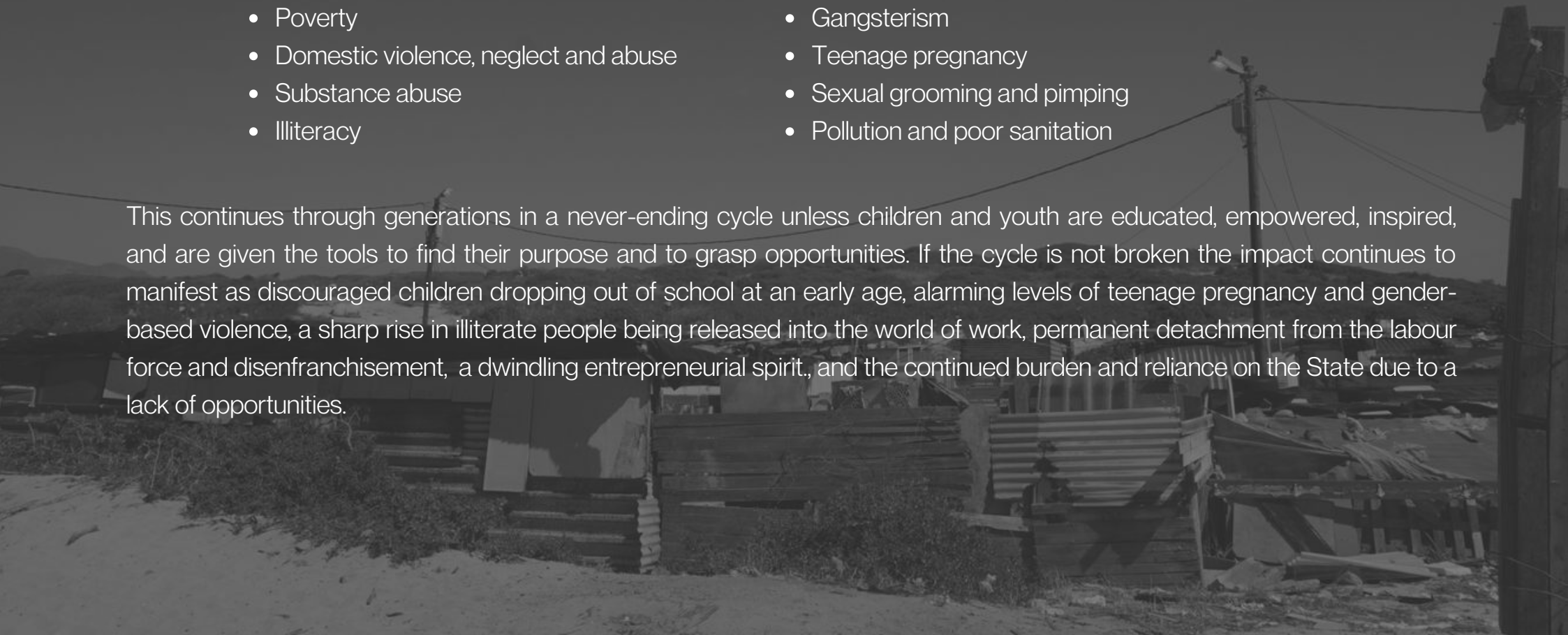
# Our Harsh Reality

In the 8 years that we have worked with at-risk youth in various informal settlements and vulnerable communities, we have seen how far-reaching and detrimental social ills, and a lack of vision is - a vision for self, for family, and for the greater community. Many young people are not raised in traditional families and are neglected, abused or abandoned.

Some of the social issues that we encounter in our communities of Strandfontein, Elands Bay and Sea Vista include:

- Hunger and Food insecurity
- Poverty
- Domestic violence, neglect and abuse
- Substance abuse
- Illiteracy
- Rampant unemployment
- Gangsterism
- Teenage pregnancy
- Sexual grooming and pimping
- Pollution and poor sanitation

This continues through generations in a never-ending cycle unless children and youth are educated, empowered, inspired, and are given the tools to find their purpose and to grasp opportunities. If the cycle is not broken the impact continues to manifest as discouraged children dropping out of school at an early age, alarming levels of teenage pregnancy and gender-based violence, a sharp rise in illiterate people being released into the world of work, permanent detachment from the labour force and disenfranchisement, a dwindling entrepreneurial spirit., and the continued burden and reliance on the State due to a lack of opportunities.





# An Even Harsher Reality

After almost two years of lockdowns, social distancing, sanitising, and running programmes in small groups; we've adjusted to the "new normal" which entails observing stringent Covid protocols before any programme or activity takes place.

Poverty and unemployment continues to undermine household security, and the communities that we operate in have extreme food insecurity, an unemployment rate of almost 80%, and high incidences of violence, neglect and trauma.

Poor access to quality healthcare, the spiralling cost of fuel and food supplies, and delayed Covid social relief grants further exacerbate the daily struggle which these communities experience.

Our holistic support, welfare, food, and skills development programmes have therefore become more important than ever. Some of the community support which we offered included clothing and school uniforms for children, toiletries, applications for identity documents, driver's licenses and social grants; assistance with medical emergencies etc.



# Community Food programme



Our food programme grew from feeding 90 people in one community in Strandfontein, to serving 1500 meals per day in four communities during the heart of lockdown. When lockdown restrictions eased and people could return to work, we switched to providing daily food support to only the children (and sickly, unemployed, or elderly adults) in the four communities on Camp Road. 350 children receive two meals per day, 5 days per week which equates to 700 meals per day.

In addition, we also serve an average of 30 meals per day, per location, to children who attend programmes at our Strandfontein and Elands Bay Clubhouses

**Meals served to 350 people  
in Strandfontein informal  
settlements in 2021**

**168 148**



# Humanitarian Relief Fund

## Good governance, compliance, and collaboration open doors...

We were deeply humbled to be one of only 14 organisations in the greater Cape Town area who qualified for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the City of Cape Town Humanitarian Relief Fund. These grants provided much-needed support for community kitchens or organisations who are doing a sterling job in their communities, but perhaps don't meet the City's stringent compliance requirements. Our good governance and compliance allowed us to act as an umbrella organisation to provide food supplies and support to more than 28 kitchens, in 18 Wards across Cape Town - from as close to home as Strandfontein, to as far afield as Fisantekraal, Durbanville.

We have also formed many networks across Cape Town and have actively mentored other nonprofit leaders, provided capacity building knowledge, assisted with nonprofit compliance and governance, and shared best practices so that younger organisations have a smoother transition into the nonprofit world.





# Humanitarian Grant at a glance...



25

Capacity Building COA's (kitchen compliance certificates) issued to community kitchens during the Relief grant period.



28

Community sites and kitchens

16 Wards - Phase 1

18 Wards - Phase 2



3201

Hampers distributed in 13 wards during Phase 2



189 700

meals served in Phase 1

100 890

meals served in Phase 2



## Distribution and kitchen locations:

Strandfontein informal settlements, San Remo, Strandfontein Village, Mitchells Plain, Brackenfell, Bloekombos, Kraaifontein, Delft, Fisantekraal, MorningStar, Durbanville, Strand, Pinelands, Thornton, Samora Machel. Valhalla Park, Gugulethu, and Manenberg



# Partner Testimonials

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"As Chairperson of Woodlands Woman Support Group I just want to say thank you very much for the time that you sponsored our feeding kitchen. I was really overwhelmed when I received the good news (of being accepted by your organisation) as it's our first time that we've been sponsored to feed our community for 3 days a week. It was the best thing that happened for our organisation in the 6 years that we feeding"

**Gabieba – Ward 75, Mitchells Plain**

"Our beneficiaries have grown so much. My heart was sore when I saw people I used to attend school with in the queue for food because they lost their jobs during Covid. Thanks so much for the support and food supplies:"

**Sive - Ward 33, Samora Machel**



"We just want to thank 9milesproject for the opportunity to work together in Phase 1 of the City's Food Relief Programme. We were really blessed. To think that at least 14 400 warm meals have been distributed over this period is unquestionably a miracle."

**Ettienne - Wards 8 & 102, Brackenfell and Kraaifontein**

# Success story: Danica

6 years ago, Danica joined our organisation as a volunteer with a passion for kids, and worked her way up to her current position as Head of Operations.

Her can-do attitude, and love for learning and problem-solving quickly made her an asset in all areas of our organisation. She was always ready to learn, accept correction, and rise to any challenge we threw at her – even travelling (at our request) to the Eastern Cape to stay with someone whom she had never met before, armed only with a laptop and a bus ticket! Several years later, Danica was a bridesmaid at this same person's wedding!

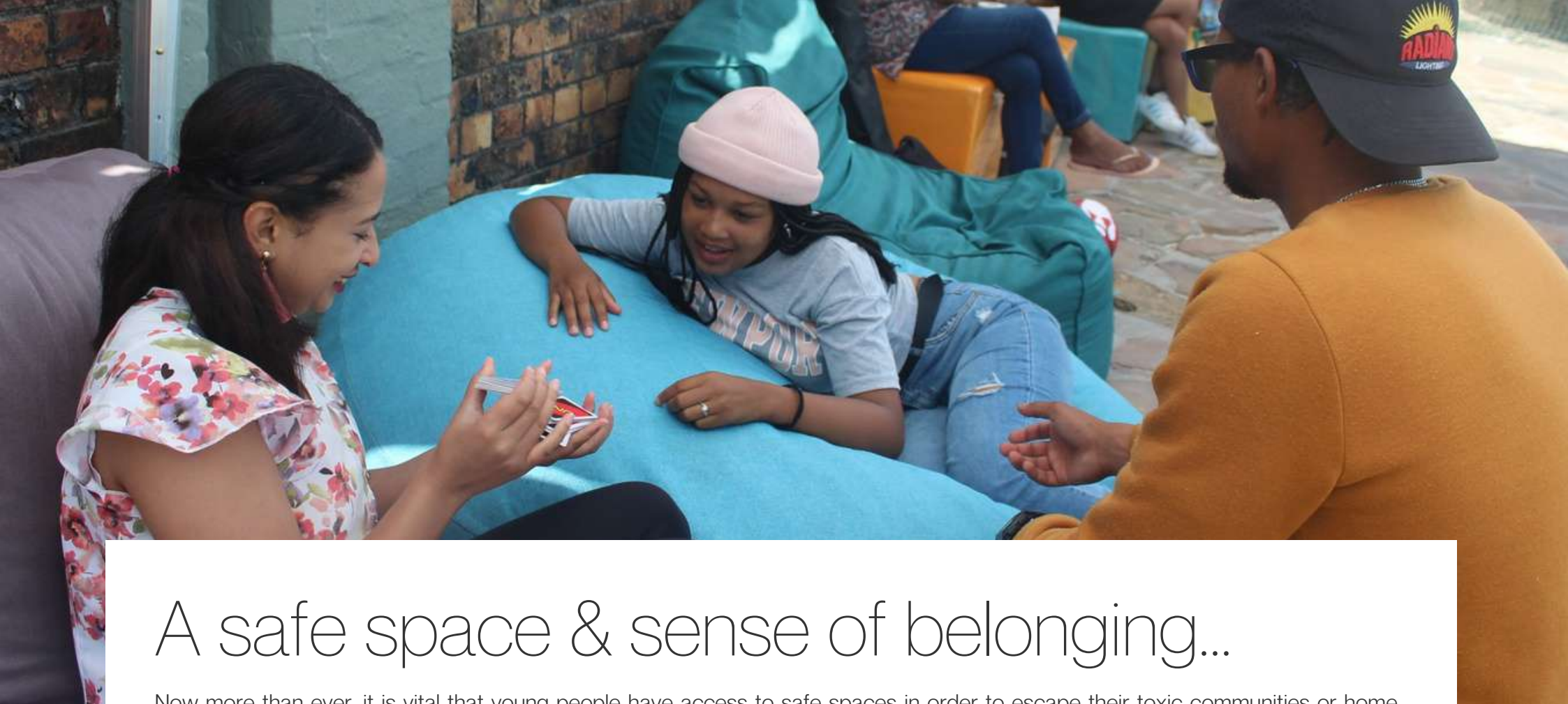
Dani (as she is affectionately known) pours so much into our kids and operations, keeps us on our toes with her crazy efficiency, lights up a room with her megawatt smile and booming laughter, and has taken on responsibilities far beyond her years during her time at 9Miles.

She was able to translate our founders' vision into actionable tasks and activities, and spearheaded many initiatives such as our GEM (Girl Empowerment) programme. She acquired a myriad of skills during her time with us such as website administration, literacy and reading methodologies, programme and project management, advanced Excel, and art therapy facilitation to name a few.

She's the person whom we love to mercilessly tease, and the one who we can always rely on to just get things done. She's become a trusted sounding board, and a major source of encouragement and motivation over the years. It has been truly rewarding watching her blossom and grow in her role, and as a person.







# A safe space & sense of belonging...

Now more than ever, it is vital that young people have access to safe spaces in order to escape their toxic communities or home environments...spaces where they can engage in recreational activities, have a positive sense of belonging, and participate in programmes that improve confidence and social inclusion.

An average of 30 children per day utilise our Strandfontein and Elands Bay clubhouses, and 10 young men in Sea Vista attend programmes on an outreach basis in the Eastern Cape. They receive meals and snacks, educational support, life skills lessons, and also have access to recreational activities such as surfing, games etc. which improve their health, fitness and mental well-being.

The physical aspects of our Strandfontein clubhouse include:

- Secure and monitored access to the facility so that children are safe
- Compliant and hygienic kitchens which produce nourishing meals at every session they attend
- Open spaces for outdoor activity and fresh air
- Clean and functionally-fit learning spaces for the empowerment and literacy programmes
- Full compliance with health & safety, fire, and governmental regulations

# Literacy & Academic Support

With irregular school schedules, more learners unable to read with understanding or at their required age level, plummeting self-confidence and motivation, and rising dropout rates; "learning poverty" has become another scourge that needs to be urgently addressed. According to the Cram Survey projections for the period March 2020 to June 2021, most primary school learners had lost 70%-100% (i.e. a full year) of learning relative to the 2019 cohort.

Students are performing badly due to a lack of motivation and being under engaged; and they have lost the motivation, resilience and grit required to succeed. This dire situation calls for an even greater literacy and academic support intervention in order for young people to keep their grip on education and the opportunities that stem from there.

With that in mind, and while being mindful of Covid restrictions and school rotational schedules, we introduced morning tutoring sessions (on learners' off days) and afterschool academic support. In addition, we launched computer classes in order to bridge the digital divide and to prepare students for online learning.





# Art & Music Therapy

Art and music are great outlets for creativity and also help children to process trauma and daily life situations.

Thanks to a partnership with Advance Edukos Foundation, our children in Cape Town received structured art therapy sessions for the duration of the year.

In addition, they also enjoyed arts and crafts, and music therapy at our clubhouses in Cape Town and Elands Bay which is facilitated by our programme administrators.





# Environmental Programme

Our programme was strengthened by some of following environmental activities:

- Hiking - our Cape Town boys enjoyed several local hiking trips to learn more about the flora and fauna from Brian Savel, an experienced mountaineer.
- Snorkeling - our male staff explored life under water for the first time with our environmental partners, Gunnar Oberholser and Shamier Magmoet
- A snorkeling and empowerment session was facilitated by *I am Water* for some of our Cape Town girls
- Sailing therapy - our new children enjoyed sailing fundamentals, water safety, and visits to the Aquarium thanks to our friends at the Little Optimist Trust
- Coastal cleanup - our Elands Bay kids participated in a beach cleanup in celebration of *International Coastal Cleanup Day* which was organised by Audrey and EBEDAG (Elands Bay Environmental and Development Action Group)







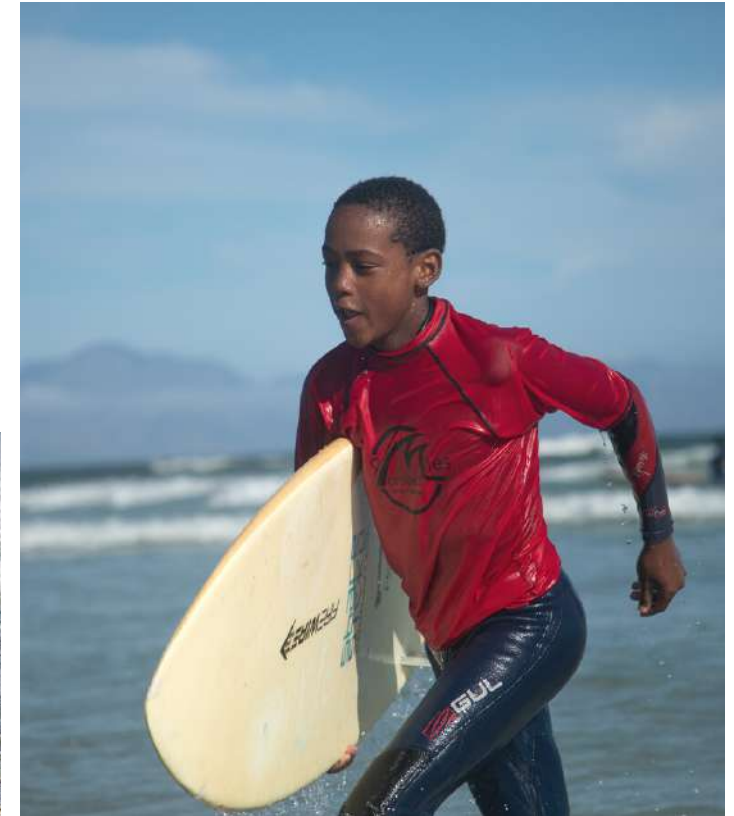
# Sport has the power to transform lives...

Sports (namely surfing), water safety, and fitness make up one of the core pillars of our holistic offering to vulnerable children and at-risk youth. Surfing is used as a form of therapy and empowerment which allows us to engage vulnerable children in wholesome structured programmes, and encourages healthy lifestyles and positive coping mechanisms.

Surfing is not only a great way to keep physically fit but it has many psychological benefits too. It helps to decrease anxiety and stress, and serves as an outlet for the trauma which the children in our communities experience on a daily basis. Better physical health improves mental health and academic performance. Surfing teaches many life skills like determination, perseverance, and decision-making; and helps to curtail anti-social behaviour and petty crime. It also instills a love and respect for the ocean.

For some, it has also become a livelihood - some of our first students became surf coaches, surfboard repair technicians, are training to be board shapers, and have attained employment in our various surfing-related social enterprises.

# Surf Therapy & Competitions



We wasted no time in getting our children back into the water when the beaches reopened in February, and we could resume our programmes in small groups. Their relief and sense of peace after catching some waves was palpable! We were also delighted to resume our partnership with *Education without Borders* (facilitated by Surf without Borders in California) by offering their children monthly surf sessions as well.

The highlight of our surfing calendar was when four of our Cape Town girls were chosen to represent Western Province at the Sea Harvest Grommet Games. Lee-Anne and Jade participated in the Games and Lee-Anne advanced to the finals and placed 4th overall. We were so stoked that they did so well - especially since it was Jade's first competition. We look forward to seeing more of our girls participating and excelling in surfing.



# Surf Club



It has long been a vision of ours to open up our programmes and services to the public and create a family-centric space where surfers (or soon to be surfers) of all ages and levels can have fun, learn new things, and create a positive sense of community. This dream of ours finally came true in April this year and the response exceeded our expectations with well over 20 people joining the club.

"You never know what people are going through privately but when you see families bonding on the waves, mothers and sons hugging and having emotional moments after catching their first wave, young children overcoming physical obstacles and trauma, and strangers sharing laughter and encouragement; it just reinforces the power of surfing" - Nigel Savel

# Success story: Jeremiah

6 years ago Jeremiah joined 9Miles as an 11-year old boy...and now he is a valued full-time employee who is a surfboard repair technician in our repair bay, ISA-accredited surf coach, mentor to our younger kids, and a truly humble gentle giant. We have watched him grow from a young boy into a hardworking and diligent young man (who only turned 18 this year) and it was especially humbling to see him step into a leadership role at our Elands Bay programme. In the absence of a full-time coach at our West Coast branch, Jeremiah took up the reins and assumed responsibility for our holiday programmes in Elands Bay over the festive season - a time when children are particularly vulnerable and at risk.

Our slogan "going the distance" is not just something nice to say. We walk a long road with people and passionately believe that everyone is perfect for their purpose, that human potential is unlimited, that with the right support all youth can flourish...and we are thrilled when we see young people walking in that purpose and vision.





"I've loved seeing the development of the children with 9Miles Project. I'm so proud of how far they've come"

Mr Leite, Strandfontein Pavilion manager







# Girl & women empowerment

On average, a woman or girl in South Africa becomes a victim of violence every 6 hours, and a report by Stats SA shows that femicide is 5 times higher than the global average. Furthermore, the area of Mitchells Plain (where we operate) has been named in the top 30 gender-based violence hotspots in South Africa. Even closer to home, gender-based and domestic violence are two of the most prominent cases reported in the area of Strandfontein.

Teenage girls grapple with hunger, neglect, sexual grooming, teenage pregnancy, illiteracy, low self-esteem, and a lack of vision and purpose. They also shoulder a heavier burden than their male counterparts and have less discretionary time outside of school because they are expected to do chores in the home, care for siblings, or go out to beg for food and money – which minimises their access to afterschool or empowerment programmes. This also places them at a higher risk of dropout due to fatigue or the lack of time and resources to fully devote themselves to their schooling.

With this in mind we have a strong focus on girl and women empowerment programmes in order to uplift, empower, and inspire women to become resilient, confident, self-sustaining members of society.





# Girl & Women Empowerment

Our projects and programmes empower, upskill, motivate, and equip women and girls via the following activities:

- Job creation - 65% of our staff are female and reside in the communities that we operate in.
- Skills development - support for personal development, upskilling, and on-the-job training
- GEM (Girl Empowerment Movement) camps and mentorship sessions
- Weekly girls-only surf and empowerment sessions
- Partnerships with like-minded organisations e.g. attendance at "Dignity Day" hosted by Advance Edukos Foundation



# GEM Camp



Thanks to generous support from the City of Cape Town, we were able to conduct a four-day camp for 40 girls at the beautiful venue of Rocklands Centre in Simon's Town in October. The girls, aged 13-18, came from vulnerable and high risk communities where poverty and social ills are rife.

The objective of the camp was to give young women the tools to build their confidence and equip them to become focused and vision-driven young ladies by addressing topics such as value, identity, decision-making, goals, vision, hygiene, and etiquette; and establishing positive role models. It was such a transformational time for both the girls and facilitators, and they were all greatly impacted after the four days.

"This camp has really changed our lives and it truly touched us. Thank you to 9Miles for accepting us for who we are and always believing in us" - Beverly, 17



# Success story: Michelle



Speaking at a conference, being a group leader at our camp, going hiking, travelling outside of Cape Town for the first time, learning new skills, assisting in our 9Miles Cafe and office, establishing our community garden, and facilitating our CAB donations programme; Michelle certainly ticked off quite a few items on her bucket list in 2021!

As the mother of Marchelano, one of the first boys in our programme, she has walked a long road with us for almost 9 years - but it has been incredibly exciting watching her bloom and grow during these two years that she's been working with us.

"2021 was a great year for me - having people love and accept me for who I am, and being able to serve my community and be there for people has been amazing! I learnt so many new things at 9Miles and I'm looking forward to learning even more in 2022"



# Developing people, uplifting communities...

We build stronger families and communities by offering employment and skills development opportunities to residents in our communities – 18 of our 20 staff members reside in the areas that we operate in. Being immersed in the community allows for community-driven solutions, on-the-job training, job shadowing, development and upskilling.

## **Our staff and volunteers received the following training and development opportunities in 2021:**

- International Surf Association (ISA) accreditation - 3 surf coaches completed their ISA training
- First Aid training - several staff and community members attended a two-day First Aid Training course (20 participants)
- Food handling Course - 5 cooks from our feeding kitchens and café received training from the Western Cape Environmental Health Department
- Some of our cafe staff received barista training from a community partner and are now trained to run the espresso machine in our Cafe.
- Five staff members attended "Passport to Success" life skills training and one member is now equipped to conduct the lessons
- Six staff members, and older youth in our programmes, were assisted with learner and driver's license bookings
- Our operations team completed numerous personal development courses online.





# French Programme

In November 2020, Alliance Francaise in Mitchells Plain opened its doors to five youth from the Strandfontein informal settlements for a year-long intensive course to learn French. The bursary, valued at R40 000 per participant and sponsored by the Principality of Monaco, helped them acquire a skill needed in several fields in South Africa and abroad e.g., tourism, education, call centres and business.

In addition, we provided the students with holistic support such as food, daily transport, clothing, and toiletries - support which is essential for marginalised youth (who face many challenges) to successfully complete programmes. Unfortunately, due to various factors, only three candidates were able to take their examinations in November. The successful students will be rewarded with a trip to France (or a French-speaking country) and will also receive further training and mentorship in a 1-year internship programme.



# Passport to Success

Our *Passport to Success* training courses really took off in 2021 - thanks in no small part to a Youth grant which we received from the Western Cape Department of Social Development. Training was offered free of charge to unemployed youth under the age of 35 and it's been so overwhelming to see the impact of this training on people's lives.

The course was created by *International Youth Foundation*, has been implemented in more than 50 countries, and is used in large organisations such as McDonalds, Microsoft, and The Hilton group. It covers lessons such as managing emotions and conflict, being a good team player, listening, assertiveness, stress management and more! We launched the internationally-recognised job readiness and entrepreneurship training in Cape Town for the first time - running multiple blocks of training in August and November. We also conducted our second block of training in the Eastern Cape in September, following on from our first session held in November 2020.



# Passport to Success testimonials



"The excellent teaching from you and the team helped me with managing my emotions. I am more responsible in my decisions and action that I take and dealing with the consequences. I have a more positive attitude, more assertiveness and strong values to help with my character. The course reminded me of the person I was and still can be. I look at the work environment in a different light, once I find employment I know I'll understand other people's perspectives, creativeness and ideas and listen to what others have to say and how to deal with conflict. I'm feeling more positive, I am busy setting my goals on a way forward and still busy working towards my goals. Thank you for investing your time in me, I really appreciate it, thank you Nine Miles Project"-

**Pricilla**

"I want to say thank you for all you and the team has done for me and the rest of the participants, I really learnt so much and I think it will lead to a better quality of life" - **Brandon**

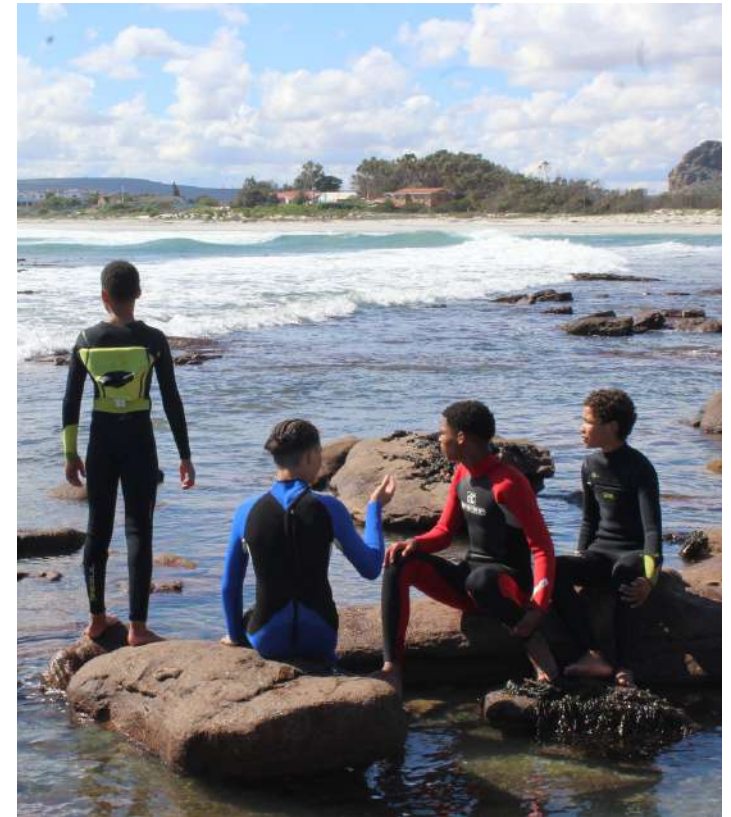
"I find this course very helpful and educational in an amazing way. I've come to learn and encounter new things I never knew were important and fundamental in your everyday life...how to communicate and interact with people in all walks of life and to ensure good relationships with them" - **Abongile**

# Elands Bay

We continued to run programmes every 6-8 weeks and strengthened our West Coast partnerships. Thanks to an amazing collaboration with Breadline Africa, we received a prefab classroom in February for use as our clubhouse on the West Coast. The space is a perfect blank canvas for us to create a safe haven for our 50+ Elands Bay kids who are already enjoying the space.

In December we hosted a very festive Christmas party at Vensterklip Guest Farm. 48 children enjoyed delicious food, swimming, dancing, and of course the arrival of Surfer Santa - laden with gifts!

The holiday festivities continued with our surf programme which entailed two of our Cape Town coaches spending the festive season in Elands Bay in order to run daily surf and life empowerment programmes for the children. The kids enjoyed this so much, often staying until 8pm...which reinforced the need for coaches and programmes during the vulnerable holiday time.





# St Francis Bay

Our Eastern Cape branch currently runs as an outreach project while we are formalising partners and local stakeholders. We visit the area every 6-8 weeks in order to spend time with the ten boys in the core programme, and also touch base via our Whatsapp and Facebook groups.

In September we hosted another successful "Passport to Success" training session which ran for five days at Sea Vista Library. Aside from the impact of the course, it was encouraging to see that many attendees in the first cohort had found employment since the course in November 2020.

Having 8 boys come down to Cape Town for ten days in December was a special treat! They spent time bonding with our Cape Town kids, and also took their first trip up the West Coast to attend the Elands Bay Christmas party and to enjoy one of the most famous surfing left breaks.



# 2021 Highlights





# Official handover Ceremony of our Cape Town clubhouse

On 23 November we were honoured to welcome Mr Maruyama, *H.E. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of South Africa*, to our clubhouse for an official handover ceremony of our space which was renovated thanks to a grant from the People of Japan. We were also grateful to have our longest-standing partner, SAOTA, who were part funders of the Project in attendance. Alderman James Vos from the City of Cape Town as well as other invited guests were also in attendance.





# Olympic medalist visits our Strandfontein clubhouse

Olympic Silver Medalist, Bianca Buitendag, visited our Cape Town clubhouse after her return from the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. Our kids were awestruck by her humility and the (heavier than expected) silver medal. She had a special word of encouragement for the girl surfers and urged them to "go for gold" and to aspire to participate in more competitions.





# Christmas Parties in Cape Town and Elands Bay

Lots of gifts, loads of dancing and laughter, and delicious food and snacks - all this and more was part of our Cape Town and West Coast parties, which our St Francis boys also got to enjoy during their trip to Cape Town. It was wonderful to get together and celebrate...especially since we had to cancel our holiday party in 2021 due to Covid restrictions.

Thanks to incredible partners and members of the public, we were able to provide 126 children with gifts which truly ended off our year on a high note.





# Some other highlights:



- Receiving a City of Cape Town Mayoral Community Services award in the *Social Support* category
- Officially registering as a Partial Care (afterschool) facility with the Department of Social Development
- Employing 5 of the senior boys who started in our programme eight years ago in our various social enterprises.
- Growing the 9Miles Cafe into a more self-sustaining social enterprise which can now fund some of the operational costs of our community food programme







Photo: James Lowe

# Thank You!

We would like to extend a massive, sincere, and heartfelt thanks to all our friends, family, donors, partners, staff, volunteers, community members, and children, for going the distance with us in 2021

All this would not have been possible without you.

Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude!



Photo: Brian Savel

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