



2022 Annual Report

— A beautiful reflection on a year well spent...

info@9milesproject.org 082 997 8754 www.9milesproject.org

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



“

In the words of Nelson Mandela – May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears. 9Miles has gone above and beyond the distance to provide the children in their care with hope and inspiration so that the choices they make are different to the circumstances they currently live in.

Cheryl Cornelissen, Old Mutual



Founders' Note

As we stand on the cusp of our 10th year, our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for the growth and support we have seen as an organisation.

In 2022, we not only strengthened our after-school programmes and support services for children and teens, we also greatly increased our focus on the economic empowerment of youth - resulting in numerous partnerships with other organisations and businesses, on-the-job training, skills development, job placements and paid internships with longer term prospects.

Despite this progress made, the enormous challenge facing the youth of South Africa is alarming. With approximately 9.2 million young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET), the sheer number of young people struggling to survive, let alone thrive, calls for even greater youth interventions.

Moreover, many young children and teens are struggling through a public education system which is ill-equipped to support them. The latest PIRLS study once again confirms that 82% of Grade 4 children are not able to read with understanding, and placed South Africa at the bottom of rankings in literacy. Afterschool educational support programmes are therefore more essential than ever before.

Though the picture is sombre, we do believe that there is hope and that much can be done to change the current trajectory. When heads, hands and hearts come together from private, public and social sectors, sustainable change is achievable!

This is our righteous cause! We are committed to creating a better today and tomorrow for our Youth.

Thank you for going the distance with us on this mission POSSIBLE!

Nigel & Sher'Neil Savel

Who we are

9Miles Project is a community-based nonprofit organisation that was founded in Cape Town in 2013.

Using surfing as a catalyst for transformation, 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.

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.





In a nutshell

9Miles Project is a registered nonprofit and public benefit organisation which is Section 18A approved.

Registered name: Nine Miles Project

Established: 26 May 2013

NPO 116-995 | PBO 930 046 181

Level 1 BBEEE | 100% Black beneficiaries

Reporting period:

1 January - 31 December 2022

Contact persons:

Nigel & Sher'Neil Savel (Founding Members)

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

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Sustainable Development goals

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

No Poverty	Job creation, skills training, food aid, holistic support
Zero Hunger	Community feeding programme, community garden
Good Health and wellbeing	Food aid, psycho-social support, surf and fitness programmes
Reduced Inequalities	Skills development, empowerment programmes,
Quality Education	Literacy, academic support, and digital learning programmes
Gender Equality	GEM (Girl empowerment) programme, job creation
Decent Work and Economic Growth	Social enterprises, training and community development
Responsible Production and Consumption	Reduce, reuse, recycle operating principles
Partnerships	Strategic partnerships and collaborations
Life Below Water	Environmental programmes with ocean partners





9 years of sustained impact

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.

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.

Beyond our various social enterprises, we have a mixed funding model which involves a diversity of donors including trusts, foundations, corporates & organisations, local private individuals, government grants, international donors and fundraisers.

Social enterprises

Our social enterprises are skilling youth, women, and the unemployed in local communities; and having a “boots on the ground” approach allows for on-the-job training, job shadowing, development and upskilling, and personal development opportunities.

This results in improved household livelihoods which uplifts the family unit, creates a sense of pride and dignity, and in turn generates sustainable income for the organisation.

Our enterprises include:

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

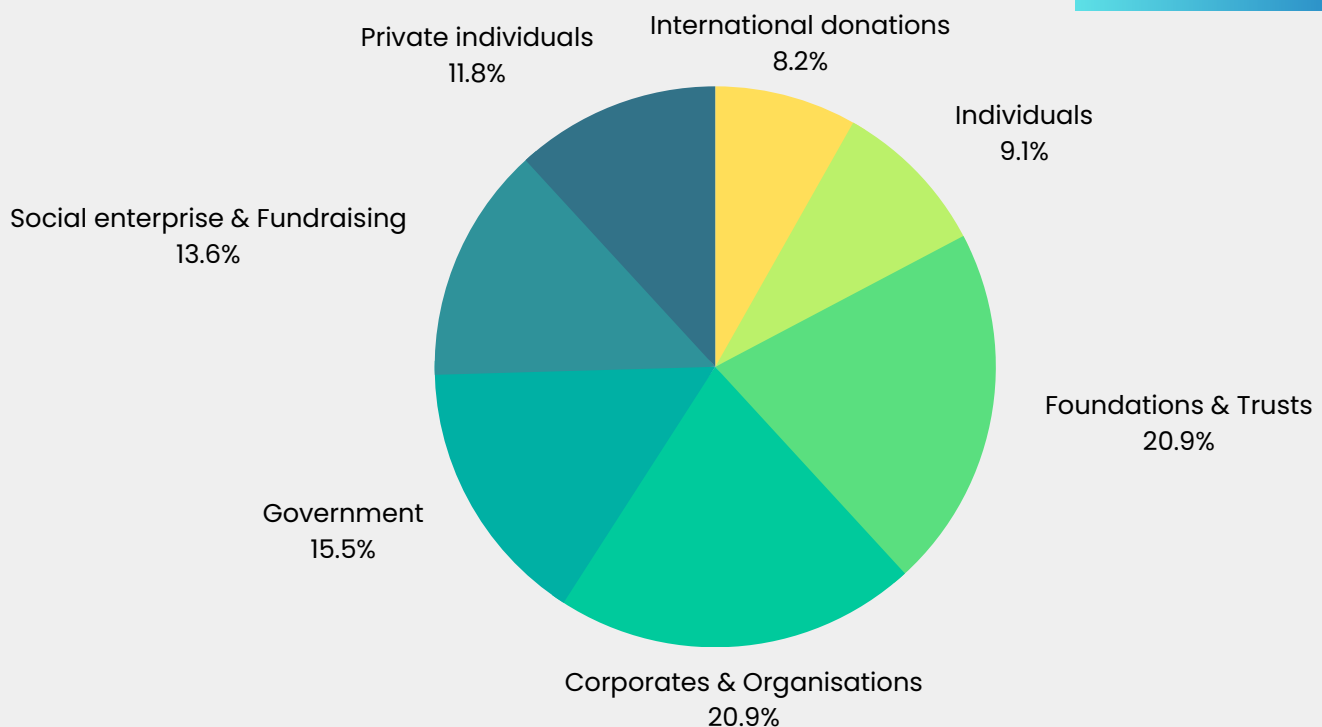


Financials & Compliance at a glance

- Nonprofit and public benefit organisation
- Registered and up to date compliance with the Department of Social Development
- Section 18A approved
- Level 1 BEE contributor – 100% black beneficiaries
- Audited annual financial statements
- Tax compliant

Revenue in 2022

R4 032 986



84%

Growth in social enterprises

For every **R1** donated

83c

reaches our beneficiaries



Our harsh reality

South Africa is recognised as the most unequal country in the world, and children and youth in marginalised and impoverished communities struggle on a daily basis to survive, let alone thrive.

Even before the Covid-19 lockdown began, millions were already living below the poverty line and social ills such as rampant unemployment, substance abuse, neglect, hunger, poverty, and gender-based violence were rife.

In the 9 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.

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
- Rampant unemployment
- Gangsterism
- Teenage pregnancy
- Sexual grooming
- Pollution and poor sanitation



Changing that reality

We are working on changing the harsh realities and addressing the various social ills within marginalised communities by offering the following services and programmes:

01 Afterschool programmes

Surf therapy, academic support, mentorship and life skills, digital literacy, art and music therapy, environmental education, boys and girls empowerment programmes.

02 Skills development & Job creation

Job creation through our social enterprises and partnerships; on-the-job training, paid internships, digital media programmes, skills workshops facilitated by external partners

03 Community & Youth Holistic Support

Food aid in the form of daily meals and snacks at afterschool programmes; community food programme in Strandfontein which serves 700 meals per day, assistance with clothing, uniforms, grant applications etc.



Holistic community support

Building resilient children and communities...

Our programme is 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.

Vulnerable children in our programmes require extra support in the form of school uniforms, clothing, school stationery, toiletries, school placements, etc. in order to ensure that they are well cared for, and are able to remain in school. This holistic support results in greater confidence, restored dignity, and improved social inclusion due to having the appropriate attire and resources required.

All donations of clothing and household goods received from the public are also distributed via **CAB**(Come and Buy without any money) days where residents in our communities can freely select their own pre-loved goods, with dignity, in a shop-like setting.



800

Residents on Camp Road, Strandfontein who benefit from our services in 7de Laan, Masincedane, City Mission & Oppermans Oord

700

number of meals served per day, five days per week, in the 4 Camp Road communities.

350

number of children, elderly and the infirm who receive breakfast and dinner daily


45

average number of children who receive a daily meal at afterschool and holiday programmes.



Happiness is...finding something you love at CAB Day*

**Quarterly "Come and Buy without any money" days where residents can select donated goods for free in a pop-up shop setting..*

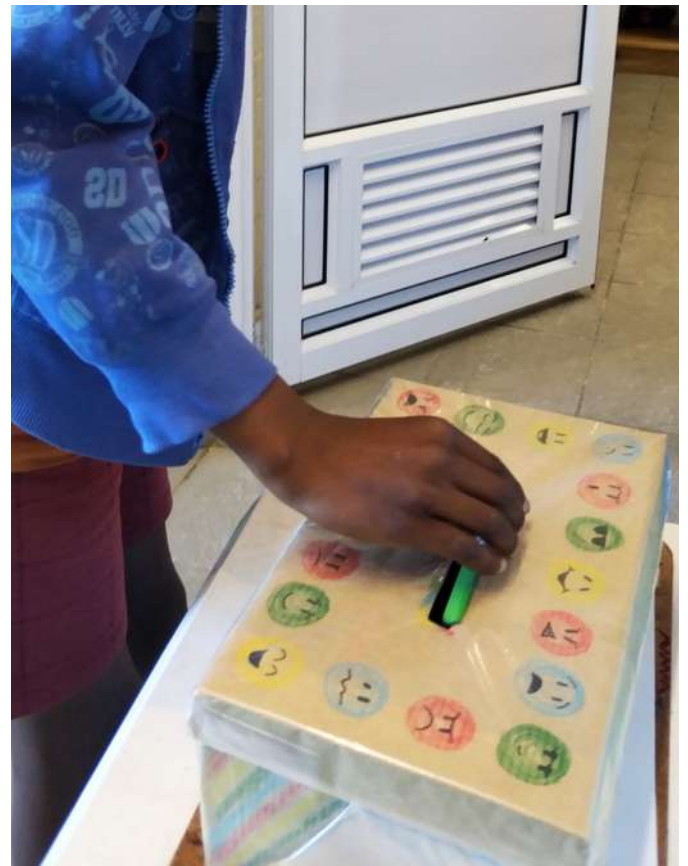


Afterschool programmes

Increased responsiveness


Our afterschool programmes offer a combination of surf, art, and music therapy; as well as life skills and mentorship sessions which uplift and empower youth. We are constantly improving our immediate responsiveness to learners in our afterschool space in order to offer programmes which are most beneficial and impactful. Examples include:

- Using the Mood metre tool at the start and the end of each session which gauges the child's energy and mood when they arrive and when they leave – ensuring that no child leaves the same way that they entered.
- “Reading the room” and adding energizers to programmes when energy is low
- Offering snacks (sandwich and fruit) immediately when they arrive after school, and then also providing dinner after their activities for the day.





Energiser games in action...



Making waves...

Transforming lives through sport & mentorship

We believe that sport has the power to transform lives and livelihoods... and surfing is the core of our programmes which we offer in marginalised coastal communities where people have easy access to the ocean, but not necessarily to surfing and water safety activities.

Surfing allows us to engage vulnerable youth in wholesome structured programmes (which includes mentorship and life skills), and encourages healthy lifestyles & positive coping mechanisms. It also instils a love and respect for the ocean.

We have seen a huge upsurge and interest in our surf programmes and some highlights for the year include:

- Partnering with Strandfontein N.S.R.I who regularly conduct fitness and water safety training with our children – keeping them safe in, and out of the water.
- Increased participation in surfing competitions – especially amongst our girls
- One of our Strandfontein girls, Jade, being chosen for the U16 division to represent the U18 Western Province team at the SA Junior Champs in Jeffreys Bay in October 2022.
- Our girls surfing with international pros (and being coached) in Jeffreys Bay as part of the WSL "Rising Tides" programme
- Reaching an additional 20 inner-city youth every month through our ongoing partnership with *Surf without Borders* in California, and Education without Borders in Cape Town.
- Our family-centric Surf club which meets two Saturdays per month, and makes surfing more inclusive and affordable.





“

My kids had the time of their lives, with my daughter even saying that it was the best day of her life. The team was absolutely amazing, always encouraging everyone. All round exceptional experience with 9Miles.

Surf Club Mom

Girl empowerment

Raising resilient girls through sport and mentorship...

Our GEM girl empowerment programme was greatly strengthened in 2022 thanks to grant funding which allowed us to create enriching experiences for the girls in our afterschool programmes in Strandfontein and Elands Bay, as well as girls in the greater Cape Town.

Given that girls are more vulnerable and often grapple with low self-esteem, hunger, neglect, sexual grooming, teenage pregnancy, illiteracy, and a lack of vision and purpose; the need for bespoke programmes which uplift, empower, and inspire young women to become resilient, confident, and vision-driven is greater than ever.

Some highlights for the year included:

- an increased number of girls attending our girls-only surf and mentorship sessions on Thursdays, and enjoying excursions and holiday programmes.
- greater equality with more girls participating in surf trials and competitions
- a highly impactful GEM Camp for 40 girls from across Cape Town which was held at Rocklands Centre in Simons Town. The camp addressed topics such as values, identity, decision-making, goals, vision, hygiene, and etiquette; and establishing positive role models; and was truly lifechanging for all attendees!

We are so grateful to the **Laureus Foundation** and the **City of Cape Town** for partnering with us on our Girl empowerment programme, and for helping us to raise up resilient young women.



Ripples of change...

13-year-old Leticia was one of the girls who went on the learning adventure to Jeffreys Bay in July. She has never really been interested in surfing and usually just paddles back to shore at home. She is also usually very shy and withdrawn.

However, after the World Surf League "Rising Tides" event where she got to meet and surf with some of the top female surfers in the world, she was so inspired and went surfing with the team, every single day, at every opportunity she had!

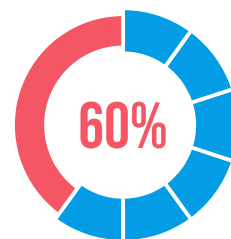
In the past few months she has taken such a keen interest in surfing and has rapidly improved. She is also blossoming into a confident young lady thanks to the nurturing and holistic support that she receives from our team. We have identified her as a candidate to receive advanced training from our surf coaches and we are excited to see her future progress.



Academic support & digital literacy

Addressing learning poverty & the digital divide

With more learners unable to read with understanding or at their required age level, shocking numeracy levels, plummeting self-confidence and motivation, and rising dropout rates, "learning poverty" has become another scourge that needs to be urgently addressed.



of our learners are illiterate or can't read at their required level

Based on our own experience with learners in our programmes, students are performing badly due to illiteracy, being under engaged in school and at home; and have largely lost the motivation, resilience and grit required to succeed.

We ramped up our afterschool academic support to address this dire situation and offered more intensive tutoring, reading sessions, and technology training during the course of the year. By offering online learning such as reading apps, Maths games, basic coding, typing apps etc, we are also strengthening our computer literacy programme and making our youth more tech-savvy.

We are very grateful to the **Old Mutual Staff Volunteer Fund Trust** for funding most of our laptops which are helping us to bridge the digital divide and educational barriers in vulnerable communities.



Art & music therapy

Music & art, just like sport, are universal languages...

Our art and music therapy programme forms part of our holistic afterschool and school holiday offering to youth from the surrounding informal settlements in Strandfontein, as well as our youth in Elands Bay.

Aside from surfing, our art and drumming sessions are the most popular activities enjoyed by all ages because it is a great outlet for creativity, and also helps children to process trauma and daily life situations. Art is a conversation starter and allows youth to open up and have difficult conversations in a non-threatening way. It also offers new perspectives and gives them a lens on the outside world beyond the confines of their homes.



Incubators of hope...

Youth empowerment and community development in action

"Youth unemployment is a serious economic and social crisis in South Africa. Youth (aged 15 to 34) account for 42.9% of the provincial labour force, but made up a much higher 66.9% of the Province's unemployed in the third quarter of 2019. Many of these young people come from homes and communities characterised by socio-economic deprivation (i.e. poor living standards, low education outcomes, high unemployment rates, and poor health outcomes) and face limited opportunities post-school.

This growing youth unemployment leads to four specific challenges:

- The longer a person is unemployed, the lower the probability of finding a job. This can leave a young person at risk of being permanently detached from the labour market
- Many young people lack the resources – whether personal or financial – to enter the labour market. Finding a job is easier if you have a network of people who are already working.
- The high rate of unemployment amongst matriculants has a negative impact on the motivation of learners to complete school. This adds to the already high drop-out rate.
- Many existing youth work experience programmes do not provide the holistic support required by disadvantaged youth to transition to the world of work or further education."

Source: Western Cape Government: Draft Strategic Framework for the Provincial Strategic Plan 2019–2024

With that in mind, skills development, positive mentorship, holistic support, and job creation are very important to us as an organisation and we believe in giving women and local youth the opportunities, skills and training required to become self-sustaining members of society.



Partnering with purpose

Youth empowerment and community development in action

We actively seek out learning and development opportunities for our youth and staff with partners who are aligned with our vision and values. We made immense strides in 2022 with some wonderful opportunities which uplifted youth and women-led households, as well as countless individuals across Cape Town.

70

Jobs secured across Cape Town due to an Independent Development Trust (**IDT**) tender which we were awarded.

20

youth and community members received learner's lessons, driving lessons, and assistance with test bookings etc.

16

Paid internships secured for local youth and community members thanks to the generous support of **True South Actuaries & Consultants** and **RLabs**

5

youth were awarded bursaries for Certified Facilities Management & Handyman training with **Afroteq Academy**

63%

of our staff are women who reside in the communities that we operate in



Youth Grant-in-aid

Our partnership with the **City of Cape Town** was greatly strengthened when we were awarded Grant-in-Aid funding for youth upliftment programmes in July 2021.

The scope of the grant was to provide surf therapy, girl empowerment, life skills training, and holistic support programmes to vulnerable and at-risk youth in marginalised areas.

The grant period ended in April 2022 and we are humbled to share that, despite the reporting period being reduced to 8 months, and challenges such as the Covid lockdown restrictions, we were able to exceed our target of 2000 people by impacting over 2167 people in diverse areas across Cape Town thanks to this grant, and our committed team. Thank you to the **Department of Social Development** for investing in our youth!

2167

Total youth impacted

226



Girls impacted through Girl Empowerment (GEM) Programmes & Camps

1741

People reached through Surf Therapy

200

youth impacted through "Passport to Success" Job Readiness course

Beneficiary communities: Strandfontein, Mitchells Plain, Belhar, Delft, Cravenby, Ravensmead and Parow Valley, Vrygrond, Grassy Park, Pelican Park and Surrounds



Ripples of change...

“

I fell in love with the organisation and the kids

9Miles felt like home

I felt like I had something to give back and I could help the kids who also struggle with traditional learning like me

These are the words of **Shanna, Juanay and Marishka**, three young women who attended one of our Strandfontein "Passport to Success" training workshops in 2021.

They started volunteering at our clubhouse and quickly crept into everyone's hearts - going from interns to programmes administrators and facilitators within a year!

Through some of our strategic partnerships, they have been awarded paid internships and skills development opportunities which are allowing them to grow, and gain work experience, while they positively impact the children and youth in our Cape Town and West Coast branches.



West Coast

Elands Bay branch

Our Elands Bay kids are so hungry for programmes and positive mentorship, and we have seen an influx of new children attending surf and life skills programmes –often arriving at dawn, and leaving at dusk!

We look forward to starting full-time programmes on the West Coast soon so that we can engage these youth on a weekly basis.

2022 was a year of many firsts for us in Elands Bay. Some examples include:

- Conducting a week-long "Passport to Success" training course for local youth at the Elands Bay Hotel
- Taking 5 children on our annual Jeffreys Bay trip along with some Cape Town kids.
- Gifting each child with a clothing hamper sponsored by Exact

479

children attended programmes over 11 days in the December holidays



West Coast

More Elands Bay highlights...

- Hosting our first Family evening which was attended by Cederberg Municipality representatives as well as 140 parents and community members.
- Hosting our first West Coast CAB Day at the Parent evening
- Having the CBN team visit our clubhouse with Gizmo from Superbook.



East Coast

St Francis Bay | Sea Vista

Our Eastern Cape branch currently runs as an outreach project while we are formalising partners and local stakeholders. We engaged the Ward Councillor, as well as local organisations like the Rotary Club, to present various options for our St Francis base.

In the interim, we identified Ethan, one of the young men who grew up in our programme, as a possible candidate for our Facility Coach position. We brought him to Cape Town to job shadow our Cape Town operational staff, to learn our policies and procedures, and to assist at our West Coast branch. He also received First Aid training and attended an intensive Certified Handyman and Facilities management training course.





“

I've worked with many organisations over the years and personally, my experience is that 9Miles Project is one of the most professional, world-class, holistic NGOs that I have ever had the pleasure of dealing with.

Georgie Ravencroft, AFMS Group



2022 Highlights

Highlights

Launching our Diving & environmental programme

Thanks to a partnership with Gunnar Oberhoesel, an international environmental consultant, we started to introduce diving as a catalyst for transformation, and to incorporate it as our in-house environmental programme in 2022.

Our vision is to see youth developing a finer love for, knowledge of, and appreciation for life below water, and learning about ecosystems, especially our local ones.

The aim is to get staff members accredited as divers, and then to start offering snorkeling and diving lessons to the children in our afterschool programmes.

Having access to a variety of water activities will give our youth a deeper understanding of how we are all intertwined and inter-dependent with nature and transform them into true ocean guardians.



Highlights

Annual Jeffreys Bay adventure

Our annual trip to explore the wonders of the scenic Garden Route (such as Jukani Wildlife Sanctuary, Plett Puzzle Park, and Birds of Eden) and to see professional international surfers in action at the Corona Open JBay, meant so much to our children – many of whom had never even left the Cape Flats, let alone Cape Town.

The 6 girls in the group also spent the day with international female surfers – surfing, and being coached and inspired – as part of World Surf League's *Rising Tides* programme.



Highlights

Joining the Laureus SA family

In March we were honoured to host some amazing sporting heroes at our clubhouse who are Laureus South Africa #SportforGood ambassadors, and to be welcomed into the family as part of a partnership to strengthen our girl empowerment programme. It was especially touching to see JP Duminy, former SA cricketer, be officially announced as their new ambassador, in Strandfontein where he grew up!

Nigel was also humbled to be invited to the *Sport for Good Celebration Summit* at Sun City in October.



Highlights

Annual Christmas party

The highlight of our calendar was when **115** of our Cape Town and Elands Bay kids and staff came together at Wacky Adventures Water Park in Hopefield on 15 December for a hot, fun-filled day of swimming, waterslides, games, waterbombing, and more! It was certainly a day to remember and was such a great personal highlight for everyone!



Ways to connect & support us



Make a tax-deductible donation:
www.9milesproject.org



Like & follow us on all social media platforms: **@9milesproject**



Sign up for our newsletter by emailing **info@9milesproject.org**



Add us as a **Myschool My Planet MyVillage** beneficiary –
you can support 3 beneficiaries



Leave us a **review** or recommendation on Google, LinkedIn
and Facebook



Partnering with purpose

In addition to many private individuals and families, we are so grateful to the following partners and donors who have truly gone the distance with us:

SAOTA

nutec
DIGITAL INK

MC.
METAL CONCENTRATORS

 CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

RAWSON
Property Group


Laureus
SPORT FOR
GOOD
— SOUTH AFRICA —

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MAKING HOPE CONTAGIOUS


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ACTUARIES & CONSULTANTS

 **Google**

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Green Hands
Creating Together


NEDBANK

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 **Cederberg**
Municipality

 **Western Cape**
Government
Cultural Affairs and Sport

FLUX

CAPE TOWN

RED


WSL

WAVESCAPE

REBEL MEDIA

WATAKA

GONE. OUTDOOR
SUPPLY CO.


NEDGROUP
INVESTMENTS

 **idt**
independent development trust

K kenvue

 **FM**
solutions

CBN
SOUTH AFRICA

 **THE CARL & EMILY**
LUCHS FOUNDATION

BOOKS
FOR
AFRICA

 **mr price**
foundation

ACKERMANS


SPAR

FOOD
FORWARD SA

FOOD
LOVER'S
MARKET

W
WOOLWORTHS

PEP

Blue Ribbon


MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet
Make every voice count

 **TORAA**
TRUST
SOUTH AFRICA
HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES

DG
MT

 **BROTHER**
BEES
HONEY

 **KINGDOM**
LONGBOARDS

JUUU

 **HEAD**
in the
CLOUD
films

SACAP
The South African
College of Applied Psychology

SwB

 **EWB**

Thank you

We would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thanks to all our friends, family, donors, partners, staff, volunteers, community members, and children, for going the distance with us in 2022.

Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude and we can't wait to see how the next few years unfold...



Our slogan is "Going the distance" and going the distance to us means that no one is left behind, no child is left unloved, and no community is left untouched.



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