

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



Going the Distance...



The heart behind the movement

Founders' Note

As 9Miles Project approaches its 13th year, we are continually reminded that lasting transformation is never achieved alone. Every milestone reflected in these pages represents a collective commitment from staff, volunteers, partners, supporters, donors, and community members who have chosen to invest in the purpose and potential of young people. Together, we are creating environments where children are not only safe but able to thrive; not only supported but empowered to dream beyond their circumstances and pursue futures filled with possibility.

This past year was marked not only by rapid programme growth, but by casting our eyes long. Sustainability was the golden thread running through so much of what we did in 2025. We continued to ask not only, *What is needed today?*, but also, *What will create lasting change tomorrow?* From streamlining our systems and developing our team, to expanding our fundraising capacity, deepening strategic partnerships, establishing 9Miles Australia and progressing plans for our Learning Centre, we are building on the foundations that will allow our work to grow and remain relevant for years to come..

As you read through this report, we hope you see more than activities, programmes, and statistics. We hope you see lives being shaped, opportunities being created, and futures being rewritten. We hope you see the power of unity and what becomes possible when people come together around a shared vision. Behind every story in these pages is a network of people who chose to believe that change is possible and worth investing in.

Most importantly, we hope you recognise your place within this journey. Every contribution, partnership, act of generosity, and vote of confidence has helped strengthen not only our programmes, but the future of the organisation itself. Together, we are building something that reaches beyond any one programme or any one year — a legacy of opportunity, empowerment and belief in the next generation. .

Nigel & Sher'Neil Savel



Who we are

9Miles Project is a 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. Additionally it offers food aid, literacy and academic support, mentorship, skills development and job creation programmes, and holistic support to vulnerable communities in Cape Town, Elands Bay, and St Francis Bay in South Africa.



200

children registered in
afterschool
programmes

1000

direct beneficiaries

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.



What motivates us?

We are driven by a deep belief that every person is perfect for their purpose. In communities where opportunities seem limited and barriers are many, we see resilience, creativity, and untapped potential. Our work is rooted in the conviction that with the right support such as skills training, mentorship, safe spaces, and real-life opportunities; young people can not only survive but thrive, and become agents of change in their own lives and communities.

We are inspired by the stories we witness every day. A young person stepping into their first job interview with confidence. An older mentor guiding others through challenges they once faced. A community coming together to celebrate progress. These moments remind us that lasting change is built through people investing in one another, strengthening our commitment to creating opportunities that transform lives and communities.

Our programmes respond to real needs, shaped by lived experience and aligned with long-term impact. We do this work because investing in youth is not only the right thing to do – it is one of the most powerful ways to build stronger, more resilient and prosperous communities.



Impact at a glance

200

Children and youth enrolled in afterschool programmes across 3 locations

34

Jobs created for local youth and community members through partnerships and collaborations

6187

cumulative attendees in our Cape Town, Elands Bay, and St Francis Bay programmes

169

Inner-city children impacted by surf therapy in our partnership with *Surf without Borders*

223

Learners at Strandfontein High impacted at our *Activate: Potential & Purpose* sessions

1000

Direct beneficiaries across 3 locations in Cape Town, Elands Bay and St Francis Bay

182k

Meals served at our community and afterschool feeding programmes

64%

of our staff are women who hail from the communities we serve

35%

of our revenue was self-generated through our social enterprises and fundraising initiatives

32

Training & development opportunities offered for staff



Financials at a glance

A significant area of growth in 2025 was our self-generated income, which increased from 12% to 35% of total income. Through initiatives such as the Two Oceans Marathon charity entries, the 100Wave Challenge fundraiser, international volunteerism, and a range of community-driven fundraising efforts, we have seen growing support from individuals who believe in our mission.

These initiatives not only generated vital funds but also expanded awareness of 9Miles Project, creating new opportunities for people to engage with and invest in the lives of the young people we serve.

Revenue in 2025:

R6 093 750

Welfare expenses

R4 853 813

Administrative expenses

R820 266



86c

of every R1 donated
reaches our
beneficiaries



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 well-being	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
Life Below Water	Environmental programmes with ocean partners
Peace, justice and strong institutions	Safe spaces, positive empowerment programmes



Barriers to opportunity

Many of the children, youth, and families in the communities we serve continue to face significant social and economic pressures that affect nearly every aspect of daily life. These challenges can limit access to opportunities, create uncertainty about the future, and place immense strain on individuals and families.

Some of the social issues that we encounter in the communities that we support include:

- Hunger and Food insecurity
- Poverty
- Illiteracy and digital exclusion
- Domestic violence
- Neglect and abuse
- Substance abuse
- Rampant unemployment
- Gangsterism
- Teenage pregnancy
- Sexual grooming
- Pollution and poor sanitation

If the cycle is not broken, the impact continues to manifest in discouraged children dropping out of school at an early age, alarming levels of teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence, a sharp rise in illiterate people entering the world of work, permanent detachment from the labour force, and continued reliance on the State due to a lack of opportunities and a dwindling entrepreneurial spirit.

For young people growing up with few options and the daily pressure of simply surviving, desperation can also make the promise of quick money, belonging and protection through gangs increasingly difficult to resist. When young people are struggling to meet even their most basic needs, it becomes harder to imagine or invest in a different future - making the need for meaningful alternatives, support and opportunity more urgent than ever.



Our response

In response to these aforementioned challenges, 9Miles Project provides safe spaces where children and young people can learn, grow, and develop a sense of belonging. Through a holistic approach that combines educational support, mentorship, surfing, job creation, life skills training, food aid, and community support, we address not only immediate needs but also the underlying factors that limit opportunity.

Recognising that different groups require different forms of support, our work is structured as follows:

Foundation Phase to Matric Support

We provide academic assistance, literacy interventions, and mentoring to children and youth in Grade 1 through Grade 12. The literacy gap is staggering — many learners enter our programme unable to read basic sentences, a reflection of deeper systemic challenges.

Our response includes:

- Daily academic and literacy support in Cape Town and Elands Bay
- Learning adventures and environmental education
- Mentorship and life skills development

From Grades 1–3, children participate in our foundational phase education programme, where the focus is on building strong literacy, numeracy and learning foundations.

From Grade 4 through Matric, they transition into our surfing and mentorship programmes alongside continued academic support, life skills development and other services. This progression allows us to walk alongside young people as they grow — building confidence, competence, and a lasting connection to learning.

Youth Pathways Initiative: From Learners to Leaders

Once participants reach young adulthood, many transition into our peer-led model, where they facilitate programmes for younger youth while continuing their own development.

This initiative includes:

- Structured internships across our organisation and partner organisations
- Sponsored vocational and tertiary study opportunities
- Workplace readiness (e.g. assistance with driver's licences, first aid training, digital literacy)
- Leadership development through mentoring and facilitation

These programmes are strengthened by wrap-around support services that recognise the interconnected challenges many families face. Through the provision of food assistance, clothing and toiletries, school uniforms, and other essential resources, we help create the stability and dignity needed for children and young people to fully engage in opportunities for growth and development.



Sustainability

Creating lasting change requires more than effective programmes – it requires a stable and sustainable organisation behind them. Throughout the year, we invested in strengthening the areas that make long-term impact possible by training our board members, enhancing our operational systems, upskilling our team, deepening strategic partnerships, diversifying our income streams, and growing our self-generated fundraising initiatives. These investments are increasing our capacity to respond to changing economic dynamics while ensuring our organisation remains resilient, sustainable, and focused on its mission of supporting at-risk children and youth well into the future.



Social enterprises

We have several self-sustaining social enterprises which provide skills development, on-the-job training, and employment opportunities for at-risk youth, young adults and unemployed women, while also generating income for our programmes and operations.

These include:

- The 9Miles Cafe which runs at Strandfontein Pavilion
- Offering surf lessons, and surfboard and SUP rentals to the public
- 9Miles Surf Shop which operates 6 days per week
- Life empowerment and team building sessions, surf clinics and groups
- Surf club: a community-centric club with attendance fees
- Volunteerism & Social tourism opportunities for local and international visitors
- Property management (Airbnb)



Success story

A circular economy in action

For years, Iederies and Kaltoema Samodien have been at the heart of the 7de Laan community in Strandfontein. Coming from humble beginnings, they have done their utmost to raise a close-knit family. As the parents of Faieq — one of our first students and among the first families to join the 9Miles journey in Strandfontein — their journey has grown from being part of our community to becoming pillars of support within it. Whether helping a child or family in crisis, celebrating life's milestones with their neighbours, or opening their home and hearts to visitors, they are known for their generosity, hospitality and service.

Visitors to our cultural community tours have come to know Kaltoema through the aroma of freshly prepared samoosas and koesisters, lovingly made as she shares stories of local culture, heritage and hospitality. Behind every demonstration, has been a dream of turning her passion for cooking into a sustainable livelihood. Today, that dream is becoming a reality through Toema's Kitchen – a venture that represents far more than a small food business. It is an opportunity to build a reliable source of income while doing what she loves and creating greater security for her family.

Alongside her, Iederies has been nurturing a dream of his own. In partnership with 9Miles Project, he transformed a small garden and a flock of chickens into a source of nourishment and opportunity. The fresh produce and eggs have supported community meals and the 9Miles breakfast clubs for our kids, while demonstrating what is possible when people are given the opportunity to build on their strengths.

Together, they are taking the next exciting steps from employees to entrepreneurs. As they build something of their own, we have no doubt that they will continue to empower and reinvest in others.



100Wave Challenge

For many years, we hoped to find a fundraising initiative that truly reflected the heart of 9Miles Project – one that combined community, purpose, challenge, and impact. In 2024, that hope became a reality. During a trip to California, our founder, Nigel Savel, caught up with surfing pioneer and World Champion Shaun Tomson, who introduced him to the 100Wave Challenge. Created by Boys to Men Mentoring, the surfathon fundraiser immediately resonated with Nigel. Seeing its potential for our community, Boys to Men co-founder Joe Sigurdson generously offered 9Miles the opportunity to bring the challenge to South Africa as a 9Miles fundraiser.

Our inaugural 100Wave Challenge took place on 3 May 2025 and was filled with laughter, smiles, and resilience as participants took on 100 waves, individually and in teams, in support of our work. The event strengthened our fundraising efforts and contributed meaningfully towards our strategy of increasing self-generated funding.

More than a fundraiser, the 100Wave Challenge became a powerful expression of what is possible when people come together around a shared purpose, and we are grateful to share that we exceeded our target of R100 000, raising R176 145 for our programmes.



Going global

A significant milestone in ensuring the long-term sustainability of 9Miles Project was the formal establishment of 9Miles Project Australia in April 2025. Its purpose is to generate funding that directly supports and powers our programmes in South Africa.

For many years, a dedicated community of supporters in Australia has faithfully championed our work, organising fundraising initiatives and standing alongside us as valued partners. The establishment of 9Miles Australia formalised this longstanding support, creating a dedicated fundraising arm that enables us to strengthen existing relationships, build new partnerships, expand our global footprint, and issue tax-deductible receipts for donations made in Australia.

As the organisation continues to grow, diversifying our funding base is essential to ensuring our long-term sustainability. 9Miles Australia will play an important role in increasing our fundraising capacity, enabling us to respond to growing community needs, invest in future opportunities, and ensure that our programmes continue creating lasting impact for our beneficiaries.



Maria Botha



Bianca May



Corey Rahman

We are grateful to Maria Botha, Bianca May, and Cory Rahman for stepping forward to serve on the Board of 9Miles Australia, contributing their time, expertise, and leadership to help guide this exciting new chapter.

A special thank you also goes to the team at *Ashurst Perkins Coie* (who were connected with through TrustLaw) for generously facilitating the entire registration process on a *pro bono* basis. Their expertise and guidance were instrumental in bringing 9Miles Australia to life, and we are deeply grateful for their support.

**Registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)*

Australian Business Number: 78 686 032 057

Building for the future

One of the most exciting milestones of 2025 was securing land on auction in Cape Town for the future 9Miles Project Learning Centre. This marks the beginning of a dream that has been many years in the making.

We are incredibly grateful to our longest-standing corporate partner, SAOTA, who generously came on board to develop the concept design for the centre, bringing their expertise and vision to a project that has the potential to transform our work for generations to come. The Learning Centre represents a long-term investment in young people and the communities we serve – a purposefully designed space where every floor creates opportunities for education, empowerment and practical, skills-based learning.

We are excited by the journey ahead and the prospect of creating a world-class space that will continue to empower children, young adults and families for many years to come.



Our people

We believe that every individual is perfect for their purpose. With that conviction, our investment in people reached new heights in 2025. We created more opportunities for education, skills development, leadership and employment, while developing the team that makes our work possible. By equipping young people with practical skills, confidence and opportunities to participate, lead and earn; we are helping turn potential into real pathways towards greater independence, resilience and opportunity.



Pathways for youth

Youth empowerment remains a vital part of 9Miles Projects' journey, recognising that meaningful opportunities during young adulthood can shape the trajectory of a life. Throughout the year, we invested in internships, skills development, job creation, and workplace readiness initiatives, including "Passport to Success" training in both Cape Town and St Francis Bay.

Some highlights included:

- Four young women completed barista training at the Radisson RED Hotel, gaining practical skills and exposure to opportunities within the hospitality sector.
- Four candidates who attended our "Passport to Success" training in Cape Town, received on-the-job training at the Radisson RED Hotel, providing hands-on insight into hospitality roles and workplace expectations.
- In the Eastern Cape, 20 unemployed young adults participated in a week-long "Passport to Success" programme in Sea Vista, focused on building essential life and employability skills, including communication, teamwork, and personal development.
- Through our quarterly Activate sessions at Strandfontein High, 223 young people participated in workshops designed to support self-discovery, build confidence, and encourage positive decision-making and purposeful goal setting.



Capacity building

Staff development and training remain a key pillar of our three-year strategy for organisational strengthening and capacity building. We continued to intentionally connect our young people with partners and opportunities that aligned with their interests, strengths, and career aspirations. We are deeply grateful to the partners who invested in our staff, opening doors that will benefit them for years to come while strengthening the future of our organisation and the communities we serve.

Some highlights included:

- 34 youth received on-the-job work experience, skills development and study opportunities through True South Actuaries & Consultants and Rlabs' internship programmes.
- Eden successfully completed a 90-day Digital Marketing training programme thanks to *Flux Full Circle*, developing her skills in digital communications, content creation, and marketing.
- Danielle successfully completed the first year of her Behavioural Psychology degree with distinction, made possible through a bursary from *Laureus Sport for Good Foundation*.
- Thanks to a bursary from SACAP, Carmen Everts successfully completed her second year of full-time study towards a Bachelor of Social Work.
- Geraldo and Beverly graduated from the year-long *Laureus YES* programme with diplomas in Sport Administration, and Beverly received a full scholarship to study her Bachelors in Management of Sport and Leisure at eta thanks to the YES programme.
- Sher'Neil graduated with her Honours in Financial Analysis and Portfolio Management at the University of Cape Town.
- Thanks to funding from the JH Richards Charitable Trust, our board members and relevant staff participated in Board Governance Training at Inyathelo.
- Through a partnership with *The Little Optimist Trust*, 7 programme facilitators became certified sailing instructors through a week-long training programme, while deepening their understanding of inclusive programming for people with disabilities.



Partnering with potential

The continued investment of True South Actuaries & Consultants, the largest partner in our Young Adults Programme, is creating life-changing opportunities for young people as they take their first steps towards meaningful employment and long-term independence. Their support enables us to provide paid, on-the-job training and employment opportunities that give young adults the dignity of earning an income to support themselves and their families while gaining valuable workplace experience. Alongside practical skills, participants are encouraged and supported to pursue further studies, personal development, and professional growth, helping them build the confidence, experience, and opportunities needed to create brighter futures.

18 young adults participated in this programme in 2025, and some highlights include:

- Five staff members obtained their driver's licences through the programme, while two additional staff members earned their learner's licences.
- Dan completed his degree in Information Systems and Economics at the University of Cape Town.
- Jamie graduated with an Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences.
- Charne is currently completing her ECD Level 5 qualification.
- Stanton completed a month-long photography course and Adobe Lightroom training, enabling him to expand his business, SGB Photography, on the West Coast.
- Henrico completed the International Surf Association (ISA) Surf Coach Accreditation Course.
- Pearle completed a National Certificate in Personal Fitness training in December 2025.



"The True South internship has been a real eye-opener for me. The support they've given - not just to me, but to others on the team - has been incredible. Seeing the burden of university fees lifted from the shoulders of colleagues, and watching doors open through opportunities like this, has been deeply moving. Receiving a stipend, getting your learner's or driver's licence - these might seem like small things, but for many families they're simply out of reach when other needs have to come first. This internship has offered so much more than financial support; it has provided mentorship, encouragement, and opportunities that have genuinely changed lives. The impact extends far beyond the individuals involved - it has created a ripple effect that is strengthening families and the wider community. I'm incredibly grateful to be part of something that means so much to so many - **Pearle Jenneker**



The dynamic duo

Youth empowerment in action

One of the highlights of the year was welcoming Margo and Haley back to 9Miles Project after initially joining us as interns through their studies at CPUT. What started as a student placement has grown into a meaningful contribution to our PR and marketing team. They have immersed themselves fully in the life of the organisation, spending time in our programmes, capturing stories, supporting campaigns, and taking on responsibilities with remarkable efficiency and professionalism.

Their energy, creativity, and commitment have helped enhance our communication, increase awareness of our work, and ensure that more people can connect with the stories and impact behind 9Miles Project. Importantly, their contribution has also built internal team capacity, allowing us to extend our storytelling output and improve consistency.

Their journey reflects the importance of youth empowerment and meaningful work experience, demonstrating how access to opportunity can translate into skills development, employability, strengthened organisational capacity, and long-term pathways into the workplace.



From coast to coast

Our branches on the East and West Coasts are flourishing. From the rural fishing town of Elands Bay to the small community of Sea Vista – one mission unites us. We are creating sustainable opportunities that empower young people and strengthen communities. Through meaningful relationships, safe spaces, and unwavering hope, we are equipping individuals to become confident leaders, responsible stewards of their futures, and catalysts for lasting change within their communities.



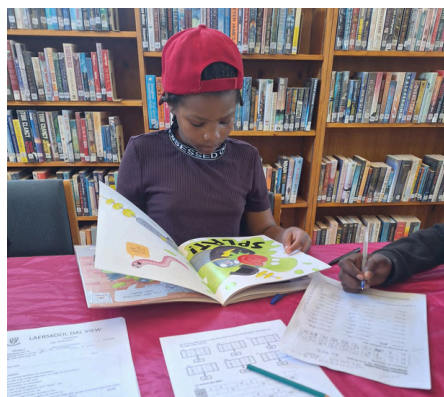
Elands Bay

Our West Coast programme continues to grow in a deeply encouraging way, shaped by a strong and committed team, clear structures, and a culture of teamwork and care.

Over time, we have seen increasing connection and trust within the community, with more families engaging meaningfully in the programme. At its heart, the space is alive with energy and joy – children arriving with excitement, forming friendships, and experiencing a sense of belonging that is reflected in their confidence and happiness. It is a programme that continues to build quietly and consistently, rooted in relationships and shared purpose.

Some highlights of the year included:

- Hosting a CAB Day (Come and Buy without money) for children and their families at the Community Hall, where they were able to choose pre-loved clothing and household goods in a dignified and welcoming environment. We also hosted a "Kids CAB" in the community, delighting children with a wide selection of toys.
- Expanding our collaboration with Elands Bay Library and Elands Bay Museum, and running our education programme at the library once a week
- Hosting the launch of Chris Bertish's new book, *Super Stoked*. Our children were thrilled to be the very first in the world to receive copies of the book.



Where enterprise meets impact

On the West Coast, our social enterprise initiatives are creating more than income – they are creating opportunity, independence, and hope for the future. By supporting young people to build businesses around their purpose and talents, we are helping them earn a sustainable income while laying the foundation for long-term careers and stronger local economies.

One of the most exciting examples is *SGB Photography – Powered by 9Miles*, founded by **Stanton**. What began as an emerging photography business has grown into a thriving enterprise, with increasing demand for weddings, events, and community projects. As part of our commitment to nurturing young entrepreneurs, we connected Stanton with world-renowned photographer Alan van Gysen, whose mentorship has played an invaluable role in refining his technical skills, growing his confidence, and developing his business. As demand has increased, Stanton has been able to purchase his own vehicle, giving him the independence to travel to clients, take on more bookings, and continue expanding his enterprise. His story is a powerful example of what can happen when purpose is matched with opportunity, mentorship, and the right support.

Henrico has also been growing a steady social enterprise through surf lessons to the public, as well as surfboard and wetsuit rentals. By turning his passion for the ocean into a sustainable 9Miles enterprise, he is creating accessible entry points into the ocean economy while contributing to local tourism and community engagement.

Together, these initiatives are creating meaningful employment and income opportunities for our team while playing an increasingly important role in sustaining our West Coast programmes. Income generated through these ventures is reinvested directly into local programme delivery, helping to fund activities, resources, and opportunities for children and young people in the community.



Stanton

Henrico

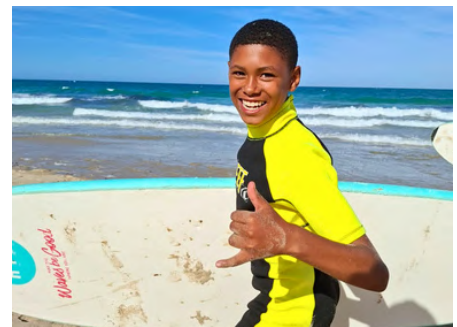
St Francis Bay

A heartwarming highlight for us in 2025 was seeing our work in St Francis Bay evolve and grow organically. After focusing primarily on young adults for many years, we were able to expand our offering through a successful June holiday programme, welcoming dozens of children to daily activities and creating a natural pathway into more consistent engagement. This resulted in the appointment of two dedicated staff members – one of whom was Jaywin, who came through the programme himself – and the establishment of a structured children's programme that now serves 15 enrolled children twice a week.

As part of his onboarding, Jaywin spent significant time with our teams in Cape Town and Elands Bay, receiving training, observing programme delivery, and immersing himself in the 9Miles culture and approach to community development. This investment has equipped him to help grow our presence in St Francis Bay while carrying forward the values that have shaped his own journey.

Alongside our children's programme, we also hosted a week-long *Passport to Success* workshop for 20 young adults in Sea Vista, equipping participants with practical life and workplace readiness skills as they prepared for future employment opportunities.

It has been a meaningful season of growth, marked by continuity, increased participation, and a deepening presence in the community. With more children expressing interest in joining the programme and plans underway to launch a community feeding scheme, we are excited about the opportunities ahead and the sustained impact this programme will continue to have in the community.



Transformation

is a journey which
requires consistency,
presence, and believing
in young people long
before they believe in
themselves



Core programmes



More than a wave...

At 9Miles Project, surfing is far more than a sport – it is a tool for connection, healing, and opportunity. For many of the children and young people we serve, the ocean becomes a safe space: a place of calm, freedom, and reflection away from the noise and pressures of daily life in busy communities. Time in the water offers moments of stillness and restoration while building confidence, discipline, determination, and a sense of belonging.

Over time, these experiences open pathways beyond the water through leadership development, accredited training, employment opportunities, and careers within the surf and ocean economy.

By using surfing as a catalyst, we aim not only to improve lives in the present, but to create pathways towards stronger futures and sustainable livelihoods.



Surf & Mentorship

Transforming lives through sport & mentorship

Our surf programme continued to provide meaningful opportunities for children and youth to develop their skills, confidence, and future prospects. Throughout the year, participants took part in surf competitions, gaining valuable experience, exposure, and opportunities for personal growth. Young adults accessed advanced surf training and skills development initiatives that supported progression towards coaching, leadership roles, and potential career pathways within the surf and ocean economy.

Some highlights include:

- Our junior and senior teams participating in local competitions like the Sea Harvest Grommet Games and Surf4Life Triad Tag team – where our teams frequently achieved first-place finishes.
- 3 youth completed the International Surf Association (ISA) Level 1 Surf Instructor Course and are now accredited surf coaches.
- 5 youth completed the ISA Surf Judge E-Learning Course, gaining valuable surf judging skills and expanding their knowledge of competitive surfing.
- As an Aloha Award alumnus, Nigel was invited to attend the International Surf Therapy Organisation (ISTO) Conference in Edinburgh, one of the leading global gatherings in the surf therapy sector. The conference provided valuable insights into best practices and emerging approaches in surf therapy, while creating space for programme leaders to connect, learn and be inspired. During his visit, Nigel also enjoyed the innovative wave pool at Lost Shore Surf Resort, gaining firsthand insight into new developments within the surfing landscape.



Education Programme

Our education programmes in Cape Town and Elands Bay continued to provide consistent academic support throughout the year. We recognised that attending an after-school programme after spending a full day in the classroom requires real commitment from our learners. In 2025, we therefore placed a huge emphasis on making learning more engaging, rewarding, and relevant by celebrating effort, creating meaningful opportunities beyond the classroom, and fostering a genuine love for learning.

Alongside daily academic support, we hosted coding bootcamps and career days that exposed learners to new skills, broadened their horizons, and inspired them to imagine futures they may never have considered possible. To better meet the needs of different age groups in Cape Town, our Grade 1–3 learners were relocated to a separate learning space, creating a more age-appropriate environment while enabling older learners to focus, participate, and engage more effectively.

During the school holidays, reading clubs brought learning to life through special treats and educational outings to local libraries, the Artscape Theatre, the Childhood Museum, and the Two Oceans Aquarium, helping children discover that learning can extend far beyond the classroom.



Success story

Dan's Journey

When Dan and his family arrived in South Africa from the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2006, he faced the daunting challenge of adapting to a new country, language and culture. Unable to speak English as a young child, his early years were marked by obstacles that could easily have defined his future. Instead, they became the foundation of a remarkable journey of resilience, determination and growth.

Through our internship programme with True South Actuaries & Consultants, Dan was able to complete his studies in Economics and Information Systems at the University of Cape Town, where he will graduate in 2026, while simultaneously earning a stipend and gaining valuable work experience as the Educational Coordinator in our Cape Town Education Programme.

During this time, he introduced coding bootcamps with University of Cape Town Information Systems students, established a Maths Lab, facilitated reading clubs, organised career days and fun educational excursions, developed online tutoring initiatives, and mentored children and youth from our communities. He also returned to his former high school through our *Activate* Programme at Strandfontein High, encouraging learners to remain committed to their education while mentoring young men and tutoring learners on weekends.

Dan's journey is a powerful example of the ripple effect created when people are given the opportunity to thrive. The investment made in his education and development has already extended far beyond one individual, enabling him to inspire, mentor and equip countless young people to pursue brighter futures of their own.



Food programme

Food remains one of the greatest barriers to learning, health, and opportunity for many of the children and families we serve. A child who is hungry cannot fully engage in learning, and for many households, the daily struggle to put food on the table leaves little capacity to pursue education, employment, or other opportunities that could create lasting change. Addressing hunger is about far more than meeting an immediate need – it is about creating the conditions for children to thrive and families to build a more hopeful future.

Throughout the year, our food programmes continued to provide nutritious meals to at-risk children and community members, helping to relieve the burden of food insecurity while laying a foundation for learning, wellbeing, and opportunity.

Meals are served in the following locations and programmes:

- Community feeding programme in Cape Town, five days per week
- Breakfast clubs in Strandfontein – where children receive a warm meal and sandwiches for school
- Strandfontein afterschool, education and holiday programmes
- Elands Bay afterschool, education and holiday programmes
- St Francis Bay afterschool and surf programmes



Girl empowerment

With 64% female staff, 9Miles Project is powered by dynamic women who come from the very communities we serve. They hold key leadership roles across our programmes and social enterprises, and many are primary earners whose growth uplifts families and stabilises vulnerable households. Through our GEM (Girl Empowerment) programme and women-led social enterprises, we create safe spaces, skills pathways, and meaningful employment opportunities that help girls stay in school, support women to gain financial independence, and enable communities to break cycles of vulnerability.

Some 2025 highlights included:

- As part of Women's Month, we invited the public to write letters of encouragement to the young girls in our programmes. The response was overwhelming, with 111 heartfelt letters filled with wisdom, affirmation, and hope. Special thanks to Old Mutual's Women Network for championing the campaign by hosting letter-writing stations in their Cape Town and Johannesburg offices. They also donated 80 pyjama sets and vanity bags for girls in our Cape Town and Elands Bay programmes.
- The culmination of our Women's Month campaign was a heartwarming, high-energy celebration with our Cape Town girls – a day filled with treats, gifts, inspiration, and powerful moments of connection.
- Partnering with the University of Cape Town's WICS (Women in Computer Science) team to facilitate a 2-day coding workshop with girls at Strandfontein High, encouraging young women to explore pathways in STEM-related fields.



You caught our vision

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following partners and donors, alongside numerous private individuals and families, who have truly supported us every step of the way:



- Strandfontein Baptist Church
- 9Miles Friends – Perth Australia
- Futura Stiftung
- Metropolitan Evangelical Church
- Wave Point Foundation
- Elands Bay Library
- Elands Bay Museum
- Ajimba African Tours & Labdoo
- Philippi Groente Verpakkers
- Joshua Tabernacle Ministry

Colin Fitch
PHOTOGRAPHY
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ZICZAC

HEAD
IN THE
CLOUD
films

NOW
NOW

Thank you

The impact reflected in this report is only possible because of the collective generosity, commitment, and belief of so many people.

To our donors, partners, volunteers, board members, supporters, and friends – thank you. Your investment in children, young people, and communities continues to create opportunities, nurture potential, and inspire hope where it is needed most.

Whether through funding, expertise, advocacy, resources, or encouragement, each contribution plays a vital role in aiding our work and extending our reach.

We are deeply grateful for your support and for the trust you place in 9Miles Project. Together, we are helping to create lasting change in the lives of those we serve.



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

Registration numbers:**South Africa:**

NPO 116-995

PBO 930 046 181

Australia:

9Miles Project Australia Limited

ABN 78 686 032 057

Reporting period:

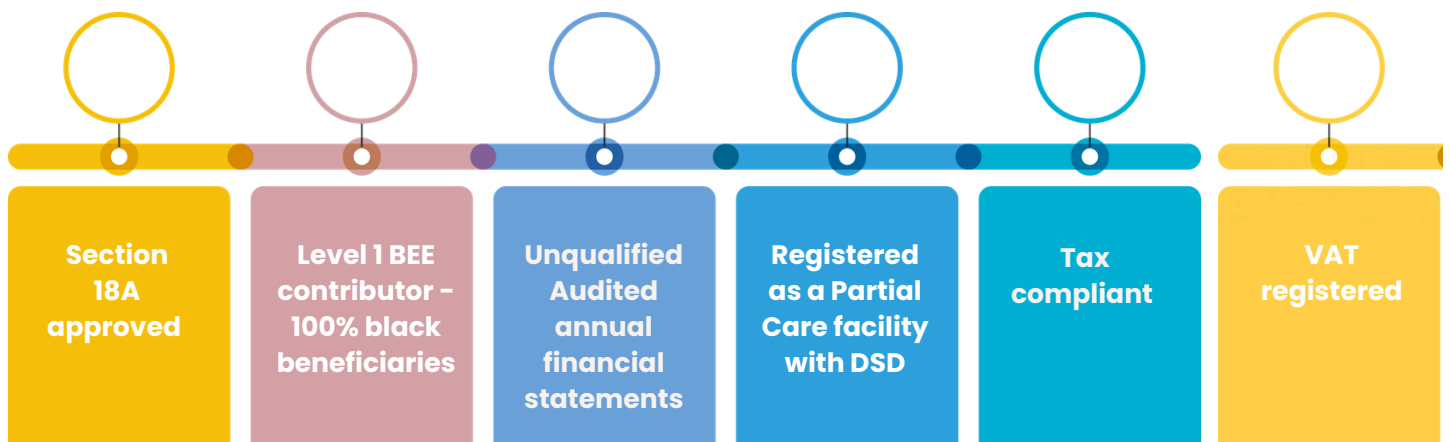
1 January – 31 December 2025

Contact details:

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

info@9milesproject.org



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www.9milesproject.org

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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