



**Easter 2025**

Dear friends and supporters of Masazane Soup Kitchen,

Our Chairperson Claudine Bill's report presented at our AGM in March is worth quoting from:

"2024 has been another busy year for the Masazane Soup Kitchen. Our wonderful team of gogos, ably supported by Martha Mdingi have continued to provide nutritious meals for the younger children of Mbekweni Primary School. Over 58 000 meals were served to children in Grade R to 3. This is no small feat, and we salute the gogos for their hard work.

The gogos not only provide nutritious food but also serve the children with love and care. The Daily Maverick article in Women's month noted the importance of women in the care economy saying that **"the work of the food handlers extends beyond preparing food; their care work involves social interaction, emotional support and community building, all of which are essential for learners to feel engaged and motivated and develop a love for learning and school"**. This really encapsulates the work done at Masazane Soup Kitchen.



This year, the media has highlighted food safety, with the tragic deaths of children possibly related to food from Spaza shops. This has highlighted the need for vigilance in our kitchen, and I commend the team for maintaining good hygiene and food safety.



We undertook some major repairs this year, fixing the leaking roof and improving the drains. **Jacques Matthee** generously gave of his time and expertise to design and build an outdoor sink, to make the cleaning of the large pots easier for the gogos.

The network of support that underpins this project is quite remarkable. Most directly, is the support provided by **Shireen Willemse**. In her kind, caring way, she orders and delivers all the food, makes sure the electricity and gas are provided, and checks in with the team each week...

Our support network in Paarl includes the Bethel Congregational Church and the Mbekweni primary School. The ongoing support of **Mr Michael Njenxa**, the principal, is valued, as he actively supports the kitchen, and allows a safe working environment for the gogos.

Next is the support that we receive from our wonderful, regular **donors**. They provide the backbone of the funds for the daily running of the kitchen, and we are really grateful for this ongoing support... We have some amazing supporters from around the world who respond to our needs. There are some generous individuals who have supported the repairs needed and the Christmas gifts for the children. I would also like to mention the Plymouth Congregational Church in Colorado USA whose annual Christmas pledge provides significant funds; the Cape of Good Hope Club of Soroptomist International; and the Rotary Club of Paarl for their donations.

I would like to end by bringing the focus back to the children:

We are aware of the many challenges that children face in South Africa. One third of children in South Africa live in households with income below the food poverty line. Not only is there a lack of nutritious food available for many children, but children also face difficult social environments. **We must continue to strive to provide love, care and food to the children that we have the privilege of serving at Mbekweni Primary School."**



*Principal Njenxa*

We are so grateful for what you have done for this project thus far, and look forward to a continued partnership with you as we try to ensure that some of the most vulnerable children receive the protection and nutrition that they need at this time of great need in South Africa.

### Our special thanks go to our supporters and donors:

#### Organisations:

Bethel Congregational Church, Paarl  
The Boston City Singers  
Community Kitchens  
D.G. Murray Trust  
Goettinger Rotarians  
KFC Social Responsibility Trust  
Mbekweni Primary School  
OTB Africa  
Outliers  
Plymouth Congregational Church(USA)  
Quantum Foods  
Rondebosch United Church  
Rotary Club of Paarl  
Soroptimists – Cape of Good Hope  
Soroptimists – Stratford Upon Avon  
Valcare Trust

#### Individuals :

Anonymous  
Alex Latimer  
Andreas and Lara Loy  
Andy and Katheen Votaw  
Annette Spykerman  
Anthea Jacobs  
Barbara Harris  
Brian Daviso  
Carl and Julie Malin  
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#### **Donations to:**

#### **Masazane Soup Kitchen and Child Protection Project**

First National Bank  
Rondebosch

**Account number: 62783960894**

**Swift code: FIRZAJJ**

**NPO: 207-414**

Please request a tax receipt from us should this be helpful.

We are thankful for the support from Rondebosch United Church, Cape Town, through their Samaritan Partners Trust, contributions from church services, and ongoing prayer support.

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