



MASAZANE
SOUP KITCHEN & CHILD
PROTECTION PROJECT

August 2023

Dear friends and supporters of Masazane Soup Kitchen,

As many of you know, we have been through a number of changes over the past 18 months or so. I thought you might like to know a bit about some of the team. In this newsletter, I'll introduce you to the youngest, and re-introduce the oldest members of a very special group of women who feed over 400 children each working day.

Cynthia Nomhle Leholo



Nomhle, which means 'beauty' in isiXhosa, was born in Mbekweni and has lived here most of her life. She is the youngest member of our team and has two children of her own. She worked for a number of years as a controller in a fruit packing company in the Drakenstein valley, and then as a contract cleaner. She started working at MSK in 2022, introduced to the project by her neighbour and founder member of the project, Julia Sijaji. Nomhle regards Julia as something of a mother figure, as she (Julia) has supported and helped Nomhle during some tough times.

Nomhle loves cooking and cleaning and has a deep love for children. She commented that the best thing about working in the soup kitchen was that it's a place of little stress: "When I'm here, I'm happy".

We're happy that she joined the team!

Martha Mdingi

Martha has been a key part of the project since it began in 2012. She is a member of our Board and a mentor to many members of the team. Her given name, Martu, in isiXhosa, means 'still'. Like Nomhle, Martha has spent all her life in the valley. She is devoted to children, starting out her adult life as a nanny, and then became a registered foster parent. Over the years, hundreds of children have lived with Martha on a temporary or semi-permanent basis in her home across the road from our container. She says she is happiest when surrounded by children.

She enjoys cooking and her favorite foods include butternut squash with rice or pasta with mince and tomatoes. She loves to make vetkoek and bread at home and her favorite indulgence is chocolate, particularly chocolate cake.

When asked what other members of the team may not know about her, Martha replied "I'm a private person, so there's a lot they wouldn't know!"



KLP

"Feeding another child or adult is a test of our humanity. This is not a government, corporate or high-earner responsibility, but a collective responsibility of all South Africans with whatever excess we have to share."

Imtiaz Sooliman, Gift of the Givers

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:

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Masazane Soup Kitchen and Child Protection Project

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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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c/o Rondebosch United Church

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