

## **Rondebosch United Church Samaritan Partners Fund Annual Report 2025**

When asked by the Dalai Lama how Christianity teaches about kindness and compassion and how this comes from our understanding of God, Franciscan priest Richard Rohr said it comes from our understanding and teaching about the Trinity - “... *God is a fountain fullness of love, a water wheel flowing constantly in one direction: Father to Son, Son to Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit to Father - always outflowing, always outpoured, always giving, never taking, but only receiving what the other gives.*”

**The Samaritan Partners Fund is a social justice and compassion channel  
of Rondebosch United Church, receiving and passing on life, grace and love.**

### **Members and Office Bearers**

RUC is our founding and only member. Our Board members Kumedzani Muloiwa, Michelle Kempster (Treasurer), Heidi Segal, (Secretary), Robert Steiner and Don Shay (Chairperson) met four times in 2025. Though Michelle Kempster tendered her resignation as Treasurer on 25 June 2026, we were not able to find a suitable replacement. She agreed to continue in the position with support from Margaret Maile, the RUC accounting officer.

The application with SARS for Tax Registration and Exemption from income tax as a Public Benefit Organisation is still in process. With support from our Auditor, we anticipate this will be finalised in 2026.

### **Strategy**

The SPF board sharpened our vision to include three key elements:

1. To compassionately respond to particular needs with financial support  
In this way, we actively create circles of dignity around those who are most in need.

2. To support partnerships that align with our focus areas  
We value the relationships we have built over the years with organisations, churches, and individuals who bring about social change in their local communities. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with these change agents who align with our vision.

3. To facilitate opportunities for advocacy and justice  
Our name, The Samaritan Partners Fund, is rooted in the familiar story of the Good Samaritan. A broader interpretation of this story, taken from a sermon by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., requires that we ‘*combine compassion for victims of injustice with efforts to bring about social change,*’ to help uproot the causes of these injustices. As a community who has historically promoted and responded to acts of injustice, we want to continue to find creative ways to highlight opportunities and advocate for acts of justice.

## Highlights from 2025

Our key activities and supported projects through our various partnerships fall across 6 focus areas.

### 1. Children and Youth

**Sanitary Products** purchased from donations in support of our drive were distributed through our partners U-turn and Outliers. Lack of access to sanitary products results in millions of girl children missing out on weeks of school lessons every year.

**Child Safeguarding** is a priority for us at RUC, as we are deeply committed to the safety and care of our children, including those who attend RUC, and those that we come into contact with through RUC-related activities. We hosted a Child Safeguarding workshop, facilitated by Arise NPO (arisefamily.org), for all leaders and staff. This increased knowledge and skills will benefit our leaders beyond RUC, and have far-reaching consequences for children entrusted to our care.

### 2. Education

**LED Lamps** project was established during a period of heightened load shedding for purchase of solar powered LED lamps, which we distributed through Outliers in previous years. However, with reduced requests and limited stock availability, we approached the donor to request redirecting of funds to Outliers to support their education initiatives across the city.

**Outliers** was supported with the balance of funds available in the LED Lamps project to continue to make a positive difference in education. For more on Outliers, visit [outliers.org.za](http://outliers.org.za)

**The Restitution in Education Fund**, established by Julian and Judy Cooke, helped cover the costs of tertiary education fees for two young people known to Judy. This fund is now closed.



### 3. Food security

**Thembi's Soup Kitchen** provides meals for 70 children in Langa. With the rise of food insecurity in the community, Thembekile Nxesi decided to provide a meal on 3 days per week starting in February. Thembi and her team of volunteers bid a sad farewell to Judy Cooke, who has worked with Thembi for many years. We thank Judy for her service and commitment to seeing children and the community of Langa thrive. We are grateful that James Irlam has stepped in to support us and Thembi going forward.

**Thembekile Nxesi and a volunteer team member of Thembi's Soup Kitchen preparing meals for 70 children in Langa.**



**Sisonke Bead Project**, supported by an international donor, is run by Thembekile Nxesi in Langa. A group of women get together to create a range of beaded works as a way of generating an income.

**Masazane Soup Kitchen and Child Protection Project** was founded by members of RUC and remains closely affiliated with us. With funds from the DG Murray Trust, we were able to support Masazane Soup Kitchen to increase food security for children in Mbekweni.

**HIV/AIDS Support Groups** based in Langa and in Delft care for 40 young people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The two support groups are facilitated by two FAMSA counsellors whom we have been supporting on World Aids Day for many years. Their work has sustained these youth through very difficult economic

and social contexts, many of whom have managed to keep going with their schooling despite enormous challenges. In partnership with the DG Murray Trust, we provide annual food vouchers for each member of the group.

#### **4. Prison Ministry**

**The Smiling One Foundation** visit prisons to help rehabilitate inmates. We support them to help cover petrol costs for these visits. Find out more about their work by visiting [circlesofchange.academy/sof](http://circlesofchange.academy/sof)



#### **5. Unhoused**

**U-turn** received a donation of sanitary pads to support women in their network. We also collect donations of clothing which can be placed in the bin at the entrance to the hall. Read more about how they are responding to homelessness at <https://homeless.org.za/>

#### **6. Crisis Relief**

Requests for emergency or crisis relief is considered by our team. We were able to respond to a number of requests from individuals affiliated with our community, creating circles of dignity for them and their families.

## 6. Financial Information

Our 2024 audited financial statements are presented in Appendix 1 below.

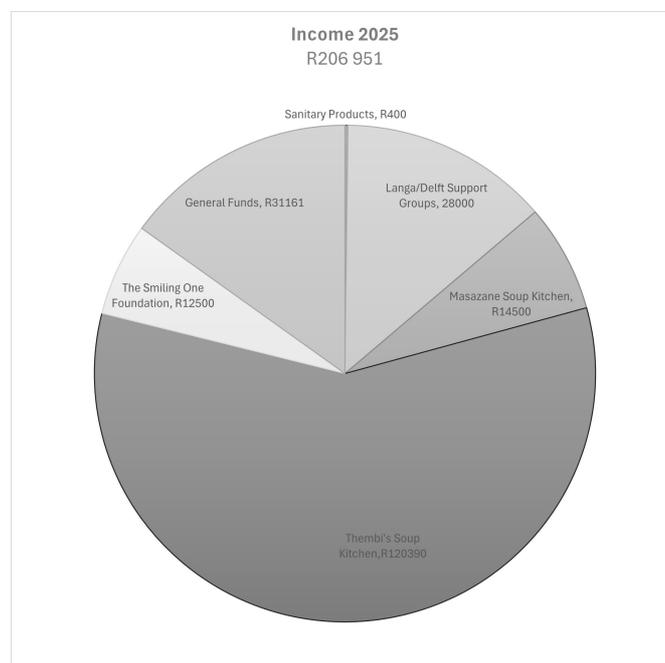
Compared to 2024, our income for 2025 is down by  $\pm 50\%$ . This is largely due to receipt of a big donation from one donor in 2024. Sources of income in 2025 include donations from individuals, both locally and abroad, funds raised at the Christmas Market, and contributions from the DG Murray Trust. The majority of our income (75%) is restricted funds raised for particular projects.

We prioritised expenditure for projects where funds were restricted in terms of allocation. This resulted in expenditure almost doubling in 2025. Legacy funds are allocated to our General Fund, which allows us to honour commitments to partners and respond to requests for crisis relief.

Our 2025 income and expenditure are tabulated below.

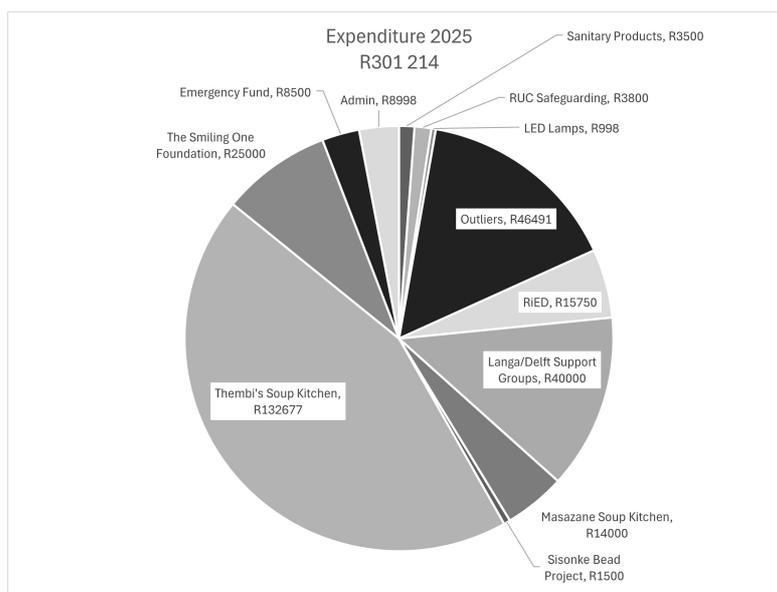
### Income 2025

Focus area	Allocated Project	Income
Children and Youth	Sanitary Products	R400
Education		R0
Food Security	HIV/AIDS Support Groups	R28 000
	Masazane Soup Kitchen	R14 500
	Thembi's Soup Kitchen	R120 390
Prison Ministry	The Smiling One Foundation	R12 500
Unhoused		R0
Crisis Relief	Unrestricted (Emergency Fund, Administration, Other)	R31 161
	Legacies	R0
<b>Total</b>		<b>R206 951</b>



## Expenditure 2025

Focus area	Projects supported	Expenditure
Children and Youth	Sanitary Products	R3 500
	Child Safeguarding	R3 800
Education	LED Lamps	R998
	Outliers	R46 491
	Restitution in Education	R15 750
Food Security	HIV/AIDS Support Groups	R40 000
	Masazane Soup Kitchen	R14 000
	Sisonke Bead Project	R1 500
	Thembi's Soup Kitchen	R132 677
Prison Ministry	The Smiling One Foundation	R 25 000
Crisis Relief	Emergency Fund	R8 500
Administration	Bank charges, Audit fees	R8 998
<b>Total</b>		<b>R301 214</b>



We hope that while we have respected the history and connection to old partnerships, we are transitioning to a renewed way of thinking and doing, which will inspire support. Most remaining funds are restricted to one partner, and so we invite the RUC community to join with us in raising funds for this most valuable outreach.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Don Shay

Chairperson of RUC SPF

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Banking details: Samaritan Partners Fund, FNB, Account # 63088640181, Branch # 201509