

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

2025/2026



CONTENTS

Chairperson's Greetings	pg. 3
Director's Address	pg. 4
Overview of the Year	pg. 5
What We Look Like	pg. 6
Who We Serve	pg. 8
Health Services	pg. 9
Education and Economic Strengthening: Educational Services	pg. 10
Education and Economic Strengthening: Economic Strengthening Services	pg. 11
Education and Economic Strengthening: Sizanani Huts	pg. 12
Legal Services: Foster Care, Legal Documents and Grants	pg. 13
Legal Services: SCYCC	pg. 14
Psychosocial Support Services	pg. 15
Environment and Shelter Services	pg. 16
Nutritional Services	pg. 17
Staff and Staff Development	pg. 18
Acknowledgements	pg. 19
Executive Summary	pg. 20

CHAIRPERSON'S GREETINGS



Greetings to all esteemed Community Leaders, stakeholders, partners, staff, and community members.

On behalf of the Board of Sizanani Outreach Programme, I welcome you warmly to this Annual General Meeting. This occasion is a significant moment in our calendar, offering us the opportunity to reflect on the past year, acknowledge the challenges we have faced, celebrate the milestones achieved, and renew our collective commitment to serving households across Nkandla and beyond.

The year under review has been one of resilience and dedication. Despite the socio-economic hardships that continue to affect families in rural areas, Sizanani has remained steadfast in its mission to provide holistic services that uphold dignity and strengthen resilience. Through health, education, child protection, psychosocial support, nutrition, environmental interventions, and economic strengthening, we have ensured that households of all ages and structures are supported in ways that are inclusive, accessible, and transformative.

We have seen the impact of our work in households where children are nurtured and protected, youth are empowered through skills development, women are supported in overcoming vulnerability, and elders are cared for with dignity. Our staff and volunteers have continued to serve with compassion and commitment, while our partnerships with funders, traditional authorities, and local government have enabled us to expand our reach and deepen our impact.

As Chairperson, I extend heartfelt appreciation to all who have contributed to this mission. Your support—whether through funding, collaboration, or service—has been vital in ensuring that Sizanani remains a beacon of hope for families facing adversity. Together, we have strengthened communities, empowered households, and built resilience that will carry us into the future.

In closing, I wish to thank each one of you for your continued dedication and partnership. May this Annual General Meeting inspire us to move forward with renewed energy, compassion, and vision, as we strive to protect, uplift, and empower those we serve.

Marryrose Cele
Chairperson of the Board

DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS

*Jesus withdrew from there in a boat to a lonely place. The crowds followed him on foot from the towns. As he went ashore he saw a great throng: and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over, send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said. **"They need not go away; you give them something to eat."***



Dear friends of Sizanani Outreach Programme.

I think this passage of scripture, Mt 14:13-21, speaks directly to us as we reflect on 20 years Sizanani Outreach services to the families of Nkandla.

On some evenings in our Sizanani history we might have identified with the overwhelmed, tired disciples tempted to suggest "to send the crowds away to buy food for themselves".

But there is Jesus in our ears reminding us **"they need not go away; you give them something to eat"**. He is speaking from His own lived reality. He did not ever send people away. He went as far as becoming bread Himself for them. He gives Himself not only to them - but to all of us.

As His disciples, walking in His footsteps in the year 2026, we are encouraged to follow His example and become bread to our fellow brothers and sisters. How does one become bread, you might ask?

Looking at the physical process of baking bread there are certain requirements and pre-conditions: No 1: It needs some simple ingredients like bread flour, yeast, salt, warm water. No 2: A sticky dough form and a covering cloth may be helpful; a draught-free place and a pre-heated oven are needed – and time. No 3: Time is essential to knead the dough thoroughly and to let it rest well before kneading it into shape for baking. Time again is needed for the baking process.

For our Sizanani-Outreach-Bread to take shape it took 20 years – and all of us contributed in our very individual ways: some of us were baking flour, salt, yeast or water; others were kneaders of dough, time keepers, warm resting place for the dough, shapers of loaves, or oven for baking. However small or seemingly insignificant our contribution may have been we must remember "little is always much in the eyes of the Lord".

You have become bread for human beings in need: You are now bread for the destitute bringing hope and perspective into broken lives. You are bread for the wounded and suffering bringing a listening ear and healing. You are bread for the stranded bringing shelter and belonging. You are bread for the marginalised and neglected bringing recognition and dignity. You are bread for the mourning bringing closeness and comfort. You are bread for the abused bringing advocacy, safety and reassurance.

In the past 10 years alone, we were bread for more than 6000 clients. We spent over 120 Million Rand bringing services to our community, 19 Million Rand of it in food aid.

To each and every Sizanani co-worker I wish to extend a sincere, heartfelt thank you. Your combined efforts in fundraising, administration, outreach work and care shaped this beautifully baked Sizanani bread, ready to be shared out. Let us move forward into the future with a new motto given to us by Christ Himself: **"they need not go away; you give them something to eat."**

Together with our clients and the community of Nkandla I say: Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Dr MS Lindner
Programme Director

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

This was a year of attending to the depth and quality of services. It was a year of hard work, and at times it was a year of appreciating the fruit of this effort.

Evidence of the work this year can be found on every page of this report. Community caregivers, patient advocates and social workers provided holistic family care services to families in their homes. Following the HELPEN model, clients in Nkandla's rural, disadvantaged, vulnerable and often isolated villages were assisted in areas of health, education and economic strengthening, legal and child protection, psychosocial support, environment and shelter, and nutrition. Peer educators built the resilience of learners in schools and raised awareness about important health and child protection issues at community campaigns. Sizanani Child and Youth Care Centre continued to provide alternative care for up to 35 child victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment, and monitored children in families following reunification. Sizanani Huts assisted families to generate income through the production of craftwork items, thereby also conserving traditional craftwork skills. The KidzAlive Support Group served children and young adults living with HIV. Children took part in Playgroups and a four-day School Holiday Psychosocial Support Programme. The number of primary caregivers participating in three-day Parenting Skills Training Workshops was increased.

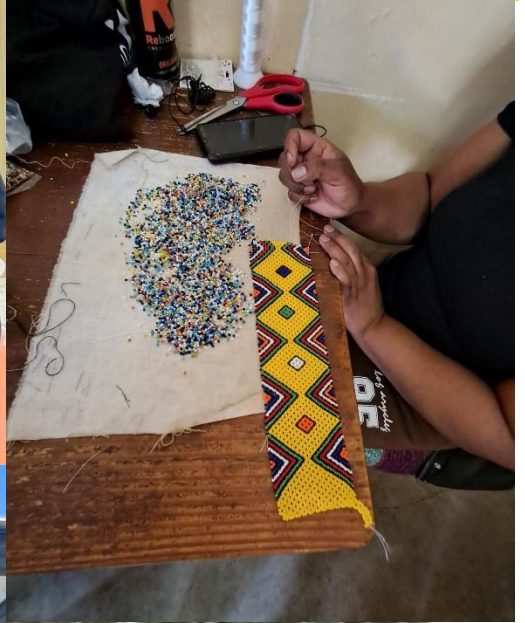
As a non-profit organisation, Sizanani Outreach Programme exists to bring about meaningful change in the lives of its clients. To achieve this, though, it needs to carry out another task: raising funds. The ongoing and demanding task of submitting applications for funding lies with our Fundraising Committee. While a number of our requests for assistance met with success (and a number did not), the greatest fruit of this labour was the funding received towards the end of the year from the Van Thuân Foundation. By the end of the year, the strengthening impact of this funding on our educational and economic strengthening services was already evident, as we initiated a new group for inclusion in the chicken rearing project, and began increasing food garden assistance and the provision of water tanks, school uniforms and student support.

Besides financial assistance, funders often bring expertise and experience, and the objective perspective of an outsider. As we engage with them we learn to see our own situation in new ways, opening us up to innovation. This year we experienced how the PEPFAR Community Grant deepened the health services we provide to clients living with HIV and OVCs affected by HIV. This challenging project, which covered the core health work done by the community caregivers and patient advocates, required that we monitor and continually aim to improve the quality of our services.

The result was the final fruit of this year's hard work: a deeper insight into what is needed to be able to better serve our clients. We have seen the importance of prioritising quality, ongoing monitoring and the continual equipping of staff members. These insights have birthed plans to involve staff in training and planning, and to more comprehensively monitor the impact of our work. With all of this ahead of us, we step into the year ahead expecting – and embracing – more hard work.



WHAT WE LOOK LIKE



WHAT WE LOOK LIKE



WHO WE SERVE



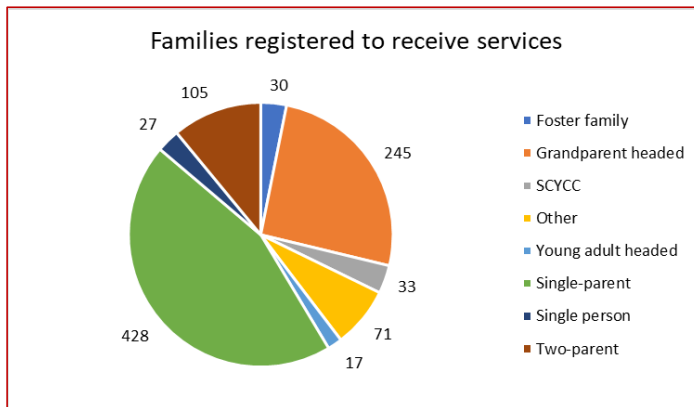
Sizanani Outreach Programme is dedicated to reaching households across all ages and circumstances, with a strong commitment to those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. We serve families living in rural areas of Nkandla under King-Cetshwayo District, where poverty, isolation, and social fragmentation remain significant challenges. Our beneficiaries include households affected by neglect, abuse, HIV/AIDS, displacement, and economic hardship, as well as children, youth, women, the elderly and entire families striving for stability.

Support is extended to a wide range of family structures, from two-parent households and single-parent families to grandparent-led homes, foster families, and households headed by young adults or extended relatives. Each receives tailored assistance that responds to their unique needs, whether through psychosocial support, educational assistance, health services, nutrition, or economic strengthening. Out-of-school youth are empowered through basic skills development and livelihood opportunities. Recent years have seen an increase in households affected by strong winds, floods and fire damage and Sizanani stands ready to assist affected households with basic disaster relief to help them rebuild their lives.

Children placed at the Sizanani Child and Youth Care Centre are cared for in a safe environment until reunification or alternative placement, with ongoing aftercare provided to those reintegrated into families across KwaZulu-Natal and beyond. All services are guided by a holistic model that integrates health, education, child protection, psychosocial care, nutrition, environment, and economic empowerment, ensuring that households are strengthened in every dimension of life.

In this way, Sizanani Outreach Programme remains steadfast in its mission to uphold dignity, protect rights, and build resilience among the families and communities it serves, ensuring that care is inclusive, accessible, and transformative.

Important Statistics	
Total number of home visits	5838
Total number of families registered for services	956
Total number of clients	4454
Total kilometres travelled	170247



HEALTH SERVICES

Health services are one of the core services of Sizanani Outreach Programme, forming a central pillar of its commitment to community care and resilience. These services are primarily provided through the work of our Community Caregivers and Patient Advocates.

The Community Caregivers interventions are guided by a holistic approach that places health and well-being at the centre of family and community support. The services provided are designed to ensure that households receive consistent monitoring, education, and linkage to essential health systems, while also providing direct care within homes where illness or vulnerability is present. Community Caregivers carry out health monitoring during regular visits, checking on the wellbeing of the family, identifying risks early, and ensuring timely intervention.

They provide health education that promotes awareness on hygiene, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and chronic illness management, empowering families with knowledge to make healthier choices. Pill counts are conducted to support treatment adherence, ensuring that clients remain consistent with prescribed regimens, while referrals are made to clinics, hospitals, and specialized services when additional medical support is required. Adherence support is offered through encouragement and counselling, particularly for clients on long-term treatment for HIV/AIDS and other chronic conditions. Families are assisted in keeping track of and attending scheduled clinic appointments to reduce missed visits and improve continuity of care. Home-based care is also provided, offering direct support to households where illness limits mobility, ensuring dignity and comfort for patients.

Complementing the family-based services of the Community Caregivers we have our Patient Advocates stationed at Chwezi and Thalaneni Clinics, who strengthen the link between households and the health system. PEPFAR funding boosted our efforts to provide home-based ART adherence support, I-ACT and Family Support intervention programmes to a target group of 800 clients. We managed to provide services to 796 of these clients, 331 of whom are OVC's. 509 of these clients are HIV+ and we discovered 11 clients who are not on ART, so in this year 97.8% of the HIV+ clients we provided services to were adhering to their treatment. This is a very positive reflection on the efforts of our Patient Advocates and Community Caregivers to provide health education and support to clients with chronic illnesses.

Important Statistics

Health education sessions provided	6225
Visits to serve clients living with HIV/AIDS	2808
Counselling and Testing	88



EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING: EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Sizanani Outreach Programme provides a wide range of student and learner support services that go beyond academics, ensuring that learners have the basic resources and emotional care they need to succeed. Many of our clients come from homes where resources are scarce and it is a challenge for learners to focus on their studies while daily needs are not being met. In this past year we had 24 young people on the student support programme. According to the needs assessment they were assisted with either rent for accommodation, fees, food and toiletries, or transport.



Another critical intervention is the provision of school uniforms. Uniforms give learners a sense of belonging and equality, reducing stigma and boosting confidence. For students who might otherwise feel excluded because of poverty, receiving the correct school wear allows them to participate fully in school life and concentrate on their studies without embarrassment.

Sizanani also emphasizes school monitoring. Community Caregivers regularly check in with schools to track client's attendance, academic progress, and overall well-being. This monitoring ensures that learners who are struggling are identified early and given the necessary support. It is a proactive system that prevents dropouts and keeps learners on track toward completing their education.

Equally important is the focus on peer education. Currently ten schools are enrolled in our Peer Education Programme. In addition to the Peer Educators presenting sessions to learners on issues such as health, bullying, gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS awareness, leadership and goal setting, selected learners are also invited to the leadership camp where they are trained to present and lead discussions on these same topics to their peers. As these sessions are peer-led, students often feel more comfortable engaging and sharing their experiences. Peer education not only builds resilience and awareness but also develops leadership and communication skills among the learners themselves, creating a supportive and inclusive school environment.

By providing essential resources, ensuring equality through uniforms, monitoring academic and emotional progress, and empowering learners through peer education, Sizanani creates a safety net that addresses both the practical and emotional needs of students. This approach ensures that learners are not only academically prepared but also socially and emotionally equipped to face challenges.

Important Statistics

Educational services provided	1049
Attendance at peer education session	5621
Attendance at peer leadership camp	20
Clients assisted with student support	24
Children receiving school uniform	44

EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING: ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING SERVICES

As an Organisation we also invest in economic strengthening services that help families build resilience and self-reliance. One of the key initiatives is home based chicken rearing, which provides households with a sustainable source of food and income. By raising chickens, families can improve their nutrition through access to meat, while also generating small-scale income from sales. This practical approach reduces dependency and fosters self-sufficiency.

For many young people the future seems very bleak – poor education, no jobs, and no possibility to improve their circumstances. In order to upskill these youth, and improve their employability prospects we have been sending groups of 15 – 17 young people per year to The Bethlehem Basic Skills Training Project, where they are given training in bricklaying, welding and plumbing. Both young men and women have been interested in participating in these courses. These skills open pathways to employment and small business opportunities, empowering individuals to support themselves and their families.

Families are encouraged to grow vegetables at home, and Community Caregivers regularly check on these gardens to ensure they are thriving. Home food gardens do not only improve household food security but children can learn sustainable farming practices which can then be passed down through generations. It is also an activity where the whole family can work together to ensure the wellbeing of all family members. To help establish these gardens and keep them maintained, we provide seedlings, gardening tools and water tanks. These tanks make it easier to irrigate crops and protect women and children from the dangers of fetching water in unsafe places. By reducing the risks associated with water collection, Sizanani Outreach Programme promotes safety and dignity while ensuring that gardens remain productive even during dry periods.

Together, these initiatives form a holistic economic strengthening strategy. Chicken rearing ensures food and income, skills training increases chances of employability and business opportunities, household gardens improve nutrition, and water tanks safeguard women while sustaining farming. This integrated approach not only uplifts individual families but also strengthens entire communities by promoting food security, safety, and long-term independence.



Important Statistics	
Water tanks installed	13
Families assisted with the chicken project	10
Families receiving seeds/seedlings	14
Times food gardens were monitored	1258
Clients taken for skills development	17
Families receiving fruit trees	30

EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING: SIZANANI HUTS ARTS AND CULTURE PRESERVATION PROJECT (SHACPP)

The Sizanani Huts Arts and Culture Preservation Project (SHACPP) is a powerful poverty-fighting initiative that blends cultural heritage with economic strengthening. Families are invited to collect raw materials such as beads, grass, and wire, which they then use to craft traditional and creative items. Once completed, they return to Sizanani Outreach to sell their products, earning income that directly supports household needs. This cycle of collecting, crafting, and selling creates a sustainable pathway for families to achieve self-reliance.

In an era where many things are mass produced in factories our crafters strive to produce quality hand made products inspired by our cultural heritage but with creative innovations that appeal to modern buyers. Grass weaving allows families to create mats, baskets, and household items that are both functional and artistic, connecting them to indigenous traditions while the use of recycled wire to craft toys, ornaments, and decorative items turns waste products into value items.

By providing access to materials and a guaranteed market through Sizanani Outreach, SHACPP reduces vulnerability, promotes creativity, and ensures dignity through work. Families benefit by having a reliable source of income, while communities benefit from the preservation of cultural practices that might otherwise be lost.

The families benefit economically by meeting daily needs and breaking cycles of poverty, and cultural preservation is achieved by keeping beadwork, grass weaving, and wire artistry alive for future generations. SHACPP therefore stands as both a cultural and economic lifeline, empowering households while celebrating heritage.

Important Statistics

Operational staff based at Sizanani Huts	6
Crafters who work from home	39
Crafters family members who are benefitting	103
Exhibitions	04
Attendance at training sessions	01
Part-time Garden workers at Sizanani Huts	04



LEGAL SERVICES: FOSTER CARE, DOCUMENTS AND GRANTS

The legal services offered through the Sizanani Outreach Programme are a cornerstone of child protection and family support, delivered by social workers backed by the Department of Social Development (DSD). These services ensure that vulnerable children and families have access to professional assistance in navigating complex legal and social systems.

Social workers step in when children are at risk due to neglect, abandonment, abuse, or unsafe living conditions. They investigate concerns, intervene to remove children from harmful situations, and place children in alternative care, monitor their wellbeing, and provide ongoing support to ensure stability guided by the principles of the Children's Act. This intervention gives children a chance to grow up in secure environments where their rights and dignity are protected. This includes working closely with courts, police, and other agencies to provide a coordinated response that prioritises the child's safety and wellbeing.

One of the core responsibilities of Sizanani's social workers is the delivery of family preservation services, which are designed to strengthen households holistically and prevent unnecessary separation of family members. This package of services includes counselling, conflict resolution and mediation to resolve disputes and strengthen communication. The services also include addressing emotional challenges, conducting constructive case conferences and developing care plans to nurture positive child development. Regular home visits are conducted to monitor the wellbeing of the child, provide ongoing support; identify risks and intervene before they escalate. The social workers also facilitate linkages to essential services such as healthcare, education, and social grants. Together, these interventions create a preventative and supportive framework that empowers families to build resilience, maintain stability, and provide safe, nurturing environments where all members regardless of age can thrive.

Complementing this is the parenting programme, which equips primary caregivers with the essential skills to nurture, guide, and protect their children. Through training programs and one-on-one sessions, parents learn positive discipline, communication strategies, and ways to meet their children's developmental needs. This programme not only strengthens parenting capacity but also reduces the risks of abuse or neglect.

Through this complex work, social workers act as advocates, protectors, and guides. They not only respond to crises but also build long-term solutions that preserve family bonds, empower guardians, and uphold the rights of children in disadvantaged communities. Their interventions express the organisation's mission: to provide holistic care that nurtures children while strengthening the families and communities around them.

Important Statistics

Clients assisted to get legal documents	6
Clients assisted with a birth certificate	3
Number of foster care families	30
Number of children in foster care	39
Attendance at parenting programme	110



LEGAL SERVICES: SCYCC



At Sizanani Child and Youth Care Centre, all developmental programmes are conducted by dedicated social workers and child care workers, ensuring that the 35 children sheltered there receive holistic support across spiritual, educational, psychosocial, as well as emotional dimensions. These professionals create an environment where children's rights are protected and their growth is prioritised.

Equally important is the Centre's commitment to safety and safeguarding children's rights. Solid safeguarding policies

are in place to prevent harm, neglect, or abuse, while fostering a culture of respect and dignity. The staff is trained to identify risks early, respond appropriately to concerns, and uphold the principles of child protection in every aspect of care. Through structured routines, secure facilities, and continuous monitoring, the Centre ensures that children not only feel safe but also learn to trust and thrive in a protective environment

To further empower the young residents, the Centre has established a Children's Committee. This committee provides a platform for children to voice their opinions, share their concerns, and actively participate in decisions that affect their daily lives. It fosters leadership, responsibility, and self-advocacy, ensuring that children are not only recipients of care but also contributors to the community. By involving them in dialogue and decision-making, the Centre strengthens their sense of belonging and reinforces the principle that every child's voice matters. The Centre organizes Family Day events to strengthen bonds between children and their families, laying the foundation for reunification. For those who have experienced trauma, support groups and therapeutic sessions provide safe spaces to process pain and build resilience. Educational programmes such as school readiness help younger children prepare for formal schooling, while older youth benefit from reunification and exit programs that prepare them for independent living.

As part of their spiritual development, children attend church services. This practice nurtures their faith, instils moral values, and provides a sense of community and belonging beyond the Centre. Participation both internally and externally in worship, prayer, and church activities helps the children develop resilience, hope, and a deeper understanding of compassion and respect for others. By integrating spiritual growth into daily life, the Centre ensures that the children's development is balanced and rooted in both personal and communal values. Psychosocially, the children are supported with programmes that develop healthy relationships, self-esteem, and coping mechanisms. Therapeutic care ensures that each child's inner struggles are addressed with compassion and professionalism. These programmes form a comprehensive child protection system.

Important Statistics

Attendance at family day	98
Children newly admitted at SCYCC	17
Children reunited with their families	08
Children attended exit programme	09
Parents participating in reunification and parenting programmes	11
Children currently placed at SCYCC	34
Children attended trauma support group	07
Children attended school opening preparatory programme	21
Children in SCYCC assisted with identity document application	02
Attendees at Crime prevention awareness campaign	48

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) at Sizanani Outreach Programme are designed to nurture children's emotional, social, and psychological wellbeing while creating safe spaces for healing, fun and the creation of happy memories. One of the key initiatives is the KidzAlive support group, which focuses on children living with HIV and on ART (antiretroviral therapy). This group provides peer support, education about treatment adherence, and emotional encouragement, helping children feel less isolated and more empowered in managing their health. 38 children attended these sessions.

We continue to run monthly playgroup sessions in Thalaneni and Chwezi. Between 40 and 60 children attend each of the sessions. At the playgroups the children engage in structured play that builds social, physical and cognitive skills, while developing creativity and self-confidence. Bible sharing is also an integral part of these groups, as it allows children and facilitators to discuss positive social values and behaviour. These playgroups are not only fun but also therapeutic, offering children a chance to express themselves and bond with peers in a safe environment.

Each of our Community Caregiver teams facilitates a 4-day School holiday PSS programme. Each group hosts 20 children per session. This initiative keeps children engaged in positive activities, preventing them from being exposed to unsafe environments while schools are closed. It includes recreational activities, life skills workshops, and psychosocial support sessions, ensuring that children continue to grow emotionally and socially even outside the school environment.

Our annual Christmas party is a highlight for many children and their guardians. It provides joy, celebration, and a sense of belonging during the festive season. Beyond the fun, it reinforces the message that every child is valued and cared for, no matter their circumstances. In the past year we were able to provide 680 children with a Christmas gift which consisted of: clothes, shoes, toiletries and a sweet treat. All the gifts were either prepared directly by sponsors or they gave donations specifically for gifts or the Christmas party. Currently McAuley House School Milpark, St. Teresa's School Rosebank, St. Teresa's Junior Primary Craighall Park and Nardini Convent School in Vryheid support our Christmas project as part of their social outreach initiatives. To the schools, companies, individuals both local and international, who make this Christmas project possible we extend heartfelt appreciation for your support and encouragement year after year.



The psychosocial support services form a holistic system that addresses emotional healing, and community belonging. By combining support groups, play, structured holiday programmes, and celebrations, Sizanani ensures that children are not only protected but also uplifted, giving them the resilience to face life's challenges with hope and strength.

Important Statistics

Children attending the KidzAlive support group	38
Number of KidzAlive support group sessions	10
Children attending the PSS School holiday programme	60
Number of PSS School holiday sessions	12
Playgroup sessions	10
Attendance at Christmas party	395

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SHELTER SERVICES

The environment and shelter services at Sizanani Outreach Programme bring physical relief to families living in vulnerable conditions. Around 87% of the dwellings in Nkandla are traditional i.e. made from mud bricks baked in the sun, stone or branches. These houses though cheap to build are very susceptible to damage by wind and water. The rainy season always brings with it new cases of collapsed homes, and people living in unsafe conditions. Some dwellings can still be reinforced with concrete, roofs repaired, new doors and windows fitted to make the house safe and habitable, protecting households from adverse weather conditions, reducing health risks and restoring dignity to families. While some dwellings can be repaired, other structures are completely beyond repair. In the past year specific funding enabled us to build houses for four families who faced homelessness and unsafe living conditions. These homes are more than physical structures; they represent dignity, hope, and a chance for families to rebuild their lives.

When living conditions become unsafe or houses collapse families are often broken up as family members find shelter with relatives, neighbours or friends. Building houses for families helps to keep them together, creating stability in the household and also in the community.

Safe and secure housing allows parents to focus on employment and children to concentrate on schooling without the constant fear of unsafe living conditions. It also elevates pride and unity within communities, as improved housing environments contribute to healthier, more resilient neighbourhoods.

The building of houses and shelter repairs form a holistic approach to poverty alleviation. They not only meet immediate needs but also create long-term benefits by stabilizing families and strengthening communities. In this way, Sizanani's shelter services extend beyond individual households to uplift entire communities, promoting safety, dignity, and resilience.

Important Statistics

Houses built	04
Houses repaired	01



NUTRITION SERVICES

The Unicef-ZAF nutrition brief 2020 states that 28.5% of children in KwaZulu-Natal demonstrate stunted growth. This is a sign of chronic malnutrition. The nutritional assistance provided by Sizanani Outreach Programme is one of our most impactful interventions reducing hunger, improving health, and strengthening families in vulnerable communities. As children under 5 years fall outside the school feeding schemes, they are most at risk of developing chronic malnutrition. Through nutritional support (either food parcels or age-appropriate paediatric milk) we give these children the chance to thrive, and have correct musculoskeletal development and cognitive functioning, and a strong immune system which enhances their chances of survival.

In this past year we increased our food parcel distribution to 227 parcels and provided an additional 3906 packets of e'Pap (fortified porridge) compared with last year.

Each parcel contains maize meal, rice, sugar, cooking oil, tea, soup, sugar beans, soya, tin fish and e-pap, providing a good balance of carbohydrates and protein rich foods. Fortified pap contains added vitamins and minerals that strengthen immunity, support growth, and enhance energy. Each parcel is prepared according to the number of family members living in the household – in some cases there is only one person in the household in other cases there may be 13 or more vulnerable people in a household. For families unable to meet their nutritional needs, these food parcels often mean the difference between malnutrition and illness and balanced nourishment and good health.

Nutritional services form a comprehensive support system: protein-rich food parcels provide immediate relief and strength, fortified pap improves BMI and long-term health, and paediatric milk ensures healthy development for the youngest children. The community impact is profound — healthier families mean children perform better in school, parents are able to be more productive, and communities become more resilient against poverty and illness.

Important statistics	
Food parcels distributed	227
E-Pap packs provided	6570
Paediatric nutritional packs provided	38
Children who benefited from paediatric nutrition	4



SOP EMPLOYEES AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Sizanani Outreach Programme places strong emphasis on empowering its team through continuous growth opportunities. Staff development is not treated as a once-off activity but as an ongoing journey that strengthens skills, deepens knowledge, and enhances overall performance.

Capacity building: In this year staff participated in training sessions covering bullying and ECD 6 Bricks teacher training. These sessions ensure that employees are well-prepared to respond to the diverse needs of children, families, and communities.

Skills assessment: Supervisors conduct regular evaluations to identify strengths and areas for improvement. This process helps tailor development initiatives to individual and team needs, ensuring that growth is practical and relevant.

Spiritual enrichment: As a Christian-based organisation with a Catholic ethos, weekly reflection sessions are held to encourage staff to share and learn from one another. These gatherings nurture unity, resilience, and a sense of purpose that goes beyond daily tasks.

Academic advancement: Staff are encouraged to pursue higher education and short courses aligned with their roles. Study leave is granted to support this, reinforcing the organisation's belief that investing in education strengthens service delivery.

Recognition and morale: The annual year end function celebrates achievements and milestones. Staff who have served for 5, 10, 20, or 25 years are honoured with certificates, reinforcing loyalty and dedication while boosting morale.

The ripple effect of staff development is felt across the communities Sizanani serves. Well-trained, motivated, and spiritually grounded staff deliver higher-quality services, which translates into stronger child protection, better psychosocial support, and more effective outreach programmes. By investing in its people, Sizanani ensures that vulnerable families and children receive care that is professional, compassionate, and sustainable.

Staff component	No. of staff members
Administration	4
Human Resource Officer	1
Child and Youth Care Workers	13
Community Caregivers	12
Drivers	4
Finance team	3
Management team	6
Monitoring and evaluation (apart from the management team)	1
Patient Advocates	4
Peer Educators	4
SCYCC cleaning, catering, garden and maintenance staff	13
Sizanani Huts	6
Social Auxiliary Workers	1
Social Workers (apart from the management team)	2

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sizanani Outreach Programme wishes to extend heartfelt gratitude to all who continue to walk alongside us in our mission of protecting and uplifting children, families, and communities. Our work is made possible through the collective strength of partners who share our vision of dignity, care, and empowerment.

- Kloster Mallersdorf: For their invaluable financial, practical and spiritual support in bringing “Christ to the poor through works of charity.”
- Catholic Diocese of Eshowe: To His Eminence Cardinal Napier OFM, the Priests and Religious and the Catholic community of the Diocese, thank you for believing in us and providing support in many ways.
- Funders: Both local and international partners whose generosity sustain our programmes and ensure that vulnerable families receive the support they need.
- Stakeholders: Organizations and individuals who collaborate with us to strengthen service delivery and expand our reach.
- Traditional authority: For their cultural leadership, guidance, and support in ensuring our work remains rooted in community values.
- Local government: For partnering with us to address pressing needs and for supporting initiatives that improve the lives of vulnerable families.
- Staff and volunteers: For their unwavering dedication, compassion, and commitment to delivering services across all programme components.
- Families and children: For trusting us to journey with you through challenges and allowing us to share in your path toward healing and empowerment.

We acknowledge with deep appreciation that without this collective support, our mission would not be possible. Every service provided to the needy clients is a testament to the power of partnership.

Sizanani Outreach Programme remains committed to transparency, gratitude, and collaboration. Together with funders, stakeholders, traditional authorities, local government, and community partners, we continue to build stronger families, healthier communities, and brighter futures.

Thank you for walking alongside us. May you remain blessed.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This year, Sizanani Outreach Programme made meaningful progress in uplifting vulnerable households and communities through integrated services that span health, education, child protection, psychosocial support, shelter, nutrition, economic empowerment, and staff development. Community Caregivers expanded home-based care, HIV testing, counselling, and palliative support, while education services reduced barriers to schooling through uniforms, stationery, tuition assistance, and peer education programmes. Children at the Child and Youth Care Centre received structured learning, tutoring, and psychosocial interventions, with reunification services successfully reconnecting them to families. Statutory child protection interventions, foster care monitoring, and parenting programmes safeguarded children, while psychosocial support groups and activities such as KidzAlive, playgroups, trauma counselling, and SCYCC programmes strengthened resilience and emotional wellbeing.

Household environment and shelter services improved living conditions through home construction, repairs, and water tanks. Nutritional services addressed food insecurity with fortified porridge and food parcels, complemented by education on healthy eating and sustainable food security initiatives like vegetable gardens and chicken projects. Economic strengthening initiatives supported households through home-based chicken rearing, food gardens, vocational training, and crafts, with 39 crafters and their families benefitting from market access and income generation. Staff capacity was enhanced through training in dealing with bullying, and ECD 6 Bricks teacher training, alongside academic advancement, spiritual reflection, and recognition ceremonies for long-serving employees.

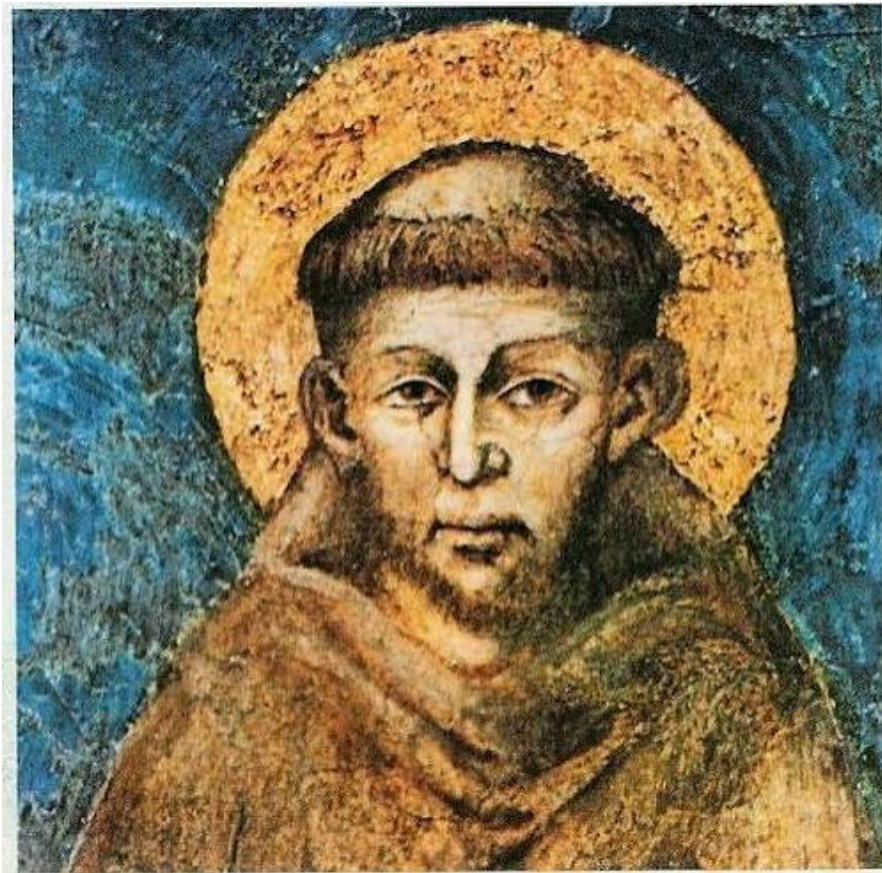
These efforts reflect Sizanani Outreach Programmes holistic approach to community empowerment, integrating health, education and economic strengthening, legal and child protection, psychosocial support, shelter and nutrition, to build resilience, promote dignity, and create sustainable impact. With the support of beneficiaries, board members, staff, volunteers, funders, community leaders, and government partners, we continue to advance our shared mission of uplifting vulnerable communities with renewed energy and collective purpose.



St Francis of Assisi

1182 – 1226

Celebrating 800 years of his life



*"I have done what was mine to do,
may Christ teach you what is yours"*