

2024 GROW STRONG

A YEAR OF EMPOWERING AT-RISK-YOUTH THROUGH SKILLS & MENTORSHIP

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2024 has been an incredible year of growth and blessings for the Grow Strong Skills & Mentorship Programme. With 7 new students joining, we had 15 young men in the programme this year. We were supported by dedicated part time volunteers like Oom Alewyn in Woodwork, Oom Billy in Maintenance, Ubner in Hospitality, Adri in Academics, Petra in Cooking, Daz in Soccer, and Margie in Administration. Along with our Dutch friends who annually visit and provide a variety of support while with us. Together, we've seen the truth in the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child."

Even though some volunteers help out for a few hours a week, or just for a season, their input is invaluable, and we are so grateful to them.



Our boys thrived in the job shadowing program with partners like Gaia's Nursery, Peregrines Farm Stall, The Wash Bay and Haygrove and earned independence through the reintroduced Work-for-Bikes program.

Highlights also included our fun-filled Amana Hermanus camp and joyful community moments around a braai at the end of the term, or cheering each other on during a soccer game.

Watching these young men mature this year has been inspiring.

From learning perseverance on hot gardening days, to quickly excelling in various skills, they've shown remarkable personal growth.

As we look to 2025, we're excited to welcome 8 new students, taking our total to 21 students. We continue building toward our goal of annually supporting 30 young men in the years to come.

Your love, prayers, and support make all of this possible, and we are deeply grateful.

May we move forward together in faith, knowing that God's plans for the young men who join Grow Strong are greater than we could imagine. Thank you for being part of their journey.

With gratitude,

Marc & Brigit



HIGHLIGHTS

OUR PRODUCTS

To help keep the programme running, we believe that whatever we create needs to have a purpose. Either we must be able to sell it, use it at the facility, or bless someone with it.

We have seen an increase in sales this year, and have been thrilled to have our products stocked by two local establishments; Cheverells in Elgin and the Trading Post in Botriver.



INTERNSHIPS

Four of our senior students along with one of our 2023 graduates completed an internship at Haygrove, where they were mentored and equipped with valuable skills in a hands-on learning environment.

Their courage to step out and be challenged over the course of 11 weeks ended with a small award ceremony hosted by Haygrove, where they received detailed reference letters and certificates.

GRADUATES

Juaden Lukas and Petrus Lambert have been with Grow Strong since we started in 2021. They have both grown into solid young men over the last few years, having embraced challenges, worked hard, and diligently completed the Programme.

Both of them are job hunting, please be in contact with us, should you wish to have a look at their CV's.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Grow Strong students were able to give back and be included in various community projects this last year.

They not only gave their time to help braai 700 pieces of chicken for the Kingsway School's fundraiser, but also spent a week painting the school and landscaping parts of the garden.

Our students were also part of the team of men who worked on building a beautiful community garden at Eagles Nest Learning Foundation, in Pineview.

UPSKILLING

A few of our students have shown an interest in skills that aren't part of our programme. We were able to arrange additional training for them.

Thokozani spent two days at the Railway Market being trained in beadwork. Marchello showed an interest in learning to cut hair, we bought him a hair razor and he has under 20 haircuts under his belt now. Petrus created jewelery that he then sold locally. Juaden and Marchello are both in the process of getting their Learners Licences.



LOOKING AHEAD

As we grow our numbers, we are using the opportunity to equip 3 of our senior students with the chance to take on responsibilities for their last year with us. Robin (pictured here) has shown an interest in maintenance and been diligent around the property. He will become Facility Supervisor. Andreo has a love for working in the garden, and will become Grounds Supervisor. Marchello has proven himself trustworthy and will become an assistant to the Facilitators, while being equipped with his Drivers Licence so that he can, in time, manage the garden team on a Wednesday.

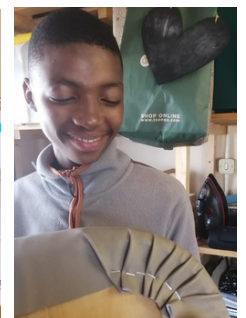
NEEDS FOR 2025

We have seen our community carry us and the students, and we are grateful. We need and value your prayers, your ideas, when you drop off a box of apples or bag of rice, and your support.

An area we would love your prayers, ideas or support in, is the need for transporting students from Pineview (middle of Grabouw) to our facility every day.



IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL 2024. THANK YOU FOR DOING IT WITH US.



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