

# transform.

LOVE CITIES SA NETWORK PUBLICATION

JULY 2025



**Love Nelson Mandela  
Bay Sparks Unity on  
Kingfisher FM**

PG NO. 07

**Love Toti to renovate  
and restore beloved  
bird sanctuary**

PG NO. 17

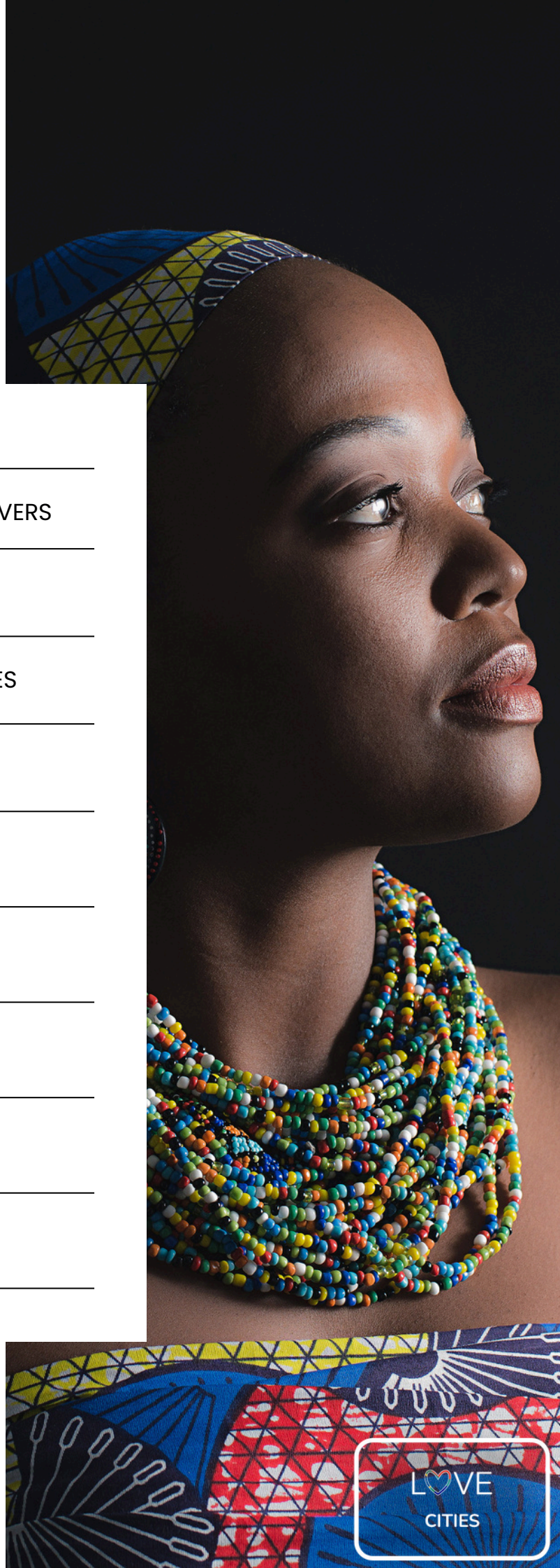
**Love Potch Update:  
Community Rallies for  
Kwêla Town of the Year!**

PG NO. 26

**'TOGETHER transforming South Africa – one town at a time'**

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# welcome.

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This Edition of **transform.** celebrates courage, collaboration, and community-led transformation. From the **Narrative Change Workshops across the Eastern Cape to grassroots heroes in Mangaung, Nottingham Road, and beyond**, we're reminded that lasting change begins with ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Through **education, reviving local tourist attractions, and youth programs**, each initiative **builds a stronger South Africa**. Flip through these pages and join a movement uniting dignity, opportunity, and hope.

This is more than a network—it's a movement. **Let's keep going—together.**





# unity delivers transformation.

Community transformation in South Africa is both a promise and a pressing need. Yet, despite the many organisations, leaders, and citizens committed to positive change, progress remains uneven and painfully slow. One of the biggest reasons? **Division.**

South Africa's past is shaped by deep racial, economic, and spatial divides. While democracy brought new hope in 1994, the patterns of separation – between communities, income groups, languages, and ideologies – still persist. These divisions are not only social or historical; they are structural and deeply embedded in the everyday lives of people. As a result, efforts to transform communities are often undermined by mistrust, miscommunication, and competition. This has to change for us to make meaningful progress as a nation.

In many towns and cities, local organisations work in isolation, duplicating efforts instead of building on each other's strengths. Activists and leaders may share similar goals but differ in approach or affiliation, leading to disunity. When collaboration is lacking, resources are wasted, solutions are incomplete, and transformation slows to a crawl.

But division does more than delay—it discourages. It creates fatigue among community workers and apathy among residents. It tells people that nothing will change, that unity is idealistic, and that fighting alone is better than building together. Love Cities is adamant to change this!

The truth is, lasting transformation cannot be achieved in silos. It requires a collective mindset grounded in Ubuntu: ***I am because we are.*** It demands partnerships between non-profits, government, businesses, and communities. It needs platforms for honest dialogue, shared learning, and joint action.

**We must choose collaboration over competition, unity over ego, and long-term impact over short-term visibility.** Non-profits have a critical role to play—not just as service providers, but as bridge-builders. In a country as complex as ours, progress will come not from one voice shouting louder, but from many voices speaking together.

**Division delays progress—but unity delivers transformation.**

It's time we choose UNITY.



Matt Hogarty

FOUNDER & CEO

**'CHOOSE COLLABORATION OVER COMPETITION'**

# love cities network reach.



LOVE  
MANGAUNG

LOVE  
THORNHILL

LOVE  
NELSON  
MANDELA BAY

LOVE  
HOWICK

LOVE  
MPOPHOMENI

LOVE  
NOTTIES

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PAARL

LOVE  
POTCH

LOVE  
MKHONDO

LOVE  
BERGVILLE

LOVE  
MULDERSDRIFT

LOVE  
'TOTI

## Welcome, Thornhill: A New Chapter of Love and Growth Blooms!

Thrilling news echoes across the Love Cities family! It is with immense pride and bubbling excitement that we extend the warmest, most heartfelt welcome to our vibrant **NEW PARTNER: Love Thornhill**.

Nestled within the unique landscape and spirit of South Africa, Thornhill now becomes the latest community to embrace the transformative power of our **shared mission**. Just like our established branches, Love Thornhill stands firmly upon the foundation of our five core development pillars, ready to weave positive change into the very fabric of the community.

The arrival of Love Thornhill signifies more than just expansion; it represents a deepening commitment to our vision of nurturing resilient, thriving, and unified urban spaces in the Eastern Cape. We see the potential in Thornhill – the strength of its people, the character of its streets, and the dreams held within its homes.

Love Thornhill is poised to become a dynamic force for good, focusing on:

- **Place Development:** Cultivating Thornhill's beauty through environmental initiatives, public space rejuvenation, and sustainable urban practices.
- **Skills Development:** Empowering residents with education support, skills training, and pathways to meaningful employment and leadership.
- **Narrative Development:** Amplifying Thornhill's positive stories, fostering community dialogue, and building a shared, uplifting identity.
- **Economic Development:** Supporting local entrepreneurs, boosting key sectors, and creating opportunities for sustainable economic growth.
- **Social Development:** Strengthening the community's social fabric through preventative programmes, support services, and compassionate outreach to those in need.

This new branch is a testament to the dedication of our growing network of partners, volunteers, and believers in the Love Cities ethos. We have full confidence in the passionate local team leading Love Thornhill. They bring energy, local insight, and a profound commitment to serving their neighbours with the same love and diligence that defines all Love Cities branches.

To the wonderful community of Thornhill: We are truly honoured to join you. Love Thornhill is yours. This is the beginning of a collaborative journey. We are eager to listen, learn, and work hand-in-hand with you – residents, community groups, local businesses, and leaders – **to build a future brimming with opportunity, beauty, and shared prosperity**.

Get ready, Thornhill! Together, let's embark on this inspiring chapter. Welcome to the Love Cities family. Your journey of positive transformation starts now.

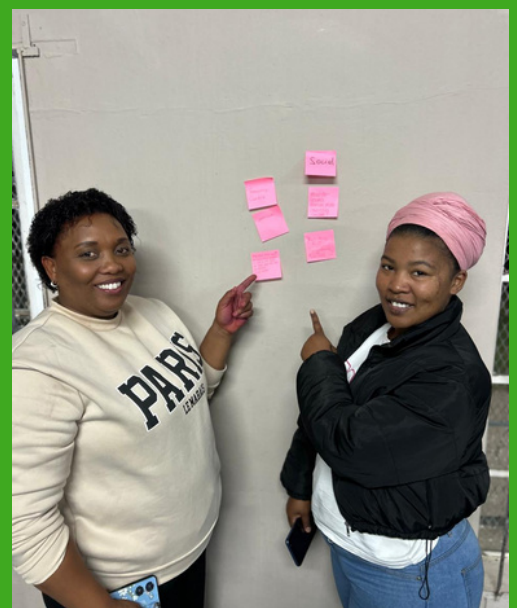
With anticipation and solidarity,  
The Love Cities Team



## Building Our Future Together

Love Thornhill recently held a Narrative Community Building Session, bringing together community members to plan for the future. Through collaborative discussion, they explored practical ways to address local challenges by making the most of the resources they already have.

This inspiring session reinforced the power of collective action and creative problem-solving—proving that when we work together, even small steps can lead to meaningful change as real change starts with us.





## “One House a Month” Transforms Morningside High School: Volunteers Unite to Honour Educators

On 10 May 2025, Love Nelson Mandela Bay’s flagship initiative, **One House a Month**, brought volunteers together at Morningside High School in Kabega for a transformative renovation project. Armed with paint rollers, brushes, and a shared vision, the team revitalised staff rooms and learning spaces, recognising that “teaching is investing in the future.” The event underscored the power of community collaboration—a core pillar of Love Cities’ mission to harness collective action for thriving communities.

### Why Teacher Spaces Matter

The project targeted more than aesthetics. By creating “comfortable and inspiring” environments for educators, Love Nelson Mandela Bay addresses a critical need:

- **Teacher Well-being:** Functional, uplifting spaces reduce burnout and honour educators’ roles as “shapers of future leaders.”
- **Student Impact:** Studies show improved teacher morale correlates with enhanced student engagement.



**Rotary Club Port Elizabeth** dedicated their “most valuable resource—time” to the project.

As one volunteer shared:

“We help old age homes, animal shelters, and children’s homes. **Partnering with Love Nelson Mandela Bay on ‘One House a Month’ lets two communities unite to lift another.** It’s where our passion meets purpose.”

## Love Nelson Mandela Bay Sparks Unity on Kingfisher FM



**Matt Hogarty (Love Cities Founder & CEO), joined Kingfisher FM 107.5 and Dirk van der Mescht (Director Love Nelson Mandela Bay) for an inspiring radio dialogue. The conversation centred on South Africa's renewal – from unlocking community resources and fostering unity to championing a fresh vision for our nation's future. Checkout Kingfisher FM for the recording.**

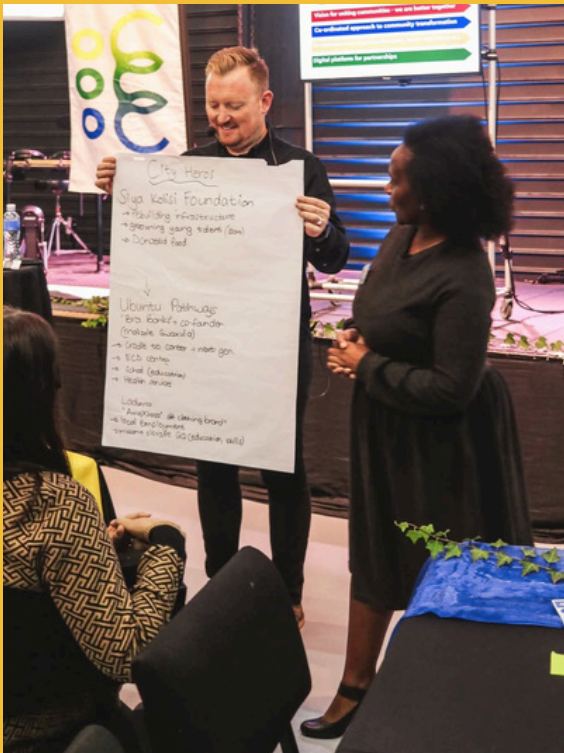
**Engaging Eastern Cape communities – businesses, NGOs, faith groups and municipalities – has been transformative. We're here to activate and facilitate their dreams.**

## Community Leaders Gather to Reimagine Nelson Mandela Bay's Future

On 7 May 2025, Love Nelson Mandela Bay, in collaboration with Sakha Amathuba - hosted a transformative **business breakfast** at the Waypoint Community Centre. Featuring Matt Hogarty, the event united local business and community leaders to co-create a bold, shared vision for the city's future.

Attendees engaged in dynamic discussions on actionable steps to drive progress—**focusing on collaborative solutions for economic growth, social unity, and urban renewal**. The session fostered a collective story of hope, while igniting tangible Economic Development opportunities through partnership and strategy.

An uplifting morning that proved: when our communities unite, transformation follows.







## Paws, People, and Plaster

"*This is the best birthday gift,*" said General Manager Kevin Khumalo.

Love Howick brought community spirit to life during a recent Reno Day at uMngeni SPCA. Twelve volunteers contributed 28 hours, plastering **6 kennels**, building **2 concrete stands** for JoJo tanks, planting **3 gardens**, and thoroughly cleaning the property.

The transformation created a significantly safer, cleaner space for animals and staff.

The impact extended beyond the physical work. The volunteers' dedication inspired local companies, with several reaching out to Love Howick afterwards, eager to find meaningful ways to contribute to the Howick community.

## Mental Health Community Training

"*True healing begins when we courageously face our inner world.*"

– Doni Hogarty

Howick's greatest resource is its people. This 4-week course responds to South Africa's growing mental health crisis by equipping neighbours, teachers, and volunteers with practical tools to:

- **Guide others** through anxiety, grief, or trauma
- **Spot early signs** of emotional distress
- **Build resilience** through mindful self-awareness techniques
- **Create safe spaces** for vulnerable conversations





## Tapping Into Change: Hands-On for a Greener Future

Love Howick's Edu-Team (operating in 4 Mpophomeni primary schools) and passionate Eco Club learners turned knowledge into action. Inspired by the **Sustainability Schools** and **One Planet SA** curricula, one highlight has been the introduction of **Tip Taps**—ingenious, water-saving handwashing devices. While regular taps use 2–3 litres per wash, **Tip Taps use just 0.1–0.5 litres**. By building and using them, learners are reducing water waste while developing valuable skills in sustainability, innovation, and teamwork.

In another initiative, learners led a **community Clean-Up**, tackling litter on school grounds and nearby areas, including a local dumpsite. They collected litter and organised it into different types of waste to support recycling efforts. These young change-makers are proving that small actions can lead to big impacts.



## 99 Families Supported by our Street Store

**Snack & Stack:** Volunteers gathered over cake and coffee to sort donations for those in need. These cosy sessions at our Street Store are where friendships form and compassion turns into action.

Love Howick's **Street Store Swop Shop** where community members exchange recyclable waste or volunteer hours for tokens. These tokens unlock access to **nutritious food parcels, toiletries, blankets, baby items and pre-loved clothing**

**99 community households accessed vital resources through the unique community-supplied Swop Shop token system.** Essential goods accessed: 281 food parcels, 314 Items of clothing, 10 pairs of shoes, 7 homeware items, and 120 toiletry items.



## Stitching Hope: SETA-Accredited 6-Month Sewing Program

Empowering the community with a new 6-month Garment Making course, in June. The course offers 30 places: **20 for able learners & 10 for disabled learners**. Each student will also receive a monthly stipend.

We believe teaching practical skills is the most reliable way to lift people out of poverty. A skilled individual becomes a role model and benefits the whole community.

Why Sewing? It's highly practical and accessible. Skills learned can be used immediately at home and **open significant doors** to entrepreneurship – from simple alterations to creating custom garments (like matric dresses) for income.



## Grade 6 Advance Coding Course

Twenty top Grade 6 coders have been selected for an advanced course at the Dream Centre's computer lab! Among them shines an inspiring learner who, despite past challenges including repeating Grade 4 and difficulties with reading/writing, has discovered **exceptional coding talent**.

For many, this is their first time using a computer – navigating keyboards and typing are major milestones. Progress Highlights: Computer basics, file management, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), email, and starting to code. These young pioneers aren't just learning tech – **they're building futures!**



## Empower Your Staff Team

Love Howick facilitated a highly successful financial literacy workshop for field workers at the **Institute of Natural Resources**. The result? A room full of motivated professionals now equipped with practical skills to **manage their finances** and thrive.

This workshop underscores a vital truth: **soft skills are critical for workplace success**.

They create tailor-made professional **Staff Development Programs** designed specifically to meet your organisation's unique needs. It offers: Flexible Scheduling, Convenient Onsite Training, and **Customisable Modules** (Emotional Intelligence, Financial Literacy, Time Management, Workplace Ethics, Job Search Skills, and more)



## 165 Lives Engaged (Mar-May)

At the Dream Centre, we empower our community through skills development and practical pathways to employment. Here's a snapshot of our progress over the past three months:

### Student Engagement



| Month | Total Students | Course Breakdown   |
|-------|----------------|--|
| March | 63             | Work Ready (22), Home-Based Care (15), Retail (15), Computer Literacy (5), Crop Production (6)         |
| April | 47             | Work Ready (27), Home-Based Care (14), Graphic Design (6)  |
| May   | 55             | Work Ready (23), Barista (5), Microbusiness (10), Retail (7), Computer Literacy (10), Office Admin (9) |

### Practical Work Placements

All learners completed hands-on work placements, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from host partners. **Current placements include:**

**Anew Hotel, Bears Furniture Store, Build it, BP Garage, Coffee Berry, Coffee Box, Howick Secondary School, Injoloba High School, Midlands Café, Mpophomeni Shopping Centre, Spar Greendale, Spar Merrivale, Spar Quarry Hilton, Toyota, Siphuthando Step-down, Sheriff's Office, Pick n Pay Fairways, Pick n Pay St. Johns, and Wimpy.**





## Entrepreneurship Bootcamp Triumph

10 graduates completed the Love Howick intensive Business Bootcamp at Halliwell Country Inn! Topics such as business strategy, finance, marketing, and legal compliance were mastered.



## Financial Literacy Boost

FNB's training empowered Love Howick's SEF team with budgeting and business skills.



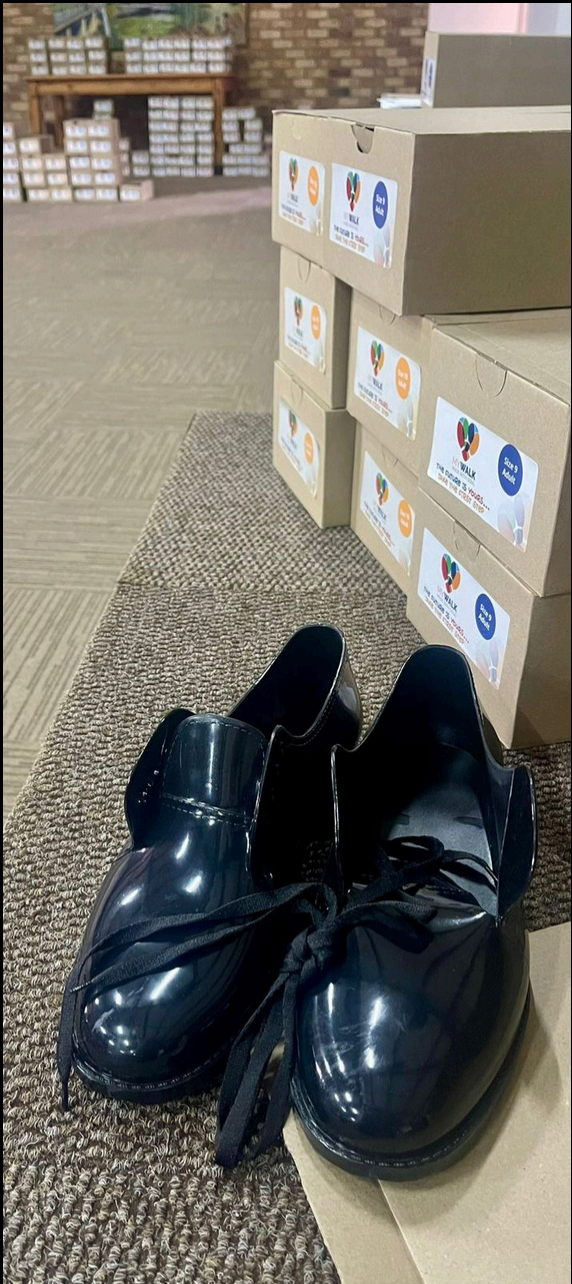
## Sweet Success at Schools

Grade 6 entrepreneurs at Sifisesihle Primary launched a tuck shop selling sweets and chips. Profits bought classroom supplies – a sweet lesson in self-sufficiency!

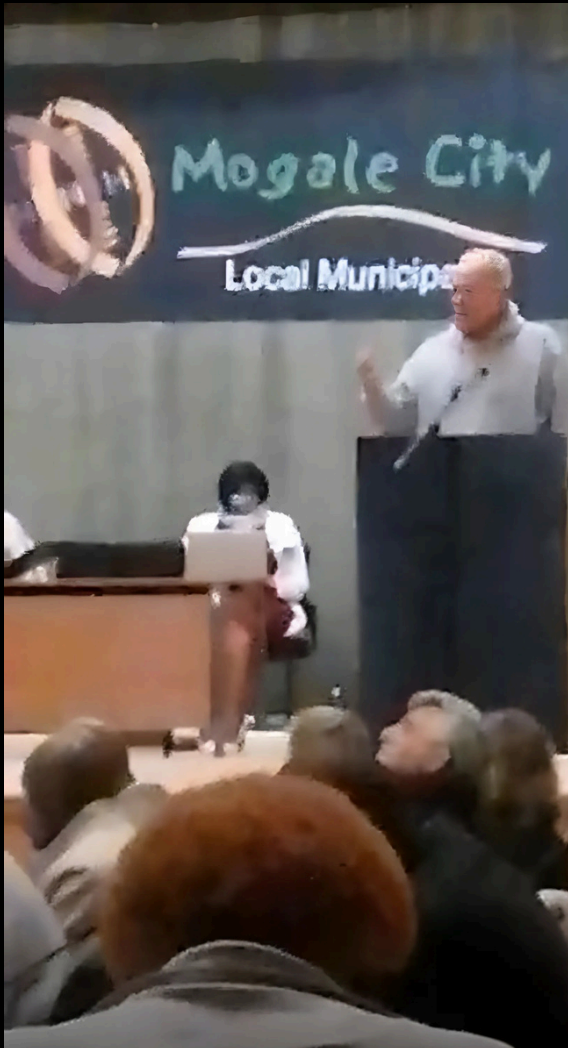
## Walking in Purpose, Speaking for Justice

In Muldersdrift and the wider West Rand, hundreds of children walk to school each day—many without proper shoes, their dreams shadowed by cold toes and worn soles. But this quarter, **Love Muldersdrift** turned struggle into hope through the "My Walk to Destiny" initiative.

With the support of 12 local organisations—schools, churches, and outreach programmes—hundreds of pairs of school shoes were distributed, each pair a declaration: "You are seen, loved, and destined for greatness." Volunteers packed boxes with prayer, businesses and families gave generously, and children left with more than shoes—they carried a renewed sense of dignity.



As one box proclaimed, "The journey is yours. The future is waiting." This project, rooted in Skills Development and Social Development, reflects our belief that small acts of love seed transformative change. "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."



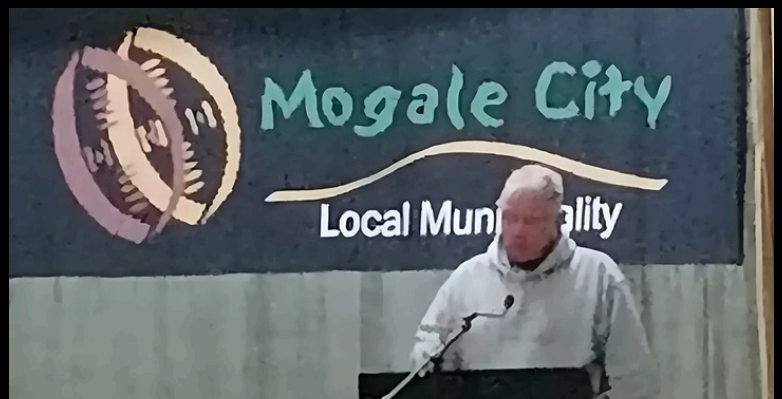
## A Call to Justice: Craig Rowe Addresses Mogale City Council

At a pivotal Mogale City Council meeting, Love Muldersdrift's Craig Rowe delivered a stirring address, challenging leaders to measure the city's success not by infrastructure alone, but by its care for the vulnerable. Drawing from his experiences—from officiating a funeral for a marginalised woman to attending the State of the City Address—he highlighted the stark contrasts within our communities.

"A city must be measured not only by what is celebrated in its halls—but by what is felt in its shadows," urged Craig Rowe.

***Together, we're rewriting Muldersdrift's story—one step, one voice, one act of love at a time.***

His speech called for equity-driven partnerships between government, faith groups, and businesses to uplift orphans, widows, and the marginalised. His vision? A Mogale where "righteousness and compassion walk hand in hand," and underutilised spaces become hubs for social justice. The message resonated deeply—a reminder that Love Muldersdrift is not just serving communities but advocating for systemic change.



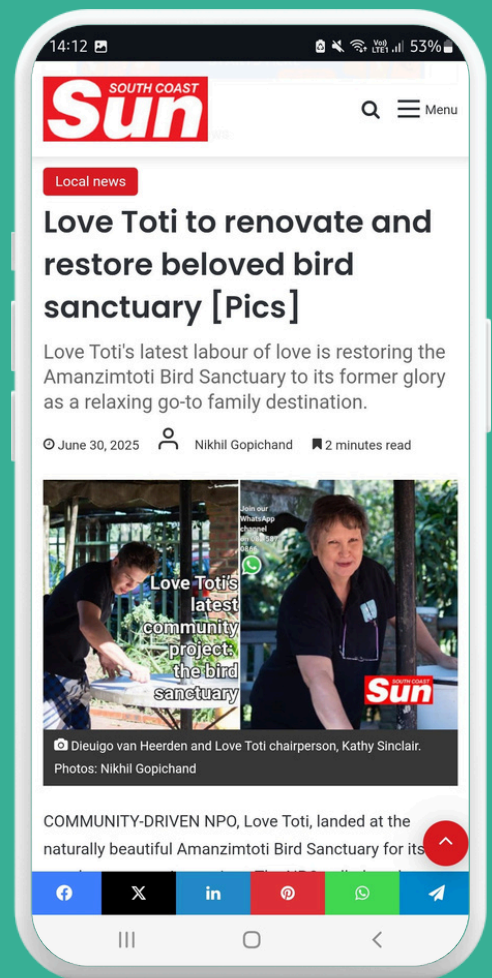


## Love Toti Revitalises Amanzimtoti Bird Sanctuary

Love Toti rallied volunteers at the beloved Amanzimtoti Bird Sanctuary for a transformative clean-up and restoration day. This event marked the launch of a year-long project to revive the sanctuary as a safe, thriving destination for families, birdwatchers, and tourists – reconnecting the community to a cherished local landmark.

### Highlights of the day:

- Volunteers from Tetelestai Recovery Centre, 1st Amanzimtoti Scouts, eThekweni Municipality, and passionate locals planted aloes, refreshed gardens, and cleared litter.
- Marion Opperman shared the vision: "We're rebuilding a space where generations can gather safely – proving that community care can restore our most treasured places."



- ▶ [Julz Proctor's Volunteer Video](#)
- ▶ [Press Coverage: South Coast Sun](#)

## Love Toti Drives E-Waste Recycling

Love Toti recently made a significant stride with two crucial E-Waste Collection Days, providing residents with an opportunity to dispose of unwanted electronics responsibly.

The initiative kicked off on Thursday, 26 June, at the Amanzimtoti Methodist Church. Residents answered the call to clear out old cellphones, broken laptops, frayed chargers, and forgotten appliances, preventing harmful toxins from contaminating our local soil and water.

Not content to stop there, Love Toti held a second, collection event on Saturday, 28 June, hosted at Remax Amanzimtoti. This drive urged the community to bring in everything from busted dishwashers and dead printers to that old microwave gathering dust – even the most stubborn 'wonky Webers' were welcome! The extended Saturday hours made it convenient for more residents to participate.

These events perfectly embodied our commitment to environmental sustainability and urban renewal. By diverting harmful e-waste from landfill, Love Toti residents actively helped protect Amanzimtoti's natural beauty. The enthusiastic turnout demonstrated strong community spirit and a shared desire to 'Love Your Place'.

Well done, Toti Earth Heroes! Your efforts in recycling responsibly make a tangible difference in keeping our town clean and green. Let's continue this momentum as we work together to maintain Amanzimtoti's beauty.



## Love Toti Transforms Neglected Playground: Community Spirit in Action!

When local resident Bron Andrea Bewick raised concerns about the unsafe state of a children's playground, Love Toti chose action over words. The team rallied local businesses and volunteers to rehabilitate this vital community space.

With generous support from Ebrahim Yusuf Salajee, Salaje's Hardware, Easigrass, Holm Fabrications, Kings Hardware, and Franco Malotto, the park was revitalised into a safe, vibrant area for little ones. Volunteers worked tirelessly, proving that collective effort truly does "Transform 'Toti one project at a time."

This initiative also reflects our goals, creating secure spaces that foster community wellbeing. A heartfelt thanks to all who lent hands, tools, and enthusiasm!





## Love Toti Connects at Highland Gathering

Love 'Toti was delighted to participate in the recent Highland Gathering, engaging directly with our wonderful community from a dedicated stand.

This vibrant event provided the perfect opportunity to share the heart of our mission: serving the Amanzimtoti area and empowering its residents to create the positive change they wish to see. Our team spent the day chatting with neighbours, explaining our work across Love Cities' five key development pillars, and listening to community aspirations.

It was an invaluable chance to strengthen local connections, raise awareness about our initiatives, and reinforce our commitment to working with Toti for a brighter future. We thoroughly enjoyed the conversations and the spirit of the gathering!



## Love Toti & Chery Amanzimtoti: Warming Hearts Through Winter Generosity

During the chilly month of May, Love Toti, in partnership with Chery Amanzimtoti, launched a vital Winter Donation Drive. Recognising that winter brings profound hardship for many in our community, the initiative called for warm clothing, blankets, non-perishable food, and toys.

The response from the Amanzimtoti community was truly heartening. Generous residents filled the collection at the Chery Amanzimtoti dealership throughout the month. Every single donation, large or small, played a crucial role in bringing comfort, dignity, and essential warmth to our neighbours facing the toughest winter conditions.

This powerful display of community spirit perfectly reflects our Narrative Development focus, showcasing the strength and compassion inherent in Amanzimtoti. A huge thank you to Chery Amanzimtoti for their partnership, and to every individual who contributed – together, you made a tangible difference.





## Love Potch & Eduvos SA: Changing Narratives Together

Love Potch is proud to highlight its recent collaboration with **Eduvos Potchefstroom** on the second instalment of the "Change the Narrative" campaign video. This partnership exemplifies **Narrative Development** in action, amplifying stories of community, accountability, and shared purpose.

The video showcases how Eduvos's values—entrepreneurial spirit, humanness, and relevance—align seamlessly with Potchefstroom's family-oriented culture.

Education is the most powerful tool for meaningful transformation... Through collaboration, we are not just educating students; we're shaping adaptable, job-ready graduates.

The project reinforces Love Potch's vision of a "connected, forward-thinking city," where education, industry, and community unite to drive tangible change.

Watch the video celebrating our town's spirit: [youtu.be/bM5cyDSb4KQ](https://youtu.be/bM5cyDSb4KQ)

## Love Potch: Community Spirit Blooms in Van der Hoff Park

May witnessed a vibrant display of community action as a dedicated men's group from Potchefstroom joined forces with Love Potch for a morning of service. Rolling up their sleeves, the volunteers tackling the overgrown areas at the corner of Kanaal and Klinkenberg streets within Van der Hoff Park.

Their hard work saw the park transformed, quite literally turning yellow with the cuttings of cleared brush! This initiative directly contributes to creating beautiful, maintained public spaces for all residents to enjoy.

A huge thank you is extended to these gentlemen who got their hands dirty and served their community so willingly. Your effort makes Potch a better place! We also extend our gratitude to every passer-by who offered encouragement, honked in support, or captured the moment. Your positive recognition truly fuels our mission.





### Love Potch Shines Light on Hope with Pregnancy Care Centre

We're thrilled to share a milestone in our Positive Media Campaign! Love Potch recently partnered with Pregnancy Care Centre Potchefstroom (PCC) to film their inaugural video, capturing powerful stories of compassion and transformation.

Behind the scenes, our team witnessed firsthand the profound impact PCC makes in our community—supporting women through crisis pregnancies, offering emotional guidance, and affirming the value of every life.

Watch the inspiring film here:

<https://youtu.be/tZqS1Luiqj4>



## Love Potch Spreads Warmth with Winter Blanket Drive

This winter, **Love Potch**, in partnership with the generous **Makojalo Venue & Guest Farm**, brought tangible warmth to our community through their **Blanket and Winter Clothing Drive**. The initiative was a heartening response to the seasonal chill, directly supporting those most vulnerable on Potchefstroom's streets.

This drive went beyond immediate aid. It embodied community solidarity and provided crucial preventative support against the harsh elements, reinforcing our vision for sustainable care for neighbours facing hardship.

### How Potch Showed Its Warmth:

- **Generous Donations:** The community responded wonderfully, donating piles of gently used and new blankets, jackets, jerseys, scarves, beanies, and other essential winter clothing.
- **Drop-Off Hub:** The **Second Life Goods Store** on Beyers Naude Avenue served as the central collection point.
- **Financial Support:** Many also chose to contribute funds via the Love Potch website, enabling the purchase of additional new blankets where needed.
- **Partnership:** Special thanks to Bernadette and the team at **Makojalo Venue & Guest Farm** for their dedication in driving this initiative.

The success of this drive is a testament to Potchefstroom's caring spirit. Love Potch extends sincere gratitude to everyone who donated items or funds, and to Makojalo for their invaluable collaboration. Together, you truly helped make winter warmer for those in need.



### Love Potch Update: Community Rallies for Kwêla Town of the Year!

Potchefstroom has shown the power of collective effort! We're thrilled to share that Love Potch played a vital role in a significant community achievement earlier this year.

Potch successfully **advanced to the first round** of the prestigious national Kwêla Town of the Year competition! This recognition placed Potchefstroom firmly on the map as a contender for South Africa and Namibia's top town.

**What's Next?** While the intense SMS voting phase has concluded, Potchefstroom remains in the running! The overall winner of the 2025 Kwêla Town of the Year will be announced on **Sunday, 2 August 2025**. We eagerly await the results, proud of the incredible community spirit shown during this campaign.



Image: The Go-To Guy Creations

### Love Paarl Ignites Entrepreneurial Spirit at The Gathering Cafe

Love Paarl successfully hosted a dynamic three-day Entrepreneurial Development course from 3rd to 5th July at **The Gathering Cafe** in Paarl East. Facilitated by the renowned Bill Taylor, the intensive program equipped local entrepreneurs with essential skills and practical tools for business growth and sustainability.

The event perfectly demonstrated our commitment to fostering economic opportunity within the community. Utilising The Gathering Cafe – now managed by Love Paarl as a dedicated community hub – transforming this space into a vibrant centre for learning and connection.

Attendees left energised and better equipped to navigate their business journeys, contributing to Paarl East's growing economic ecosystem.



**‘Strengthening leadership potential through dynamic training’**



### Love Paarl Brews Success with Hospitality Skills Program

Love Paarl continues its vital skills development work within the hospitality sector. Participants successfully completed practical soft skills training within kitchen and restaurant environments, followed by an intensive two-day Barista course.

Recognising the significant demand for skilled baristas in our region, Love Paarl will strategically focus on developing this high-potential career path for local residents, equipping them with sought-after expertise for the future.



# nottingham road.

KWAZULU-NATAL



## Love Notties Annual Golf Classic: A Resounding Success!

Our Love Notties team recently celebrated a fantastic achievement with their Annual Golf Fundraiser. Held over two splendid days in the beautiful KZN Midlands, the event took place amidst the stunning fairways and greens of the prestigious Bosch Hoek and Gowrie Golf Courses.

The tournament was exceptionally well-attended, drawing enthusiastic golfers and supporters from near and far. Participants enjoyed spirited competition, camaraderie, and the magnificent scenery, all whilst contributing to Love Notties' vital community endeavours.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who played, sponsored, volunteered, and supported this flagship event. Your involvement directly fuels Love Notties' ongoing work.



# nottingham road.

KWAZULU-NATAL



## Love Notties Shines!

Our dedicated Love Notties team took to the streets. Armed with enthusiasm and tools, they focused on essential maintenance tasks across the town – clearing litter, tending to public spaces, brightening potholes on the R103 as a safety measure to keep our residents and visitors aware, and ensuring our roadsides reflect the pride we hold in our community.

The initiative not only enhanced Notties' natural beauty but also reinforced our environmental sustainability through focused waste management.

Well done to all involved for keeping our village not just maintained, but truly cherished. Together, we're building a cleaner, greener, and safer Notties for everyone.



## Love Notties Kicks Off Community Spirit with School Football Tournament

Love Notties proudly launched the first in a series of school football tournaments in Nottingham Road this quarter, uniting young talent and local partners in a celebration of community and teamwork.

Supported by Sportstec's expertise in sports development and SPAR's commitment to grassroots initiatives, the event saw pupils from across the district competing with enthusiasm.

This partnership highlights how sport can transform spaces while building skills like leadership and resilience. With more tournaments planned, Love Notties is championing a brighter, more connected future—one match at a time.



## Love Notties Extends Generosity to Silindele Community



Love Notties was delighted to facilitate a meaningful connection recently, ensuring generous donations reached their intended recipients in the Silindele community of Fort Nottingham.

This successful initiative saw vital resources delivered directly to those identified as most in need within Silindele. The act exemplifies our commitment to Social Development, working directly within our communities to provide essential support and alleviate hardship.

It was a powerful demonstration of local compassion in action, strengthening community bonds.

## United for Change: Strategic Vision Event

On 15 May 2025, over 140 leaders, partners, and change-makers gathered at the Warm Karoo for an unforgettable evening. "A Bold and Structured Plan to Transform Our Metro" was unveiled—a vision built on unity, strategic partnerships, and community-driven action. With fun openers, delicious food, networking and a shared commitment to positive change - this event was unforgettable!

Our Love Cities CEO travelled to be a part of this momentous occasion in the Free State, delivering a keynote address that charged the Bloemfontein community to build bridges, unite for change and move from 'waiting for other' to being the change they want to see.

A heartfelt thank you to:

- Beukes van Zyl & TeamBo for your generous sponsorship, setting the tone for an inspiring night.
- Jeandre Smith (NSA Auctioneers) for your incredible MC skills and helping raise vital funds.

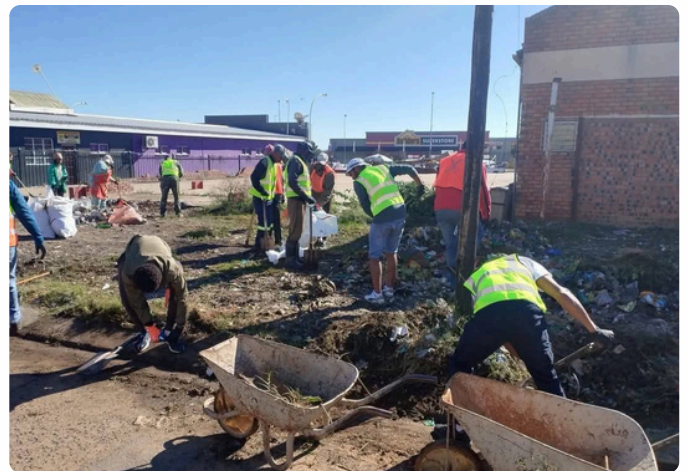


## Restoring Parks, Roads & Community Spaces

What a productive few months it has been for **Love Mangaung**. Through strategic partnerships and unwavering community commitment, we're ensuring safer, cleaner, and more vibrant spaces for all.

### Restoring & Maintaining Public Spaces

- **Glen Road & Lombard Park Clean-Up** – In collaboration with the **Hilton Business Association**, we've tackled litter and overgrowth, ensuring these areas remain welcoming for families.
- **Arthur Nathan Swimming Pool** – Nearly a year after our initial restoration, we're still maintaining this facility, securing the perimeter to prevent vandalism and keeping it clean for future community use.
- **Heidedal Park Revival** – Partnering with the **Heidedal Pastors Commitment**, we've begun restoring this playground, repairing equipment, and ensuring it's safe for children. The community has stepped up to maintain it, and we'll continue supporting their efforts.



## Restoring Parks, Roads & Community Spaces

### Road Safety & Infrastructure

A huge thank you to **Raubex Group Limited**—not only for fixing our roads but also for **painting them**, enhancing safety for motorists and pedestrians alike. We've also addressed parking chaos near **Willem Postma School** by installing no-parking signs—a small change that's made a big difference! And let's not forget: **Every pothole we fix is one less hazard on our roads**. Proper repairs prevent further damage, saving costs in the long run.

### Community-Led Clean-Ups

From **Brandwag** to **Heidedal**, neighbourhood associations have joined hands with Love Mangaung to keep our streets clean. The recent **Heidedal clean-up** was particularly inspiring, with **35 pastors**, volunteers, and sponsors coming together to take ownership of their environment. A special thanks to our sponsors: **Econofoods, Hestony Transport, Johnny Lucky Kitchen Bar, Johnny's Fruit Market, Graphics & Sign Worx, Tiger Wheel & Tyre, iTau Group, and Raubex Group Limited**



## A Fresh New Look - welcoming you to a new vision for Bergville

Love Bergville had the wonderful opportunity to give their beloved town a vibrant makeover! With the generous support of G.M. Hillermann Builders, Mzanzi Painters, and the Okhahlamba Municipality, they were able to brighten up Bergville with a fresh coat of paint—bringing renewed energy and pride to the community.

A special thank you goes out to Zandile, Hopewell, and Dan Neo for their hard work in clearing the drains, ensuring the streets remain clean and safe. Teamwork like this truly embodies the spirit of Love Cities—coming together to create positive, lasting change.



## Changing Our Story

Love Mkhondo, what's our story? It is a story of change. The wheel is turning slowly, but it is turning. Every rotation builds momentum, and we are hopeful that this movement will gather even greater speed in the near future.

Through our local newspaper and growing connections with key role-players in town, Love Mkhondo has been spreading its message of civic pride, care, and community action. But perhaps our most heartwarming achievement so far was on the 1st of May, when over 100 people came together across three different locations to clean up our beloved Mkhondo.

It was a day of smiles, shared dreams, and collective effort—proof that when we unite, we can make a tangible difference. This is just the beginning. Together, we are not only cleaning our streets but also rewriting Mkhondo's story.





## Growing Skills, Harvesting Hope

We believe in empowering communities through sustainable solutions and Love Mpophomeni is doing just that—one seedling at a time.

From **9th to 20th June 2025**, the **Dream Centre** in Mpophomeni buzzed with energy as **Love Mpophomeni**, in partnership with the **uMngeni Local Economic Development Sub-Directorate**, hosted a transformative **Crop Production Training Course**. Designed to equip participants with sustainable farming skills, the two-week program blended theory and hands-on practice, leaving 12 graduates inspired to grow—both literally and economically.



The training covered essential modules for small-scale and urban farming, including seedling production, soil health & fertility, natural pest control, and water management.

Practical sessions featured **tower gardens** (built from recycled materials) and **eco-circle beds**, while field observations sharpened their ability to identify pests and diseases.

A highlight was the **entrepreneurship session**. Topics like budgeting, marketing, and accessing local markets sparked ideas for small agribusinesses. Each student left with seedlings and a tray to start their own garden, plus a journal to track progress—culminating in a **graduation day showcase** of their projects. The course underscored how sustainable agriculture can **fight food insecurity** and **create jobs** in Mpophomeni.



### Brewing Change, One Cup at a Time

Business has the power to transform communities—and Love Mpophomeni is proving it. Partnering with **Fairfield Dairy**, they launched the **Milk & Bread Shop**, a thriving coffee shop and bakery that creates jobs, fuels entrepreneurship, and strengthens the local economy.

More than just a business, it's a **hub of hope**—where opportunity is served daily. Over the past year, this initiative has shown how partnership and vision can rewrite futures in local townships



*Yolanda Moon*



*They serve the most delicious Pizzas and burgers and their milkshakes. I love, love, love the atmosphere around there and their customer service is the best! Very friendly people and amazing vibes. Thank You Kuza Coffee*

*Bathrandwa Ngubane*



*That burger was very satisfying, really enjoyed it. Tasted good and was worth every Cent.*



# become a partner.

Join our growing network of dedicated organisations committed to community transformation. If you or your organisation is passionate about making a meaningful impact and wishes to collaborate with like-minded partners, we'd love to hear from you!

Providing passionate community activists with training, strategic direction, resources, a help desk, events, project toolkits, financial and legal support, links to partners and MORE!

To explore partnership opportunities, please visit our website at [www.lovecities.org.za](http://www.lovecities.org.za) or contact us directly via email at [hello@lovecities.org.za](mailto:hello@lovecities.org.za)



# LEAD.inc online leadership program.

The Love Cities LEAD.inc Academy—a leadership training program in collaboration with NationBuilder— is equipping non-profit leaders across South Africa with practical skills, strategies, and peer support to drive meaningful change in their communities.

Email [academy@lovecities.org.za](mailto:academy@lovecities.org.za) to sign up for the next LEAD.inc co-hort

**This course has achieved what therapy could not accomplish in years. In just a few months, I was able to confront deeply rooted, self-limiting behaviours and patterns of self-sabotage, many of which were fuelled by unresolved trauma.**

**As a leader and project manager, I've experienced a profound shift—I now see things more clearly, with greater emotional awareness, confidence, and clarity in decision-making. *This course has helped me show up more fully for myself and for my team.* I recommend it to everyone on my team—it's been nothing short of transformative."**

**— Sibhekaphi Sibanda, Project Manager  
(READ Education Trust)**



**Nasha**



**Sibhe**

**Over the past five months, participating in the leadership course with Love Cities has been a deeply transformative journey for me. This course has not only equipped me with practical leadership tools but has also encouraged me to reflect on my past, my values, and the patterns that influence how I lead, relate, and respond. It challenged me to confront unprocessed experiences, helping me understand how they shape my behaviour and worldview today. *Through this process, I've redefined what leadership truly means to me—not just as a position, but as a reflection of who I am and what I value most.* It's been an enriching experience, both personally and professionally, and I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity. — Mdimiseni Simphiwe Nasha (Life Changer)**

# upcoming.

## LOVE CITIES SA EVENTS



One of the key ways we support Community Transformation Initiatives across our network is through monthly training and co-lab sessions.

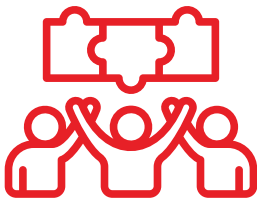
These provide a valuable time for capacity building, sharing of ideas and solution orientated discussions. Please diarise these dates and join us.

| DATE    | TIME          | EVENT   | DETAILS                  |
|---------|---------------|---|--------------------------|
| 10 June | 08:30 - 09:30 | Training Time: Building a High Impact Team              | Speaker: Matt Hogarty    |
| 17 June | 15:00 - 16:00 | Online Info Session: New Partners                       | LC Team                  |
| 26 June | 13:00 - 14:00 | Co-Lab  | Host: Doni Hogarty       |
| 30 Jun  | 08:00         | Quarter 2 Publication Submission                        | All Partners             |
| 1 July  | 12:00         | Launch Young Designers Awards - SA/Africa               | Inscape Design School    |
| 15 July | 08:30-09:30   | EXPO DAY: Potential Products/Services for Social Impact | Host: Matt Hogarty       |
| 18 July | ALL DAY       | Mandela Day: High Impact/Visible Project                | All Partners             |
| 22 July | 15:00 - 16:00 | Online Info Session: New Partners                       | LC Team                  |
| 29 July | 13:00- 14:00  | Co-Lab  | Host: Matt Hogarty       |
| 12 Aug  | 08:30-09:30   | Training Time: Community Narrative Training             | Facilitator: Love Cities |
| 26 Aug  | 08:00- 09:00  | Online Info Session: New Partners                       | LC Team                  |
| 26 Aug  | 13:00- 14:00  | Co-Lab  | Host: Judith Mtsewu      |
| 9 Sept  | 08:30- 09:30  | Training Time: Creating Organisational Efficiency       | Facilitator: Lead Change |
| 24 Sept | ALL DAY       | ONE Braai Day: Unite South Africa                       | All Partners             |
| 30 Sept | 08:00         | Quarter 3 Publication Submission                        | All Partners             |

# support.



## Section 18 (a) Tax Exemption Certificate Available



Participate in our upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.



Consider starting a Love Cities project in your area!



Engage with us on social media to spread the word about our impact and share your stories.



Consider sponsoring a town through our network, providing vital support to kick-start transformation projects.

Zapper™



### **BANKING DETAILS:**

**Love Cities NPC**

Account no: 630 998 48302

Branch no: 220 725

First National Bank Howick



# STAY CONNECTED

Follow our journey on social media for live updates, behind-the-scenes content, and announcements of upcoming events. Your active participation enriches our community and enhances our collective impact



# CONTACT US

[hello@lovecities.org.za](mailto:hello@lovecities.org.za)

[www.lovecities.org.za](http://www.lovecities.org.za)

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**EVERYONE. EVERYWHERE. EMPOWERED.**

# Love Cities' Programs

An icon of a hand holding a plant, symbolizing growth and development.

**PLACE DEVELOPMENT**

Creating beautiful spaces, recycling waste, rehabilitating public parks, maintaining infrastructure, urban renewal projects, and promoting environmental sustainability

An icon of a head with gears and a pencil, symbolizing education and skills.

**SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

Education support services, school outreach, teacher training, work readiness programs, professional skills training, leadership development, and recruitment

An icon of three people with a heart, symbolizing community and social support.

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Preventative education to reduce social ills, poverty measurement, community asset mapping and mobilisation, street stores for poor, counselling support, and disaster relief

An icon of a bar chart with an upward arrow, symbolizing economic growth.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Entrepreneurship development, economic growth support in tourism, in-service training to improve labour productivity, agriculture support, and networking events

An icon of a megaphone and a speech bubble, symbolizing communication and narrative.

**NARRATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Positive media campaigns, storytelling platform, personal and societal narrative workshops, hosting community forums and dialogues, events that promote community



**CONNECT WITH US**



# PLACE YOUR AD HERE

[HELLO@LOVECITIES.ORG.ZA](mailto:HELLO@LOVECITIES.ORG.ZA)

**CONTACT US TODAY**