

# CHRISTMAS

*Dear Valued Supporter*

We have come to the end of busy and successful year. We raised a million rand through the Comrades Race4Charity platform which was an incredible milestone for us, we have launched our new website which aims to connect compassion with community impact, and we are so encouraged by the response to our 'Be a Santa to a Senior' campaign – we are hoping to support two old age homes as a result.

The festive season has, however, come with its opportunists and we have released the following statement on our social media platforms and website... <https://www.communitychest.co.za>

We hope you enjoy reading about our various projects and initiatives to empower and enhance the under-resourced communities we serve and we wish you and your family a peaceful and joyful holiday period.

Please note that our offices close on 15 December and reopen on the 5 January 2026 – ready for a year of growing and sustaining the 111 NPOs we support.

Yours in caring,

Gordon McDonald, Executive Director

## BEWARE

Community Chest has been made aware of fraudsters representing themselves as agents or consultants of the Community Chest who request payment for granting access to Community Chest allocations and even for Community Chest grant application forms.

Please be advised:

- Community Chest works directly with grant applicants and does not employ consultants.
- Applicants will never be requested to make payment to receive application forms nor to submit an application. The whole application process is free of charge.
- Community Chest hosts workshops for first time applicants
- We will be constantly communicating this and monitoring it closely.

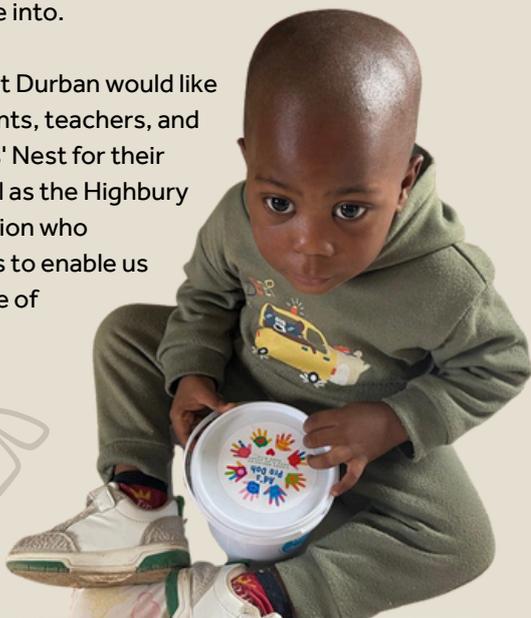


## 107 Gifts from Weavers' Nest

Weavers' Nest Pre-Primary School support Community Chest throughout the year and, this term, were delighted to hand over 107 gifts to Khulakahle Creche based in Inchanga to give to their little learners at the annual Christmas Party. The children at Weavers' Nest bought and wrapped a gift for either a boy or a girl between the ages of two and five years old.

The overwhelming gratitude and excitement from the Chairman of Khulakahle was so lovely to see. He explained that the children had never been blessed like this and he couldn't wait to see their faces when they received a Christmas present which so much thought and care had gone into.

Community Chest Durban would like to thank the parents, teachers, and pupils at Weavers' Nest for their generosity as well as the Highbury Parents' Association who contributed funds to enable us to buy the balance of the gifts needed.



## Adam Visits 21 ECD Centres

Last year, 23 year old Adam Gillespie unexpectedly began to lose his eyesight. It was a shock to him and his family but he decided to make the most of the situation and Project Ad was born!

"Project Ad is the umbrella term for the projects I am currently working on and Ad's Pro Doh is one of them. The homemade play dough is sold and the money raised is used to make additional play dough for under-resourced schools and child care centres. Alternatively, corporates sponsor the Pro Doh to be donated to early childhood development centres," explains Adam.

A corporate donor recently paid for 200 tubs of Pro Doh to be distributed and Adam partnered with Community Chest Durban to make sure they were delivered to those who would get the most use and joy out of them.

Every week since the beginning of November, Adam has visited a different creche with his guide dog, Theo. He has used the opportunity to educate the children on the role of a guide dog and the children got to pet and give gentle Theo treats which was a big hit.



## Be a Comrades Superhero

If you, a family member or friend are running Ultimate Human Race, please consider running for Community Chest Durban and PMB and join the awesome and celebrated Superhero Team. Running from Durban to Pietermaritzburg on Sunday, 14 June 2026 will be an incredible feat, so while you are pushing yourself physically, please consider making every step count for children under the age of five, living in under-resourced communities. The early mornings, hours of pounding the pavement, the blisters, niggles and exhaustion is a given, so become part of the Superhero community and we will support and encourage you every step of the way. The Comrades Marathon will always be so much more than a race, so sign up to run this Ultramarathon for the 7 845 we support through Early Childhood Development Centres.



## Empowering NPOs

Capacity building is an essential part of Community Chest Durban's mission. We offered training to 23 Early Childhood Development (ECD) organisations that we support with grant funding, to ensure that they are running their NPO optimally and working towards sustainability and self-sufficiency.

Community Chest is deeply grateful to World Relief Australia for their generous investment in knowledge and skills that helps to ensure that ECD organisations are better equipped to sustain their work and create lasting impact.

Participants learned and strengthened their skills in:

- \* Writing effective funding proposals
- \* Formulating an annual fundraising plan
- \* Leveraging social media marketing
- \* Hosting special events
- \* Compiling a newsletter



## Golf Day with Umduduzi

Our annual golf day with Umduduzi Hospice Care for Children will take place on Friday, 24 April. Please support this fun event by becoming a naming rights sponsor, taking a four-ball, sponsoring a tee or donating a prize. Contact [fadeela@communitychest.co.za](mailto:fadeela@communitychest.co.za) for more information.



# 1000+ Years of Giving!

On 26 November 2025, Community Chest Durban and their remarkable individual donors gathered for the first time, to celebrate an extraordinary milestone – the unwavering dedication and loyalty of their cherished donors who have been supporting their cause for over two decades. "Your generosity has been the cornerstone of our success and the beacon of hope for those we serve", said Rashilla Francis, Donor Stewardship/Bequest Officer.



Director of Community Chest Durban, Gordon McDonald, said: "Your commitment transcends mere donations; it reflects a profound belief in our mission and a heartfelt desire to make a lasting difference". He also emphasised that 100% of donations received is 100% that is distributed.

A donor of 33 years, Denise Guy, said: "After reading through your Annual Report, which in itself was a revelation, it has given me a new perspective on the vital role that Community Chest Durban plays in KZN".

If you would like to make a lasting impact, please contact Rashilla Francis on 031 3033890 or email [rashilla@communitychest.co.za](mailto:rashilla@communitychest.co.za)



## 16 Days of Activism

As the world marks the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Community Chest has received a generous donation of R20 000 from Scorpion Legal Protection for The Open Door Crisis Centre in Pinetown.

Thora Mansfield, founder and director, notes that access to justice remains a complex challenge for victims of violence, rape, child abuse and trafficking. With 28 years of experience, The Open Door works with courts, SAPS and partner organisations to help victims obtain protection, safety and legal support. Ikhaya Le Themba, run by The Open Door, was the first shelter in KwaZulu-Natal to support victims of gender-based violence and trafficking, offering counselling, court support and reintegration.

Community Chest is deeply grateful to Scorpion Legal Protection for enabling this vital work and standing in solidarity with survivors. Together we are building pathways to safety, empowerment and hope.

