

Dear Valued Supporter

HONOURING OUR TOP DONORS

Community Chest Durban hosted our Annual Top Donor Awards at the Riverside Hotel, bringing together the donors, sponsors, volunteers, Board members and partners who continue to support communities across Durban and the coastal region of KwaZulu-Natal.

Over the past year, Community Chest Durban increased total grants by 10%, allocating R22.2 million to 111 Community Impact partners. Through this support, 2 307 children attended Early Childhood Development Centres, 853 children were supported in Child and Youth Care Centres, 4 535 high school learners received additional STEM support, and 16 010 young people were empowered to build skills, resilience and make positive choices.

Our support also reached 19 422 women and children through the gender-based violence sector, while 5 235 indigent elderly people received essential services.

We extend our sincere thanks for your trust, generosity and continued commitment. Together, we are strengthening communities and helping create better opportunities for people across our region.

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and the fundraising events and initiatives we have been involved in over the past couple of months.

Yours in caring,



Gordon McDonald
Executive Director



R1.2million Raised through the 2026 Comrades Marathon

This year, the Community Chest Race4Charity campaign, sign-up donations, exhibition sales and car ticket sales raised an incredible R1.2 million to support Early Childhood Development centres across KwaZulu-Natal. These funds will help provide under-resourced children with the nutrition, education and social skills they need during the most important years of their development.

Congratulations to Mahesh Ratanjee, who was once again the campaign's highest fundraiser, raising an outstanding R304 002. His dedication shows what is possible when passion meets purpose.

With the historic 100th Comrades Marathon taking place in 2027, we look forward to welcoming even more superheroes to help change the lives of children across KwaZulu-Natal. The finish line marks the end of a race, but for thousands of children, your generosity is helping to create a brighter beginning.



St Mary's and Kearsney Pupils were back

Kearsney College and St Mary's DSG Kloof pupils frequented Watercrest Mall to sell car raffle tickets for the Comrades Marathon 2026 Car Competition. The winner of the beautiful Corolla Cross was announced on race day and all proceeds from Community Chest's ticket sales went to Early Childhood Development which provides the right foundation for a successful and impactful life.

The students will be back in 2027 with the goal of selling 500 tickets for children under the age of five living in under-resourced communities.



Big Top Rock

An unforgettable night of music, thrills, and circus magic was held at the Barnyard. From Queen and AC/DC to Pink and Billy Eilish, iconic hits came alive with a live band, aerial act and powerhouse vocalists.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event, our Race4Charity runners, and the Comrades Marathon car competition. It was a brilliant show and the atmosphere was electric!



Weavers' Nest Three Years of Giving

For the third consecutive year, the pupils, parents and staff of Weavers' Nest Pre-Primary School have shown their generosity by supporting Community Chest Durban and ECD Centres in under-resourced communities.

Each term, the school takes on a different collection, teaching children the importance of kindness, generosity and helping others.

In Term One, pupils collected an impressive 200 tins, which were donated to Genesis Pre-School, one of the 111 NPOs supported through Community Chest's monthly funding programme.

Term Two saw the collection of stationery for Indumiso Creche and Pre-School in Dassenhoek, Pinetown, providing valuable resources for young learners and teachers. In Term Three, the school's 'Sparkle and Shine' collection benefited Khulakahle Crèche in Cato Manor with cleaning supplies, clothing, paper towels and soaps.

For Term Four, pupils will bring Christmas gifts for boys and girls under five, which will be donated to the 1000 Hills Community Helpers' annual Christmas Party. Thank you, Weavers' Nest, for making a difference, one collection at a time.



Project Adam Gets Involved

A wonderful morning of fun and education was had at Genesis Pre-school in Molweni when Adam Gillespie and guide dog Theo from Project Adam came to visit, talk about the role of a guide dog and hand out Project Adam Pro Doh.

Community Chest is so grateful that Adam chose the ECD Centres that we support to visit and donate play dough to. The mornings are always joyful and inspiring and the play dough is a firm favourite with the little learners and their teachers.



Wishlist Items & Blankets for Mandela Month

This Mandela Month, Community Chest Durban was proud to see the spirit of giving reflected through the generosity of our valued partners.

Concord Access Solutions' Durban team supported St Monica's Child and Youth Care Centre, one of our Community Impact Partners, by donating items from the centre's Wishlist.

DUT's CHS Department donated 11 blankets to Sacred Heart Child and Youth Care Centre, with every staff member contributing a blanket to help bring warmth, comfort and dignity to vulnerable children. Gelmar further contributed blankets to Sacred Heart, bringing much-needed additional support to the centre.

Community Chest Durban extends its heartfelt appreciation to Concord Access Solutions, DUT and Gelmar for helping us honour Nelson Mandela's legacy through practical acts of kindness and generosity.

Capacity Building

On 12 May, Community Chest Deputy Director Zama Masondo led a capacity-building workshop for ECD Practitioners at St Joseph Catholic Church, focusing on funding application feedback, compliance and reporting requirements, and strengthening future applications.

On 9 July, a fundraising training session equipped beneficiary organisations with practical guidance on fundraising strategy, event planning, social media, proposal writing and donor communication. Supported by World Relief Australia and The Victor Daitz Foundation, these initiatives strengthen organisations' skills, sustainability and ability to serve their communities.

