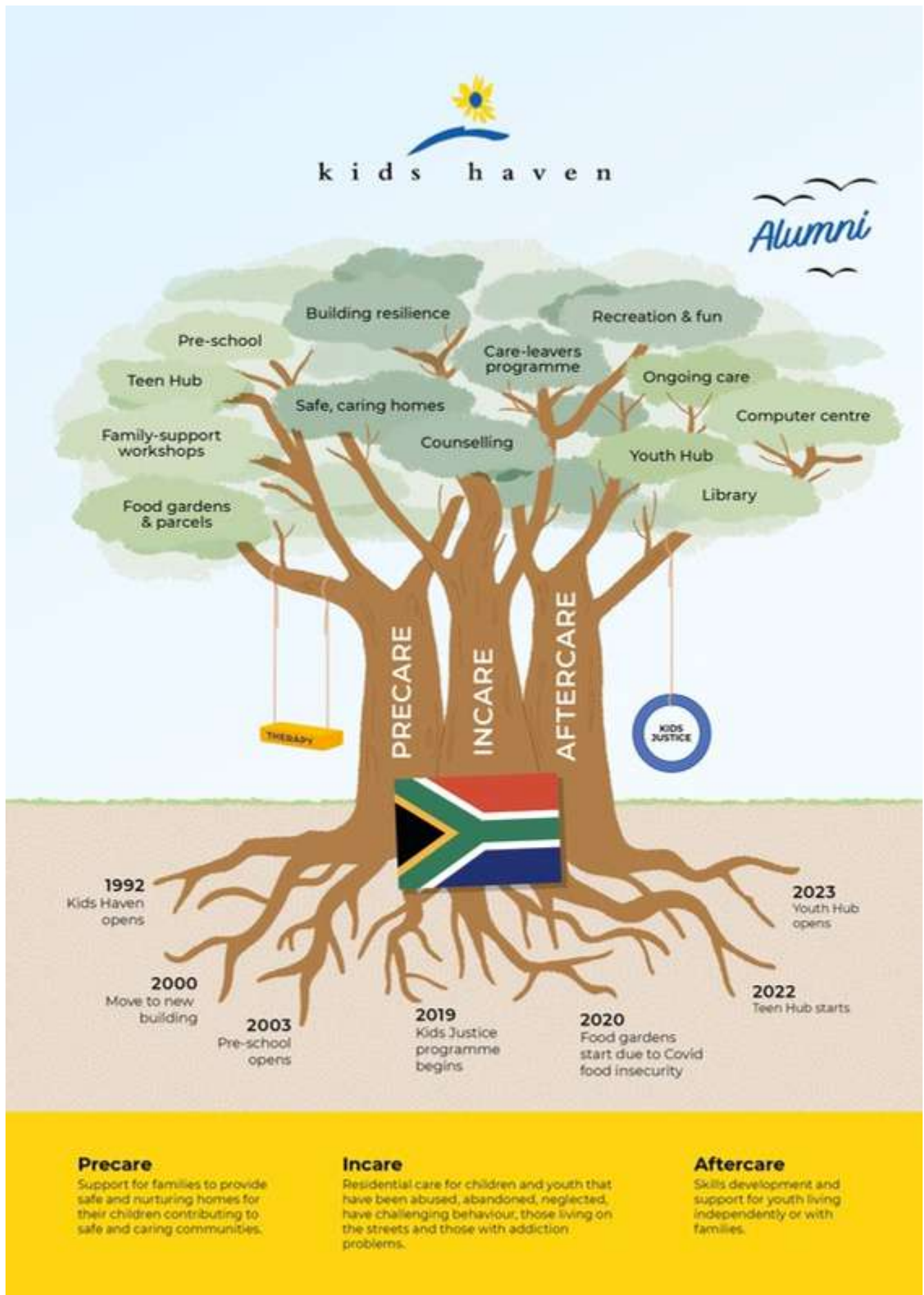

IMPACT REPORT 2024/5



THE KIDS HAVEN TREE - THREE BRANCHES OF CARE



A WORD FROM OUR CEO

Thirty-three years on and we are still opening our doors and hearts to children and young people – this is a blessing we continue to celebrate at the end of every financial year and this year is no different.



We are delighted with our Pathway Program which has ramped up this year and accelerated networking opportunities for our youth. This has led to an increasing absorption of youth into employment which is fundamentally life changing for these young people. Employment offers a chance to break out of the poverty cycle and independence which is what we want for all those who come to Kids Haven.

Our Preventative Care continues to grow in community development. We focused on restructuring our food garden strategy this year to hone in on champions who are serious about the initiative and actively involved. We are now assisting just over 200 gardens that are sustainable and manageable. We are very proud of this initiative that we have consistently continued post Covid. It has also been an incredible way to reach community members and families which has led to us rendering other programmes such as Positive Parenting and anti-Gender Based Violence which have grown from strength to strength. We believe this strategy closely aligns with where the country is going – to strengthen families so that children can stay or return to their families.

On the downside the Department of Social Development (DSD) funding was challenging. Extreme compliance issues were put before us and this is becoming an ever-increasing problem. The money required to meet these compliance standards wasn't budgeted for so it meant dipping into our funds. This threatens the very existence of the organisation and the funds we have to keep generating. As a result, we now have to rethink our organisational strategy to mitigate against this risk – to think beyond DSD funding. We are continuously trying to strengthen our relationship with DSD for a good partnership and to enable them to understand Kids Haven entirely. We are still hopeful that this will work towards easing frustrations felt by the NGO sector as a whole. Time will tell.

Improvement in our infrastructure this year has included a new hall roof and solar panels on six of the houses in our Village, the administration and the annex buildings. We have also started renovations for the new kitchen at the Village which is ongoing. We believe that the money invested in renovating infrastructure reflects who we say we are. Having the available capital expenditure for infrastructure improvements is an achievement in itself. Better infrastructure equals better compliance at the end of the day. It has also significantly and positively impacted our children. Having solar power means the children can continue life as normal even when there are power cuts or outages.

We were also experiencing major issues with water pressure. Thanks to the relationship we have fostered with Engineers Without Borders over the last few years, they assisted us with increasing the water pressure. Our children can now have proper, warm showers again. We want our children to grow up having access to clean, hot water and power, to be loved, protected and cared for.

We can only reach these remarkable milestones with the support of our staff, board, the Benoni community and companies that believe in our cause. We are so grateful to our many donors who step in to help us every day. You are all behind the numbers of children and young people we continue to serve in our care. They are the future nation of this country. You are part of the continued success story of Kids Haven. Thank you for opening your hearts to us. We appreciate you. Every smile, every heart healed and every life changed makes it all worth it.

Sam Mokgopha - CEO of Kids Haven



PRECARE

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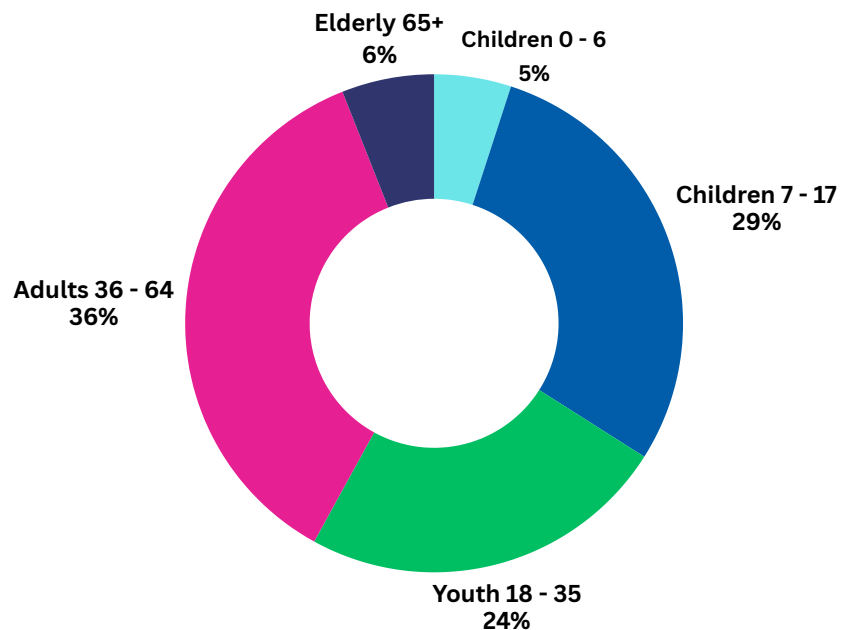


people per month on
average received direct
services

1 314



people assisted in total



Food gardens

385 home-based **food gardens** in communities in Mayfield, Barcelona and Nigel, and with the aftercare youth in Benoni.



Pre-school

57 children attended the pre-school programme with an average of **35** children coming per day. **18** graduated in December 2024.



Teen Hub

130 teens and young people still in school have enjoyed this safe space to complete homework and solve both school and social problems collectively.



Family-strengthening workshops

548 clients attended workshops tackling topics such as gender-based violence, parenting, mental health awareness, family strengthening, men and boys dialogues, and more.



Resources and food support

424 clients feeding up to **4** family members received food support. **526** food parcels and food vouchers (valued at R350 each), **1 209** single meal-in-a-bags and **254** blankets were distributed providing much relief to families.

INCARE



Admissions and leavers

193 children and teenagers lived at Kids Haven in this year.



38 new admissions

- Severe neglect is the most prevalent reason for admission, followed by admissions for uncontrollable behaviour. Abuse follows closely. Parental neglect and lack of protection and care for children gives rise to the abuse of children, and the development of challenging behaviour.

40 left during the year

- **64%** were reunified with family
- 24% started living independently
- 4 children absconded and did not return



Education

Every child living Incare participates in education. On average each month from Jan - Dec 2024 we had:

Formal school
81% of children

**Bridging school
programme**
7% of children

**Schools for
special needs**
9% of children

Pre-school
3% of children



Care-leavers programme

22 children aged 16 and over participated in 370 care-leaver workshops intentionally preparing them to exit care.



AFTERCARE

267 young people and children were assisted through various Aftercare activities.



Youth Hub - Pathway Programme

The Youth Hub focuses on job skills and work readiness through the Pathway Programme, which started in June 2024.



KIDS JUSTICE

The Kids Justice team assisted **100** clients in the community during the year. **23** clients received citizenship and other documentation with the additional cases still ongoing. Kids Haven facilitates DNA testing, interviews, and family tracing in order to secure late birth registrations for citizens.

KIDS THERAPY

During the year **12** community clients received therapy and **15** Incare children received multiple therapy sessions at Kids Haven. The therapist works one day per week and helps children and adults alike who have been exposed to abuse, violence and neglect.

MAKING AN IMPACT



- **8 of our young people passed matric** at the end of 2024. Four received University exemptions. One received four distinctions and was a top achiever in Ekurhuleni. We are exceptionally proud of them all.



- We invested in much-needed **upgrades to our facilities** including water tanks for rain harvesting, the installation of solar panels and started the project to improve the water supply and pressure for showers, while building a new roof for the hall. All these projects ensure the sustainability of Kids Haven and were donor funded.

- We were proud to be **selected by the World Health Organisation** to be one of the Innovation presenters in December showcasing research into practice, talking about the research we were involved in during 2022 co-creating mental health support with young people, and how we have been using this same approach with In2Position NPC managed by Quintin Tovey, who uses football to bring meaningful mental health support through coaches.
- At a governance level, we implemented updates to policies and began an organization-wide initiative to update all Standard Operating Procedures which continues in 2025. Board meetings ran as planned along with the Board sub-committees of finance, HR, and childcare.



- The **new Pathway Program launched** in June 2024 and the feedback from the young people has been very positive. The Basic Computers Skills training part of the 12-week program means young people, who have never worked with a laptop/computer before, are now able to prepare their own presentations, submit CVs and more. The jump in confidence and skills level is remarkable to witness.

Simon's Story: From Struggle to Self-Sufficiency

When Simon* joined the Pathway Program in June 2024, he barely spoke. Quiet and reserved, he appeared to struggle with English and carried the weight of his personal challenges silently. But he showed up. Every single time. The Pathway team quickly recognised his commitment and quietly stepped in providing food parcels, clothing, and support to ease the pressure at home. He often came to Kids Haven for lunch, a safe space in his uncertain world. During the program's workplace visits, something shifted. Simon's talent with his hands became undeniable. He had some experience with panel beaters near his home, and the team connected him with Philip*, a former Kids Haven youth, now thriving at a local panel beating shop. Under Philip's mentorship, Simon flourished. Today, Simon is a full-time employee, valued for his skill and work ethic. He's even moved into his own place in Benoni, independent and proud. He no longer comes to Kids Haven for lunch... because now, he buys his own.

Queen's Story: Baking Her Way Back to Life

Queen knows what it feels like to be written off. After losing her parents, she moved to Gauteng and found herself completely alone. That's when a concerned neighbour called in social workers and Queen arrived at Kids Haven. It was 2020. She was 17, lost, and emotionally shattered. But what she found wasn't just a place to stay - it was a place to heal. Through therapy and support, Queen slowly began to recover. When she was ready, Kids Haven helped her enrol at Wattville Community Learning Centre. She worked hard, driven by a passion for food security and agricultural sciences. But fate had another plan - baking. In 2024, she joined the Youth Hub and entered a baking learnership. She struggled at first. Her first loaves were disasters, but she kept going. Bit by bit, she learned. Today, she can bake anything from cakes to croissants and is close to qualifying as a pastry chef. She's building a future, one recipe at a time. "They didn't just give me food and shelter," she says. "They gave me belief in myself."



*Names have been changed to protect the identity of these individuals.

- Through our Connect Parenting Workshops, the attending **mothers were encouraged to write their stories** including painful moments, moments of joy, their experience of being parented and parenting, and how the workshops have formed new ways of thinking. The stories are incredibly powerful. We are seeing cycles of abusive parenting being broken and mothers finally really connecting with their children. The stories have been put into a book to be published. We are proud of these courageous women.

"On the 10-week programme, I learned that teenagers behave the way they feel. All behaviour has meaning. I used to shout at my 14-year old and beat him up. On the e-Connect Programme I've learned to deal with my problems and not affect the kids in the process. We are taught and provided with new perspectives on the parent-teen relationship and adolescent development. I learned that the way these teens think and behave is because they need attention. We need to understand them, show them love and support. Mostly, when I balance my needs it becomes easier to balance theirs too. I have learned to make myself happy first, treat myself once in a while."



Why we wrote our stories

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.

In a Kids Haven session on parenting, we found ourselves weeping as we shared our challenges as mothers and caregivers – with motherhood, teenage tantrums and the responsibilities that lie on each of our shoulders to nurture kids who will lead the nation tomorrow.

We shared our life stories, atrocities that moulded who we are today. A parenting session had swiftly turned into a therapy session for our group of women.

Our stories in this book are vulnerable gifts that we share with each reader. We hope you uncover lessons from them.

We did then what we knew to do and now we know better, do better, and refuse to be reduced by life events." - Bongzi Zulu and Sonto Nhawuswa

Developing Agency and being in charge: Shona always came to the **Pathways Program** sessions wearing black, with earphones in, a hoodie pulled up and hardly spoke. He was very introverted and shy but never missed a session. The Pathways team through a counsellor tried to encourage him to open up but his reply was always, 'I'm not ready yet'.

He completed the 12-week course which started in June 2024 and in November of the same year, the Pathways team received a message from Shona's family saying he had got a job working as a butcher at a large, entertainment venue. Then in May 2025, his aunt contacted Kids Haven thanking the team for all they had done for Shona because he had applied to a college in Mpumalanga and was accepted to do a diploma in Assistant Managing. He is now staying with his family in Mpumalanga while he attends college. From that highly introverted young man, Shona has grown into an employable, confident person and he's done it all on his own. He is walking his path.



At 16, Mbali used to rush home after school to an empty house, her parents still at work. Homework piled up, distractions were endless, and some days, she just felt alone. But everything changed when she discovered Kids Haven's **Teen Hub**, an after-school program that became her second home.

Now, instead of staring at her phone for hours, Mbali spends her afternoons in a vibrant space filled with laughter and learning. She gets one-on-one tutoring when math gets impossible and Mr Andrew always makes it feel possible, and her grades have improved because of it. When stress builds up, she joins mental health sessions with Miss Shiluva and Miss Nicole where she learns coping strategies and finds support from peers who understand.

But Teen Hub isn't just about academics—**it's where Mbali discovered her voice**. Through GBV awareness workshops, she learned about healthy relationships and empowerment. On lighter days, she shoots hoops with friends in the courtyard, cheers during movie nights, or just relaxes in a space where she feels safe, seen, and valued.

For Mbali, Teen Hub isn't just a program—it's the reason she walks taller, dreams bigger, and knows she's not alone. And with the help of generous donors, more teens like her can find the same guidance, friendship, and hope for a brighter future.

FINANCES AND SUPPORT

GENERAL

Kids Haven remains grateful to the community of support providing much-needed funding and in-kind donations so that we are able to consistently deliver all activities in the year. The fundraising team worked hard over the twelve months to share the Kids Haven story and demonstrate the impact of this work to a range of donors. We truly believe that every Rand matters and treat every donor respectfully and every donation with gratitude. The economy remains constrained and there is less available for charities although the need for our services remains greater than ever, especially the financial need to support young people stepping into adulthood. We thank several multi-year supporters such as Kinderfonds Mamas, the RES Foundation, The RB Hagart Trust and the Adele Drechmeier Trust among others for many years of support for Kids Haven. We appreciate our monthly donors, some like Jan L Jordaan Inc who opened debit orders way back in 2001. Thank you for staying the course with Kids Haven and investing in the protection and care of children.

Throughout the year, the Finance sub-committee kept a sharp eye on the income and expenditure. A special thanks to treasurer, Nicole Naidoo, for steering the process and to the accountant, Charlotte Phillips, for keeping an immaculate set of management accounts. Sam Mokgopha and the staff team have kept a close eye on spending and we note that we were able to keep some of the 'more difficult' line items under budget including FOOD costs, cleaning costs, and maintenance. Our determination to address maintenance needs with urgency means that small problems don't become big expensive problems because we deal with them as quickly and as competently as we can. A special thanks to Facilities Manager, James Courtenay for his vigilance and vast skills to fix anything and everything.



Our biggest expense in human services is always staff salaries. Once again, Kids Haven stuck to our budget and only recorded a small over-spend of 1% on our budgeted expenditure for staff. All our staff earn above minimum wage and Kids Haven is doing all that we can to remunerate staff fairly. Our human resources are key to the impact of our work. Our staff are the hands and hearts that protect and care for children, families, and young people. We appreciate their hard work and dedication to Kids Haven.

We also record our appreciation to pro bono attorneys Norton Rose Fulbright, especially Candice Pillay, who provided immediate advice on 21st June 2024 when Kids Haven received notice from the Gauteng Department of Social Development (GDSD) declining funding for the 2024 2025 year. The Kids Haven Board convened immediately and followed advice to submit a full report proving that the list of reasons given not to fund Kids Haven, could be easily disputed. This report, packed with evidence, was produced for the Department within 24 hours. Kids Haven was one of several Organisations called to meet with representatives of the GDSD on the 26th of June 2024 and given the opportunity to talk to the evidence we had. Kids Haven received written confirmation from the GDSD on the 2nd of July 2024 reinstating the funding. This was a highly challenging few days for the Organisation, following months of no funding from April 2024 and no communication from the Department. Kids Haven finally received grant funding in July 2024 in the second quarter of the financial year.



INCOME

Kids Haven offers services to protect and care for children across our model of Three Pillars of Care.

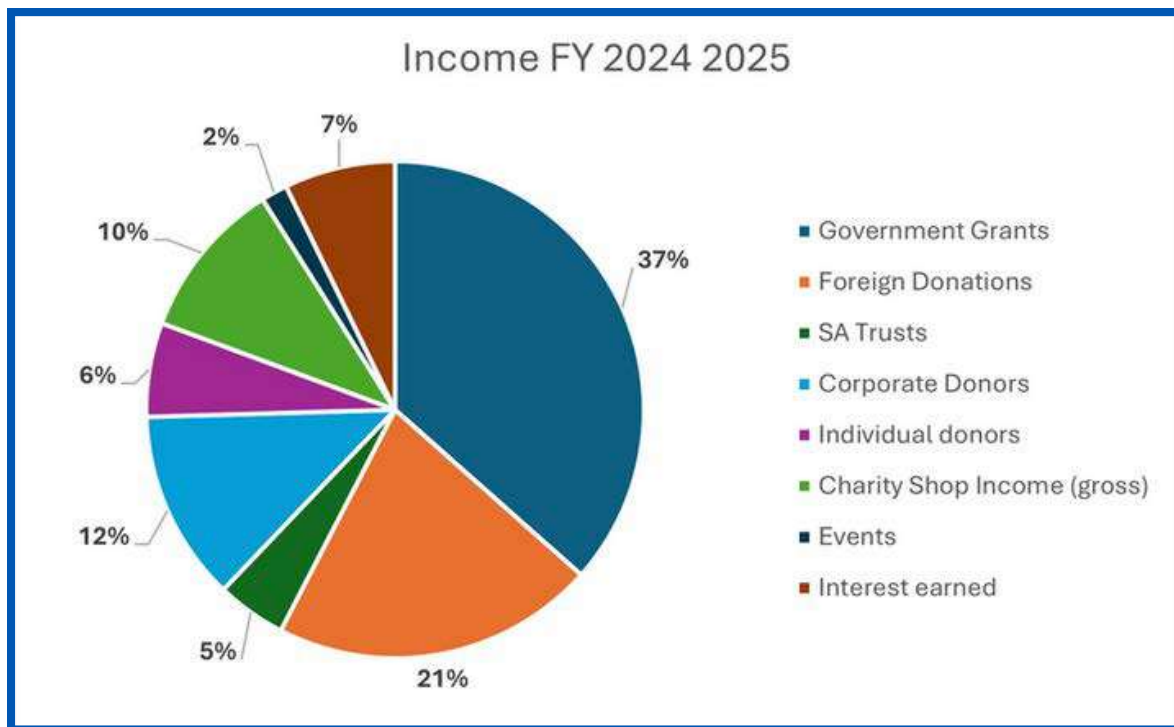


The Gauteng Department of Social Development provides 71% funding of the Kids Haven Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC) which forms the Residential pillar. GDSD does not provide any funding towards schooling of children living in care and sufficient funding for all social workers and four childcare workers. The GDSD does not provide any funding for the Kids Haven prevention and early intervention work in the Family Care Pillar, or to the independent living and youth services work of the Youth Care Pillar.

At an Organisation level, the GDSD funding is 36% of all income received at Kids Haven. The Gauteng Department of Basic Education provides 41% of funding for the registered Kids Haven Preschool, one of the programmes within the Family Care Pillar. Kids Haven is grateful that this has increased to 58% in FY26. All other activities within Family Care, including topping up funding for the Preschool, are funded through donor support.

The combined value of State funding is 37% for the Organisation.

GDSD funding for the residential care has remained unchanged in three years although costs have increased in this time. The tracked actual cost to support a child incare is R 7 022 in FY25. The GDSD offers a subsidy of R 4 120 per child. Kids Haven closes the gap of R 2900 through donor funding. The GDSD subsidy of R 4 120 per child is unchanged since 23/24.



Kids Haven recorded an increase in income for FY25 of 6% over the previous year. Income from international donors and South African Corporate donors has increased this year whereas income from South African Trusts and Individuals has decreased. Several Trusts have closed.

ALL properties have now been transferred out of the Kids Haven Trust into the NPC and the balance sheet reflects the value of all the properties owned by the Kids Haven NPC. Transfer took place in Fy24 and Fy25. There are no other buildings. The Kids Haven NPC has always maintained the buildings and it was an administrative move from the Trust (now closing) to the NPC.

Income earned in the charity shop is 2% lower than last year although it feels as if we have worked as hard as ever to collect donations! Shifts in behaviour and the economic pinch mean that many more people are selling their goods themselves and no longer donating to charity, or donating 'what is left' to charity. There are also more charity shops, thrift shops and WhatsApp or other groups who are trading in second hand goods. Kids Haven continues to encourage donations and has increased our prices slightly in the charity shop to mitigate this loss in FY26. We do still keep prices low because we want our shop to help the poor. There are more than 40 women who buy goods from our charity shop to on-sell in their own micro businesses.



Kids Haven appreciates the help of Sue Matthew and the volunteers who diligently sort and pack books for Book Sales and Fairs to raise additional income for the charity shop.

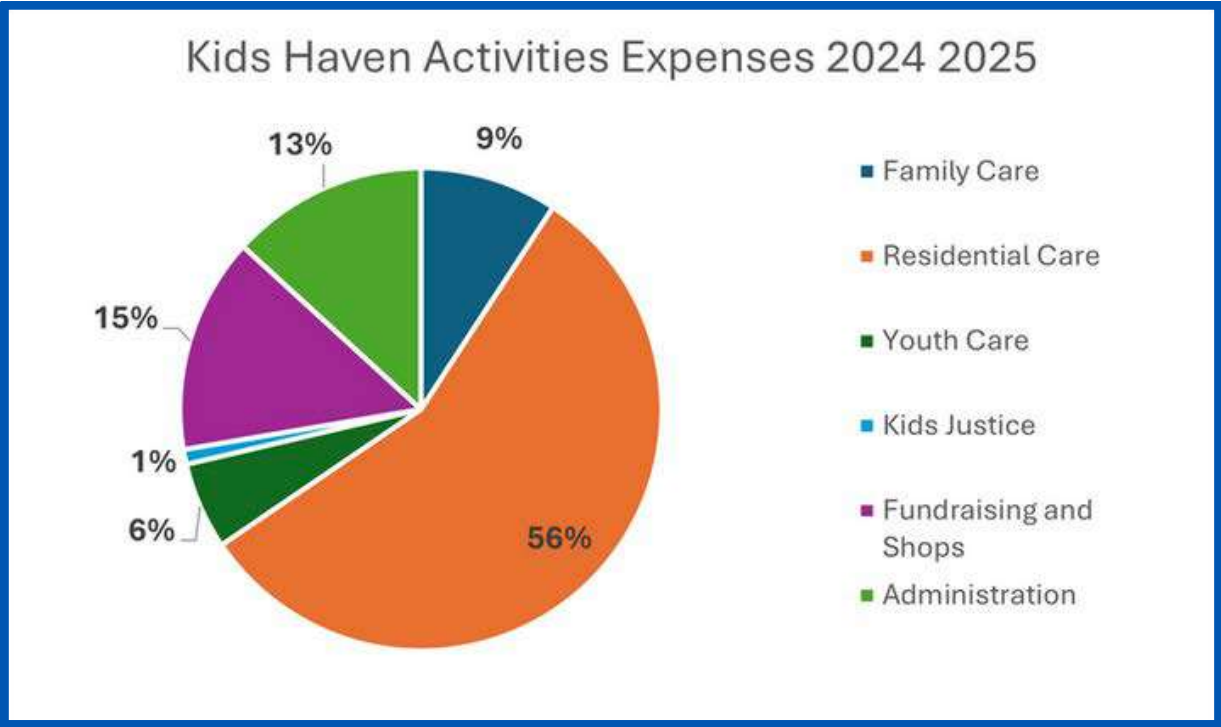
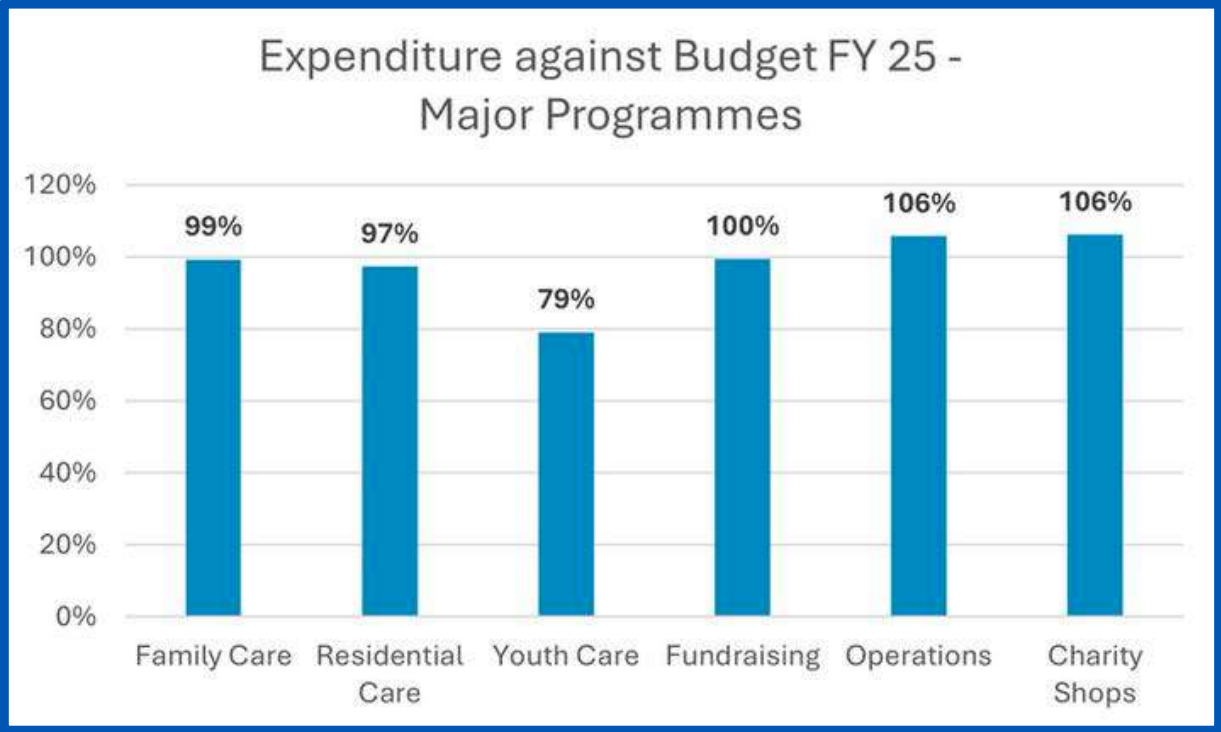
The Organisation is profoundly grateful to every donor who supports the protection and care of children.

THE MORE YOU LOVE
CHILDREN,
THE MORE THEY LEARN TO
LOVE OTHERS.
– A.D. WILLIAMS.

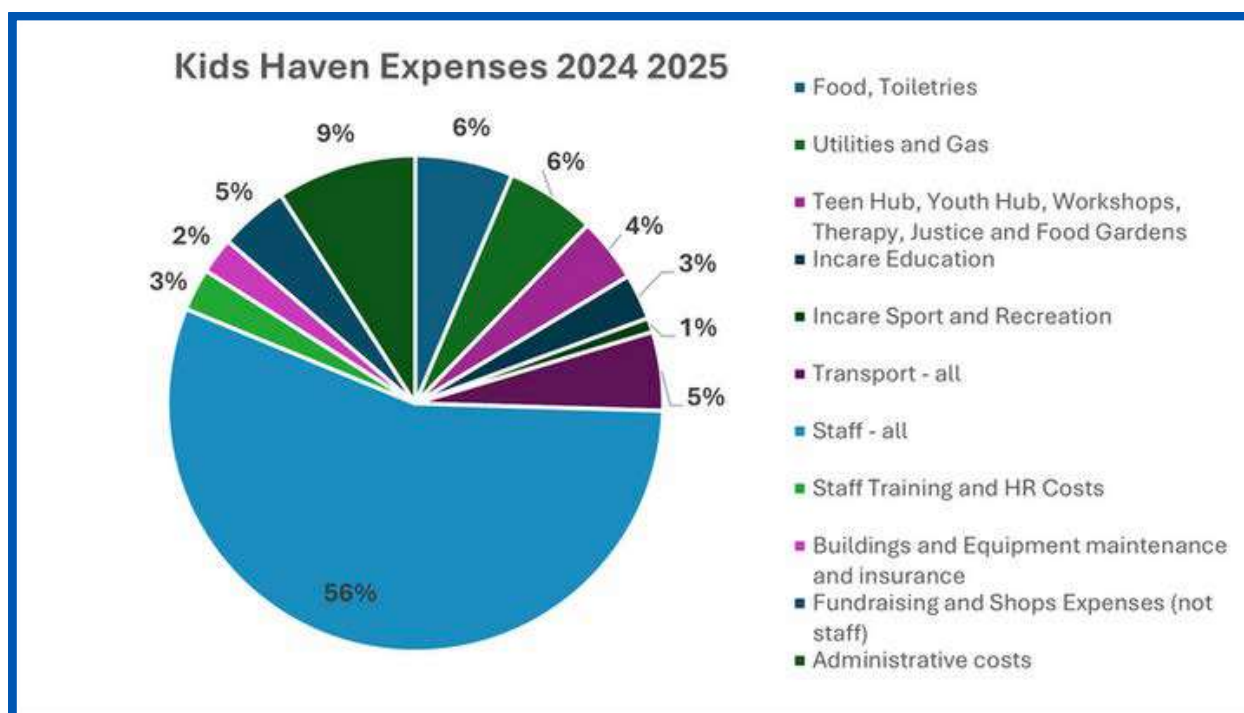


EXPENSES

Kids Haven has maintained expenditure in line with the Budget for FY2025.



Expenditure across the Pillars of Care and Activities at Kids Haven FY25



Expenditure across the main expenses for the whole Organisation in FY25

Capital Projects in FY25 – Kids Haven only embarks on capital projects and major renovations with guaranteed and designated funding.

1. Kids Haven installed solar panels for five of six houses at the Kids Haven Village. Thank you to Kinderfonds Mamas for this investment in solar energy for the Village, and for more investment in solar power for buildings in Cranbourne Avenue taking place in FY26.
2. Kids Haven completed a major roof repair and renovation of the hall in the Kids Haven Centre for Teenage Boys in Cranbourne Avenue. We had anticipated changing the roof sheeting only and discovered that the support trusses were very weak due to age and the brick gable needed to be rebuilt to support the weight of the trusses and the beams. We are grateful to an international funder for providing the funding to make this building safe.





In FY26 Kids Haven will be solving the problem of low water pressure to the Boys centre through a joint project with Engineers Without Borders -SA and the South African Muslim Charitable Trust to provide water tanks with solar-powered heat pumps to guarantee water for showers, basins and toilets for the 62 teenage boys living here. Scoping for this project started in FY2025 and it was completed in August 2025.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Kids Haven extends sincere appreciation to local and international Trusts, South African companies, and individuals and the Department of Social Development. Your generous support ensures Kids Haven can continue to proudly serve its communities and protect and care for its children and young people.



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