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Kids Haven protects and cares for children in crisis, and empowers families, children and communities to build safe and caring spaces for all.

FOOD GARDENS

Who is it for:

Individuals living in communities in Marikana, Windmill Park, Chris Hani, Petit, Mayfield, Msholoz, Barcelona, Nigel, and in the aftercare youth in Benoni. We want every family to have their own small vegetable garden in their yard to grow extra food and supplement their meals with healthy vegetables.

Where and when:

The home-based food gardens are an ongoing project with the current gardens continuously being reseeded and harvested and new gardens being planted in communities around Benoni like Marikana (KwaThema), Windmill Park, Chris Hani, Petit, Mayfield, Msholoz, Barcelona, Nigel and Benoni.

Key outcome:

The food gardens were started in response to food shortages experienced during the pandemic. The key outcome is to empower families to care for themselves, with Kids Haven's support so that they always have something to eat. Formal training and short workshops are conducted with garden champions on composting, financial management and good nutrition.

Additional outcome:

Growers, their families, and their communities are learning about and eating nutritious food. This initiative has instilled a sense of pride and achievement for many people as they can now feed their families and others.

Garden champions are elected in each community to support 25 growers in their neighbourhood. The champions are key to the success of this project. The champions provide hands-on help to the 25 growers in their network, share information with Kids Haven and help to monitor the success of the gardens.

Results 2025:

- 182 gardens were supported by Kids Haven and are operational and producing food.
- 60% of growers grow for their own use.
- 20% of growers grow for themselves and share with others.
- 20% of growers sell excess produce.

Cost:

R60 per garden per month or R700 per garden per year to provide training, seeds, compost, and gardening tools.

A garden champion earns a stipend of R 1500 per month.

The annual budget for the programme is R127 233.

How to help:

- **Funding**

Sponsor a garden per month – R60

Sponsor a garden for a year – R700

Sponsor the garden awards event to reward the best growers in a community. Five winners per community receive gift cards. Every community celebrates the garden awards. Kids Haven needs R20 000 to buy gift cards annually.

Donate any amount on a monthly or annual basis

- **Donation of seeds, plants and compost**

Donations of seed packets (full or already opened), seedlings, plants, pots and compost are always well received.

- **Donation of gardening tools**

Donations of new or pre-loved gardening tools are appreciated.

- **Skills sharing**

If you are an avid gardener or run a gardening service and would be willing to upskill our gardeners, we would appreciate any time you could offer to Kids Haven.

- **Volunteer involvement**

Come and get a garden started with our Kids Haven staff and community members. The hours you spend with us will ensure a family enjoys healthy, home-grown food in the months to come.