



HIGHLIGHTS

- **178 children and youth** lived in a home where they were protected, loved, helped through trauma, went to school, and played - finding joy in their Kids Haven family. **This is always our greatest impact.**
- Our **Pathway Programme is changing the lives of young people.** We successfully hosted two company networking events - one in 2025 and one in 2026. Twenty-two of our young people are currently employed. Four young people started learnerships and several others went into various training opportunities. Our student at Rhodes University completed her first year with top marks and is well into her second year. We are exceptionally proud of them all.
- **Sustainability of our facilities** is always a priority and, with the continued support and expertise from Engineers without Borders and funding from the SAMCT, heat pumps were added to the water system that was upgraded last financial year at the Centre. This means we now have an improved water supply with good pressure for showers and hot water for all our children. We also built a centralised kitchen at the Village which uses gas and has a sustainable water supply thereby reducing costs. The solar panels at the Village, Centre and Admin ensure monthly savings in electricity since installation.
- A **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) lab** was opened at our Village. Our children and young people can now actively engage in practical, project-based learning. Staff and our full-time, newly-appointed digital trainer trained in basic robotics in 2026. It is an exciting space.
- Thanks to the continued funding from the HCI Foundation and Project Impact funding from Kinderfonds Mamas we have **expanded Kids Justice**. We now have a children's rights attorney, dedicated social worker, trainee paralegal and experienced community development worker all working for the rights of our children, families and community members. The work is extending beyond citizenship into court work and upholding all children's rights.
- Our engagement with the MTN Club of SA means **our children regularly go hiking** exposing them to nature, and walking and talking therapy – all ways to build connections with each other and the environment. We are excited that our former child, John Mkabane, is now a qualified hiking guide and leads these hikes.

PRECARE - FAMILY CARE

130



people per month on
average received
direct services

1 553



people assisted in total



● Food gardens

182 families have their own **food gardens** in the communities of Mayfield, Barcelona and Nigel. Garden champions in local communities help families to get the most from their gardens.

● Pre-school

36 children are actively learning through play and preparing for big school. 18 children started formal school in 2026.

● Teen Hub

112 teens in schools and homes in Benoni town have enjoyed this safe space to complete homework and solve both school and social problems collectively.

● Family-strengthening workshops

546 adults and children joined multi-week workshops tackling gender-based violence, parenting, mental health awareness, family strengthening, men and boys dialogues, and children's rights.

● Resources and food support

697 people with their families received food support - 284 food parcels and food vouchers provided regularly by Genesis Insurance Brokers and **2 125 meal-in-a-bags** received from volunteers, made sure that **food security** could be improved. We shared blankets with families and growers of yard gardens.



INCARE - OUR CHILDREN'S HOME



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

28 new admissions

- Severe neglect is the most prevalent reason for admission, followed by admissions for uncontrollable behaviour. Abuse follows closely. Parents leave children alone at home, without food, or in the care of strangers. Children respond with challenging behaviour, determined to be noticed one way or the other.



26 left during the year

- Two children absconded and did not return. The rest of the children returned to live with family members.

Education

Every child living at Kids Haven goes to school. School attendance and learning is deeply affected by trauma and behaviour. The overall pass rate of our children was 80,2%. Three of our four children in Grade 12 passed Matric.

- **3 children in Bridging school moved to formal school**
- **18 children graduated from pre-school and went to big school**
- **19 Grade 7s went to High School**
- **11 children were admitted and placed in school**

Care-leavers

Children who are 16 and older are following an independence toolbox workbook which they work through while living at Kids Haven. This passport to independence expects the children to meet certain general goals and some individual, personal goals for their future after Kids Haven.

KIDS THERAPY

During the year **71** community clients and Incare children received therapy sessions at Kids Haven. Therapists help children and adults alike who have been exposed to abuse, violence and neglect. The Occupational Therapist assists with functional support for children at school. **7** children underwent formal educational assessments to ensure placement into the correct school.

AFTERCARE



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

16 Out of Care young people are currently in our independent living programme receiving resource support and mentorship. 15 of these are employed or in further training.

Youth Hub - Pathways Programme

The Pathway Programme offers an individualised process for young people to consider their own skills and preferences, develop work readiness skills including digital skills, and gain exposure to the world of work. The Pathway Programme builds networks of support for these young people.

Results so far

- **118** young people participated in the programme from June 2024 - December 2025
- **54** of these participants are now in a form of earning or further learning (EET) = 45%
- **22** of the participants are currently employed full time (as at Dec 2025)
- **68 additional** young people completed a 6-month course learning about early childhood development and a Waste-to-Toys initiative.



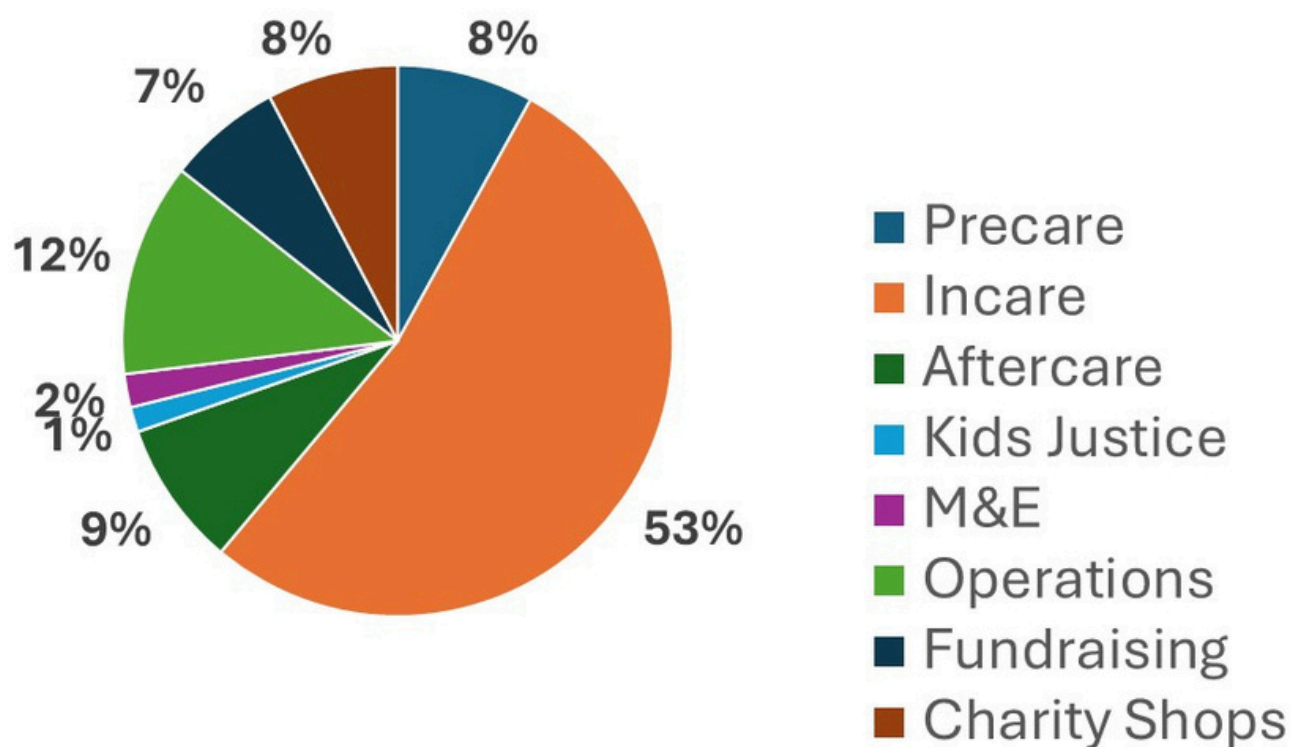
KIDS JUSTICE

The right to a name and a nationality is the foundation to ensure the delivery of all rights. It is the first line of protection for every child.

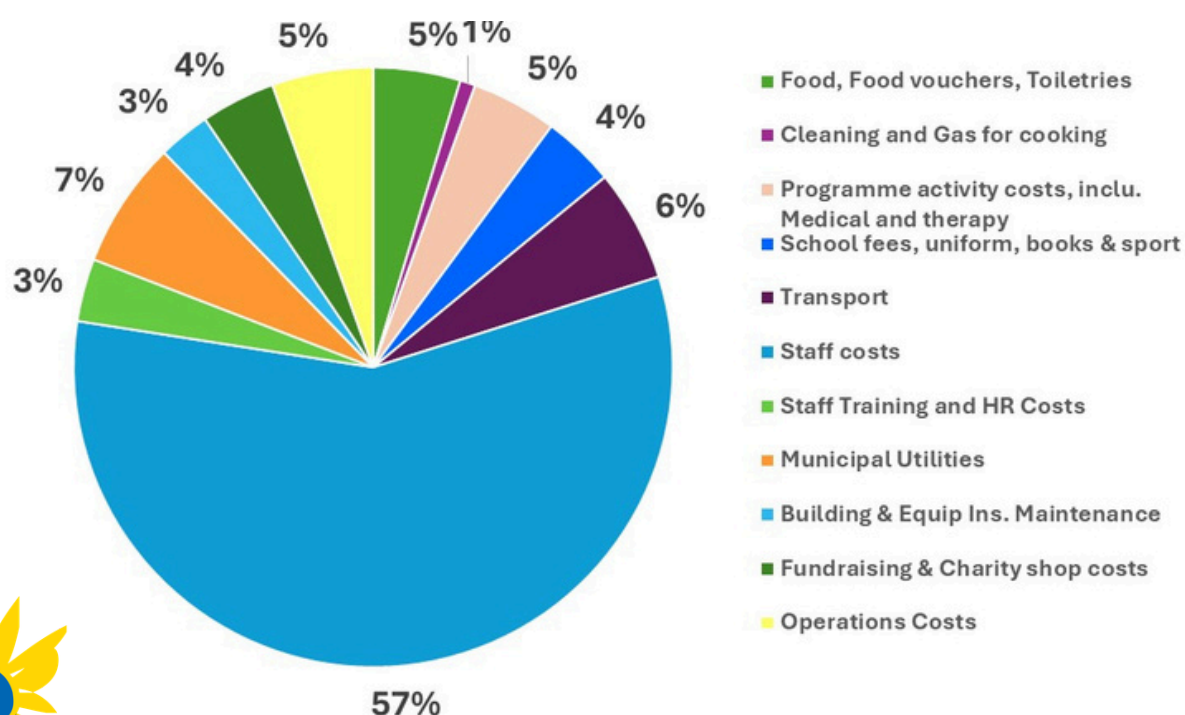
In this year, the Kids Justice team assisted **103** clients primarily with late birth registrations and other documentation. Kids Haven facilitates DNA testing, interviews, and family tracing to secure late birth registrations for citizens. The HCI Foundation continuously funds this project (since 2017) with Kids Justice recently expanded through focused project impact funding from Kinderfonds MAMAS. Kids Justice now includes a children's rights attorney, dedicated social worker, and trainee paralegal. Their goal is to support clients directly but also to transfer skills to others. In June 2025, Kids Justice hosted the second two-day workshop in collaboration with Scalabrini (Cape Town) and other partners, training social workers in securing late birth registrations.

FINANCES AND SUPPORT

Expenditure **FY26** across major categories



Percentage of expenditure by **Pillar of Care and activities FY26**





Comments

Funding from the Department of Social Development (DSD) remained unchanged for the third year in a row and stays unchanged in the coming financial year. A subsidy frozen at R4 120 per child is not a neutral decision; it is effectively a reduction in funding when measured against the rising cost of care. The real value of the subsidy is substantially lower than in 2023/24. By 2025/26, this R4 120 subsidy is equivalent of just R3 588 in 2025/26 - a real reduction of approximately 12.9% per child during this period. The DSD provides 67% of the Children's Homes cost. Family work (precare) and Aftercare is not included in their funding.

The Department of Basic Education increased the per-child subsidy for the Kids Haven for FY26 by 5%. DBE funds 45% of the costs of the Kids Haven preschool.

Kids Haven has done all we can to keep our biggest cost low – renumeration of our staff. We have implemented 4% - 5% annual increases in the past two years to align to inflation (average of 4.6% in the past three years). This, after skipping increases in prior years, leaves Kids Haven wanting to provide liveable wages to the 95 staff so that they are not trapped in poverty themselves as they serve the children and families at Kids Haven. We know that it is people who keep children safe and well cared for. We have maintained our staff at similar numbers for the past five years, only adding the fully-funded digital trainer and Kids Justice team of part-time attorney, paralegal and social worker. The number of childcare staff, social workers and community-based workers has not increased. Neither has the number of fundraisers and admin staff.

Kids Haven once again managed to meet all financial obligations this year with a small saving. Thank you to the committed donors who value the protection of children.

A WORD FROM OUR CEO

It has been a challenging but exciting year filled with progress. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, the Department of Social Development, community members and our Kids Haven team. The legacy that is Kids Haven was started 33 years ago and, despite economic difficulties, changing regulations, and continued societal issues, we remain with our doors open for all in need. Our sound governance policies, and transparent and good stewardship of funds over the years has ensured Kids Haven continues operating. We are very grateful to all those who have been a part of this legacy. When a decision needs to be made, our starting point is always - **what is best for children**. Every child matters. This is the heartbeat of Kids Haven. We will keep serving children, young people and communities providing a place of protection and care where education is important and all who come to us are welcomed and loved.

Sam Mokgopha - CEO of Kids Haven