



KIDS HAVEN



PATHWAY PROGRAM

**No one-size
fits all**

DECEMBER 2025

Who



KIDS HAVEN



25 young people at a time

3 groups per year

- Ages 18–30
- From under-resourced communities in the Eastrand, Ekurhuleni
- Many from residential or foster care
- All with lived trauma
- No barriers to entry
- Individual interviews (understanding their background and motivation)

Poor schooling & early dropout

Zero exposure (to careers)

Hunger & poverty

Digital exclusion

Distance / transport barriers

No family support (care leavers)





The invisible barrier



KIDS HAVEN



Trauma affects decision- making, planning, memory, confidence

When brains adapt for survival, not success

While we invest millions in skills training, CV workshops, and entrepreneurship programmes, we persistently overlook the neurological reality that trauma-affected brains cannot effectively engage with learning or planning. That when anxiety is high, volition is low. We expect youth, who have witnessed violence, experienced deprivation, and navigated unsafe environments, to somehow compartmentalise these experiences and focus on job readiness.

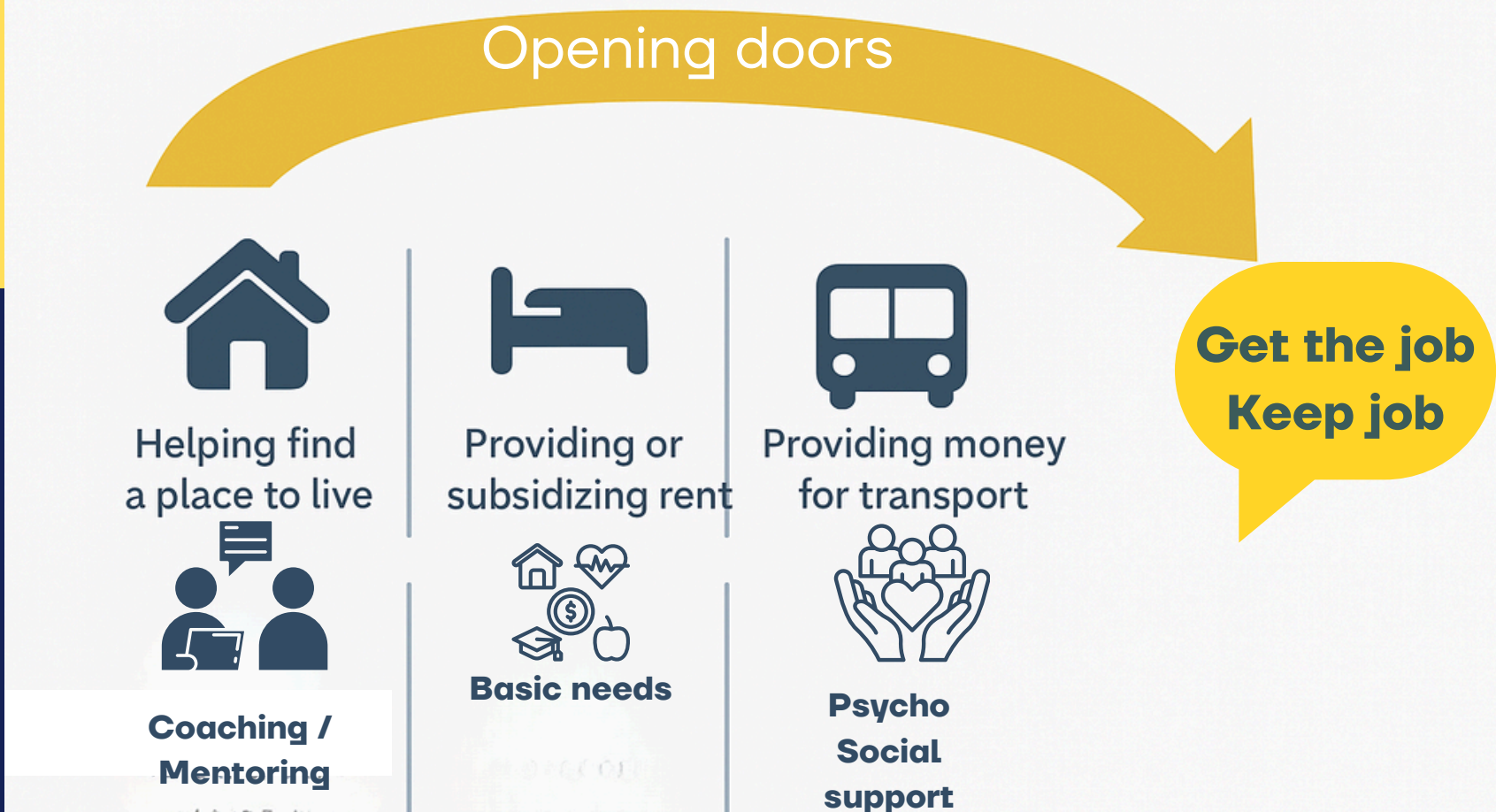
(Healing Before Hiring: Addressing Trauma in South African Youth Development - Greenlight Office)

Our solution

PATHWAY PROGRAMME



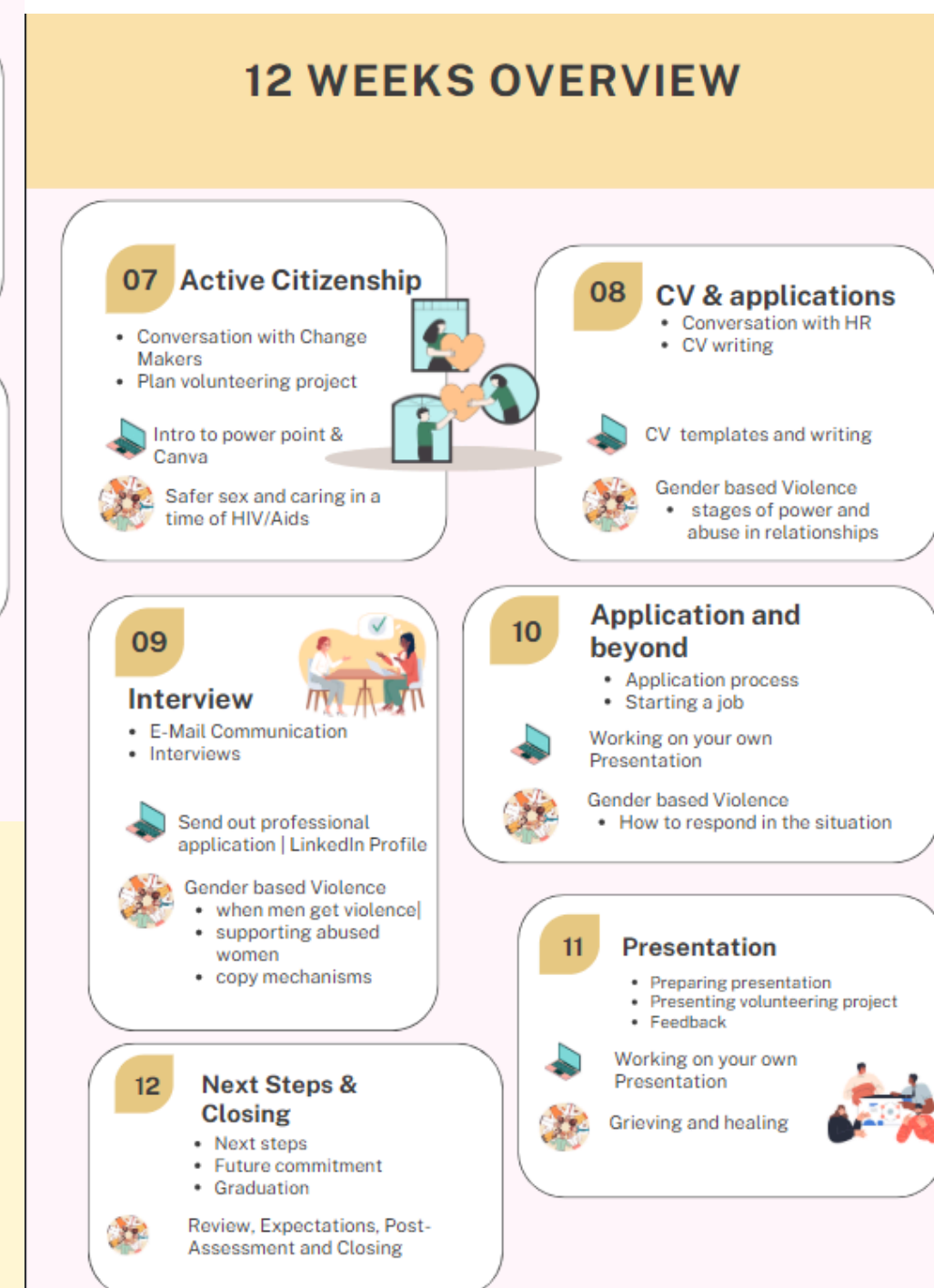
WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT



12 weeks



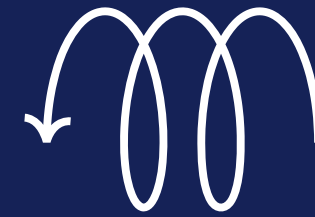
- Self-Development & Confidence Building
- Work Readiness (hands-on)
- Exposure to Workplaces & Professionals
- Life Skills & Safety
- Basic computer training
- Financial literacy
- GBV prevention
- Group + individual counseling



Every



Pathway



Is Different [] Scale on



Impact





Wrap around support

Setting them up for success

Clothes for interviews, toiletries, transport, relocation, food, practice.... Whatever it takes

Opening doors

We are building networks with partners so that we can be the social capital our young people don't have access to

Psycho Social Support

We have access to social workers and counselors who can quickly intervene when necessary

Coaching & Mentoring

We are their safety net and are available to guide them and help them make decisions.



We are trying to anticipate possible obstacles upfront and do our utmost to remove them so that young people can shine and have a real chance succeeding



Pathway Network*

*Selected few



2012

CRANBOURNE PANELBEATER



2023

DECATHLON SOUTH AFRICA



2023

KIT KAT BENONI



2024

FAHRENHEIT RESTAURANTS & GRILL



2025

TEPA (AUTOZONE, POINTS ...)



2025

GALXBOYS



KIDS HAVEN



We actively grow our Pathway Network finding organisations who are willing to open doors for our young people.

Our creative solutions show our understanding for employer's needs creating Win-Win-Win scenarios.



118

Young People participated in
Pathway Program
June 2024 - December 2025

54

54 out of the 118 Pathway participants
Are now in a form of earning or further
learning (EET) = 45%

22

22 out of the 119 Pathway Participants are currently
in full time employment (Dec. 2025)

Results so far

16

Out of Care young people are currently in our
independent living program .
Out of these 16 we only have 1 who is currently
unemployed.
15 are in employment or further training (94%EET)
(Dec.2025)

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. "I was broken in every sense of the word," she remembers. 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 now dreams of using her skills to fight food insecurity in a different way – through her baking. 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."

Follow her journey (and try her cakes!) on Instagram: @queen_mongani.




kids haven

Shona's Story: The Quiet Voice That Found Its Way

Always dressed in black, hoodie up, earphones in – Shona* barely said a word when he joined the Pathways Programme. He was introverted, guarded, and often replied, "I'm not ready yet," when gently encouraged to share.

But he never missed a session.

After completing the programme in September 2024, a quiet ripple of change began. In November, his family reached out to us.

Shona had landed a job at a butchery in a busy entertainment venue. Then, in May 2025, we received another call, this time from his aunt. Shona had been accepted into a college in Mpumalanga to study for a diploma in Assistant Management.

He's now enrolled, confident, and living with family while pursuing his studies. From silent shadows to self-driven purpose, Shona's journey is a powerful reminder: some flowers bloom in their own time.



THANK
YOU

