



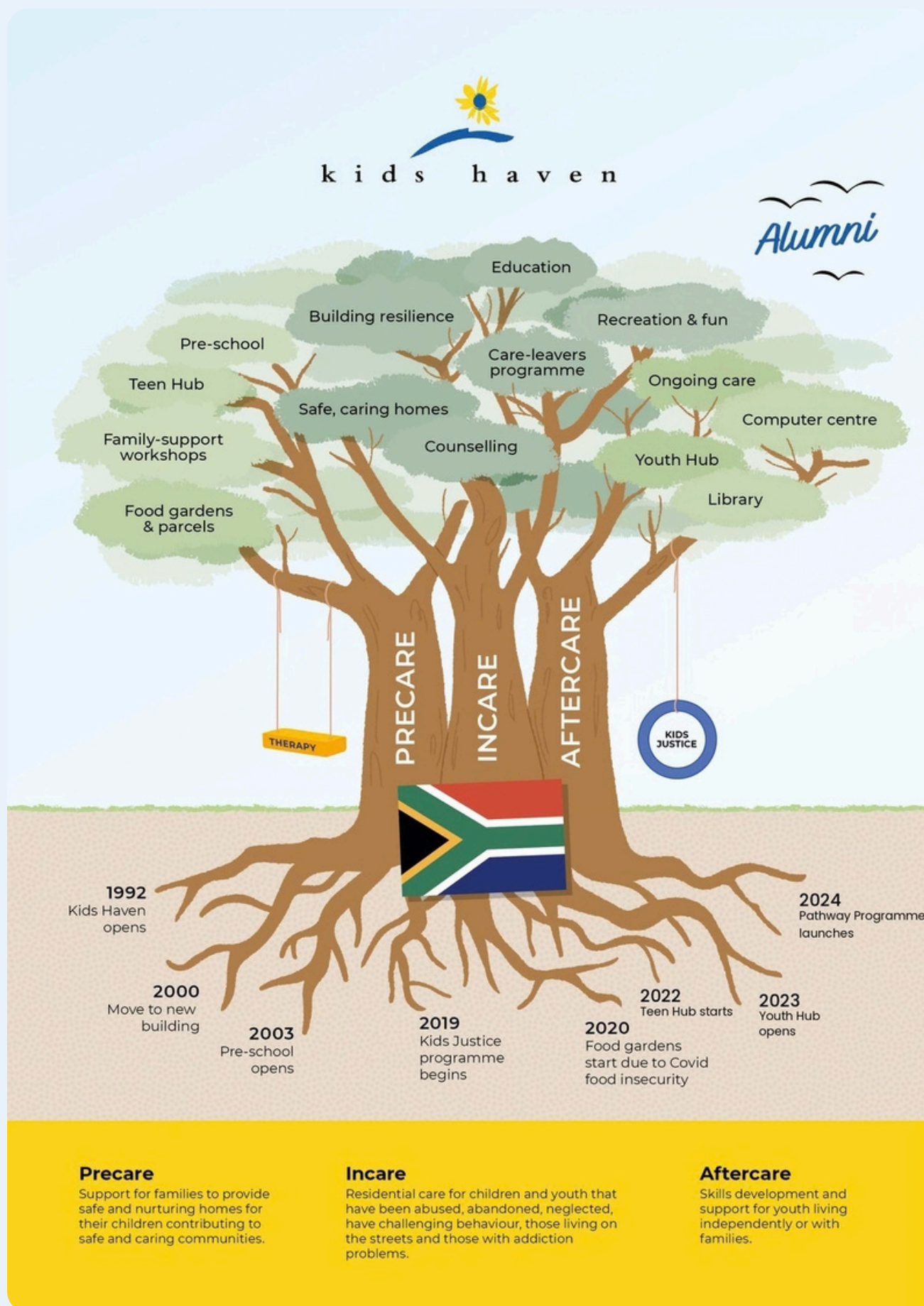
WWW.KIDSHAVEN.CO.ZA

IMPACT REPORT

2025/6



THE KIDS HAVEN TREE – THREE BRANCHES OF CARE



A WORD FROM OUR CEO



It is with pride and gratitude that I look back on this last financial year. Every improvement we have made, and every system we have strengthened has been in service of our children and our communities.

This year we invested in our infrastructure, because our children deserve a safe, dignified environment to live in. We built a centralised kitchen at the Village to meet Occupational Health and Safety standards but also to create a common space where our children can connect, talk, and simply spend time together.

We refurbished the showers and bathrooms in the Centre. Our fire escape doors were brought fully into compliance, and we completed disability ramps in both the Main Hall and the Annex building, with accessible bathrooms now available in both areas. We have redone most of our building plans and submitted these to Ekurhuleni Municipality for approval as a pre-requisite for acquiring occupancy certificates. None of this would have been possible without our maintenance team, who worked tirelessly under our Facilities Manager, James Courtney, or having the financial means to fund such projects.

Good funding only means something when it is matched by strong leadership and careful financial management. I am proud of our team of managers, who have been extremely considerate in how they use every rand entrusted to us, capping expenses wherever possible without compromising our work.



Successfully moving our accounts function from an outsourced service provider to an in-house role has also been a positive change in the organisation.

Our Kids Justice programme has grown immensely this year, expanding Kids Haven's advocacy for the rights of children, including those from SADC countries who so often struggle to access basic documentation. Our team has transformed the way they think about this work and are constantly looking for the best methods and the best strategies to achieve the best results for undocumented children. Kids Justice is training and supporting other institutions in this space with its impact reaching well beyond our own walls. If there is one message I want every supporter to take from this: it can be done.

Our Teen Pregnancy Programme launched this year supports teenage mothers in a holistic way. We support the moms and their children, and we place real emphasis on helping teenage mothers access education and other related holistic needs. Because of our intervention, many of these young moms are now able to continue their schooling rather than having to give up. We have helped some to access the services and grants they are entitled to including assisting with documentation issues.

A real highlight for me has been our partnership with the Mountain Club South Africa (MCSA). With the help of the MCSA we have established our own hiking club and it is doing really well. We now have many children and teens who hike regularly, learning to respect and appreciate nature. Our children genuinely love hiking, and it has brought a different sense of life and possibility to so many of them. We look forward to building on this hiking programme in the year ahead. It connects our children to nature and to each other, builds social cohesion, and gives them a different outlook on life. To our fundraising team — thank you. To our management team, who keep our programmes running day in and day out — thank you. And, of course, to our children — thank you for reminding us every day why this work matters. 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 34 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. Their voices matter. 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



Sam loves going hiking with the kids – even if it means going into dark, scary caves with them.

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). 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. The quality and scope of work achieved in the Kids Justice programme has attracted and secured funding for the new financial year to further develop and enhance the Kids Justice activities.

MAKING AN IMPACT



- 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.**



HEAR OUR VOICE...

Unconditional acceptance touches hearts – Hammam’s story

When Hammam* arrived at Kids Haven he was uncontrollable. His tantrums were fierce. He was aggressive and would hurt himself and others.

It took the whole Kids Haven team, including Tshepo from maintenance, to calm him down. Tshepo would walk with him, sit, wait, talk to him and eventually he would settle. That was until the next episode started.

But, as our social worker says, the more troubled the child, the more curious we become about how to help them. Hammam comes from an unstable family. The children were removed from the family environment for their own protection.

For Hammam, unconditional acceptance, intentional work and love was the answer.

Recently Hammam walked into Sam, our CEOs, office. He wasn’t meant to be there at that time but Sam could clearly see that he was battling. So, Sam just hugged him, sat with him and they ate some food together quietly. After about half an hour of just sitting quietly, Hammam said he was missing his brothers and wanted to walk home but it was too far. So he decided to walk to Sam’s office instead. The reality is that he could have walked home – it wasn’t too far – but what he actually wanted was to feel safe, be heard, be given space to process his feelings, and Sam’s office felt like a place that he could do that. He has come a long way.

We are very proud of him.

Now we get to see his smile – Mandla’s story

Mandla*, 14 years old, one of our Incare teens, never showed anyone his smile. He always covered his mouth or kept his mouth closed. With some coaxing and trust building, he eventually showed the Kids Haven team that his teeth were in a very bad way, especially the front ones. So, it was off to the dentist for him. Sadly, some of the teeth were beyond saving but the dentist built him a bridge to replace the teeth that needed to be removed. Now Mandla can’t stop smiling! It’s a beautiful thing. He is so proud of his teeth and is no longer in pain. Kids Haven paid for his new teeth but more than that, we saw him. We saw him as a young man in need of attention and care, who needed to find his confidence through a radiant smile.





- 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.

HEAR OUR VOICE...

Law or political studies? – MG's story

Smart and observant but reserved is how the Pathways team described MG* when he first started the programme in 2025. While he was quiet and often nervous to speak in English in the group, when he did speak he grabbed the attention of everyone. In 2024 he applied to study Law at UJ having the grades to do so but unfortunately didn't get in. Many young people only apply for one university so when he didn't get in, he thought his chances of going to university were over.

During the programme what really hit home for MG was having an action plan and finding a pathway, really seeking out the answer to 'what comes next'. The Pathways team challenged him to apply to at least seven universities. He quietly pointed out that this was the first time many of the young people, including him, had ever heard anyone say they have opportunities. Through the programme, MG was one of 9 young people who applied for a three-month internship and training at a sportswear store and got the job! He reported to the team that he had heard back from three universities, two accepting him to study Law and one offering a place in a Political Studies degree. He was beaming. For the first time in his life, he could make a decision about the direction of his life, he has options and opportunities are on offer. MG decided to go to Rhodes to study Law/Political Studies and started his degree in January 2026. He is working hard and finding his feet in student life. Keep reaching for your dreams, MG!



Interview day – our young people choose outfits and go through mock interviews in preparation for the real thing. It's always an interesting learning experience for them.



- A STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) lab was opened at our Village, with many thanks to our sponsor, Timken. Our children and young people can now actively engage in practical, project-based learning. Staff and our full-time, newly-appointed digital trainer, Milton Ndlovu, himself a past child from Kids Haven, trained in basic robotics in 2026. It is an exciting space.



- 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.

HEAR OUR VOICE...

What hiking means to me - Our young hikers share their thoughts

- "I have weak legs by the knees. Hiking helps me develop strong muscles and gain stamina. My mind gets freed from all the stress as I only focus on the hiking activity."
- "I have overcome fearful challenges like crossing the wobbly bridge over a flowing river. Swimming in the wild waters is very soothing."
- "When I started I felt like the weakest link as it was hard for me to keep up with the team. But they waited for me. I realised I was not alone."
- "Hiking is adventurous and revives my spirit of encouragement, not to give up and complete what you have started. I get to see the beautiful creation of God."
- "I love learning about taking care of the environment. It's my responsibility."



- 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.



HEAR OUR VOICE...

Finding friends and feeling safe – Thandeka's story

A small, hot and cramped shack was where 4-year old Thandeka* was spending every day while her mother went off to find work. With no family support, a single mother with no regular income, Thandeka's mother had no choice but to leave her child locked up in the shack while she went to find whatever work she could for that day.

Some days there was no food. Some days neighbours would help bring something to eat. Some days mom would bring home whatever she could.

And then a community leader spoke to a Kids Haven social worker explaining Thandeka's plight. The social worker reached out to Thandeka's mother and today Thandeka attends Kids Haven's free Pre-School.

She is loved. She receives a healthy meal every day. She has friends and is safe. She is learning her numbers, building puzzles and playing outside. She is a thriving, happy little girl.

Her mother attends the Parenting Workshops at Kids Haven and is learning how to support Thandeka. She is part of a community that cares. And while she is still looking for a permanent job, she can now do this knowing Thandeka is safe. At the end of each day, she fetches Thandeka, hugs her and goes home to hear all about her day at school.



Thanks to the continued funding from the HCI Foundation, Kids Justice work is extending beyond citizenship into court work and upholding all children's rights. The team's incredible perseverance, networking and building relationships within various departments, embassies and communities has yielded remarkable results. Doors previously closed have been opened to many children, families and individuals as they have been documented. This is life changing work. Thanks to Kinderfonds Mamas who are growing this work in 2026 too.



HEAR OUR VOICE...

How a birth certificate can change a life – Kay's story

The Kids Justice team sees many interesting cases when working towards getting our children and community members documented. Kay's* case was one such case. Kay is 17 years old and is undocumented. She arrived at Kids Haven in August 2024. The only information Kids Haven received was that she was related to the M* family. The team tracked down the family in the Free State and travelled there to meet with them. On arrival, they soon realised that she wasn't in fact related to the family at all. The only information was that a mother had left with the child and her friend.

The team had to think out of the box and find a way forward. They contacted the court and requested that the court assist the child with a birth certificate. The request was successful and a court order was sent instructing the Department of Home Affairs to issue a birth certificate. This will be life-changing for Kay as she heads towards writing her matric exams and getting a job.



Note: *Names have been changed to protect the identity of the individuals but all stories are true.



FINANCES AND SUPPORT



Kids Haven ended FY2025/26 in a strong financial position, thanks to careful financial management and the continued generosity of our donors and supporters. A special word of thanks to Kinderfonds Mamas for their significant investment and support across every activity at Kids Haven.

The signed annual financial statements record total revenue of **R31.44 million**, compared with R25.88 million in the previous year, while expenditure was contained at R24.58 million. The year therefore closed with a surplus of **R6.86 million**, strengthening the reserves that help protect the long-term sustainability of the organisation and enable growth in key programmes such as Kids Justice and the work Kids Haven is doing to strengthen families, combat GBV and help young people to secure meaningful work.

Throughout the year, the Finance Committee, management team and fundraising team kept a close watch on both income and expenditure. Detailed tracking, careful use of resources and rigorous monitoring helped Kids Haven manage rising costs while continuing to deliver services. Cash reserves remained strong, and income growth was supported particularly by corporate donors, international donors and the charity shop. The charity shop had an especially positive year, generating just over R3 million in gross income compared with R2.51 million the previous year.

Funding from the Gauteng Department of Social Development remains an important concern. The subsidy for children in residential care remained unchanged at R4,120 per child per month, with no increase since FY2023/24, despite substantial increases in food and other costs. Kids Haven therefore continues to use donor funding to bridge the gap between the State subsidy and the actual cost of providing safe, quality care.

Most importantly, every Rand received is directed towards making sure that children are safe and well cared for, while building a financially sustainable organisation that can continue this work into the future.

Our 3 Pillars of Care

Family Care

Kids Haven strengthens families by nurturing communities through initiatives such as parent support, food gardens, an afterschool Teen Hub for teenagers, and a community preschool.

Residential Care

Kids Haven provides 24/7 care in our Children's Home to protect vulnerable children. All attend school, play sport, learn life and digital skills, and receive counselling and support.

Youth Care

Kids Haven extends care and support to young people leaving residential care and those living in families under challenging circumstances. There's a particular focus on employability and skills development.

What the 3 Pillars Provide:



Child Protection



Education Support



Therapeutic Services



Family Strengthening



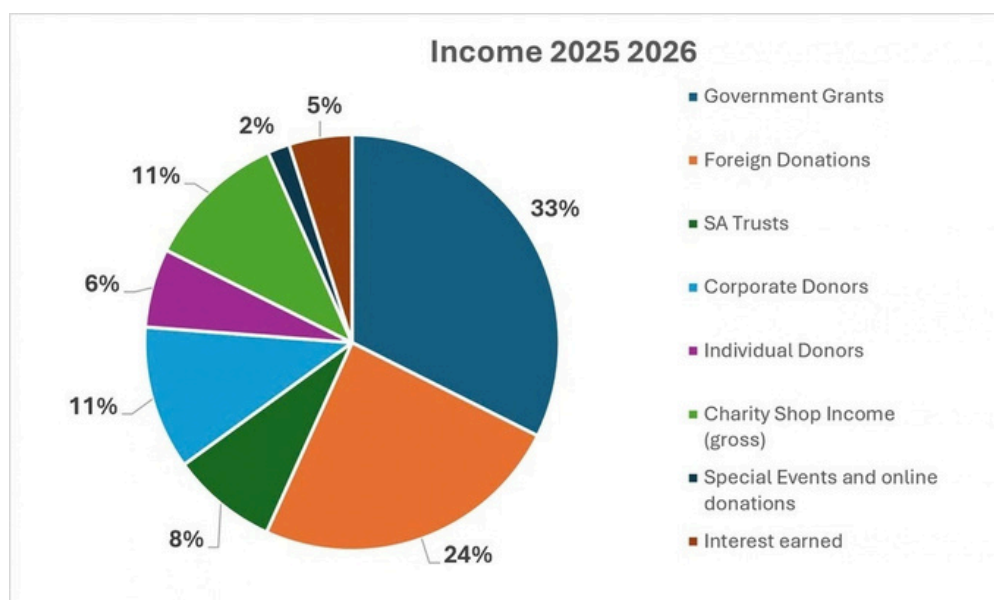
Youth Development

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

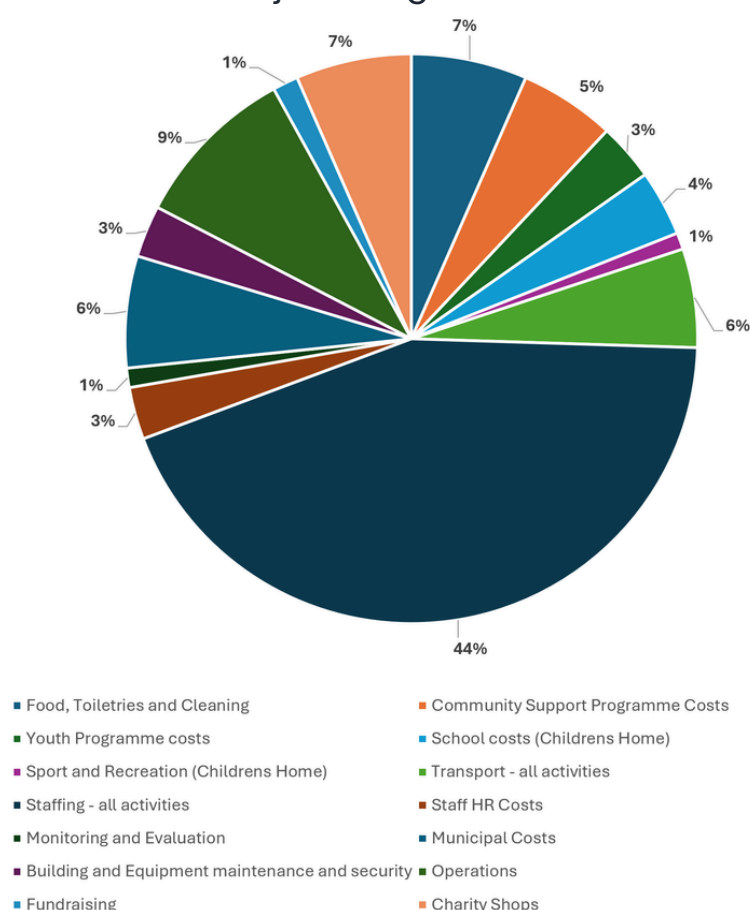
FINANCES AND SUPPORT



Income FY26 across major categories



Expenditure FY26 across major categories



A word of thanks



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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