

## Re

This prefix captures the concept of afresh; anew. 'Re' can also mean about or regarding the story.



## Foundation

Refers to being established, safe, built on rock-solid values, intent on long-term positive impact in and beyond Bhambayi.

## Story

Speaks about journey and change; about building relationships, connection; it has the power to transform and change minds. This encapsulates our way of doing things.



# 2023/24 Annual Report



02

Letter from the CEO

03

Who we are

04

What we do

05

Growth in impact

07

Stories of hope

08

ReStory Lives

09

Shining Stars

11

Guiding Stars

12

ReStory Futures

13

ReStory Justice

14

ReStory Community

15

ReStory Giving

16

ReStory Research

17

Corporate governance and finance





## Letter from the CEO

**Courage. Agency. Power for good.** Words sorely needed in our country, in fact, in our world. And when used, they are words usually associated with the materially wealthy and ‘powerful’. However, they are words that we, as the ReStory Foundation, long to see ascribed to the marginalised. We believe that the opposite of poverty is not income, as most assume, but dignity. Yes, dignity includes the ability to provide for one’s family, but it is so much more.

Through strengthened identity and belonging, trauma resilience, and discovering the positive power of making a difference in the world, we are seeing the lives of the most marginalised restored. Each story forms part of a bigger vision. Through restored lives, we want to see restored narratives across our nation, where the marginalised are esteemed for their powerful positive impact. We believe this is an indispensable part of the foundation of a thriving country.

The ReStory Foundation: a new name capturing our enlarged vision. Our hope is to impact the marginalised across South Africa, with a strong focus on children and youth. The ReStory Foundation aims to ignite positive cycles of living and giving, restoring dignity and agency. Through this, enabling the marginalised to be courageous agents of change in their homes, their communities and in our nation. Furthermore, we aim to have the ‘powerful’ realise that they too have lack, and have so much to gain from journeying, eye2eye, with the marginalised.

The financial year 2023/24 has seen growth in scope and impact, as detailed in this annual report. More than that, it has seen mindsets changed, of both the marginalised and the charitable givers. The words of a community leader spoken after the child protection march initiated by the ReStory Foundation are one example of this: “We are the rubbish bin of society, but now we have seen ourselves on TV standing up against injustice, it has changed us. We know we can change the world for good.”

This annual report is but a glimpse of what we do. We have seen significant progress in the work that we are doing on the ground, as we further root ourselves within the community in Bhambayi. While this hub continues to be the lived reality of our vision, we have seen our broader influence grow as others approach us to learn from our learnings.

The work of social transformation and social justice is heart-wrenching, risky and messy. It grows us in ways we never dreamed of. At the same time, we are inspired by the courage and resilience we are surrounded by and, as a result, have hope, real tangible hope. It is a journey. A journey we walk together. A journey with and for our Heavenly Father. We are thankful for the new stories that He enables, our own included.

**Mandy Pearson**  
CEO

“

“We believe that the opposite of poverty is not income, as most assume, but dignity.”

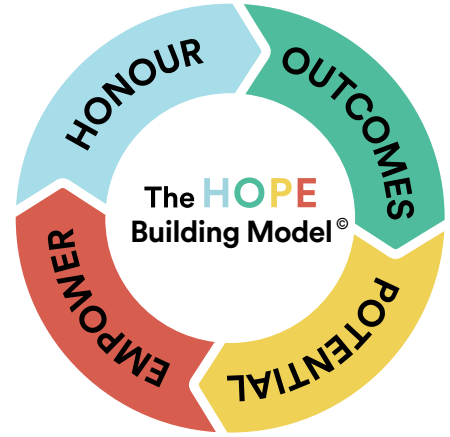


“



**We are** a group of passionate nation builders who long to see deep and lasting transformation in our land. We choose to see and activate the possibilities rather than becoming overwhelmed by the stark realities. To this we bring faith, courage, integrity, curiosity, grappling, intentional and rapid action, meaningful connection, and adventure...

# How we do it



The ReStory Foundation's **HOPE Building Model®** continues to drive our approach to social transformation. This method decreases both unconscious bias and damaging giving, ensuring the growth of both 'givers' and 'receivers'. Dignity, agency and long-term sustainable transformation is the result.

**Honour:** 'Eye2eye' approach of equals that builds dignity.

**Outcomes:** Focus on lasting positive change not handouts.

**Potential:** Focus on strengths rather than weakness and lack.

**Empower:** Growing problem solvers who are the hero of their story.

Before

"I used to think that nobody likes me for who I am..."

After

"...but classes here have me think differently because there are a lot of people who love me for me."

- A Shining Star

## Our Values



**Steadfast Faith**  
We love God and live out our faith fuelled by his love.



**Unified Team of Integrity**  
Trusted because of our honesty, accountability and good character.



**Courageous Change Leaders**  
We embrace and create opportunities to confront fears and obstacles to bring about change.



**Eye2eye Relationships**  
We develop honour-based relationships that foster dignity, healing and belonging.



**Serving with Excellence**  
We continually improve how we live and work for the benefit of others.



# What we do



## ReStory Lives

Enable orphans and vulnerable children to be courageous agents of change, both in Bhambayi and beyond.



## ReStory Futures

Change employment trajectories through high school bursaries, skills training, and linkages.



## ReStory Justice

Strengthen and support individuals and communities in fighting child rape and abuse.



## ReStory Community

Empowering people to build clean and safe communities they can be proud of.



## ReStory Giving

Shifting the perspective on giving from pity to honour, from handouts to sustainable outcomes.



## ReStory Research

Ensure continual learning from, and contribution to, best practice through ongoing research and development.

# ReStory Foundation: A new name. An enlarged vision.

Our clarion call is to build tangible hope through sustainable interventions. Ultimately, our vision is to effect long-term transformation across South Africa by igniting positive cycles of living and giving.

In terms of igniting positive cycles of living, we are drawing from 17 years of being intimately rooted within the Bhambayi community. The learnings gleaned from this, combined with global research, inform our understanding of what truly transforms the lives of the materially disadvantaged. This is contributing towards the development of effective approaches, models and measures that we believe can ultimately be rolled out to all who are in the work of transforming lives.

Everything about our serving is rooted in our HOPE Building Model<sup>®</sup>. People often give in a way that unintentionally causes harm. We want to ignite positive cycles of giving across South Africa, by challenging how people see the marginalised, and how they choose to contribute towards social transformation. Our aim is to catalyse giving that leads to increased dignity and sustainable outcomes, through relationships and empowerment, rather than handouts. Our experience is that this results in less apathy and dependency, and more grit and deep, long-term transformation.

**ReStory** *(verb)*:  
Changed trajectories  
leading to  
long-term thriving





## Rebranding

Rebranding to the ReStory Foundation, showing the growth of our impact and reach, as our vision expands beyond the Bhambayi Project.

# 25

Newspaper articles

# 5

TV appearances (SABC and eNCA)



## Tornado Assistance

Applied our HOPE Building Model approach in bringing rapid relief to victims of the June 2023 tornado.

# Growth in impact

# 67

Learners given stationery and uniform

*Our year by numbers*

# >500 000

Impacts on those outside Bhambayi

# 19

Homes Rebuilt

# 101

Families given food support



## Upgraded Facilities

Upgraded facilities with multipurpose Woza Space, graffiti wall by Shaun Oakley, 2 storage huts, 100m of secure fencing, and gate, all thanks to the Victor Daitz Foundation.

# >600

Long-term beneficiaries

# 106

Mentors/ volunteers involved from advantaged communities



## 10 Year Partnership

A decade of partnering with Durban Girls' College through Maths Club celebrated with a moving 'Stories of Hope' evening.



## Children Enrolled

50% increase in enrolment on life skills programmes by end of February 2024.

# 355

Total number of children on programme (50% increase)

# 51

Now schooling (not in school due to neglect/drop out)

# 878

Counselling sessions and support groups

# 175

GBV, neglect and abuse cases

## Trauma Workshop

Selected as a pilot for 'Attachment, Trauma and Learning in the Child' by Counsellor Nicole De Kerk (M.Soc.Sci), a programme for parents and guardians.



# 11

Unemployed now earning an income

# 13

Bursaries at private schools/ tertiary



## International Partnership

Blundells School, from the United Kingdom, tour to the ReStory Foundation epitomised our eye2eye approach.

# 196

Home visits

# 548

In child protection march



## Ignite Learning

Our new homework club and thinking skills programmes to further enhance critical thinking and academic performance.

# 11242

Signed the petition to fight child rape

# 3

Rapists arrested



## Child Justice

Victories in child justice as 3 rapists arrested, 50 children in school for the first time, 145 cases of neglect dealt with, and NPA connections established for future influence.

@TheLateEdition404



### INANDA LEARNERS AND PARENTS MARCH AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE



## A Story of Hope

Tholinhlanhla Mhlongo is the second born of 5 children in a child-headed household after his mom passed away in June 2022. They faced much hardship and were preyed on by relatives. They had not eaten for three days when they came to see us at the ReStory Foundation in September 2022, yet they arrived with smiles, positive attitudes and impeccable manners.

Tholinhlanhla describes joining ReStory as having joined a new family. He felt such relief as the burden of responsibility he felt to care for his siblings was now shared. This showed very practically when our staff put themselves at risk protecting the oldest sister in a dangerous situation. The Mhlongo family joined our afternoon programmes which Tholinhlanhla says have helped them think in new ways that give hope. They are working towards their goals and

excited about new opportunities. His younger brother used his new-found guitar skills to perform at our November rebranding event (largely self-taught).

Thanks to a donor, Tholinhlanhla is studying Logistics at Rosebank College. He doesn't want to travel or have status- what he really wants is to ensure his siblings are protected. His dream is to qualify, get a job, and build a big house for his siblings in honour of his mom.

## ReStoried Stories

We asked our children to illustrate if there was any change in their lives after joining the ReStory Foundation. They could draw or write their 'before' and 'after' story. Here are a few of them:

*Before*

*After*

"I use to think about myself..."



"...but classes here have make me think about other people."

"I used to feel shy and scared of people's eyes and expressing myself..."

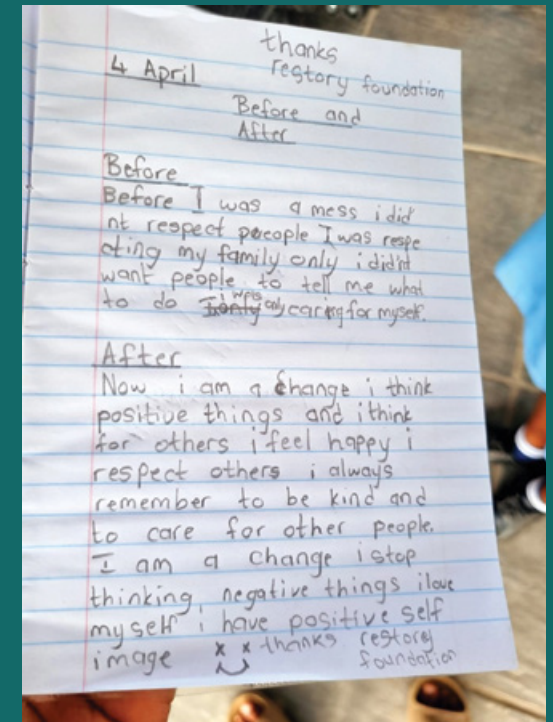
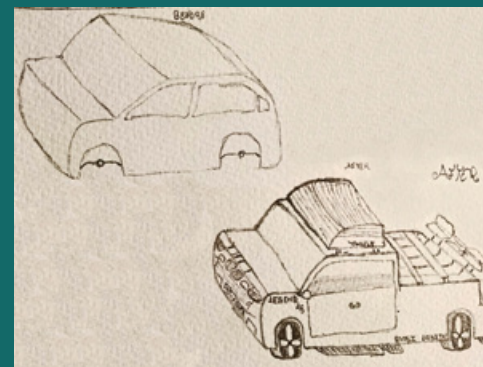


"...but classes have made me feel confident and brave enough to express myself."

"I was not good as you now think of me. I was stoborn and sad and always very angry."



"Now I'm very happy like a clown. Things that I do now are very good. I'm listening in the class and I'm clever very much. I'm not stoborn."





# ReStory Lives

## Enabling Courageous Agents of Change: Why this so fundamental to long-term transformation

That is what we want to enable - courageous agents of change who will not wait for somebody to save them, but to ask themselves how they can positively impact their sphere of influence.

**Trauma** from neglect, abuse or other similar circumstances prohibits learning and negatively influences behaviour. Living amongst crime, violence and substance abuse further increases stress. **This leads to a victim mindset.** Handouts enhance this feeling of inferiority, resulting in dependency and apathy. The marginalised remain voiceless or resort to negative power.

As the ReStory Foundation, we look to build trauma resilience and ignite positive cycles of growth to enable our children to **chart a new trajectory.**

Our theme for 2023 has been: **‘MY LIFE IS MY MESSAGE’**. All our children, young adults, caregivers, visitors, and volunteers have been challenged with: *What does the way you live tell people about you?* Each life skill class or workshop has questioned: *What message will my life give about this?*

This is a front-footed approach, that is, if you want your life to speak of care for the environment, how can you be

a courageous agent of change in the environmental issues around you?

We see these positive cycles of living in action as **our children chose to march** to have a rapist re-arrested and help other children as old as 12 who have never been in school catch up on schoolwork. Our guardians, too, have caught on - going to the Department of Education themselves instead of asking us to solve their problems, and insisting that they contribute by being rostered onto our facility cleaning schedule to make their contribution. We may not have arrived, but the movement is significant.



# Shining Stars

We approach restoring lives with multiple interventions on the ground for the over 200 orphans and vulnerable children we journey with:

- Our **life skills programmes** take a very practical, relevant, intentional and growth focused approach. **Identity and belonging, trauma resilience and growing agency** were addressed in all classes this year. Our research supports these three life skills as being essential to thriving. In the past year our Shining Stars have increased in confidence, initiative, and the desire to serve others. It is evident that our children are loving the opportunity to learn and grow, as we celebrate the increase in enrolment of over 50% in the last year.



- **Psycho-social support** provides a space for the children to feel heard and supported in their difficulties—whether this is through individual counselling, deliberate connection opportunities, or one of the 196 home visits conducted, or 60 support group sessions held.



- We aim to help these young minds develop a **love of learning** by helping them identify their interests, encouraging curiosity, and fostering debate and reasoning. We want them to become life-long learners who delight in growing their knowledge, understanding and critical thinking. Our life skills lessons create opportunities to practice these, and we have also begun to explore and implement more concrete interventions to further develop this way of thinking.



- Our **school support programme** includes our weekly **Maths Club** with over 200 children and 30 volunteers in attendance. We have added a **Literacy Programme** for the foundation phase children (Grade R-3) and a **Homework Club** launched in January 2024 for the high schoolers, with an average of 21 attending each session. Our youth development workers also guide high school learners with subject choices through discussions and career board games, as well as tertiary advice and applications. We are intentionally providing more opportunities for building confidence in reading, communication and academic work.



- **Unlocking potential** is crucial for these children. Beyond our focus on **dance**, we have added **art, drama, and informal sport**. We celebrate the number of external performances done by our dance group - especially those done at old age homes, where they took up the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. We were delighted to have our children's artwork displayed and sold at an art auction in the UK.

- While we avoid handouts, there is a place for **practical support**. We provided 67 children with school uniform and stationery as well as offering either ad-hoc or ongoing support to over 130 families. Practical support has also included helping 54 children to obtain birth certificates and 62 to obtain grants for our children, thereby ensuring that they can attend school and be supported in the home.



**355**

Children on our programmes  
(50% increase)

**196**

Home visits

**75**

Total number OVCs on intense support programme (14 new)

**146**

Life skill lessons with OVCs in year

**10**

Art workshops with one art auction in the UK

**71**

Creative lessons

**8**

External dance and drama performances

**10**

Homework Clubs (started 1 Feb 2024)

**45**

Maths Club and Neema Literacy lessons

### Average Attendance at Programmes in Feb 2024

**43** Shine (Gr R-3) 30% Increase

**91** Impact (Gr 4-7) 18% Increase

**61** Game Changers (Gr 8-12) 25% Increase

**216** Maths Club 39% Increase

**43** Neema Literacy (new)

**78** Dance

**21** Homework Club (new)

**33** Maths Club average weekly volunteers

**51** Maths Club onboarding

**67** Uniform and stationery provided

### Psychosocial support

**135** School visits

**60** Support groups

**74** Individual counselling and support



# Guiding Stars

The guardians have journeyed through valuable **workshops on parenting, financial management, substance abuse, GBV and child rape, HIV and TB care, and healing from past hurts.** Hearing of guardians being inspired to share these lessons with their neighbours, we realised the need to open our programmes up to the community.

Our first meeting this year saw nearly 60 guardians arrive in order to learn, grow and heal during the **Attachment, Trauma, and Learning in the Child Programme.** This is a pilot programme being run by counselor and Imago Relationship Therapist Nicole de Klerk (M.Soc.Sci). Many of the guardians struggled with unresolved trauma, which is known to put tremendous strain on relationships and well-

being and inhibit learning. It has been encouraging to observe the parents dealing with their trauma, in order to help their children do the same, thereby breaking negative cycles and contributing to well-being and learning. Our staff have also grown through the extensive training they have received and their facilitation of the groups.

In line with our eye2eye approach, we celebrate a **growing volunteer/ serving culture in our guardians.** On hearing that we would love to have their children volunteer in their holidays, the guardians insisted that they would like to do the same. They now volunteer on a roster to keep our Woza Space looking beautiful.

Our social worker team make themselves available to our guardians and the broader community for **individual counselling and support groups.** These interventions enable the

guardians not only to feel supported and heard, but to be comforted in the realisation that they are not alone in their struggles. We are seeing greater levels of openness and vulnerability, both very healthy indicators. These opportunities are invaluable.



*“I want to share with my neighbours and community everything we learn on the ReStory Foundation so that they will have the knowledge that we have - like on how to raise and communicate with your children.”*

Guardian in anonymous feedback

**47**  
Average attendance at workshops (155% increase)

**98**  
Guardian support groups

**48**  
Families supported in rape, murder, abuse and neglect cases

**105**  
Counselling sessions

*“I think differently about help. I have learned that we help each other, and I should not be the only one who always receives, I should also give.”*

Guardian in anonymous feedback



## ReStory Futures

We celebrate a year of changing employment trajectories through high school bursaries, unemployed school leaver training and linkage to learnerships and employment opportunities.

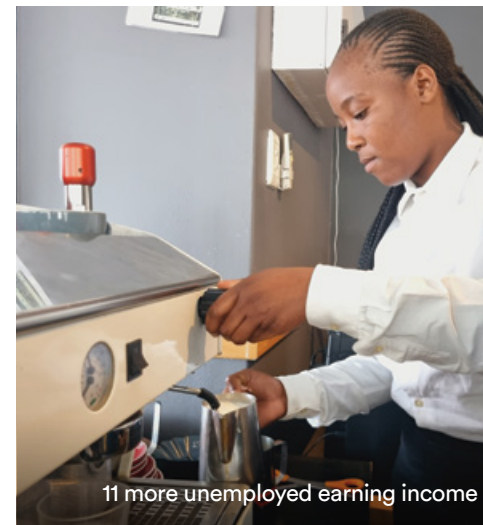
### Bursaries

We have a total of **11 learners on private school bursaries**, with Isabel having matriculated last year, and **2 school leavers on tertiary bursaries** through the ReStory Foundation.

### Unemployed Young Adults

Our **6-week Phakama Skills Development Programme** focuses on upskilling unemployed young adults to make a positive contribution in the world. CEOs, authors, pastors, inventors, and others shared powerful stories of overcoming, and other life skills such as vision and goal setting, conflict resolution and, importantly, healing from past trauma. Career choice, professional communication etiquette, job applications, and financial management were covered in the business skills component. Finally, the practical skills covered included farming, a two-week computer programme and then a choice of plumbing, carpentry, nail artistry, sewing, hospitality, or barista training.

We celebrate 11 now earning income: 4 as baristas, 1 working with Meridian, 4 interns, and 1 offering nail services. Distressingly, we have noticed that there have been significantly fewer employment opportunities this year than previously; the troubling outcome of a weak economy and governmental failure to create employment. Therefore we continue to pursue linkages, and open doors within our networks. We have been encouraged that, despite the bleak prospects, many of this group arrive willing to volunteer where they can. We also celebrate feedback forms which spoke of relational break through, healing from the past, mindsets positively changed and healthy friendships forged.



*“ReStory Foundation are known for helping people and they did wonders for us.”*

Phakama Programme attendee

*“I am clear about who I am now and how to make better choices.”*

Phakama Programme attendee



## ReStory Justice

The year saw us facing numerous cases of child rape and abuse. Witnessing the gross failures in policing and justice regarding these crimes and the devastating consequences for the children, we knew it was not enough simply to support victims. We began teaching our groups more assertively about not only staying safe, but also how to push for action and justice.

In consultation with community leaders and members, we arranged a march for Child Protection Week and ensured that the children took a focal point, not only in preparation, but in the actual march too. They made posters, banners, ribbons, brochures, and poems. Over 10 000 people signed the petition and around 500 marched with us to the Ntuzuma Magistrate's Court. The message was loud and clear: PROTECT THE CHILD, NOT THE RAPIST. Our children spoke with passion as they handed our petition over to officials from the Department of Justice and the SAPS.

As a result of our 'call to petition' video, the march, and meetings at senior levels, the rapist who 'featured' in our child protection video was re-arrested and is still in prison. Additionally,

the magistrate who granted bail was removed from that court and placed under investigation.

We celebrate our children being featured in at least 30 media releases. They stand as a beacon of hope to impact all children in South Africa, not just in Bhambayi. In addition to child rape, we have dealt with 175 cases of neglect, abuse and GBV. The goal we work towards, while not always possible, is the transformation of the caregivers to enable the safety of the children as most cases occur in the home. Some of those who would fall into this category have been part of our trauma resilience workshops. As they have dealt with their traumas, so they have been strengthened to move towards building a thriving and connected home.



51

Now schooling (not in school due to neglect/drop out)

16

Stakeholder meetings to bring safety and justice

145

Neglect and abuse cases

30

GBV and extreme trauma

253

Referrals

7

NPA/ SAPS meetings

3

New criminal cases

25

Newspaper articles

5

TV appearances

196

Home visits

548

In child protection march

11242

Signed the petition to fight child rape

>500 000

Impacts on those outside Bhambayi



## ReStory Community

Inspired by the impactful child protection march, momentum in community activism was created as people exchanged their feelings of powerlessness and desperation for pride, purpose, and unity. Realising the power of their own agency, the community, subsequently arranged more peaceful demonstrations against crime, GBV and abuse, themselves. Other community policing activities were resurrected. We saw a move towards the goal of a cleaner, safer community. Sadly, this received some backlash from those profiting from present injustices. We thus realised the need to be creative and often anonymous in our work in bringing about justice.

We celebrate strengthening relationships with local schools, gratitude expressed for our work in the community and at each ward meeting, increasingly effective relationships with government bodies, and mutually beneficial interactions with the NPA. We hosted an NPA community interventions last year, empowering 70 community members in reducing GBV and increasing justice.



## Emergency Relief provided for Tornado Victims.

The ReStory Foundation focuses on long-term transformation, however, there are times when disasters or specific situations require emergency relief. We have developed a disaster policy which builds dignity, grows agency, works rapidly and intentionally, partners without compromising integrity and gives practical and psychological support.

We implemented this approach yet again, when Bhambayi was hit by a freak mini tornado in June 2023. In partnership with Gift of the Givers, we were able to provide 85 emergency hampers, and the material to rebuild and repair 19 homes. Within two weeks of the tornado, all families were back in their homes, and able to resume life as it was before. In some cases, better than before.



54

Birth Certificates obtained

62

Child Support Grants obtained

27

IDs obtained

19

Homes rebuilt

101

Families given support

15

Community meetings hosted

22

Community meetings attended

699

Community counselling sessions



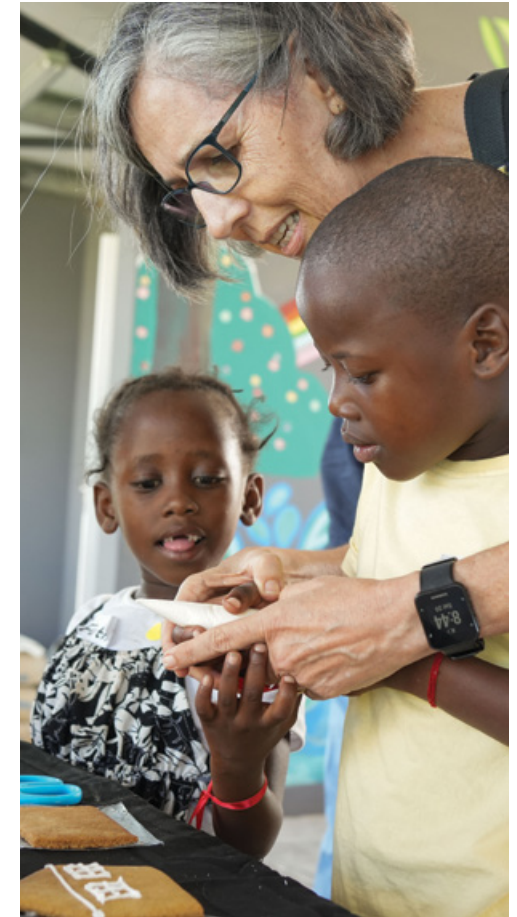
# ReStory Giving

At the core of the ReStory Foundation is our approach to the marginalised and to social transformation, with what we do being merely an outworking of that. We intentionally journey with the materially poor in a way that brings **dignity, agency and long-term transformation, through our HOPE Building Model® and eye2eye, 2-way approach to giving.** These are accessible and translatable into action for all.

**Volunteers are onboarded** with this approach, ensuring that the materially poor are as **much givers as receivers.** Connection, relationships, and empowerment are the focus in all the events and opportunities, rather than the practical support that is received, such as uniform and stationery. We create opportunities for our children and youth to be empowered to contribute as they teach dance, isiZulu, or local games to visitors.

This **bridge building** offers a transformative experience for all on our programmes. Through eye2eye relationships, Shining Stars grow in their sense of identity and belonging, and the **Hope Sponsors** find themselves changed. While there is much evidence of improved marks from our

**Friday Maths Club**, the Durban Girls' College girls' feedback emphasises the importance of the relationships built by connecting with the same group each week. **Blundells in the UK** did a school trip to the ReStory Foundation in Bhambayi. This saw 3 days of learning, sharing cultures, painting together, dance and fun. It is significant to see children who have grown up literally worlds apart, coming together as equals and peers; a life-changing experience for all.



*“I learnt that our giving is not always good. Best of intentions can lead to not-so-best outcomes.”*

**Blundells Scholar**  
HOPE Building Workshop





Considering our approach, the question often asked by potential donors regarding **how many beneficiaries** we have is not easy to answer. For us, every staff member, Hope Sponsor, volunteer, donor or individual linked to the ReStory Foundation is as much a beneficiary as the orphans and vulnerable children, their guardians and the unemployed young adults we serve.

While we have found our approach to giving so transformative in our own work, we celebrate that we are **being approached to share our learnings**, whether through our HOPE Building Workshop, our Stories of HOPE event or through mentorship of other NPOs. There have also been other opportunities to share our approach to transformative giving such as a panel discussion at the CAST conference, a talkshow on eNCA, preaching in churches, among others.

We are **continually refining** our workshops and models, and have a number of **exciting upcoming workshops**, including one in March with over 100 NPO leaders representing over 65 organisations.



*“It completely changes your perspective on giving... eye opening.”*

**UK Participant**  
HOPE Building Workshop

*“I was disheartened from a community & generational perspective. You gave me hope.”*

**Jane Brown**  
Stories of HOPE

## ReStory Research

This past year we have continued our journey of ongoing learning through research and development. This includes our various models and measures which include our **HOPE Building Model®**; our **ReStory Model®**; as well as our **Community Based Orphan Support Model®**. We are also exploring several ways of **using story** for dignity, healing, and measurement.

All our research is rooted in the work done on the ground at the Bhambayi Hub, while engaging global thought leaders, and drawing on local researchers. We are **strengthening connections with the University of Stellenbosch and UCT, as well as church and NPO leaders**. This is an area that we want to expand in the coming year, as we look not only to continually learn and improve our approach, but to share what we have gleaned with others.



“

“Different races doing things together, different people. It really changed my eye of thinking. And not that I don't see new people but they were different, the love, care and courage they have really had an impact on me.”

- A Shining Star

## Corporate Governance and Finance

Trust is a precious commodity in these turbulent times where corruption abounds. **For the ReStory Foundation, trust is a non-negotiable**, espoused in our values and lived out in everything from board accountabilities, to how we journey with individuals and the community, to how each donation is handled.

The ReStory Foundation is overseen by a **strong and diversified Board of Trustees of 7 individuals**, with both the range of skills and experience needed to support and grow into the future. Our finances continue to be managed by Shirley Holmes and overseen by board members Clive Stewart (CA) and Sbonelo Mbatha (business owner). **Our annual financial statements are independently compiled by Guy Brazier**, an experienced chartered accountant.

In 2023 we formed a **Community Board of Advisors** of 6 individuals, made up of apolitical community leaders who play an important role in ensuring that our plans in the Bhambayi hub are honouring and empowering, as well as supporting the security of all connected with the ReStory Foundation. Our presence in community ward meetings, as well as our focus on recruiting staff from the

Bhambayi community where possible, and our ongoing learnings, research and reflection, help to ensure continual improvement and **community ownership** of our work.

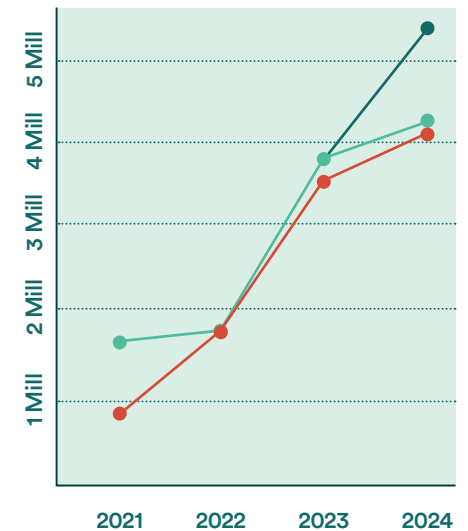
This year has included the development of **comprehensive policies**, as well as **research** into global best practice around social transformation and justice to increase the impact of our work. We are reviewing opportunities in 2024 to increase **internal learnerships** to offer experience and skills to more in the community.

Regarding finances, **donations grew by 8% to R4.24 million** (when including a once-off infrastructure donation, donations increased 36% to R5.18 million). Expenses grew by 16% to R4.12 million (47% including infrastructure costs). The general increase in costs included 4 new internal income opportunities for unemployed in Bhambayi, 2 new school bursaries funded through the ReStory Foundation and 1 new tertiary bursary, 50% increase in numbers enrolled in our programmes, and the cost of rebranding.

Progress was made towards **increasing long-term partnerships**. The previous financial year had seen a substantial

once-off donation from the Solidarity Fund. In 2023/24 we were able to continue growing our work by sourcing the equivalent and more from other partners, such as Citibank, Grindrod Bank (now African Bank), Hatch, the Light Trust, the Victor Daitz Foundation and Bauknecht & Wirth Stiftung, among others. Building long-term partnerships will continue to be a priority to enable effective and wise growth.

*Donations and expense growth 2021 - 2024*

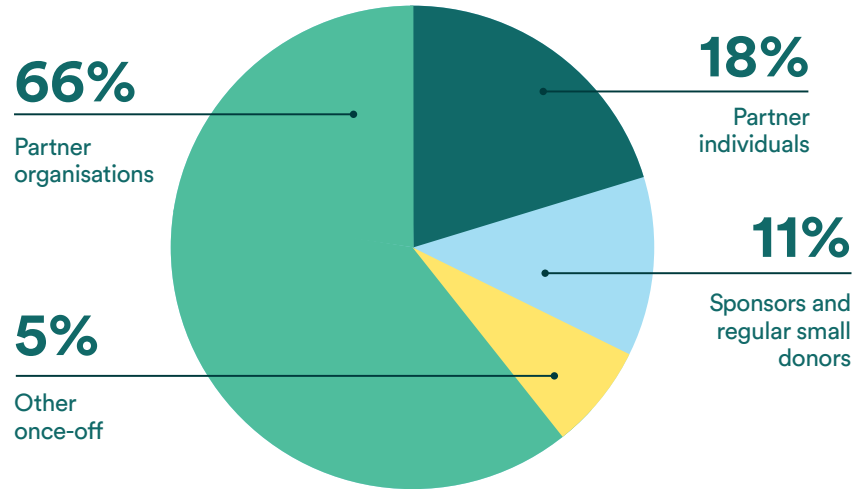


■ Donations  
 ■ Donations including infrastructure  
 ■ Expenditure

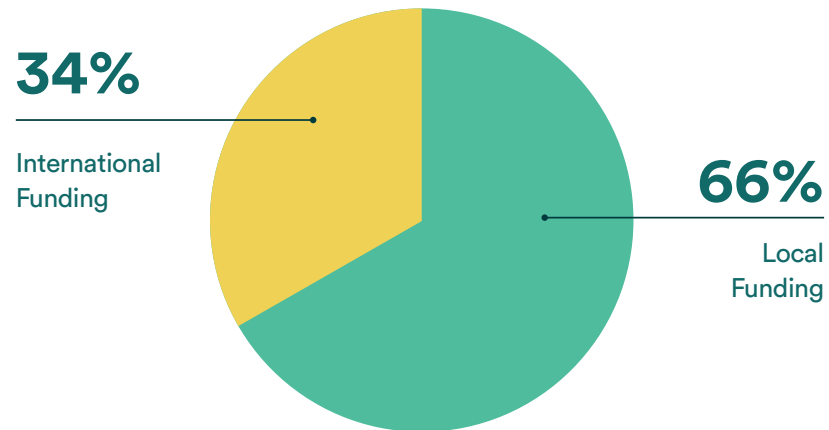


## Source of Funding

*Strong growth in long-term organisational partnerships*



*Growth in international funding as a percentage of donations*



*Should you wish to receive the full set of signed financial statements, please contact the ReStory Foundation office.*

## Board of Trustees

The ReStory Foundation is overseen by a strong and active diversified Board of Trustees of 7 individuals, with both the range of skills and experience needed to support and grow the work.



**Mandy Pearson**  
Strategy, Leadership and Development



**Sbonelo Mbatha**  
Board of Community Advisors



**Tom Butterworth**  
Facilities, Operations and Compliance



**Kevin Robertson**  
Strategy, HR and Support



**Clive Stewart**  
Finance, Funding, Risk and Strategy



**Dr Tshitshi Mbatha**  
Stakeholder and Community Relationships and Psycho-social



**Nomcebo Richness Dlala**  
Education, Communication and Community Development

*Sadly, Nomcebo passed away in December 2023. Her contributions and commitment to social justice will be sorely missed. We are in the process of appointing a new board member.*





# Siyabonga

*Thank you*



Your interest, investment, gifts, time, and support have been a powerful message to us. A message that this is important work, and that trajectories can be positively changed. We are fully aware that none of what we do would be possible without your support, and we trust that our impact this year will add to your confidence in investing into our shared future. My life is my message. Your lives are a message to us.



admin@restoryfoundation.co.za | 061 817 5575

[www.restoryfoundation.co.za](http://www.restoryfoundation.co.za)