

# 20<sup>★</sup> Years of **TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION**

**This year marks an extraordinary milestone for Khula Development Group — 20 years of transforming lives through love and education. As we reflect on this remarkable journey, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the countless individuals, organisations, and communities who have walked this path with us.**

## OUR JOURNEY: A Story of Growth and Impact

Two decades ago, Khula began as a humble initiative with a bold vision: to identify children absent from school during school hours, reintegrate them into the education system, and open pathways to education, enabling them to reach their full potential. Over the years, through various models, strategies, trials, errors, and successes, we have built on our experiences, research, and partnerships to refine and enhance our approach.



**Today, by God's grace, Khula has grown into a trusted service organisation, impacting hundreds of children and families across multiple communities. We give to God all the glory.**

**ERNS & DALEEN LABUSCHAGNE**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST 20 YEARS

In Khula's early years, we gained invaluable insights. Working closely with a group of young adults aged 17 to 25, we witnessed the devastating impact of school dropout and the vulnerability of children exposed to poverty, violence and gangsterism. At the same time, we engaged with mothers in the community and saw their pain and desperation as they sought help for their children. These experiences profoundly shaped Khula's approach in the years that followed, influencing the way we designed our interventions.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST 20 YEARS...continued



Initially, Khula operated in 23 schools across Paarl and Stellenbosch. Although many children were reintegrated, we couldn't necessarily measure that they stayed in school and progressed to other grades. Academic and behavioural challenges and developmental delays also contributed as push factors that enforced absenteeism.

Before COVID-19, our model included fieldworkers who visited learners' homes to reintegrate them into the school system. These fieldworkers, women from the local community, were driven by a deep passion for transforming their communities and helping vulnerable children leave the streets to build better futures. Despite challenges such as extreme weather, gangsterism, and poverty, they tirelessly gave their best for the children.



COVID-19 hit our world and made it more difficult for children to value education. The protracted school closures during COVID 19 exacerbated disengagement and learners who were high risk were more likely to dropout because of disconnection from school life. As most of our learners had no access to data and therefore receiving homework, Khula advocated for a different learning approach for children living in squatter camps, rural farms etc. These communities, whom already have disadvantages and severe socio-economic challenges to begin with, have been met with even more challenges during the lockdown period. This emphasised the already existing problem of families not having a value for education, when at school or at home, and to participate in school-related activities. There had been a definite disconnection between school, learning and the learners' value for education. Lockdown regulations had not played out equally between the low socio-economic and high socio-economic communities. Khula had therefore amended our mission to promote school attendance where possible and started creating a culture of @homelearning. We started to collaborate with other organisations and the WCED to scale. This initiative led to a new programme of YearBeyond a flagship programme of the Western Cape Youth Development Strategy now driven by the WCED and SCORE.

Post-COVID-19, we strategically scaled down to 9 schools, refining our services to be more specialised. This shift included adding an occupational therapist to our multidisciplinary team, which already included social workers, social auxiliary workers, and educators.

We also introduced training to help teachers and ECD centres identify early risk factors for dropout. Our Play and Learn training program, rooted in the principles of learning through play, empowered educators and community members to create engaging and supportive learning environments. This strategic evolution has enabled us to make a deeper, more focused impact on the children and communities we serve.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST 20 YEARS...continued

Countless stories and testimonies bear witness to the resilience and triumphs of children and families living in poverty. Yet one truth stands out and fuels our determination to continue the work we believe God has called us to do: we simply cannot afford to lose more children to school dropout.

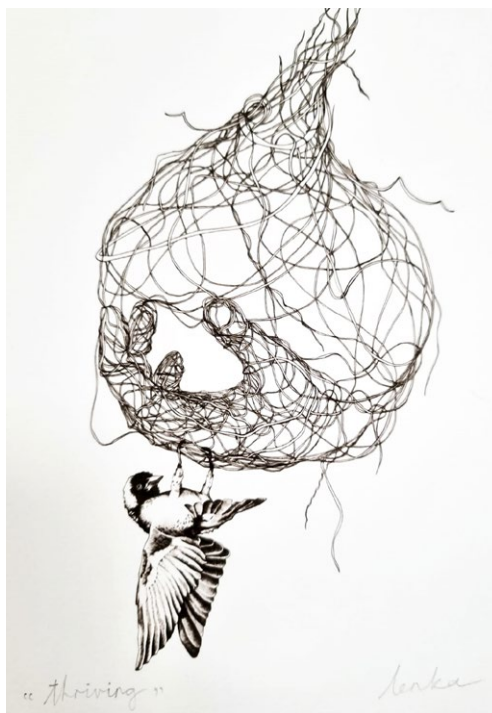
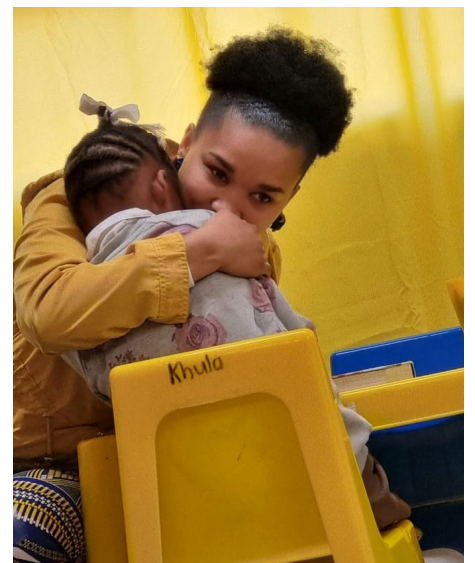
South Africa is a nation defined by the resilience of its people—a country that still clings to hope. Offering our children hope and the opportunity for a brighter future is not just necessary; it's essential.

**May God bless all who labour tirelessly for this cause and protect our children as they strive toward a better tomorrow!**



**As we celebrate our achievements, we also renew our commitment to tackling the challenges that remain. In the coming years, we aim to:**

- Expand our reach to more schools and communities in need.
- Train and support additional facilitators to deepen our impact.
- Strengthen our partnerships to ensure long-term sustainability.



## FORWARD

It's been a long, long road  
It's been a crooked path  
With many twists and turns  
But I'm not looking back  
I'm walking straight ahead  
Believing what You've said, Lord  
That You're gonna be with me  
No matter what life brings

Forward, I'm going forward  
To the plans You have for me  
To horizons yet unseen  
Forward to Your new mercies I  
will find  
As I'm pressing toward the prize  
I'm going forward  
(Tommy Walker, "Song of the week  
2019-#4-Forward,")



# How **YOU** can continue to **HELP**

Our work is far from over, and your support is as vital as ever.

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- **Donate** to support our programs and ensure every child gets a fair chance at success.
- **Volunteer** your time or skills to help expand our impact.
- **Spread the word** about Khula's mission to inspire more people to join our cause.



Visit the  
Khula  
Website:



# THANK YOU!

From the depths of our hearts, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the principals and staff of every school that welcomed us with open arms and believed in our mission. Your trust and collaboration have been the cornerstone of our journey.

To our donors and facilitators, thank you for making our dream of “through love and education” a reality. Your support has breathed life into our vision and given hope to so many.

And to everyone who has been part of Khula's journey—our sincerest thanks. This celebration is not ours alone; it belongs to each of you who have played a role in transforming lives. Together, we are building a lasting legacy of hope, opportunity, and change for the most vulnerable among us.

Here's to the next 20 years of Khula Development Group—may we continue to grow, serve, and make a difference, hand in hand!

**We wish each of you a blessed Christmas.**

With gratitude and hope,  
**The Khula Development Group Team**



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