



Dear HACT Friends, Donors & Partners

Celebrating Women, Growth, and Community

What a month it's been! At HACT, **August was bursting with energy and impact.**

From celebrating **Women's Day** in style with *Phinifa and Doek on Fleek Friday*, to the exciting **launch of our third Indalo Agripreneur cohort**, empowering young women from the Valley to grow thriving futures.

Our **Woza Moya artists** took centre stage at the *From the Shadows to Spectrum* art exhibition, showcasing extraordinary creativity and courage.

We were honoured to attend the **Comrades Marathon Charities Cheque Handover**, grateful for the support that keeps our work moving forward.

And, to top it off, we launched **Siyathuthukisa**, our brand-new **digital learning and life skills programme**, opening doors of opportunity for local youth.

August was truly a month of **celebration, innovation, and empowerment**—and we can't wait to share all the highlights with you. **Read on to see what we've been up to!**



More than a race

The Comrades Marathon has always been about more than endurance. It's about **community, connection, hope and being part of something much bigger than ourselves**. This year, HACT's #RUN4HACT Comrades campaign reminded us just how powerful it is when people come together with a shared purpose.



The journey began almost a year ago when the Isiko Mpilo 2025 Down Run was launched and entries opened. Then it was eight months of connecting with runners, being at events to advertise our Comrades campaign. Building up to Raceday was the **Comrades Expo**, where our vibrant stand welcomed runners and supporters alike. Our runners collected their numbers and goodie bags, shopped for **handmade treasures from Woza Moya & Friends**, posed with our famous **HACT wings**, and even witnessed one memorable moment: a Russian runner purchasing a beaded cow head, phoning his wife for approval, and joyfully carrying it home, labelled "Your Cow" in Russian.

Behind the scenes, our **Ticket Team** worked tirelessly at **car shows, school events, race days**, and throughout the Expo. With warmth and persistence, they sold thousands of **Win-a-Car tickets**—including the winning ticket itself, sold by our very own **Christelle**, just as the sale times were being wrapped up.

On Race Day weekend, our **official refreshment stand** involved our **red dream team of HACT staff, volunteers and family members** who pulled together with precision and heart. By mid-morning the day before the race, the marquee was up, food, water, and energy drinks were delivered, the all-important loos were in place, and the power was tested.

Race day brought its own triumphs. Our team was 'up and at em' before the crack of dawn, ensuring that the arch was in place, tables lined, food, water, and energy drinks ready, and music pumping. Volunteers created a lively, supportive atmosphere that carried runners forward, with every cheer, smile, leg rub, and cup served reflecting the spirit of HACT.

And then came the result that left us humbled and grateful: thanks to our **volunteers, suppliers, runners, and supporters**, this year's Comrades campaign raised an **extraordinary R790,200!**

This achievement is about more than money. It's about **unconditional love and hope**. Every rand raised sustains our **Othandweni Hospice & Palliative Care Unit** and fuels our programmes to build **healthy, empowered, AIDS-free communities**.

To everyone who ran, volunteered, bought tickets, donated, or cheered us on: **thank you!** Together, we proved once again that the Comrades Marathon is more than a race; it's a movement of people united to make a difference and create lasting impact.

This victory belongs to all of us.



HACT COMRADES CAMPAIGN 2025: A LOOK BACK

THE STORY ABOUT OUR ICONIC WINGS FOR WASTE



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Celebrating the Women of HACT: Strength, Style, and Spirit

At HACT, we know that our strength lies in the incredible people who walk through our doors every day, and this **Women's Day**, we paused to celebrate the extraordinary women who make our mission possible.

From nurses and care givers to programme coordinators, administrators, and community leaders, the women of HACT carry resilience, compassion, and dedication in everything they do.

We marked the day in true style with **Phinifa and Doek on Fleek Friday**. A joyful celebration of colour, culture, and connection. With bright fabrics, bold headwraps, and radiant smiles, our campus came alive in a display of pride and unity. But beyond the fun and fashion, the day was about recognising the **power**,

beauty, and impact of women, not only within HACT, but across the Valley of 1000 Hills and beyond.

These women embody what it means to lead with love, to nurture with strength, and to build communities of hope.

On Women's Day, and every day, we honour their role in shaping a healthier, more equitable future.

Here's to the women of HACT. **Empowered, unstoppable, and truly fleek.**

Indalo Programme: Growing Futures, One Garden at a Time

During August, HACT proudly launched the **third and final round of the Indalo Programme**, an inspiring initiative made possible through our partnership with the **Rotary Clubs of Hillcrest and Winnipeg, and Rotary International**. Indalo forms part of our ongoing commitment to building **healthy, empowered communities**, tackling urgent issues such as **food security, income generation, and youth unemployment** among vulnerable young women in the **Valley of 1000 Hills**.



Over the coming weeks, **23 aspiring female entrepreneurs** aged 18–30 will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to establish and run their own **sustainable micro-agri enterprises**, earning an income by growing and selling **seasonal vegetable seedlings** within their communities.

But Indalo is about so much more than agriculture. This cohort will benefit from the full range of HACT's support, including **women's health and wellbeing workshops, gender-based violence prevention training, mental health support, and entrepreneurship readiness courses**.

They'll also receive mentorship and home-visit guidance from our **Izingadi Zethemba (Gardens of Hope) Plant Nursery** team, while **Imbizo Foundation** helps monitor and track their business productivity.

We can't wait to watch these young women and their gardens, **grow and thrive**.

Follow us on our social media for updates and success stories as they cultivate brighter futures for themselves and their communities.





Celebrating Women and Building Futures: Peer Educators Lead the Way

Last month, our dedicated Peer Educator Team went above and beyond their regular life skills work by organising two impactful community upliftment events at one of our partner schools, Thuluwazi High School, in Molweni. In honour of Women's Month, the first event celebrated the achievements and resilience of women while raising awareness about gender equality. Learners took part in a fun and thought-provoking **gender swap activity**, where boys along with girls wore *phinifas* (traditional women's skirts), sparking important conversations about equality and respect. Guest speakers shared powerful personal stories about womanhood, resilience, and the importance of equity. The day also featured vibrant performances of drama, poetry, dance, and music by the Peer Educators themselves, creating an atmosphere of joy, fun and reflection. The event drew an incredible **567 participants**, leaving the school community inspired and united.



The second event was a **Career Day** designed to guide Grade 9 learners as they prepared to select their subjects – a key step in shaping their educational and career pathways. Local professionals, post programme graduates along with our partners at Hillcrest Advice Bureau shared insights about different career options, study pathways, and life experiences, ensuring learners had practical guidance to make informed choices. The event reached **150 learners**, equipping them with knowledge and encouragement for their future journeys. Through these initiatives, our Peer Educators continue to prove that young people are not just beneficiaries of change but powerful **drivers of transformation** in their schools and communities.





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Siyathuthukisa: Launching Our First Cohort of Digital Learning & Life Skills

We are proud to announce the launch of **Siyathuthukisa: Digital Learning & Life Skills Programme**, a work readiness initiative designed to empower unemployed youth with the tools they need to create brighter futures.

The response to the programme was overwhelming; we were **inundated with applications**, a sobering reminder of the **dire state of youth opportunities in South Africa**.

From this large pool of over 100 applicants, **36** were invited to our recruitment day, which included a **one-on-one interview, a written test, and an online career pathway exercise**.

We are deeply grateful to our partners **Grindrod** and **Container World**, who generously sponsored this first round and even joined us onsite to help conduct interviews. Our thanks also go to **Careerlinx**, who expertly facilitated the written and online career exercises.

From this process, **18 young people** were selected to form our **inaugural Siyathuthukisa cohort**, and on **29 July**, they officially began their **in-class modules**.

Over the coming few months, they will gain vital skills in **digital literacy, health education, employability, youth empowerment, and entrepreneurship**; building confidence, resilience, and pathways to opportunity.

We are excited to watch these young people grow, and we look forward to sharing their progress as our first cohort of Siyathuthukisa unfolds.



From Shadows to Spectrum: A

Celebration of Local Art

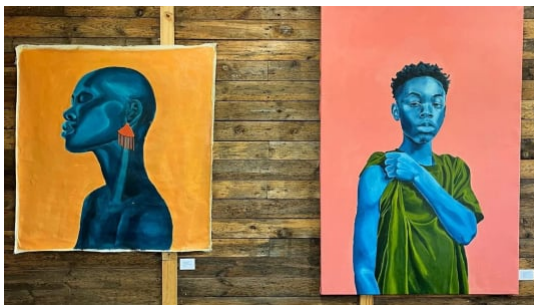
Woza Moya recently hosted the opening of the **From Shadows to Spectrum** exhibition, a powerful collection curated and presented by our talented **Artbank interns**.

The **Upstairs African Gallery** was alive with conversation, reflection, and connection as guests experienced works that spoke to memory, identity, and community. Highlights included **Ayanda's evocative photographic series**, capturing the innocence and resilience of childhood play on dusty streets. Each piece carried its own story, weaving together a spectrum of experiences that touched every visitor in the room.

The opening was filled with warmth and energy, made even more special by **the presence of our guests** and the tireless dedication of the **Woza Moya staff**, whose passion and commitment ensured the event's success.

If you missed the opening, don't worry, the exhibition remains open for viewing **weekdays from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm** and **Saturdays from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm** at the **Woza Moya Shop's Upstairs Gallery**.

Woza Moya remains committed to **promoting and celebrating local artists**. We invite you to visit, engage, and be inspired by these remarkable works.



As you've seen throughout this edition, every programme, event, and story at HACT is fuelled by a simple but powerful mission: to bring **hope, health, and empowerment** to the Valley of 1000 Hills and beyond.

But we cannot do it alone; we need you. By **sharing our newsletter with your friends, family, and colleagues**, volunteering your time, or supporting us through donations and purchases, you become part of the heartbeat that keeps HACT alive.

Every act of support, no matter how small, helps us continue to provide care, dignity, and opportunity to those who need it most.

Together, we are not just dreaming of a healthier, AIDS-free future; we are building it.

Warm regards,

Candace & The HACT Team



UPCOMING EVENTS

Come Say Hello & Support HACT!

We've got some exciting events coming up, and we'd love to see you there! By supporting our **HACT Plant Nursery, Used Book Nook, Woza Moya, Haberdashery and White Elephant shops, Ubuntu Ground Cafe and iThemba's Closet**, you're not only treating yourself to quality products—you're helping fund life-changing programmes at HACT. Here's where to find us:

HACT PLANT NURSERY SEPTEMBER SPRING SALE ~Plant with Purpose this Spring

Celebrate the season of growth with our **Spring Garden Sale** at the **HACT Plant Nursery!**

- ☐ **All flowering plants - 10% off**
- ☐ **All Aloes - 20% off**

Hurry—**while stocks last!**

Every plant you take home helps us grow more than just gardens—it helps us grow **hope, health, and empowerment** in our community.

19 SEPTEMBER - WRITE YOUR WILL WITH CONFIDENCE

☐ *HACT Campus / 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM*

Not sure where to start with writing your **WILL**? You're not alone! It's something we all know we need, but too often put off. Having a will in place is one of the greatest gifts you can leave your loved ones, removing uncertainty and simplifying the legal processes.

That's why, for the Law Society of South Africa's **National Wills Week**, HACT, together with **Marsh Fidelity**, are offering a **free financial literacy session** focused on the **benefits and practical steps of drafting a will**.

- ☐ Walk away with clarity on why a will matters.
- ☐ Learn what to consider when writing your will.
- ☐ Enjoy the bonus: **a professional will be drafted for free** (no obligation).

Light refreshments will be served.

This event is open to everyone! Spaces are limited! RSVP today:

marketing@hillaims.org.za by 16 September 2025.

26 SEPTEMBER - iThemba's Closet Thrift Day (Where fashion meets compassion)

📍 HACT Campus / 9:00 AM –3:00 PM

Join us for our next **iThemba's Closet** shopping day! Discover **quality, pre-loved clothing at unbeatable prices**—perfect for thrifters, treasure hunters, and conscious shoppers. All proceeds support patient care in our **Othandweni Hospice & Palliative Care Unit**, so every purchase makes a difference. Come early, grab the best finds, and shop with purpose!

TUESDAY CHAT @ HACT - Let's Connect Over Coffee

We're excited to launch **Tuesday Chat at HACT**, a relaxed **networking morning** hosted at our **Ubuntu Ground Café**, designed to bring together **corporates, small business owners, entrepreneurs**, and changemakers from our community.

It's a chance to **share knowledge, build connections, and support each other's growth**, all over a delicious breakfast and expertly brewed coffee.

Date: Tuesday, 30 September

Cost: R150 per person

Includes a full, **hearty breakfast** and terrific **coffee** from Ubuntu Ground Café

Whether you're scaling a business, starting one, or simply looking to connect with like-minded locals, **you're welcome at our table**.

Booking essential, spaces are limited. Get in touch to reserve your seat via email at hactbiz@hillaims.org.za

09	23	57	53
DAYS	HOURS	MINUTES	SECONDS

Countdown to Heritage Day at HACT – Just 10 Days to Go!

We're gearing up for another of our **spirited events of the year**, HACT's **Heritage Day Fashion Show**, happening on **Friday, 19 September 2025!**



The Centre will be alive with colour, culture, and community spirit as our talented **Woza Moya crafters** and **HACT staff** take to the stage in traditional attire.

It's always a feast for the eyes, with participants putting in **incredible effort and creativity** to celebrate our rich and diverse heritage. Expect plenty of fun,

laughter, and photo opportunities as the runway comes alive with style and pride.

And what's a celebration without food? **Ubuntu Ground Café** will be serving up their ever-popular **delicious wors rolls**, available for both **eat-in and take-away**. Perfect for enjoying while soaking up the festive atmosphere.

Save the date and join us as we celebrate Heritage Day in true HACT style, **with unity, tradition, and plenty of heart!**

DONATE TODAY - EVERY CENT COUNTS!

P.S. If you'd like to find out more information about what we do and how you can get involved, please visit our website at www.hillaims.org.za or you are welcome to email either marketing@hillaims.org.za or info@hillaims.org.za



Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust

DEDICATED TO SAVING & TRANSFORMING LIVES...

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