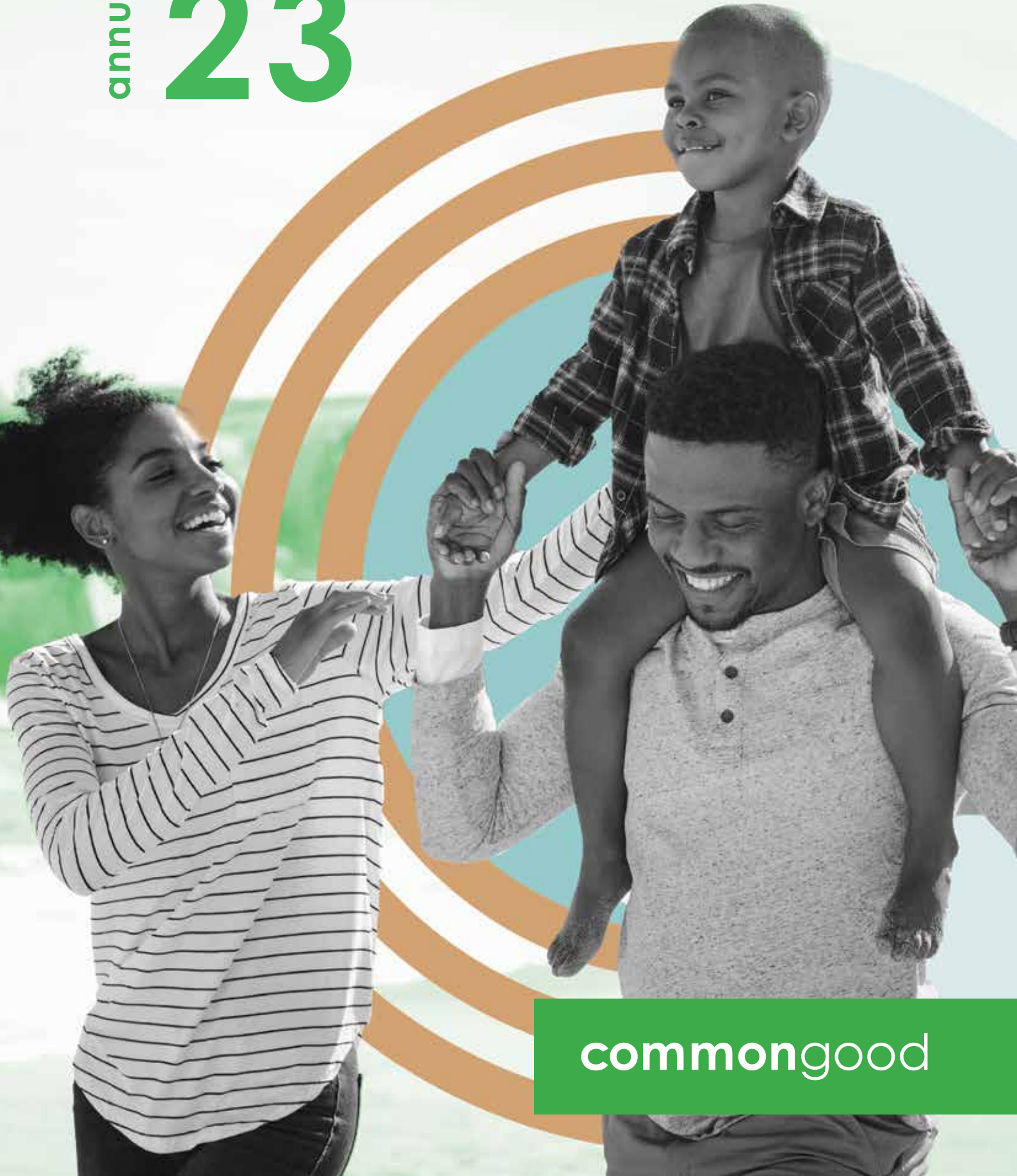


annual report

20
23



commongood



contents

introduction

message from the chairperson	4
message from the ceo	6

early life	8
sikunye	

education	10
collaboration schools	

employment	12
-------------------	----

congregational support	16
-------------------------------	----

finance and commentary	18
-------------------------------	----

ways to support	20
------------------------	----

thank you to our partners	21
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message from the chairperson

Gratitude & Impact

We continued to uphold our commitment to serving our nation and advancing our mission of promoting biblical justice and fostering sustainable development.

Looking back on 2023 we feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for all that God has done in and through Common Good - not without its challenges, but steeped in stories of impact, generous provision and hope, the Common Good team has much to celebrate!

We continue to uphold our commitment to serving our nation and advancing our mission of promoting biblical justice and fostering sustainable development. Despite the challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic and the broader socio-economic landscape, our dedicated team, along with the unwavering support of our partners and donors, enabled us to make significant strides forward.

Throughout the year, we witnessed remarkable organisational highlights that underscore our impact. In Early Life, we had close to 1,000 churches caring for families in the First Thousand Days. In Education, there was another increase in matric pass rates to 93.3% for the class of 2023. Additionally, in Employment, we launched Job Journey, our work readiness course, with more than 20 partner organizations already onboarded to facilitate the course in their communities. Each team has made significant inroads toward our overall vision of seeing South Africa flourish. We are also seeing a clear alignment in the strategies of our Early Life, Education, and Employment programs. Our initiatives are research-based and replicable, allowing us to do what we do at scale. In Congregational Support, we also firmly believe that the Church has a crucial role to play in addressing these injustices and thank Common Ground Churches for their partnership in this Gospel mandate.

I am pleased to announce that amidst our journey of growth and progress, we have also undergone a transition in leadership. After careful consideration, we are delighted to welcome Polly Murphy as the new Chief Executive Officer of Common Good Foundation. She, together with the management team, are passionate about seeing South Africa flourish as God intended it to, and collectively will chart an even brighter future for our organisation.

“each team has made significant inroads toward our overall vision of seeing South Africa flourish. We are also seeing a clear alignment in the strategy of our Early Life, Education and Employment programmes.”

As we embark on the next chapter of Common Good's journey, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Board, Finance Committee, supporters, staff, and partners who have contributed tirelessly to our vision. Your unwavering dedication and belief in our mission continues to inspire us to strive for excellence in all that we do.

In closing, I invite you to delve into the pages of our Annual Report, where you will find detailed insights into our accomplishments, challenges, and aspirations for the future. Together, let us continue to work towards a more just, equitable, and sustainable society for all.

Jurie Strydom

Chairperson of the Board



message from the ceo

Building to Last:



The motivation of our work stems from a deep faith in the God who created all people and who cares deeply for us.

At the beginning of the year, we as a team spent some time meditating on 2 Cor 5: 14 – 15, which speaks of Christ's love compelling us to live for Him. The motivation of our work stems from a deep faith in the God who created all people and who cares deeply for us. And this faith has not disappointed. We have seen God at work in wonderful ways in 2023!

I'd like to share a few highlights of the year – by no means an exhaustive list – but ones that summarise where we have come from and point to where we are heading.

2023 has been a year of reducing and clarifying. At Common Good we have a number of important and well-thought-out focus areas. We continue to work into the Early Life (specifically the First Thousand Days of life (FTD)), Education and Employment spaces as intervention at these critical points has significant impact on an individual's future. Along with these strategic focus areas, we are convinced of the unique and vital role the Church plays in seeing our nation flourish as God intended it to. We have been honing our Congregational Support strategy in 2023 and are freshly reminded of the need to equip Christ-followers to live righteously, equipped to deal with issues of injustice meaningfully and in a developmentally sound way. Where the clarity has helped us is in how we tackle these. More than ever we see the need to scaffold existing community organisations, leaders, schools and NGOs to serve their local community as it is only then that true transformation can take place and embedded change take effect.

Achieving a 93.3% pass rate for Silikamva 2023 matrics is testament to this type of working. Common Good does not teach a single learner. Rather, by supporting and coaching the school staff, skills are embedded in the school that will bear fruit for years to come. We have also seen a significant increase in systemics results for our primary schools. We are so encouraged by the growth and impact we are seeing! The Early Life programme works with over a thousand churches across South Africa to support families in the FTD. The Job Journey replicable work readiness course has already onboarded 20 replication partners who are running the course for their local communities. By working through partner organisations we can do what we do at scale. Together we can do so much more.

2023 has also been a year of Innovating. We have merged the skills and expertise of our Employment and Education programmes into a Career Readiness Pilot that equips Grades 9 to 11 learners at Silikamva with the skills they need for the world of work and studies. This is one of many cross-programme collaborations we hope to see in the future.

We have strong operational foundations in place for growth. Buildings are only as strong as the bases they are built upon, and at Common Good, we have prioritized key operational processes to ensure that we are poised for growth and increased impact in the years to come. We feel a sense of faith for what God has in store for us, and making sure that we are ready for what He brings has been a focus for the year.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Board, Finance Committee, Management Team and staff at Common Good for sowing your time, faith and expertise into this grand vision we believe is possible in God. To the organisations, schools and individuals we partner with, it is a privilege to work alongside you to see true transformation take root in our nation.

As you continue reading this Annual Report, I trust that you will be struck by a sense of hopefulness. For all that is happening in our country, God is moving. May you be stirred to respond to Him and join Him in seeing His kingdom come in South Africa as it is in heaven.

Polly Murphy

Common Good CEO

“ More than ever we see the need to scaffold existing community organisations, leaders, schools and NGOs to serve their local community as it is only then that true transformation can take place and embedded change take effect.





“Nestled within every local church community are powerful assets and strengths that can be leveraged to support and care for families with children in the first thousand days of life. They are so well positioned to reach families in a contextually sensitive way, journeying with them through this crucial period of baby’s brain development.”



early life

sikunye

The early life initiative of Common Good was named Sikunye, the isiXhosa word describing how we are in this together. Churches, filled with volunteers, are using what God has given them to create supportive communities around families with children in the first thousand days. At the heart of what Sikunye does is to inspire, mobilise and equip these transformative communities to impact families.

This year we started with the goal of growing the network to a total of 1000 churches caring for families in the first thousand days. Over the course of 2023, we saw 356 new churches commit themselves to caring for families. These are churches from all over the country (and beyond!), across denominations and all are taking steps to invest in young lives by caring for families. And while this did not take us to our goal of 1000, we are celebrating the total network of churches reaching 941. (PS: we crossed the 1000 mark in January 2024). This has a wide reach: by the end of 2023, over 10014 families with children in their first thousand days were in these local churches!

The beginning of 2023 introduced a distinct challenge of Loadshedding level 6. This new reality made Zoom events (our regular platform) a near-impossibility. Within a short time, the team shifted to hosting several events on WhatsApp and YouTube. This strategy brought new opportunities and was instrumental in seeing the network grow, despite mobile phone connection issues. Four of our programme offerings now incorporate WhatsApp elements.

In our work to support churches in their care for families, we innovated a new programme called Khathalela. Volunteers are empowered to visit families and share important health-related information and skills at key moments in the First Thousand Days. This supports parents to integrate critical behaviours that ensures baby’s healthy development.

To better reach churches in the network, we included several in-person events. From Tsakane to Soweto, Gqeberha, Mthatha, Worcester and Khayelitsha, we were encouraged to see churches deepen their work in serving and strengthening families. We also hosted hybrid events in Nkomazi and Bloemfontein.

After running our series on Fatherhood, the Church and the First Thousand Days in 2021, we have wanted to develop a practical tool that churches can utilize to encourage and equip fathers to be more positively involved in the care of their young children. 2023 saw the first pilots of a new programme, 'Fatherhood in the First Thousand Days'. In a society that often overlooks fathers and their care role, we are convinced, more than ever that supporting and strengthening fathers is good for baby, good for mom and good for dad.



356

The number of new churches joining the network



941

The number of churches in the network at the end of 2023



10014

The estimated number of families receiving care

Equipping Achievement

Number of people who attended Sikunye's offerings...



We believe that every church has a part to play in caring for families. Whether large or small, urban or rural, denominational structure or financial resourcing: every church can use what it has to be a blessing to support and strengthen families. Our work is to support these churches as they seek to transform their communities.

Looking ahead to 2024 and beyond, our early life team is committed to seeing churches increase their impact and care for families. We want to reach as many churches as possible, to see that every family is within reach of a church that is committed to seeing them thrive. Through key partnerships and connecting churches together, we see greater collaboration between churches for long lasting impact in communities.

Richard Lundie
Sikunye Programme Lead



“This training really helps a lot. It gives directions then it's easier to assist the people.”

Khathalela trainee,
Feedback from a participant



“I did watch all the videos and it has encouraged us a lot as a church to play our part for families to unite and succeed in building their future and their children to thrive. Yet as a church we must be there to equip them and give a full support by creating Programmes that will engage with whatever they are faced with. We already have started a soup kitchen where we gather parents and at church we have created a Team that will deal with children during the services and to have learning tools for them, we started visiting clinics for pregnant women to have knowledge about the importance of 1000 days. We are good to go and spread the news for 2024.”

Church Leader
Heidelberg, Cape Town



“The training has made significant changes in terms of perception, fatherhood ideologies and how to better oneself. I have accepted that there may be issues in the past which I could not change, but I am in control and healed.”

Fatherhood in the FTD pilot,
Feedback from a participant



education

collaboration schools

The aim of the Common Good Education team remains to scaffold the provision of quality education to learners attending no-fee government schools in low-income communities. In 2023 the team has held fast to our Theory of Change, namely that development support in the areas of instructional leadership, teaching and learning, and operations turns the dial on the instructional outcomes of a school and ultimately improves learner results.

It is the internal partnership between the Operations and Instructional Teams that facilitates effective partnership with our Collaboration Schools. It is also their shared methodology of training and coaching that embeds lasting change.

Operations Team [facilitating an Enabled Environment]

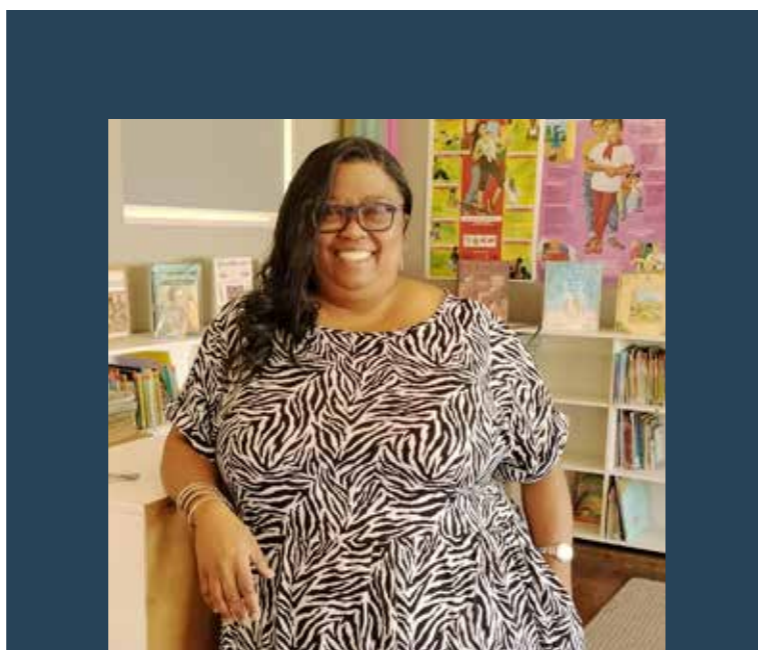
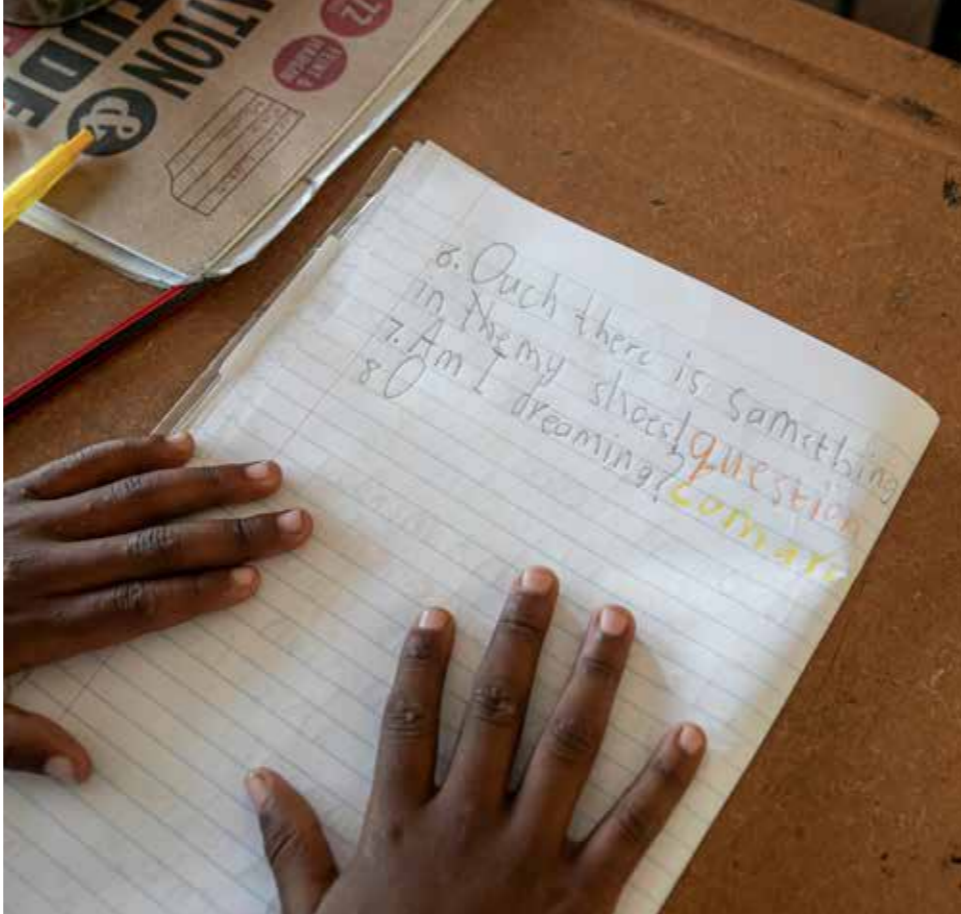
The Operations team is instrumental in facilitating that an enabling environment exists into which quality teaching and learning can take place. The Operations team includes the functions of finance, HR, admin, data, and system. This team also oversees career readiness at Silikamva and psychosocial support for each of our schools. The support provided by the Operations team includes training and coaching of support staff at schools, not overshadowing school staff but rather enhancing and complementing their existing efforts. This is important as it allows for embedded change that is relevant, practical and sustainable.

Instructional Leadership Team

To improve teaching and learning in schools, we focus on two main things: the curriculum (what needs to be taught and assessed) and pedagogy (how it's taught). Traditionally, we've used instructional coaching to directly support teachers' practices while also enhancing the leadership skills of principals and deputies. This approach has been successful in previous years, but towards the end of 2023, we made a significant shift. We decided to concentrate our instructional coaching efforts on leaders of phases (in primary schools) and grades (in high schools), as well as specific subject leaders. We believe sustainable improvement depends on embedding the right teaching practices within school leadership. While the full impact of this change will be felt in 2024, 2023 confirmed that it was the right time to make this shift. Our schools have been invaluable partners in this process, helping us understand and refine the necessary reforms in the no-fee context. Despite the challenges, we're confident in our schools and our partnership as we move forward into the future.

Dave de Korte

Programme Director



I have been working in administration since 2022. I was appointed as the bursar of Disa Primary in Jan 2024. This is a challenging portfolio, but I had no concern about whether I would be able to meet the needs of the school, because I have had consistent training from our School Governing Body treasurer, from Common Good, Ms Sindiswa Mpaliso. She has been a stalwart and a great mentor. I am confident that I am able to manage this portfolio through the upskilling and support our operating partner has given me.

Mugeebullah Abrahams.
Bursar

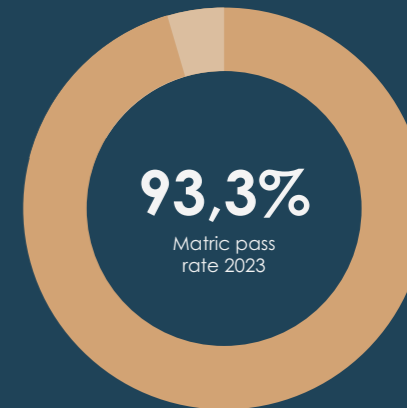
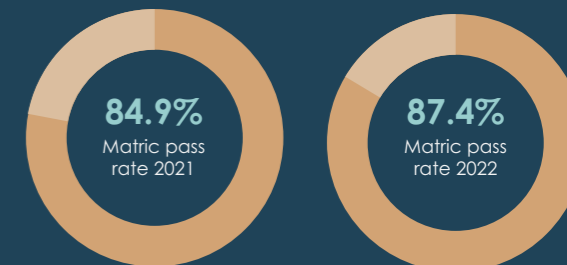
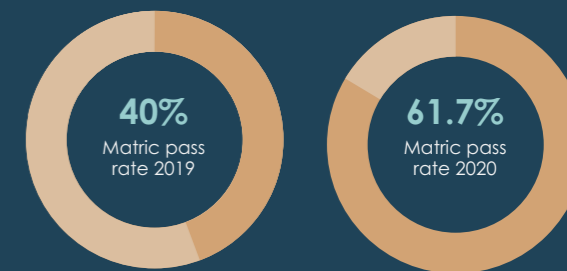
As a fairly newly appointed principal at Disa Primary School, the support I have received from our operating partner, has been of immeasurable value. They lean in wherever they are needed, from Human Resources and Operations (Lynn Davids and Jessica Van Nelson), and financial management (Sindiswa Mpaliso) to School Improvement Plan development (Matthew Draper) and Instructional leadership (the Big D – Dave De Korte). It is very reassuring to know that I have a legion of expertise to call on. I would recommend becoming part of the collaborative school's project, with Common Good, to any principal, who knows what they want for the learners in their school.

Dawn Africa-Karels.

Principal at Disa Primary School



Silikamva matric pass rate



employment

2023 has been a year marked by newness and growth. We reflect joyfully on partnership, innovation and collaboration making a significant impact in the employment space in South Africa.

The Employment programme currently consists of three parts: Career Support, School Leavers and Job Journey.

Grade 9 – 12 Career Support

The career support programme is designed to support learners in accessing opportunities & navigating their futures.

In 2023, we piloted grade specific content with grade 9 to 11 learners from Silikamva High School during terms 3 and 4. These sessions incorporated experiential learning techniques to tackle themes from the Life Orientation curriculum, including emotional intelligence, values and professionalism, and character. In total, 20 sessions were facilitated and attended by 471 learners.

We also supported 63 matriculants with applications to further studies and connected 27 to meaningful post-school opportunities. We're excited at the opportunity to replicate this offering into the future!

School Leavers

Our team piloted two sessions with Silikamva High School's alumni in 2023. The first session focused on understanding the application process – how to apply to opportunities and where to apply. In session two, beneficiaries spent time developing the necessary application tools – including the development of a CV, cover letter, and implementing strategic job searches.

Job Journey Course

In 2023, we collaborated with The FinCoach Foundation to develop a work readiness course that can be replicated and facilitated by other organisations in their local communities. This collaboration led to the creation of the Job Journey course – a modular, replicable course that promotes social and personal development, and the hard skills needed to help individuals look for and sustain meaningful work. Our goal is to restore dignity and hope to unemployed individuals by equipping them with the confidence, essential skills, and resources to enter the workforce.

We trialed various versions of the course with 91 participants. Their participation and insights were instrumental in finalising the content. Our 2023 launch event was a huge success, and the subsequent onboarding session was attended by 20 organisations, a number of whom ran the Job Journey with their communities in Q4 2023.

job journey impact

since the programme launch in August 2023



273

The number of graduates who benefitted from the Job Journey Course



6

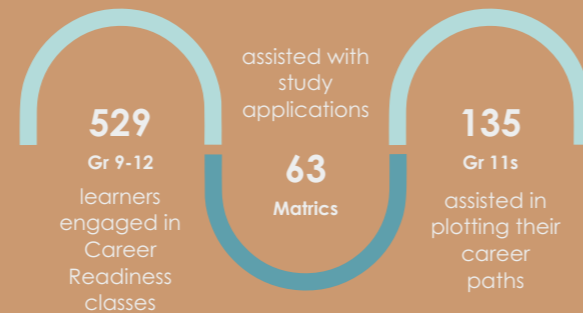
Courses replicated by partners



20

Organisations onboarded as Job Journey Replication partners

career readiness impact

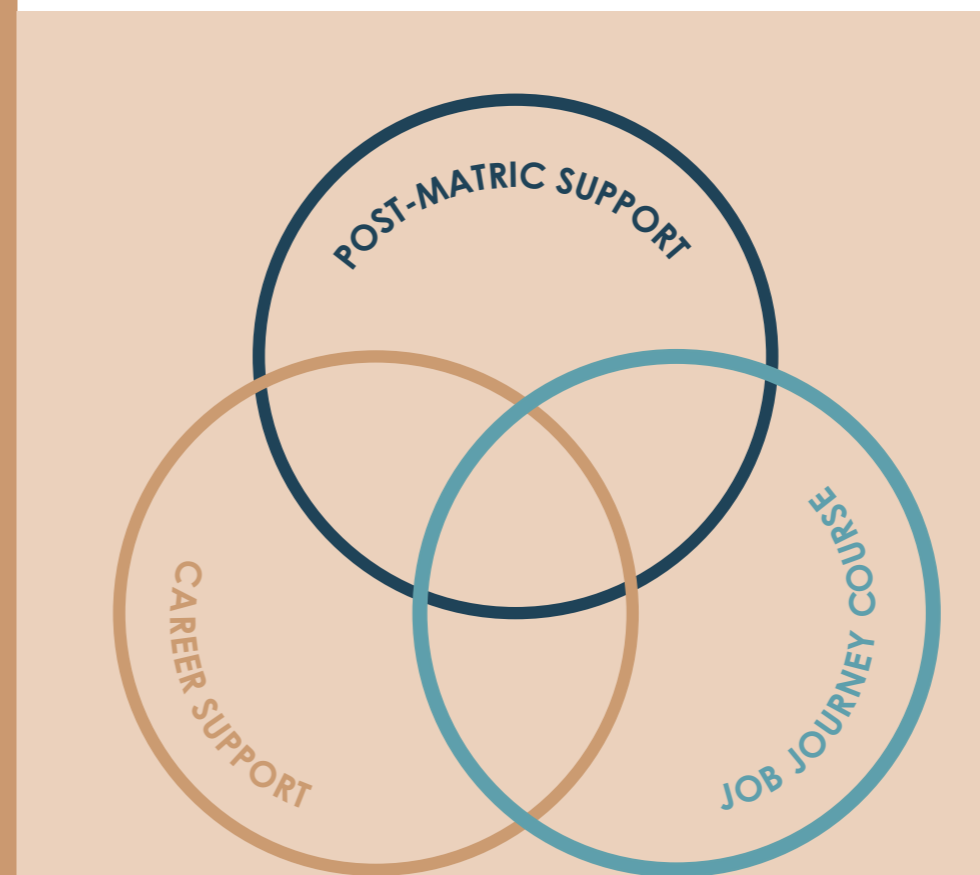


Looking Ahead:

As we look to the future, we remain committed to the principles of collaboration and innovation. It is only when working together that true, embedded, scalable community impact can take place. We want to say a heartfelt thank you to all our partners, supporters and participants who have joined us on this journey. Siyabulela!

Kristin Myburgh

Employment Programme Lead



“ Love your neighbour





congregational support

Common Good is biblically convinced that the church has a crucial role to play in seeing God's kingdom established on earth. His kingdom is one where people are treated with dignity, honour and are given access to opportunity as image bearers. This idea of a groundswell of Christ-followers who care, and are equipped with developmental wisdom to address injustice is one that is not new. Jesus summarised the Old Testament laws governing how people live righteously – rightly with Him and rightly with each other – in these instructions:

And he said to him, **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."** Matthew 22: 37-40

“ He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8 - ESV



Biblical Justice

2023 has been a year of Common Good re-establishing our role in supporting churches to respond to God in loving their neighbour.

Common Ground, as our founding church, has played a crucial role in us working out what it looks like to partner with church leaders to see their congregants disciplined for action. We are incredibly grateful for their investment of time, thought, theological grappling and finance into Common Good.

We have grown substantially since our inception almost two decades ago with a track record of city-wide (and now national) impact.

What they have sown, has resulted in what Common Good is now. In the words of one congregation leader, **"we've got what we prayed for!"**

Our primary way of supporting congregations is through **connecting with their leaders, offering our developmental expertise and giving strategic insights into their outworking of discipleship and justice initiatives in their local contexts.** We also support through the creation of developmentally aware, thought-provoking content that helps Christ-followers think about what it means practically to love their neighbour.

“ 2023 has been a year of Common Good re-establishing our role in supporting churches to respond to God in loving their neighbour.



Our website includes many resources, devotionals, blog posts and courses that are freely accessible. www.commongood.org.za

finances and commentary

Looking back on 2023 Financials we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the faithful, generous giving that has allowed Common Good to pursue our big vision for South Africa. We want to extend a heartfelt thanks to each and every contributor (some of whom have given monthly for years) to the work that we do. We consider you key shareholders in the Common Good story, and are conscious of the importance of being entrusted with your hard-earned cash. To our donor organisations, corporate sponsors and grant-makers, thank you for counting us worthy of your investment. Together, we are seeing change in South Africa.

We ended 2023 with a surplus, as is in line with our financial policy that requires a three month operating reserve. If COVID has taught us one thing, that is to be prepared for the unexpected. And, having a reserve mitigates for this financial risk. We consider this prudent financial management, and ensures our long-term sustainability.

Each and every cent invested in Common Good is stewarded with integrity and managed by strong financial processes and controls. We have achieved a clean financial audit every year since our inception, and 2023 is no exception. We thank the Finance Committee and Board for their governance in ensuring the financial sustainability of Common Good.

Together we are seeing tangible impact in South Africa.

“ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	2023			2022	2021
Income	R	\$	£	R	R
Donations	20,713,288	1,122,507	902,284	20,518,300	23,239,495
Total Donations	20,713,288	1,122,507	902,284	20,518,300	23,239,495
Cost of generating funds					
Fundraising and publicity	627,238	33,992	27,323	1,415,828	1,459,831
Total cost of generating funds	627,238	33,992	27,323	1,415,828	1,459,831
Investments/expenditure					
Programmes	18,490,502	1,002,049	805,458	20,429,621	21,991,690
Management and administration	494,899	26,820	21,558	1,277,531	1,559,480
Total investments/expenditure	18,985,401	1,028,868	827,016	21,707,152	23,551,170
Assets					
Fixed assets	2,547,344	139,194	109,322	3,135,882	3,695,888
Donations received in advance	400,000	21,857	17,166	-	-
Sustainability reserve	4,760,902	260,149	204,319	2,191,529	2,200,000
Cash	5,025,296	274,596	215,666	2,191,529	2,045,952
Other receivables	206,454	11,281	8,860	176,718	456,911
Total Assets	12,939,996	707,077	555,334	7,695,657	8,398,750

Independent audit conducted by Shrand & Ekermans Inc
CA(SA) +27 21 762 7833

Currency conversions: \$1 = 18,4527 | £1 = 22,9565
Annual average foreign exchange rate for the year
obtained from the South African Reserve Bank

Ways to support us

Please join us in praying for South Africa. This beautiful country that we live in has many challenges. It also has a God who cares for its welfare, and acts mightily in our lives. Let's ask God to move powerfully in South Africa. Please also pray for the Common Good team.

Sign up for our newsletter to receive regular information about your impact and to find out about our programmes in more detail.

Follow us on social media to get a feel for the team, and what we're up to.



Good news mailer



Instagram

For South Africa to win, it'll take all of us responding to God's call to love our neighbour. This can feel overwhelming, but the first step is to soften our hearts and let Scripture inform our behaviour. Feel free to download our Justice Journey resources and delve into other topics of justice via the Common Good website.

How can you leverage what God has already put in your hands for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable around you?



Resource page

Giving financially is another way to support Common Good. Have you considered signing up to be a recurring monthly donor? Follow the prompts on our website to set this up, or to donate a once-off gift. Charitable donations to Common Good qualify for an 18A tax certificate.



Donate

PRAY

FOLLOW

REFLECT

DONATE

thank you

Our work is made possible by the faithful support of many individual donors, funding organisations, and private enterprises. We are grateful for their generous contributions and partnership which enable us to impact thousands of men, women, and children's lives across South Africa for good.



commongood

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