



ITHEMBA PROGRAMME

- Saving Children in Africa -



Our Community

Paarl is located approximately 60km from Cape Town in the heart of the Cape Winelands in South Africa. The town has a population of 305,281 people and due to the growth of the Mbekweni township it is now a de facto urban unit with Wellington within the Drakenstein municipal borders covering 1538 km². The town is known for its scenic environment, viticulture and fruit-growing heritage.

Paarl is a haven for tourists, but can be a tough environment for the poor.

The Opportunity

Due to political turmoil, a stagnant economy and an exceptionally high unemployment figure in excess of 30%, our community is locked in poverty. According to the 2022/27 Integrated Development Plan of the Drakenstein Municipality, there are now 41 Informal Settlements with 11755 Households without Income. Providing sufficient education is of major concern. Drug and alcohol abuse is a serious challenge leading to violence, bullying, teenage pregnancies and the abandonment of many babies. The winters are cold and wet, creating a need for shelter, blankets and food.

We do however know that throughout history, Paarlites who have managed to overcome these challenges have excelled in becoming some of the continent's top leaders in business as well as on the sports field.

Community Challenges

- Food and Nutrition
- Health clinic facilities
- Abandoned babies
- Violence against women and children
- Youth pregnancies
- Drug abuse
- Need for educational aids
- Alcohol abuse
- Bullying



SOLVE: Our challenge is to support these young people through our many projects to become those leaders.



Stewardship

Paarl Rotary recognizes that these challenges are far greater than we and all the other active service organisations in the valley can manage or control. Our vulnerable communities are growing out of proportion and may soon become unmanageable. Our solution is to act as stewards and to ensure that as many projects as possible are effectively delivered in the community by the community.

Through this central management and control structure, outputs are checked, leadership developed and sustainable projects and capabilities established.



Current Investments

NORSA

Norsa provides nutritional support, educational support, psycho-social support, foster care, early childhood development as well as offering an after-school training service. The organisation reaches out to more than 4000 families.



BUTTERFLY HOUSE

A pre-school and after school care centre for children from the poverty and violence stricken informal settlement of Fairyland.



NUWEDRIF EDUCATION TRUST

An educational facility and support system for the children of farmworkers – from pre-school to after-school age - in this wine producing community.

The drop-out rate among these children is exceptionally high, and the programme is focused to try and break this cycle of poverty.



EYE TESTS

Free eye tests are provided at multiple facilities and hundreds of spectacles have been supplied to children in need. This ongoing project has proven to be a great success in improving children's learning abilities

SPORTS FACILITIES

Supporting locally organised sports clubs to keep youth off the streets. We have had great success with a kickboxing club that presents ant-bullying courses at schools. Wrestling, martial arts, cricket clubs and athletics clubs also prove to be effective in motivating vulnerable youth.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Every year a large group of youth leaders from the local schools are sponsored to attend a week's course in leadership training at an offsite venue in our area. These events are coordinated by District 9350 and we would like to extend this to more youth candidates from within the Drakenstein municipal borders.

Partner with us

The opportunity exists for your Rotary Club to partner with Paarl Rotary on one or more of our very successful community projects by investing funds to a specific cause in our fight against poverty and neglect.

A dedicated Rotarian will keep you updated on project progress as well as the outcomes following successful completion of the project, as well as the opportunity for renewal of the investment.

FEEDING SCHEMES

The establishment and support of numerous soup kitchens and other feeding schemes with organisations who continue to support the needs of the community on a daily basis.



MBEKO ECO CLUB

In partnership with Paarl Mountain Nature Reserve personnel and youth from the Mbekweni community, we have embarked on an environment programme to harvest seeds and re-establish indigenous trees on Paarl Mountain.



THE ROTARY CLUB OF PAARL

PO Box 26, Paarl, 7620

President: Marita van der Sluys

Contact +27 82 772 3499

Secretary: June Kroukamp

Contact +27 82 492 0423