

# THE STORIES YOU'RE WRITING

REAL LIVES. REAL HOPE. REAL IMPACT.

JUNE 2026

1 Chronicles 16:34 (NIV)  
"Give thanks to the Lord,  
for he is good; his love  
endures forever"



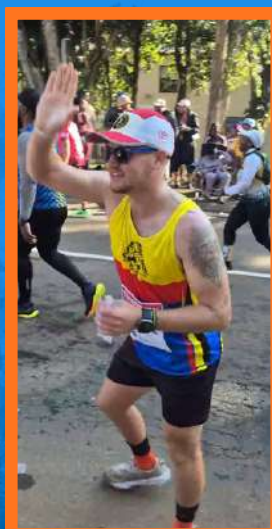
# Shap Baby!



The ShapBaby! Project 2026 wrapped up this month with incredible achievements from our athletes. Kyle Schnuir and Ansa van der Merwe completed the Half Ironman in Durban, while Matthew Rottcher, Mthokozisi Mthethwa, and Connor Lendrum proudly finished their first ever Comrades Marathon.

Ansa began this year's project feeling led by God to set a bold target of R150,000, and we are thrilled to share that the goal was reached. This milestone was made possible through our athletes, cheerleaders, beaders, volunteers, cafés that sold bracelets, and the unwavering support of our community.

We closed the project in celebration and gratitude on Sunday, 28 June, sharing a beautiful, delicious cake generously sponsored by Shoprite.



## African Bank

This month we were delighted to welcome staff from African Bank, who spent time connecting with our children and generously donated much-needed supplies. Their visit was uplifting, meaningful, and deeply appreciated by all of us at iKhaya.



# Birthday Surprises



Birthdays are a great opportunity to bless each child, and make their wishes come true with a themed cake and gift. This month we celebrated with an extra special treat- candy floss! Thanks to each sponsor for making these parties so special.

## SKILLS & DEVELOPMENT



We are incredibly proud of our two tertiary learners who continue to shine. Lulu is excelling at the fashion academy and recently wore one of her stunning creations to church, a beautiful purple blouse, a wonderful reflection of her talent and hard work. Jabu has also done exceptionally well, completing the first semester of her second year at university with dedication and determination. She came home for the mid-year break, for some much-needed family time and rest.

These young ladies inspire us, and we celebrate their achievements with joy.



# ON THE FIELD



School Sports Day was exciting, energetic, and full of fun. The learners and staff had such a lovely time together. Luyanda shone on the track, winning two races, while Sli secured second place. Bandile also excelled, finishing second in all of his events. We're so proud of these young athletes and the joy they brought to the day. Seeing them achieve both academically and on the sports field is a delight!

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our heartfelt thanks to every sponsor and supporter. Without you, we could not do what we do for our children. Amongst the many who give clothing, food and other goods, Nando's Empangeni treated the children to freshly grilled chicken, and Shoprite made a grocery donation for Youth Day.



## If the Shoe Fits



While sorting through the shoes, our little ones couldn't resist trying a few on. Some found their perfect fit, some needed a helping hand, and others decided shoes are still a very big challenge... a sweet mix of success, struggle, and teamwork

# Thriving Against the Odds



When 'Mr D' arrived at iKhaya LikaBaba at just 2 years and 9 months old, the effects of neglect and malnourishment were clear. He was severely underweight, and although nearly three years old, he walked like a child taking their first steps, wobbling, falling, and lacking confidence.

Today, at 6 years old, his transformation is remarkable. He now runs, plays with enthusiasm, and eagerly takes part in Action Ball and every programme on offer. While he remains non-verbal, he communicates through sounds, gestures, and a communication tablet with specialised software that allows him to express his needs using pictures. Our staff are learning to use the system alongside him, and his speech

therapist continues to help him develop these important communication skills.

One thing everyone understands is his wonderful sense of humour. His joyful personality and determination bring smiles to all of us, and his developmental progress since arriving at iKhaya LikaBaba has been incredible.

His journey is a powerful reminder of what love, nurture, and consistent care can achieve. Every child deserves the opportunity not just to survive, but to thrive. We would love to teach both "Mr D" and our staff South African Sign Language to further strengthen his ability to communicate. If you are qualified in sign language, or know someone who would be willing to volunteer their time, we would love to hear from you. Your skills could make a lasting difference in his life.

## School's out



Holiday mode activated! After all the tests and exams, the school learners jumped straight into traditional games and pure fun. It's time to relax and rest before facing the second half of the academic year.

Dear friends

# A Personal Note

As we reflect on the past few months, our hearts are full. The Shap Baby Project has been an incredible highlight, not only because of the funds raised, but because of the way our community rallied together with such passion and unity. Every runner, donor, school, business, and family played a part, and the impact continues to ripple through our home.

We're now looking ahead to Mandela Day, another beautiful opportunity for companies, school learners, and families to sow into the lives of our children through their 67 minutes of kindness.

Internally, the last season has also been one of growth and strengthening. We've made important operational changes to improve service delivery and care, giving our staff much-needed rest, and invested in training that has expanded their capacity and renewed their sense of purpose. These sessions have equipped our team and they've fostered hope, vision, and confidence in our children too.

We also want to express our deep gratitude for the way you have embraced our current German volunteers. They have served with determination, love, and humility, and they will be sorely missed by the church family, their connect group, the iKhaya staff and board, and of course the children when they leave in July. Their departure leaves a significant gap in our operations, especially as we will only receive one international volunteer in their place. If you know of anyone who may be willing to commit six months to a year of serving, gaining meaningful work experience, and becoming part of the Solid Ground and iKhaya family, we would be grateful for any referrals.

We are grateful for every hand, every heart, and every act of kindness that keeps iKhaya moving forward. Together, we are building something truly meaningful.

Loressa, the Board, Staff and Children



## Piece by Piece We Grow

Our team explored values, discipline, mission, vision, and future choices in a 2 day training course by Tanya of Senseable Group. A powerful investment in unity, wisdom, and the children we love.

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