









At iKhaya, we embrace every milestone! Alongside our vibrant 10-year-old, we celebrated a special young chap's 2nd birthday - a moment filled with joy, laughter and sweet memories. We've had the privilege of witnessing a truly beautiful transformation, from a little, timid baby to a bright, confident young lass, this incredible 10-year-old has blossomed before our eyes. She now steps into her next chapter with radiance, ready to take on the world with her vibrant energy and endless potential.



NAPPIES

We are beyond grateful for the incredible response to our nappy drive! Not only did the babies receive much-needed supplies, but the children also had an absolute blast playing in the boxes. Thank you for being part of something so special!





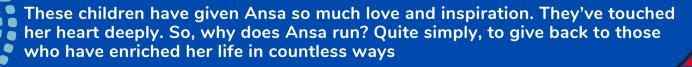




SHAP BABY PROJECT

Ansa van der Merwe is the driving force behind the Shap Baby Project's fundraising campaign, which she co-leads with Sarah Camp. Ansa, a compassionate medical doctor, was deeply moved when she encountered an abandoned baby at Queen Nandi Regional Hospital—a moment that left a lasting impression on her heart. She later reunited with the child at iKhaya, inspiring her dedication to care and service. Together, they are preparing to take on the half Ironman 70.3 Durban on June 1st, raising support for iKhaya. But what fuels Ansa's passion for running? Here's a deeper dive into her journey.

One afternoon, as she jogged through the streets of Empangeni, a curious child playing in a nearby garden shouted, "Why are you running?" Gasping for air, Ansa replied, "I'm... (deep breath) EXERCISING!" With a long distance still ahead, she pondered this question: Why am I running? Why dedicate so much effort, time, and training to fundraising? Her thoughts drifted back to her first day teaching ballet to the children of iKhaya. Eager and prepared, she brought music, a dance routine, and the hopeful naivety of a new educator. She attempted to organize the children just like her dance teacher had done, but they were too excited to stay in place. They all wanted to be close to their teacher. Within minutes, she abandoned the structure, and they joyfully flapped their arms and stretched together, resembling a game of human-sized pick-up sticks—all eager to be near someone who valued their presence. Ansa recalled another visit to iKhaya when chaos reigned as the children returned from school. As she stepped out of her car, they ran to her, exclaiming, "Ballet teacher! Ballet teacher!" With so many questions and eager faces, one little girl clung to her legs, prompting Ansa to lift her up. As Ansa conversed with a staff member and peeked into the kitchen, the child on her hip gently tucked Ansa's hair behind her ear—a simple gesture filled with love. Another memory surfaced of a day when Ansa arrived at iKhaya for a ballet class after an exhausting work shift. Despite her fatigue, she pushed herself to go. The class was shorter than usual, as her energy waned, so she had the children sit in a circle. She asked them what they were most grateful for that day, seeking a fresh perspective. One child mentioned the sweets Ansa brought, another said, "That I'm learning to do ballet," and another simply said, "That ballet teacher came today."









MEET THE LEADERS



At the heart of iKhaya's mission is the dedicated leadership of the iKhaya Mancom, guiding the home with wisdom and faith. Their oversight extends across three key areas: fiduciary, generative, and strategic leadership. Their fiduciary responsibility ensures that iKhaya is well-managed, with strong governance over finances, staff, and property. Their generative leadership fosters an environment that feels like a true family home, ensuring that Christ is honored in all aspects of life at iKhaya. Looking ahead, their strategic leadership embraces the future with trust in God's guidance—adapting to the evolving needs of our children as they grow in number and age. Our team is blessed with professionals whose expertise spans medical care, architecture, engineering, human resources, church ministry, and corporate leadership. Above all, they are guided by the unmistakable inspiration of the Holy Spirit, our ever-present Counsellor. Together, they ensure that iKhaya continues to be a place of love, faith, and hope for every child who calls it home.

Chairman



Mahen Govender



Lee-Anne Reich



Richard Polayya

Treasurer



Pius Masinga



Paul Scherzer



Lee Zitha

Secretary



Dezi Laatz



Barry Lane ___



Jakes Olivier



Collecting Avos

DOING LIFE...



This month has been full of hands-on learning and joyful exploration! Our little ones had a blast making playdough, ones had a blast making playdough, discovering nature outdoors, and engaging in enriching classroom activities. From collecting fresh avocados to babies developing skills through interactive developing skills through interactive educational toys, each moment has been a education of curiosity and growth. We love seeing their smiles, enthusiasm, and the wonderful progress they make every day!









A Personal Note

Dear friends,

Solid Ground Church hosted a wonderful Sign-Up-Sunday, welcoming those eager to serve and support our mission of caring for vulnerable children. The response was truly inspiring, and we're excited to see how these new volunteers will contribute as we move forward with the program.

The Shap Baby Project continues to soar! Thanks to the incredible dedication of Ansa, Sarah and their supporters, whether by promoting the cause, crafting beautiful, beaded bracelets, or contributing financially, we've reached our R50,000 goal and are confident that there is more to come. The enthusiasm and generosity surrounding this initiative have been nothing short of amazing!

As we cherish the presence of our long-term volunteers, Sophie and Karolin, we are mindful that their time with us is coming to an end in less than two months. Their help has been invaluable, making daily operations smoother and enriching the lives of the children. If you're considering volunteering and have a special skill—whether in tutoring, music, dance, sports, or beyond, please reach out. We'd love to welcome you into this meaningful journey!

Let's also take a moment to lift Jabu up in prayer as she embarks on her first university exams from 30 May. We are cheering her on as she studies and writes, and we can't wait to welcome her home for the recess towards the end of June!

Together, we continue to make a lasting impact!

Greetings from Loressa and the iKhaya Team



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