



2023 Annual Report

Introduction

Three Tree Hill Foundation is a non-profit organisation that assists community & conservation projects in rural Kwa Zulu Natal area, close to Bergville. Funds are collected via levy charged to guests for each bed-night and lump sum donations. Sometimes guests will make specific requests for items to be purchased for a specific community.

The foundation does not employ any people. All work done is voluntary and facilitated by the lodge owner of Three Tree Hill.

Small Business Incubator

This year was a very successful one for Maduna, whose sales were propelled by word of mouth visitors to the lodge. We struggled to sell the seed pod art from the young man in the village. They were too big so we have returned them & asked him to try and make smaller portraits.

Maduna's Marvelous Mats – Have come up with some new designs & colours & also added bracelets to the mix. Doing very well. Annual turnover was UP from last year R52,3325.

Amamnjandu Doilies – Annual turnover was way down due to family personal issues. Ntobeko will look at training someone else in the village to take over - R400

Nguni Skins from local farmer – Annual turnover was UP R16,415

Sewing Ladies (uniforms & mending) - Annual turnover was UP
R1,240



Vaccination & Personal Health Drive

In May we sent some staff to the private pharmacy to receive Flu vaccinations, (R1,200) but then managed to arrange for the Health Department Mobile clinic to come to the lodge and do Flu vaccinations, HIV & TB testing together with counselling.

Personal Mental Health Drive

One of our staff was showing physical health signs that indicated a possible mental health issue of Depression, so a Men's Mental Health Consultant was employed to do one-on-one sessions with the staff member. Total of 8 sessions – R3,200

Another staff member was struggling after the death of a family member, so Personal Motivation & Dealing with Struggles Course was gifted R454

High School Computer Teacher

Noxolo resigned this year, but we assisted her with R2,700 to move to Johannesburg to look for alternate work.

Interviews were held in April and replacement teacher 29 year old, Saziso Mdlalose was elected. He is a past pupil of Harvest High where he achieved top 10% of his grade, attended Durban University of Technology, achieving Diploma in Civil Engineering and also helped out as a volunteer at Nobomi in 2021-2022. Saziso wages spent this year was R12,000.

High School Website & Internet

We continue to pay for the school website hosting & internet connection through Draadloze.

Monthly 12 x 350 = R4,200

Zamokuhle Creche - Hambrook

Sbu, the groundsman was paid his wages for the year for continuous grounds maintenance & upkeep of the vegetable garden for use for children's meals. – R15,480
Maintenance & Repair to grounds & equipment – R19,287
Seedlings for creche for the vegetable garden were purchased – R8,392

Hambrook Primary School - Hambrook

Big drive to build up the Library at the Primary School in the village, so books have been purchased for guests to "buy and donate" when they go on the Village Tours – R12,544



Acton Homes Primary School

Chef and Lodge Manager attending their Careers Day and held a cooking competition where an annual TROPHY was sponsored for the event. – R350





Alien Vegetation Control

Teams of students from the village have been employed on a Casual Basis to tackle the LANTANA in the valley in front of the lodge. This is part of our Regenerative Landscaping Project which aims to restore the valley to its former grassland and aloes vegetation. Annual spend on their wages was R69,488.

Poison & Equipment – R12,200

Fuel & Transport to bring the teams in early before the heat – R12,556





Erosion Control

Lantana teams were also used to brushpack eroded areas near the streams where heavy cattle-traffic has caused erosion on the walking trails. Gum pole steps have been built to assist walkers through these areas.

Poles & Equipment – R4,632



Ezimvelo Game Guards

Drive to equip the Game Guards with better equipment for their patrols, included new uniforms, handheld radios and hiking boots. – R31,830

Molly Blackburn Book

In honour of the Molly Blackburn, John Clarke has offered to write a story of her life as a political activist.

Donation of R30,000 received from a Johannesburg company to assist with travel expenses for John's travels to gather information about the book.

Spioenkop Campaign Book by Rob Davidson

Dr Rob Davidson, guest and friend of the lodge, has finally completed an historical book about the battles of Rangeworthy, Three Tree Hill and Spioenkop. He has donated the books for the lodge to distribute. All proceeds will go towards maintaining the battlesites on the property.

Hambrook Community – various members in need

Vitamin -enriched Porridge for community - R11,354

Botshabelo Teacher Training

Three Tree Hill offers complimentary accommodation for the teachers in the UpliftED ECD (Early Childhood Development) Teacher Training Programme each year. The trainers travel into our neighbouring rural communities and teach the women managing the ECD centres – R191,360

This project started with the training of 5 teachers in our community and now benefits over 100 women in the region. Over 30 ECD centres have been positively impacted by the training and assistance and donations provided. More than 1000 children have received a better ECD education due to the new knowledge gained by their teachers and care givers. This number will rise as these teachers continue to put into practice what they gained this year. The training is mainly conducted in the local indigenous language of Zulu.

Generous donations of DUPLO assist these women with much needed learning materials.





Sakhile Centre of Learning - Amazizi

Social Services requested some safety features for the new buildings such as railings and steps to make classrooms more secure. Managed to recruit Harrismith builder to assist and completed the work during the winter school holidays so there was limited disruption. He also installed a ceiling for the kitchen to make it cooler & more hygienic, installed fascia boards to protect timber roof edging from deterioration, Also repaired the large, heavy metal doors with smaller doors for opening. - R42,500. A few smaller maintenance jobs were also carried out by Three Tree Hill R8,533.

Together with donations from GRUNDFOS and assistance from UNISA we managed to sink a borehole for the Centre to pump their own water with solar in future.

Also assisted with Stationery requirements for the new year – R1,918, food R625 and a gift for the outgoing Founder, Cheryl Grace R1100.

Sugar cane biodegradable Toilet paper & Probac BIO Cleaning Materials were bought to assist – R5,296





Local Church Group

Church held workshops in the December school holidays to keep the teenagers off the streets - Donation R1,000

Donations to Various NGO's

NSRI – R695

Muscular Dystrophy Foundation – R334

Lifeline – R349

Helping Hands Creche – R1,000

Zulu Tenor

Supported local Zulu Tenor by employing him for performance at the lodge – R4,500 plus assistance to get to Italy for performance – R1,000



Community Guides

Employed local guide for Mountain Hike Training – R800

Employed local guide for Literary Tour – R650

Local Soccer Team

Sponsorship for tournament to go to Winterton R1,000 for Youth Day

Housing Relief

Assisted members of the community with building and repairs to crumbling housing as a result of the previous year's heavy flooding and heavy rains. – R71,759

Water Committee

Co-ordinated the community to form a water committee to help deal with the crisis of lack of water in the village. We donated R1,500 towards the repair of their motor for the borehole. The situation is still dire.

Remember,

“If you always give, you will always have.”

Cheryl Blackburn