



2024 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 we had a 60% drop in sales for Maduna's Marvelous Mats. Most of the project's income for the year came from Three Tree Hill, since they have replaced all their breakfast mats with her new design. Total income for the year was only R33,095



It was decided that we need to spruce up the marketing material for her mats & make a concerted effort to increase sales this next year. We will also include her house as a stop on the Village Tour to encourage sales after they have seen her crafts.

Amamnjandu Doilies – Ntobeko had a difficult year with her dad's illness & passing, so no doilies were made or sold.

Nguni Skins from local farmer – Sales down. Only 1 skin sold R3745

Sewing Ladies – Sales down. Only one mending job of uniforms R200

Nguni Skin Belts – new supplier from Dundee. Only sold 1 x belt R595

Vaccination & Personal Health Drive

We arranged for the Health Department Mobile clinic to come to the lodge and do Flu vaccinations, HIV & TB testing together with counselling. Follow up information was sent throughout the year through whats app infographics from the Health Department.

Personal Mental Health Drive

We employed the services of a Mental Health Counsellor at the lodge for one week to have one-on-one sessions with every single staff member. Each staff member had the opportunity to have three sessions each, to discuss ways of living a healthier lifestyle and techniques of working on any mental health issues.

High School Computer Teacher

Since Saziso's departure last year, the high school principal was able to hold interviews and select a new teacher to manage the computer class. She is 26 year old, Nombulelo Mazibuko. R13,500 was spent in wages for the year.

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. – Maintenance & Repair to grounds & equipment – We employed a group of young people from the village to scrape & repaint the exterior of the creche

buildings – R13,600 for wages for the team, R23,459 spent on paint & building materials for maintenance plus R22,196 for other repairs throughout the year, which included repair of the newly donated jungle gym from the Perreira family.

Seedlings for the creche for the vegetable garden were purchased – R11,121

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. R11,826. There are continued discussions with the principal regarding the venue for the possible library. It is not clear whether the school actually want a library, so in the mean time we will continue with book donations.

Alien Vegetation Control

A permanent team of youth 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 it's former grassland and aloes vegetation. Annual spend on their wages, Poison & Equipment, Fuel & Transport – R278,740



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. This is important to stabilise the soil & prevent any run-off and further degradation.



Ezimvelo Game Guards

Drive to equip the Game Guards with better equipment for their patrols, included new binoculars this year. – R22,535

Molly Blackburn Book

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

Donation of R15,000 to assist with expenses for John's travels to gather information for the book.

Spioenkop Campaign Book by Rob Davidson

Dr Rob Davidson, guest and friend of the lodge, has published 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 Nhlayisa Porridge was distributed to community members in need - R12,033

Assisted a staff member with a traditional religious ceremony – R20,000
Assisted another staff member with tuition fees for her daughter's college – R7,000
Assisted a staff member with funeral for 16 year old son's tragic, sudden passing – R5,000
Assisted staff member with money to move to Johannesburg to look after mentally ill sister – R5,000

Youth Soccer Team Support

To commemorate June 16th Youth Day in South Africa, local soccer coach Sihle arranged a regional tournament. We donated the medals. R1,800

December Tornado

An unexpected tornado ripped through the village, Hambrook, tearing down a few homes, destroying fencing & crops. We assisted a number of families by delivering building materials to restore their homes & try to get them back on their feet again. – R90,257



Signage to the village was destroyed by the tornado. Replaced R25,270.



Trees uprooted



House totally destroyed by tornado.

Thankfully nobody was hurt.

Below are pictures of the re-built home, builders delivering material, new blocks.



Sakhile Centre of Learning - Amazizi

Carpenter contracted to complete work on railings for learner safety at Mabel's new class - R22,900

Assistance with the sourcing of sugar cane biodegradable toilet paper & Probac BIO Cleaning Materials were bought & delivered to the school.

Obonjaneni High School – Amazizi

Donated pencils for matrices through Joyce Shabalala – R1929

Christmas Clothing Parcels from Germany

Two families from Munich, Germany, donated over 60kg of children's clothing to the village. We packaged it into neat Christmas bundles & distributed them to families in need.



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.

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.



Local Church Group

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

Birthday Celebrations for Gogo

Celebrated the birthday of gogo, in the village by taking her a birthday cake.



Donations to Various NGO's

NSRI – R695

Muscular Dystrophy Foundation – R329

Animal Anti-cruelty – R369

Lifeline – R369

Deo Runs – Human rights activist running from Cape Town to London – R546

Helping Hands Creche – R1,000

Zulu Tenor

Supported local Zulu Tenor, Mxolisi Mlamuli, by hiring him to perform for our guests at New Year & contributed towards a competition in Cape Town. He won the battle of the Baritone Singers in December 2024 and will hopefully go on to compete in Botswana in September 2025 – Total contributions throughout the year - R10,000.



Community Guides

Simon & Cheryl employed the services of local Bird Guide, Steven Segang at the Ingula Pump Storage facility near Ladysmith to discover the higher altitude species on the escarpment. We expressed an interest to involve Steven & Birdlife Africa in a community education drive next year.

Employed local guide for Birding Expedition – R1,200



Ezimvelo Spioenkop Reserve

Took all the staff for game drive, educational & braai – entry fees R1050

Skills Development

6 staff members successfully completed their Level 1 First Aid Course



All Chefs, service staff & housekeepers did Vegan certification to ensure that they are able to meet all the guests requirements when vegans are concerned.



Service Staff attended Cocktail & Loose Leaf Tea Workshop



Till next year, remember...
"If you always give, you will always have."
Cheryl Blackburn