

Term 4 2024 Newsletter

Dear Partners, Donors & Friends of Bridges,

As we close another year of empowering lives to flourish at Bridges, I am delighted to share our journey and accomplishments with you.

This year marked the successful completion of our third year of fully funded educational camp programmes for children from under-resourced communities. Together, we have positively impacted the lives of 2,624 children—and the ripple effects of this work extend to educators, classrooms, and school communities as well.

Reflecting on a busy and fulfilling year, we are deeply grateful for God's goodness and kindness, and for each of you who have joined us in this mission. Thank you for being an essential part of our story.

As we move into 2025, we anticipate an increase of around 20% in the number of children and educators who will benefit from our Education Programme! This is truly something to celebrate.

With heartfelt gratitude and blessings,
Rigby
Chairman of the Board

Coach Snapshot

Isiphile Ndzuzo

Isiphile recently completed a National Certificate N4 in Hospitality Management at West Coast College in Malmesbury. She brings valuable experience working with children through a Child and Youth Care Development learnership programme at a youth centre where she developed her skills in nurturing and supporting young learners. Additionally, Isiphile gained hands-on culinary experience as a junior chef at Braai Cafe in Mbekweni, broadening her expertise in hospitality.

Beyond her work in hospitality and youth development, Isiphile is also a talented singer. She earned a Gold Plus award for a solo performance at the Frank Pietersen Music Center in Paarl, a testament to her dedication and passion for the arts.



Emily Jade Pedro

Emily, 22, hails from Athlone, Cape Town, and completed her Matric in 2020 at Phoenix Secondary School in Mannenberg. In 2021, she began working at Mary Harding School for the Intellectually Impaired as an Educational Assistant, where she spent two years supporting and assisting students.

Emily joined Bridges in 2023, bringing her dedication to inclusive education and her commitment to creating positive learning experiences for children.

Term 4 Camp Overviews

CAMP #1 - 1-3 Oct

Alpine Primary School, Mitchell's Plain

Grade 6 Camp

#Learners: 98 | #Educators: 6 | #Volunteers: 2

This camp was an excellent way to start the term! Learners arrived with excitement and enthusiasm, setting a positive tone from the beginning. The camp ran smoothly, thanks to the teamwork among staff, the support from educators, and the noticeable improvement in learners' behavior compared to last year. Coaches were particularly pleased to observe this positive shift.

Learners stayed engaged throughout the activities and actively participated in the feedback session, demonstrating a strong improvement in their understanding of social awareness. Educators played a vital role in maintaining discipline and supporting the coaches, allowing the coaches to focus on delivering effective sessions. Open communication between educators and coaches was maintained throughout, fostering a collaborative atmosphere that contributed to the camp's success.



CAMP #2 - 9-10 Oct

Bonga Primary School, Gugulethu and Dalubuhle Primary School, Franschhoek

Grade 5 Camp

#Learners: 161 | #Educators: 7 | #Volunteers: 3

We hosted a combined Grade 5 camp with two of our smaller partner schools, creating a vibrant and memorable experience for all involved. Learners from Dalubuhle arrived in their sports uniforms, filled with excitement for their first camp experience.

In a new enhancement to our programme, this camp featured more curriculum-aligned activities, enriching the learners' experience and tying directly into their school studies. All educators were actively involved and fully engaged in the activities—sometimes even more than the learners! Their commitment added tremendous value to the camp atmosphere and the learning process.

The educator debrief was encouraging, with enthusiastic praise for the camp experience as well as thoughtful, constructive feedback that will help us further refine our programme.



CAMP #3 & #4 16-18 Oct and 22-24 Oct

Christmas Tinto Primary School, Strand

Grade 6 Camp

#Learners: 124 | #Educators: 6 | #Volunteers: 1

#Learners: 102 | #Educators: 5 | #Volunteers: 1

Both camps kicked off on a lively note, with learners arriving full of excitement and singing. Educators made a concerted effort to be actively involved throughout, immersing themselves in the camp experience—many even joined the learners in the swimming pool, adding to the enjoyment!

A number of activities stood out as particularly popular, including the tangrams, marshmallow tower challenge, archery, obstacle course, and pool activities. These activities fostered creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving



among the learners. Educators were truly impressed by the learners' abilities, which were especially evident during the talent shows at both camps. Many educators shared that they were inspired by the activities and are eager to incorporate similar ones into their school programme.



CAMP #5 29-31 Oct

Simondium Primary School, Paarl

Grade 5 Camp

#Learners: 94 | #Educators: 5 | #Volunteers: 1

It was a pleasure to welcome the enthusiastic Grade 5 learners from Simondium Primary to Bridges! The learners thoroughly enjoyed the nature walk, immersing themselves in the beauty of the surroundings. As the camp progressed, the coaches began identifying each learner's strengths and areas for growth, supporting them as they worked together within their teams.

Despite some learners initially being shy, the coaches' energy and motivation helped bring out their best, fostering engagement and teamwork. The learners were articulate, attentive, and followed instructions well, making each activity a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

The educators expressed their appreciation for the coaches' dedication and commitment to the learners, commending their hard work in making the camp both impactful and enjoyable.



CAMP #6 5-8 Nov

Wes-Eind Primary School, Franschhoek

Closing out the year's camps with the Grade 5s from Wes-Eind Primary was truly phenomenal. Although we had a smaller group, the energy and enthusiasm of these young learners made it an unforgettable experience for everyone involved and we look forward to seeing them again next year!



Feedback & Appreciation Book

Wes Eind Primary shared a heartfelt digital book to express their gratitude and appreciation for the camp. The book features testimonials and reflections from students and educators, offering a glimpse into the profound impact the experience had on them.

[View Book](#)

Educator Feedback



"I really enjoyed the games that teach our kids to focus and to listen to one another and also work in groups. Because working in groups is what we implement in class. When they are effectively engaging with each other, I believe that that's where you get the good outcomes."

"I have a boy in my English class, I've never heard his voice in class, but yesterday at the camp workshop, to my surprise, he stood up and spoke! And I thought, what is happening?! I think with the teamwork they experienced on camp, they were so free they enjoyed each other's company."

"I do believe that when we go back to our classes and when we continue to implement group work activities and life skills you taught us, its going to continue to make a difference. Thank you"





Term 4 Impact



6
CAMPS



631
LEARNERS



31
EDUCATORS



1,262
WARM BEDS &
SHOWERS



4,417
NUTRITIOUS MEALS



5
PARTNER SCHOOLS



1,733
FACILITATOR
/ COACHING HOURS



8
VOLUNTEERS
(total of 74 hours)



102
CURRICULUM
ALIGNED ACTIVITIES

Year-to-Date Impact for 2024:

29 Camps

2 624 Learners

132 Educators

18 368 Nutritious meal

5 248 Warm Beds & Showers

Bridge the Gap Giving Campaign

Through **sponsorship**, our donors make the impossible happen for learners from our city's poorest schools.

In honour of **National Children's Day** on 3 November 2024, we are working towards a **sponsorship goal of R140 000** for the month of November.

All proceeds go to sponsoring one of our **Outdoor Education Camps** for one of the under-resourced schools in our community.

Support the work we do, by sponsoring young lives, and making it possible for more learners to attend this **life-impacting opportunity**.

Donate



Snap Scan



Peach Payments

Let's Stay Connected

We invite you to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn for weekly updates from our Bridges Outdoor Education Programme.

Your follows, likes, and shares play a vital role in helping us grow our support base and spreading the word about the amazing work happening at Bridges.





Thank You!

As we wrap up another incredible year of camps, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors, whose support has made these experiences possible for so many young learners.

Your contributions have created lasting memories and growth opportunities for each child who joined us. Wishing you a joyful and restful holiday season—thank you for being part of our journey! We look forward to 2025 for another year of inspiring camps and shared successes.

With love,

The Bridges Team



Bridges Retreat Centre

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