



# MICHAELHOUSE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

QUARTERLY REPORT  
*July – September 2020*

# WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR?



## NOTTINGHAM ROAD LANDOWNERS RELIEF FUND

We continue to support Nottingham Road Landowners Relief Fund, a total of R 180 322 was raised from Michaelhouse parents and Old Boys. An average of 3 200 individuals per month during April to August. From September the number of people being helped is down to 1,000.

Their relief work has gradually wound down their food relief programme to a monthly drop as a large number of the listed

beneficiaries have gone back to work or found employment.

Moving to a more sustainable model NRLRF in collaborations with Nottingham Road Refreshed are exploring waste collection and recycling opportunities. The Nottingham Road community is looking for a “shop” – a building where needy communities will be able to exchange bags of plastic for tokens to exchange for food, clothes, linen or seedlings.

## NATHAN LAPTOP DRIVE

A Block boy, Nathan Bau (Head of Pascoe) initiated a computer drive to support the continuation of teaching and learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. He collected a total of 7 used laptops, and with funds donated by Michaelhouse Old Boys together

with other generous individuals, he managed to buy 3 additional laptops, headphones and other necessary accessories to ensure that the computer lab at Lions River Primary School is up and running.



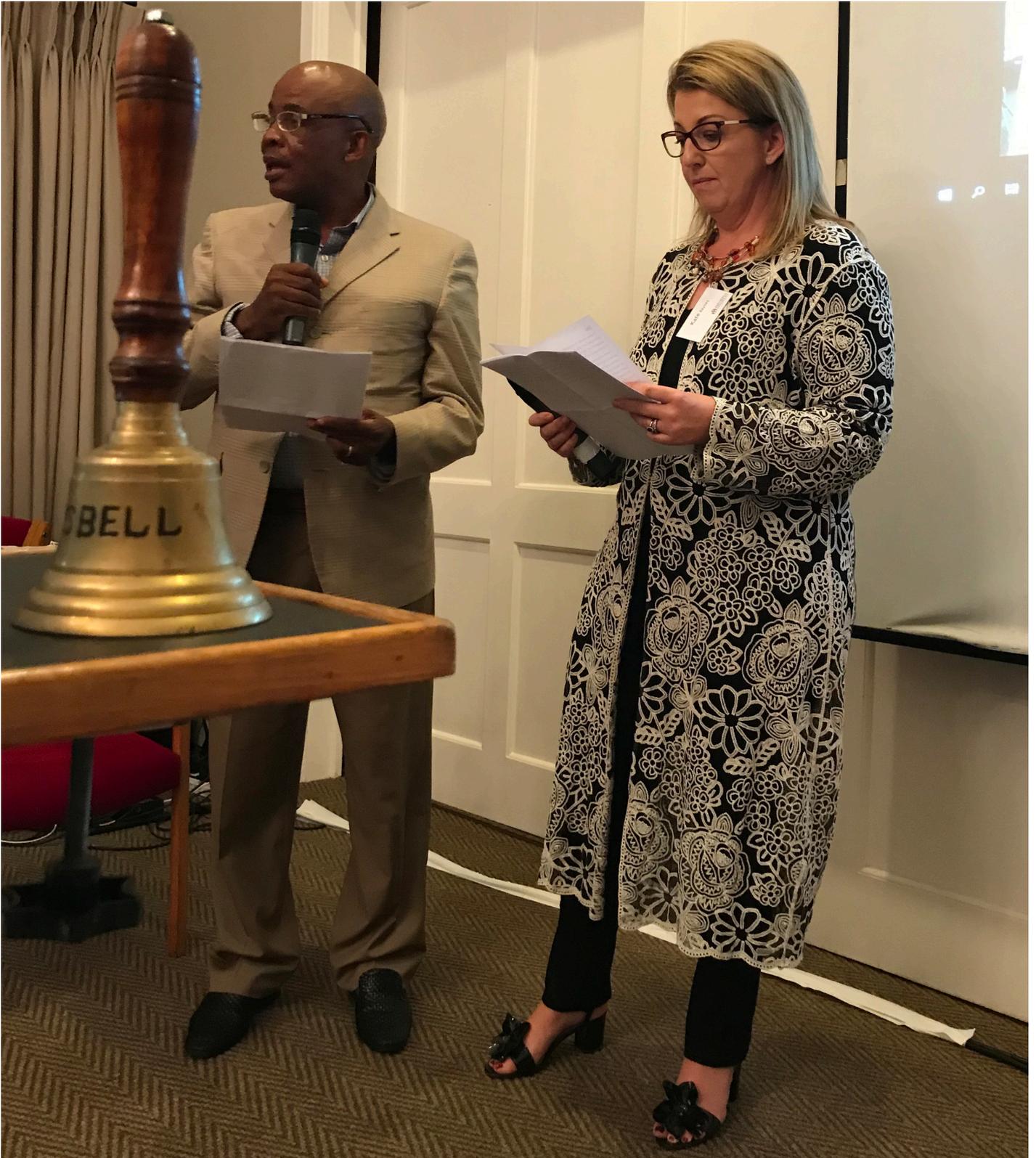
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## A LOSS TO OUR COMMUNITY

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Mr Sibusiso Mabaso, a Principal of Jabula Combined School passed away. Sbu was a down to earth person who led the school with courage and integrity. He was an active member of our PfP Midlands1 circle and a role model in the community. An online

“Celebration of Sbu’s life” was held on 15 September 2020 and great comfort was taken from the stories shared by fellow PfP Midlands1 members present.



# MANDELA DAY



A red banner for Mandela Day 2020. On the left is a white silhouette of Nelson Mandela with his right arm raised, with the text "#ACTION AGAINST POVERTY" below it. To the right, the text "MAKE EVERY DAY A MANDELA DAY" is written in large, bold, white and black letters. Further right is the Michaelhouse Community Partnerships logo, which is a circular emblem with a scale of justice and the motto "QUI PRO DEUS". Below the logo, the text "Partner with Michaelhouse Community Partnerships to MAKE A DIFFERENCE" is written in white.

#ActionAgainstPoverty was the theme for Mandela Day 2020! The Community Partnership Trust Team spent Mandela day improving food gardens at Bruntville Primary, Crystal Springs Primary, Lions River, Nottingham Road Primary and Shea O'Connor

Combined School, who already have gardens in place. Sunshine Seedlings kindly donated vegetable seedlings. These vegetables will either be added to the schools feeding scheme or the ongoing Nottingham Road food relief: Making Mandela Day(s).

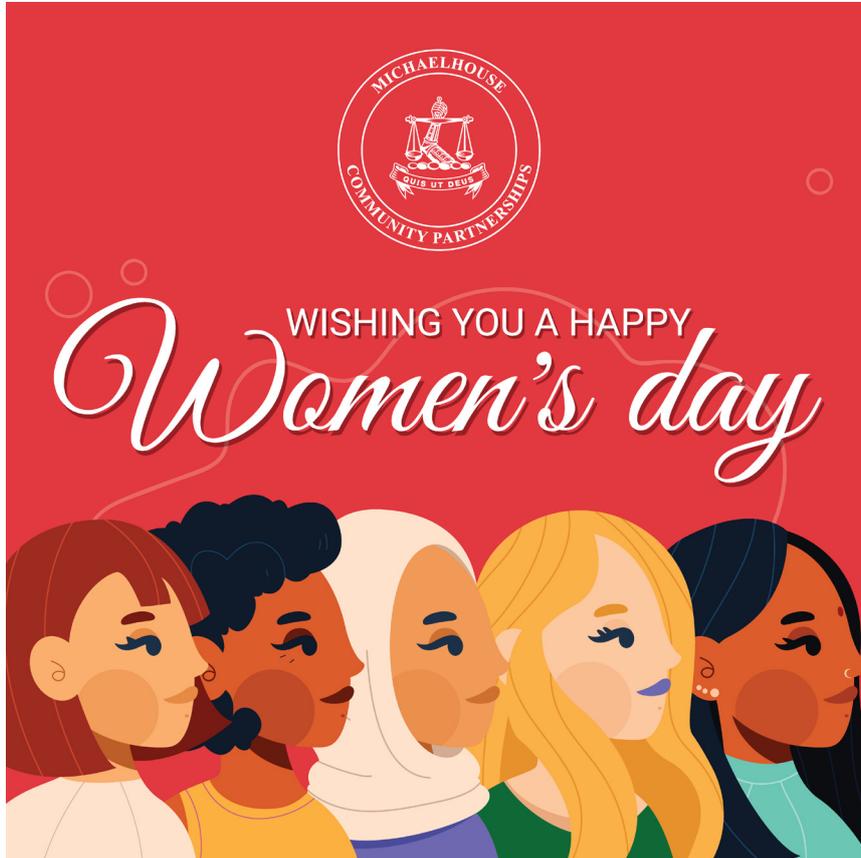


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## WOMEN'S MONTH

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We ran a Social media campaign Shining a spotlight on women who are making a meaningful difference in the Midlands community:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/15Qip50AJqHYcHa5x1VrFxxbZpJ\\_FgtBW/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15Qip50AJqHYcHa5x1VrFxxbZpJ_FgtBW/view)



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## TRAINING

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### Mathematics Training

Paul de Wet has continued to support Shea O'Connor, Jabula and Asithuthuke through the provision of resources and by offering a Q&A service by WhatsApp. A daily revision programme has been launched called Daily Maths Challenge (DMC) whereby Maths questions are sent each day by WhatsApp to the teacher. The following day a new question is sent with the solution to the previous day's question. These alternate between paper 1 and paper 2. The idea is that the teacher can forward these on to learners who have cell phones or simply put them up on the board. Paul has made contact with the new High School Maths teacher, Mr Tindirika, at Jabula and have been sharing these with him, although they have not met in person.

On Saturday 10th October Paul ran a revision workshop for

the Matrics at Shea O'Connor, including two of the seven Asithuthuke Matrics. While all 13 of the Shea O'Connor Matrics were in attendance, it was disappointing that so few of the Asithuthuke Matrics made the session. The session was well received and it is gratifying that Ms Nene and Mr Zuma, the respective teachers, were in attendance, giving support while also growing themselves.

Paul then visited Dabulamanzi School in the Kamberg Valley to do a session for their Matrics. Regrettably only 5 of the 15 Matrics were present and there was no sign of their teacher. He took a portable data projector which he borrowed from Michaelhouse. This made a big difference in terms of being able to show resources, simulations etc. and we plan to acquire one for future use. Future Saturday revisions are being planned to support the Matrics in the month which remains.

## Partners for Possibility (PfP)

The first Community of Practice (COP) was held on 14 July 2020. We were to be hosted by Principal Sibusiso Ndlovu at Curry's Post Primary School together with his partner Paul Fleischack however, due to Covid19 restrictions, we chose to meet virtually on ZOOM. We were wonderfully welcomed by Sibusiso who shared the schools' achievements, challenges and dreams.

The Online Flawless Consulting training was successfully completed on 28-29 July 2020 as well as 4 and 6 August 2020. This training focused on the choice and decision we have in forming relationships, learning to deal with resistance and influencing outcomes in conversations for clarity and commitment.

Second COP meeting took place on the 25 August 2020 at Sibonokuhle Primary School in Rosetta with principal Sandile Mhlanga and partner Mike Wolhuter – our first face to face meeting since launching end of May 2020.

A successful Department of Education Circuit managers meeting was held on 26 August 2020 with both Lions River and Mpofana circuit managers, Mr Thabani Ndaba and Mrs Lindiwe Ndlamlenze. The intention was to establish how best we can support the principals in utilising online platforms to optimise

travel and meeting time. A request has been made for training on ZOOM and we are looking to find a suitable date to offer such training for 6 circuit managers in the area at Michaelhouse in the ZOOM room.

Many of our partner schools still use chequebooks and the banking industry will discontinue these in January 2021. We hosted a FNB online banking workshop on 08 October 2020 to encourage the use of alternative electronic payment methods.

### Placement of 3 YOUTH at WORK (YES) interns

- Sibonokuhle primary
- Curry's Post primary and
- Amahlubi high

A "2 TONS of books" donation facilitated by Champagne Sport resort for the 16 Midlands PfP schools and schools in the Champagne Valley. Business leader Mike Wolhuter from PDC and Triton couriers supported us in the logistics.

We look forward to 2 days of Community Building under the leadership of Dr Rama Naidu at the Michaelhouse Centenary Centre on 13 & 14 October 2020.



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## EDUCATION

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### Eduhelpers

This year the CPT have supported nine Eduhelpers in five schools, demonstrating a growth in our commitment to the improvement of the schools. The Covid-19 pandemic has,

naturally, impacted on our ability to support the Eduhelpers, but we are making good progress.

Our plan is to expand the Eduhelper Project in 2021 when we

aim to reach 10 schools and support 15 Eduhelpers. The CPT team manage this project which is fully dependent on external

funding, mainly through corporate social investment.



## Art and Choir Competition

The annual art competition is underway with the theme “my imagination during lockdown” is we look forward to receiving all the creative artwork from our partner schools. Each learner can submit up to three pieces of art. We plan to profile their art

on [www.the-art-room.net](http://www.the-art-room.net) after the internal judging and has been completed by Michaelhouse head of visual arts Mrs Jenni Clinton-Parker. A price giving will be held at each school. Due to the COVID protocol and other reasons we have chosen to delay the choir competition until 2021.

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## HEALTH

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### St Raphael's

With the progressive easing of the lockdown over the past few months many of the tasks of the care givers such as home visits have recommenced and some new opportunities that arose during lockdown have continued alongside them. Nokuthula, Khanyisile and Nkosi give of their time and expertise to the community over and above what is asked of them with generosity.

One of these new opportunities has been a Sunday feeding scheme for the children of Zenzani Village. This is done alongside a Sunday school lesson. The St Raphael's care givers have included 7 community volunteers in this program making it a true community initiative. Each Sunday a group of children gather at the St Raphael's building at Zenzani. Here they have their temperatures taken and they are given a cursory look over for any obvious health problems. This is followed by a prayer

and a Sunday school lesson and, of course, a healthy meal. There are 126 children now registered at these Sunday events although not all of them attend every week there is an average of 43 children that have attended per week over the last 12 weeks.

Food parcels continue to be distributed to Zenzani, Lidgetton, Crystal Springs and Lions River. 49 Gogo's from surrounding areas, who were identified by the ward councilor as in need, also received care packages and health screening at the St Raphael's building. Many of these gogo's were noted to have high blood pressure and were followed up by the care givers in their homes over the next few weeks.

The month of August saw a devastating fire that swept through the Esitendeni informal settlement in Nottingham road. The St Raphael's team provided a meal for those affected once a week

for a period of time. Childrens clothes that had been donated to St Raphael's and Action in Isolation were also distributed as many residents lost everything in the fire. Michaelhouse donated mattresses for those who lost their homes.

Another new venture was 2 Woman's Wellness days that were held in conjunction with Action in Isolation during woman's month. Khanyisile spoke to the 22 women in attendance about breast health and self-examination.

This quarter we have also identified community members in need of disability aids and loaned out equipment from St Raphael's to them. These appliances included 4 walking frames, 3 pairs of crutches and a toilet seat for the disabled.

Alongside all of these activities St Raphael's has conducted 2

pensioner's clinics and one farm visit where a total of 53 clients were screened for Hypertension and Diabetes. 12 of these clients were referred to Balgowan clinic for further treatment. From the community supported by St Raphael's: 22 clients were transported to Balgowan clinic; 60 home visits were conducted with 57 blood pressures and 7 blood sugars recorded; 63 clients had their medication collected from the clinic and delivered to them and the planned patient transport was booked 7 times.

Our plans for the last quarter of the year include a Michaelhouse staff clinic, a farm clinic and an end of year function with the pensioners of Zenzani Village

*"I am continually astounded by the incredible work of the St Raphael's team and am privileged to be part of this vibrant team."*  
– Dr. Kendon



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## EXTRA ACTIVITIES

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### Asithuthuke Combined School

Asithuthuke, formerly known as The Michaelhouse Farm School was founded in 1949 exclusively for the children of Michaelhouse staff. In 1951 there were 78 scholars, by 1977 there were 450 pupils. Of these about a third came from the Michaelhouse estate the balance from neighbouring farms. In 1995 it became Asithuthuke Combined school with classes ranging from Grade R to Matric. It was one of the leading farm schools in the country, better equipped than most other schools.

Stuart Pennington (East 1964-1968) was selected as the PfP partner to work in Asithuthuke with the Acting Principal, Silas Munyoro.

In June 2019 we began a considerable process of infrastructure renovation. By the end of 2019 nine classrooms had been refurbished, the computer room equipped with 30 new computers (largely thanks to Jon Bates), the toilets fixed, the security improved, the electricity and plumbing sorted, and the school hall refurbished. We refurbished the four toilet blocks, 54 desks, the school hall storeroom, a classroom and the perimeter fence during the Xmas holidays.

#### In the senior school:

- 7 classrooms have been completely refurbished, ceilings replaced, electricity restored, windows repaired, blackboards replaced, furniture supplemented
- Maths classroom renovated, upgraded and equipped
- Computer room upgraded, connected and live

- 4 Toilet blocks repaired, repainted with new lights
- Kitchen, storeroom and Tuckshop renovated, tiled, painted and re-equipped
- School hall storeroom repaired
- Library upgraded
- School Wi-Fi connected
- Mandela Day clean-up of grounds

#### In the Junior school

- Perimeter fence replaced
- Jungle Gym replaced
- Toilet block renovated, refurbished with new lights
- Staff toilet refurbished
- Staff accommodation refurbished, painted
- 3 classrooms repaired

Most of the work was performed by a 'Zenzane community building team'. At the end of last year Matric results improved by 165% from 'Trials' in June, and we had 6 Bachelor passes (class of 18). As a result, our reputation improved and numbers in the school grew by 70, from 166 to 236 in 2020.

Michaelhouse Community Partnerships continues to support the school by paying for its photocopy machine. Currently Michaelhouse Community Partnerships pays for 5 of the 13 staff members at the school.

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## NEW WEBPAGE

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The Michaelhouse webpage has been updated and the Michaelhouse Community Partnerships has its own news room page. To find out more about the Community Partnership Projects. <https://www.michaelhouse.org/category/community-partnerships/>

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## SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT

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Facebook and Instagram followers have grown.

## OUR ANNUAL NGO CONFERENCE

On the 19 August 2020, 30 individuals from a range of local NGOs participated in the ZOOM from various fields of interest as we explored the value of collaboration as shared by Dr Robby

Whittaker from Kaleidoscope lights. We faced some challenges as Load shedding was implemented during the presentation.



*You are invited to participate in*

### STRENGTHENING SOCIAL IMPACT THROUGH COLLABORATION

**WEDNESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2020**  
*from 10H00 – 12H30*

RSVP before Monday, 17 August using the link below

[CLICK HERE](#)



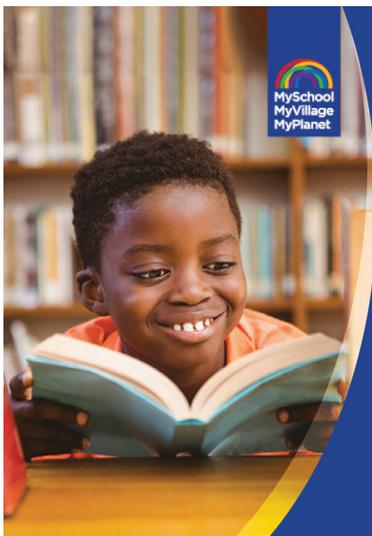
*Hosted by*

**ROBYN WHITTAKER**  
Kaleidoscope Lights



**Kaleidoscope Lights**

Towards deep collaboration and the evolution of functional impact ecosystems



## IF QUALITY EDUCATION MATTERS TO YOU

*Get your free card and start swiping at our retail partners*  
[www.myschool.co.za](http://www.myschool.co.za)

**MAKE EVERY SWIPE COUNT!**



**Partner with Michaelhouse Community Partnerships to MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

1. Sign up for a free MySchool card <https://www.myschool.co.za/portal/register>
2. Donate via EFT or Zapper
3. Partner with us on a project



## BANKING DETAILS:

Standard Bank  
Branch: Pietermaritzburg  
Branch no: 05 75 25  
Account no: 05 22 86 525

## OUR SPONSORS



Nottingham Road



MICHAELHOUSE



*The Eric Thorrington-Smith Trust, The Inglis Family Charitable Trust, The Phoebe Brown Charitable Trust, The Savage Family, Whitehouse bequest, Mr P Barnett, Mr L Hamilton-Potts, Mr L le Sueur, Mr A Schaefer, Nottingham Land Owners Association, Mr J Bates*

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