

October 2025

# What's news?



Wherever compassion takes root, even the smallest hands can rise again.

Issue 006

Vol. 001

## Dear Friends of Project Hope

We can hardly believe we are entering the final stretch of 2025. This year has moved like a storm front... full of glaring light, sudden shadows, and moments where the wind seemed to stop entirely. We have stood in places where children were hungry, hurt, or losing their grip on hope. We have also witnessed courage rising in the smallest bodies and kindness unfurling in the most unexpected corners. Tumultuous as the month has been, we end it with a deep, steady gratefulness that we get to stand in these dark places and gently lift children.

### Strengthening Our Foundations

Behind every act of service lies a quiet engine room of admin, logistics, and systems that no one sees but everyone depends on. As Project Hope grows, we've needed to tighten our ropes and steady the ship.

We've continued uploading all banking transactions into our new accounting system, SageOne. This gift was lovingly sponsored, and since 2020 an extraordinary team of Chartered Accountants has faithfully guided us. Their generosity steadies us.

We have also welcomed a new collaboration with Tracy Livingston, who has stepped into the world of SEO and website support. Thanks to her, people searching online for hope, education, or support are more likely to find us. Tracy has also taken over writing our monthly website blogs, blessing us with clarity and consistency.

Another exciting partnership has blossomed with LNM Leadership Advisory ([www.lnmleadership.com](http://www.lnmleadership.com)), guiding us as we stretch into Sub-Saharan Africa. We've already shared rich conversations with organisations in Kenya, Ethiopia, and across South Africa. We are learning that when like-minded people talk, the needle shifts further and faster.

We also launched our volunteer presence on Benevity, a platform used by major corporates like PayPal, VISA, and Merck. This may open doors to volunteers or donors from abroad who would never otherwise encounter our work.

And a little milestone that made our office cheer... our Facebook page reached 3000 followers this month. More hearts, more homes, more conversations. Every share, every comment, every message matters.



### Lwandle's Little Ears, Wide Open Again

Sweet Lwandle, one of our sponsored girls, has battled persistent ear infections and colds for much of her early childhood. Her school attendance rose and fell with her discomfort. A few months ago, we connected with a local private GP, who has since assessed her several times. Her dad attends every appointment with visible relief etched across his face.

Today, we are overjoyed to report that Lwandle's ears are completely healed. She'll see her doctor again in January, but in the meantime, we keep her allergy medication topped up monthly, working closely with her family so the lines of communication stay open.



Lwandle

<https://projecthope.org.za>

Email: [support@projecthope.org.za](mailto:support@projecthope.org.za)

## Banele and His Restored Bright Eyes

Little Banele has struggled nearly the entire year with deep yellowing in his eyes and restless, broken sleep. One message to our dear optometrist friend Elmarie set help in motion.

She quickly assessed him and prescribed eye drops that began working almost immediately. Banele now sleeps peacefully, and his eyes are close to fully healed. We continue supplying the drops monthly and following Elmarie's guidance with care.



Banele



## Lifting Up the Hands That Raise the Children

This month we officially launched something close to our hearts: a craft group for the primary caregivers of our sponsored children. These mothers and fathers carry the weight of their children's future, often with limited resources.

Over the past three months, three moms — Cebisile, Sinothile, and Nomathemba — have stitched and beaded into the night. Their first big order of Christmas baubles came through an online store called Nifty Gifts. Each mom was paid for her work and the joy was contagious.

Another mom, Tambudzai, began sewing our Mama Africa wrap skirts. They are exquisite, each one humming with colour and pride. Orders are already being posted across South Africa. Bracelets are next.

All items will soon be available on our very own online store, but for now, please order via Sara at [support@projecthope.org.za](mailto:support@projecthope.org.za)



## Samkelo's Journey Toward Clearer Sight

Many of you read about Samkelo, a little boy preparing for Grade R next year. His mom has fought for years to get help for his squinting eyes. Each time she went to the clinic, she was told there was nothing wrong.

When she came to us, we agreed immediately that her worry was valid. One call to Elmarie, and the wheels began turning. Samkelo is now officially in our Child Sponsorship Programme. He has been assessed at McCord's Hospital and is booked for corrective surgery in mid-2026.



Samkelo

## A Hungry Child and a Home Stretched Thin

One of our little girls – name withheld out of respect – has been missing school and falling ill often. After reassessing her, we discovered she is simply hungry.

There are no major medical concerns; there is just a lack of food at home. We've begun intensive nutritional support, and already her weight is improving. We will watch her closely as the festive season approaches, when hunger grows sharper for many families.



## A Broken Arm, A Broken Home, A Story Still Unfolding

We are also walking alongside a little boy whose situation is deeply worrying. He arrived at school one morning with a broken arm that had gone untreated, has come to school dirty on multiple occasions, and more recently presented with a severe rash. His family lives in a tin home, heavy with poverty and currently shadowed by alcohol abuse.

Our teachers now wash him at school. They visit his home. They speak gently with his parents. Our social worker is ready to intervene when needed. Please hold this family close in your prayers. We carry his safety as a quiet, constant weight.



## A Letter From Delft

Recently an email arrived from a mother in Delft, Cape Town. Though we do not yet work in Cape Town, her message stopped us in our tracks. Her husband had been killed, and she has been holding her little girl's world together alone. She asked if we could help with her Grade 1 stationery list for 2026.

Everything checked out, and we felt a pull to honour her bravery. We decided to help.

If you feel moved to contribute toward this little girl's stationery pack, please email Sara at [support@projecthope.org.za](mailto:support@projecthope.org.za)

We would love for her to start Grade 1 with dignity, colour, and hope.



### Zahra's Grade 1 Stationery List:

- Large Pritt x 2
- Pack HB pencils x 1 pack
- Sharpener (with holder) x 1
- 50pg Flip File x 2
- 20pg Flip File x 2
- Bright assorted colour craft paper x 1
- A4 92pg hardcover book x 2
- Ream copy paper x 1
- (Unruled) exercise book x 2
- Feint and margin exercise books x 2
- Thick beginners pencils x 2
- Eraser x 1
- Ruler x 1
- Blunt nose scissors x 1
- Small backpack x 1
- Modelling clay (assorted) x 1
- Pencil case x 1
- Book covers x 6
- Plastic book covers x 6
- Book labels x 1 small box



*"Where one mother stands alone, community can become the miracle she prayed for."*

## Cebi's Home Restored

Many of you have heard about our beloved teacher, Cebi, whose home was destroyed in October when a construction truck rolled down a hill and crashed directly into her house. No one was injured, but much of what she owned was lost.

The weeks since have been heavy, filled with difficult conversations and long nights. Yet the community rallied behind Cebi and Project Hope with astonishing unity. Neighbours, parents, traditional healers, and community police all gathered around us.

The Department of Housing has now stepped in, and rebuilding begins this week. We'll soon post a social media appeal for household items, but if your company is looking for a Christmas project or if you'd like to offer help now, please email Sara at [support@projecthope.org.za](mailto:support@projecthope.org.za)

Our prayer is that this devastation becomes a doorway to blessing



## Looking ahead



As the year winds down, we are preparing school reports, finalising our 29 November Strategy Meeting, and getting ready for graduations, Christmas celebrations, our December market, and more.

Thank you for standing with us in both the heavy and the bright. Your kindness keeps hope moving forward. Please pray for a gentle, hope-filled season ahead for every family we love.

Love Sara. Kirst and Nonto