

June 2026

What's news?

Hope Grows When We Grow Together



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Dear Friends of Project Hope

As we close the door on another school term, we find ourselves reflecting on the countless small moments that have filled June with meaning.

The Valley of 1000 Hills is not a place of grand headlines. It is a place where hope often arrives in the form of an orange, a knitted beanie, a pair of school shoes, a shared skill, or a child finally finding a place at the table.

And this month, hope arrived again and again.

A Community That Responds

Earlier this month, we put out a simple request for clothing for one child.

What happened next reminded us why we never lose faith in people.

Donations began arriving from every direction. By the time the dust settled, there was enough clothing to support children across two schools.

What began as a need for one child became a blessing for many.

As Margaret Mead once wrote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world." We witnessed exactly that.

Across the month, we were also blessed by extraordinary generosity from schools and communities. Thomas More College donated hundreds of oranges to keep little immune systems strong through winter. Mustard Seed Learning Space lovingly prepared 140 Jars of Hope. Bright Buttons Pre-Primary sent a small zip-lock bag filled with R5 coins raised through a cake sale.

Tiny hands helping tiny hands.

These gifts may seem simple, but to a child facing hunger, they speak a powerful message: "You matter."



The Dignity of Providing

One story stayed with us this month.

A father had earned a little money and proudly spent R50 on snacks for his child to take to school. Fifty rand.

For many, it would seem insignificant. But for him, it represented something far greater than food. It was dignity. It was fatherhood. It was the deep desire every parent carries to provide for their child.

Poverty does not remove a parent's love.

It simply makes expressing that love far more difficult.

Hope Multiplies

One of our greatest joys this month came from watching hope travel from one person to another.

Not long ago, Sinothile joined Project Hope as a mother attending our caregiver programme.

This month, she stood confidently in front of four women in Embo, teaching them beadwork skills.

In just a few hours, four mothers learnt how to make their first bracelets.

This is how lasting change happens.

One woman gains confidence.

One woman learns a skill.

One woman teaches another.

And suddenly hope begins multiplying across the hills.

Alongside this, Gogo Babongile continued teaching mothers how to establish vegetable gardens, helping families build food security one seed at a time.



A Place at the Table

This month we welcomed another precious child into our programme.

For many months, this little one sat outside a preschool fence, watching other children play and learn while asking for food.

Those hungry eyes were impossible to ignore.

Today, there is a place at the table.

A place to learn.

A place to belong.

A place to be a child.

Yet there are still children waiting.

Three little ones remain in urgent need of sponsorship support. If you would like to help change the course of a young life, please contact Sara at support@projecthope.org.za.

Because every child deserves the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive.

Winter in the Valley

Winter has settled across KwaZulu-Natal.

This month, Lisa lovingly knitted and donated 45 beanies and scarves, wrapping warmth around little shoulders just as the cold arrived.

We also met two children wearing broken school shoes, their tiny toes peeking through worn leather. At moments like these, the needs can feel overwhelming. Then kindness arrives.

St Mary's blessed us with 119 Jars of Hope. Thomas More College arrived once again with 505 oranges. Friends, donors, schools, churches and volunteers continued showing up.

And we are reminded that no challenge is ever carried alone.

A Victory for Young Children

June also brought an important moment for Early Childhood Development across KwaZulu-Natal.

Preschool teachers and centre owners gathered outside the Pietermaritzburg High Court to stand up for children who cannot yet speak for themselves.

The outcome was historic.

The Court recognised that children have a right to early childhood education and ordered that outstanding ECD subsidies be paid.

While much work still lies ahead, this ruling offers hope for thousands of children and the centres that care for them.



Looking Ahead

This month we also began exciting conversations with organisations helping ECD centres navigate registration and compliance processes. We are hopeful that this work will strengthen centres, improve sustainability, and open doors for even more children in the future.

As we head into the school holidays, our team will continue preparing sponsor reports, supporting families, and planning for the months ahead.

The work is never finished.

But neither is hope.

As Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said, "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

We see that light every day.

In a father with R50.

In a knitted scarf.

In a bag of oranges.

In a mother teaching another mother.

In a child who finally has a place at the table.

Thank you for walking this journey with us.

With gratitude,
The Project Hope Team