

The Pebbles Project Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020



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IMPORTANT DATES

16th of December - Public Holiday

18th of December - Pebbles office closes for 2020

18th of January 2021 - Pebbles office reopens

27th of January - Schools return

WE WARMLY WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS IN 2020

In the past couple of months The Pebbles Project employed a total of 18 new staff members.

The new staff members joined teams at the Pebbles Kitchen, on the farms in the education centres, the IT department, in the education programmes as well as the Hemel-en-Aarde Education Project and Pebbles Academy.

We are excited to welcome them to our team, and look forward to see all the amazing work that will be done.



1 MILLION MEALS COOKED, PACKED AND DELIVERED BY THE KITCHEN TEAM



In November The Pebbles Kitchen reached the milestone of 1 million meals served since the country went into lockdown in April. What does it take to make 1 million meals? Just over 91 tons of vegetables, several tons of other ingredients and most importantly, a dedicated, passionate team that provided relief to thousands of families during these trying times, and still continues to do so.

“Before lockdown, we were already providing 1300 meals daily to disadvantaged children attending education centres within agricultural communities of the Western Cape, but the need escalated exponentially due to the lockdown. We are located in the middle of a busy farming area,

where many casual workers immediately lost their jobs and their weekly pay,” said Dominic Johnson-Allen, Consultant for The Pebbles Kitchen.

“We simply could not ignore the plight of those in desperate need of food and therefore ramped up our scale and distribution points. In addition, we supported NGOs who have been struggling to provide food for the many with absolutely no income and no food, turning our kitchen into a meal provider for thousands.”

With the support from a number of volunteers, the small team serviced farms in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, Lanquedoc, Kylemore, Klappmuts, Bloekombos, Kraaifontein, Kayamandi, Citrusdal, Wellington, Helderberg, Robertson, Langa, Blue Downs and Stellenbosch.

Other NGOs assisted during this time included Lofdal Communities, Kuyasa, the Dwarsrivier Valley Community Office, Bright Smiles, Jesus in Action, Masikhule, Ranyaka, Love2Give, Stellenbosch Unite, ACVV Stellenbosch, GCU, Ons Plek Womens Centre and Somerset West Family Centre.

Although we can't really single out organisations, we have to acknowledge the enormous contributions received from Stichting Clouds Foundation, their friends in Holland, the Jannie Mouton Foundation, and the Rhodes Food Group.

THE PEBBLES STELLENBOSCH OFFICE SWITCH

During November, The Pebbles Stellenbosch offices made some changes to assist with the functionality of the operations. The former FACET office has been changed to the admin office which consists of the fundraising team, HR department, and finance staff.

The offices situated where the buses are parked is now the operations office which consists of all the staff involved in farm and beneficiary programmes.

The social work team is now situated next to the clinic at the former ECD office.

The clinic and kitchen remain the same.

PEBBLES PROGRAMMES DURING COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a massive disruption in education systems all around the world leaving already under-resourced and vulnerable communities at a further disadvantage.

Pebbles was able to devise new mechanisms for delivering essential services like nutrition, education, and health care to the beneficiaries and wider communities. All regular support services were redirected and readjusted to suit the immediate need during lockdown.

The Owethu Clinic was fully operational and able to provide health care services to beneficiaries and their families throughout the lockdown period.

Our education teams sent bi-weekly newsletters to the parents which offered tips, home-based literacy resources, and printed academic resource packs in line with the revised school curriculum. Through access to a tablet device and data, remote online learning support was offered to all the Grade 12 learners.

Since the reopening of most facilities in August, both learners and staff have had to adjust to the government health and safety protocols. The teachers have also noticed how the children are much more calm, well mannered, and disciplined.



A Pebbles Grade 12 learner in Citrusdal receiving an exam care package.

CELEBRATING 16 YEARS!

On the 4th of December, The Pebbles Project celebrated its 16th birthday!

“Pebbles has achieved so much in the last 16 years and I am sure our success is due to four things – true commitment to what we are doing, the dedication and hard work of our staff and trustees, the loyalty of our generous donors and a little bit of luck.” - Sophia Warner. Founder and CEO of The Pebbles Project Trust



We would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you that have donated or contributed towards our programmes during the tough lockdown months. Without your continuous support none of this would have been possible.

All our success is because of you!

“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.” Mother Teresa