



**Pebbles
Project**

**CHANGING
LIVES**



LEONIE'S STORY

Leonie grew up in Beaufort West with her grandparents. When she turned 13, she moved to Stellenbosch to stay with her parents on L'Avenir wine farm where she attended the Pebbles Project After School Club. Leonie enjoyed the Pebbles Project Literacy Initiative that was offered as part of the School Enrichment Programme (SEP).

One of Leonie's fondest memories at Pebbles, was when the Literacy tutor took her and two other learners on an excursion: "We were three girls at L'Avenir, who really enjoyed reading, the Literacy tutor took us to the hospital to read to the babies. It was so special."

To earn extra money, Leonie worked as a runner at L'Avenir's tasting room over the weekends. Leonie always dreamed of becoming a nurse one day, but the visit to the hospital, albeit a special memory, made her realize that it was not the right working environment for her: "The atmosphere felt so cold and too clinical for my taste. It did not feel like the right working environment for me."

When Leonie matriculated, a Social Worker at Pebbles sat down with Leonie to discuss her future: "I told the Pebbles Social Worker that I've always wanted to work with children, and she helped me to complete my Boland College application." The Social Worker assisted Leonie in obtaining a bursary to study Educare N5, N6, and N7 at Boland College.

Leonie went on to complete her Educare N5, N6, and N7 and then completed her practical at Remhoogte's ECD centre. Thereafter, she was offered a position as Grade R Facilitator at Pebbles, which she gladly accepted: "What I enjoy most about my work is going out to the farms and interacting with the children."

"I am very grateful to Pebbles. Without Pebbles I wouldn't have applied to study at Boland College. I would have probably continued to work as a runner at L'Avenir's tasting room and I would have never discovered my passion for working with children."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

*For more information or to contribute to this programme,
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