

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES

PEBBLES PROJECT

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER- DECEMBER
2024

+27 21 865 1003

info@pebblesproject.co.za

www.pebblesproject.org



DONATE NOW



LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

"As Pebbles reaches this incredible 20th birthday milestone, my heart is overflowing with gratitude.

Reflecting on all we've achieved, I am deeply moved by the support we've received from our donors, sponsors, supporters, trustees, staff, and our extended network of friends and family. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it has taken a global community of dedicated and generous individuals to bring Pebbles to where it is today.

From the very beginning, the commitment and belief of so many have been the driving force behind our success, and I can honestly say we wouldn't be here without each and every one of you. Your unwavering support has been the foundation of our growth, our resilience, and the impact we've made on the lives of countless children and families.

To everyone who has been part of our journey so far, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I look forward to continuing this important work together, as we strive to make an even greater difference in the years to come."

With deepest appreciation,
Sophia Warner - Founder & CEO

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Please meet Mineke Toerien, Mineke joined Pebbles on the 1st of September 2008 and currently fills the position of Social Work Manager at the organisation.

With a deep commitment to supporting others, Mineke finds joy in seeing the people around her happy, content, and treating one another with kindness. She is known for her ability to find or create a silver lining in every situation, always bringing a touch of sparkle to those around her.

While she dislikes conflict and rude behavior, she thrives in fostering positive environments.

As a child, Mineke dreamed of becoming a ballerina, but today, she continues to be the "bling" at the heart of the Pebbles team, brightening every challenge with her optimism and warmth.



Ms. Sophia Warner, Pebbles Project Founder & CEO



Ms Liesl Ahlers at the Big Syn Film Festival in London.



Ms Mineke Toerien, Pebbles Social Work Manager

PEBBLES IMPACT FILM

In November, Ms. Liesl Ahlers had the honour of attending The Big SYN International Film Festival in London, where the Pebbles Impact Film, 'Kindness,' was nominated as a finalist. We are incredibly proud of Liesl, who not only wrote the script but also directed the film, bringing to life the powerful stories of Pebbles' beneficiaries.

At the event, Liesl wore a beautiful dress designed and made by Robin Piedt, a talented Pebbles beneficiary who also features in the film.

It was a privilege to share the Pebbles story with such a wide audience, and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our longstanding donor and supporter, Hillebrand GORI - A company of DHL, for sponsoring this film and helping to make this remarkable achievement possible.

This recognition underscores the impact of the organisation and the importance of storytelling in creating awareness and inspiring change.

[Click here](#) to view the Pebbles Impact Film, Kindness

DELAIRE GRAFF GALA EVENT

A memorable Gala Event took place at the exquisite Delaire Graff Estate and provided an opportunity for donors, partners, supporters and staff to come together and celebrate the collaborative and profound impact made in the lives of so many children and families.

The Pebbles Impact Film 'Kindness' was screened showcasing the tremendous role the attending donors and partners have played in inspiring the success stories highlighted in the impact film, showcasing the positive transformation of individuals and communities.

As we celebrate the past two decades, we look ahead with immense excitement to the continued growth and progress of the organisation, and we are eager to build on the foundation that we have created over the twenty years, and we look forward to making an even greater impact in the years to come.

A STORY OF INSPIRATION

We are incredibly proud to share the inspiring story of Jonathan, a 20-year-old young adult who exemplifies the power of resilience and determination. Despite facing challenges throughout his educational journey, including only completing Grade 6, Jonathan has shown what is possible when given the right support, guidance and opportunities.

Jonathan's journey with Pebbles started at a young age when he attended the Pebbles Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre and fondly remembers spending time at the ECD centre, a place that nurtured his love for learning. After starting primary school, he was excited to join the Pebbles After-School Club, but life's challenges led him to drop out of school in Grade 6.

However, Jonathan never gave up on his dreams. He returned to Pebbles in 2023 as part of the Youth Development Programme, where he was empowered to pursue his goals.

He recently completed the WSET Level 1 course, passing with an impressive 70%, and also achieved his security training certification, opening up new career opportunities. Jonathan's success is a shining example of what can be accomplished with focus, hard work, and perseverance.

Reflecting on his achievements, Jonathan says, "I am proud of what I have been able to achieve." His story is a testament to the incredible potential that lies within every young adult, and we are honoured to be part of his journey toward a brighter future.



The beautiful faces featured in the Pebbles Impact Film "Kindness".



Clifford Lelieveldt received the Delaire Graff OBE Award at the Pebbles Legacy Awards.



A Pebbles Academy learner enjoying a Fun Friday activity.

PEBBLES LEGACY AWARDS

The Pebbles Legacy Awards and 'Kindness' Impact Film Premiere, held at the Adam Small Theatre in Stellenbosch, was a truly memorable event.

It was a moment of great pride as we celebrated the achievements of beneficiaries who excelled throughout 2024, recognising their hard work and dedication with well-deserved awards.

Additionally, the beneficiaries who starred in the 'Kindness' Impact Film had the special opportunity to see the film for the first time, sharing in the joy of their work coming to life on the big screen.

The event was a powerful reflection of the incredible progress made and the lasting impact of kindness and community support.

FUN FRIDAYS AT THE PEBBLES ACADEMY

We welcomed Mr. Johan van Tonder as the new Principal at the Pebbles Hemel-en-Aarde Education Project. Johan has already made a significant impact at the project.

Each Friday, students enjoy a variety of themed activities, such as apple bobbing in flour, Bok Friday celebrations, and dress-like-your-favorite-superhero days.

These fun and engaging activities not only provide the children with much-needed relaxation and enjoyment but also fosters creativity, teamwork, and self-confidence.

By incorporating play into the learning environment, Johan is helping to create a positive, supportive atmosphere that encourages the children to express themselves and feel more confident in their abilities.

We are grateful to have Johan join our team and look forward to what the future holds for the project.

IMPORTANT DATES

20 December 2024 - Pebbles Offices Close

13 January 2025 - Pebbles Offices Reopen