

# PEBBLES PROJECT

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY- MARCH
2025

+27 21 865 1003 info@pebblesproject.co.za www.pebblesproject.org





### PEBBLES IMPACT FILM WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

We are delighted to announce that our 20-year impact film, Kindness, has won the prestigious Bicester Collection Award for International Impact at the 2025 Smiley Charity Film Awards in London – in what has been described as their most competitive year to date! The Smiley Charity Film Awards are regarded as the 'Oscars' of charity film awards and is the world's largest cause-based film campaign.

The awards ceremony took place at Indigo at London's O2, with Hello! Magazine as the media partner and a star-studded guest list including Una Healy, Sophie Hermann, and Julien Macdonald.

We are honoured to have been nominated alongside 27 other exceptional international NPOs, including Habitat for Humanity Canada and Greenpeace. This global recognition means so much to us, and we are truly grateful for the support!

A huge congratulations to Ms. Liesl Ahlers, the writer, director, and producer of 'Kindness', and her incredible crew for their outstanding work.

We would like to give a special thanks to Céline Gilart who accepted the award on our behalf and to the sponsor of the film, our longstanding supporter, Hillebrand GORI – a company of DHL, without whom this film would not have been possible.

To watch our impact film 'Kindness', click here.

## BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE ESSENTIAL SCHOOL PACKS

We are thrilled to announce that 159 Pebbles beneficiaries have received school packs filled with essential educational resources required for their Grade R school year. These resources are crucial for their education, and for many families, they are a necessity that they simply cannot afford.

A heartfelt thank you to all the generous donors who have signed up for our "Sponsor a School Pack" programme. Your support enabled us to provide these much-needed supplies, ensuring that every child has the tools they need to succeed in their education.

Your kindness is helping to create a brighter future for these children, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support!



Pebbles representative, Céline Gilart, accepting the Smiley Charity Film Award in London.



Happy faces with their Pebbles School Packs.



The amazing Pebbles Kitchen team celebrating an incredible milestone.





#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & OPEN DAY

Date: 20 June 2025

## PEBBLES KITCHEN CELEBRATES 6 YEARS

This year, we are excited to celebrate the 6th anniversary of the Pebbles Kitchen, a cornerstone of our mission to provide nutritious meals to those in need.

Since its opening in 2019, the Pebbles Kitchen has been producing around 2,500 meals daily, with 1,000 of those meals specifically serving our Pebbles beneficiaries. The remaining meals are distributed to other NPOs and Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres, extending the impact of this vital resource even further.

This incredible achievement would not have been possible without the generous support of Stichting Garcia Foundation, and Goede Mensen. Their commitment has allowed us to continue providing healthy, balanced meals that are essential for the well-being and development of children in the communities we serve.

A big thank you to everyone involved in making the Pebbles Kitchen a success. Here's to many more years of nourishing bodies and uplifting spirits!

#### EXCITING GROWTH AT THE PEBBLES ACADEMY

We are excited to announce the opening of two new classrooms at the Pebbles Academy.

Since our doors opened in July of 2019, the school has experienced tremendous growth, and with this we noticed a growing need to address language barriers, as many of our learners do not speak Afrikaans as their first language.

These classroom will be enjoyed by our foundation phase learners, and will include our very first English (First Language) classroom. These new spaces will help ensure that all our learners can access education in a language they understand, removing barriers to their learning and empowering them for future success.

We are incredibly grateful for the Stichting Garcia Foundation's support and look forward to seeing the positive impact these new classrooms will have on our learners' educational journeys.

### INTER-CENTRE DOMINOES TOURNAMENT

On the 14th of March, 74 learners from various After-School Clubs gathered in Citrusdal for an exciting Inter-Centre Dominoes Tournament. The event was a blend of friendly competition and valuable learning experiences, as students tested their strategies and sharpened their skills.

While the game itself was packed with fun, it also offered numerous developmental benefits. Players enhanced their critical thinking, problem-solving, and concentration as they planned their moves and adapted to the game. Dominoes also provided a great opportunity for teamwork, communication, and emotional regulation as students played in pairs or teams, learning how to handle both wins and losses with patience.

In addition to strengthening their social skills, learners improved their number sense and basic math abilities as they recognised patterns and made quick calculations. The tournament was not only a chance to compete but also to grow both personally and academically.

Congratulations to all the participants for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship. We look forward to more events where learning and fun come together!





Pebbles Fundraiser, Ms. Madelein Snyman



Inter-Centre Dominoes Tournament in Citrusdal



The Pebbles Ambassadors for 2025

#### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This month, we are delighted to shine a spotlight on Madelein Snyman, a cherished member of our fundraising team who has been an integral part of our organisation for an incredible eight years. Madelein's journey with Pebbles began as the Pebbles Hemel-en-Aarde Education Project Manager, where she played a crucial role in shaping and supporting our educational initiatives, leaving a lasting impact on the community.

Before joining Pebbles, Madelein traveled Africa with an international NPO called Operation Smile, where she first joined as a non-medical volunteer and eventually joined their team as the Development Coordinator for South African.

Madelein enjoys expressing herself creatively, whether through art, music, photography, or other forms of creativity. She finds joy and fulfilment in the process of creation, embracing every opportunity to explore her artistic side.

When she's not working, Madelein enjoys peaceful walks with her pointer, named 'Duke', and enjoys immersing herself in the tranquility of nature.

We are truly grateful for Madelein's continued commitment and the positive energy she brings to Pebbles every day.

#### **PEBBLES AMBASSADORS**

We recently hosted the Pebbles Ambassador Commitment Ceremony for 2025, recognising a group of outstanding learners who embody the core values of Pebbles: integrity, compassion, courage, and commitment. These young leaders have demonstrated exceptional qualities and will now serve as role models for their peers.

As Pebbles Ambassadors, they will support fellow learners by promoting respect, kindness, and responsibility, inspiring others to live out these values. Whether through helping classmates, offering a compassionate ear, or showing courage in difficult situations, they will set an example for others to follow.

Their commitment will have a positive influence not only within Pebbles After-School Clubs, but also in their wider communities. We look forward to seeing how these ambassadors continue to lead with integrity, compassion, courage, and commitment throughout the year.

Congratulations to our Pebbles Ambassadors for 2025!