

2025 Annual Report

Introduction

Three Tree Hill Foundation is a non-profit organisation that assists community & conservation projects in rural Kwa Zulu Natal area, close to Bergville. Funds are collected via levy charged to guests for each bed-night and lump sum donations. Sometimes guests will make specific requests for items to be purchased for a specific community.

The foundation does not employ any people. All work done is voluntary and facilitated by the lodge owner of Three Tree Hill.



SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR

Small Business Incubator

Ladysmith Uthukela Economic Development Agency approached us early in the year to see if we could collaborate with a few of their crafters in Ladysmith. Two women brought their wares, which we have now been able to incorporate into our lodge curio shop.

Nonku's handbags are made from recycled t-shirt off-cuts.

Buhle is making beautiful bowls from plastic-coated copper wire.

Maduna's placemat business did well this year since Three Tree Hill decided to purchase breakfast mats for the lodge guests so this was a good production order for her. They turned out beautifully.



2025 Three Tree Hill Foundation Report



Gloria, our Housekeeping Supervisor, started collecting plastic packets from her friends and now make door mats for sale in our shop.



Art Crochet Bags R9 750
Wire art R3 190
Wire Placemats R93 560
Doilies R935

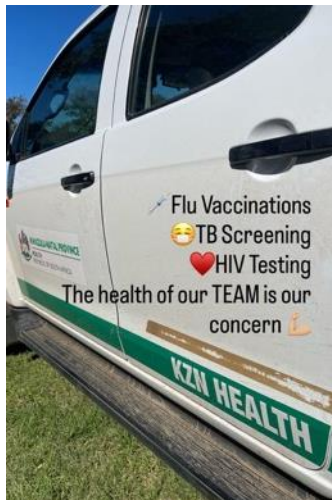
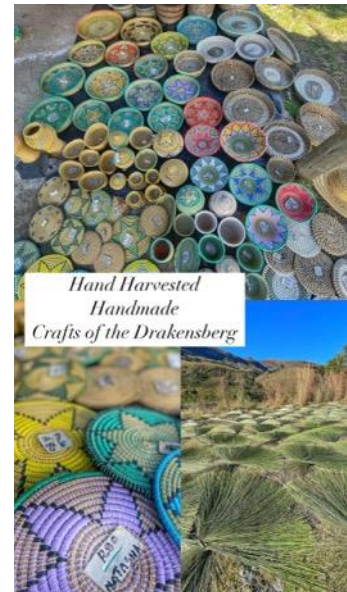
Basketware promoted to our guests travelling to Royal Natal National Park. Guests are encouraged to buy directly from the women that are making the crafts inside the park. Guests are able to watch the women make the baskets and buy directly from them.

HEALTH & WELFARE

Vaccination & Personal Health Drive

Annual flu vaccines were offered and encouraged for all staff. Mobile clinic came to the lodge over a period of two days to do overall health checks with staff, giving them an opportunity to do HIV & TB tests.

Infographics about health issues are shared on the lodge TEAM whats app group throughout the year to encourage staff to look after their bodies.



Community Substance Abuse Awareness Programme with The Good News Company

After one of the staff approached us about their teenager not concentrating at school and hanging out with a bad crowd in the village we collaborated with a Substance Abuse Specialist, who could work with the children and encourage them to find alternative ways of spending their time. Known for his advocacy for substance abusers and their families, Ndabe Mabuya helps addicts find sobriety and take charge of their lives again. He has a passion for building capacity for families and communities to be able to help others who can't help themselves. He is a professional motivational speaker.

Initially, we focused on the Primary School - only the Grade 6 & 7's. Ndabe also had a private consultation with a family that we knew may have a need for his services. This was in April.





In September we thought that we would spread the net wider and invite everyone in the community to attend a public session. However, this was a disaster, and nobody arrived for the talk. We worked out that there was too much stigma attached to addiction and that we need to go back to the drawing board to work out another plan in getting involvement.

Addiction Awareness R44 332

EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Nobomi High School Internet

Internet subscription connection for the year R4 200

Nobomi High School Computer Teacher

Teacher salary contribution for the year R18 000

Nobomi High School Addiction Awareness Workshop

Ndabe Mabuya spoke about addiction awareness with High School learners



Hambrook Primary School

Library books in Zulu and English bought and donated to the school R10 950
Stationery for school R655

Zamokuhle Creche Hambrook

Wages for groundsman R3 960.

We discovered that the groundsman was also receiving income from the grant money at the creche, which is not allowed, so we stopped paying him.

Sakhile Centre of Learning – aMazizi Village

Teachers were offered a trip to Kruger National Park by American Visitors, but didn't have any money for spending, so we assisted. Zinhle and Joyce went. R2 500
Building materials for the dining hall were purchased from Farhaan R12 600
Assistance with two community members in that area that needed help R5 625

UNISA finally completed the last phase of their project at Sakhile Centre of Learning, with the solar borehole and water pumps donated by Grundfos.

On the 22nd May, 2025 the Institute for Catalysis and Energy Solutions (ICES), a research unit at the University of South Africa (UNISA), handed over the completed Biogas Digester & Water System, to the Sakhile Centre of Learning, situated in the aMazizini area of the uKhahlamba Drakensberg. The project was started in 2015, by Three Tree Hill Foundation and The Legacy of Grace, who eventually handed the reins over to the community and principal, Mrs Mabel Madonsela in 2023, realising her life-long dream of owning her own Early Childhood Development Centre. The final phase of the project was recently completed and to signify this event we gathered all the stakeholders together for a celebration and tour of the facilities.



Talent Competition

One primary school learner needed assistance with the entry fee for a Talent Competition, so we assisted with R200

CONSERVATION

Alien Vegetation Control

We decided to tackle the invasive lantana plants with a new strategy this year. Instead of treating with the herbicide, which has been so costly and ineffective, we decided to dig the roots of the plant out manually with picks.

Labour R94 712

Equipment for work R5 092

Fuel for transport R12 365

Birdlife Africa

The grade 4,5 & 6 learners from Hambrook Primary School learnt all about The Bird of the Year. The Red-billed Oxpecker, also known as the Rooibekrenostervoël (Afrikaans), ihlalankomo (isiZulu), and ihlalanyathi (isiXhosa) is a fascinating bird known for its complex relationship with large herbivores, such as buffalo, giraffes, and rhinos. At Three Tree Hill they keep our horses clear of ticks, and after they have cleaned up all these ectoparasites, they tuck into the ear wax for dessert!

We are very fortunate to have two regular nesting sites close to the lodge, which we keep an eye on during the breeding season.

Steven Segang, Conservation & Community Officer for Birdlife South Africa, Bird Guide Extraordinaire, from the Ingula Grassland Conservation Project near Ladysmith & Birdlife South Africa, shared all his knowledge & passion about this special little bird with the children. This visit is part of two school visits to educate the learners about Bird Conservation



Ezemvelo Game Guards

Trogon Biodiversity – cameras 8000 + 8335+1878

July we celebrated Women Rangers Day – Three Tree Hill invited Ezemvelo Spioenkop Conservation Team over for a ladies appreciation tea. Tebogo Mtshali (37 yrs old) from Danhauser, studied Biomedicine in Durban, then internship at Amatikulu. First posted to Hluhluwe Mfolozi for 13 years was the only female ranger at the outpost for 5 years, so was tough, but she did get support from the men. End of 2024 she became Section Ranger here at Spioenkop. Leadership is hard, since traditionally it has been men.

Ntombi Zulu is top Lead Field Ranger still doing patrols daily with the men. Her biggest challenge is the ticks and long grass in summer. She did her internship at Cape Vidal. Conservation Manager is Eric and he says the women have adapted well, they can handle it.



A few more replacement pairs of boots were needed for the Ranger's team. The good quality we receive from Ground Cover ensures that we will continue to use their product.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Nhlayisa Yabhusta Vitamin-enriched porridge

Yabhusta is an instant smooth porridge that can be eaten with water or milk. The product is perfect for school feeding programmes and severely under-nourished people. It is filled with macro nutrients and is made from maize, soya and sorghum. It has been highly fortified



with vitamins and minerals, making it high in protein and energy.

Various community members in need get assistance from us with this porridge R10 600

Hambrook Community – various donations

Helping Hands Church annual donation R2 000

Living Rock Church donation (Annual year end function for the Sunday School) R1000

Funeral Assistance R1 000

Damaged Homes – R43 998

Water Tanks - R30 705

Emerging Farmer

Assistance was given to a young, emerging farmer to till his land and prepare draining for the summer season R5 600

Botshabelo Teacher Training

Botshabelo has been recognised as an ‘official’ training organisation by the Department of Education, alongside Smart Start and Zero-to-Five. Teacher Trainers from Johannesburg came three times this year, reaching 66 Centres, 46 principals, 43 teachers, and 3095 children impacted. Besides the impact on these centres, another success to note is that of Sibongile Shezi, who is now representing Botshabelo in this region as a Trainer herself. She is the principal of an Acton Homes pre-school, but has undergone training in Johannesburg and is now able to facilitate teacher training support in our immediate region.

We are seeing a fulfillment of a dream - local trainers being accepted and respected in their local communities. A self-reliance and not a dependence on Botshabelo is beginning to emerge. We are being ‘quietly’ successful!



Donations to Various NGO's

Muscular Dystrophy Foundation – R349

Lifeline – R439

Heartland Rescue (Horse & Donkey Rescue) – R500

Animal Anti-cruelty – R389

Amaqhawwe Akusasa HIV/AIDS Care Centre

A non-profit organisation started in Hambrook, and aims to give people health care, love, support and promote living positively are building a care centre that will help

people that are living with HIV, orphans, vulnerable children, people with disabilities and youth programmes. R20 000

Performing Artist

In December we invited Mxolisi Mlamuli, a Zulu-speaking Baritenor to do a performance for the guests staying at the lodge. We also assisted him with a contribution towards a Botswana Singing Tour and a competition in Cape Town. R6 959

Local Soccer Player

Assistance was given to a young, rising star Sbonguthando Sindile Ziqubu to attend the Gauteng Development League (Kathorious Hyper Academy) R1 000

Remember,
“If you always give, you will always have.”
Cheryl Blackburn

