

First Term Newsletter



16 April 2025



Anna Foundation's First Term Chronicles: Growth, Epic Adventures and 49 New Bicycles

We celebrate 20 years this year! It is hard to put into words, and equally hard to put into numbers, the impact we have made over the span of the past 20 years. Our presence in the communities we serve has impacted deeply on each community's children, youth and the women we train and employ. They in turn strengthen their own community and extend the reach. We have watched children develop and we have seen women empower themselves, and through it all we have learnt that helping others to believe in themselves is the most valuable gift we can give.

We may never know the real extent of the impact we have made or the lives we have changed, but I do know that every day that we are out there serving these communities, we are making that day better for someone. For this I must thank an incredible team of passionate individuals who are dedicated to this cause and who serve these children with joy. Their energy and enthusiasm is exceptional.

If you are reading this newsletter, then you to have been a part of this story. Thank you for your support, for caring about our work and for sharing in the joy we bring to these children.

Here's to the next 20 years!
Anna



Education Report

We're thrilled to report that we reopened our after-school doors to 848 rural children in January 2025! Since then, our 55 facilitators have been working hard to help the children settle back into a routine. Entering a new school grade can be daunting for children, and this is why we implement a structured daily programme to support them in managing new academic expectations. This programme includes homework assistance and specially designed practical class activities centred around specific themes, aimed at developing their numeracy, literacy, and communication skills. We continue to build on last year's reading and maths games, diving deeper into small-group stations where facilitators could explore new games designed to enhance learners' reading and numeracy skills. While teacher-led stations are important, we also emphasise independent activities and games that learners can play on their own. In this term we have placed a major focus on rotational education stations. We are expecting our facilitators to make use of these stations, as this method helps with classroom management, while also allowing more individualised attention for learners that may need it. Our Educational Project Managers have been closely involved in ensuring that our facilitators are delivering enriching class discussions and activities. Our project managers have provided them with training on how to get the most out of these activities by activating the learners' prior knowledge and retaining their attention.



Life Skills Report

The daily Life Skills programme at the Anna Foundation provides children with a supportive and secure environment in which they can develop self-expression, self-confidence and self-esteem. These vital skills support our broader mission of holistic development, particularly for those learners who might not have access to a nurturing space where positive values are taught. Our dedication lies in creating a long-term impact, helping each child grow into a strong, contributing citizen of their community.



Sports Report

At our after-school programmes, we provide daily sports lessons that offer our learners a chance to unwind and engage in kinaesthetic learning after a long day at school. These sports activities are designed to encourage learning through play by improving motor skills and enhancing physical health, coordination, listening skills and teamwork.

We are delighted to report that our Foundation's 2025 running program has kicked off with a bang. Our learners have already taken part in several 5km fun runs throughout the Winelands, with some of them even securing podium positions. We'd like to extend our thanks to the organisers at Trailfun, Run the Vines and Dirtopia for including us in their events. For our 2025 cycling programme, we are focusing on getting our younger children to learn to ride bicycles for the first time. Our Sports Manager has been spending more time setting up simple courses for our younger learners to try out, in addition to our regular visits to local pump tracks with the older children.

Our cycling programme reached new heights on 13 March, when 49 brand-new bicycles were donated to the Anna Foundation! The generous donation was made by the IRONMAN Foundation in collaboration with the Absa Cape Epic and Avalanche Bikes, with the official handover taking place at Polkadraai Bike Park. The day was made even more memorable by the presence of Hans Becking, a renowned Dutch mountain biking legend, who rode with the children and shared words of encouragement. These bicycles are being distributed across our 22 after-school projects, ensuring that even more children have access to cycling as part of our sports programme.



Women Empowerment

Our Project Management team has been hard at work and this year we have doubled the training workshops for the farm women who currently facilitate our after-school projects. We host training groups in 4 different locations, ensuring all the women in our programme are accommodated and are supported in smaller, more intimate working groups. In previous years we offered these workshops on a monthly basis, however in 2025 we have upgraded this and now offer 2 official trainings every month, in the 4 different locations.

We've planned approximately 20 sessions for each group for the year with the aim of strengthening our connections with them, helping them build stronger bonds with each other and equipping them with new skills to use at their afterschool projects..

During the first few training sessions, our Project Managers equipped facilitators with techniques for classroom management and discipline control. They explained that the facilitators' ability to process and understand their own emotions is crucial to maintaining a stable emotional environment for the learners. We know that this emotional stability is key to creating an optimal learning environment for the children, and we discussed practical strategies for maintaining this. Our head Educational Coordinator, Marike Pieterse, also used one of these training sessions to present a few classroom conflict scenarios to illustrate how to handle challenging situations. We are confident that the skills and knowledge gained from these training sessions will enable our facilitators to continue providing high-quality education and support to the children in our after-school programmes.



New Staff Members

Kayla Hansen – Project Manager

We were excited to welcome Kayla Hansen as the new Project Manager at the Anna Foundation, starting in January 2025. Kayla was previously a facilitator at Kanonkop and brings a wealth of experience as a qualified BEd Foundation Phase educator. She is passionate about working with children and helping them grow in their educational and personal journeys. Kayla has been supporting our facilitators and assisting in ensuring the smooth running of our after-school programmes across all 22 farm-based projects.



Carla Briers – Marketing Manager

Another new staff member joined us this term: Carla Briers, our new Marketing Manager. Carla became part of the team in February this year and has been contributing to the foundation's outreach efforts. With her background in journalism and social media management, she has been working on expanding our presence and sharing our story with a wider audience. Carla is keen to help raise awareness of the work being done at the Anna Foundation and to highlight the achievements of our learners and partners.

Anna Foundation on the Move

Harvest Parade: Our learners have been venturing far and wide this term! On 1 February, our partner farms, Neethlingshof and Hazendal, joined the vibrant Stellenbosch Harvest Parade. Not only did they celebrate the harvest season with music and festivity, but they also created their very own float. The parade was a vibrant and joyful gathering and it was great to see our learners and facilitators showcasing their creativity.



Playhouse Theatre

On 12 March, a group of learners from Monteith Rural Transformation Development Project had the opportunity to visit the Playhouse Theatre for a magical performance of *Wonka*. The excitement in their eyes as they experienced live theatre was unforgettable!

These cultural experiences are an essential part of our programme, broadening our learners' horizons and inspiring creativity.



Fun at the Cheetah Outreach Centre

During the school holidays, from 29 March to 7 April, we took groups from Hazendal, Groot Constantia, Waterford, and Neethlingshof on an educational excursion to the Cheetah Outreach at Paardevlei, Somerset West. During their visit the learners had the opportunity to observe cheetahs up close, deepening their understanding of these magnificent animals. They participated in educational sessions that highlighted the importance of cheetah conservation and learned about the various challenges faced by predators and carnivores in South Africa.



The 2025 Absa Cape Epic

The 2025 Absa Cape Epic, a world-class sporting event, attracts athletes from all over the globe to participate in the gruelling 8 day event. 2025 marks the 12th year that the Anna Foundation had the privilege of being an official charity of this exceptional event. Every year this is a highlight in our calendar and a unique opportunity to share the adventure and thrill of sports with our learners. The children created personalised welcome cards for all the riders, which were handwritten and coloured with love. The Anna Foundation hosted activations at all the different race villages: Meerendal Estate, Fairview and Lourensford Estate. We brought groups of learners to the race village at Lourensford, giving them a first-hand experience of the event and showcasing the power of sports in connecting people across different ages and cultures. During the Absa Cape Epic week, the Anna Foundation collaborated with another charity, Crisis Response Network (CRN). CRN made a generous donation of 40 boxes of non-perishable food to the Anna Foundation, which have been distributed among our projects. This donation will make a significant difference in supporting our feeding programmes.

We also introduced something brand-new this year at the Absa Cape Epic – our very first Play Park! Despite some rainy weather it was a great success, giving children a fun and engaging space to play and be part of the Epic experience.

The Absa Cape Epic continues to be a highlight on our calendar, and we are immensely grateful to all the organisations and individuals who made this year's event extra special for our learners. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Team Trial Lawyers 4 Anna Fdn for their generosity and incredible fundraising efforts.



Two Oceans Marathon

As an official charity of the 2025 TotalSports Two Oceans Marathon, the Anna Foundation had 50 dedicated runners who participated in the Half Marathon on Sunday, 6 April, to raise funds and support our cause. We are sincerely thankful to the organisers and each of these runners for choosing to make a difference in the lives of our learners through their participation! Pictured on the left is one of the runners who supported Anna Foundation this year, Leandi van der Westhuizen.