

# We Are Africa May 2024



*Serge Dive, CEO and Founder of Beyond Luxury, on the Uthando SA and Heart of Cape Town stand.*

A very big THANK YOU to We Are Africa and “The Tribe” for yet another remarkable year of support and love in so many ways.

**Donation.** Thank you for the extremely generous contribution of R421 162.50, which amount was split between the various community development projects listed below.

Thank you to We Are Africa for providing the opportunity for Uthando (Love) South Africa to be present at the show, and for assisting Uthando to create a magical, creative and heartfelt stand at the show.

**Presentation.** Thank you for the opportunity provided to James Fernie, Founder of Uthando (Love) South Africa and Heart of Cape Town, to present a “Walk the Talk” chat during one of the lunchtime sessions. The topic of James’s talk was “The Heart of Cape Town – The Transformative Power of Tourism”.

As part of the talk, James read out messages from the community development projects themselves, relaying messages of what they want to say to the tribe. For the benefit of all tribe members, below are the details and messages from each of the recipient community development projects.



*James Fernie presenting a Walk the Talk*

## Abalimi Bezekhaya “Farmers of Home”

“We all need food. We all need love.  
Farmers grow our food, but they can only do it with dedication and love.

Abalimi Bezekhaya, the heart and soul of urban farming in the townships, is a beacon of hope and resilience. For four decades, we have sown seeds of empowerment and nurtured communities all over Cape Town. Our mission is not just about cultivating crops; it's about cultivating dreams, aspirations, and self-sufficiency.

Abalimi doesn't just provide training and resources; we provide hope. We equip individuals with the knowledge and tools to feed themselves and their families, breaking the cycle of dependence and poverty. By fostering food security and income generation, we are not only feeding bodies but also nourishing souls. They remind us that change starts from the ground up; that every seed planted is a step towards a brighter tomorrow.

We all need food. We all need love.”



## Amy Foundation

“Our community isn't defined by the challenges we face, but by the courage with which we confront them. Every child and youth we empower through our after-school and youth skills development programmes, every heart we touch, is a testament to the strength of unity, compassion and love. In every corner of our city and country, hope is not a distant dream but a living reality, nurtured by the belief that change begins with us.

Amy Biehl's legacy reminds us that even in the face of tragedy, love and forgiveness can heal wounds and unite hearts. Her spirit lives on in our work, inspiring us to build bridges and turning adversity into opportunity.

Together, we sow seeds of empowerment, nurturing the growth of every individual, knowing that their prosperity enriches our entire community.

Thank you for being part of this journey towards a brighter tomorrow, where Amy's legacy and the Power of Collaboration continue to transform lives and nourish hearts.

Together we educate, develop and empower the youth of tomorrow. Together we continue to change lives!”



## Christel House School South Africa

“We believe that every child, regardless of their background, deserves the chance to thrive and succeed. Though our students come from impoverished circumstances, poverty does not define them. We see beyond their challenges and focus on nurturing their hearts and minds. We provide them with 100% scholarships to attend our school. This includes quality education from teachers who care for them as if they were their own, food to nourish their bodies, transport to help them get to school and back, social workers and counsellors to help them cope with the trauma they face every day, and so much more.

Values such as integrity, respect, responsibility, and independence are woven into our curriculum. We begin career guidance as early as Grade RR, ensuring our students are equipped for the working world and empowered to pursue fulfilling careers that leverage their strengths and lead to self-sufficiency.

To be a student, a staff member, a parent, or an alumni is to embrace a mission that goes beyond mere education. Our mission is to prepare graduates not only for academic success but also for upward economic mobility, good citizenship, and the realization of their fullest potential.

We witness firsthand the incredible transformation of children overcoming adversity and blossoming into confident individuals ready to shape their destinies. But this journey isn't one they undertake alone, it's a collaborative effort fuelled by support and love.

The Heart Project epitomises our commitment to creating positive change, not just for individuals, but for communities and beyond. Like the Heart of Cape Town project, Christel House SA is dedicated to forging a path toward a brighter South Africa and a better world.

Let us continue to lead with our hearts, for therein lies the true essence of Christel House SA and the power of the Heart of Cape Town project. Together, let's create a future where love and opportunity exist for all.”



## Eyes2Eyes – Stepping into the Light

“In 2018, my world tumbled into uncertainty and vulnerability. I became blind within three weeks due to a rare parasitic infection. Nothing prepared me for the emotional and physical roller coaster that was to follow over three years. I was in a desperate fight to restore my vision and health.

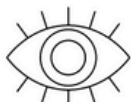
On countless trips to doctors’ appointments using Uber, my white cane inevitably led to conversations with the drivers about blindness in their communities. How did a blind person, living in sub-economic conditions, get the help they needed?

The answer was devastating. Help was not at hand, despite a solution being available.

My heart broke with each story I heard. Stories of visually impaired children being bullied at school and eventually dropping out. Stories of young blind mothers unable to see their babies’ faces. Stories of blind young men unable to work to support their families. A common thread of isolation and depression adding to their despair.

Something had to be done to help these unseen beautiful young South Africans. My slow journey back into the light was a catalyst for the start of the Eyes2Eyes Foundation.

Together with the incredible support of our donor friends, we have restored the vision of 60 young people so far. Another 90 young people are waiting for their phone call to say your time has come. Collectively, our work together is spreading beautiful light into the darkness, one eye at a time. We cannot thank you enough for being part of this journey.”



**Keziah-Lee, aged 12**



**eyes2eyes**  
*Restoring Sight*

## Ladles of Love

“Have you ever put thought to what love is or have you ever tried to define love? I know I have and what I have come to realise is that there is no definition or words one can put to love.

I believe if we do define love, we put a cage around it and like a beautiful bird that is put on this earth to share its song and beauty, it is also put on this earth to be able to fly free and share its beauty and song with all of us. The minute we put it in a cage we are keeping it all for ourselves. Love is not for me alone. Love is for everyone and everything - it's what keeps our hearts beating. The Power of Collaboration is one such act of love. It brings us together in acts of kindness. It ignores gender, colour and religion and it brings the Human Beingness in us alive. It keeps hope alive.

Ladles of Love is what drives me – because it drives love – it drives the Power of Collaboration. It has brought together organisations like Uthando who are out there raising funds for us so that we can support the more than 130 soup kitchens and Early Childhood Development Centres daily and provide hope to those that have none. Together, through this Power of Collaboration we have provided 43 million meals in times of crises. Together, we have provided 43 million bowls of Hope.”



## Masi Creative Hub

“What I have found as I am getting more empowered in what I do in my community, is that I have come to respect the beautiful role of the tourism industry and We Are Africa as we fulfil our vision to provide a safe, supportive and educational environment in which the community can use the power of creativity and art to overcome their daily struggles and challenges.

We so appreciate the tourism industry in joining and supporting us in our vision to provide the children and youth of Masiphumele to have access to a better future and take responsibility for developing their community.”

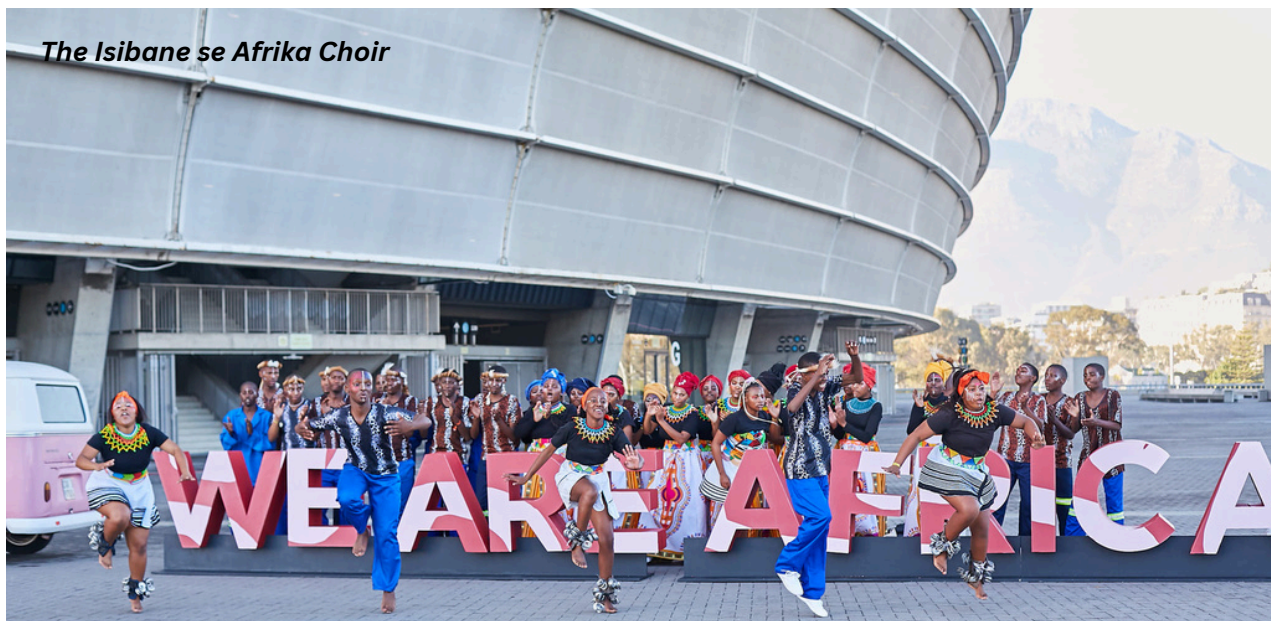


## Philisa Abafazi Bethu “Heal our Women“

“When you look for Lavender on the Cape Flats you would not find any, in fact you would find war, pain, carnage, daily killings, crosses on the roads, the politicians that don't care and weekly funerals. The Heart of Cape Town gives us the hope that love will conquer all, you feel the beating from Lavender Hill, to Hanover Park, in the pulsating of hope, the pulsating of peace, and at the heart beat of Lavender at Philisa Abafazi Bethu, but also for all activists whose hearts are continuously beating for the greater good and the greatest love of all.”



**Choirs.** Thank you for providing a powerful platform for the choirs, Isibane se Afrika “The Light of Africa” and Major Voices, to showcase their talent whilst welcoming the tribe in the morning.



*The Isibane se Afrika Choir*



*Major Voices Choir*

*Above pic, from left to right Erin Zheng (Conde Nast Traveler China), Anja Hanke (African – The Fine Art of Travel), Samantha Falewee (Travel + Leisure), Jane Broughton (Freelance) and Jen Murphy (Freelance)*

Thank you for providing Uthando with the opportunity to host a media trip to visit a range of community development projects in the eastern suburb’s “townships” of Cape Town.





**Visiting Mama Patiswa, principal of Ulwazi Educare, a pre-school built from 1700 tyres and 6000 eco-bricks (plastic bottles filled with rubbish)**



**Visiting the Moya We Khaya “Spirit of Home” Urban micro farm in Khayelitsha**

## The Tree-Athlon at Christel House School South Africa

“Thank you to We Are Africa for planting over 500 decent size trees at Christel House School South Africa over the last 3 years.

The We Are Africa Tree-athlon aims to maximise the positive impact of the annual gathering in Cape Town and contribute to a more sustainable future and benefit many future generations to come.”



*The 2024 tree planting took place in the midst of the “Cape of Storms”*

## The Heart of Cape Town

“Thank you to We Are Africa and many members of the tourism industry for embracing The Heart of Cape Town. The tourism industry is global and is very powerful in its ability to convey messages and be a force for good.

Over the course of three trade shows in 2024, ILTM, WTM Africa and We Are Africa, more than 2000 little hearts were gifted to tourism stakeholders from virtually every country in the world. Attached to each heart is a card with the website [www.theheartofcapetown.org](http://www.theheartofcapetown.org), which reflects a statement of Peace, Kindness and Love from South Africa, a country which confronted its extremely violent past but through a process of Truth, Forgiveness and Reconciliation changed the course of its history. At this crucial time in human history, many leaders and nations in the world could learn from South Africa.

Just a few examples of companies engaging with the campaign.”

“The Heart of Cape Town”, an initiative led by Uthando (Love) South Africa, a non-profit organization, passionately champions a message of peace, kindness and love, whilst illuminating the inspiring and innovative work of South African community development projects and activists.

These beautiful wire hearts are hand-crafted by local artists, gifted by the Mount Nelson team, in support of Uthando, so that the love and kindness from South Africa may travel onwards with you.

***The Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel gifted 100 little hearts together with this beautiful message of peace.***



**Zolani Mahola “The One Who Sings” with hearts on stage at the Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel**



**Thank you to We Are Africa for providing Laston Sachikonye, the main artist creating the wire hearts, with the opportunity to be present at the show. Laston standing with a wire giraffe that he created for the show.**



**Mama Africa – Hot Water**



**The WETU stand decorated with hearts.**

**Thank you to  
We Are Africa and  
The Tribe for the  
continued love and  
support.**