



BONNIEVALE

418

—  
LOVE · HUMILITY · COMMUNITY

# 2021/22 Annual Report

NPO 253 669

PBO 93 0054635

Financial Period  
1 Jan 2021 -31 Dec 2021

# Foreword



**THESE ROOTS SHOULD GROW INTO PRACTICAL PLANS TO HEAL AND RESTORE OUR COMMUNITY, TO CREATE A FUTURE GENERATION WITH STRONG, LOVING FAMILY BONDS, DIGNIFIED FAMILIES WHO WILL THRIVE IN LOVE AND LIVING THEIR CALLING.**



We grew as individuals, a team, and an organisation. Within two years Bonnievale 418 went from an idea to an integral part of our community, to spurring hope in other communities and provinces. Involved with several programs, with a staff of 15, the left brainer that I am, felt lost for a moment. It was swiftly addressed. Bonnievale 418 transitioned its first major growth phase as an organisation. This was important to maintain stakeholder trust and it was important to me that we transition this phase as a team. No one left behind.

In this time, I was taken back to how we started, our guiding principles. Do we pursue the fruit, or do we pursue the vine that bears the fruit? If we seek first the Kingdom all things will be added to it. Yet for any vine to bear fruit sustainably, it needs active growth, and it needs to be trellised. There needs to be both life and structure to it. We need a vision born from the living roots of love and relationship with Christ and this should remain the guiding purpose and compelling drive to all we do. These roots should grow into practical plans to heal and restore our community, to create a future generation with strong, loving family bonds, dignified families who will thrive in love and living their calling. The Jakes Gerwel School ([www.jgt.co.za](http://www.jgt.co.za)) speaks volumes. We have started in the Spirit, and we must continue in the Spirit. The results will be lasting.

I remain hopeful in the future of South Africa. A future where young adults continue to dream and have the

confidence to pursue that dream. We have seen a few sides of the scenarios in Bonnievale. Young people with dreams, and those without. The signs are evident and literal. Those without dreams, had dreams at some point in their lives but they have buried it under issues that comes with life. We have seen those with dreams but with the inability, or lack of confidence/access to communicate to pursue. And then we have also seen dreams being revived and pursued. Young moms continuing their studies, others being appointed as temporary staff and serving with excellence and being rewarded with promotions. This warms our hearts. We must keep dreams alive. It is not all worked out, and smooth sailing for Bonnievale but we are making big strides. Young people have a place where they can ask questions, get help, have access to free internet take part in mentorships programs etc. Through Bonnievale 418 they have access to whatever we have. We are experiencing a sense of revived hope among many youth in Bonnievale. They have a place to go to. Bonnievale's 2020 and 2021 cohorts average NEET's (Not in Employment, Education or Training) stands at around 35%. Our work is to see that this number shrinks, working ourselves out of a job.

As exciting and inspiring that these results are, we hope the bigger message is clear. A model where citizens, businesses, schools and government takes ownership of their community and work together to keep dreams alive. Moving away from just tolerating one another to lovingly serving one another.

**Bonnievale 418 Director**

**Curren Kühn**

023 285 0002

[curren@bonnievale418.co.za](mailto:curren@bonnievale418.co.za)

97 Main Road, Bonnievale 6730, Western Cape

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# About Bonnievale 418

**Bonnievale was heading towards the dilemma that by 2023 there would have been about 700 high school learners without access to a high school in Bonnievale.**

But through divine intervention and marvellous collaboration between government, the Bonnievale community and the private industry, the Jakes Gerwel Technical High School was born.

The school now has 654 learners in attendance. The miracle story of how the JGT school came together can be found at [www.jgt.co.za](http://www.jgt.co.za).

**A RESTORED COMMUNITY AND JOBS FOR EVERY CHILD FINISHING SCHOOL.**

Between Bonnievale High School (HSB), offering an academical curriculum, and Jakes Gerwel Technical High School (JGT), offering a mainstream technical, mainstream agricultural and School of Skills curriculum, these two high schools provide enough high school education for everyone in the Bonnievale community.

The reality however was that the solution is incomplete. What happens to our children after school and what if we could intervene earlier? These are the questions we are asking ourselves with the simple goal in mind: **A restored community and jobs for every child finishing school.**

Out of this crisis a seedling of hope was born. The JGE Funding Trust crossed paths with the Michael & Susan DellFoundation and received funding to launch Bonnievale

418 program to appoint people dedicated to work towards the goal of ZERO learning gaps, ZERO NEET's (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and ZERO youth unemployment in Bonnievale by 2030. Education still is the most powerful weapon to change the world, and a key instrument in human capital development (Stats SA, 2020).

Three of the four streams (education, pathways and employment) of Bonnievale 418 are therefore aligned at meaningful employment for our youth through initiatives and intervention at pre-school, primary

school, high school, and post-school levels.

Our strategy is to intervene across four sectors in Bonnievale. We invest in the lives of young people by increasing access to skills-based **education**, supporting learner **pathways** from school to work, growing **employment** potential within our local economy, and **sharing** what we learn with others.

Bonnievale 418 is therefore about restoring self-worth in our community through practical interventions. We believe that every young person should have the opportunity to participate fully in learning and in life regardless of means or ability.

The report looks back on our efforts and achievements over the past year for the four different streams.



01

**EDUCATION**

- New skills-based high school
- Collaboration & support
- Early-grade learning



02

**PATHWAYS**

- Career planning & placement
- Mentoring & training
- Work experience



03

**EMPLOYMENT**

- Employer network
- Demand from local employers



04

**SHARING**

- Advocacy
- School of skills





# Education Stream

The back story of how we came to be as an organisation still inspire and drives us. A story of unity, hope for restoration and of keeping the sparkle in our children's eyes bright. We want to experience young adults shouting out their dreams and career goals with excitement as they did when they were in Grade 3, 4 or 5. We follow a holistic approach, intervening on different levels.



*Figure 2: Some of the schools represented in the photo: Bonnievale High, Jakes Gerwel Technical, Bonnievale Primary, Wellville Primary, Boesmansrivier Primary, Maraisdal Primary and Wakkerstroom Wes Primary.*

## *Education Council*

In 2021 the Bonnievale education council was formed. A council where all Bonnievale schools can participate in discussing challenges and solutions for quality education in Bonnievale. This council serves as an equalizer in that principals, teachers from all our schools and other stakeholders in the educational arena comes together to share their challenges and joy. This creates a very valuable sense of unity. One of the big concerns

identified by the council are psycho-social support of learners. As a partner in education in Bonnievale, Bonnievale 418 assisted one of our primary schools to have a dedicated social worker. We are in the process of initiating a psycho-social support project for the rest of the Bonnievale schools. The council also advocates and welcome programs such as Year Beyond, Funda Wande, Teach the Nation, and Wolkskool.

## Year Beyond

YearBeyond is a ten-month program implemented for a second year in Bonnievale. The aim of this program is threefold. To inspire our youth through in-service training as teacher assistants, secondly to create much needed focused capacity for schools, and thirdly to assist Grade 3 to 4 learners with numeracy and literature skills. In this

program 16 enthusiastic young adults went on a two-week orientation program to prepare them for the task at hand. A total of 184 learners, with codes 2-4 in Literature or Math were identified across Bonnievale primary schools to take part in the program.

**334 HOME VISITS WERE CONDUCTED.  
110 PARENTS ALSO ATTENDED OUR  
PARENT-CAREGIVER-WORKSHOPS  
FOR THE YEAR**



Figure 3: Year Beyond Academic team 2021

The **YearBeyond @Home Learning programme** focusses on children not in school. 17 young people got the opportunity to gain meaningful working experience, whilst contributing to community upliftment through education and getting learners back into school. 334 home visits were conducted. 110 Parents also attended our

Figure 4: Year Beyond @Home Parent Caregiver workshop.



parent-caregiver-workshops for the year.

28 Yeboneers graduated from the program at the Artscape theatre in Cape Town. We are proud to announce that 71% of the Yeboneers successfully exited the program into employment opportunities or tertiary studies.

## *Funda Wandé*

The past two-years we have implemented several programs which are good but is not sufficient to address the language and math barriers our learners face.

Funda Wandé is a not-for-profit organization that aims to equip teachers to teach reading-for-meaning and calculating-with-confidence in Grades R-3 in South Africa. The materials and training are created in the languages that the children speak and understand and are freely available for anyone to download and use. The goal is

that all South African children can read for meaning by the end of grade 3. This is aligned with what we would like to achieve in Bonnievale.

Bonnievale 418 aims to serve the request of the Bonnievale Education Council by partnering with Funda Wandé and implement the program in participating primary schools in 2023. Find out more about Funda Wandé here: <https://fundawande.org/>.

### IN OUR DEALING WITH SCHOOLS AND LEARNERS, THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE OBSERVED:

- *Many grade twelves fail at the recruitment stage to participate in certain programs by not achieving 50% for a Grade 5 math test.*
- *A more aggressive intervention is required in foundation phase to tackle language barriers and the lack of confidence in maths.*
- *There are still too many learners missing out on school days.*
- *Parent involvement in their child's school education remains tardy.*

## *The way forward*

The Bonnievale Education Council agreed to focus on three main goals which are aligned with the SONA2019 address by President Cyril Ramaphosa:

- *Every school going child must be in a school (zero dropout).*
- *Ensuring our learners can read for meaning by the age of ten.*

- *Ensuring our learners can calculate with confidence.*

In all this we consistently strive to increase learner outcomes from our feeder schools by means of quality resources, teacher training, parental involvement, and professional development to create a pipeline of high-quality learners, ready for the next chapter of their lives.

# Pathways Stream

## Career guidance

During the past year, we assisted Grade 7 learners from all feeder schools with choosing a High School and we assisted Grade 9 learners with their subject choices for their next year. For Grade 11 and final year School of Skills learners our offerings include a detailed information session, a personalised career plan for each learner and an individual life coaching session. With these offerings we aim to build a solid foundation and understanding of our learners' career plans.

Figure 5: Career Hub

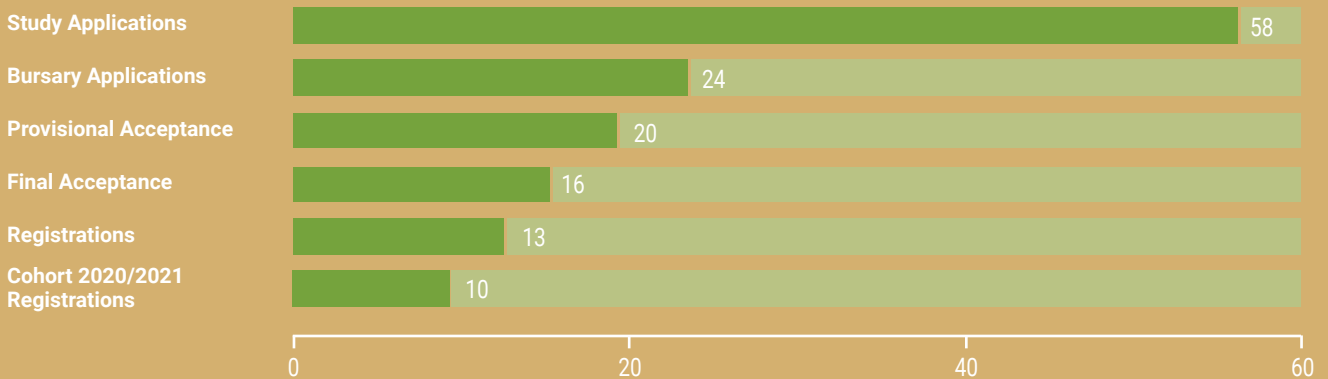


## Application Support

We assisted 58 learners from our 2021 Cohort with study applications and 24 learners with bursary applications. In total 20 learners received provisional / final acceptance letters and after the NSC results were released 16

learners had their final acceptance confirmed. By the start of classes, 13 learners registered to study at various tertiary institutions across the country.

Figure 6: Application support summary





### Student support

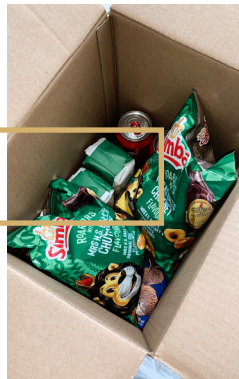
We have seen how tough it is for our Bonnievale learners to transition from school to “campus life” far away from home. Especially our first-year students from Bonnievale need support as they transition into their studies. For this reason we organised a Student Alumni Event at the beginning of 2022 as a send off for new first year

students (2021 Cohort) and as an opportunity for them to engage with Second Year students (2020 Cohort) who are also from Bonnievale. We sent two student care packages to all first year students from our cohort during the first year of studies as a small gesture to show our support.



Figure 7: Alumni Event

Figure 8: Care Packages





### Exposure Development

In a broader sense we realise that exposure development needs to form part of our Career Hub offering to pursue the goal of a holistic intervention program. Both our High Schools make a continued effort to expose our learners by organising field trips to tourist attractions, factories, and the like. We as Bonnievale 418 try to build on these

field trips by organising visits to University and College campuses. During the past year we visited Boland College as well as visits to Stellenbosch University's Open Days. Approximately 20 of our top performing learners from both High Schools attended University and College Open Days during the past year.



Figure 9: Open Days



### Placements

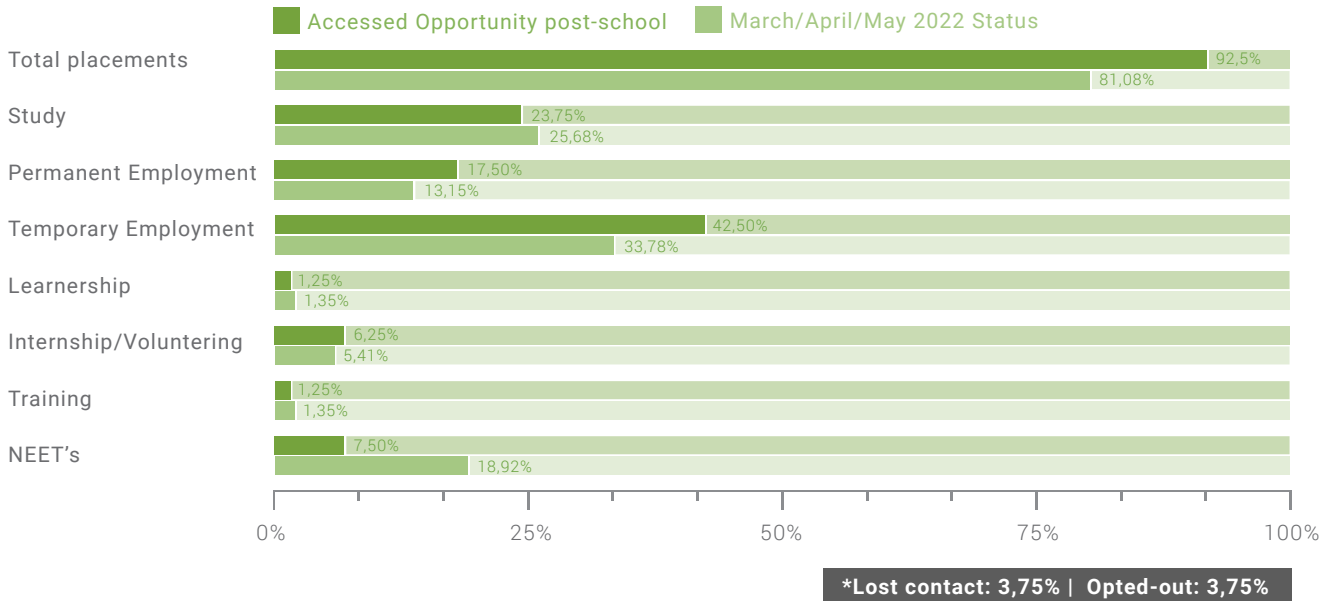
For a 0% youth unemployment rate, we aim for zero learners in the NEET's category.

Our 2020 cohort comprised a total of 80 learners. Fifteen months after completing school 92% of them were able to access a post-school opportunity. These opportunities ranged from fulltime studies to school teacher assistants and to casual employment at businesses and farms in and around Bonnievale.



In May 2022 we followed up with the learners from our 2020 cohort. Just over 80% of our Cohort was in a placement when we contacted them, albeit that just over 6% of our Cohort was placed in our works-program which ended in March 2021.

Figure 10: 2020 Cohort Placements



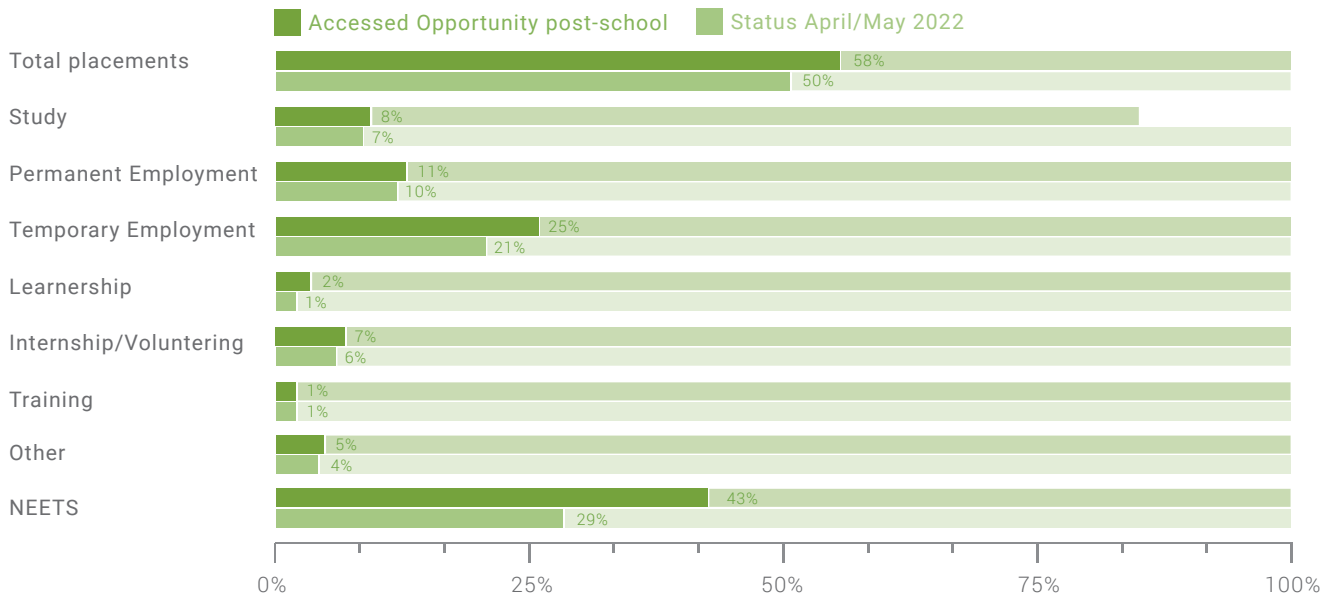
The number of our 2020 learners in NEET's after the status check rose from 7,5% to just under 19%. This is mostly attributed to learners not accessing another opportunity after their temporary employment ended.

58% of our 2021 cohort were able to access a post school opportunity within the first six months.



Figure 11: 2021 Cohort Placements

### 2021 COHORT PLACEMENTS



**\*Lost contact: 11% | Opted-out: 2% | Status Info unavailable: 10%**

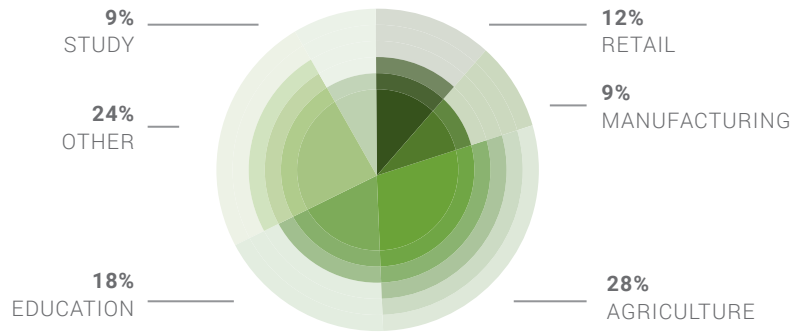
According to our records 200 learners completed school by the end of 2021 of which 58% accessed an opportunity within six months after school. As can be seen in the chart, 50% of our cohort was in a placement when we did a status check in April/May of 2022. This datapoint needs to be qualified, as 11% of those placements captured were

placements in our works-program and we are not sure how many of these learners were able to access a further opportunity after the works-program ended. The number of NEETS was confirmed at 29% while the remaining cohort was made up of 11% lost contact and 10% insufficient information available to confirm status.

Our Jakes Gerwel Matric learners accessed opportunities within the agriculture sector, which does align with many of our learners' subject choices, as well as accessing opportunities in the education sector. A high percentage (24%) for the other category includes waiting at

restaurants, rewriting matric subjects and employment as a general worker. School of Skills learners accessed opportunities within the agricultural sector mostly, second Education and also Transport, Construction and Manufacturing to a lesser extent.

**JGT MAINSTREAM PLACEMENTS PER INDUSTRY**



**JGT SCHOOL OF SKILLS PLACEMENTS PER INDUSTRY**

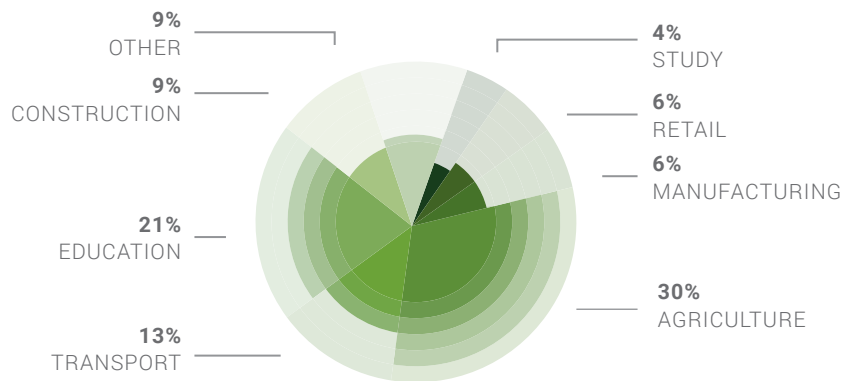


Figure 12: JGT Placements per Industry

Our Bonnievale High learners access opportunities through further studies and opportunities in the Education sector in most instances. A high percentage (24%) for the

other category includes the rewriting of matric subjects, waiting at restaurants, placements overseas and placements of learners who opted out of our support.

**HSB PLACEMENTS PER INDUSTRY**

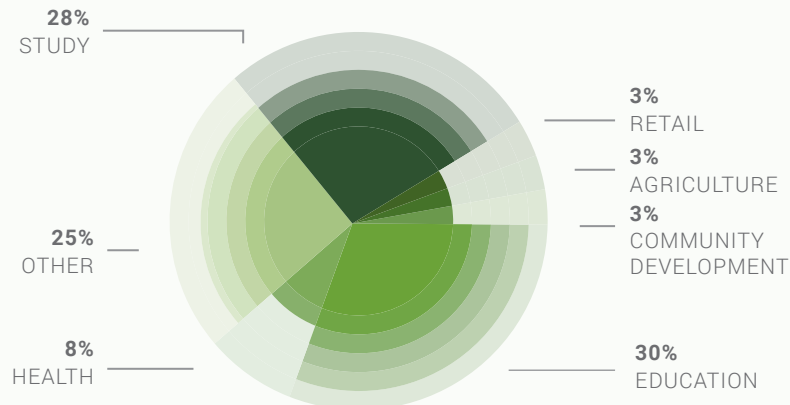


Figure 13: Bonnievale Placements per Industry

### *Key observations*

- For many of our learners the end goal is to complete school (Somewhere along the way they stopped dreaming).
- Many of our learners are under exposed to the different career options available and lack the necessary social capital to bridge the gap between their current reality and the prospect of building a career for themselves.
- From the data it is evident that with scaling our support, we also lost contact with a larger number of our cohort in 2021. Maximizing our support to all beneficiaries with the capacity in hand remains an area of improvement for us.
- We spend a considerable amount of time on submitting study- and bursary applications for our learners. With a success rate of 22% we hope to improve on this in the coming year by planning better and submitting applications earlier.
- Keeping track of every learner as we scale our support and capturing data for analysis continues to be a challenge. We are trying to formalize the flow of information within our organization to ensure that the data regarding our cohorts is captured.
- As we journey through building a Career Hub for Bonnievale, we continually strive to improve our offerings. We dream of establishing our version of a best practice for setting up a Career Hub in Bonnievale. In setting up a best practice, we would like to share this knowledge with other communities, especially those communities where our colleagues in our Sharing stream are involved.

### *The road forward...*

Our main aim over the past year was to expand our Career Hub offerings, to scale our interventions and also to ensure that we meet learners at different stages during the schooling career. Looking to 2023, we aim to solidify our best practice for setting up a Career Hub. This will enable us to share our knowledge with other communities.

A key factor during the next year will be to build partnerships with tertiary education institutions and business outside of Bonnievale. This will be a necessary next step as we welcome our next cohort of ±150 school leavers to the workforce at the beginning of 2023. We remain steadfast in our goal of ensuring that there is an opportunity available for each one of these learners as they finish school.



One of the success stories from Bonnievale is Stian de Bruin, who matriculated at Langeberg Secondary School in 2020. Stian had to contend with a difficult childhood, but always clung to his dream of pursuing a career in law. During 2021 we assisted Stian with his applications to further his studies in law. He was accepted to enrol for the LLB degree at North-West University on a NSFAS-bursary and commenced his studies in February of 2022. This photo of Stian was taken when he paid us a visit during the June/July vacation this year.

There is an African saying: **“It takes a village to raise a child”**. Members of our community have supported Stian in many ways and continue to play a crucial role in enabling him to pursue his dream. His story serves as a testimony to his determination and to the willingness of others to come alongside with support and encouragement. We wish Stian the very best and thank all who are accompanying him on his journey.

Shaun Visser was part of the first group of learners from Jakes Gerwel Technical School to pass matric in 2021. Shaun had the privilege to complete matric with subjects like Technical Mathematics, Engineering Graphics and Design, Construction, and Technical Science. This exposure, combined with passionate teachers, ignited his dream to build a career in the world of engineering and architecture. He also attended the work readiness course implemented by Bonnievale 418.

Shaun now works for Breërivier Meganies in Robertson as a draftsman.





# Employment Stream

Year 1 for the Employment Stream was all about exploring the local socio-economic landscape, building relationships with a variety of stakeholders, and identifying programmes/learnerships able to address the opportunities identified. These activities continue to this day, but Year 2 can be described as the year of systematic implementation.

*"It takes a village to raise a child"* has been the Employment Stream's perspective from day one. It is not merely about identifying job opportunities but creating an environment where youth can have thriving

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**MORE THAN 200 ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOB SEEKERS TO GAIN WORK EXPERIENCE AND AN INCOME FOR A DURATION RANGING FROM FIVE TO TWELVE MONTHS.**

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careers and lives. Firstly, partners from all sectors form part of a network of referral and support. Secondly, by opening many initiatives, like Work Readiness Course and Entrepreneurship Development, to the broader Bonnievale community. The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Yes! For Youth Learnership and the WRSETA Learnership in Wholesale and Retail are some of the opportunities Bonnievale 418 has been involved in, providing more than 200 additional opportunities for job seekers to gain work experience and an income for a duration ranging from five to twelve months.

## *Career Hub*

The purpose of the Career Hub is to provide jobseekers with as much support as possible in identifying and applying for opportunities. The hub proof to be a huge success in that approximately 193 people per month

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**193 PEOPLE PER MONTH VISIT THE HUB TO FIND OUT ABOUT NEW OPPORTUNITIES, USE THE INTERNET, COMPUTERS, E-CAFÉ, AND FACILITIES TO APPLY FOR JOBS AND TO RECEIVE CAREER GUIDANCE**

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visit the hub to find out about new opportunities, use the internet, computers, E-café, and facilities to apply for jobs and to receive career guidance. A variety of skills courses can now be accessed at the E-Café to gain or improve skills while seeking employment. We are hoping that jobseekers will be more comfortable applying for computer-based online jobs as their familiarity grows with computers.

## *Work Readiness Course*

The course aims to equip and empower people with employability and the entrepreneurial skills needed to support themselves and their families. Addressing the obstacles of poverty mindset, entitlement, lack of excellence, moral decay, and dependency syndrome. The unemployed will gain knowledge on how to; find a job, keep a job, and get promoted; work to a standard of excellence; address ideological barriers; some financial literacy; principles of how to start and run a business.

One year since launching we have seen a massive shift in the ability of jobseekers to find employment and commit to their work. The course served 222 participants and has an 93% progression rate (participants progressing into further education, employment, or training opportunities). The course is further used as an evaluation and recruitment tool to make better recommendations for available employment opportunities.



### Expanded Public Works Program (EPWP)

A restoration tool in our post-pandemic Bonnievale. From 15 November 2021 to 31 March 2022 a total income of R750,000 flowed into Bonnievale to those desperately in need. Below is an infographic with a few EPWP statistics.

Bonnievale 418 was awarded a tender to run an EPWP program for five months. EPWP is initiated by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI)

and administrated by the Independent Development Trust (IDT). It entails participants working at local schools and businesses for a stipend. Participants receive on the job training and the opportunity to prove their potential to future employers, where employers have the chance to familiarise themselves with the prospective workforce, while also creating capacity in businesses to address needs not otherwise met.

# STATS



**4** DURATION OF 2021/2022 CYCLE IN MONTHS (15 November 2021 - 31 March 2022)



**5** SUPERVISORS



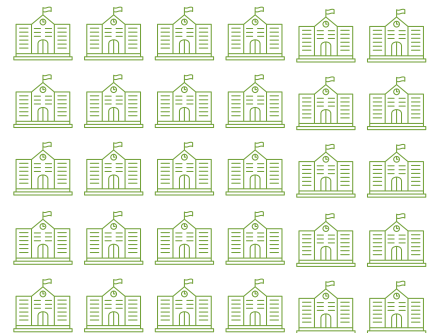
**107** DAILY INCOME PER PARTICIPANT IN ZAR

**30**

SCHOOLS & BUSINESSES SERVING AS WORKPLACES



**130** PARTICIPANTS IN PROGRAM



**750 000**

INCOME INTO BONNIEVALE THROUGH PROGRAM IN ZAR

### *Employment Key Observations*

- By being a space through which jobseekers can connect to available employment opportunities sparks hope among the unemployed. Social media and noticeboards at the office are used to communicate opportunities.
- Low levels of confidence in working with a computer among jobseekers limit their access.
- More employers are reaching out to Bonnievale 418 to assist with recruiting new employees because of higher quality of jobseekers coming through the programs.
- Exposure, training, and strong local leadership is required to change these apparent feelings of apathy and entitlement especially amongst youth but also the community at large. A shift in work ethic and culture is vital in growing an economy inclusive of all.
- As many relevant stakeholders as possible should not only be aware of this vision, but also united in achieving it.
- The type of work of Bonnievale 418 should simultaneously be taking place in other communities as well, to try and prevent issues from spilling over. With our Sharing Stream driving the process of new schools of skills, our Education Stream focusing on learner learning gaps in different areas, and the Employment Stream helping nearby towns establish their own Work Readiness Courses and Chambers of Commerce (“Sakekamers”), we are using our experience to help communities grow independently. If each province, each municipality, each town can provide for their own, South Africa will truly inspire the world.

### *The road forward*

- Support school leavers with career guidance, mentorship, and work readiness training.
- Assist entrepreneurs to establish sustainable independent businesses through information sharing, connecting with networks and mentorship programs. Understanding the demand for employment and working closely with our Pathway Stream
- (understanding the supply).
- Assisting local socio-economic development initiatives by supporting shared visions of Bonnievale to drive lasting change. The Small Farmers Union, Chamber of Commerce and Destination Management Committee are some of the groups identified.

# Sharing Stream

While all the other streams in Bonnievale 418 have an internal focus, the sharing department has an outward focus. The Sharing department currently consists of Augusta Brandt (foundation & community engagement) and Stefan Pieterse (structures and stakeholders) who assists 15 other towns in the Western Cape, and other provinces (Free State, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape) to investigate, advocate, facilitate and duplicate the a model similar to Bonnievale for their communities.

During the building of Jakes Gerwel Technical (2017) we never would have thought this school would attract so much attention nationwide. Communities, government, and businesspeople are all desperate for real, workable solutions to tackle poverty. With this in mind, we currently host between 6 tours per month varying between ministers, businesspeople, community members and NGO's across South-Africa.

Figure 15: MBD Students visiting JGT



Figure 14: Members of parliament visiting JGT

Sharing for us, was never simply to tell our story, it was to take hands, to partner, to use our network and to inspire other communities to achieve the same (or better). The first to follow was Struisbaai. A private construction company in Bonnievale came up with a modular design solution based on the JGT model but with the upside that it can be established anywhere in the country within six

months, fully equipped (off site) and at approximately half the cost of a traditional brick-and-mortar building. The first prototype in Struisbaai was successfully completed (fully equipped) during 2021/2022 for 120 learners at a total construction cost of R36 million. The school was officially opened by the MEC for education in the Western Cape in April 2022.



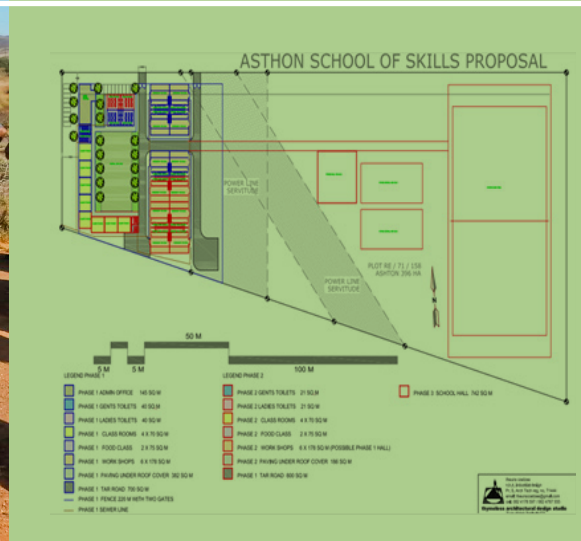
Figure 16: Official opening of the school (May 2022)

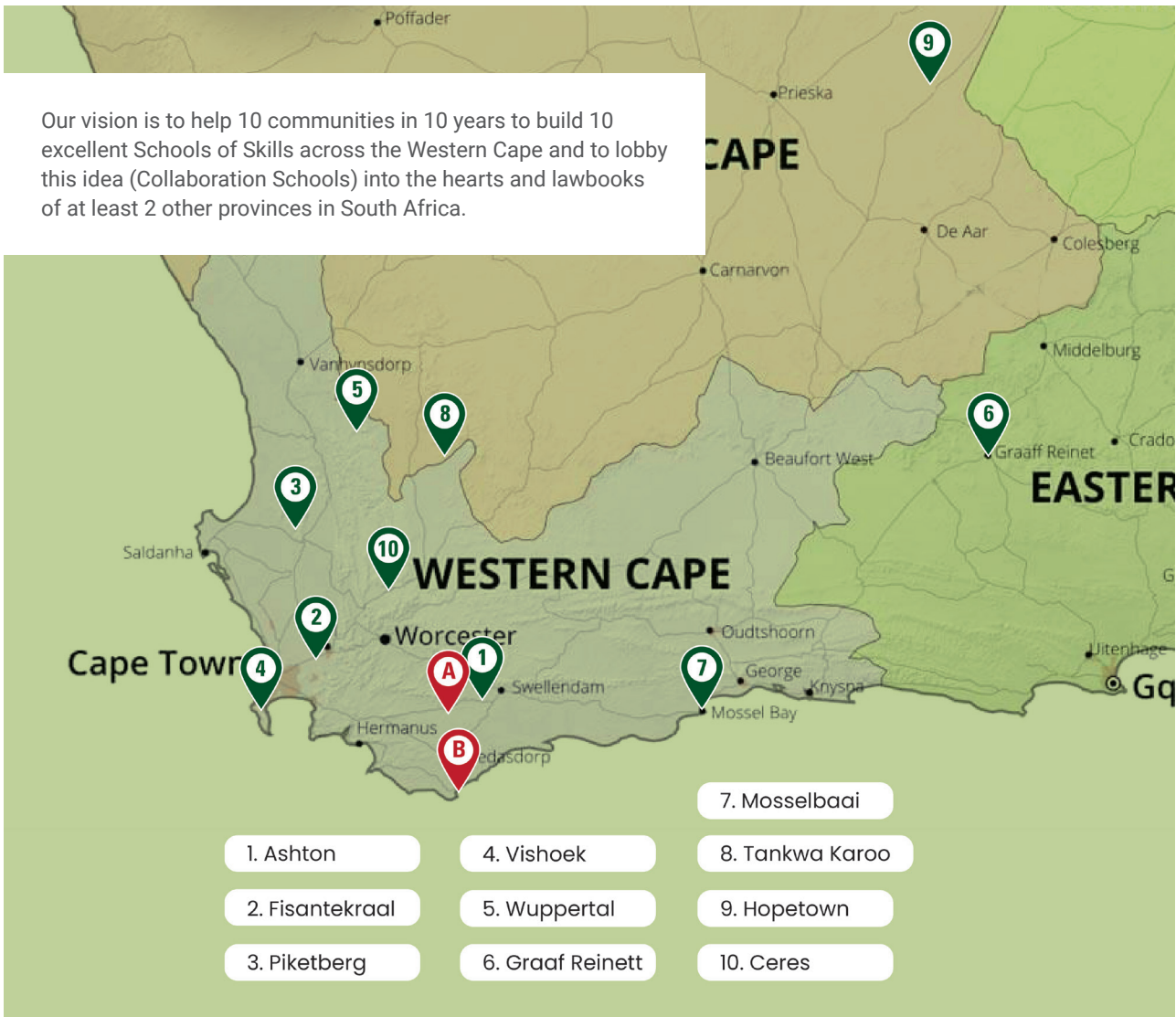


Figure 17: Struisbaai School of Skills (April 2022)

Following Struisbaai, we took hands with Ashton (neighbouring town to Bonnievale) and Fisantekraal/Durbanville where we already received the green lights to proceed with both projects from the Western Cape Education Department.

Figure 18: Ashton community having land (earmarked) and having a plan...





The lessons in summary that we have learned so far is that deep community engagement and ownership from as many people as possible is very important. Pray often and get a diverse core group of people closely knitted as brothers with different talents but of the same mind and the same Kingdom minded vision. We have also drafted 23 short chapters on setting the foundations right before building another school.

The building of collaboration schools is also a wonderful job creating experience. Both now and for the future.

Early calculations revealed that approximately 300 new teachers will be put into work with this new collaboration schools by 2030.

Imagine we could populate South Africa with such schools? We can see transformation in South Africa, starting from the south spreading to every corner and then to the outline of our continent. Let us clean up the streets, the hospitals, the courts, the jails, the rows of SASSA dependency. Let us create the South Africa we all want.



### *Our Team*

Trustees: Wilhelm De Wet, Augusta Brandt, Philip Jonker and Curren Kühn.

### **Implementing team:**







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418  
—  
LOVE · HUMILITY · COMMUNITY