

Community projects at The backpack



Our Communities

Giving back
& building bridges



Photo by MATTHEW STANLEY

Summary

The Backpack aims at bringing everyone together despite their differences and backgrounds. Helping and assisting communities where we can be of utmost importance to us. We assist in various programs with projects such as GCU (Great Commission United), this project has played a huge role at The Backpack.

Responsible consumption and production is a way of life for us. We try our utmost best to invest in other businesses or support their initiative. This has also created an outlet for us to grow more. In 2006 we stopped using water bottles and made it known to our guests that our tap water is safe to drink. Now water comes in glass which is 100% recyclable so we do sell water in glass bottles.

Hostel

The Backpack – South Africa

SDG Contribution



Economic

Supporting the local community

HI Mission

Social

People development

Non-formal education

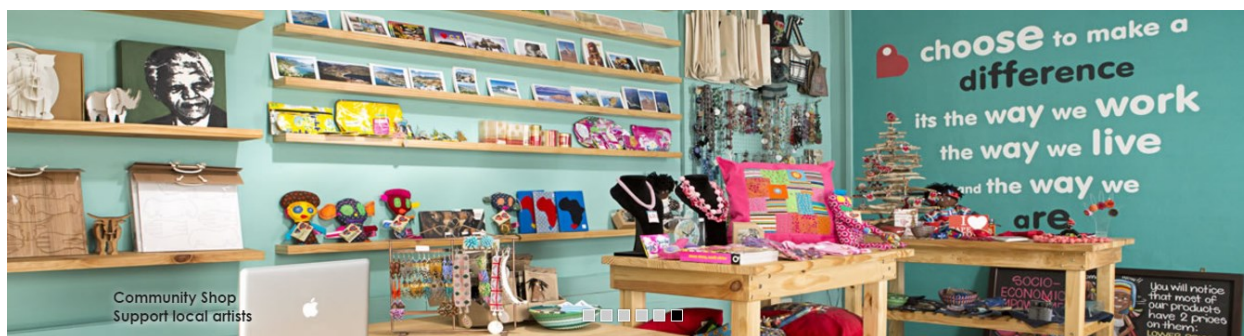
Environmental

Eco activities at the hostels



Methodology of community projects

Community shop – we source as much local craft as we can from Sheltered Employment Institutions to people with HIV Aids who cannot work full time but where able can do piece work as in beading jewellery to crafters who ply their trade on the streets where they can to earn a living. We display 2 prices the price we pay and the price we sell the product for so that our guests can see what the artist is getting for their work. With some of our crafters we collect the items they need to make the things they sell for example bottle tops to make buck heads and also tin cans to make lizards and other exotic African animals.



Bursary Scheme

	2015	2016
Staff	R36 170	R49035
Children	R53 028	R61 720
TOTALS	R89 198	R110 755



By donating your key deposit, you contribute to our Bursary Fund, which allows our staff to access this fund for their own studies or studies of their children or grandchildren. In 2017 with your help, we have paid for Sbu (Sports administration 3rd year), Michaela (Third year Human Resources) at Damelin College; Thando's son Nathi at Camps Bay Primary School, Portia's daughter Rosemary to attend Grade 2 at an inner city school; Primrose's son's Grade 9 school fees; Cathy's son's Grade 6 school fees.

We are so proud of our staff and their kids and thank you to all our guests who have made this possible. This Bursary Fund is accessible to all our staff and is transparent.



The Rope Skipping Project

Even though there are some girls kicking the football with Mario, to cater for girls an extra activity was added to the project — jump rope! This is a new sport craze sweeping over the youth of Cape Town. The Backpack has sponsored 12 girls who have made it into our Provincial Team. Sbu the coach has been an inspiration to the girls attending this program. He himself is a world champion.



The Soccer Project

GCU is a sports academy that was established in an underprivileged and impoverished area called Heideveld. Mario van Niekerk, an ex-gang member, started a soccer team to get children off the streets and into schools and sports teams. In 2007, The Backpack got involved with GCU and funded [a rope skipping programme](#) to provide young girls with a safe space to build up new skills, harness creativity and learn how to work as a team unit. Tutoring programs were another addition to GCU, to make sure children were keeping up to speed with their grades, as well as providing past pupils with employment. A head teacher from a Scottish school came to stay with us at The Backpack, saw GCU's project, and went back home to spread the word. Thereafter, our reach became far and wide. The children at his school in Scotland started raising funds for GCU and created an exchange program so that children at GCU could get the opportunity to travel abroad and see the world. These unique opportunities have enhanced the athletes' motivation and resulted in them completing internationally. Our initiative stands out because our reach has been so successful; we are able to touch the heart of every guest that walks through our doors, whether they decide to make a small donation or physically come to the project and interact with the children.

Vallie's Stitch and Bitch Program

With the Vallie's Stitch and Bitch Program, we have collectively knitted over one hundred blankets for AIDS orphans at Baphumelele Crèche in Khayelitsha Township. We have old age homes contributing to this project with their fantastic knitting skills. If you can knit plain, come along, relax in the lounge or bar at The Backpack, and knit a square or two! If you can't knit but would like to contribute to keeping the little one's snug, we gladly accept donations of wool.



Thank you for choosing to make a difference

Been traveling a while and got a pile of unwanted clothes in your backpack? Donate them at reception and we'll sell them on your behalf, with the proceeds going to The Soccer and Jump Rope Project.

Whether it's your time, your money, or both, you can be guaranteed the satisfaction and fulfilment of helping out children and people in need! By understanding, addressing and helping the social needs of the economically and socially disadvantaged communities of South Africa, we can work towards a just society in which all people get to share in the wealth of the country.

Choose to make a difference!

"The Backpack plays a huge role in the community project and they have helped so many kids within the project. When I turned 16 they employed me at The Backpack at the reception, café and rooms. This showed me how to work and act professionally and how to save my money I was earning. The Backpack has supported me financially by paying for my study fees for the past two years and continue to do so on condition that I pass my exams." Michaela Dampies



Technical details

Funding:

To assist with funding for our community projects we make use of:

- Donations
- Backpack guarantees that the community project gets R10 500 every month.

Risks: There are obviously lots of risks to look at when we invest in the community projects such as them not making any progress with the project and not developing in more fields etc.

Partners involved: GCU, Baphumelele Children's Home, Vallie's, Mdzananda, Pack for a purpose.

Communication plan: We try our utmost best to always be more involved with the community project as to where we go and visit them on a regular basis to see how the project has made progress during the short periods.

We also try and get our guests more involved with the projects when or if they are interested in the projects of course.



Estimated number of guests using the facilities: +- 2000 per month guests stays at our hostel depending on season of course.

Partners' satisfaction: GCU and all our partners are extremely grateful for whatever help we can give them.

Participants' satisfaction: As far as we know everyone who has ever been to our project has come away feeling that they have contributed to a good cause and hopefully even when the go home can look around and see where they can make a difference in their own communities.

Hostel's satisfaction with the projects:

- We would appreciate it if our guests were keener on donating their R50 key deposits towards our community projects.

Would like to know more about this initiative?

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Read more about the community projects [here](#)

Follow the backpack on



the backpack

a hostel for social change

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Winner - Best Social Responsibility Initiative
Winner - Green Accommodation Initiative

