



October 2023

CARE & GROW

KAL Trust realises Rebecca's dream of owning her own home

In 2011, the KAL Trust was established with an important mission: to provide financial support to previously disadvantaged employees, their families, farm workers and underprivileged communities.

Over the years, the Trust has evolved, striving to offer growth and empowerment opportunities while enhancing employees' lives across the KAL Group.

One heart-warming success story is that of Rebecca Dikgake, a Deli Assistant at



Rebecca Dikgake

Expressmark and single mother whose dream of homeownership became a reality with the help of the KAL Trust.

At the time of her application, Rebecca was living in informal housing with her two children. Her living conditions were far from ideal, and she faced the challenge of providing a nurturing space for her family. Despite applying for a government RDP house, she was granted only a plot with a small foundation. Her hopes for a better living situation seemed bleak as the completion of her house remained uncertain.

KAL Trust made my dreams come true. I always wished to give my children the best, and now I can give them each their own bedroom and personal space.

REBECCA DIKGAKE
DELI ASSISTANT EXPRESSMARK, KAL

Determined not to give up on her dream, Rebecca began using her savings to purchase essential building materials such as cement, bricks and window frames. She was on a mission to create a safe and comfortable home for her family, one brick at a time.

In 2021, Rebecca's life took a remarkable turn when she learned about the funding opportunities provided by KAL Trust, which include interest-free revolving home loans, rental deposits, funds for security improvements and upgrades to employee homes. She wasted no time in applying for a home loan and was overjoyed when her application was approved.

With meticulous planning, Rebecca transformed her plot with its small foundation into a beautiful 3-bedroom home. Today she is a proud homeowner.

Rebecca expressed her gratitude, saying, "KAL Trust made my dreams come true. I always wished to give my children the best, and now I can give them each their own bedroom and personal space. Our company truly CARES for us as employees, and I wish KAL Trust continues to be blessed so that many more employees get the help they need."

"Witnessing the impact on employees' lives continues to inspire the Trust's management team," says Louisa Bizaare, KAL's Corporate Social Investment Officer. "KAL Trust remains committed to its mission of empowerment and support. We know although we may assist one employee with a particular home loan or funding, their loved ones' lives are enriched even more. The ripple effect of what the Trust achieves is far-reaching and will continue to sustain many people's lives far into the future."



To apply for funding, or to learn more about the Trust, click here

Spreading smiles through Casual Day sticker sales

Agrimark and Expressmark branches across Paarl, Wellington, Simondium and Franschhoek raised R11 640 for the Drakenstein Association for Persons with Disabilities (DAPD) for Casual Day.

Casual Day, a widely celebrated national campaign in South Africa, occurs annually on



the first Friday of September. It serves as the flagship awareness and fundraising project for the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, striving to create an all-inclusive and equitable

society where the human rights of all individuals are upheld and protected.

This year's Casual Day theme was "Share A Smile", with a mission to ignite a chain reaction of goodwill and care. A smile, often regarded as the starting point for breaking down barriers and bridging societal gaps, is recognised as a powerful tool for nurturing lasting relationships where people feel seen, heard and valued.

In true KAL fashion, teams across departments and branches rallied to support the cause. A friendly challenge emerged amongst teams to

determine which participating branches could sell the most tickets.

"Our teams' wholehearted participation in the Casual Day campaign reflects our deep commitment to community welfare and inclusivity," says Taasha Thorne, Corporate Social Investment Officer. "We want to continue to support such charitable initiatives where employees can directly contribute to our corporate social investment efforts."

Expressmark Bergrivier achieved the highest sales, with 160 tickets at R20 a ticket.

"I am very proud of my team for actively informing our customers that they can buy their Casual Day stickers at our branch," says Dallen Petersen, Branch Manager, Expressmark Bergrivier. "Our community needs us, and it was great to be challenged and sell as many tickets as possible to support the DAPD. It's an honour to make this contribution towards an organisation that is doing so much for our people."

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DALLEN PETERSEN
BRANCH MANAGER, EXPRESSMARK, BERGRIVIER

From bursary recipient to KAL employee, Yorique is giving back

The impact of KAL's financial support is often described as life-changing by many recipients in the KAL Bursary Programme.

This is exactly how former bursary recipient, Yorique Agullhas, who now works as an intern in the Group's Supply Chain department,



Yorique Agullhas

describes his journey with KAL. In his view, the bursary has helped him achieve what he never thought possible.

Yorique became a bursary recipient while attending Boland Agricultural High School where his potential was recognised. KAL has a longstanding relationship with Boland High School and Yorique was recommended by the school as a bright learner who demonstrated great potential and who was in need of financial support.

Overcoming an early setback when his dreams of a sports career were dashed due to an injury, Yorique redirected his focus towards academics. He enrolled at North-West University, where he continued to maintain excellent academic results and graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Marketing cum laude in 2022.

“The bursary initially covered my school fees and thereafter the majority of my university studies,” says Yorique. “This access to funding motivated me to work hard, and through my hard work I tried to show my appreciation for the opportunity KAL granted me.”

The values of CARE are applied to all KAL’s engagements with student beneficiaries to foster strong relationships with them. The bursary programme is managed by KAL’s Corporate Affairs department and the CSI team regularly checks in on the young people to get an understanding of how they are doing, not just academically, but also holistically.

“The CSI team has greatly inspired me with their genuine approach to CARE,” says Yorique. “I am humbled by the time they took to ensure that I am well taken care of and have everything I need to succeed.”

It was during one of these CARE check-ins that Yorique expressed his keen interest in joining KAL. His enthusiasm and passion for the business were undeniable, leading to his selection for an internship in the Supply

KAL helped make my dreams come true, and I want to do what I can to give back. I am eternally grateful for everything the company has done for me.

YORIQUE AGULLHAS
INTERN, KAL

Chain department. Yorique works under the guidance of Sylvester Chatukuta, Senior Manager: Stock Control.

Stock control is crucial to KAL’s retail operations and requires precision and efficiency. Interns like Yorique play a vital role, bringing fresh perspectives and energy to the table. Theoretical knowledge can also be combined with practical application.

“It’s great being exposed to so many facets of the business, and I am learning something new every single day,” says Yorique. “What you learn in theory is sometimes very different when applied practically, and the projects I have been exposed to are very insightful. If I could choose, I would want to continue working here for as long as possible because the space where I am now is very fascinating.

“KAL helped make my dreams come true, and I want to do what I can to give back. I am eternally grateful for everything the company has done for me,” he adds.

“We are pleased that we could recruit Yorique as an intern,” says Barend Sulvester, Senior Manager: Sustainability. “He has shown great potential and worked hard to succeed, becoming the first bursary recipient to join our company. “It’s a privilege to empower talented, hard working individuals. If their career aspirations align with opportunities in the business, we strive to enable our bursary recipients to benefit.”

Mandela Day meal packing packs a positive punch!

KAL employees in the Winelands region demonstrated immense community spirit as they marked Nelson Mandela International Day by packing meals to fight child hunger.

Employees from operating points in Paarl, Wellington, Simondium, Malmesbury and Franschhoek transformed the Agrimark Wellington training room into a vibrant meal-packing facility. Their mission? To pack as many nutritious meals as possible in partnership with Rise Against Hunger (RAH), a non-profit organisation committed to eradicating child hunger.

KAL, guided by its unwavering commitment to leave communities better off, joined hands with RAH to help enhance access to quality education and nutritious meals for children aged 0-6, ensuring they have the nourishment needed to thrive. The meal packs are provided for and served at Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in vulnerable communities.

According to a 2020 report by the University of Cape Town's Children's Institute, 10% of children (2,1 million) live in households that reported child hunger.

"Education is the key focus area of our corporate social initiatives and children who go hungry cannot develop as they should," explains Barend Sulvester, KAL's Senior Manager of Sustainability.

RAH operates on three foundational principles, namely that hope thrives alongside nutrition, learning increases with stability, and self-sufficiency leads to growth.



"Ensuring children have productive days at school is a core focus of KAL's impact journey," says Barend. "We asked employees to volunteer their time and were overwhelmed by the support. They embraced the spirit of Mandela Day and packed a remarkable 21 168 nutritious meals during the event. These meals will go on to benefit four ECD centres in the Winelands, ensuring they can provide nutritious meals every day for an entire year."

Each RAH meal pack contains enriched rice, soy protein, dried vegetables, and 23 essential vitamins and nutrients.

Education is the key focus area of our corporate social initiatives and children who go hungry cannot develop as they should.

BAREND SULVESTER

SENIOR MANAGER: SUSTAINABILITY, KAL



Employees who participated in this heart-warming event also shared their thoughts:



ELIZE VAN WYK

GENERAL WORKER: CORPORATE OFFICE, KAL

It's great to know that the small contribution of my time will help set up a child for a brighter future. Child hunger is real, and I look forward to more events where we can make a positive impact and give many more children a chance to succeed. It was also great to spend time with fellow colleagues. We had so much fun.

ROBERT MULLER

SENIOR MANAGER: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, KAL

Connecting with colleagues while making a difference and creating a positive impact felt phenomenal. I look forward to more and more outreach projects where we can participate. Keep up the great work.



[Click here for more pictures](#)

Steam for STEM education

KAL has reaffirmed its commitment to quality education by extending its support of the innovative Robotics Programme at Louw Gerike Primary School in Ceres.

Launched in January 2023, the Louw Gerike Robotics Programme consists of a curriculum of high-quality coding and robotics content powered by Resolute Robotics.



To amplify the impact of the programme, the school organised a Robotica STEAM Day to share their learning and provide primary school learners across the Witzenberg area with an

immersive experience to delve into the world of technology.

Forty-eight learners from various primary schools, including Louw Gericke, Mooi-Uitsig, Bella Vista, FD Conradie, Morrisdale, Koue Bokkeveld and St. Marks took part in activities and workshops designed to hone their problem-solving skills and nurture their creativity. Events such as these serve as a catalyst, igniting a passion for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

"This STEAM Day was a remarkable educational experience and will hopefully continue and expand in our Witzenberg community," said

Sjoerd Selders, Principal at Louw Gericke. "We added Arts to the STEM acronym as robotics also require creative thinking. The learners enjoyed themselves, and it was great to see how eager they were to participate in the activities of the day."

"KAL remains dedicated to empowering the next generation through quality education," added Taasha Thorne, Corporate Social Investment Officer. "The collaboration with Louw Gericke Primary School and Resolute Robotics underscores our commitment to nurturing young talent and fostering a passion for those disciplines that will drive South Africa's competitiveness in the future."

Agrimark Marble Hall cares for the elderly

Our senior citizens are the pillars of our communities. They have the knowledge, experience and wisdom to guide the generations that follow.

The Agrimark Marble Hall team demonstrated how much they value the elderly in their community and donated care packages to the Loskop Vallei Rusoord in Marble Hall. The thoughtful care packages included essential items and personal hygiene products such as soap, toothpaste and lotion. They also treated everyone to delicious milk tart and fancies.

Ruan Koortzen, Junior Manager at Agrimark Marble Hall, expressed immense pride in his team for spearheading this heartfelt initiative.

"I am really proud of my team for taking the lead. Our senior citizens are very important to us, and we wanted to show them that we CARE and are



From left to right: Ruan Koortzen, Junior Branch Manager; Cecilia Ndala, Cashier; Tarina Lottering, Northern Region Financial Services Manager and Essie van der Walt, Trade Clerk.

there for them. They have made an invaluable contribution to our community and laid the foundation for our futures."



Cecilia Ndala enjoyed every moment, sharing laughs with the residents of Loskop Vallei Rusoord.



We Want to Hear from You

Has your branch or department been involved in any community based corporate social investment (CSI) projects lately? We'd love to hear all about it. Please send us your good news stories and images to Isabel.Muller@kaapagri.co.za



Ons Hoor Graag van Jou!

Was jou tak of departement onlangs by 'n gemeenskapsprojek betrokke? Ons wil graag daarvan hoor. Stuur asseblief jou inspirasiestories en foto's na Isabel.Muller@kaapagri.co.za