

PRIORITIES 2025-26

Vukukhanye's current **key priorities** are the support and development of the Vukukhanye Educare Centre in Chesterville, as well as continuing to support our current bursar, Spesihle (who completed Grade 12 in 2024). Additional services that Vukukhanye provides, as resources allow, are the support of vulnerable children, youth and families in Chesterville (e.g. with school resources, food and clothing) and supporting community-based organisations, especially preschools.

The Vukukhanye Educare Centre



The Vukukhanye Educare Centre was established in 2012 to provide quality early childhood development services to children living in and around Chesterville, Cato Manor. There are currently 45 children enrolled. Children enjoy a full morning of play-centred learning and receive a nutritious breakfast, a midmorning snack and cooked lunch daily. There are 3 classrooms, one for each of the age-groups (< 2, 2-3 & 4-5 years). The children are cared for by 3 teachers, a teacher's assistant and 1 cook. The hours of operation are 7:30am to 3:00pm daily, with the formal programme between 8:00am and 1:00pm. The children's physical and other developmental milestones are monitored, and reports are provided to the parents. Partnership with the local Department of Health means that Vitamin A supplementation and deworming is done at school. All but one of the teachers have received accredited (NQF Levels 4-5) early childhood development training. The newest teacher, has been working at the school for one year and it is her desire to enrol in a three-year Early Childhood Development Diploma, starting in 2015, and complete the necessary practical component at the Vukukhanye Educare Centre.

The children live in the neighbouring community of Chesterville and are largely from poor families, cared for by single parents, extended family, or other caregivers. The poverty of caregivers places the children at risk of not receiving sufficient early childhood stimulation and inadequate nutrition. The services offered by the Vukukhanye Educare Centre seek to meet these vital developmental needs.

Recent improvements at the Vukukhanye Educare Centre...

Improvements during the last year include strengthening of the large outdoor **awning** and the laying and painting of roof sheeting, repair of the perimeter **fence** and two **gates**, a new low internal fence, **tree-felling** on the fence-line; repair and replacement of **gutters** which supply two large rainwater tanks, **artificial turf** to help with outdoor play, as well as a major **classroom rebuild** and a brand-new **jungle gym** and covered **sand pit**.



Before

Awning repair



After



Fencing, gates & tree-felling



Artificial turf



New gutters to rainwater tanks



Major classroom rebuild



Brand new jungle-gym and covered sand pit



BURSARIES

The Bursary Project, which was started in 2009, has now assisted 21 bursars with fees, uniforms, stationery, and guidance. Many of these bursars have achieved tertiary qualifications in fields such as civil engineering, nursing, commerce and accounting, social science, education, supply chain management, welding and fabrication, aviation support, tourism, human resources, chemical engineering, and public management.

Spesihle Khoza (year 1 tertiary 2025)

Spesihle Khoza is currently the only bursary student being supported. Spesihle was selected as bursar when he was in Grade 1 in 2013, and has been assisted with school uniforms, stationery and school fees for the past 12 years. Spesihle completed Grade 12 in 2024. Vukukhanye is working with Spesihle and his family towards enrolling in a 4-year teaching qualification.

Philiswa Hose

Philiswa has worked as a teacher at the Vukukhanye Educare Centre since early 2024, when she filled in for a teacher who sustained a serious leg fracture. Philiswa has proven to be a dedicated, passionate teacher. She would like to pursue formal education in Early Childhood Development. A reputable provider of such training is the Caversham Institute, who provide a “National Diploma in ECD” Qualification (Qualification 23118 @ NQF Level 5); which is three-year part-time course, during which the student must be teaching at a preschool, where her practical assessments will also be conducted by Caversham. The cost of this course is R18,000 per year for three years.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Whenever possible, Vukukhanye supports vulnerable children, youth and families in Chesterville with food, school needs and clothing...



A large donation of used school clothing which benefitted many children, including with school uniform & sport's kit.

School shoes and stationery



World Food Day
Meal for 70 children

