



24 January 2026. Athwood Primary School, Hanover Park

Power of Partnership &

Unity of Purpose



The financing, construction, completion and official opening of the 3rd “Pitch for Peace” involved many people, companies, organisations and security stakeholders. The “Soccer & Music Festival” held on the 24th of January brought together many of the civic leaders, security stakeholders, educators, children, musicians, artists, government officials and 110 Americans who had just arrived in South Africa for the 1st day of their trip around South Africa. We are quite sure Hanover Park has never hosted such a tourism event, with the total

investment in infrastructure and the festival exceeding R200 000.00 in the community of Hanover Park.

This initiative is an example of Travelling Philanthropy and Responsible Tourism, respectful and beneficial to everyone involved. The visitors have an outstanding truly authentic experience together with the locals, whilst also leaving a lasting legacy for a local community. The local community feels “seen”, recognised and included in tourism.



Photo. 110 Race2Adventure participants handing over a cheque of R153 000.00 to Uthando before heading out to Hanover Park.

Each of the visitors also brought a backpack filled with school supplies, stationery and sanitary pads for girls. These packs will be handed to the children at Athwood Primary School during the week.

All stakeholders involved in the initiative

Mario Van Niekerk, Great Commission United
Natural Building Collection

Bill and Laury Bryant (USA) (donor)

Mark Jarrod-Smith (partner of recently deceased founder of New Frontiers Tours, Craig Garrod-Smith (donor)

Race2Adventure (USA) <https://www.race2adventure.com/south-africa/> (donor)

Dunia Designs (Tanzania) (Donor)

Alex Cupido and Bruinchild Media Team

Musicians and artists from across the Cape Flats

Legendary Vicky Sampson and rising award winning rapper Mr MP

Cape Town Tourism

Woodlands Primary School

Athwood Primary School

Avril Andrews and the Alcardo Andrews Foundation Team

Ashraf Allie and the Cape Flats Sports Academy Team

Roberto Stemmet at the YISS (Youth Impact Sustainable Solutions) Team

Bradley Bailey and Kind Heart Bench Team

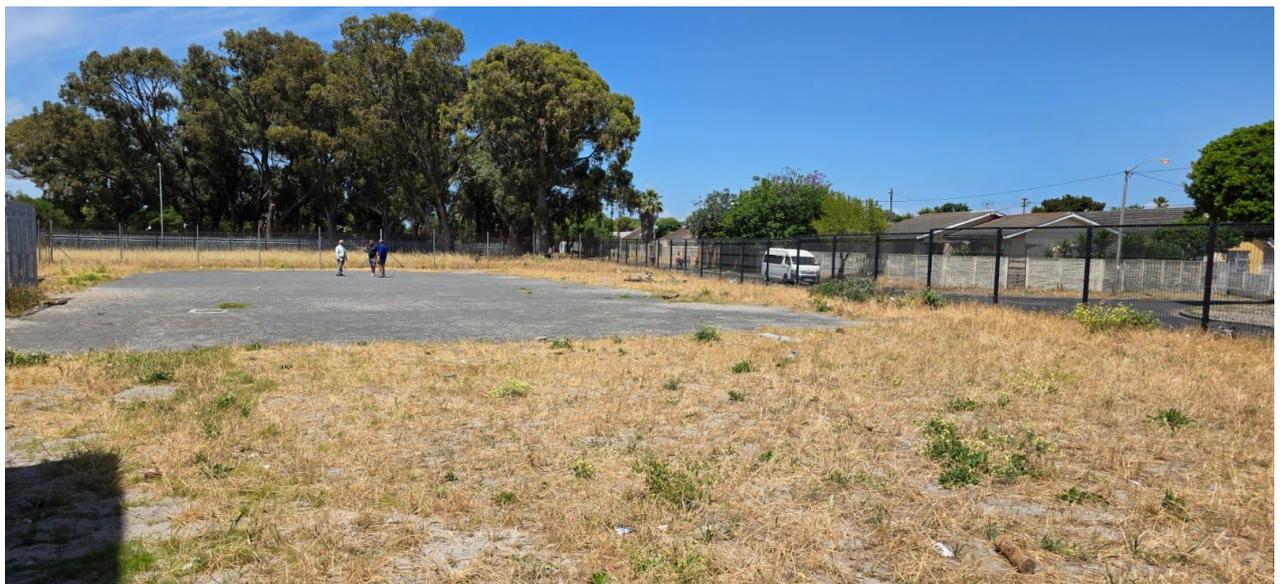
Mama Yandi Mazawana – Masi Creative Hub

South African Police driven by Colonel Sause

Cape Town Metro Police

Hanover Park Community Police Forums and Neighbourhood Watches

Amazeballs



The field at Athwood Primary School before installation of the Pitch.

Some Feedback from various stakeholders

Mr Evan Petersen, Principal of Athwood Primary School

“Reach for the moon even if you miss you will land amongst the stars. This forms part of the motto we at Athwood primary live by. So when we were approached about a 5 aside pitch by our partners Uthando ,Alcardo Andrews Foundation and the Hanover Park cricket club, we naturally said that it would be awesome.The impact is far beyond words, a place where the children can play safely in Hanover Park.Safe from gangsterism, drugs , alcohol and GBV. Learners can play soccer and sharpen their skills as budding stars of the future.On the flip side we saving the environment.Recycled material is used and repurposed from harmful to functional in our community.Each tyre contains 200kg of builders rubble ,reducing rubble and by that helping to strengthen the tyres .We are real environmentally friendly activists to used recycling to beautify our communities.

I asked the boys who are part of our project (5 aside) what the pitch meant to them and this was the response," I don't have to worry about being hurt , I'm safe and having fun .My problems are left outside the 5 Aside pitch."A pitch is needed at each school in Hanover Park ,it will provide Psycho-social support for our youth in Hanover Park. Breaking the cycle of dropouts, gangsterism and poverty one pitch at a Time.

Yours in Education

Evan Petersen

Athwood Primary

Principal”



Mr Petersen (Principal) and Deputy Principal Mrs Veneta Adams standing at the “Baobab Tree of Love, Peace, Happiness and Joy” created by Mama Yandi from Masi Creative

Roberto Stemmet, Youth Impact Sustainable Solutions

Greetings everyone,

Firstly, I would like to thank and congratulate Uthando, all donors and partners for putting together a landmark, groundbreaking event for our Hanover Park community at Athwood Primary School today.

What is important to note is that this was not just another event based solely on a few hours of entertainment, but it is what has been left behind which is the gamechanger, a uniquely, dynamically designed 5s soccer pitch with weatherproof carpeting and indestructible fencing built mainly out of recycled tires, plastic bottles and rubble, painted and coated with warm colours which signify unity and diversity, topped off with a set of removal goal posts with matching netting.

This unique soccer pitch is special because it signifies diversion, deterrent, escape, opportunity, community development and rebuilding potential, especially for our young, vulnerable, broken, battered and abused primary school learners who are often victims of their circumstances.

These learners, who are our future stakeholders and key role players of Hanover Park's tomorrow, hold the key to changing this "gangland label" into a place of freedom, opportunity and prosperity, inspite of all the various social ills and challenges which Hanover Park is faced with on a daily basis.

Therefore the investment into these learners, their physical, mental and emotional well-being and sound character development, blended with huge doses of love, circumstantial understanding and care, forms an essential platform for our Hanover Park community to flourish in the long run.

Uthando and Partners, take a bow as you are a vital catalyst in effecting sustainable growth and positive change within our various troubled, broken, gang infested communities, Once again, from the community of Hanover Park, a heartfelt thank you.

Then last but not least, I would like to thank our Safety and Security teams namely Philippi SAPS, our Hanover Park CPF, our local Law Enforcement, Metro Police and Traffic Officers, and our Hanover Park NBW structures for your outstanding service, presence and hands-on approach in ensuring the safety and security of all our citizens and our 110 USA guests throughout the entire event. What a breath of fresh air to witness and experience such community and policing collaboration. "Teamwork is Dreamwork" as somebody said recently.

In closing, to everyone involved, both at the fore-front and behind the scenes and to the Principal, management, staff and caretakers of Athwood Primary school, our Hanover Park community salutes you all for making this launch such a huge success.

A little birdy has tweeted that there's more to come very soon.

Hanover Park is feeling blessed.

Congratulations yet again to the Uthando Team.

May you continue to grow in stature. May you receive the deserved recognition and support, especially from all three spheres of our South African Government and may your donor base expand at a rapid pace as you continue to display and execute your dynamic, loving, life-changing humanitarian characteristics, investments and exploits across the most needy communities and townships throughout the Western Cape and beyond.

Special thanks to Vicky Sampson for always sharing her talents and fame with her hometown, Hanover Park. We are honored to hail you Vicky.

With lots of love and appreciation,

Roberto Stemmet (YIS)

On behalf of the Community of Hanover Park.



SAPS Colonel Sause and others with the children from Athwood Primary and Woodlands Primary Schools

“Aunty” Avril Andrews, Alcardo Andrews Foundation (AAF)

Avril started the foundation after her son Alcardo was murdered in gang violence.

Dear James Fernie, the Uthando South Africa team, and partners

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your strong leadership in the launch of the soccer pitch (the Soccer & Music Festival) at Athwood Primary School on 24 January 2026. I am confident that the soccer pitch will have a major impact at Athwood Primary and at many surrounding schools. It will also positively affect the wider Hanover Park community by providing our children with a safe space to play and the reassurance that many people are invested in their wellbeing and success.

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in this project. As the Alcardo Andrews Foundation, we have a longstanding relationship with Uthando and with Athwood Primary, and we look forward to seeing this partnership grow even further in the future.

As I reflect on Saturday and the weeks of planning with our other partners YISS and Hanover park cricket club leading up to it, I am struck by how the project brought together many groups with a foothold and influence in the Hanover Park community. Many of these groups previously worked in silos, and this project has had an inspiring and unifying effect. The event seemed to work across the divisions which may hamper the work of many community organisations seeking to bring about broad change and transformation in Hanover Park. The festival proved that we can all work together towards a common good – the safety and future of our children. There are many role players to thank and acknowledge.

I want to start by acknowledging the work of the different units responsible for our safety on the day. These include the Community Police Forum (CPF) – Cameron Weldon and his team – and the various Neighbourhood Watch groups, the ACD Neighbourhood Watch, the Reach Out Foundation, the Newfields Neighbourhood Watch and the Blomvlei Neighbourhood Watch.

I would also like to thank Bradley Bailey of the Kind Heart Project. I am encouraged to see that Athwood Primary now has its very own kind heart bench, a place for staff and students to sit, reflect or share their experiences and struggles with someone who will listen. Washief Losper and the Tjommies team were amazing on the day, they certainly gave our international visitors a very warm welcome to Hanover Park and to Cape Town. The organisations, Vannie Hanover Park and the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO) have also been amazing supporters of, and collaborators on, this project.

The festival had a talented line up of artists. A heartfelt thanks to Alex Cupido of Bruinchild Media for organising the talent. Well done to Galen Barnes, Connor, Zanie Khoi San Poetry, Kiewiets Khoi San, Marshin Hendrix, Kattie, Shade, Shaundeon, Riel Dansers Traditional, and Big B Forever. Vicky Sampson was incredible as always. We see great things ahead through her support of the Hanover Park community. Thank you to the MCs on the day, Dennis Stander (of Men Stand Tall) and Arlene Petersen. Also, thanks to Bridgette Williams, from the Department of Social Development, for her support on the day. I know there were many more people and organisations who made the day a success and who will continue to work towards the development of Athwood Primary and Hanover Park. I would like to extend my thanks to all of them.

#MEMORABLE EVENT!! Thankyou UTHANDO!!!

I am still so in AWE!!!! Kind Regards Avril Andrews



Avril Andrews, with Evan Petersen and Roberto Stemmet (YISS) with the Cape Town Metro Police

Brigitte Walsh, Eyelove Africa, local tour operator

“Congratulations Uthando and partners on Saturday’s HP Festival – it was such great fun and so well organised. For me, to reintroduce myself to Aunty Avril and meet Evan and his team at the school was the main goal. I made new friends, had a great time with my old friends and another opportunity to meet up with Mama Yandi from Masi. Thank you for including me and I am super excited to get our project off the ground.”



Brigitte with Allie Hunt (Cape Town Helicopters & Escape+Explore)





The legacy left for Athwood Primary School. A solid indestructible 5-a-side Soccer Pitch providing social and sporting opportunities for the children at the school for many years to come.



110 mostly North Americans and more than 150 community leaders, educators, children, security stakeholders and more come together in a spirit of Unity, Peace, Love and Joy. In the background is “The Ghetto”, one of the most dangerous parts of Hanover Park.

Alex Cupido from Bruinchild Media

I just wanted to pop an email to say thank you. Thank you for allowing Bruinchild Media to be part of the uthando family. It is rare that we get these types of opportunities , especially when you are a recovering addict and ex convict , people just dont trust you but I am absolutely overwhelmed by the trust that has been entrusted to me.

In the Western Cape , our music artists struggle. They struggle to pay for studio time , to create music but through this initiatives they are getting paid and they are grateful. That someone is seeing and investing in their talents. In a place where , resources and opportunities are scarce , Uthando Love South Africa and its partners invest in local up and coming talent , ensuring that they can keep doing what they Love. When i saw the arrival of our 110 American guests and the metro police escorting them I feel proud of what we have accomplished , memories that they will never forget.

I just want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of the whole western cape creative community. Much Love and Respect



Alex (far left) , Galen Barnes and 3 young rappers and James Fernie (Uthando SA)

Ashraf Allie, CEO of Cape Flats Sports Academy

“As a community organisation deeply rooted in the Cape Flats, we are proud to partner with Uthando SA, Amazeballs and all our partners. Football and cricket play a powerful role in steering youth away from social ills. Proper interventions like accessible sports programmes provide positive engagement and real opportunities to thrive.

Once all the schools have or some of the schools have these 5-a-side pitches we can consider managing tournaments between the schools to fast track development, thus bring even more awareness and impact to how invaluable these pitches of peace are.”

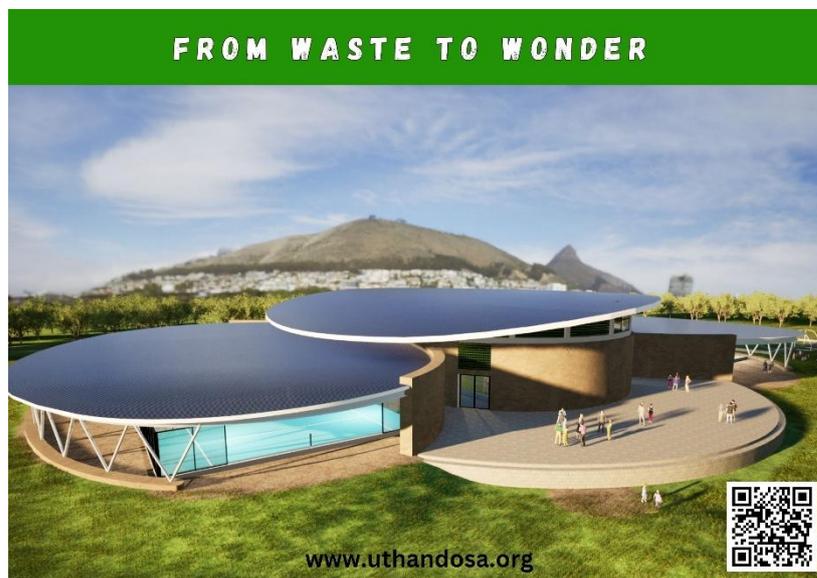


Left to right : Evan Petersen, Les Waterkyn (Amazeballs) and Ashraf Allie

The Uthando 5-a-Side Eco League

Below is our collective vision & plan going forward.....

- Roll out one soccer pitch at every school in Hanover Park and Heideveld (15 schools in total)
- Construct one pitch in Mitchells Plein and one in Khayelitsha so as to plant the seed of expansion to other communities across Cape Town.
- Having a music festival involving locals and visitors at the launch of each of the pitches, bringing people together from different communities in a spirit of unity and solidarity.
- Great Commission United (GCU) and Cape Flats Sports Academy to set up a league between the various schools.
- Involve the University of Cape Town and University of Western Cape to conduct scientific research on the impact of the pitches on the children, the schools and the broader community.
- The GCU team, who built the first 3 “Pitches for Peace” to upskill a team from Hanover Park under the Cape Flats Sports Academy. This will be in preparation for the construction of the first in the world multi purpose indoor sports centre and sound recording studio in Hanover Park using around 15 000 tyres and more than 30 000 plastic bottles.



In this chaotic and turbulent state of humanity, we do not look enough to our past leaders like Nelson Mandela for advice and guidance on how to navigate these times. Some Madiba quotes below :

"Music is a great blessing. It has the power to elevate and liberate us. It sets people free to dream. It can unite us to sing with one voice. Such is the value of music".

"It is music and dancing that make me at peace with the world".

"Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where there was once only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers.".



Athwood Primary School, winner of the 1st game held at Woodlands Primary School "Pitch for Peace" held on 8 November 2025.

The Power of Tourism

Today my ancestors and God was deeply present, A tourist was at the festival and was so inspired , she asked me to sign her book of Nelson Mandela, Long walk to freedom, what a prevelage , what a moment ! [Moedervanniesand SA](#) - Zanie Zanie



Power of Partnership & Unity of Purpose

The Legendary Vicky Sampson “Hope has come to Hanover Park”



It is with great joy that I write this reference about my experience on Sat 24 January 2026 at Athwood Primary in Hanover Park, for the match off against Woodlands Primary. The atmosphere was too beautiful for words, with an air of excitement and expectation.

I was overjoyed to see such unity, happiness and peace in a place often known only for violence and sadness.

The joy on the childrens’ faces was wonderful to behold.

I felt and received so much love from every person who wanted a photo or a hug.

In fact, the principal has invited me to come and do some mentoring in the very near future, which I have accepted with aplomb and so will be arranging a meeting with them soon.

Hanover Park is where I grew up and with my vision of bringing access to music and the creative arts to inspire hope and to give children and youth other options(from the gangsterism,drugs and hopelessness), I am very excited about

the future in working alongside Uthando SA and the other organisations from this community.

I believe that once the light has come in- Darkness finds it very hard to progress.

We are the light and the salt of the earth and for me, music, sport and the Creative sector are powerful tools to be used in bringing about positive change and to give our youth a better future. It allows them to dream.

This is what My African Dream speaks about.

I believe in South Africa. I believe in Africa.

I believe that God has His hand over us and is doing a powerful and beautiful work!

Thank you for the opportunity and for the alignment, Uthando SA. The future looks very bright.

Much love and gratitude

Vicky Sampson



The Kind Heart Bench kindly donated by Dunai Designs
(Tanzania)



Thank you to the 158 participants from Race2Adventure for bringing bags with school stationery and girls sanitary pads all the way from North America, the Principal, educators and children were all so grateful.

Uthando Social Development Projects, South Africa

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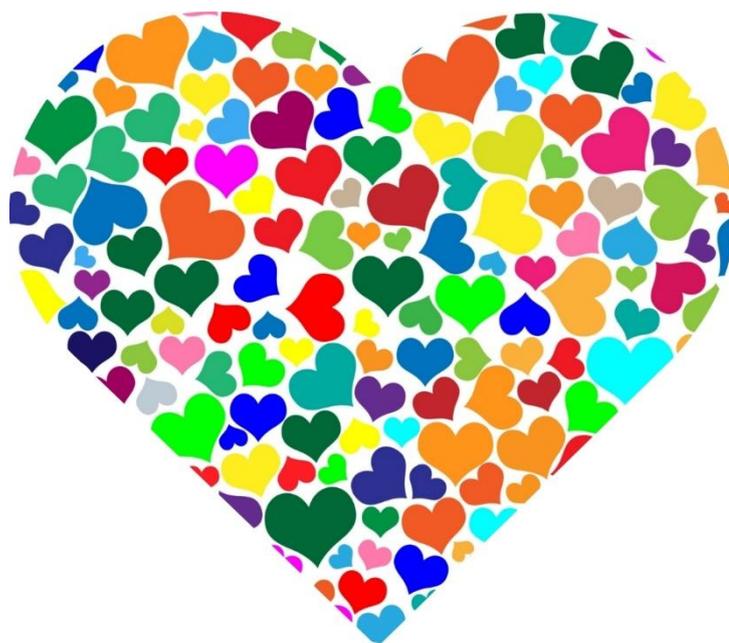
Uthando (Love) South Africa is committed to the principles and philosophy of Fair Trade Tourism and at all times ensures that Responsible Tourism best practices are applied and integrated into our

organization and Philanthropic Educational Excursions. Our excursions bring significant benefit to local communities by providing income and other forms of assistance, while cultural exchanges are conducted in a sensitive, respectful and mutually beneficial manner.



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