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Plettenberg Bay

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## **Born in Africa - Sponsor information 2024**

Dear Sponsors

Once again, we have managed to successfully complete another year and we did this all together as a collective family. You as sponsors, our godparents, us as Born in Africa, our parents and last but most importantly, the Born in Africa children.

1. **School uniforms:** We kicked off the 2024 school year by equipping all learners with a full uniform as well as a backpack, stationery, lunch box and flip file. This coming January 2025 the learners will receive the following items: 2 pairs of school shoes, socks, pants/skirt, shirt, rain jacket and stationery. Grade 8 learners at Plett Secondary will also receive a tie. Gr 8 Learners of Wittedrift high will receive the above as well as school blazer, winter jacket, school jersey, sport clothing.
2. **Educational Outings:** Born in Africa learners from grade 1 till 7 all enjoyed an interesting and fun visit to the Knysna Elephant park during the school holidays! Grade 8, 9 and 10 learners hiked the Witsand trail on Robberg Peninsula and our older students from grades 11 and 12 were treated to a day-outing to Tsitsikamma where they visited the suspension bridges at Storms River Mouth as well as the Bloukrans bungy bridge site.
3. **Educational Camps:** We hosted our annual educational camps for our learners from Gr 2-7. The theme this year was 'Around the World'. The camps were held at Moonsong Backpackers. This year a total number of 200 learners attended. Our learners were also treated to an indoor heated pool as well as lots of activities and sports which our volunteers prepared for them. Grade 8 and 9 learners went camping at Outward Bound in Sedgefield where they learned how valuable they are in a team and how to overcome obstacles. 52 learners attended. Camp is so much fun each and every year and an event we all can't wait to attend!
5. **Career Guidance:** For our Gr 11 students, we hosted a Career Guidance outing for a total number of 8 learners. This was important for them as they indicated which careers, they were interested in. Expert advice was offered during informative presentations at Sorbet Salon, Ferreira and partners which is an accounting firm, The Palms Boutique hotel and Restaurant. At our BIA office they received firsthand information from Yulynne Alexander who studies Nature Conservation and we had the pleasure of spending time with Heilet Nursing sister from George who presented an insightful and realistic glimpse into the calling of the medical industry. Our learners were treated to an amazing lunch at Roadside Café. Careers which were on display included the accounting sector, nursing, clerical work, business management, health and beauty, the hospitality industry and nature conservation.

**6 Mentorship:** It is such a privilege to be working with the children and this year our 5 mentors continued to work on theme-based group sessions with the 350 learners in the Born in Africa program. Informative themes presented were First Aid, Mental Health, Bullying, Addiction in various forms. With the said 350 learners regular individual counselling sessions were held. We continued with individual academic support which included computers, mathematics, English, many school projects and more. As always the above takes place in a safe and nurturing environment which includes a meal.

**7 Education Support:** Our mentors and volunteers have been very busy with online support for English and math's. The children practice on tablets and laptops to improve their skills in English and math's, the program we use for this is IXL. We can see that the extra help assisted the children with their schoolwork. We assisted our learners with educational support by offering them the necessary tools to work on their school projects. We were able to help them with research and the printing of projects as well. Typing and research skills have improved immensely. We have also been very active with hosting our libraries in Kranshoek, The Crags and Wittedrift High, with students very eager to read books, both in English and Afrikaans. We can proudly say that our library boasts a number of 1200 books.

**8 Medical support:** 19 learners received prescription glasses, a few learners were taken to the doctor and 12 learners went to the dentist.

**9 Educational centers:** In 2023-2024, we built a new classroom at Wittedrift High where a total of 35 kids enjoy their own private space in the afternoons with their mentor Belinda. In this space, learners can complete homework, work on school projects, and enjoy group sessions hosted by mentor Belinda. The center is also used for mathematics tutoring, we host a library, our chess club runs from there.

**10 Life skills programs:** This year, like others, we were able to offer surfing lessons (28 learners), swimming lessons with Adopt a Swimmer (30 learners) as well as Nippers (10 learners) at Central beach. Learners from Harkerville and Formosa Primary Schools, residing in Kwanokuthula and New Horizons, enjoyed our Learn to swim program with educational coordinator Veronique, where we reached 14 kids this year, who all completed a series of 12 swimming classes.

**11 Born in Africa's heated indoor pool:** In September 2024 the building of Born in Africa's very own pool was concluded. Thanks to big donations from St Lodewijk and St Jozef schools in Belgium, Isabelle's dream finally became a reality! In October, we immediately started by offering swimming classes daily to learners from New Horizons and Kwanothula. Over the months and years to come, we aim to reach lots of learners, so we know our children are safe around the water! We are happy to report that so far we have been able to host 32 in 2024.

**12 Donation of food:** During the year on many occasions, food was handed out to our children, when we were able to receive food or meals from donors and businesses. We continued to receive weekly donations from Woolworths and Spar in Plettenberg Bay. Thanks to these and other donations, we have been able to feed 350 Gr 2-12 learners from a Monday to a Thursday afternoon throughout the year! The food donations also fed our children during their Educational camps at Moonsong Backpackers, which were a total number of 200 learners.

**13 Dream project:** This year over 280 children had their dreams fulfilled. The dreams included outings bungy jumping or going to the trampoline park to kids who dreamt of having their own bed or cupboard. Unfortunately, we don't find sponsorship for all the dreams, and we thank the parents for understanding that not every child's dream can come true in a year. This must never, however, deter a learner from dreaming big each year!

**14 Tertiary Bursaries:** 2024 has been an incredible year for our tertiary program. This year we supported 35 tertiary students, studying at institutions which include Stellenbosch university, Varsity College, AFDA, UCT, UWC. We are currently busy with applications for 2025 and pending their Gr 12 final results, there will be 10 learners pursuing their tertiary studies.

**15 Wittedrift High bursaries:** This year there are a total number of 58 Born in Africa learners attending Wittedrift High. 36 of these learners are studying with a bursary which is provided by Born in Africa. This bursary covers the learner's school uniform, stationery and books, transport to and from school and in most cases hostel fees as well. Our students also do very well on the sports field and on a cultural level. Our learners participated in Netball, Rugby, Soccer, Tennis, Public Speaking, Mathematics Olympiads, and the school Musical production – Pirates of Penzance. One of our learners has subsequently joined the Plettenberg Bay Musical Academy which we support. We are also very proud to announce that 3 of the prefects selected for 2025 are Born in Africa learners. Besides taking care of all these learners daily with all their needs, both academically and extra-curricular, we have also established a Chess Club, a Library, dance classes, Mathematics lessons for Gr 8-12, and managed to establish a choir.

**16 Social Media:** This year we reached 6000 followers on Facebook and more than 1000 on Instagram. The website is fully functional and very user-friendly. ([www.borninafrica.org](http://www.borninafrica.org)). We are also active on YouTube, so be sure to follow us to stay up- to date with all our activities!

**17 Volunteers:** This year has been very busy with volunteers, both local and from overseas! In total we had 15 volunteers who all brought amazing new skills and interests which they teach to the children. It is so valuable to have them as part of our afterschool program. Some of what they learned included the skill of cooking as well as a project where they learned about the ocean, healthy food and self-esteem!

**18 Gr 12 Certificate Ceremony:** We are very proud to announce that this year Born in Africa hosted a very special event where our Gr 12 graduates were honored for their remarkable achievement. Graduating from high school is a remarkable event. Rightfully so, they received certificates with special words from their mentors as well as special gifts from Born in Africa and board member Ruby Chetty who delivered such encouraging words, alongside Born in Africa chairlady Janet Harding.

**19 Dates:** This year we plan on working at our centers with the children until Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2024. The Born in Africa office will close on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2024, and we will return on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2025.

**20 New Bus:** The old bus is sold and is now renewed with a new Toyota Quantum bus.

We would like to use this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a blessed festive season. We would like to thank you as sponsors for enabling us to work with these amazing children and we endeavor to do all we can to progress the education and personal development of the children.

Yours in community service, The Born in Africa team!

website: [www.borninafrica.org](http://www.borninafrica.org)

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