



MADE BETTER *together*
FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT 2025

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Made Better Together Foundation Impact Report 2025

A Year of Connection, Collaboration, and Quiet Impact

What an extraordinary year. Standing in Moscow as WILD HEARTS received the Green Futures Award nomination was a profound career highlight – as was the honour of presenting WILD HEARTS at the Eco Resorts Network gathering in Greece. But even with these unforgettable moments, the true magic of 2025 was found in people, in partnerships, and in the quiet moments of impact that shaped every day.

I served on the EEASA entertainment and décor committee and this connected me with remarkable people whose collaboration quickly grew into friendship. EEASA also opened doors to exciting new partnerships for 2026 – a reminder that we truly thrive when we find our tribe.

This year definitely deepened my understanding of culture and community. WILD HEARTS training sessions revealed beliefs, stories, and ways of seeing the natural world that continue to expand my own perspective. Our facilitators and partners – many working in under-resourced environments – inspire me with their humility, passion, and ingenuity. But not every partnership aligned, and we were reminded of the importance of protecting the integrity of WILD HEARTS. Upholding our values of Ubuntu, generosity, and respectful collaboration will always be non-negotiable.

There were moments of pure creative joy – like crafting hundreds of recycled flowers for EEASA – and deeply moving moments, especially teaching on the West Coast where children begged for more art time. Their eagerness stays with me.

This year also brought meaningful growth: the development of fynbos and West Coast-specific lesson plans, bringing children closer to the ecosystems they call home. It has shown me how transformative locally rooted learning can be – and I'm excited to expand this approach across all biomes.

The Tenthouse team made me incredibly proud, from their generous Mandela Day food collection to cutting hundreds of Ice-Cream Stick Activity packs for children they may never meet. Their hands and hearts are woven into this work.

Looking ahead, we are dreaming big. In 2026, we hope to begin building our own Learning Management System – a single, accessible hub for all 40 lessons, 70 additional activities, and every training and resource. It's one of the projects I'm most excited for.

As I reflect on the year, one truth echoes loudly: collaboration is powerful beyond measure. To every partner, facilitator, teacher, and child – thank you. You have shaped WILD HEARTS in ways I could never have imagined. To the Tenthouse team – thank you for always showing up. And to Brendan – thank you for believing in this work from the beginning.

The past three years of outreach have humbled me, grown me, and filled me with hope. My heart is full, and I am deeply, deeply grateful.

With gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead

Joni Pierce-van Zyl



Where Purpose Meets People

Looking back on what we've achieved through the Made Better Together Foundation fills me with immense pride. One of the highlights has been the continued growth of our Wild Hearts educational programme, which has made a tangible difference in the lives of children and teachers in under-resourced communities. From providing hands-on learning experiences to inspiring confidence and creativity, the programme has become a beacon of hope and opportunity. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering passion, dedication, and tireless effort of Joni, our Social Impact Director, who brings heart and purpose to every initiative we undertake. Her commitment ensures that every project we touch leaves a lasting, meaningful impact – a true reflection of the heart, spirit, and care that defines our team at Tenthouse Structures.

Michèle Jones



Building Better, Together

2025 has been a remarkable year for the Made Better Together Foundation – a quiet testament to what's possible when purpose and partnership guide our actions. I am deeply inspired by the dedication, expertise, and compassion that Joni and our team bring to life through every program, workshop, and collaboration.

The WILD HEARTS initiative, in particular, reflects the essence of our company's mission – to design and build with a view toward lasting impact. As Tenthouse Structures continues to innovate within the built environment, the Foundation reminds us that our legacy extends far beyond the structures we create. It lives in the communities we support, the children we inspire, and the environments we help protect.

Thank you, Joni, for leading with vision and heart, and to all who contribute to this shared journey. Together, we are showing that building better is not just about what we make, but about who we become in the process – made better, together.

Brendan O'Molony

ABOUT US

Welcome to the Made Better Together Foundation – the not-for-profit arm of Tenthouse Structures created to champion meaningful, community-focused outreach. What began as a commitment to doing business responsibly has grown into a platform where collaboration, compassion, and shared purpose come together to uplift communities in need.

Rooted in Tenthouse Structures' sustainability model, Made Better Together, our Foundation exists to empower communities, nurture environmental stewardship, and advocate for equitable access to opportunities and resources. We believe that when people unite around a common goal, transformative change becomes possible – not just for today, but for generations to come.

*"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far,
go together."*



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FOUNDATION

OUR VISION

To foster thriving communities and resilient natural spaces through collaborative, compassionate, and sustainable action.



OUR MISSION

1

To empower individuals and communities by providing meaningful environmental education.

2

Creating safe and functional spaces.

3

Promoting responsible resource use.

4

Supporting initiatives that uplift and inspire those who need it most.

OUR VALUES

Community Empowerment

We support initiatives that give people agency, knowledge, and opportunities to grow.

Environmental Stewardship

We protect and restore the natural world through education, advocacy, and action.

Equity & Inclusion

We believe everyone deserves access to opportunity, safety, and dignity.

Collaboration

We work hand-in-hand with partners, schools, organisations, and communities to make a lasting impact.

Volunteerism

We lead with generosity by giving our time, skills, and care to every project we support.

Responsible Giving

We steward donations with transparency and integrity, ensuring every contribution directly supports impactful, community-driven change.

"When we empower people, protect nature, and work together with integrity, we create change that truly belongs to the community."



OUR TEAM

The Made Better Together Foundation is led by three dedicated Directors: Brendan O'Molony, Michele Jones, and Joni Pierce-van Zyl, with Joni actively managing the day-to-day operations and driving the Foundation's outreach and partnerships.

We are proudly supported by the passionate team at Tenthouse Structures, whose staff members contribute their time and expertise to our Shade Sail Spaces and Volunteering & Donations initiatives. Their hands-on involvement ensures that each project is delivered with care, commitment, and heart.



Brendan O'Molony



Michèle Jones



Joni Pierce-van Zyl

OUR INITIATIVES

Our work is brought to life through four key initiatives, each contributing to stronger communities and a healthier environment.



1
WILD HEARTS Environmental Education – Inspiring young custodians of the natural world through accessible, high-quality environmental learning.



2
Shade Sail Spaces – Creating safe, shaded outdoor areas for schools, communities, and organisations in need.



3
Reduce, Reuse & Recycle Projects – Promoting practical sustainability through community-driven waste-reduction activities.



4
Volunteering & Donations – Leveraging the skills, time, and generosity of Tenthouse Structures staff to support communities meaningfully.



WILD HEARTS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

In 2025, the WILD HEARTS Environmental Education Program continued to grow as one of our most impactful initiatives. This year, 11 implementing partners actively delivered the program across three South African provinces – the Western Cape, Mpumalanga, and KwaZulu-Natal – collectively reaching 4,282 children between the ages of 3 and 6 with regular, structured environmental education experiences.

Our model remains intentionally simple and supportive: 5 lessons in Term 1, 6 lessons in Term 2, 5 lessons in Term 3, and 5 lessons in Term 4.

Each lesson includes an engaging discussion, a theme-related movement game, and a hands-on art activity – all designed to last around an hour and to meet the developmental needs of young children.



4282 Children



11 Collaborative Partners



40 Core Lessons

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Teacher Support & Training

2025 was a busy year for training. Every lesson taught by partners was preceded by a dedicated training session – in-person for Cape Town-based partners and online for those further away. As a result, most partners received 18–21 high-quality training sessions over the course of the year.

This ongoing support continues to be one of the cornerstones of the program: empowering teachers, environmental officers, and Youth Stewards with practical guidance, classroom management support, content knowledge, and confidence. We were also delighted to see several organisations who trained with us in 2024 continue delivering the program independently in 2025 – an encouraging sign that long-term capacity-building is taking root exactly as intended.



In-person and On-line Training

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Expansion Into Museums

A major development this year was the introduction of WILD HEARTS into the museum space.

We began by training 4 Western Cape Museums, in Worcester, at the start of Term 3 and expanded this partnership significantly in Term 4, training an additional 18 museums online.

Museums have begun incorporating WILD HEARTS content into:

- visiting school programs,
- on-site environmental education offerings, and
- holiday programs.

This extension has broadened our reach to children aged 4 to 9, and we are excited to see where this unique avenue of collaboration will lead in 2026 and beyond.



Training, Western Cape Museums, Worcester

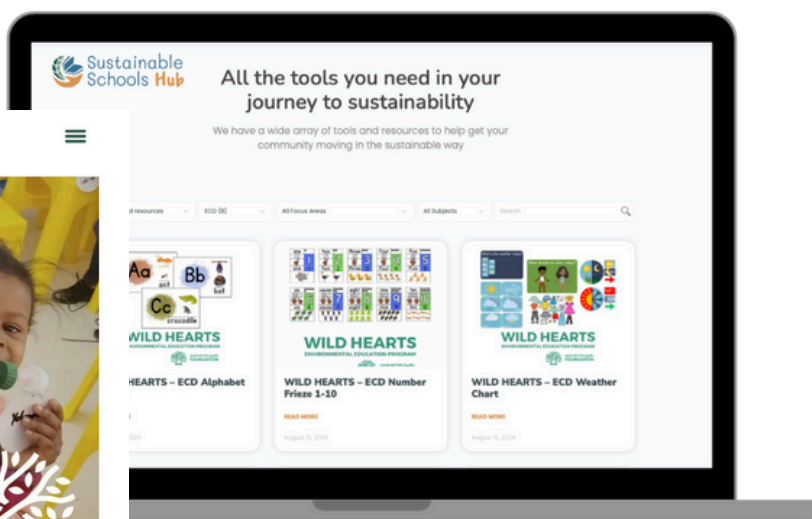
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Free Additional Resources

To increase access to quality early childhood environmental content, all supplementary resources are now available completely free on:

- the Tenthouse Structures website,
- the Do More Foundation platform,
- Grow ECD's new app, and
- the Sustainability Schools Hub.

These platforms allow teachers and organisations across the country to easily download and use our free early childhood conservation resources.



WILD HEARTS ACTIVITIES



2. PLAY IDEAS FROM USEFUL WEBSITES (SOME DATAFREE)

AFRICAN STORYBOOKS
A CHANCE TO PLAY
BOOK DASH
EASY PEASY
ELRU
FUN GAMES (EAT)
FUN GAMES (LOVE)
FUN GAMES (PLAY)
GROW GREAT



The WILD HEARTS Environmental Education Program, developed by Tenthouse Structures and distributed through the Made Better Together Foundation, empowers children and young adults with engaging lessons tied to International Environmental Awareness Days. They have generously made their engaging at-home activities for young children freely available for you to use at home! These are perfect for fostering early numeracy, literacy, and fine motor skills.

[Access resources here](#)

[Become a WILD HEARTS partner](#)

NEW

Downloadable Resources

Learning through nature: Term 1 - 4 activities

WILD HEARTS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Term 2 Lesson 6: Giraffe
Additional Activity

Colouring and Cutting Giraffe

Print out the template and ask the children to colour in the picture. After it has been coloured in the children must cut out each strip - they will have 10 strips. They must then reassemble the picture by gluing the individual strips, in order 1 - 10, onto a new piece of A4 paper.

CONTACT FOUNDATION@TENTHOUSESTRUCTURES.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE WILD HEARTS PROGRAM.

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Program Growth & New Content

This year, we expanded the core WILD HEARTS curriculum from 30 to 40 lessons.

New additions included:

Fynbos-specific themes

- Sugarbird
- African Penguin
- Porcupine
- Protea
- Chacma Baboon

West Coast-specific themes

- Southern Right Whale
- Cape Fur Seal
- African Black Oystercatcher
- Flamingo
- West Coast Rock Lobster

These locally relevant lessons deepen children's connection to the wildlife and habitats they know best.



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We also released two new sets of special-edition free resources in honour of conservation icons:

- Nelson Mandela – five easy-to-print activities using ice-cream sticks (symmetry, shape building, patterning, counting, replication). These resources were processed with the help of our Tenthouse team. (More on this initiative under Volunteering & Donations.)
- Jane Goodall – six chimpanzee-themed preschool activities including mask templates, puzzles, matching, counting, pegging and feeding activities.



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Conference Presentations

Eco Resorts Network Conference (Spetses, Greece – May 2025)

Brendan O'Molony and Joni Pierce-van Zyl represented Tenthouse Structures and the Made Better Together Foundation at the annual ERN Conference, where they presented the WILD HEARTS Program to an international audience. Brendan introduced delegates to the Made Better Together Foundation, highlighting the importance of corporate social responsibility in business today.

Joni's presentation centred on three true stories – the tortoise, the pangolin, and the recyclable straw – each illustrating why early childhood environmental education is urgently needed. Her talk explored the cultural complexities surrounding conservation and demonstrated how accessible, creative resources can spark meaningful change at community level.

Together, their presentation captured the heart of WILD HEARTS: connection, compassion, empowerment, and access.



Eco Resorts Network

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EEASA Conference (September 2025)

Joni also presented WILD HEARTS at the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa's annual conference. Her presentation, Crayons, Curiosity & Conservation, highlighted the program's development, the gaps it fills in early childhood environmental education, and the joyful, curiosity-driven approach that makes it so effective. She also explored the role of art, storytelling, and teacher empowerment in nurturing young environmental stewards.

The conference opened the door to several new collaborations, which we look forward to developing in 2026.

Further details are provided in our Reduce/Recycle Initiative section, where Joni also contributed as a member of the décor and entertainment organising committee.



EEASA 2025

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WILD HEARTS: Green Futures Award

We are incredibly proud to share that the WILD HEARTS Environmental Education Program was honoured with the Green Futures Award (Green Workforce nomination) by the Council of Eurasian Women's Forum in Moscow, Russia. This recognition has been a wonderful opportunity to celebrate women and their leadership in conservation and education.

We are deeply grateful to every partner, educator, and supporter who has walked this journey with us. This award belongs to all of you – our collaborations, shared commitment, and collective passion for environmental stewardship are what make WILD HEARTS possible. It is a true testament to the power of working together to inspire children, empower communities, and nurture the next generation of conservation leaders.



Green Future Award Winner: Green Workforce

Impact & Philosophy

WILD HEARTS is more than a program – it is a movement shaped by the hands and hearts of many. It exists because people and organisations chose to stand together for children, for communities, and for the natural world we all share.

Every lesson taught, every question asked, every moment a child spends discovering the wonder of nature is the result of partnership in its truest form. Teachers, stewards, managers, foundations, and volunteers each play a part in opening a pathway that many children would otherwise never have access to. Because of them, environmental education becomes not a privilege, but a right.

The program remains 100% free, ensuring that no child, no school, and no community is excluded from high-quality learning experiences that foster curiosity, empathy, and belonging. And with each new partner, each new classroom, and each new young learner, the ripple grows.

At the heart of WILD HEARTS lies a simple belief:

When a child feels connected to nature, they begin to feel responsible for it.

And when enough children feel responsible, the world changes.

“When strong partnerships open the door, a child’s curiosity walks through – and what begins as a single moment in nature can awaken an entire community. That quiet unfolding, shared between many hands, is the power behind
WILD HEARTS.”



2022 - 2025

17

PARTNER
ORGS



7,400+

CHILDREN REACHED



295+

TEACHERS
TRAINED

CORE
WILD HEARTS
LESSONS

40



45



CREATIVE ART
ACTIVITIES



70

PRINTABLE
EDUCATIONAL
ACTIVITIES
WILD HEARTS



1

WINNER OF
INTERNATIONAL
AWARD



159

+

SCHOOLS



ACTIVE IN
WESTERN
CAPE,
MPUMALANGA,
KWAZULU
NATAL



8

SHADE SAIL
STRUCTURES



3

HOSTING
PLATFORMS

100%

OF INITIATIVES
DELIVERED THROUGH
PARTNERSHIP DRIVEN
MODELS

2

SHADE SAIL SPACES

Creating safe, welcoming outdoor areas is an important part of helping children learn and explore in nature. This year, the Made Better Together Foundation donated two shade sails – each one offering comfort, protection, and a dedicated space for outdoor learning.

Wild Impact, one of our largest WILD HEARTS partners, reached 3,562 children across KwaZulu-Natal (iSimangaliso Wetland Park) and Mpumalanga (Greater Kruger Area). Their facilitators and YES4Youth interns attend WILD HEARTS training every two weeks and continue to deliver lessons with dedication and heart.

To recognise outstanding commitment in both regions, we awarded a shade sail (including all fittings) to the top-performing facilitator in each area. These will be installed at schools where WILD HEARTS lessons are actively taught:

- Sarah Gumede – Isibanisezwe Creche, KwaZulu-Natal
- Mcdeline Ndlovu – Pfukani Rixile Day Care, Mpumalanga

A huge congratulations to our winners.

These shade sails are more than structures – they create safe pockets of shade where children can gather, play, imagine, and learn. Under them, the spirit of WILD HEARTS continues to grow.



Mcdeleine Ndlovu – Pfukani Rixile Day Care, Mpumalanga



Sarah Gumede – Isibanisezwe Creche, KwaZulu-Natal

3

REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE PROJECTS

This year, our Reduce, Reuse & Recycle initiative came to life through a creative and collaborative upcycling project for the EEASA Conference. Joni Pierce-van Zyl served on the Entertainment & Décor Committee on behalf of the Made Better Together Foundation, working alongside representatives from CapeNature, Working on Fire, WESSA, Captain Fanplastic, and GetsConsulting. Together, they transformed waste materials into meaningful, reusable art for the conference's Welcome Mixer and Cultural Evening.

The centrepiece of the décor was the collection of recycled flowers, each one handcrafted from materials that would have otherwise been discarded:

- Proteas folded from old books,
- Origami flowers created from recycled book pages and newspapers,
- Plastic blossoms shaped from repurposed 2L Coca-Cola bottles.

Joni facilitated workshops at Working on Fire and within the committee, teaching flower-folding techniques so various organisations could contribute. This shared effort beautifully showcased how creativity, community, and sustainability intersect.



The Made Better Together Foundation also donated succulents in small pots, each wrapped in colourful Shweshwe fabric. These hardy plants added a living, low-waste touch to both events – decor that guests could take home, replant, and continue nurturing long after the conference ended.

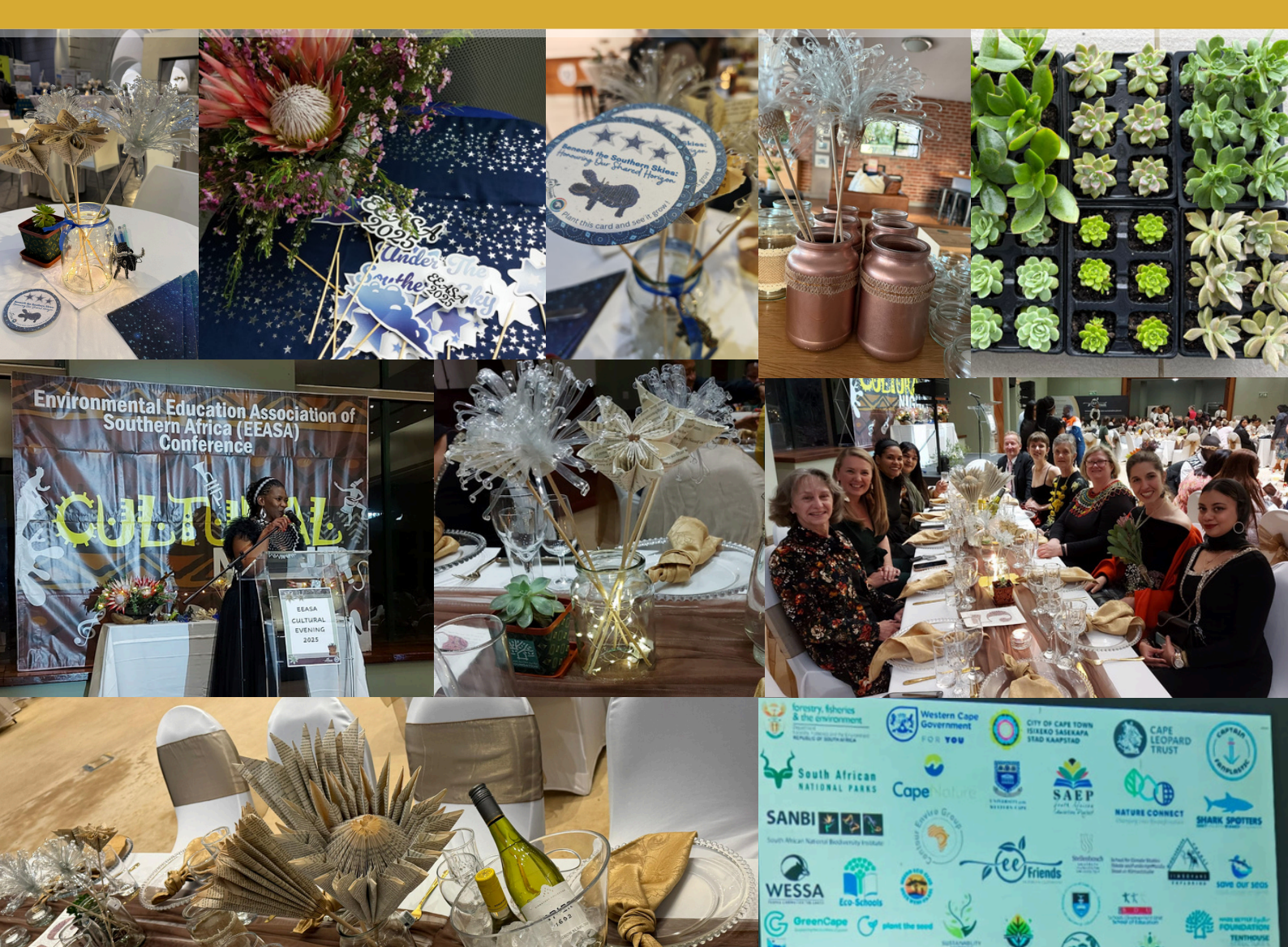


EEASA Decor Creation

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The décor extended beyond the flowers – every element was intentionally selected with sustainability in mind: Wonderbag meals, plantable seed-embedded coasters, wire animals reused between events, cleaned coffee jars turned into vases, and jar lids transformed into candle holders. Nothing went to waste; everything told a story. To encourage continued upcycling, the PDF instructions for all three flower designs are available on the Tenthouse Structures website, inviting schools, organisations, and community members to keep creating.

In a wonderful full-circle moment, the décor has since been borrowed and reused at another event, helping celebrate 180 years of Conservation Education – proof that thoughtful, creative recycling can keep giving long after the first occasion.



EEASA Welcome Mixer and Cultural Event

4

VOLUNTEERING & DONATIONS

Our Volunteering & Donations initiative reflects our value of Responsible Giving. We are grateful for the support of the Tenthouse Structures staff, whose generosity, time, and commitment continue to strengthen the communities we serve.

Mandela Day Food Collection for MASICORP

For Mandela Day, staff members contributed to an in-office food collection for MASICORP, our long-standing partner supporting vulnerable children in Masiphumelele. The donated food supplemented the school kitchen and was shared with families in need. We are grateful to our team for embodying the spirit of Mandela Day and living out our value of responsible, community-driven giving. Every contribution helps make a meaningful difference in the lives of these children.



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67 Minutes of Service: Supporting Early Childhood Education

For Mandela Day, South Africans are encouraged to dedicate 67 minutes of service in recognition of Nelson Mandela's 67 years of service to the nation. Our Tenthouse Structures team chose to spend their time creating meaningful educational resources for young learners.

Staff members cut, processed, and collated six full sets of the six Ice-Cream Stick Activities recently developed for the WILD HEARTS supplementary activity collection. These completed activity sets were later donated to six Pre-Grade R teachers at MASICORP, supporting early learning through play, creativity, and hands-on engagement.



Tenthouse Structures Mandela Day 2025

Made Better Together Foundation Impact Report 2025

Planting Trees: Growing a Greener Future

This year, the Tenthouse team also had the opportunity to contribute to South Africa's greener future.

Through the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, and the Centre for Conservation Education, Made Better Together received five trees as part of the Public Greening Initiative – celebrating the nation's Champion Trees and supporting the Presidential One Million Trees Campaign.

Our staff planted these trees on their own properties across Cape Town, creating living symbols of heritage, resilience, and hope for future generations.



Tenthouse Structures Heritage Day 2025







TOGETHER, WE GROW

Nurturing Change, Together

2025 has been a year of growth, creativity, and impact for the Made Better Together Foundation. Through WILD HEARTS, we've connected thousands of children to nature and environmental stewardship, an effort recently recognised with the Green Futures Award under the Green Workforce nomination. Our Shade Sail Spaces provide safe, outdoor learning environments. Reduce, Reuse & Recycle projects have shown the power of creativity and collaboration, turning waste into beauty. And through Volunteering & Donations, our staff and partners have contributed time, skills, and resources to uplift communities.

Together, every lesson taught, every tree planted, every resource shared, and every act of giving reflects our belief that lasting change happens when we work hand-in-hand.

What's Next: 2026

-  Continue growing WILD HEARTS, supporting current partners and welcoming new ones. We will also explore creating a Learning Management System so partners can easily access all resources online.
-  Donate and install four new shade sail structures to expand safe outdoor learning spaces.
-  Introduce new Reduce, Reuse & Recycle activities that encourage creativity and environmental awareness.
-  Grow our Volunteering & Donations efforts, with more staff involvement and support for schools and community organisations.
-  Attend key ECD conferences and forums to strengthen our knowledge and relationships.
-  Build new collaborations to strengthen environmental education and community support.

PARTNERS

Our work is only possible because of the incredible partners who walk this journey with us. Whether implementing the WILD HEARTS program, hosting our resources, collaborating on shade-sail structures, or supporting our volunteering and donation initiatives, each organisation plays a vital role in expanding our impact. We value their commitment, generosity, and shared belief in nurturing environmental stewardship from the earliest years.

Together, we've shown that collaboration is a powerful force for change – one that strengthens communities, enriches learning, and helps us build a greener, kinder future.

To every partner: thank you. We are truly better together.



WORK WITH US

We invite schools, organisations, and individuals to join us in making a meaningful impact. Whether through implementing WILD HEARTS, supporting our shade sail projects, contributing to recycling initiatives, or volunteering your time and skills, there are many ways to collaborate. Together, we can nurture curiosity, inspire environmental stewardship, and create positive change in communities across South Africa.



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