



MASAZANE
SOUP KITCHEN & CHILD
PROTECTION PROJECT

Christmas 2024

Dear friends and supporters of Masazane Soup Kitchen,



2024 is almost over! Our team of grandmothers who prepare and serve the food from our container have worked hard, serving an average of 400 meals each school day. **By our last meeting in mid-November, they had already served approximately 58,500 meals in 2024.** This is truly remarkable, and they deserve our admiration and gratitude. Many of the children who come to our container do not eat at home before they come to school, and their eagerness as they receive a small, tasty meal from our team is always heartwarming.

One of the big talking points in 2024 has been the tragic deaths of children in townships around South Africa, who had consumed goods bought from informal 'spaza' shops. The deaths were apparently caused by contamination of processed food items by poison used to control pests and rodents in these shops. This has served as a reminder to us of the importance of food safety, and we have had a number of useful discussions in our team meetings about the importance of our own food safety practices.

Part of food safety involves the way in which we store our supplies. Our freezer continues to function efficiently, but we will be replacing our old fridge in the new year, thanks to a donation. Our 'dry goods' cupboards in our container need urgent attention and maintenance, however, and we will need additional funds to do this work. It has been 10 years since we moved to this container, and it's time to renew and replace some of the cupboards that have served us well.

With help from friends, I have been busy putting together gifts that will be given to 175 needy children who have been identified by the gogos. These will provide the children with their essential stationery requirements for school next year, as well as some basic hygiene items. Of course, they also receive a treat or two! We spend around R200.00 per child on these gifts, which comes to a heady total of R35,000! We were blessed this year with generous donations that have meant that we did not have to use funds from our normal running costs to fund these simple gifts.



The end of year is a time for reflection, but especially for thanks. Our thanks go to the Principal of Mbekweni Primary School, Mr. Michael Njenxa, and his staff. The school hosts our container and provides us with a safe space for this important work to be carried out. We are also deeply thankful for the support we get from Rondebosch United Church and from Bethel Congregational Church in Paarl.

But our deepest gratitude goes to YOU, our supporters, who keep this project going. Your generosity sustains the work the team does to feed hungry children in Mbekweni and made that 58,500 milestone possible. In a country that has enormous problems that include extremely high rates of hunger, inequality and poverty, problems with education, crime and corruption, **this little project holds its head up high** and continues to be good news!

We wish you and your loved ones a blessed, safe and happy Christmas, and look forward to your continued support in 2025.

We are so grateful for what you have done for this project thus far, and look forward to a continued partnership with you as we try to ensure that some of the most vulnerable children receive the protection and nutrition that they need at this time of great need in South Africa.

Our special thanks go to our supporters and donors:

Organisations:

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The Boston City Singers
Community Kitchens
D.G. Murray Trust
Goettinger Rotarians
KFC Social Responsibility Trust
Mbekweni Primary School
OTB Africa
Outliers
Plymouth Congregational Church(USA)
Quantum Foods
Rondebosch United Church
Rotary Club of Paarl
Soroptimists – Cape of Good Hope
Soroptimists – Stratford Upon Avon

Individuals :

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Andreas and Lara Loy
Andy and Katheen Votaw
Annette Spykerman
Anthea Jacobs
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Contact us:

Claudine Bill
claudinebill502@gmail.com
076 118 7180

Gogo uMartha Mdingi
073 569 7822

Shireen Willemse
084 662 3427

Kate Laburn Peart
katelaburnpeart@gmail.com
073 144 9277

Donations to:

Masazane Soup Kitchen and Child Protection Project

First National Bank
Rondebosch
Account number: 62783960894
Swift code: FIRZAJJ
NPO: 207-414

Please request a tax receipt from us should this be helpful.

We are thankful for the support from Rondebosch United Church, Cape Town, through their Samaritan Partners Trust, contributions from church services, and ongoing prayer support.

Masazane Soup Kitchen 207 414 NPO
c/o Rondebosch United Church
18 Belmont Road, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa
www.rondeboschunited.org