

OLDMUTUAL



GREEN HANDS ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2019



WEALTH AND INVESTMENTS



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A MESSAGE FROM ZULFA



Kind regards

ZULFA ABDURAHMAN

Chairperson: Green Hands Trust

Chief Risk Officer: Old Mutual Wealth and Investments

What a year it's been for South Africa! We've seen some extreme lows and more recently, the exciting high of winning the Rugby World Cup. It has engendered a sense of unity and pride amongst South Africans, which we sorely needed. I really can't say it any better than the Bokke – we really are #StrongerTogether!

On that note, this year Green Hands welcomed Old Mutual Wealth to our family and they immediately jumped in to assist us with hosting our very own street store. Partnering with the Haven Night Shelter, this pop-up store offered the homeless an opportunity to “shop” for clothing YOU generously donated for free. Some 70 volunteers across Wealth and Investments assisted them with their shopping!

The street store set the platform for a very successful year at Green Hands, which you can read about in this report. None of this would, however, be possible without your contribution. No matter how small, it makes a difference and we are indeed #StrongerTogether!

A big highlight for us was Green Hands winning gold in the category of Best Business Unit Supporting Staff Volunteerism at the Old Mutual Staff Volunteerism Awards! This event celebrates the spirit of giving and recognises the ordinary people in the company who do extraordinary things in terms of their volunteerism efforts.

On behalf of Green Hands, I would like to thank each one of you for YOUR efforts, which have put a smile on many faces this year!

ABOUT GREEN HANDS

Established in 1998, the Old Mutual Investment Group Green Hands Trust is responsible for social development investments, donations and staff initiatives within the Old Mutual Wealth and Investments cluster (OMWIC).

As Green Hands, we strive to identify the needs in our communities and lend a hand by contributing in many different sectors, such as education, community upliftment, skills development and sport. Through Green Hands, a registered trust and public benefit organisation, OMWIC staff donate both money and time to various outreach initiatives, over and above their individual contributions to the Old Mutual Foundation.

Green Hands is about more than just a hand-out and a smile; it's about staff rolling up their sleeves and working together with our communities, establishing effective partnerships and fostering sustainability among recipients.

OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

Our aim is to entrench corporate social responsibility into the OMWIC culture. Being socially responsible is everyone's responsibility and we strive to promote this culture and to positively impact the many communities that are in desperate need of our helping hands.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Before deciding which projects to support, Green Hands engages in a thorough evaluation, which includes site visits (where applicable). The New Requests Committee (NRC) carefully sifts through all requests and evaluates them based on specific criteria such as the community they operate in, reference checks and the institution's registration details. Depending on the amount of funding required, the NRC submits large funding requests to the Green Hands Board of Trustees, who then makes the final decision. Only OMWIC staff members are allowed to coordinate projects and it is essential that they take responsibility for the submission and management of these projects.

2019 GREEN HANDS CONTRIBUTIONS AT A GLANCE



Education
R1 129 371



Blankets
R163 878



Animal Welfare
R253 555

THE BLANKET DRIVE

When we feel the bite of winter cold in the air, most of us curl up with a blanket and warm food. Unfortunately, this is not the case for many South Africans. That's why Green Hands has an annual blanket drive to raise funds and blankets for those in need. We matched staff donations and raised a whopping R163 878. Some of the organisations who benefited include Iris house, a children's hospice which provides respite, overnight and end-of-life care for special needs children with life-threatening illnesses or life-limiting conditions. We also donated to Rescue Among Many (RAM), which provides support to children and elderly in the rural areas of the Western Cape.



HELP2READ ON MANDELA DAY

Illiteracy in South Africa is at crisis level. Statistics show that 78% of grade four learners are not able to read at grade level in South Africa. Regular one-on-one reading with learners is the most effective way to combat this.

That's why we decided to get involved with Help2Read on Mandela Day. Volunteers across the Wealth and Investments Cluster visited Thornton Primary School to spend their 67 minutes reading to learners. In partnership with Help2Read, the volunteers interacted with learners and promoted the importance of reading. Green Hands also sponsored educational resources to the school. It was a fun and rewarding way for staff to spend their 67 minutes.



RALLY TO READ: GIVING HOPE TO RURAL SCHOOLS

On 19 October 2019, twelve OMWIC staff members spent the weekend with Rally to Read giving hope to twelve different schools in the Breede River Valley, a far-flung rural area where education budgets almost never reach.

The staff arrived at the crack of dawn and were immediately struck by the conditions in which these schools have to function. The staff took in the surroundings – small and tattered classrooms accommodating two grades per class, children with foetal alcohol syndrome and broken shoes having to walk over an hour every day to school. Straightaway it became very clear that firstly, the teachers that show up day in and day out truly are the unsung heroes, and secondly, to overcome poverty, unemployment and inequality, the Rally to Read's single goal of improving literacy at grassroots level is not only admirable but necessary.

Through Green Hands' funding, staff delivered books, teaching aids, science kits, sports equipment and educational toys to the value of R145 000 to these rural schools



STREET STORE: POP-UP CHARITY FOR THE HOMELESS

In the spirit of Human Rights Day, Green Hands partnered with the Haven Night Shelter and hosted our very own pop-up street store where the homeless had an opportunity to shop for clothing for free! The street store concept was founded in 2014 right here in Cape Town, as “the world’s first rent-free, premises-free, pop-up clothing store for the homeless”, found entirely on the street and stocked by donations. Staff donated their gently worn clothing towards this cause and gave time on the day to host it. It was highly successful and rewarding.

VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK

“In my personal and work life, I always want to do something that gives meaning to what I do. The street store provided that, knowing my time, as short as it was, changed someone’s life for the better. I remember thinking and praying, as I was arranging the men’s clothing (donated by generous staff), someone’s dad or son is going to wear this and keep warm in winter. What I also quite liked was the fact that we referred to these beautiful men and women as our clients and this meant we treated them with the dignity they deserved, no different from the way we treat our customers that invest with us.”

Babalwa Ontjies

“The community that I served is where I was raised and going back was a very humbling experience. Putting a smile on the faces of the people in the community made me realise how important it is to give back. Thank you Green Hands, for this dignified initiative.”

Dominique Muller

“This was my first time participating in a Green Hands event, so I had very little idea of what to expect on the day. Despite the initial nervous fumbling on my part, I eventually started ‘figuring it out’ as I attempted helping some guys navigating the heaps of men’s clothing. The general vibe and camaraderie on the day was great and everyone seemed to slot in where needed, all while having a good time. I’m definitely glad to have witnessed and participated (however small) in something so real, worthy and meaningful.”

Sameegh Jardine

“I handed the tickets to the people before they entered the premises. They were patiently waiting their turn in the queue with smiles on their faces. All of them were friendly and not complaining at all. The best part was when they were done choosing their clothing, they came to me at the gate and could not thank me enough. I was happy to see how happy they were. Even the kids were happy. I stood in the road inviting people in. It was just a bit sad that people came after we had already packed up. Their smiles really brightened up my day. I would do it all over again. It was one of the best days of my life.”

Lynne Priestley



STARS OF TOMORROW: EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH WITH DIGITAL SKILLS AND HOMEWORK SUPPORT

The Stars of Tomorrow Computer Centre, situated at the Makhaza Library in Khayelitsha, was established in 2011. It was initiated to empower the previously disadvantaged with technology skills as well as providing computer services to the community. It offers computer training to adults in the mornings. During the afternoons, it runs a school programme for learners from Grade R to Grade 12. This programme includes help with their homework and computer lessons in preparation for school.

Green Hands sponsored R46 953 towards computers to support the centre in teaching more students on a daily basis.

INHLAKANIPHO EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST: ENABLING THE FUTURE GENERATION

The vision of Inhlakanipho Education and Development Trust (IEDT) is to see new generations of South African leaders rise up to lead the country into its glorious full potential. Together with IEDT, Green Hands selects the most promising learners with high leadership potential and provides funding for high-quality schooling, primarily at the secondary level, together with a mentorship programme and leadership development camps. Green Hands funded the education of five disadvantaged learners this year. A total of R383 710 was spent on school fees, uniforms, mentorship and other associated costs for these learners.

Meet SHAFIYAH DANIELS,
Grade 10 learner at Rustenburg Girls' High School



Although coming from a difficult background, Shafiyah is a confident and an articulate young woman. She enjoys public speaking and taking up leadership positions, and has represented the school at various interschool public speaking events.

Shafiyah's teachers have commended her good work ethic and behaviour. Her diligence and desire to give her best has shown in her academic results and she has achieved 75% in Maths, 79% in Physical Science and an overall average of 78% in the third term.

Shafiyah also displays a keen entrepreneurial spirit and is currently raising funds to participate in the World Challenge. This trip is curated to foster global citizenship through cultural immersion. It's about taking people out of their bubbles and expanding their minds through the sharing of cultures. These experiences enable students to deep-dive into the local community to gain a greater perspective on the world around them and, in turn, their place within it.

GIFT OF THE GIVERS

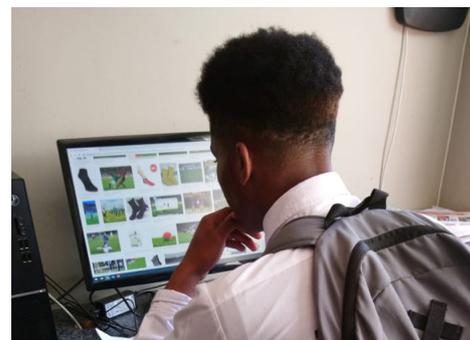
KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and the Eastern Cape (EC) experienced heavy rains and flooding in April 2019. Many people were displaced and lost their homes and belongings.

The Old Mutual Foundation facilitated the raising of financial contributions from our different business units to provide some relief to the affected communities. Green Hands participated and made a financial contribution to the amount of R75 000 in aid of the disaster relief efforts.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AT DURBANVILLE CHILDREN'S HOME

Durbanville Children's Home was initiated by two Sunday school teachers in 1883 and moved to Durbanville in 1919. As a registered institution of care, it looks after 144 vulnerable children between the ages of two and 18 years placed by court orders. Their ultimate goal is to restore traumatised children to healthy family relationships.

Green Hands donated R136 102 towards the purchase of computers for this home. The children were in awe and couldn't wait to start enhancing their digital skills!



SUPPORTING MDZANANDA ANIMAL CLINIC

Green Hands donated R60 000 towards a Stray Pet and Re-homing Programme at this clinic. Our donation will place pets in a safe environment and ensure appropriate homes for them in the future.

The Mdzananda Animal Clinic (100% black) was born out of the efforts of a community hero who wanted to help his neighbours' pets. Mr Joe pushed a trolley and water bucket around his neighbourhood bathing and feeding dogs and cats. He soon attracted volunteers to assist him and after a couple of years handed the organisation over to a volunteer who became the full-time project manager. Mr Joe (who is now elderly) still makes sure that he visits the clinic on a regular basis to offer advice and assistance.

Highly respected and supported by the community, Mdzananda, which was founded in response to the need to provide veterinary care to a fast-growing community that had no access to help for their animals, serves up to 700 animals and their owners per month through consultations, surgery, hospitalisation, x-rays, mobile clinics, an animal ambulance, responding to cases of abuse and neglect, re-homing of pets, and pet owner education. Anyone who visits Mdzananda has the pleasure of meeting owners who adore their animals. A lack of animal welfare education, poor infrastructure and insufficient funds are generally the factors that lead to animal neglect, illnesses and injuries. The Mdzananda Animal Clinic bridges this gap through its welfare orientated initiatives. They provide low-cost veterinary services (including basic health, i.e. vaccinations, de-wormers and sterilisations) and have a strong focus on empowering and educating the community about animal care. We believe that a community that loves animals is a healthy community. By looking after an animal, people learn responsibility, respect for life, compassion and non-violence, things that are often a challenge in a township environment.

SUBZ PANTS AND PADS KEEP GIRLS IN SCHOOL

Teenage girls living in poverty can lose up to five days of schooling due to a lack of access to sanitary wear and adequate sanitation facilities. This is equivalent to one week of schooling every month putting them at a financial and an educational disadvantage compared to boys and setting them up for a lifetime of disempowerment. Keeping girls in school is important to their health and development – not only for the girls but for their communities too.

To this end, and in honour of Women's Month, Green Hands partnered with Old Mutual Wealth and Investments and donated R25 000 towards sanitary pads for female learners at Mount View Senior Secondary School and Crystal Senior Secondary School in Hanover Park, Cape Town.

NSPCA – THE CHANGE FOR ANIMALS

Green Hands donated R193 555 towards equipment improving the care given to the animals at the NSPCA. For over 60 years, this organisation has been protecting our country's animals. Their vision is to end animal cruelty in South Africa and engender compassion for all animals. The lives of tens of thousands of animals are improved because of their intervention and commitment to bring about long-term positive change for farmed animals, wildlife, research animals and domestics. Equine, working animals and those used in entertainment and sport also receive focused attention, as do aquatic species that fall under the banner of aquaculture.

SUPPORTING LENTEGEUR'S MARKET GARDEN PROJECT

The Spring Foundation is an NPO based at Lentegeur Psychiatric Hospital in Mitchells Plain, Cape Town. It supports psychosocial rehabilitation and outreach programmes. These programmes seek to re-establish a sense of hope and recovery through reconnection to community, identity, heritage and the natural world. It was initiated in 2010 with the aim of re-designing what a psychiatric hospital looks and feels like.

Green Hands donated R59 528.50 towards a packaging and sorting room for the foundation's key Market Garden project. This entails an operational organic market garden on a 1.2ha space of land at the hospital that provides rehabilitation opportunities for longer-term patients. The packaging room will provide adequate workspace and storage space for their vegetable products. In aid of the hospital's rehabilitation programme, the facility will provide the correct environment for proper training in quality and hygienic food production. This means that patients can be taught in a manner that will allow them to qualify for NQF certifications, providing them with better opportunities for employment once they leave the hospital.



A WORK SPACE FOR MONDALE HIGH SCHOOL LEARNERS

Mondale High School believes in the creation of an environment that is conducive to learning. They have developed a school which is stimulating, relevant as well as accountable. Green Hands funded a resource centre which included computers, equipment and resources. This resource centre provides a safe space for learners to work independently on their homework, assignments, university applications etc. The value of this resource centre was R150 000.



RESOURCE CENTRE FOR DISADVANTAGED LEARNERS FOR IQRA



IQRA Academy was established 21 years ago and has to date progressed its 21st group of matriculates. The school predominantly draws its learners from the extensions of Belhar, Elsie's River, Delft, Ravensmead and Bluedowns. They undertook to address the mammoth task of providing an ethics-based and qualitative education programme to disadvantaged learners, with the emphasis on character refinement and the development of positive mindsets and leadership, where emotional intelligence and spiritual growth are of paramount importance. The school, however, needs to meet its challenges to provide sufficient resources and the necessary infrastructure that will guarantee high standards of education, training and personal development to serve the community effectively and efficiently.

Green Hands sponsored R262 608.94 towards the development of a full resource centre for these students. This will enable the learners and community to close the technology gap to equip them for future studies.

GREEN HANDS WINS GOLD

Green Hands won gold in the category of Best Business Unit Supporting Staff Volunteerism at the Old Mutual Staff Volunteerism Awards! These awards celebrate the spirit of giving and honour its most caring employees, presenting awards to business units and staff volunteers whose outstanding dedication to uplifting others positively impacts the communities in which the company operates.

Green Hands received prize money to the value of R60 000, which was donated to The Rape Crisis Centre. Their mission is to promote safety in communities, reduce the trauma experienced by rape survivors, and encourage the reporting of rape while working actively to address flaws in legislation.



THANK YOU

A big thank you to all who participated in these initiatives this year. By answering the call, you have brought light and hope to those who need it most.

Would you like to nominate your charity?

The old adage of “teaching someone to fish rather than handing them the fish” rings true to the Green Hands philosophy. We are always looking for worthy initiatives, so if you have any nominations for projects we can support, please contact us at greenhands@oldmutualinvest.com.

Green Hands is a registered public benefit organisation (PBO), which means that donors can claim tax deductions for any donations made.



WEALTH AND INVESTMENTS

Old Mutual Wealth and investment Cluster is brought to you through several authorised Financial Services Providers in the Old Mutual Group. Green Hands is a Public Benefit Organisation – PBO Number: 930049688.