

CSI ANNUAL REPORT

FY2023

WEBBER WENTZEL

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OUR CSI PROGRAMME HAS FOUR PILLARS

FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO BENEFICIARIES



IN-KIND SUPPORT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANISATIONS

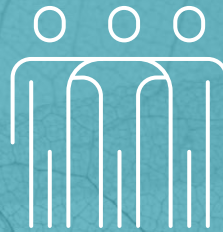


FOUR PILLARS

ONCE-OFF DONATIONS TO ALIGNED CAUSES



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES






FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO BENEFICIARIES

South Africa is ranked as the most unequal society in the world by the World Bank. The country's economic and social ills are widespread and challenging. Given this need, numerous non-profit and non-governmental structures work tirelessly to make a difference. These structures often punch above their weight, achieving impact with a limited number of employees and modest budgets. Not surprisingly, the requests for financial donations far outweigh the funds available. To ensure that our contributions meaningfully assist with impact work, our financial donations are made to organisations that provide or facilitate access to justice.

The beneficiaries of our financial donations in 2022 were: Black Sash, Cape Mental Health, the Human Rights Institute of South Africa (HURISA), Lawyers against Abuse, ProBono.Org, SA Society of Labour Law and the Social Change Assistance Trust.

EXAMPLES OF THE IMPACT OF OUR FINANCIAL DONATIONS ARE:

- Resources for the Black Sash Helpline which assisted almost 3,000 people to access free paralegal advice.
- Human capacity for ProBono.Org to screen matters, identify pro bono counsel and organise workshops for attorneys on relevant areas of law.
- One full-time attorney for SASLAW to service its busiest clinic for the year.
- Resources for Cape Mental Health to help empower sexual abuse victims.

BENEFICIARY	DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION/ACTIVITY FUNDED
<p style="text-align: center;">Black Sash ZAR 150,000</p> 	<p>Formed in 1955, the Black Sash is a national organisation that works with 400 community advice offices and community-based organisations. It focuses on realising constitutionally guaranteed socio-economic rights, emphasising social security and social protection for the most vulnerable, to reduce poverty and inequality. A critical component of Black Sash's work is its Helpline, a dedicated unit staffed by two full-time paralegals. This Helpline provides an essential service nationally as it helps ordinary citizens to navigate bureaucracy and points them in the right direction to get assistance. The paralegals report on trends in the queries that they receive and this information is analysed, together with feedback from the Black Sash community-based monitoring programme, to inform the organisation's engagement with government and its agencies about service delivery.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Cape Mental Health ZAR 180,000</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Cape Mental Health</p>	<p>Cape Mental Health is the oldest mental health organisation in South Africa. Its mission is to provide or facilitate comprehensive mental health care services in the Western Cape. Women with intellectual disabilities are exposed to even greater risk of gender-based violence than the general population, as they experience discrimination based on both their gender and their disability. Cape Mental Health has a deep commitment to empowering vulnerable women and children with intellectual disabilities by helping them to access justice and receive the necessary support to overcome their trauma. The Sexual Abuse Victim Empowerment component of CMH's Access to Justice programme offers counselling and psycho-legal services to victims (mostly women and children) and their families in cases of sexual crimes. A multi-pronged approach includes training police officers, forensic social workers, prosecutors and staff of community-based organisations to equip them to provide the necessary services and support to victims and ensure successful prosecutions.</p>

BENEFICIARY	DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION / ACTIVITY FUNDED
<p style="text-align: center;"> HURISA ZAR 100,000 </p>  <p style="text-align: center;">HURISA</p>	<p>The Human Rights Institute of South Africa was founded about three decades ago as the research and documentation arm of the Commission of Inquiry into Public Violence chaired by Justice Goldstone. HURISA has since repositioned itself as an organisation focusing on human rights awareness, the realisation of human rights and the redress mechanisms available, working primarily in South Africa, but also in the SADC region and the African continent as a whole.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> Lawyers against Abuse ZAR 100,000 </p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> LvA LAWYERS AGAINST ABUSE / AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE </p>	<p>Lawyers against Abuse provides legal services and trauma counselling for victims of gender-based violence in the impoverished community of Diepsloot. For many victims of violence, securing justice can be an overwhelming or even impossible task. Some have lost faith in the justice system entirely due to missing evidence, countless postponements or dismissive and degrading treatment by those who are supposed to protect them. LvA's legal team assists clients throughout the entire legal process, whether by securing a protection order or pursuing a criminal case. LvA ensures that its clients are aware of their legal rights and available remedies, provides comprehensive support throughout the process and pushes the justice system to work the way it should.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> ProBono.Org ZAR 250,000 </p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> ProBono.Org[®] </p>	<p>ProBono.Org is the only pro bono clearinghouse in South Africa. It links individuals and organisations that require pro bono legal services with legal practitioners and mediators. With offices in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town, ProBono.Org provides different routes for legal practitioners to make available their pro bono hours, such as topic specific clinics, help desks and outreach days, thereby diversifying the ways in which those in need of legal assistance can source it.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> SA Society of Labour Law ZAR 250,000 </p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR LABOUR LAW </p>	<p>The South African Society for Labour Law promotes labour law in South Africa. It has chapters in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Limpopo and the Free State. For more than a decade, SASLAW Pro Bono NPC has administered pro bono legal clinics at the four Labour Courts: Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and Gqeberha. These clinics assist the Labour Courts, where lay people often formulate their own reviews or appeals because of lack of legal representation. Our donation covered the salary of a full-time attorney at the busiest advice office (Johannesburg) for one year.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"> Social Change Assistance Trust ZAR 150,000 </p>  <p style="text-align: center;"> SOCIAL CHANGE ASSISTANCE TRUST </p>	<p>Social Change Assistance Trust is a 35-year-old human rights and social justice organisation focusing on the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Free State. Most of the organisations that it supports are community advice offices, or 'local development agencies'. These agencies are: 1) highly responsive to critical community issues; 2) situated in the community they serve; 3) staffed by community activists; 4) governed by the community for the community; and 5) accountable to the community. The 30 community advice offices SCAT supports handle around 32,000 cases annually and are involved in campaigns for social justice in their communities with a strong focus on gender-based violence and local government service delivery. SCAT's overall goal is to build strong institutions which are able to respond to issues around access to justice, gender, youth empowerment and food security. It provides small grants that contribute to the core running costs of local development agencies.</p>



IN-KIND SUPPORT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANISATIONS

Our in-kind support is usually in the form of providing appropriate venue facilities in both our Johannesburg and Cape Town offices for workshops, strategic planning meetings, seminars and/or AGMs for various social justice organisations. In 2022, we provided these facilities to five organisations on 12 occasions.

Particularly noteworthy was the annual Canon Collins Scholars' Conference, hosted by Webber Wentzel for the third time. As this was the first opportunity for Canon Collins

Scholars to gather post-Covid, there was a record attendance of over 140 scholars for the two-day event at our Cape Town office. As Stuart Craig, the Chief Executive of the Canon Collins Trust remarked:

"It was more than just a conference: it was the opportunity to connect like-minded people together and equip them better for their own personal crusade against the injustice of one kind or another. Little by little, the world will become a better place as a result of the scholars' efforts, and the part Webber Wentzel has played in that should not be underestimated."



ONCE-OFF DONATIONS TO ALIGNED CAUSES

We are grateful to our clients who have whole-heartedly supported our approach of making donations to aligned causes, in lieu of client gifts. In the past year, two foundations captured the hearts and minds of our people through their purpose-led work. They continue to inspire us with the impact that civil society can have, one act of kindness and generosity at a time.

A donation of ZAR 100,000 was made to the Kolisi Foundation, which was established in April 2020 by Siya and

Rachel Kolisi, as a vehicle for their desire to change the story of inequality in South Africa. They are compelled by a strong conviction that every small act of change matters.

A donation of ZAR 100,000 was made to the Gift of the Givers Foundation, the largest disaster response non-governmental organisation of African origin. The essence of their presence is to bring hope and restore dignity to the most vulnerable.






OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



The Webber Wentzel Leadership Network consists of young professionals in the firm who create opportunities to experience first-hand why four of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals - no poverty (SDG1), good health and well-being (SDG3), quality education (SDG4) and reduced inequalities (SDG10) - must be vigorously pursued.

In 2022 the WWLN was involved in various CSI activities including:

<p>United Way</p> 	<p>United Way South Africa is a non-profit organisation that unites and connects all sectors of society, including individuals, businesses, academia, non-profit organisations and the government with the aim of creating long-term social change. It mobilises the collective caring power of communities to create a healthy, well-established and financially stable society. UWSA envisages a nation where all citizens have access to equal rights and economic opportunities.</p> <p>We donated clothing and shoes to help individuals who were impacted by the KwaZulu-Natal flood in March 2022.</p>
<p>Ladles of Love</p> 	<p>We partnered with Ladles of Love to break the world record for the largest food-can mosaic. The Mandela Day initiative aimed to raise funds to alleviate hunger and provide relief to people in poverty-stricken communities, while addressing more sustainable solutions around food security. Employees at the Webber Wentzel Johannesburg office volunteered to create a giant mosaic of the South African Flag at Nelson Mandela Square. Each participant was allocated a slot of 67 minutes to make sandwiches, chop food or make the mosaic.</p> <p>We were among the almost 2,000 volunteers who participated on the day and together we made over 120,000 sandwiches, chopped four tons of fresh vegetables, donated 88,000 food cans and raised over ZAR 1,5 million.</p>
<p>The Justice Desk and Thandanani Children’s Foundation</p> 	<p>We hosted an Interfirm Charity Soccer Cup and raised ZAR 55,000 for the Justice Desk and Thandanani Children’s Foundation.</p> <p>The Justice Desk is a human rights organisation that aims to empower local people in South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe with the necessary skills and platforms to lead their own change through training and education, national and international lobbying as well as community-led and community-based initiatives.</p> <p>The Thandanani Children’s Foundation is a registered non-profit organisation that facilitates community-based care and support for orphans and other vulnerable children in KwaZulu-Natal.</p>

<p>Reach For A Dream Foundation</p> 	<p>Reach For A Dream seeks to alleviate the strain that life-threatening illnesses place on sick children by providing them with the opportunity to realise their greatest wish – or dream. With a track record of more than three decades, Reach For A Dream offers children a magical moment to revel in their childhood that is being lost to an illness.</p> <p>We participated in Reach for a Dream’s Slipper Day initiative, raising ZAR 3,200 through sticker sales and further donations.</p>
<p>Home of Hope for Girls</p> 	<p>The Home of Hope for Girls provides practical support for girls who have survived sexual and domestic violence. It runs two homes in the suburbs of Johannesburg as well as an outreach centre in the Hillbrow/Berea area. In total, there are 75 girls in full-time care and another 150 children are supported by the outreach programme. The vision of Home of Hope for Girls is to end the culture of exploitation and violence which robs children of their future, and to restore safety, confidence and opportunity to those who have survived this abuse.</p> <p>We donated 75 bags with essential sanitary products to support the dignity of these young survivors.</p>
<p>Safe Study Kids</p> 	<p>Safe Study Kids is an after-school programme operating in Bez Valley, Johannesburg. Through a combination of arts enrichment, academic support and mental wellness, Safe Study Kids provides a safe, educational environment for children and young people. Their ultimate goal is to nurture young people who are socially integrated, creative and self-reliant.</p> <p>We donated a projector and screen towards this initiative.</p>
<p>Brave</p> 	<p>In 2011 a group of 10-year-old girls, calling themselves “Rock Girls” - inspired by the anti-apartheid slogan “wathintha abafazi, wathintha imbokodo” (“you strike a woman, you strike a rock”) – formed Brave. They come from Manenberg, one of the harshest townships in South Africa, so they learnt at a young age that they had to be self-reliant. They set out to find innovative ways that their peers in urban and rural areas can be advocates for themselves.</p> <p>Thanks to the generous contributions of our colleagues, we were able to provide the organisation with a monetary donation, as well as new furniture, equipment and stationery to kit out their space.</p>
<p>Seed 2 Harvest</p> 	<p>The core objectives of Seed 2 Harvest are to promote food sovereignty, create environmental awareness and promote income-generating strategies in disadvantaged communities. They teach communities how to grow organic produce using innovative and affordable methods. The long-term mission of Seed 2 Harvest is to establish one food garden per household, in as many communities as possible.</p> <p>In partnership with Seed 2 Harvest, we visited Yellowwood Primary School in Mitchells Plain, and spent the day with the pupils gardening, learning about interesting planting methods and using the Seed 2 Harvest products.</p>

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About Webber Wentzel

We are the leading full-service law firm on the African continent, providing clients with seamless, tailored and commercially-minded business solutions within record times. Our alliance with Linklaters and our relationships with outstanding law firms across Africa ensures our clients have the best expertise wherever they do business.

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