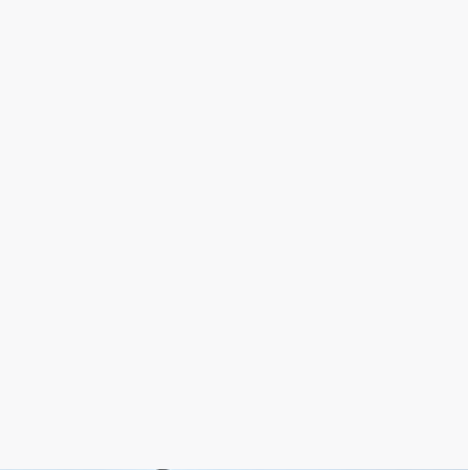




FULL CIRCLE

INSIDE THE SPIRIT FOUNDATION

DIGITAL ISSUE 03 | SEPTEMBER 2023



DASHBOARD



FULL CIRCLE
INSIDE THE SPIRIT FOUNDATION



MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REVIEW AND PREVIEW

It is with gratitude and excitement that I reflect on our journey through the first part of 2023, and am thrilled to share our progress, dreams and aspirations with you.

In our previous report, I made mention of the importance of thinking big and starting small and hope that many of you have been spurred to action since then. In this edition, I share

updates and encouragement in our core areas of service, education, community engagement and wildlife. As the Spirit Foundation we recognise and acknowledge that our work,

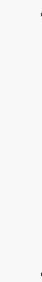
together with our partners, remains unfinished, but are determined to make a lasting impact on the lives of those most in need.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

NELSON MANDELA



These profound words have been at the heart of our mission since our organisation's inception. Education is the cornerstone of empowerment, and through our dedicated efforts, we have witnessed countless lives transformed. From the eager faces of children in classrooms to the determined parents and guardians embarking on new educational journeys, our commitment to education has created ripples of change throughout our community. Our Spirit Education Foundation (SEF) team has worked tirelessly to provide access to quality learning opportunities. We have striven to bridge the



gap between privilege and disadvantage, ensuring that every child, regardless of their background, has the chance to dream, learn and grow. This year, we expanded our scholarship programme, growing from 122 scholars to 140 in 2023, working with 18 feeder primary schools and 12 high schools, thus enabling more underprivileged students to pursue improved education and fulfil their potential to access higher education or employment. We are living Mandela's vision, where knowledge becomes the key to unlocking doors previously closed.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

MARGARET MEAD

Community engagement is the heartbeat of our organisation, and our dedicated partners and passionate supporters exemplify this truth every day. Together, we have achieved remarkable feats in our local community. For example, our programmes with The League of Friends of the Blind (LOFOB) served 49 blind children in a home-based support programme and another 40 children in other mainstream settings. Our employment readiness programme with Bonnievale 418 has resulted in 31 participants finding full-time employment, and our work with Big Issue ensured on average 11 children per month received additional tutoring and educational support. Through these collaborative efforts with local community-based organisations, we have fostered a sense of unity and purpose. Our community has become a close-knit family, working hand-in-hand to address the challenges we face. Together, we have seen economic, social, and environmental barriers removed, employment opportunities rise, and the spirit of cooperation thrive. This year, we are doubling down on our commitment to community engage-

ment and launching new projects within the sporting domain that will empower our young people to take charge of their own destinies.

“Only if we understand, can we care. Only if we care, will we help. Only if we help, shall all be saved.”

JANE GOODALL



Lastly, let us not forget our commitment to wildlife conservation. Our natural world is a fragile tapestry of life and it is our duty to protect it. Our conservation efforts have not only preserved the rich biodiversity of South Africa, but have also provided opportunities for understanding best practices and models of conservation which further benefit our

community. Care for Wild, the world's largest orphaned rhino sanctuary, remains our trusted partner caring for the Spirit Fab Four: Spirit, Grey, Jemu and Lilli amongst others. Their work is unmatched locally and globally and we look forward to sharing some exciting news and developments in our next issue. In the face of unprecedented challenges, our dedication to wildlife conservation has remained unwavering. We have expanded our partnerships to include WildLifeVets, addressing the capture and relocation of wild dogs and cats as well as other endangered animals. In all our efforts and partnerships, we have seen the value of educational programmes that raise awareness and engage with global partners in combating poaching and the encroachment of humans into wildlife spaces. Our work reminds us that the future of our planet is inextricably linked to the well-being of our local ecosystems.

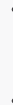
In conclusion, I am reminded of the immense power of unity, education, community, and conservation. Together, we have turned dreams into reality and our story continues to unfold.

As we look to the future, I want to remind you of the profound impact we can make when we unite around a common purpose.

Thank you to our corporate and individual donors for your unwavering support, dedication and belief in our mission. Together, we will continue to change lives, strengthen our community and safeguard our precious wildlife. With your continued support, there is no limit to what we can achieve!

Yours in service and hope,

Dr Armand Bam,
Managing Director Spirit Foundation





SPIRIT EDUCATION FOUNDATION

For this edition of Full Circle, we celebrate the growth of SEF. As previously shared, SEF was our first venture into philanthropic giving over 29 years ago. The demand for scholarships and participation in our mentorship programme provides us with continued motivation to make a difference in every scholar’s life. Below we share some of the highlights of our first part of the year.

VOICE

At the beginning of this year, Spirit Education Foundation welcomed to our programme 140

scholars in total across all grades. Our new scholarships increased by 18 above our normal intake of 20 scholars per year. In 2023, the mentorship

programme theme follows the curated acronym VOICE, which stands for Values, Opportunities, Inclusivity, Choice, and Excellence. Throughout

the year, all mentorship moments will reflect on scholars’ voices, what they use them for, how they use them and how they can facilitate inclusion through listening to other voices. Each school visit, milkshake moment and individual tutoring session evaluates at least one of the five letters elevating the voices of our scholars through connection and relationship building.



Alumni

In 2023 we said goodbye to 22 Grade 12 students who received their NSC results and we are proud that every scholar has been enrolled in a tertiary programme at various institutions across the country. A wonderful matric lunch was held to officially welcome them into our Alumni programme which focuses on continued mentorship, networking, and volunteering. The programme allows us to track the progress and the impact that our scholarships have had on shaping their dreams. It is through the longitudinal tracking that we are able to congratulate a number of graduates in 2023. Mymoena Davids (2014) graduated with



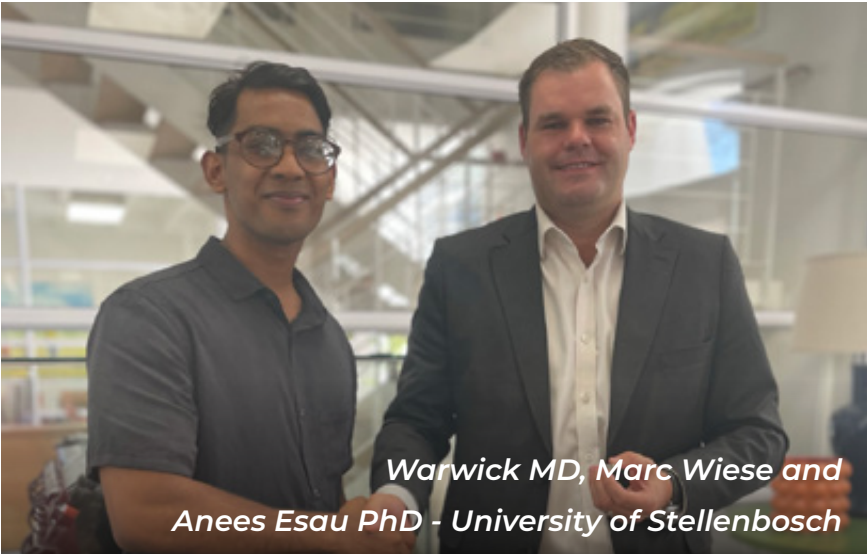
Mymoena Davids Masters in Chemistry - UWC

a Masters in Chemistry Cum Laude from UWC and has joined a research team at UCT to further her studies, Saarah Abrahams (2019), graduated



Saraah Abrahams BA- UWC

with a BA Humanities and has been accepted to do her Post Graduate Certificate in Education



Warwick MD, Marc Wiese and
Anees Esau PhD - University of Stellenbosch

through the Jakes Gerwel Scholarship organisation from the University of Western Cape. Anees Esau (2015) graduated with a PhD from the University of Stellenbosch and is doing his community service in Kimberley. Ted Tarasenga (Grade 12, 2015) is studying his Masters in Energy for Society in Groningen, Netherlands. Lutho Gwandiso (2019), completed his Architecture degree and is doing his practical internship this year.



Lutho Gwandiso Architecture

SEF Camp



SEF Camp

June is a highlight month for SEF as we celebrate Youth Month in South Africa. SEF celebrates this through various activities and engagements with our youth. Most memorable is the annual SEF camp. For three nights, 140 scholars embark on a time away from school pressures, city hustle and bustle and are given the space to enjoy themselves. Throughout the camp, activities are run by facilitators that develop better connections among each other, forming a better understanding of the use of their voices, problem solving, teamwork, getting muddy on a hike, listening to nature,



the crackle of firewood at the bonfire and the sheer enjoyment of drumming and dancing under the stars. The scholars find handing in their phones a challenge, but after three nights, they are wildly surprised by the new, deeper friendships and connections they have made. Mentoring our youth to use their voice also requires them to respond respectfully to other voices and noises that the world presents to them. Being in nature, appreciating the quiet

sounds and the positive sound of laughter has a refreshing effect on the soul. It unites them as family beyond their own, they are the Spirit Family.

Feet4Fees

The third annual Feet4Fees fundraiser also held on Youth Day 16 June was nothing less than a roaring success. 100 athletes ascended the Goliath Hill of Groot Constantia Wine Estate on an overcast and chilly morning. The support from corporate companies Fluid Energy, Keller Williams and Running Wild made 2023's event a massive success. It was a community gathering with the cross-country athletes from Floreat Primary School also joining in with their families. Scholars and their families came to assist with the route and marshalling along the way. It was an even greater honour to have Deputy Mayor, Alderman Eddie Andrews, open the event and start the runners along the route. The proceeds raised go directly toward the improvement of mentorship and financial assistance to scholars in the SEF scholarship programme. Feet4Fees gains great traction every year and raises over

R20 000, a joint effort in running for good and empowering the youth of our country. Building our nation through education.

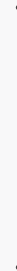


Feeder Schools

SEF works closely with 12 partnership high schools in the Southern Suburbs. Schools are selected and monitored across the SEF values as well as deemed schools of excellence and quality. Through our partnership with high

schools, we empower feeder schools in the programme to build relationships and ensure that learners most in need and with the greatest potential are given adequate opportunities to apply to partnership high schools, as well as to the SEF Scholarship programme. SEF has built up relationships with 18 feeder primary schools in the southern suburbs, namely: York Road, Turfhall, Floreat, Constantia PS, Muizenberg Junior, Leiden, Heathfield, Southfield, St Anthony's RC, West end Primary, Bergvliet, Kirstenhof, Sweet Valley, Westcott, Harmony, Sid G Rule, Fairview and Square Hill. These are all on our feeder school list. The feeder school programme includes assistance with the recruitment process, application forms, thus ensuring direct and effective communication is received by all Grade six learners and parents, together with small upliftment projects within the schools requiring attention.

For Mandela Day, the SEF team attended one of the feeder schools in Delft, Leiden Primary School and engaged with all Grade six learners on the importance of reading and literacy. The





staff hosted an English Second Language lesson, bringing a new energy and excitement to the school regarding the importance of English reading and literacy. Diverse gamified activities were conducted as a class and in smaller groups. The teachers were thrilled to learn new strategies and be given some new resources aligned to the curriculum. “Thank you, I have learnt more today watching this lesson than I did at college seven years ago”, was one of the teacher’s responses. Sharing best practices and empowering our teachers is just as important

as doing the same for our scholars. One of the Grade six learners said, “I’ll never forget the opportunities the horse (Spirit) can give me, I can have a dream”. We certainly look forward to receiving their applications and making their dreams come true.

We encourage primary schools in the area to reach out to SEF to participate in the feeder school programme and to afford all learners the opportunity to apply for a scholarship and to the high schools.

Holiday programme and study hall

The holidays in high school can be daunting. They are sometimes long and for some without the financial means to be entertained, it can also be quite boring. Through the mentorship programme, SEF offers their scholars an outing during the longer holidays, as well as events to improve their skills together with community service events that instil a culture of giving back. During the June holidays an outing to the Cape Town Science Centre was arranged. The centre truly makes science come alive with the

presentations, experiments and the opportunity to come face-to-face with some interesting chemical reactions results in the interest being sparked, leaving scholars motivated by the scientific phenomenon and the way the world works. Sometimes they leave with more questions than answers, which ignites their critical and creative thinking pathways. We also enhance the holiday outing experiences through a job shadowing and vacation work programme, as well as some important life skills, such as driving and swimming.



In May, we launched a new pilot project to offer a safe and conducive study environment for scholars to learn before the June exams. This project took off like wildfire and was very well received. Learners came on two Saturday mornings and were hosted in a study space that was quiet, offered tutors, a study schedule, past papers and most importantly (according to them) were the nutritious study snacks and mingling time between the breaks. Through our mentorship programme it was evident that the jump from primary school to high school is not only intense in its workload, but also in the new study methods required of our scholars. Some were studying on their beds, in the kitchen with family buzzing around or lying on the floor in the lounge. Developing good healthy study habits from a young age will benefit scholars as the workload begins to intensify as well as developing a new level of independent studying and responsibility towards their studying, unlike when they were in primary school.



SPIRIT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

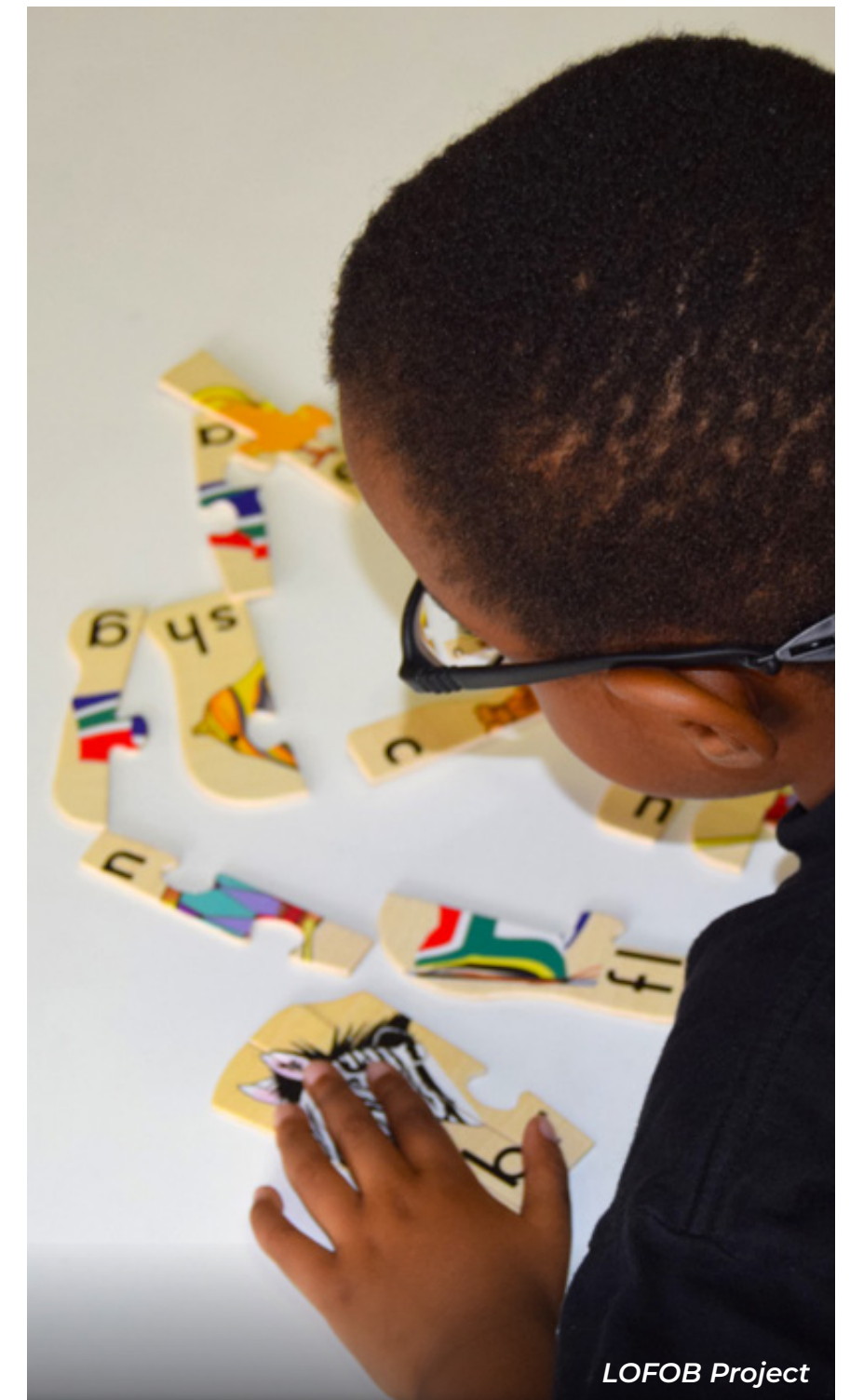
For this edition of Full Circle, we shine a spotlight on the impactful work we do in our communities. Our key partnerships with the Big Issue, Bonnievale 418, HearinAfrica, Jakes Gerwel Technical School, LOFOB, the Upper Liesbeek River Garden have been instrumental in dismantling barriers to education and improved quality of life for people with disabilities, entrepreneurs and youth in particular.

LOFOB

Our partnership with LOFOB continues to be a cornerstone of our efforts. The project involves

the provision of home, centre and mainstream schooling support through occupational therapy and social work services. Recognising

that not everyone can afford these services, we provided LOFOB with the resources to perform this vital service in communities most in need. In



LOFOB Project



the half year, we made significant strides in the communities across the Cape Flats and as far as Beaufort West. Since the start of the year, a total of 49 blind children have received occupational therapy services provided in partnership with SCF. A total of 18 new families have been supported in an education and awareness programme to assist with the development of their visually impaired or blind child. Significantly, we have been able to capacitate 187 community healthcare development workers thus far.

HearInAfrica

The HearInAfrica outreach clinic in Grassy Park continued to flourish and we were able to launch a new community clinic in Wynberg. Both clinics were extremely well attended, with many patients and colleagues expressing their gratitude for these much-needed services. Following discussions with experienced Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) surgeon, Dr Jessica McGuire, earlier this year, a specialist clinic was held at the Grassy Park mosque on 14 June to assist nine patients who had been unable to access ENT services through their lo-

cal public health facilities. This proved to be an important milestone for our HearInAfrica partnership as we were able to showcase a hybrid private/public model addressing the current pitfalls of public health patient care



pathways and initiate further discussions with stakeholders within the Department of Health. The aim is to develop a direct referral pathway from our clinics into Victoria Hospital and Groote Schuur Hospital to ensure quicker access to ENT services for treatable hearing losses and other ear, nose and throat conditions. Just in the last quarter, the 127 patients we were able to assess were provided with a free 15-minute consultation with an audiologist, ear examination and free hearing screening test. 100 of the 127 patients were identified with hearing loss. Four patients had failed the hearing screening test and were unable to afford private audiology services where we offered a free diagnostic appointment with a HearInAfrica audiologist. Eleven patients who were unable to afford a private hearing device were fitted with a free hearing aid.

Bonnievale 418 Employment Readiness

Employment and participation in employment readiness programmes hold paramount importance in South Africa, particularly in regions like Bonnievale, Western Cape. Our

country grapples with a significant unemployment crisis, with youth unemployment rates soaring to alarming levels. South Africa's overall unemployment rate conservatively stands at 34%, with youth unemployment at an even more staggering 46%. This grim reality underscores the urgent need for comprehensive employment readiness programmes tailored to empower youth. Our programme in Bonnievale serves as a crucial lifeline for local youth, offering them a pathway towards economic empowerment and self-sufficiency. It plays a pivotal role in equipping young individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to secure gainful employment. The programme covers a wide spectrum of areas, including resumé building, interview techniques, communication skills, and job search strategies. By fostering a culture of employability and entrepreneurship, our programmes not only boost confidence, but also contribute to poverty alleviation and reduced crime rates in the community. The potential cascading effect on the broader economy is evident as young people secure jobs and income, they become consumers,

stimulating local businesses, and contributing to economic growth. This, in turn, reduces the burden on social welfare programmes and public resources, creating a more sustainable economic environment. For the first half year we had 124 participants in our programme, 75% of whom are women. We achieved 31 full-time placements, 31 seasonal placements and 26 placements in internships or expanded public works programmes.

For our remaining projects, The Big Issue and Upper Liesbeek River Garden project, we provide a brief update here. Entrepreneurship is a vital driver of economic growth and social development. It empowers individuals to create businesses, generate employment, and foster innovation, ultimately contributing to a more prosperous society. In South Africa, where unemployment rates have been persistently high, entrepreneurship offers a pathway to self-sufficiency and poverty reduction. Our partnership with The Big Issue plays a crucial role in this landscape. It provides marginalised individuals with the opportunity to become



Upper Liesbeek River Garden project

micro-entrepreneurs by selling their magazine. This not only grants them a source of income, but also enhances their skills and self-esteem.

The Big Issue exemplifies how entrepreneurship can positively impact disadvantaged communities, offering a hand up, not a handout. For the Big Issue, we have been able to help entrepreneurs and their families in two distinct projects: the Maths and English programme where 11 children on a monthly basis receive specialist support. Another way that we have been able to assist vendors is through our home support programme, offering materials and resources to secure homes and revamp or refurnish where there is a need. The Big Issue has been able to help at a minimum three families per month.

Finally, this winter has been a challenging one with floods and maintenance of our rivers a priority. The team at ULRG have been able to ensure that all walkways, benches, and trees have been maintained for the broader public use.



Maths and English programme



SPIRIT WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Our focus in this edition is on Care for Wild and their efforts to protect rhinos.

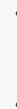
The use of drones at Care for Wild has sparked a revolution in the ongoing efforts to protect and safeguard rhinos. These remarkable aerial devices are equipped with high-resolution cameras and cutting-edge thermal imaging technology, enabling crucial surveillance from the skies, covering expansive areas of land in record time. One of the most remarkable aspects of these drones is their speed and agility,

which allows efficient coverage of vast terrains within a short period. This agility is a game-changer, as it empowers the monitoring of the rhinos’ habitats and movements with unprecedented effectiveness. The high-resolution camera on board captures intricate details, providing a bird’s-eye view of the rhinos and their behaviours. Moreover, the integration of thermal imaging sensors

has further augmented the monitoring capabilities, even in challenging lighting conditions such as low light or adverse weather. By detecting heat signatures, the drones swiftly identify potential threats or intruders in the rhinos’ surroundings and track their movements in real-time. This invaluable information empowers our care givers and security teams to respond swiftly, ensuring the safety and



Rhino protection programme





well-being of the Spirit Wildlife Family. The drones’ exceptional thermal imaging capabilities are so precise that they enable us to identify individual rhinos with astonishing accuracy. This level of detail is essential for our conservation efforts.

World Ranger Day holds special significance for Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary. It’s a day to honour and celebrate the dedicated rangers who work tirelessly to protect rhinos and preserve biodiversity. Their commitment, bravery, and sacrifices are truly commendable. This year, we acknowledged 3270 days without incursions, over 35,000 kilometres patrolled, and

78,480 hours of providing protection. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the rangers who protect and care for Spirit, Grey, Lilli, and Jemu. As these rhinos now roam with buffalo in a more challenging environment and these dedicated rangers tirelessly guard them around the clock. They serve not only as protectors, but also as attentive care givers, monitoring the rhinos’ behaviour and interactions. These rangers are an integral part of the Care for Wild family, and we are immensely proud and grateful for their dedication.

As winter took hold, natural grazing became scarce. Care for Wild collaborates closely with ecologists and nutritionists to determine the exact point when the veldt nutrition is no longer sufficient to sustain the rhino population. The transition to a predominantly supplemented diet has been meticulously planned, ensuring that rhinos received the nutrition they need, especially nursing mothers who require additional care. For caregivers, sudden and drastic weather changes always raise warning signs. Winter posed a range of challenges for

all wildlife, exposing both older and younger animals to nature’s harsher side. Remarkably, the Spirit Wildlife Foundation Fab Four, despite their past health challenges, handled this unexpected weather with remarkable resilience. Supplementary feeding plays a pivotal role in their reintroduction to life in the Intensive Protection Zone. They also seek warmth and comfort from the other crashes, a testament to their adaptability. The mothers and their calves have coped admirably with the cold, some experiencing their first Care for Wild

winter, while others like Blizzy and Pebble had already endured one cold season. The calves sought warmth by snuggling against their mothers or nestled among the sleeping crash. Some even cleverly used teff bales as warm and dry havens. Rhinos tend to leave the long grass as early morning frost sets in, making them wet and cold. The young calves raise their body temperature through playful galloping and, remarkably, encourage their mothers to join in the fun.





'Spirit and baby 'Dusty'



'Miraculous baby calf 'Dusty'



Feeding a hungry orphaned calf

GREAT NEWS!

In anticipation of our next edition, I briefly share how our work in wildlife has come Full Circle. A world first and against all odds, we are proud to share in the birth of Spirit's first calf 'Dusty' after release. This has been the first recorded birth after release into the wild from a rhino raised in sanctuary. I look forward to updating you further on this as the Spirit Team visits Care for Wild later in October to see Spirit and Dusty's progress.

GET IN TOUCH

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HOW TO DONATE

The Spirit Foundation has established an enviable track-record over the past thirty years by assisting worthy causes that have impacted positively within education, communities and wildlife. The Spirit Foundation is an impeccably well-governed, transparent and accountable national asset that ensures that 100% of all contributions go directly to the identified beneficiaries. In doing so we provide donors and supporters with both the satisfaction of contributing to your chosen worthy cause, but also the peace of mind that your donation is directly reaching your intended beneficiary.

Your donation makes a material and lasting difference to your intended beneficiary and we believe nothing could be more rewarding in life than this.

If you believe in the vision and the value of the work of the Spirit Foundation and would like to help us fund and support these important initiatives, please make contact with us by clicking on the below contact button. We'd love to hear from you!

