

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2026

Annual General Meeting 22 January 2026

This report covers the year 1 March 2024 – 28 February 2025. This year marked the 15th year of Healing Wings South Africa and 30 years since its founding in Mozambique.

As always, I want to start by thanking the Lord Jesus Christ for His faithfulness and goodness to us. This year held both joy and deep sorrow, remarkable achievements and tough challenges. Through it all, God's grace carried us, His wisdom guided us and His blessing has sustained us. A constant reminder that Healing Wings was His idea from the beginning and He will always watch over it.

Before I continue, I want to honour those we lost so tragically during this year. We mourned the passing of 2 residents at the Sudwala Centre, whose loss was deeply felt by the entire team. We also remember Leone van Jaarsveld, our beloved house mother at St Georges, who passed away due to a heart condition. May they rest in eternal peace.

It should also be noted that 2024 was the year that Bronwyn van Jaarsveld finally left rehab! Joking aside, I want to mark this because Bronwyn is a stalwart of Healing Wings having gone through the program in Mozambique, served as a volunteer there and was instrumental in the transition to South Africa and the early establishment of HWSA. She has served faithfully in multiple roles and we want to take this moment to honour her and her contribution to HWSA. We are grateful that she has not left us entirely, but now continues to serve Healing Wings as a director on the Board.

I want to thank all our stakeholders - without your support we would not be where we are today.

The parents, families and sponsors of residents

We are aware that the recovery process extends further than the gates of Healing Wings. Thank you for your patience and participation in the treatment journey.

The Department of Social Development and Isable Makushe in particular

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Cornerstone Church

Thank you for your faithful support of our girls at St Georges as well as your contributions to Pelgrims.

Johann H. van Niekerk, FAS, and Authentix

A special thank you to Johann van Niekerk, Chairman and CEO of FAS, who generously donated our new media centre and secured sponsorship from Authentix in Texas for a R1.4 million solar system. This infrastructure has been transformative for our facilities. We are deeply grateful.

The Board of Healing Wings

Thank you to the team who serves Healing Wings with me. Your constant support and tireless efforts are invaluable. During this year, Dr Chawame's tenure on the Board came to an end, and we thank her for her service.

Our Executive Director and Staff

Can I just say that we have an awesome staff at Healing Wings. Thank you for your service and dedication to our residents and to the mission of Healing Wings, we cannot do any of it without you!

Centre Reports

Each of our centres has its own character, its own community, and this year, its own story to tell.

Pelgrims Place is thriving on every front. The centre has grown to 30 residents and we have constant demand for more beds. Infrastructure has been strengthened, including solar upgrades, a new roof, and improved water systems. The Extreme Ability programme has flourished with Pelgrims hosting both regional and national disability surfing events. Community involvement has been outstanding, from the dog house project that captured hearts on social media, to monthly clean-ups, soup kitchen donations, and the Gorilla Gardens initiative. Pelgrims demonstrates what is possible when vision, dedication, and community come together.

St Georges Adolescent Centre for Girls underwent a significant and positive transformation during this year. The centre transitioned from a six-week assessment programme to a comprehensive three-month treatment model. The results speak for themselves: admissions tripled, and we welcomed girls from as far as Iceland, Portugal, and Ghana. Capacity has expanded to 20 beds, and a refreshed team brought new energy.

Purpose College continues to excel, again achieving a **100% matric pass rate**. Our top learner placed 7th academically out of all learners across more than 200 SACAI schools in South Africa. A remarkable achievement considering they did this while completing the youth program. Dot De Graaf continues to do an outstanding job running Purpose College.

Sudwala Adult and Youth Centre has seen notable developments. The Youth Centre benefited from the new media centre and solar system. Although numbers fluctuate, the adult centre continues to achieve meaningful outcomes with long-term residents and successfully manages complex cases.

Kiki Moswane has been a tremendous asset to Healing Wings, but when a new opportunity came that was truly right for her, we released her with our blessing. Promise Nhlabathi has stepped into the leadership role and is doing a sterling job.

That said, Sudwala faced staffing challenges and team dynamics that escalated into the current year. The Executive Director worked closely with the centre leadership to manage these issues. However, as matters progressed, the Board stepped in to conduct a thorough review. This review revealed conduct inconsistent with the values and governance standards of Healing Wings, and decisive action was taken. I want to assure stakeholders that resident services and care were not affected throughout this period.

We have chosen to view this as an opportunity. A comprehensive reset is underway in Sudwala. We are returning to the heart of our founders' vision, while also improving systems, streamlining processes and cultivating a renewed culture of excellence. With freshly committed staff, we are confident that the centres at Sudwala will emerge stronger and more aligned with our mission than ever.

Finances

I want to acknowledge the ongoing reality of our financial position. We are a non-profit organisation, and that comes with constant challenges. We work hard to keep fees affordable, and this year we sponsored 35% of our residents at an approximate cost of R5m to our budget because turning someone away for lack of funds goes against everything we stand for.

There will always be more we wish we could do. However, I want stakeholders to know that we are doing the best we can with what we have, and we do it because we genuinely believe in helping people find freedom.

Having said that, I am pleased to report that our finances remain stable and are extremely well-managed under the watchful eye of our Executive Director, Garth Lucas and our accountant, Robin Nel. We are in good hands.

In closing, we are proud of all we have achieved this year and grateful for the many lives that continue to be impacted and changed through the work done at Healing Wings. This year has presented unique challenges, but I am pleased that we have met them head-on and will continue to adjust, adapt, and improve. After all, that is what growth looks like. No journey is without its bumps and turns, but that is the path and we walk it knowing that we do not walk it alone.

We trust in God's faithfulness to guide us, and we are grateful for each of you who walk alongside us.

Thank you

Beverley Watkins
Chairperson