

## **Executive Directors Report**

**Thanks Bev, Good day and welcome, thank you all for joining us here today.**

### *Our mission Statement*

*To restore within an individual, the capacity to make informed life decisions which are not dictated by circumstance, addiction or compulsion*

Ten years ago I said the following - 2016 has been one fraught with change. While we achieved a lot we also made a lot of bad decisions, or should I say good decisions that did not go according to plan. These wayward outcomes created challenges and with every challenge comes a solution and with every solution an improvement. These improvements have resulted in growth and this growth has resulted in achieving the next chapter of The Healing Wings Vision.

Part of that Vision was not only to grow Healing Wings into a multi-national institution but to grow our people with it. Healing Wings does not belong to any one person, it is not owned by the board or directors - it is owned by the residents who learn to embrace our culture, by the many who hand over their loved ones for us to look after and most of all it is owned by the dedicated staff who give everything they have to ensure its success.

Now 10 years since that statement and 30 years since the first troubled soul stumbled into our humble facility in Mozambique, we now boast facilities in 3 provinces looking after sufferers from all corners of the globe. We still face many challenges and still the solutions follow which result in growth. As Beverly said this year marks one of reset, a year we are going to bring HEART back to Healing Wings. Our chosen profession is one of empathy and for those committed staff members who have persevered, not for me, or the Board or even the organisation but for the people and families that need us - I thank you

Herewith a brief overview of our centres, please note that full reports for all centres will be posted on our website. Please remember that this report and figures quoted are for the period ending Feb 2025

Healing Wings continues to provide structured, faith-centred rehabilitation across **Sudwala in Mpumalanga, Pelgrim's Place in Paternoster, and St George's in Johannesburg**, using an integrated model that combines **individual and group counselling, CBT-informed practice, consistent daily routine and work-based responsibility, stepwork through a 12-Step , Celebrate Recovery approach, and purposeful family involvement**—all aimed at stabilising residents, building insight, restoring dignity, and supporting sustainable reintegration.

Over the reporting period, **St George's Youth Girls** recorded **21 admissions, 7 departures, and 8 absconsions**, alongside **299 individual counselling sessions** and **12 disciplinary hearings**, most often linked to boundary-breaking, theft, relapse behaviour, or non-compliance with holiday contracts—highlighting both the intensity of the therapeutic work and the importance of clear structure, consequences, and ongoing clinical support for vulnerable adolescents.

At **Sudwala**, across all four programmes, the centre managed **54 admissions**, with **38 discharges** and **15 absconsions**, with an occupancy averaging 68 residents - While serious incidents tend to be concentrated among a smaller number of residents, staff consistently applied duty-of-care processes and structured interventions to protect recovery culture and safety.

**Pelgrim's Place (Adult Centre Males)** recorded **35 admissions**, **31 departures**, and **4 absconsions**, and strengthened its programme through additional therapeutic tools focused on healthier coping skills, supported by regular multidisciplinary alignment to keep practice consistent and accountable.

Across all centres, the common story is encouraging: programme delivery remained steady, teams kept investing in disciplined, compassionate care, and the work continued to produce moments of restoration through routine, counselling, stepwork, service, and community connection. Highlights included expanded outreach and partnerships, facility improvements that enable better therapeutic delivery, and meaningful resident participation in community initiatives. Looking ahead, priorities focus on consolidating resources, growing volunteer engagement, resuming and expanding extra-murals (including Sudwalas equine programme), and continuing practical infrastructure upgrades that support both dignity and outcomes—while staying anchored to the core mission: helping people move from crisis to stability, from dependency to responsibility, and from isolation to community.

To conclude — Healing Wings is no stranger to controversy, and we will not be shaken by misinformation, rumour, or negative voices that try to divide or discourage the work. Whether it comes through social media, or through those who resist accountability and choose retaliation over restoration, we remain steady.

We will not apologise for who we are, nor will we yield to intimidation or threats against our board or our people. This mission has never been about control or personal gain — it is about compassion, service, and the belief that every life carries worth.

The light still shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it — because what is rooted in truth, covered in prayer, and sustained by all that is good will endure.

Thank you.