



UNITED WAY SOUTH AFRICA

JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



As we reach the midpoint of 2025, I am filled with both pride and gratitude for the journey we've travelled together. The past six months have been a testament to the power of partnership, resilience, and a shared commitment to uplifting our communities.

From launching impactful education initiatives and supporting special needs schools, to empowering women leaders, mentoring youth, and responding to urgent social needs. Our mission has been clear: to create opportunities for every South African to live a better, more empowered life.



With gratitude and hope,
Queen Mokonoto

**JUST KEEP MOVING
FORWARD. ONE STEP
AT A TIME. YOU'LL GET
THERE.**



TOGETHER WE THRIVE

As we reach the halfway mark of 2025, United Way South Africa is proud to reflect on a powerful journey of community impact, collaboration, and transformation. From January to June, we've worked hand-in-hand with **partners, donors, volunteers, and communities** to create meaningful change across the country empowering youth, strengthening education, responding to urgent needs, and driving inclusive leadership.

Lives Touched, Futures Changed

This Mid-Year Impact Newsletter captures **key highlights, events, and milestones** from the past six months. It's a celebration of what we've achieved together and a reminder of the incredible power of unity, service, and shared purpose.

Thank you for being part of the movement. Let's continue rising together.



Locations:
South Africa - Gauteng, Limpopo, and broader national reach via digital campaigns and community-based activations.

Strategic Convening & Partnerships Formed:
9 new partnerships

Engagement Across Digital Campaigns:
Instagram Growth: **+28%** since Jan

LinkedIn Engagement **+41%** (notable spikes after STEM launch & Leadership Summit)

Whatsapp Reach: **700+** consistent views

Total Impacted Individuals (All Projects & Events):
5,742 individuals

Volunteer Hours Logged:
Over 1,300 hours

By corporate teams, educators, and community volunteers.



Photo: Group photo In Ivory Park Secondary School, This picture shows all attendees of the launch, including Teachers, Learners and as well as parents of learners who will be taking part in the project.

Reimagining Education: Roducate STEM Launch

In early 2025, United Way South Africa proudly launched its Education STEM Project in partnership with Roducate, a digital learning platform aimed at transforming how students engage with the school curriculum.

The launch, hosted at Ivory Park Secondary School, introduced learners to customised educational tablets preloaded with the Roducate app. This innovative tool enables students to access core subjects offline, revise past papers, and explore interactive learning in a way that's accessible, engaging, and aligned with the South African curriculum.

The event was attended by students, educators, and parents, and featured a heartfelt thank-you speech from the school's Deputy Head Girl, who highlighted how the platform has already ignited excitement and hope among her peers.

IN HIS OWN WORDS

“

This initiative reflects United Way South Africa's belief in bridging the digital divide by providing equal access to quality education. With technology playing an increasingly vital role in learning, the Roducate partnership represents a leap forward in equipping students with the tools they need to thrive in a digital world.

- Piet Sathekge, Project co-ordinator for youth development education



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LEADERSHIP THAT TRANSFORMS



On 28 May 2025, United Way South Africa proudly hosted a Leadership Summit at the Deloitte Building in Midrand. The event brought together over 80 attendees, including corporate leaders, social entrepreneurs, youth, and change-makers, to engage in a full day of dialogue around inclusive, transformative leadership.

The summit featured keynotes, panels, and breakout sessions led by exceptional speakers like Joe Eshun (Deloitte Africa), Mashudu Lembede (Bureau Veritas), Aneshree Naidoo (Webber Wentzel), and several others. Themes ranged from diversity and inclusion in divided workplaces, to transformational leadership, mentorship, and cross-sector collaboration.

Photo: Attendees of the leadership summit taking in the fireside chat discussion between Cornelia Van Heerden and Group Chief Executive Officer of the South African Broadcasting Corporation Nomsa Chabeli

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Panel Discussion: Overcoming Division in leadership

One of the most impactful moments at the United Way SA Leadership Summit was the dynamic panel discussion featuring powerful women leaders from diverse industries who shared insights on the summit's theme: "Leadership in a Divided World – Building Unity, Inclusion & Impact."



Panel Guests: Who are they?

The panel included Mashudu Lembede (Mining Market Leader, Bureau Veritas), Aneshree Naidoo (Weber Wentzel), Dawn Isdale (3M South Africa), Fathima Ebrahim (Liquid Intelligent Technologies) . Zandile Mposelwa (Panelist Moderator, Kellonova South Africa).

The discussion emphasized the importance of mentoring both girls and boys, especially in male-dominated spaces like mining. They also shared how their organisations prioritise safety, development, and diversity in the workplace.

Photo: Panel discussion guests on stage being asked questions regarding the topic on Inclusion within organisations.

RESTORING HOPE: SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF GBV

As part of our continued commitment to safety, dignity, and healing, United Way South Africa visited a local GBV rehabilitation centre earlier this year—an environment dedicated to supporting women and men who are survivors of gender-based violence and substance abuse. The centre, which provides rehabilitation, life skills training, and spiritual guidance, serves as both a refuge and a launchpad for individuals seeking to rebuild their lives.

The visit reminded us of the urgent need to address the intersection between addiction, trauma, and abuse, and the power of safe spaces in restoring futures.

The centre accommodates both male and female survivors, though in separate facilities, and offers holistic care that includes Bible teachings, vocational skill-building, and a strong community support network. Its mission aligns deeply with United Way’s belief in human rights, equity, and second chances.



Photo: Taken inside Ndawo Ykho GBV Centre showing volunteers and employees of the centre who offer support to women who are survivors of GBV and substance abuse

IN HER OWN WORDS

Sonto Skhosana, Project assistant

“Healing begins with safety, and dignity is restored through compassion. At United Way South Africa, we stand with every survivor and every organisation working to break the cycle of gender-based violence. Together, we are building a future rooted in hope, not harm.”





Photo: School Principal of Ben Hlongwane secondary school accepting award on behalf of Grade 12 learners who received Best performing school category. This was taken at the school awards district ceremony

CELEBRATING DISTRICT EDUCATION EXCELLENCE



Photo: Ben Hlongwane
secondary school learners during
break time with all smiles.

Safer Schools, Brighter Futures: Ben Hlongwane Secondary School

Earlier this year, United Way South Africa visited Ben Hlongwane Secondary School in Limpopo to witness the impact of a newly installed security gate and perimeter fence. A project made possible through our collaboration with local partners and the school's leadership.

The school's principal expressed her deep appreciation, noting that the improved infrastructure has significantly enhanced the safety and morale of learners and staff alike. Since the upgrades, the school has seen a notable increase in enrollment, growing from 513 learners to 637. A powerful testament to how a secure environment fosters trust and encourages attendance.

To top off a successful start to the year, Ben Hlongwane was awarded a Certificate of Achievement during the Mogalakwena District Education Awards for being the best-performing school with 32.4% bachelor passes under 50 learners.

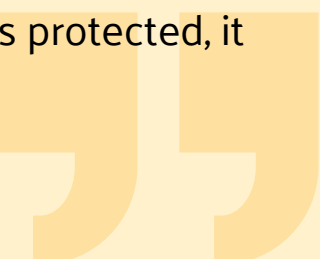
This project is a shining example of how infrastructure, partnership, and commitment combine to unlock brighter futures for South African learners.

IN HER OWN WORDS

Principal, Ben Hlongwane Secondary School

“This new fence has done more than improve security. It has restored confidence in our school.

Our learners feel safer, parents are more involved, and we've seen a remarkable increase in both attendance and academic performance. It's proof that when a school feels protected, it thrives.”



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TOGETHER WE THRIVE

“Real impact is not always loud, sometimes it’s a child smiling in a classroom, a seed planted in tough soil, or a survivor finding their voice again. These are the moments that remind us why we serve.”

– United Way South Africa





Photo: Group photo outside Ikamva youth center. Within the image are the youth who attended the workshop and United Way staff as well as Deloitte volunteers who supported in the lessons.

Preparing Youth for the Future: **Deloitte Volunteer Day**

In March 2025, United Way South Africa partnered with Deloitte Africa to host a meaningful Volunteer Day focused on preparing young people for the world of work. Held at Ikamva Youth Center, the session brought together 60 unemployed youth for a hands-on workshop covering CV writing, career guidance, and interview preparation.

With support from Deloitte volunteers, the young participants received personalised feedback on their CVs and LinkedIn profiles. The youth learned how to present themselves professionally on paper, in person and online.

“The initiative was more than a workshop; it was a day of mentorship, empowerment, and hope. Many participants left with renewed confidence and a clearer direction toward their employment goals.

This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to tackling youth unemployment and giving young South Africans the tools they need to step into opportunity and succeed.

- Piet Sathekge, Project co-ordinator for youth development education

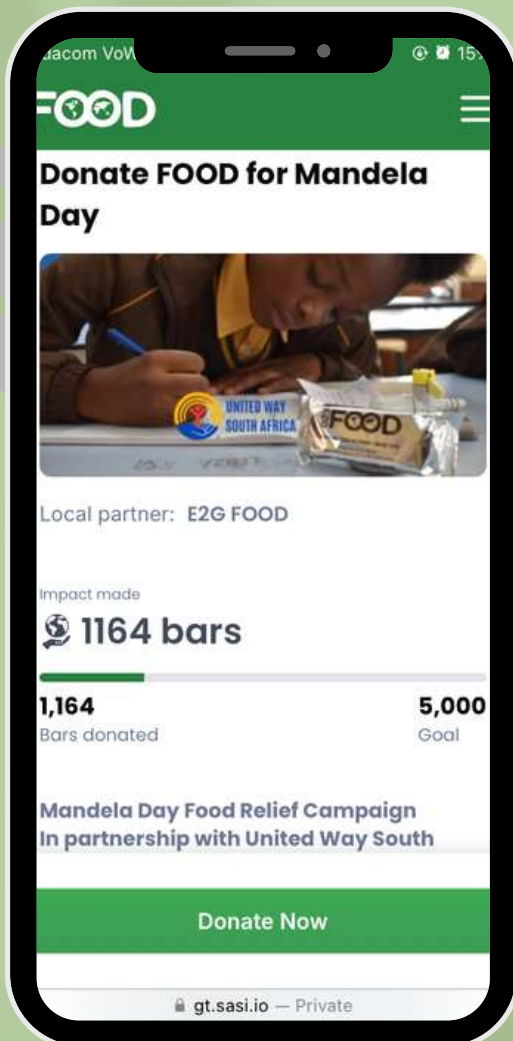
MANDELA DAY 2025: TURN MINUTES INTO MEALS

This Mandela Day we are joining forces with E2G FOOD to fight hunger and honour Mandela's legacy and we need your support. E2G FOOD produces high protein bars, packed with minerals & vitamins, designed for communities and first responders with limited access to nutritious food.

Donate through link

Below is your link, which should lead you directly to our campaign. Here you can learn more about the campaign and enable you to donate with just a click of a button

"DONATE NOW"



**For corporate larger donations and additional
Information please get in contact us**

Email: info@unitedway.org.za

Phone Number: +27 71 075 1125

Website: <https://unitedway.org.za>

**ONE FOOD BAR= R36.66(\$2)
=
ONE LIFE NOURISHED**

EMPOWERING LEARNERS AT SEDIBENG SPECIAL SCHOOL

In the heart of Limpopo lies Sedibeng Special School, a space dedicated to educating and uplifting learners with special needs. Earlier this year, United Way South Africa launched a project aimed at enhancing vocational training and sensory learning at the school.

Through the support of our donors and partners, we've begun the process of upgrading the school's vocational equipment to better prepare learners for independent living and work opportunities. Additionally, plans are underway to convert an existing mobile classroom into a fully equipped sensory room. A much-needed resource that will help learners manage anxiety, improve focus, and better engage with their curriculum.

This project holds deep significance for United Way South Africa as it aligns with our commitment to inclusive education and equal opportunity for every learner.

IN HER OWN WORDS

Queen Mokonoto, CEO United Way South Africa

“This project directly impacts 114 learners and supports a broader vision of inclusion. Empowering education across rural South Africa. It stands as a powerful example of what is possible when communities, organisations, and supporters unite for lasting change.”



Photo: Group photo with our CEO Queen Mokonoto and Sedibeng learners outside of one of the classrooms during break time.



HIGHLIGHTS

MOMENTS THAT MOVED US





KEEP CONNECTED

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