



# IMPACT REPORT



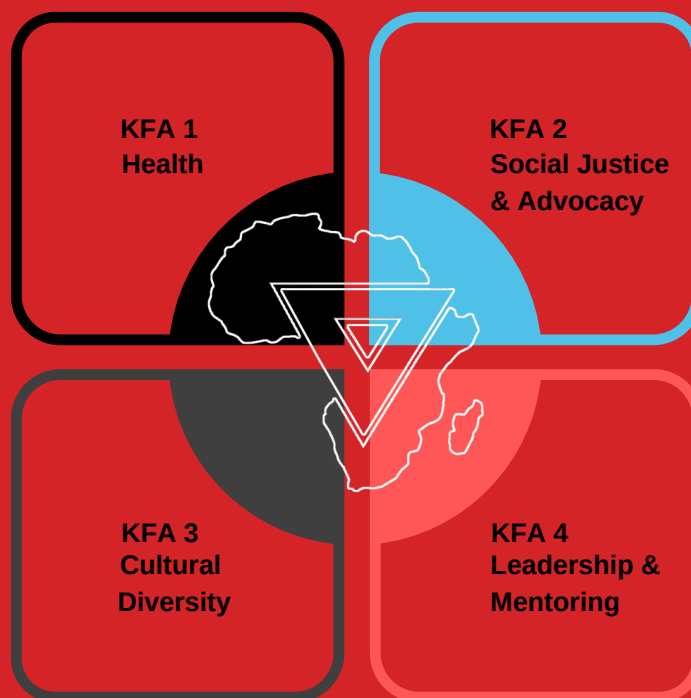
## 2024/2025

# VISION

Empowering & Impacting communities  
towards Wellbeing, Responsibility and  
Inclusion

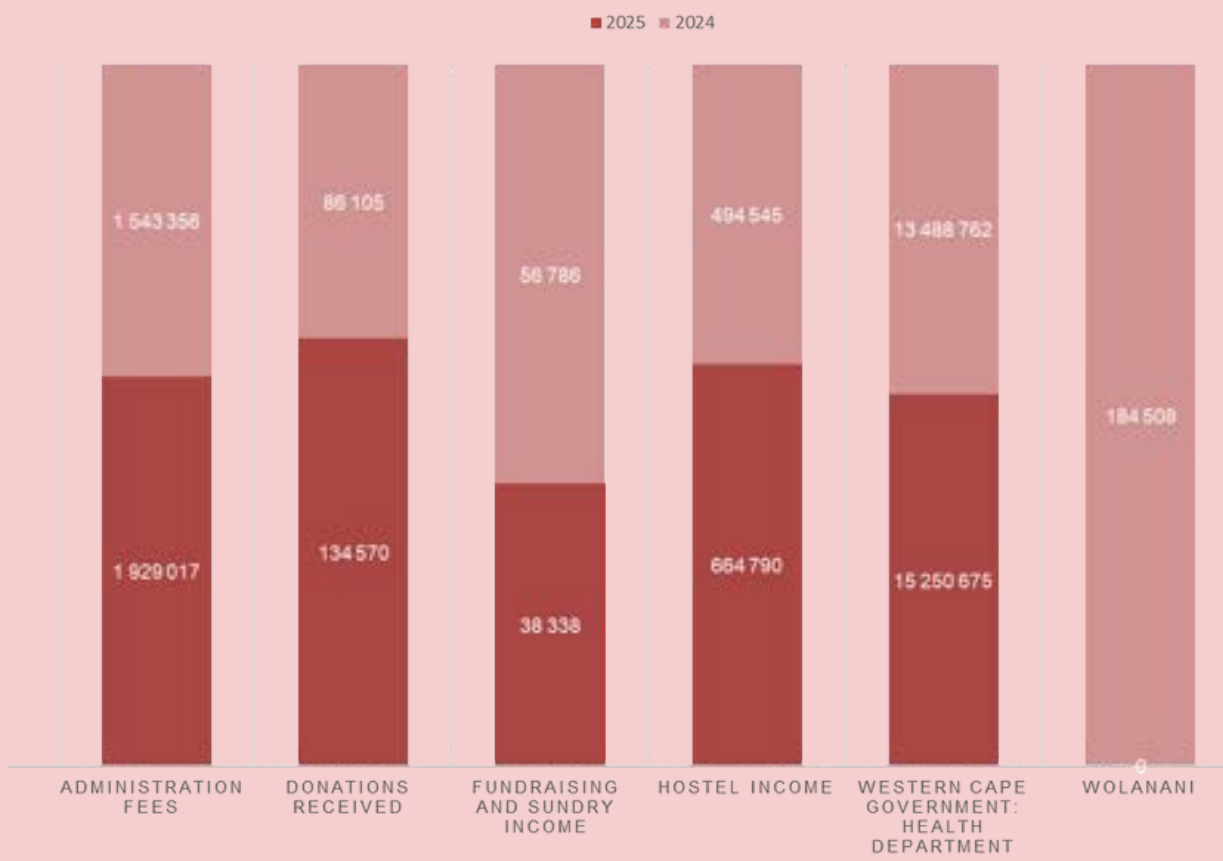
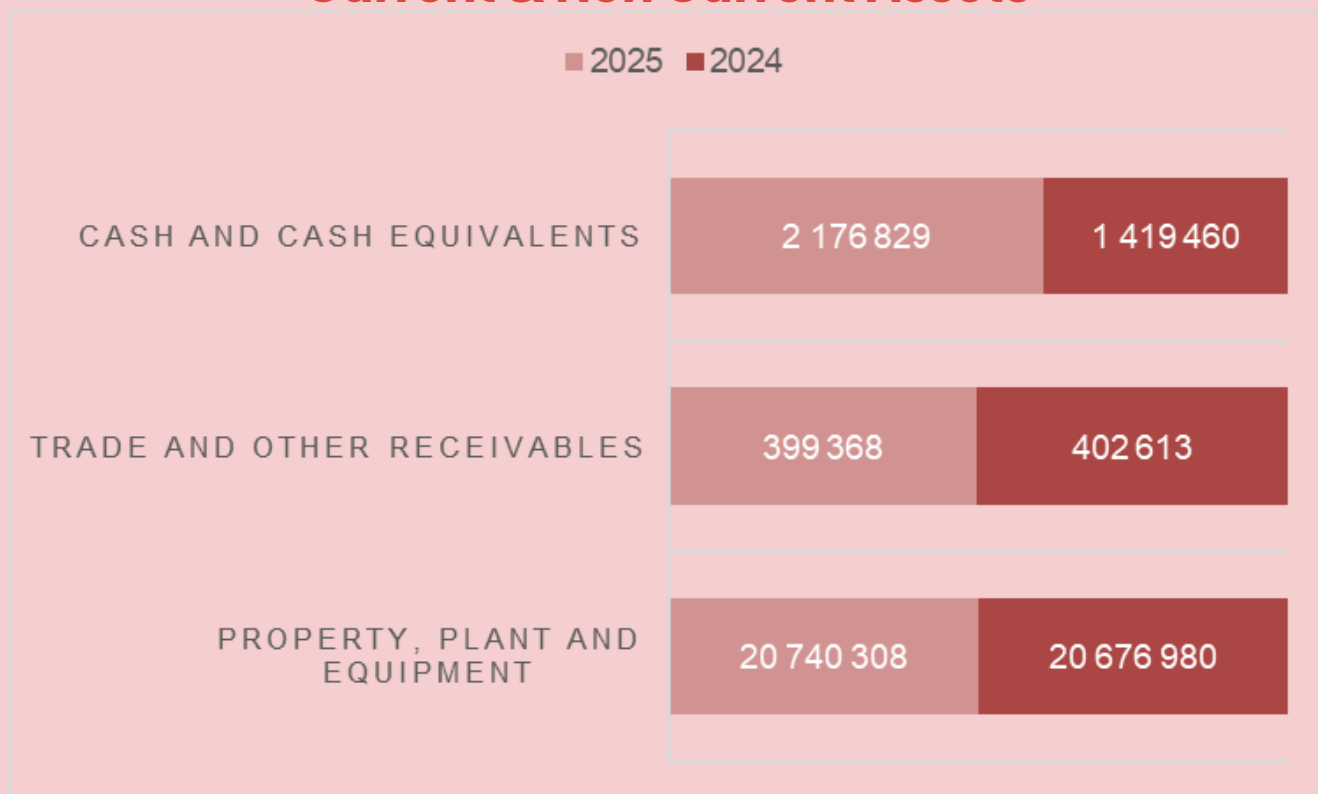
# MISSION

The YMCA Athlone will render stimulating  
programmes to improve community  
wellbeing, encourage civic responsibility  
and promote social inclusivity.



# FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS

## Current & Non Current Assets



# FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS

## Balance Year-To-Year

|                                                                                | REVALUATION<br>RESERVE | RETAINED INCOME              | TOTAL EQUITY                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Balance at 01 April<br/>2023</b><br><b>(Loss for the year<br/>2023)</b>     | R 15 413 197           | R 3 134 607<br>(R 440 765)   | R 18 547 804<br>(R 440 765)   |
| <b>Balance at 01 April<br/>2024</b><br><br><b>Profit for the year<br/>2024</b> | R 15 413 197           | R 2 693 842<br><br>R 747 452 | R 18 107 039<br><br>R 747 452 |
| <b>Balance at 31 March<br/>2025</b>                                            | R 15 413 197           | R 3 441 294                  | R 18 854 491                  |

# **STRENGTH IN UNITY: YMCA ATHLONE'S LEGACY AND FUTURE**

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present this Chairperson's Report at the 112th Annual General Meeting of YMCA Athlone.

This milestone is not only a testament to the resilience and dedication of our YMCA family but also part of a much greater celebration, as we join the broader YMCA movement in acknowledging 160 years of YMCA in Cape Town. Together, these milestones remind us of the rich legacy we are part of and the responsibility we carry to continue serving with integrity and impact.

The success of YMCA Athlone over the past year is a direct result of the tireless commitment and passion of our management team, staff, and volunteers. Their dedication has enabled us to keep serving the community with excellence, ensuring that our programs remain relevant, accessible, and impactful. Every achievement we celebrate today is grounded in their collective effort and shared belief in our mission.

One of the encouraging developments has been the collaboration with fellow YMCAs across Cape Town and beyond. These partnerships allow us to strengthen our capacity, share resources, and work together as a unified movement. The spirit of collaboration is not only enriching our local work but also reinforcing the YMCA's role as a beacon of hope and transformation in communities.



While we celebrate these successes, we must also acknowledge the challenges we face. Our work continues against the backdrop of high crime levels in our area, which affect both our operations and the safety of those we serve. Yet, despite these obstacles, YMCA Athlone has never lost its resolve. We continue to push forward, adapting to challenges, finding creative solutions, and ensuring that our doors remain open as a safe and welcoming space for all.

As we reflect on the past year, it is clear that YMCA Athlone stands as a resilient, hopeful, and forward-looking organization. We are inspired by our history, strengthened by our partnerships, and committed to building a brighter future for our community.

Thank you to everyone who has played a role in this journey, our staff, volunteers, members, partners, and supporters. Together, we ensure that the YMCA Athlone remains not just an institution, but a movement that changes lives.

With sincere thanks and warm regards

Ashley Meyer

(AGM Interim Chairperson, in Ms. T Davids  
Absence)



# VISION 2030



# YMCA ATHLONE ANNUAL REVIEW: BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FOR AN INCREDIBLE YEAR!

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

As I sit down to reflect on the past year, my heart is full of gratitude. It was a pivotal year for us here at YMCA Athlone, filled with growth, its fair share of challenges, and so many moments where we saw your support truly change lives. None of it would have been possible without you.

Your generosity was the driving force behind it all. Because of you, we got to launch programs that made a real difference. I wish you could have seen the engagement at our bullying awareness campaign at Astra High School. We connected with 120 learners in a powerful session where they opened up about the types of bullying they see and learned safe ways to seek help. It was more than just a workshop; it was a step toward a safer, kinder school environment for everyone. It's what our mission is all about.

And I'm so thrilled to tell you that this wasn't just a year of program growth—it was a year of incredible financial turnaround. Because of your belief in us, we've built a stable foundation from which we can now launch even more ambitious programs.

Throughout this journey, we are continually humbled and carried by God's unwavering grace. It is He who provides the strength and guidance for this work, reminding us of His faithful promise: 'Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.' (Isaiah 46:4). This divine sustenance is the bedrock of our mission, empowering us to serve our community with hope and perseverance.

Our reserves are healthier, our operations are sustainable, and our future is bright. Our Y-Health program, especially, blew us away with its impact!

It's such a relief and a joy to be in a stable place, ready to build on this foundation for even greater impact.

But more than anything, this year reminded me that our greatest strength has always been our people—especially our young people. They are the heart and soul of the YMCA. They're not just participating in programs; they're leading them, shaping them, and preparing to lead this movement forward. Their energy, ideas, and passion ensure that the YMCA remains a place where every young person feels they belong. The torch is being passed to a capable and inspiring generation.

Looking ahead, our focus is on family and community. We want to welcome more people into our YMCA family through membership. When you become a member, you're not just supporting us—you're becoming part of our home. It's how we build a stronger, more connected community together.

As highlighted by World YMCA President Carlos Sanvee, 2024 was the year the global Movement launched its 'Meaningful Work' pillar. This global call to action is powered at the local level by the unwavering support of our community.

The outstanding success of initiatives like our Y-Health program demonstrates exactly what we can achieve together. This financial stability isn't the finish line—it's the springboard that allows us to confidently expand our reach and deepen our impact, ensuring every dollar you give creates maximum change.

Your support directly fuels this vision right here in Athlone, turning global goals into local reality. [Read the full message from President Carlos Sanvee here]

So from the bottom of my heart, thank you. Thank you for your time, your donations, your advocacy, and your belief in our work. It's an honor to build a brighter future for this community alongside you. I can't wait to see what we achieve together next.

With warmest thanks,

Ryan Benjamin General Secretary YMCA Athlone

# A CLEARER VISION: KELLY-ANNE'S PATH FROM STRUGGLE TO PURPOSE



The air in the YMCA Athlone on that first day of spring, September 1st, 2023, smelled of chlorine and hope. For Kelly-Anne Meyer, it was the scent of a new beginning. Her footsteps, once hesitant on much darker paths, were firm and purposeful on the polished floors. The shadows of a past marked by drug abuse were long, but they fell behind her, for she was walking toward the light.

Her journey to this point had been her redemption. After reclaiming her life, she had found her calling as a community healthcare worker. There was a profound joy in serving the very streets that had once witnessed her struggle. Holding the hand of an elderly patient, teaching a young mother about nutrition, sitting with those who felt invisible, this work didn't feel like a job; it felt like a privilege. It was her way of stitching her own repaired pieces back into the fabric of her community.

Then came a new thread, an opportunity to move into school health where she quickly discovered a new world within the school gates. She saw herself in the anxious teens, recognized the look of someone trying to find their way. Her past, once a source of shame, became her greatest asset. She could speak with an authenticity that textbooks could never teach, offering not just bandages and screenings, but empathy and understanding. She was no longer just a health worker; she was a trusted confidante, a quiet pillar of support.

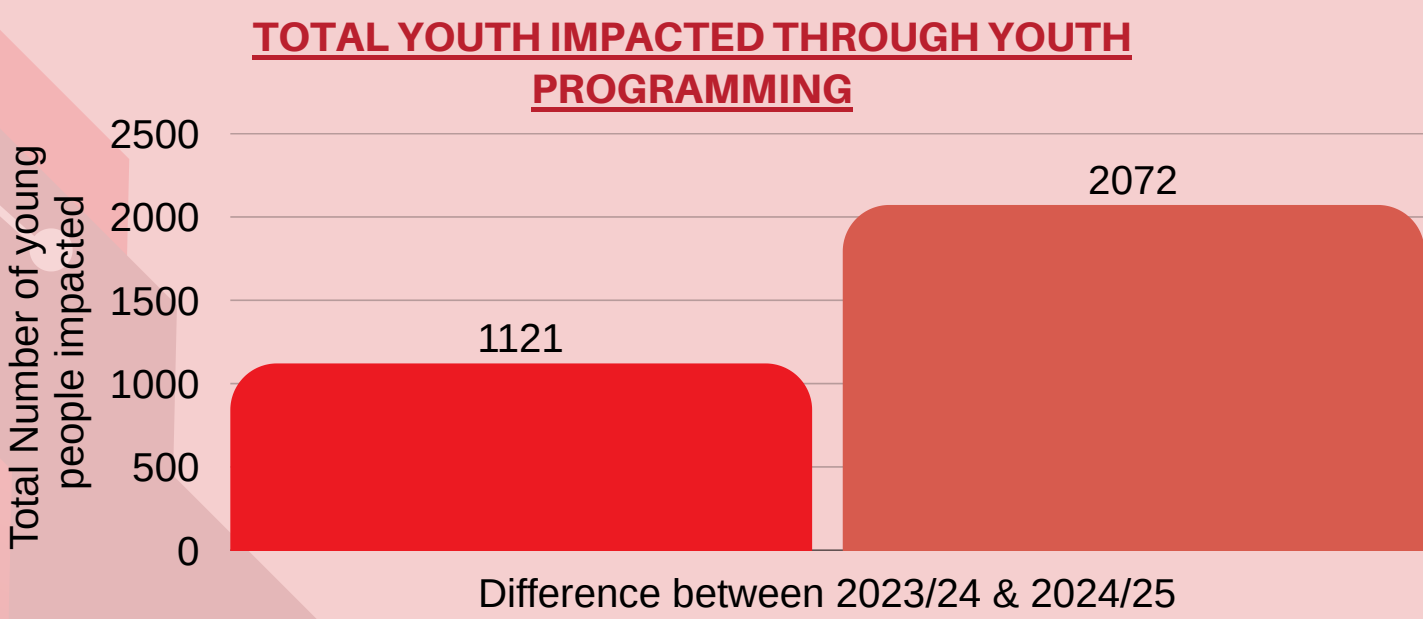
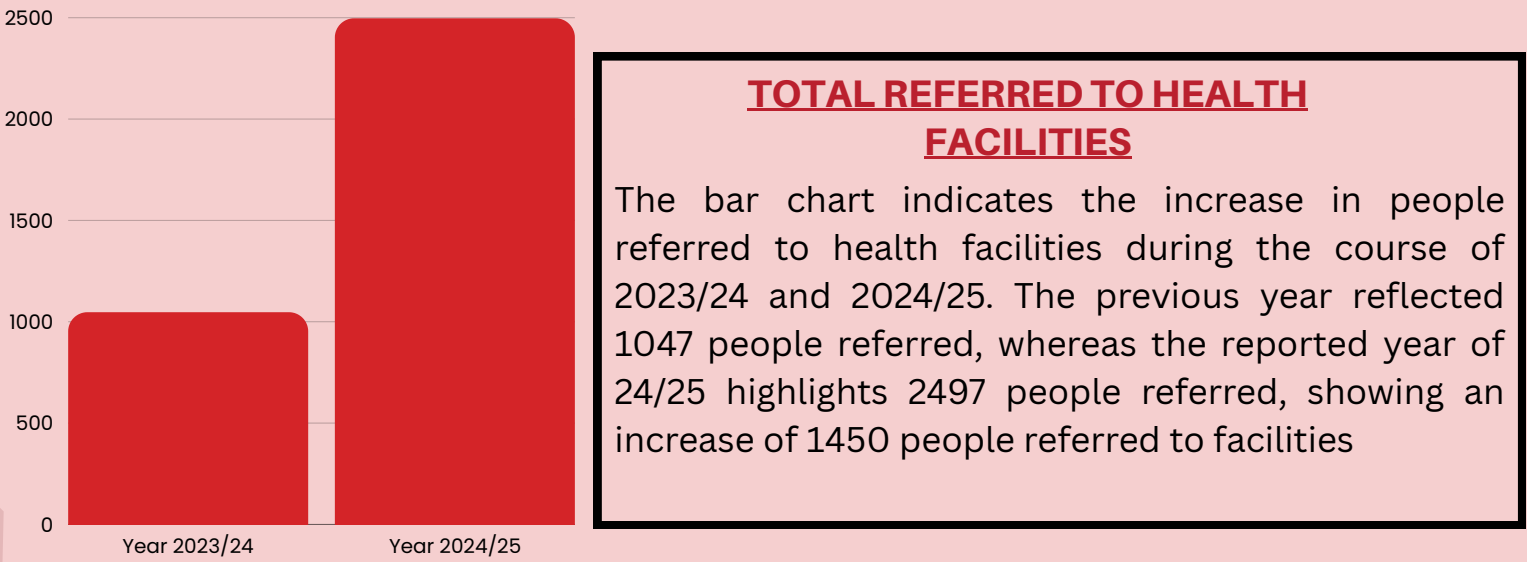
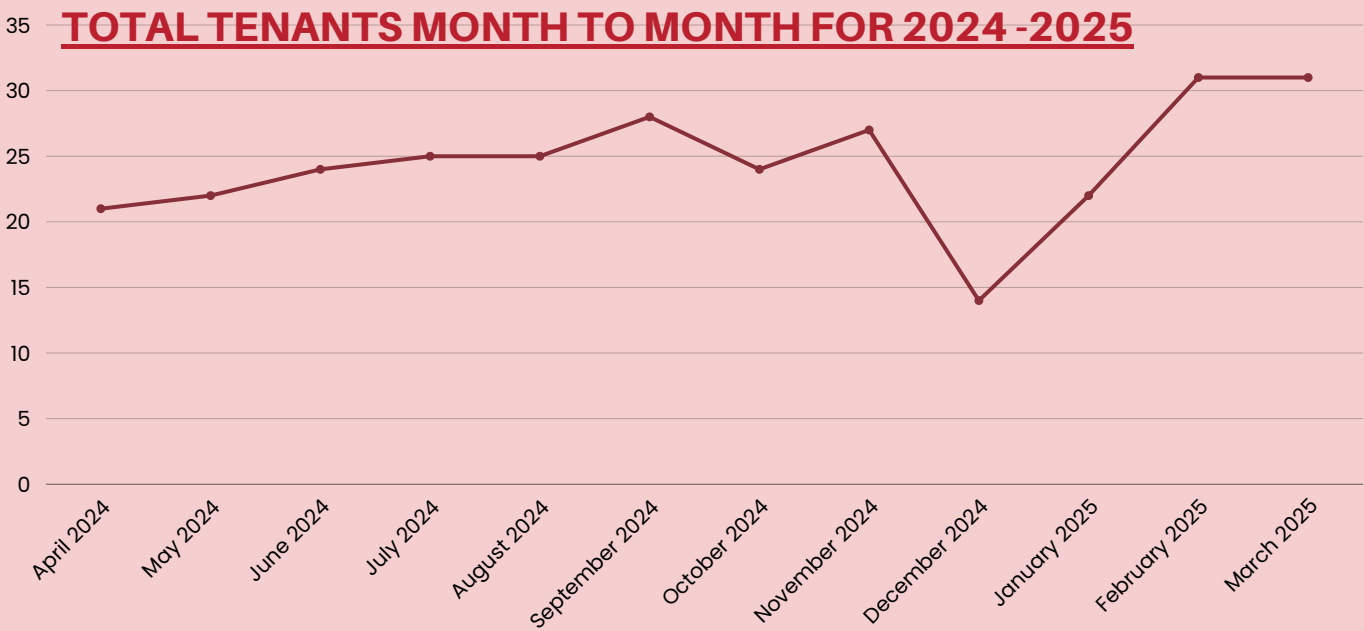
It was this very work that caught the attention of a partner of DOH, Oktivision, a pioneering organization in optical health and community outreach. They weren't there looking for someone to employ someone but to provide a service. Kelly with her unique blend of professional skill caught the eye of Oktivision. They saw in Kelly-Anne a resilience forged in fire, a compassion born of experience, and a passion for preventative care that aligned perfectly with their mission.

Soon they offered Kelly-Anne an opportunity to join their team. The offer to join Oktivision wasn't just a career change; it was a validation of every difficult step she had taken. It was a door she never dreamed of knocking on, swinging wide open.

Today, Kelly-Anne's world is brighter in every sense of the word. With Oktivision, she combines her love for community health with cutting-edge technology, helping to bring the gift of clear vision to those who need it most. The experience has changed everything. It has expanded her horizons, challenged her professionally, and given her a platform to make an even greater impact.

But the greatest change is internal. That first day at the YMCA was about finding a job. The journey that followed was about discovering a purpose. Kelly-Anne Meyer, once lost, is now a navigator. She is living proof that our past does not define our future; it prepares us for it. And her future, like the world through a newly cleaned lens, is now brilliantly, beautifully clear.

# YEAR - TO YEAR PROGRESS



# CASEY'S JOURNEY: GROWING THROUGH SERVICE AND INNOVATION

Casey Petersen is a young, aspiring teacher whose passion for youth empowerment and social impact has been steadily growing since she first walked through the doors of YMCA Athlone. Her journey began with the Youth Hangout Program, where she found a safe space to connect, learn, and grow with her peers. It was here that she was introduced to the Social Advocacy Group in 2020, a turning point that would set her on a path of meaningful leadership and service.

Since then, Casey has immersed herself in advocacy work, contributing to seven different campaigns organized by YMCA Athlone. These campaigns tackled critical issues affecting young people, from the challenges of youth unemployment to the celebration and recognition of young voices during Youth Day. In each campaign, Casey has gravitated toward supportive but vital roles such as campaign building, media engagement, and volunteer recruitment, proving that leadership is not only about being at the forefront, but also about ensuring that the work behind the scenes is strong and impactful.

One of her most significant achievements came through her involvement in the Youth-Led Solutions (YLS) Project, part of the YMCA's Vision 2030 Sustainable Planet Pillar. Casey was not just a participant—she was fully embedded in the project from its initiation to its completion. This speaks volumes about her reliability, accountability, and dedication as a young leader.



Her contributions were diverse and impactful. Casey took responsibility for data collection, ensuring that the project was built on evidence and accurate insights. She also applied her creativity by designing illustrations for the YLS application, helping to make the project both accessible and engaging. Further, she coordinated the YLS application testing event in May 2025, playing a central role in bringing young people together to test and refine the tool.

Through this process, Casey has demonstrated not only her technical and organizational skills but also her ability to grow personally and professionally. She has shown resilience, commitment, and innovation—qualities that reflect her potential as both a future educator and a youth leader.

Today, Casey is recognized as an outstanding volunteer within the YMCA movement, someone who continues to inspire her peers and the broader community. Her journey shows how opportunities for engagement, advocacy, and leadership within the YMCA can help young people unlock their potential and become active agents of change.

# YMCA ATHLONE: A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

When I first arrived at YMCA Athlone as a student, I carried with me both excitement and uncertainty. I wasn't sure what the journey ahead would hold, but I knew I was stepping into a new chapter of my life. At first, YMCA Athlone was simply a place where I could focus on my studies, a room to call my own in the midst of transition. But very quickly, it became so much more than that.

Within those walls, I found a community that welcomed me, encouraged me, and made me feel like I truly belonged. It was in the everyday moments, conversations over meals, quiet evenings filled with laughter, and the support of people who understood my challenges, that I began to see YMCA Athlone as more than accommodation. It became a home away from home, a space where I could grow not just academically, but also personally.

Now, years later, I return not as a student but as a working professional. Walking through the familiar doors, I am reminded of where my journey began. The challenges I faced, the lessons I learned, and the milestones I reached are all woven into the memory of this place.

I can see how far I have come, and I know that YMCA Athlone has been an important part of that growth.



What makes YMCA Athlone so special is that it is not defined by its walls or rooms, but by the sense of community and belonging it creates. It has been a constant reminder that no one truly succeeds alone, we grow when we are surrounded by people who believe in us, support us, and celebrate our progress.

YMCA Athlone will always hold a special place in my heart. It is more than just a building; it is a part of my story, carrying me from student life into working life. And as I step forward into new chapters, I know that its spirit of community, resilience, and support will continue to inspire me.

# WALK-A- MILE IN *their* SHOES



YMCA ATHLONE IS LAUNCHING AN IMPACTFUL CAMPAIGN, AIMING TO PROVIDE DURABLE, HIGH-QUALITY SHOES FOR 237 DEDICATED COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS (CHWS) IN CAPE TOWN.

## CAMPAIGNING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

YMCA ATHLONE ORIGINAL STORY

# THE STORY OF OUR CHWS



# SHORT STORY



Our CHWs starts their day before the sun rises in Athlone, lacing up a pair of worn sneakers that have seen better days. As dedicated Community Healthcare Workers, they do not have the luxury of staying in one place. Their patients are scattered across the community, many of them in areas where public transport is unreliable or nonexistent. So, CHWs walks—sometimes up to 10 kilometers a day—to bring essential care to people who need it most.

However, CHWs ability to serve is becoming increasingly strained. The Department of Health has imposed austerity measures, cutting funding for key resources.

What was already a shoestring operation is now even more dire. Their role is vital in bridging the gap, but the lack of support is taking a toll on the CHWs as well as the work they do.

Their sneakers, for some the only pair they own, are falling apart. With each step, the CHW feels the gravel dig into their soles. By the end of the day, their feet are swollen, and the concern is how long can they keep up this pace.

In the end the CHWs suffers through much uncomfortability just to make sure that their patients are cared for and to remain strong for them. "But sometimes I wonder—who will be strong for us?"



# WALK-A MILE IN MY SHOES



## Why This Matters

Inadequate footwear causes discomfort and injuries for CHWs; durable shoes enhance safety, comfort, and service effectiveness.

1



## Join the Movement

- Donate Online: visit <https://www.backabuddy.co.za/campaign/walk-in-my-shoes-support-our-healthcare-heroes> and place a donation.
- Spread the Word: Share our campaign on social media using the hashtag #StepUpForCHWs to raise awareness and encourage others to support.

3

2



## How You Can Help

Your donation can make a significant difference:

- R500 – Provides one pair of durable shoes for a CHW.
- R1000 – provides shoes for two CHWs.
- R5000 – provides 10 pairs of shoes



## Stay Connected

Follow our journey and see the impact of your generosity:

- Facebook: YMCA Athlone
- Instagram: @ymca\_athlone
- Facebook: YMCA Athlone

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# Heart felt Gratitude for Your Support and Dedication

This past year has been a journey filled with challenges, victories, and moments that reminded us of the incredible power of community. As we look back, our hearts are full of gratitude for every single one of you who stood with us, contributed, and believed in what we do. Your kindness, dedication, and generosity have kept us going and made a real difference in the lives we touch.

To our community members, your energy and unwavering belief in our mission keep us striving to do more and be better. Every time you show up, share your stories, and participate, you remind us why we do this work. You are the heart of everything we do, and without you, none of this would be possible. Our generous donors kindness has turned ideas into reality. Your support, whether big or small, has helped us reach more people, provide essential resources, and create opportunities for those who need them most. You are not just giving financially; you are investing in hope, growth, and a brighter future for so many.

To our partners—you have shown us the power of collaboration. By working together, sharing knowledge, and combining resources, we've broken barriers and built bridges toward a stronger, more inclusive community. Your contributions don't just add value; they amplify our impact in ways we could never achieve alone. Now to our staff and volunteers—you are the backbone of this organization. Your dedication, passion, and relentless hard work bring our mission to life. Whether you're on the front lines or behind the scenes, your efforts ensure that every person we serve receives the care, support, and dignity they deserve. You inspire us every single day.



Looking back at all we have accomplished together, we see a story of resilience, unity, and purpose. We've empowered young people, advocated for justice, strengthened healthcare initiatives, and deepened community connections. But our work is far from over. The road ahead requires even more commitment, creativity, and collaboration.

So, let's keep going. Let's continue showing up for one another, pushing boundaries, and making an even greater impact. Whether you choose to volunteer, donate, or spread the word, your role in this journey is vital. Let's not just celebrate what we've done—let's dream bigger about what we can do next, together.

Now is the time to act. Now is the time to strengthen our impact. Now is the time to stand together and create lasting change.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. Your support fuels our mission, and because of you, we move forward with hope and determination.

With deep appreciation,

# AMPLIFYING IMPACT THROUGH COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

No organization is an Island on their own, and therefore we take the opportunity to acknowledge both continued and new established partnerships. Whether it be through funding or sharing of resources, the following highlighted organizations have helped strengthen our reach, as well as our impact.



Department of Health: Their partnership has been instrumental in connecting underserved communities to essential healthcare services, bridging the gap for those who have faced barriers in accessing care.



EDU Africa – A organization focused on intercultural experience, as well as bridging international education with local organizations. This organization has brought students to the organization, which learnt from us and also assisted progression as a organization.



Girl Effect

Girl Effect – Although a new partner which has recently joined us. This organization has aided our organization in furthering empowerment and health knowledge to young people.



Constitutionally the YMCA Athlone has been registered with The Department of Social Development 010-298 NPO and is also registered with SARS as a PBO 930051686.

Address to contact us (and The Board of Management) is PO Box184, Athlone 7760. The Management of YMCA ATHLONE rests in the stable and effective management capabilities rendered by the following individuals. Their proven track record of reliability and dependability gives confidence in tackling the many varied tasks and challenges facing us and the services we render.



## Reach out to us



+27 21 637 5150



[www.facebook.com/Yathlone](https://www.facebook.com/Yathlone)



[www.ymcaathlone.org](https://www.ymcaathlone.org)



12 Springbok R, Kewtown, Athlone 7764



<https://www.instagram.com/ymcaathlone/>

The Board of Management are:

Chairman: Mrs. Tania Davids

Members: Mr. Ryan Benjamin  
Mr. Edson Klassen  
Mr. Ashley Meyer  
Mrs. Blanche Pitt  
Mr. Matthew Smith

