



FEEDING SCHEME

Making sure our local little ones haven't been going hungry in lockdown ...
p. 03

CLOUDS UK

Meet the wonderful fundraising team at Clouds of Hope UK ...
p.04

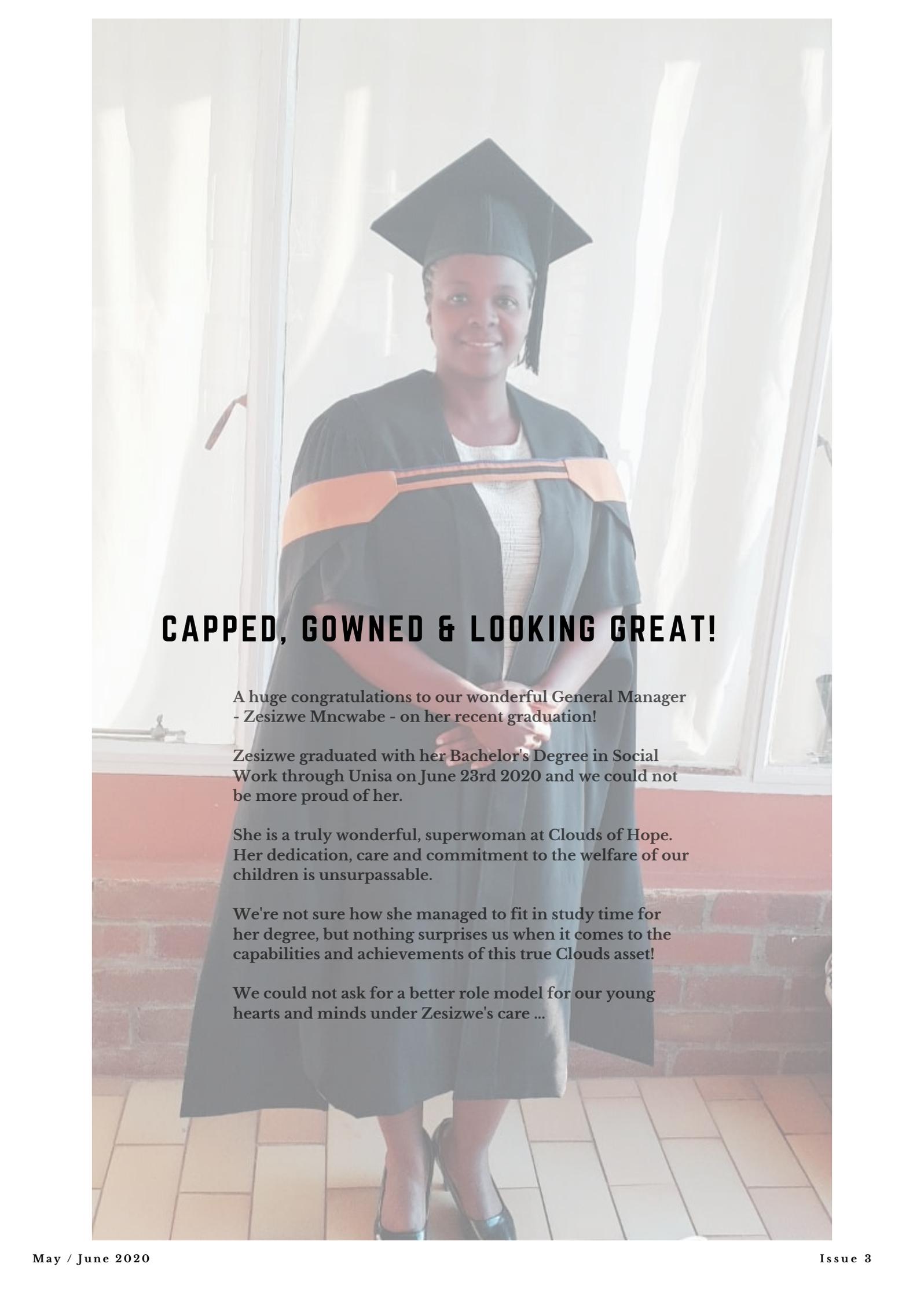
YOUTH DAY

Celebrating this important SA public holiday in Clouds style ...
p.05

EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION ...

While we have some incredibly generous educational sponsors and thank them wholeheartedly, we are still looking at a R300k shortfall in 2021 (£14k / \$17.5k / €15.5k) to meet the fee demands for all our children moving up to Faithway College. Can you help? Can you put us in touch with an organization or trust that provides educational funding? We really want to ensure our children have the absolute best chance of a solid schooling until at least matric level and would very much appreciate any assistance. Please see page 8 for donation and contact details ...



A woman in a graduation cap and gown stands in front of a window with white curtains. She is smiling and has her hands clasped in front of her. The gown is dark blue with orange and black stripes on the shoulders. The background shows a window with white curtains and a brick wall below it.

CAPPED, GOWNED & LOOKING GREAT!

A huge congratulations to our wonderful General Manager - Zesizwe Mncwabe - on her recent graduation!

Zesizwe graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work through Unisa on June 23rd 2020 and we could not be more proud of her.

She is a truly wonderful, superwoman at Clouds of Hope. Her dedication, care and commitment to the welfare of our children is unsurpassable.

We're not sure how she managed to fit in study time for her degree, but nothing surprises us when it comes to the capabilities and achievements of this true Clouds asset!

We could not ask for a better role model for our young hearts and minds under Zesizwe's care ...



FEEDING OUR LOCAL LITTLE ONES IN LOCKDOWN ...

The Siyanqoba feeding scheme started on 2 April 2020 in response to the closing of our local schools and their associated feeding programme.

Siyanqoba (meaning: *"we are winning"*) is a youth group in Underberg started and run by Zesizwe and France Mncwabe, both an integral part of Clouds of Hope.

Another local lady - Talente Dlamini - took over the leadership of the project and soup, mealie meal, maas, milk, cheese and other foods are delivered to her house on a daily basis.

She and her team cook the mealie meal, heat the soup and serve it out to school children, firstly out of her house and afterwards in the poorest part of the township to all that are in need.

Felicity Davies (wife of our chairman Ian and a Clouds and community stalwart) organised 43 volunteer soup makers in the area, splitting into seven groups, with each group producing 35-40 litres of nutritious soup once per week.

Many generous donations have also been made by local people into a Spar account and the soup makers can draw on this account for their ingredients if they wish to do so.

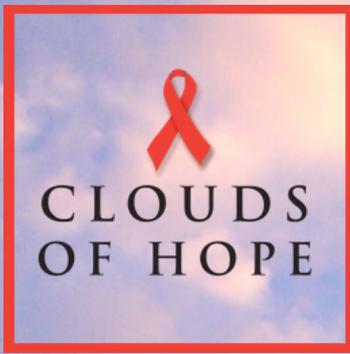
Local farmers and Underberg Dairy have generously provided mealie meal, maas and milk. Be Your Own Hero (BYOH) from Germany has also contributed heavily.

Nearly three months after starting, the scheme has now provided 9,000 meals and thanks to all the donations of food in one form or another, the cost per meal has been less than R2.

The scheme continues to feed up to 150 people per day and will carry on until all the schools are fully operational and employment levels are back to near normal.

A huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who has been involved in this scheme - community is everything!





www.justgiving.com/cloudsofhope

Clouds of Hope UK has been working tirelessly since 2006 to raise much needed educational and project-led funds for us here in SA. Everyone involved has a personal Clouds story, which we'd like to share in this issue ...

Tim Wilson - Chairman CoH UK:

Tim has a long association with the Underberg and Himeville region, formed when he was growing up in Durban, and enjoying hiking and fly-fishing expeditions to the Southern Drakensberg.

Tim and his family now live in Wimbledon, but remain annual visitors to Underberg for Christmas reunions. It was through these holidays with his young family and being introduced to the amazing work that Clouds of Hope was doing in Underberg as the HIV epidemic ravaged traditional family structures, that Tim established contact with Trish Crawley.

As their association grew, Trish asked Tim to become involved in Clouds of Hope UK, and three years ago to lead the Board of Trustees for the registered UK Charity. The registered charity - Clouds of Hope UK - strongly believes in the vital work Clouds is doing with some of the HIV affected children in Underberg, and recognises the organisation has substantial funding needs for both ongoing living expenses including education, as well as investments to improve their quality of home life.

COH UK also believes that there are numerous individuals, families and organisations in the UK, that would relish a clear channel to support sustainable charities that focus on vulnerable children. Having an integrated platform that attracts, supports and informs donors of progress at Clouds of Hope in Underberg, is one of the ways we believe that we can make a direct and impactful contribution to the less privileged children in the region.

Tom Mecrow - Board Director:

Tom first visited Clouds of Hope in 2003 as a volunteer with an educational charity called Project Trust. During his six months at Clouds he was blown away by the selflessness of staff and volunteers, and how this was reflected in the children.

Tom returned to Clouds on a number of occasions, and in 2006 registered Clouds of Hope as a charity in the UK with support from other returned volunteers. Tom chaired the UK charity for 11 years until his own family grew in size, then handed over the reigns to Tim.

Sarah Jarman - Board Director:

Sarah's introduction to Clouds of Hope was through Jenny Rogers, a colleague and friend at a children's charity in London. Jenny used to share stories from Clouds of Hope and the amazing children so, a few years later in 2006 when Sarah and her husband were travelling in South Africa, they went out of their way to visit Underberg.

Given the fantastic work going on at Clouds of Hope, Sarah committed to try to do what she could to help support the charity and so was introduced to Tom Mecrow, who had set up Clouds of Hope UK. The birth of her twin boys a couple of years later got in the way of her good intentions but, in the last seven or eight years, she has established some relationships with organisations in the UK who have made generous donations to Clouds of Hope, funding initiatives such as the polytunnel and water tanks as well as school fees and transport.





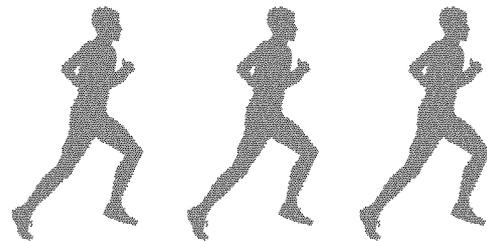
YOUTH DAY AT CLOUDS OF HOPE ...

It was a celebration with role-reversal on Youth Day, the public holiday held on June 16th 2020. Our house mothers dressed up as school kids and our kids as teachers, with a lot of laughter had by all. Let's hope these ladies weren't given detention, they definitely don't deserve it!





SAD FAREWELL TO #1 CLIVE CRAWLEY FROM CLOUDS



We have all been saddened by the news of the death of Clive Crawley - husband of our wonderful founder Mom Trish - at 89 years old.

Clive was the holder of Comrades Race Number 1 since taking on his very first Comrades Marathon in 1957, having been a member of Savages Athletic Club for just about his entire running career.

For those of you reading outside of SA, The Comrades Marathon has the proud accolade of being the the oldest and largest ultra-marathon in the world. It's approximately 89km long and runs between the cities of Durban and Pietermaritzburg here in our Kwa-Zulu Natal province. Clive was the first runner to complete 40 Comrades Marathons!

While Clive and Trish lived locally to Clouds they set up the Sani Athletic Club, taking the then fun run - Sani Stagger - to the prestigious international event it is today. The main marathon route takes in 42.2km through the magnificent scenic route of the Southern Drakenberg, running up the Sani Pass, to the Sani Top (gateway to Lesotho) and back down again, finishing at the Sani Pass Hotel.

While a difficult time for his family, what a wonderful legacy Clive has left and hopefully an inspiration for our budding athletes here at Clouds.



Clouds staff and children pay tribute to Babu Clive

with their own private memorial service.





KEEPING WARM, LOOKING COOL!

Our kids each have a fab new hoodie and trackpants to keep them cosy through our extremely cold winter here in Underberg!

Trish Crawley's recent 70th birthday donations from family and friends and Claire Gray's family contributions to Clouds of Hope UK through www.justgiving.com/cloudsofhope, managed to fund the new garbs and we think you'll agree, they are all absolutely rocking their new outfits ...



DONATION WISHLIST 2020

EXTERNAL MAINTENANCE

Several areas of our building urgently require re-painting and repairs / replacement to certain gutters and barge boards.

WOOD BURNING STOVES

Some of our cottages wood burning stoves are very old and need replacing.

WATER SUPPLY / HEAT ISSUE

We struggle with our water supply - often only having access to hot water at certain points of the day. An upgrade to our system would help hugely.

BATHROOMS

New bathrooms are needed for House Mum Rosina's cottage, our main office and General Manager Zesizwe's onsite house.

PLAYROOM ROOF

Our playroom area has a very old roof which needs replacing.

LAPTOPS

Just five laptops would help us to run better sessions for our older children on internet research, presentation and finance skills.

FOOTBALL BOOTS

A range of sizes are required for our young soccer players. Currently needing 5 pairs each of size 4 / 5 / 6 & 7.

EDUCATION

We are urgently trying to secure funding for our Faithway College pupils from 2021, ongoing. Please see Page 1 for details.

OVEN REFURBS

Many of our cottage ovens are needing TLC, we are currently obtaining a quote for repairs and maintenance so that hobs and ovens both work well.

WAYS TO DONATE ...

One-off or monthly cash donations would be so, so appreciated and can be made in several ways:

SA -

Account Name: Clouds of Hope Section 21 Company

FNB Account No.: 62034657413

Branch Code. 221025

UK -

<https://www.justgiving.com/cloudsofhope>

International: SWIFT FIRNZAJJ221025

Please use your name or organization as a reference and where possible send a copy of deposit slip / proof of payment. An email to clairegray.cloudsofhope@gmail.com will also ensure we can record, spend in your chosen area and send a thank you letter.