

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING



We are committed to making a lasting, positive impact in the rural heart of South Africa; a region of immense beauty and resilience, but also among the least resourced in the country.

In partnership with the Ubunye Foundation, established in 2002 by Kwandwe and now operating independently, we work with communities across five rural wards surrounding the reserve. What began with a group of women working at Kwandwe who wanted to create local childcare centres has grown into a dynamic collaboration reaching over 35,000 people.

Ubunye's programmes focus on four key areas:

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT | HEALTH AND WELLNESS | YOUTH EMPOWERMENT |
FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE THROUGH SAVINGS AND GREEN BUSINESS.

TOGETHER, OUR IMPACT INCLUDES:

- 45 childcare centres supporting more than 1,200 children with early education, nutritious meals, and safe sanitation
- 22 community health workers providing care across five rural clinics, reaching close to 35,000 people
- Over 46,000 women enabled to achieve financial independence through economic empowerment programmes
- 300+ employees (half of them women) working at Kwandwe and supporting more than 1,000 family members
- Housing and essential services for over 400 people living on the reserve
- Land donated for the development of an agri-village and the Mgcamabele Community Centre, a vibrant hub for education, wellness and opportunity



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HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Every guest staying at Kwandwe contributes to this work through the Community & Conservation Levy, which supports both conservation and social development. Your stay also directly supports the employment of more than 400 people who live on the reserve with their families.

If you'd like to connect more deeply, there are several ways to engage with the Kwandwe community during your stay:

VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION EXPERIENCES & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

COMMUNITY & CONSERVATION LEVY

R1500 per adult / R750 per child (up to 19 yrs)
Valid until 15 Jan 2026

For every night you spend with us, you make a difference through your Community & Conservation Levy.

MGCAMABELE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Visit our crèche and pre-school to meet the children of Kwandwe and learn about the education initiatives supported by the Ubunye Foundation. It is part of Ubunye's Education Isisekelo (isi-Xhosa building a foundation) Programme. The centre offers a glimpse of the future we envision for every child in the area.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Ask your guide if any community events are taking place during your visit – guests are warmly invited to attend and share in these moments.

VOLUNTEER

Would you like to offer your time or skills? Some of the ways guests have contributed include:

- Reading or storytelling during the morning ring at the crèche
- Assisting with afternoon homework sessions
- Offering basic computer skills training for children or staff
- Refereeing a football match
- Or sharing a particular skill – from music to photography to maths tutoring

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING

Pass on much-loved clothes or shoes to benefit and support the the Mgcamabele Community Centre.

CONTRIBUTE IN KIND

If you have space in your luggage, consider bringing along any of the following:

- Children's books, stationery, art and craft supplies
- Educational toys or DVDs
- Sports or outdoor equipment
- First aid items or reference books
- Dressing-up clothes or musical instruments

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

To support the Ubunye Foundation and its programmes, donations are gratefully received at reception, via **PayFast** or transfer:

UBUNYE FOUNDATION

First National Bank, Grahamstown

Account no: 62032346951

Branch code: 210717

Swift code: FIRZAJJ

Please let us know when making your reservation if you would like to spend time in our community volunteering or learning about the programmes. Activities are subject to availability and your specific interests.



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For any further information on the Ubunye Foundation, please contact Dr. Katy Pepper:

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