

Gumboots

The 2026 Annual Report

THE GUMBOOTS FOUNDATION (UK)

1 March 2025 – 28 February 2026 · Registered charity no. 1123418

Helping to educate and empower some of South Africa's most disadvantaged children and young people

ABOUT US

Objectives of the charity

The Gumboots Foundation's mission is to address poverty and AIDS-related issues in South Africa by improving education, nutrition, employment and wellbeing.

OUR OBJECTIVES ARE

1. To empower children through education, both formal and informal, whilst also ensuring that their basic needs are met by providing food, shelter, healthcare and recreation.
2. To strengthen and support local home grown projects with local leadership and to secure a sustainable long term solution.
3. To help strengthen local communities both through financial assistance and by fostering a mutual understanding.
4. To provide individuals with an opportunity to be directly involved financially and personally in community development projects.
5. To provide honest and informative feedback on the progress of the projects and transparency on the use of donor money.
6. To seek partnership rather than dependency, with the focus being to uplift all involved through building relationships between donors, Gumboots and beneficiaries.

STATUTORY DECLARATION

In arriving at these objectives the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.





ABOUT US

Structure, governance & management

REGISTERED ADDRESS

1 Station Avenue, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 9SZ

MANAGING TRUSTEES AT 28 FEBRUARY 2026

Angela Dyer	Secretary
Mark Escolme	
Margaret Green	
David Lightfoot	
Robert Marcuson	

Methods for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees are as outlined in the Essential Trustee document CC3 regulations from the UK Charity Commission.

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

The Gumboots Foundation (UK) is constituted as a charitable trust by way of a Trust Deed/Charity Commission Application, dated 1 March 2008.

Decision making is via Trustee Board Meetings which are held quarterly.

AREAS OF OPERATION AND MAIN ACTIVITIES

The Gumboots Foundation (UK) is a charity founded for the purpose of fundraising, promotion and decision making in the UK for the benefit of projects operating in South Africa.





ABOUT US

Structure, governance & management

continued

HOW GRANTS ARE MADE

Projects operating in South Africa apply to the Gumboots Foundation (UK) for grants. Each application is approved or rejected by the board of UK Trustees. The Board will only approve grants which fulfil the criteria and further the aims of the charity as set out in our objectives.

Our partner organisation in South Africa, **Gumboots (SA)**, works together with the projects listed here, mainly within Alexandra Township. Township residents who are attending educational institutions elsewhere in South Africa also benefit. These projects apply for grants from Gumboots (UK) via Gumboots (SA).

OUR WIDER NETWORK

Kidlinks World is our sister organisation in the USA which also supports some of the Alexandra Township projects (including Lilystars and other initiatives in rural parts of South Africa), whilst the **Kadey Family Charitable Corporation (KFCC)** in Canada supports the Kadey House Orphanage which is based at the same site as Leratong Pre-school. KFCC has also been a generous donor to Sakhimfundo, the new home for the Sigiya Sonke Dance Group.

THE PROJECTS WE SUPPORT

- **Leratong Pre-school**
- **Sigiya Sonke Dance Group**
- **Ratang Bana Family Support Centre**
- **Phetoho Education Fund**
  including the Caitlin Fund
- **Kidlinks Small Farm Incubator (KSFI)**

ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

The trustees of the Gumboots Foundation (UK), and the directors of Gumboots South Africa and Kidlinks USA, offer their services on an entirely unpaid basis. All three organisations are assisted by a small but dedicated group of local volunteers without whose assistance operation of the projects and fundraising would not be possible.



OUR PROJECTS

Distribution of grants

£58,180

distributed to projects in South Africa this year

This year we distributed the sum of £58,180 to fund the following projects.

Leratong Pre-school Alexandra Township	**£24,399**
Sigiya Sonke Dance Group Sakhimfundo Centre	**£12,780**
Phetoho Education Fund incl. the Caitlin Fund	**£11,459**
Ratang Bana Family Support Centre	**£5,541**
KSFI – Lilystars Eastern Cape	**£4,000**



Children at Leratong Pre-school

OUR PROJECTS

Leratong Pre-school

£24,399
GRANTED

Early childhood development (ECD) is the laying of the essential foundation before formal schooling begins. Children in townships often face the biggest gap here due to limited access to quality early-learning programmes.

Gumboots has been supporting Leratong since 2003 with our contributions towards the salaries of the teachers and staff through the support of the *Brita Foundation*. We also assist in maintenance and the purchase of food and educational materials.

Under the guidance and supervision of Dimakatso Aplene, the senior teacher, Leratong continues to provide a vital nurturing and supportive environment for 67 of some of the most vulnerable children.

Leratong, unlike the government run pre-schools, provides all day care and two meals a day. This prevents young children going hungry and roaming the busy streets of Alexandra Township in the afternoons where they are exposed to many dangers.

67
vulnerable children cared for each day

2
meals a day, plus all-day care

2003
supported by Gumboots since



Afternoon rest time at Leratong

Leratong Pre-school

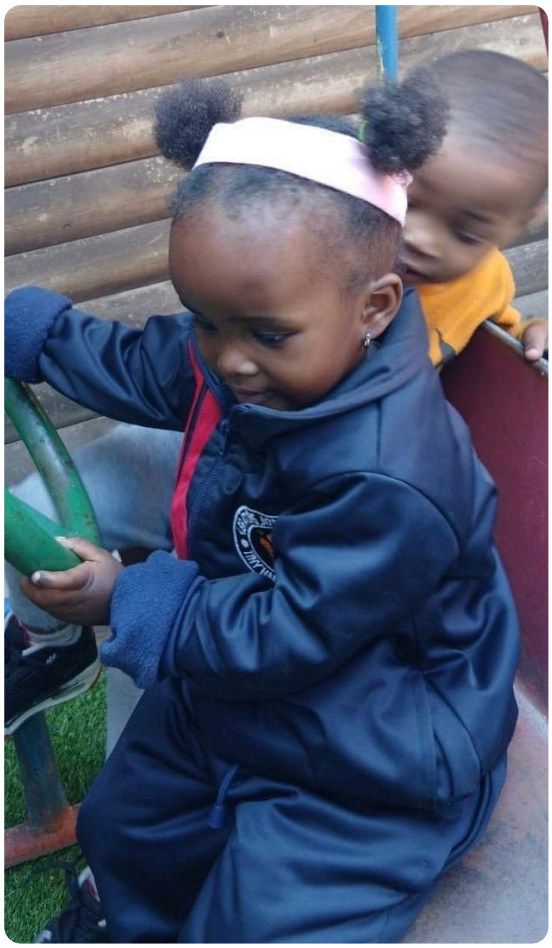
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Upkeep and maintenance at Leratong has been long overdue. Dimakatso has been very patient while we've been raising the funding to pay for the school to be painted and the outdoor play area to be waterproofed, paved and astro-turfed.

Thank you to the Moss Kadey Charitable Corp and Gumboots UK for making all this possible.

Gumboots is also making strides to connect the Leratong early childhood centre with the new ECD at Sakhimfundo through training and skills-sharing. The staff at Leratong have had a long history of teaching and caring for children from 3–6 years old and we believe that this will be invaluable in the support of the Sakhimfundo children. The building at the centre is now in the final phase of completion and we look forward to the opening in the new year.

From this year's Gumboots (UK) grant to Leratong Pre-school of **£24,399**, **£24,000** was donated by the *Brita Foundation* for salaries and Gumboots (UK) donated a further **£399** for school outings.



Little ones at play



Leratong graduation ceremony



Dimakatso Aplene in her classroom

OUR PROJECTS

Ratang Bana

Family Support Centre

£5,541
GRANTED

Located under the Eskom pylons on Alexandra Township's Eastbank, the centre continues to thrive thanks to the very capable Ingrid Moloi, who manages this enormous task with dedication, organisational skills and love.

Under her extraordinary leadership of over 10,000 orphaned and vulnerable children, she juggles the many needs with the funds available. Gumboots UK's contribution is invaluable in helping with school uniforms, transport, stipends and sundries. Children are supplied with school uniforms and equipment and also given medical and HIV counselling. Social workers aid with counselling and provide home visits and additional support. There is a playground where children can play safely after school.



The Ratang Bana centre

10,000+
orphaned and vulnerable children under Ingrid's leadership

12
children in a safe house, rescued from desperate domestic situations

Under the care of Godfrey, the chief gardener, Gumboots helps to maintain the food gardens that contribute to feeding the many children in the community. Priority is given to those from child- and granny-headed families and those with HIV. In addition Ingrid Moloi runs a safe house for up to 12 children, rescuing them from desperate domestic situations.

Ingrid runs workshops and study groups to help her many staff and volunteers – the photo below shows Mbali Molefo at one of the groups. For the past 10 years Mbali has been supported by Gumboots and the Caitlin Fund for her primary and secondary education at the United Church School, where she matriculated at the end of last year. For the last 6 months she has been working for the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) as an intern and is currently working for Ingrid while applying for other internships.

As with most of our projects, the need to support pre-school learners is a priority. One of the buildings at the centre is now used as an early childhood development (ECD) space, helping to lay the building blocks towards primary school education.



The food gardens



Mbali Molefo



Ingrid and Beauty

OUR PROJECTS

Sigiya Sonke Dance Group

£12,780
GRANTED



First established in the mid-1990s, the group's main focus has been dance and performing arts, but it also provides much more than that.

Complementary support for education is essential in the form of dance, music, poetry and lifeskills. With its permanent home in the Sakhimfundo Centre, the group continues to grow in strength and talent. For many years, they have had to operate in very insecure and rundown premises. Now at last, they have a fully resourced facility with dance floor, change-rooms, toilets and a small kitchen.

Under the leadership of husband and wife team Jack and Beauty Letsoela, the 80 young people experience a balanced afternoon that involves a hot meal, an after-school learning programme and a dance session with Jack and his team. This all contributes to their growth and development and keeps them off the Alex streets after their formal schooling is finished for the day.

80
young people every afternoon: a hot meal, learning and dance

Thanks to Gumboots' donations we have upgraded the dance area, stage and lighting. We've also enclosed the space, and improved the guests' seating area. This will enhance the conditions for teaching, training and events, making it possible to better showcase the talents of our dancers at future planned events.

The group is well known in the surrounding provinces. They continue to perform and compete at various events. They also give performances for charity functions.







The Sakhimfundo Centre

OUR PROJECTS

Sigiya Sonke Dance Group

In pictures















OUR PROJECTS

Phetoho Education Fund

£11,459
GRANTED

Established in 2012, Phetoho evolved from our existing Alexandra Township projects following the need for greater educational support, recognising that this is the single most effective way of bringing about change in South Africa.

Thanks to generous donations, Gumboots continues to fund some learners through a selection process based on ability and motivation. This funding is given at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

Over the past 13 years, we have helped educate 18 learners at the United Church School. We currently support five learners, including one from the **Caitlin Fund** paying their fees, uniforms, transport and lunchbox money.

18
learners educated at the United Church School over 13 years

5
learners currently supported



One of our challenges is to find ways to support those young matriculants in the tertiary phase of their education and ultimate employment. We believe that those benefitting will use their skills and personal resources later in life and ultimately be agents for change in their own communities.

SUCCESS STORIES

Goodgift Fanelesibonge Moyo (Fifi) is one of the very successful alumni from the Sigiya Sonke dance group. Facing extreme difficulties over seven challenging years (financial, accommodation, family issues), Fifi finally graduated in BSc Electrical Engineering from Wits University in 2023. Since then, he has been a trainee engineer with Eskom and has finally been given a full time position. We salute him for his perseverance and dedication to his studies.

Two other successful alumni have once again shown that perseverance and hard work pay off. Thatohatsi Makgotlo is working as a client liaison at a firm of accountants. Matebogo Nxumalo is continuing her teaching in the ECD arena while studying for her further teaching qualifications.



OUR PROJECTS

Kidlinks Small Farm Incubator

KSFI

£4,000

GRANTED TO **LILYSTARS**

As an offshoot of **Sakhimfundo**, the **Lilystars** project has been established adjacent to Lilyvale, a small township in the Eastern Cape.

Like many others, the township suffers from a dire need of education support, and the project was born from this need, creating an after-school learning programme and an ECD. At present **at least 50 children are accommodated** in a small house (see below) but will soon move to a purpose-built school on the KSFI premises (Kidlinks Small Farm Incubator). This is all thanks to the funding from the Moss Kadey Charitable Corp and Gumboots UK.

Some of the children attend the after-school learning programme from surrounding villages. **Gumboots UK is paying for transport and food for the children.**



Vatiswa Mazolwana and one of the children. She is the main organiser of the school and provides the food on a daily basis

50+

children are accommodated in the small house that serves as the school



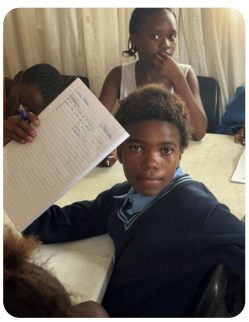
The current tiny house that accommodates the after-school learning programme

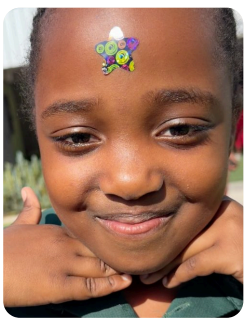


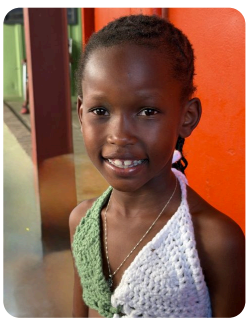
The site of the new premises











OUR PROJECTS

The Caitlin Fund

Part of the Phetoho Education Fund

The Caitlin Fund has been supporting young women and girls through primary and higher education for over 15 years. The fund now continues to support a girl in Alexandra Township to attend the United Church School (UCS).

Many of the young women who have benefitted from the fund are now employed full-time and we are proud to report success in the education, arts and medical fields.



UCS learner, Thandi Molefo, with her distinction certificates for English & Social Science – **it is thanks to the support of the Caitlin Fund that Thandi is able to attend UCS.**

FORMER RECIPIENTS OF THE CAITLIN FUND







FINANCE

Accounts 2025/26

Statement of Financial Activities

The Gumboots Foundation UK · for the year ended 28 February 2026

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS £	RESTRICTED FUNDS £	TOTAL FUNDS £ 2026	LAST YEAR £ 2025
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Unrestricted corporate donations	–		–	2,612
Unrestricted personal donations	7,325		7,325	11,182
Restricted donations – Caitlin		1,120	1,120	240
Restricted corporate donations – Leratong		24,000	24,000	24,000
Restricted donations – Nasma		200	200	–
HMRC – Gift Aid	3,355		3,355	6,622
	10,680	**25,320**	**36,000**	**44,656**
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Unrestricted fundraising events	19,779		19,779	23,299
	19,779	**0**	**19,779**	**23,299**
Total incoming resources	**30,459**	**25,320**	**55,779**	**67,955**
Expenditure				
Event expenses	(934)		(934)	(843)
Governance costs	(615)		(615)	(278)
Total expenditure	**(1,549)**	**0**	**(1,549)**	**(1,121)**
Net amount available for distribution	**28,910**	**25,320**	**54,230**	**66,834**
Grants distributed	(33,781)	(24,399)	(58,180)	(51,140)
Net cash movement	**(4,871)**	**921**	**(3,950)**	**15,694**
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	36,417	269	36,686	20,992
Total funds carried forward	**31,546**	**1,190**	**32,736**	**36,686**

Balance Sheet

The Gumboots Foundation UK · as at 28 February 2026

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS £	RESTRICTED FUNDS £	TOTAL FUNDS £ 28/02/2026	LAST YEAR £ 28/02/2025
Current assets				
Other debtors	2,506	–	2,506	6,224
Cash at bank and in hand	29,041	1,190	30,231	30,462
Total current assets	**31,547**	**1,190**	**32,737**	**36,686**
Net assets	**31,547**	**1,190**	**32,737**	**36,686**
Funds of the charity				
Unrestricted funds			31,547	36,417
Restricted income funds			1,190	269
Total charity funds			**32,737**	**36,686**

FINANCE

Financial report 2025/26

INCOME

£57,779

compared to £67,995 the previous year

GRANTS TO SOUTH AFRICA

£51,180

compared to £51,140 the previous year

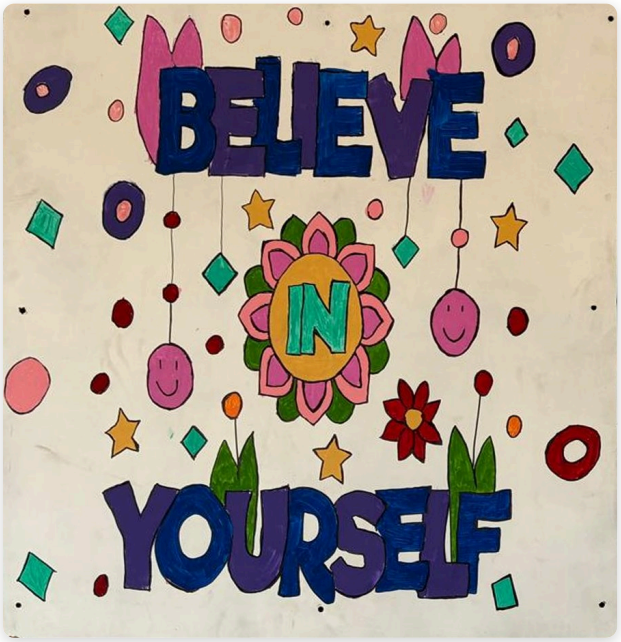
CASH AT YEAR END

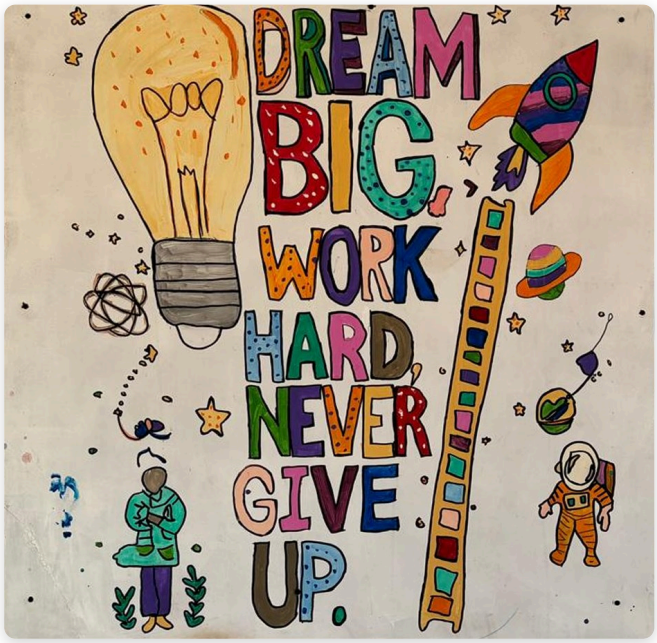
£32,736

compared to £36,686 the previous year

Unrestricted corporate donations	£0
Fundraising events, including the Christmas Craft Market & donations to The Big Give	£19,779
Personal unrestricted donations	£7,325
Gift Aid on personal donations	£3,355
Donations to the Caitlin Fund, including Gift Aid	£1,120
Event expenses and administration costs	£1,549







Declaration 2025/26

The Trustees declare that they have approved this report.

SIGNED BY

David Lightfoot (Treasurer)

Dated: 1 December 2026



Together we will create a better future for some of South Africa's poorest children