

## Newsletter 2023 / 1

This is the first newsletter from Beacon, providing updates on our current projects! Enjoy reading!

Our website is finally online!!! Beaconnected and visit our website designed by Süsskind - Grafik Design in Chur.

The Parkwood project is currently on hold. The property where the Parkwood Community Upliftment Organization (PCU) conducts its afterschool program belongs to the City of Cape Town and is intended solely for social projects. With a new mayor in Cape Town, the contracts need to be renegotiated, which may take several months. Therefore, we cannot proceed with the project at the moment until the terms of use are clarified. We are committed to maintaining our relationship with PCU and will work on and carry out smaller projects. There are also questions regarding the division of roles between PCU and Beacon. From our perspective, PCU should focus on planning and implementation. Therefore, Beacon is striving to reach an agreement to collaboratively implement the project with PCU, so that a safe space for children and youth can be created as soon as possible. For more information about PCU and its projects, please visit our website.

In December 2022, we visited a non-profit organization (NPO) called Sakhisizwe in Hout Bay, which is about half an hour away from Cape Town. They have launched a music project that we found very inspiring. In March 2023, we met again, discussed the issues, and explored possible solutions. More information about the Sakhisizwe NPO can also be found on our website.

### **The Sakhisizwe Music Project**

Sakhisizwe already operates a music studio where children and youth go twice a week to record music. It is located in a small room at the adjacent Silikamva High School in Hout Bay. The school used to have fixed opening hours that didn't fit well with the schedules of many Sakhisizwe's children and youth, as they had longer school hours. We sat down with the school principal and reached an agreement that the music room can now be used four times a week. Since Sakhisizwe has limited financial resources, Beacon wants to expand the music project in collaboration with Sakhisizwe. In addition to the music studio, we will offer marimba, guitar, drum, and keyboard lessons. We will also hire two music teachers who can teach guitar and marimba, and they will receive appropriate compensation for their teaching. One or two concerts are planned each year so that the children and youth can showcase what they have practiced and learned. Making music can be a creative distraction from everyday life for these young individuals, but it also requires discipline and perseverance.

### **Unexpected Challenges**

Sakhisizwe rented a property from another non-profit organization (NPO), but unfortunately, the lease agreement was not renewed. As a result, they have to vacate the place by early November. This will bring about several changes. We are working together to find an interim solution to maintain the afterschool program, sports activities, and music-making. A smooth transition is crucial so that we can continue offering this structure to the children and youth in their daily lives. Even though everything is not clearly regulated at the moment, we agree that Beacon will participate in the new beginning!