

Jesse Laitinen, Khulisa Strategic Partnerships Manager



One way to fight the inevitable end of year fatigue is to shift focus backwards and look at what we've accomplished. In this issue you can read about an extraordinary collaboration between housed and unhoused residents in Vredehoek, where both parties have rolled up their sleeves for improvements in the area. Whilst South Africa waits for a national policy on homelessness to eventually be drafted, we may well be the change we want to see.

Jesse

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Chantal's magic touch at DPV Outreach

Everyone is effusive with praise when it comes to Streetscapes client Chantal Sampson's involvement in DPV Outreach. . A collaboration between Streetscapes and the Devil's Peak Vredehoek community, DPV Outreach was conceptualised to tackle the growing homeless population in these leafy inner-city suburbs, aiming to proactively address the issues faced by unhomed individuals in the area. The key to unlocking the programme's potential was in recruiting someone who has had the lived experience of homelessness to engage with those currently in the same situation. 'Chantal was like our magic wand,' says Jo-Anne Friedlander of DPV Outreach, crediting Chantal's experience of living in the very parks where she works today as a veritable asset in this project. 'She took to it like a duck to water. And her first day was hell because she ended up helping a person who's been on the street forever, who we needed to get into hospital and Chantal was on the street until six or seven o'clock in the evening to help - it was unbelievable.'



Also to come onto the initiative is Matthew Rightford, a psychology student who lived at the time in the Devil's Peak Vredehoek community. Matthew wanted to get involved but also saw the risks of doing that as an outsider looking into the experience. 'What Streetscapes is really good at is going out to interview a vulnerable population like this, and knowing that the best people to be able to do that are people who have gone through the rehabilitation programme themselves as opposed to someone like me who hasn't lived on the streets before.' Rather Matthew worked on the technical aspects of a survey that Chantal and colleague Rudi have taken out to the neighbourhood parks, to better understand the immediate needs of the community, the results of which are set to be available this month.

For Chantal, the programme hasn't just been an opportunity to do meaningful work in the community but develop her own skillset and the DPV community are helping her do it, having raised funds to help her study social auxiliary work in the new year. 'I would never change my experience of being homeless, because that's *my* experience, that's my testimony, that's my story, and I can advocate for the next homeless person. If they see me and if I interact with them, they open up a bit more,' she says.

www.dpvoutreach.org.za

Thembi's November gardening tips



We chatted to Kuilsriver manager Thembi Macata on what's good to grow now....

Growing this season in our gardens and ready to harvest is spinach, leeks, spring onion, kale, sweet basil, Italian parsley, sweet rocket, thyme, mint, bay leaf, baby marrow.

Early next year, you can get your hands on chillies, green pepper, tomatoes, brinjal and garlic.

The Bee Project



This month we're celebrating our bee project, having spent in-depth research to source the nest raw honey. In an effort to sell from our own sites, we've acquired two of our own hives from a beekeeper in Tokai, which are now situated on the Kuilsriver farm.

We have also bought a couple of catch boxes to see if we can catch swarms so we can increase our apiary. We plan to do some workshops on bee keeping to teach Streetscapes clients the skill of keeping bees and creating bee products to sell. If all goes well early next year we will be selling our own honey from the farm.