



Dear Friends of Hazendal...

Looking back to the unforgettable 'Night of Wonders' we shared at Hazendal estate on 8 November 2019, who could have imagined how the world would change in just a few short months.

But if the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it's just how vital the concept of *ubuntu* is in these times of crisis. How leaning on one another makes us stronger together.

And the funds raised at the 'Night of Wonders' have become more needed than ever, as our winelands communities face the greatest economic and social challenge for generations.

But amid all the bad news and uncertainty that surrounds us, we are thrilled to update you on how youth education in the Bottelary Hills has benefitted from the funds so generously contributed – through ticket sales, donations and the charity auction – by everyone who attended our gala event.

First, we were privileged to support the charitable organisations that provided such marvellous entertainment during the evening: the performance fees paid to them are a crucial mechanism for these charities to fund and expand their youth upliftment programmes.

In addition, the South African Circus Arts Academy and The Silk Workshop received a further financial donation to assist them in purchasing a much-needed music system, and sewing machines for maintaining all those glittering costumes! The wonderful dancers of the Thswane Cultural Group also received a donation towards both costumes and instruments, to support their energetic rhythms far into the future.

But the focus of our fundraising efforts was to support our partnership with the Anna Foundation, expanding the reach of our Wonderdal edutainment facility with the rollout of the innovative WonderBox initiative.

Over the course of this year we have, thanks to your support, been able to supply 30 WonderBoxes – each valued at approximately R10 000 – to more than 17 aftercare centres across the winelands. Collectively these centres support and nurture more than 700 disadvantaged children from the surrounding winelands communities.

A further five WonderBoxes – each filled with educational toys, games and learning resources – were donated to after-care centres in nearby farm villages.

To ensure these wonderful resources have maximum impact in the community we have also hosted a training session at Wonderdal for 15 facilitators from the Anna Foundation, introducing the educational themes of



Wonderdal contained within each WonderBox. In training these passionate facilitators, they will be able to create a fun, interactive and educational experience for the children in their care.

From the beginning our goal was to host all 700 children cared for by the Anna Foundation at Wonderdal; for them to enjoy the immersive edutainment experience first-hand. While lockdown has put this on the backburner for now, once restrictions are lifted – and we can safely host these children at Wonderdal – funds raised at the gala event will be used to provide transport and catering, so that these children may experience the magic of Wonderdal for themselves.

Covid-19 has taught us all to be nimble, resourceful and innovative. Here at Hazendal we've been doing just that, working hard to ensure every cent raised on the 'Night of Wonders' makes a deep and lasting impact on disadvantaged youth in the winelands. And we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you once again for your generosity and ongoing support as we work together to improve the lives of children in the broader winelands community.

It was Sir Winston Churchill who said, "*Never let a good crisis go to waste,*" and we have certainly taken his words to heart during the lockdown. As we have been unable to welcome visitors during this time, we have used the opportunity to upgrade, expand and refine a number of our offerings.

When we reopen it will be with a refreshed culinary experience, adding much-needed capacity to our ever-popular Russian Tea Ceremony and a delicious new selection of wine-and-food pairing experiences in our underground Wine Library. And while you enjoy the gastronomic adventures, young ones can take part in an exciting new program of hands-on educational workshops being offered at Wonderdal.

We are also making excellent progress on the renovation of the historic Homestead, transforming this heritage building into an elegant five-bedroom guesthouse and museum. At the same time, the finishing touches are being added to the long-awaited new home of our Classic Car Collection, showcasing wonderful wheels from the private garage of Hazendal's owner, Dr Mark Voloshin.

But perhaps the most exciting development of all is the golf course being bedded down in the north of the farm. Due to open in early-2021, this 18-hole par-3 'mashie' course will also feature a full-size driving range with undercover bays, practice facilities and a world-class golf academy.

We are hopeful that we will soon be able to throw open the gates to Hazendal, and we look forward to sharing our unique winelands hospitality with you once again.

With best wishes from all of us at Hazendal...

