

# CEO REPORT - Stephen van der Merwe

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever! Amen" Ephesians 3: 20 - 21

It is with humble and grateful hearts that we reflect on the Father's overwhelming goodness and kindness to The Domino Foundation and her families in 2023. It was a watershed year in so many respects. The foundation was gifted with a new home which underwent complete renovation, our aging vehicle fleet was replaced, the Amaoti community kitchen was relocated to Phoenix and was completely refurbished, ways of working were reset and clear accountabilities at management and operational levels established. Our people centric approach yielded a newfound energy in our staff, increased engagement with our ever generous and willing donors, and several new evangelical partners within the Durban community, and contented interaction with our long-term supporters, families and friends.

May 2024 exceed our expectations as we look forward with excitement to the celebration of our 20th anniversary in 2025. Thank you! We serve and praise An Almighty God and Father!

## CFO REFLECTION - Gavin Simpkins

### Financial Snapshot:

- ↑ Total reserves increased by 43% to R14,9 million at the end of Dec 2023.
- ↑ Total assets increased by 26% vs 2023 to R16.7 million.
- ↑ Cash equivalents increased by 4% to R7,7 million.
- ↑ Property, plant and equipment increased by R4,6 million to R8,5 million.

Audited Annual Financial Statements available on request. Kindly email: [accounts@domino.org.za](mailto:accounts@domino.org.za)

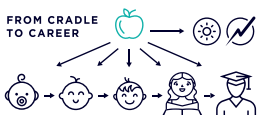
### Economic efforts attributed to:

**Operational Stewardship:** The income generation team found a healthy rhythm of consistent focus, proactive planning and engagement, and well done to all the operations teams for taking financial responsibility for their programs and keeping a diligent eye on both their income and expenses.

**Investment Growth:** The addition of key assets, thanks to both inspired support from our partners and astute investment by the executive leadership.

**Wise Governance:** The finance teams upheld standards of financial transparency and accountability throughout the year, providing all our stakeholders with clear views into our project finances and decision-making processes.

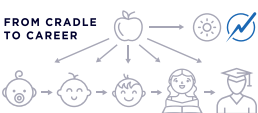
## RELIEF



### NUTRITION

As the years roll by, it's become clearer that the fight for improved community nutrition is exponentially greater in owner driven partnerships. Each month, through the three Domino community kitchens three tonnes of high protein porridge, 13,416 peanut butter sandwiches, 6 pallets of fresh vegetables, groceries and hygiene products, as well as a variety of donated relief aid, enabled our Nutrition Programme to provide food to 24 partnering Primary and Secondary schools, 66 ECD centres, churches and other organisations to nourish underserved communities across KZN.

It was a year of strategic expansion for the Nutrition team who became inextricably linked with the Education Program to strengthen measurement of stunting, wasting and obesity (SWO) rates among school-aged children. 60 of the aforementioned ECD's were visited bi-monthly by the Education Team Field Workers, who assisted with improved frameworks for active learning, accountability, reporting, monitoring and evaluation. According to the Global Nutrition (GN) Report, South Africa is starting to make modest progress in the effort to reach GN targets. Amazing, yes, but incentive to push harder, in a depressed economic climate, where having children fed at school is highly attractive and sought after by parents as it relieves the huge domestic food cost burden on their household. It is here that we can continue to make a more significant impact!



### DISASTER RESPONSE

DRU was year of consolidation with methodical attention on building resilient communities, who are able to fend for themselves in the wake of a disaster's immediate aftermath.

This outcome was as a result of relationship building amongst government departments, faith-based organisations and with the use of technology tools and digital communication platforms to create online access systems to map services and resources to streamline the complexities of the DRU terrain.

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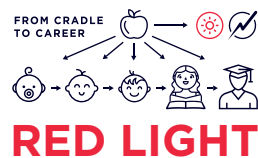
## JUSTICE

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The Babies Home saw a significant decline in re-unifications or adoptions, which resulted in longer term care of vulnerable toddlers and young children. As a result, the need for regular professional child therapy was identified in order to minimise the impact of re-bonding trauma of children who have stayed in the home past the age of 2 years old. The Justice Team put pressure on local authorities to accelerate permanent family placements/adoptions of these older children. On the development side, this meant these children could attend a local pre-school which was excellent for their early childhood education, socialisation, fun and friendships. On the operational front, the home received a brand-new fuel-efficient vehicle for safe travel and logistics, and the house received lots of community love and DIY maintenance, however a new roof renovation is needed in 2024 for the health and safety of all babies, children and caregivers.

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The programme addresses the lack of comprehensive aftercare services for GBV survivors of human-trafficking found in the sex trade. It continued to establish 'Othandweni', a Safehouse that provides for their long and short-term basic needs, addiction recovery and psychosocial support. The staff received regular de-briefing sessions and tools of support from various therapy professionals to cope, lead and better serve the beneficiaries. Team wellness continued to be a priority to develop resilience and skills, whilst working with beneficiaries who are dealing with severe trauma and various addictions. Red Light normalises community interactions through beneficiaries volunteering and serving in their community. Micro financial support, stewardship, mentoring and income generating skills development were re-introduced through the Create Freedom Initiative. Financial constraints necessitated the temporary closing of the Reach-out and Out-patient Programmes, which resulted in collective rightsizing efforts and adjustments, with a goal for 2024, to secure local and global funding to address the core roots of injustice and GBV.

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## EMPOWERMENT

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A child's first five years are fundamental for their cognitive learning, health and behaviour, and to this end the Domino ECD Programme vigorously promotes its twin core values:

1. to support the development of preschools as sustainable small businesses, in order to
2. build capacity into education spaces which provide valuable early-learning experiences to their learners in pre-school.

In 2023, a symbiotic relationship with the GROW ECD NPO began. This innovative, digital model equips existing ECD owners with the technology tools to manage their own finances, savings, marketing, fundraising, lesson themes and assessments, as well as policy and procedure forms. The result saw a merger of the Domino ECD and Nutrition Programmes for greater collective impact from 16 to 60 ECD's who could provide active learning with nutritious meals to their beneficiaries.

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Challenges of over-crowded classrooms, underqualified teachers and a lack of teaching resources and post-study employment opportunities are the millstones limiting the majority of the South African youth. This programme empowers Grade 4, 5 and 6 learners to make wise and informed life-style choices through the 4 year Life Orientation (LO) Curriculum. The four Youth Workers delivered a termly timetable of Class Sessions, valuable One on One Sessions and extra mural sessions designed to keep children active, stimulated and engaged after school. Parent Workshops were run to strengthen Parent-Child relationships and the Leadership Day Camp was a massive success to foster stronger peer accountability and greater positive influences.

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The core purpose of this programme sought to match the 23 individuals seeking tertiary education investment and future employment to corporate business funding from Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment scorecards and Skills Development budgets. The National Student Financial Aid Scheme adds value and benefit to many students but makes the donor compliance documentation process difficult challenging to navigate. 460 Grade 9 and 11 learners attended a Career Day to learn about their personality types, showcase the wide variety of career options available, then matching their academic results to build realistic and dream vocational paths for their futures. In 2024, the intention to shift from supporting a large base of students to a trimmed down approach of 'fully' supporting one student for longer or to tertiary qualification completion and the need is to address the youth unemployment crisis - the goal is to develop relationships with skills-based places of education for entrepreneurship and enterprise development.

# HIS-STORY

The Domino Foundation is an outworking of God's master plan and our ability to share news of opportunities, impact and obstacles in the social sector takes time to listen, observe and respond. The biblical narrative rings true, we are one body working as the sum of His many parts.

The back-office services of Administration, Accounts, Marketing, Donor Relations, Research & Evaluation and Volunteer Management Teams operated with authenticity and transparency. Annual Financial Statements and BBBE Audits were completed and verified, Annual Reports vsubmitted to the Department of Social Development and Domino received its Certificate of Good Standing from SARS.

Over the past 20 years we have met many of the immediate and short-term needs of the vulnerable communities we serve through mercy, justice and empowerment. In 2024, the urgency to find new ways to amplify our voice against injustice, to stand shoulder to shoulder to fight the enemy who comes to rob, steal and destroy!

In 2024, the urgency to find new ways to amplify our voices against injustice - to stand shoulder to shoulder against an enemy who comes to rob, steal and destroy, to obey a God who can do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY AGM	THE DOMINO FOUNDATION
Property, Plant & Equipment	R8,514,854
Trade and Other Receivables	R73,348
Sanlam RSA Bonds	R494,499
Cash and Cash Equivalents	R7,656,093
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R16,738,794</b>

Funds	R14,870,403
Enterprise Development Loans	R365,600
Trade and Other Payables	R1,502,791
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R16,738,794</b>



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