



NEWSLETTER JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025

I have come to the realisation that human beings are born with an innate capacity to triumph over trauma...In so doing, we will significantly increase our ability to achieve both our individual and collective dreams

- Peter Levine

WELCOME TO SAPPIN'S NEW MEMBERS
CECD, SHINE FOR HOPE DEVELOPERS AND MIDLANDS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



CECD – CENTRE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT - <https://cecd.org.za/>



The Centre for Early Childhood Development has a vision to create a society that puts young children first, meaning that there is quality ECD services across South Africa, so that all children can grow and develop to their full potential. We firmly believe in the transformative power of ECD to reduce societal inequality and as such our mission is to provide opportunities and support to children, breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing inequality.

The Centre for Early Childhood Development (CECD) strengthens early childhood services through four key programmes. Our Integrated ECD Centre Programme provides a comprehensive approach, supporting teachers, principals and centres with training, resources, compliance, business management, infrastructure upgrades and health and safety equipment to ensure centres are sustainable and able to provide quality early learning. Our Family Outreach Programme empowers families in vulnerable communities to better care for and educate young children at home through home visits, parenting workshops, playgroups, food support and psychosocial services. Our Advocacy and Social Justice Unit amplifies ECD voices by raising awareness of children's rights and mobilising the sector around key campaigns to create an enabling environment for young children. Finally, our Research work deepens understanding of the importance, needs and rights of young children and the ECD sector, helping to shape effective interventions and inform policy.

SHINE FOR HOPE DEVELOPERS - <https://shineforhopedevelopers.org.za/>



At Shine For Hope Developers, we are dedicated to transforming education through collaboration among learners, educators, parents and communities. We believe quality education is a shared responsibility, achieved by bridging learning gaps, enhancing teaching practices and nurturing a lifelong love of learning. Our work focuses on empowering parents as active partners in their children's education, engaging communities to create safe and supportive learning environments and equipping educators with innovative strategies and tools for effective teaching. By fostering inclusivity, collaboration and accessibility, we aim to build an educational ecosystem where every child has the foundation, support and opportunity to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

MIDLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE - <https://midlandscommunitycollege.co.za/>



Midlands Community College (based in Nottingham Road, KwaZulu-Natal) is a non-profit educational centre established in 1981, committed to expanding access to quality education and skills, especially for disadvantaged communities. The College has two primary focus

areas: Maths, Science & Technology (MST) — which offers a residential upgrade programme for Grade 12 learners to improve their results in key subjects so they can qualify for tertiary education; and Early Childhood Development (ECD) — which trains and supports early learning practitioners, strengthens under-resourced ECD centres and runs caregiver and community programmes to promote quality early learning.

We look forward to learning and growing together with our new members.

INDIVIDUAL ORGANISATIONAL VISITS August 2025



Final parenting session – COAST – Delft, Cape Town

SAPPIN visited 21 member organisations across three provinces and what we found was a story of resilience, kindness and unwavering commitment to change. These visits reminded us that the heart of this network lies in its people — individuals and teams working tirelessly in communities facing immense challenges.

Across all organisations, a clear theme emerged: hope through connection. Teams are creative and courageous, building trust, offering psychosocial support and finding new ways to strengthen families despite limited resources. Many organisations are grappling with burnout and funding insecurity, yet they continue to innovate, collaborate and uphold the values of care, inclusivity and reflection.

SAPPIN's visits also revealed how members are integrating wellness practices, reflective supervision and somatic support into daily operations — acknowledging that to care for others, we must care for ourselves. From new fatherhood initiatives to leadership growth, members are living examples of how compassion and collaboration transform lives.

What struck us the most, however, were the small acts of community — shared meals, warm welcomes and genuine connection. These moments reflect the spirit of SAPPIN: a

network of changemakers committed to doing the hard, deep and necessary work of healing and growth.

DORSCH IMPACT / SAPPIN CONSORTIUM – VPICC



The Dorsch Impact SAPPIN consortium has been awarded the contract to implement Output 1 of the GIZ Violence Prevention for Peaceful and Inclusive Communities (VPICC) intervention <https://www.giz.de/de/downloads/giz2025-en-VPICC-factsheet.pdf>

The goal of VPICC will be to strengthen structural conditions for early violence prevention for the caregiving environment of 0–12-year-olds up to 2028.

The intervention is divided into 3 outputs: 1) Localised Implementation, 2) Strengthening of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and 3) Institutional Capacity Building.

SAPPIN will be providing expert guidance for implementation of Output 1 working in 3 sites, Tembisa, Gauteng, KwaMashu, KZN and Thlabane, NW to understand and assess local approaches to violence prevention, as well as developing, strengthening and testing multi-layered models through partnerships at local level.

This collaboration is in its early stages but we will keep the network informed as to next steps and what opportunities may arise for members!

BaBonise 2025: Building Stronger Futures Through Stronger Fatherhood

The BaBonise ("Show Them!") campaign is a joint initiative between the DO MORE FOUNDATION and Selati (RCL FOODS Sugar & Milling) launched in 2023 to run alongside the Selati Soccer Cup, which takes place in Nkomazi / Malelane from March to July each year. The campaign works to shift mindsets and social norms, calling on men to show up in positive ways for their children from the start of their lives.

This year, the campaign focused on the '3 P's' of playing a positive male role model to young children - being protective, playful and present. The activations at the soccer games and an eight-week programme on Nkomazi FM took underscored BaBonise's core message: that fathers and male caregivers can nurture children's development simply by showing up, engaging and playing with them, whether at a sports event or at home.

Selati Cup: More Than Just Soccer

The BaBonise campaign kicked off at the opening games in March, with the BaBonise Ambassadors (staff volunteers from RCL FOODS Sugar & Milling) putting on their signature blue and white BaBonise kit, handing out resource pamphlets (printed in siSwati and English), and explaining the campaign to fans one-on-one and over the microphone between games. Men were also encouraged to sign a giant pledge board, committing to be present and actively involved.

Their confidence and competence to talk about the messages came from training workshops with two key fatherhood advocacy partners, Sikunye and Heartlines (Fathers Matter). They built on last year's campaign, providing the latest knowledge and insights based on research and practical experiences.

One Ambassador commented that the highlight of the training workshop was being part of a campaign "providing a platform for fathers." Several Ambassadors commented that this was the first time learning about the importance of a father's active and positive involvement in the first 1000 days of a child's life.

More Play: BaBonise at the Selati Marathon

This year, as part of the BaBonise campaign, the Do More Foundation teamed up with local partner-in-play, Penreach, to host a 'Play Date' at the Selati 2-in-1 Marathon. Families from the 2km and 5km fun walks were encouraged to play, explore and learn together through each activity, having fun and learning about the importance of play in their child's physical, cognitive, and emotional growth.

The event transformed the marathon grounds into a high-energy playground for children. Inspired by Penreach's hallmark Play Day model, the space featured games like bean bag target throwing, egg and spoon race, building with Lego, as well as areas for art and reading. These activities showcased the power of play in helping fathers and role models connect with the children in their care.

BaBonise is helping build a movement in Nkomazi around early childhood support, where men feel empowered, connected and inspired. When men show up for young children with care, consistency and love, they help children thrive, they help break cycles, inspire growth and create safer, more nurturing environments for all.

TALES OF TURNING UPDATE

Tales of Turning has a [brand-new website](#), which is a hub for changemakers, supporters and partners to access resources and take action to amplify community voices and drive real-world change.

Child Online Safety

With support from the World Child Foundation, Tales of Turning is tackling online and offline violence against children in South Africa, with a focus on technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TF GBV). Through this project, Tales of Turning is using social media listening tools to better understand harmful online narratives around child safety, while also hosting digital dialogue sessions to spark reflection and awareness. At the same time, teachers, parents and children are being trained to co-create safer online spaces and Digital Prefect Clubs are established in schools, where learners are taking the lead in monitoring, educating and driving positive change in their communities.

Gender Norms Social Media Listening Research

Tales of Turning was commissioned by The Directorate: Violence Prevention in the Department of Health and Wellness (DoHW), Western Cape Government (WCG), to conduct social media listening research to identify critical gaps in understanding social and cultural gender norms. The study analyzed social media discourses on masculinity and femininity, that shape aggression, control, and relationship expectations. By conducting a comprehensive review of conversations on social media platforms such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), TikTok and Instagram in the Western Cape, the study assists in building a body of evidence that informs the development of interventions to address harmful gender norms and promote healthier, safer communities.

Digital Dialogue Facilitation

Tales of Turning provided training to students and staff at the University of Cape Town focused on using social media and digital dialogue facilitation to prevent gender-based violence. Participants of the training use the dialogue facilitation methodology to challenge

misogyny, sexism and gender discrimination. The training sessions focused on enabling students to have self-reflective conversations with their friends, which will contribute to preventing GBV on campus and beyond. This initiative has led the students to create a Digital Activists Whatsapp Group in which they share the tools and knowledge gained from the training with other students.

PARENTLINE SA
Digital Support for South African Parents



Parentline SA

Need parenting support?
Help is just a WhatsApp message away!

Parentline SA is a user-friendly support platform for mothers, fathers and caregivers with children from 0-18 years old across South Africa. All you need is a phone with WhatsApp messaging!

Parents can converse with the Parentline SA chatbot via WhatsApp, night or day for reliable, bite-size information, tips and advice that covers a range of topics and parenting challenges they may face each day.

Referrals to local parenting support organisations are also available via the WhatsApp chatbot platform.

Send a WhatsApp message to
087 813 4290

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- 1 Save the number to your phone or scan the QR code
- 2 Type "hi"
- 3 Follow the prompts.

Share Parentline SA with other mothers, fathers and caregivers who need parenting support



Parentline, a WhatsApp-based chatbot developed by Mikhulu Trust in collaboration with SAPPIN, is changing how South African families access parenting support. With approximately 1,200 users and growing by approximately 50 new users monthly, this free platform puts evidence-based parenting guidance directly into parents' pockets.

At the recent Violence Prevention Forum in Johannesburg, Parentline received encouraging responses, with two corporates expressing interest in including it into their exiting staff wellness programmes, a Western Cape government department scheduling a meeting to

explore how it could support their work with schools and several potential referral partners coming forward.

How It Works

Parents simply add Parentline as a WhatsApp contact, register their child's age and access tailored support on everything from child behaviour and development to nutrition, safety and parental wellbeing. All content is written or peer-reviewed by SAPPIN network experts, ensuring quality and cultural relevance.

Recent Developments

The platform continues to evolve:

- Testing multi-child registration with automatic menu updates as children transition age groups
- Enhanced analytics to identify content gaps and improve low-scoring topics (though current ratings remain high)
- Currently developing content on recognising and reporting child abuse, cyberbullying and child trafficking, as well as how to support children who have experienced any of these
- Fresh uploads on co-parenting, single parenting, how to take care of your intimate relationship whilst parenting and tips on feeding a family nutritious food on a budget (thanks to The Parent Centre and The Do More Foundation for quality assurance)

Building the Referral Network

We're excited to share that six new referral partners who aren't SAPPIN members, have joined the network and we're reaching out to organisations recommended during Wilmi Dippenaar's recent visits to network members. This growth is encouraging but we need more partners nationwide.

Get Involved

SAPPIN invites organisations to:

- Sign up as referral partners, especially if you work with families in areas like child abuse support, cyberbullying prevention, child trafficking awareness, or any family-centered services
- Recommend Parentline to beneficiaries
- Contribute expertise for content development
- Support funding for platform sustainability

To try Parentline: Add +27 87 813 4290 to your contacts open WhatsApp and type "Hi"

Read more about Parentline in the ISS Today -

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/using-the-power-of-technology-to-prevent-violence-against-children>

SAPPIN and UNICEF take parenting advice to local communities in new 'Ask Mam'Thandi' campaign



We are thrilled to be playing a central role in UNICEF South Africa's [Power of Parents/Ask Mam'Thandi campaign](#), opening up important conversations to give parents, caregivers and guardians the support they need to do their best for the children in their care.

This vibrant and engaging campaign is rolling out across several community radio stations and on social media between September and November 2025, anchored by two warm-hearted fictional characters: Mam'Thandi and Bra Mandla.

For this campaign, SAPPIN experts are paired with UNICEF specialists on air to encourage caregivers across South Africa to share their parenting experiences and ask for help if needed.

Weekly themes under discussion include positive parenting and discipline, mental health and well-being, education and school support, health and nutrition and safety and protection.

This initiative offers an amazing opportunity for us to reach out to rural and peri-urban audiences in indigenous languages, assisted by our partner radio stations: [Mahikeng FM](#), [Zibonele FM](#), [Ligwa FM](#), [Inanda FM](#), [Nkqubela FM](#) and [Mokopane FM](#).

The campaign has proved a hit to date, with audiences warming to the friendly presence of SAPPIN's "Mam'Thandis" and "Bra Mandlas", who share authentic parenting stories, insights and tips that everyone can relate to. Importantly, we have included a father figure in Bra Mandla to ensure that dads are not left out of these important conversations.

Our overarching message is that caregivers are not alone in their parenting journeys: whether it's seeking advice from a friend or neighbour, or consulting resources such as UNICEF's Parenting Hub, a friendly and sympathetic ear is only a phone call or a click away.

The campaign invites parents to "Buza kuMam'Thandi [Ask Mam'Thandi] – she's listening!" So please tune in and support our campaign!

Join the conversation on UNICEF South Africa's digital platforms, using #PowerofParents and #AskMamThandi:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFSouthAfrica>
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/unicef_southafrica/?hl=en
- Website: <https://www.unicef.org/southafrica/unicef-parenting>

USAPHO WOMEN OF WORTH BOOK LAUNCH

27 September 2025



"There's power in allowing yourself to be known and heard, in owning your unique story, in using your authentic voice," — Michelle Obama

CELEBRATING WOMEN of WORTH

Matriarchs across time and seas have long held histories, remedies and secrets, bringing to mind the title of 'Old Wives Tale'. Though as short or tall as these tales may be, there is always something to be learnt, taken away, or aware of, weaving life lessons into a tapestry of words.

Realising the importance of storytelling; for the advancement and growth of individuals and collectives, and, over the past 12 years, having had the immense pleasure and honour of meeting strong, infallible women, who have and continue to positively impact and empower their peers, families and communities, USAPHO has compiled our first Anthology, Women of Worth, celebrating the women integral in the success of our journey as the brave and beautiful Women of Worth (WoW) that they are – those who inspire others through their resilience and empathy.

An Anthology of Inspirational Stories, from Aspirational Women

This collection brings together short, inspirational stories written by women from diverse walks of life, cultures, religious backgrounds and ethnicities, sharing their lived experiences, challenges and triumphs. Each story is a testament to resilience, courage and the unifying power of storytelling.

On the 27th of September 2025, USAPHO was fortunate to gain access to the BDO Rooftop to host an intimate book launch. With some of the authors present, as well as the artist behind all of the beautiful imagery within WoW, guests were regaled with anecdotes and first-hand accounts, that celebrated every time we stood up, made our voices heard and did not back-down.

As we strive to reclaim our voices and inherent power, your support will contribute to amplifying previously silenced voices, creating platforms for empowerment and sustaining the mission of USAPHO Foundation. The Women of Worth Anthology is available to order and purchase, for only R350. The funds are immediately filtered back into the organisation, to ensure the ongoing peak level of service provision.

Please feel free to contact USAPHO Foundation for more details.

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SINOVUYO APP

Modernising parental support



Clowns Without Borders South Africa (CWBSA), long recognised for the Sinovuyo in-person parenting programmes, is accelerating the digital transformation of parenting support through SinovuyoApp – the South African version of PLH's ParentApp. By blending group-based Sinovuyo delivery with a low-data, mobile-first platform, SinovuyoApp offers self-paced, evidence-based parenting content tailored for low-connectivity and low-resource contexts. SinovuyoApp strengthens skill retention between sessions through reminders and practice prompts and expands access to caregivers who cannot consistently attend in-person sessions.

Since February 2025, CWBSA has collaborated with Parenting for Lifelong Health, the Infinity Group, and partners, with support from the Wellspring Foundation, to strengthen the male engagement and gender equity content in ParentApp. Insights from a co-design workshop in Tanzania have guided the first set of updates, with similar work planned with South African partners to adapt these learnings for SinovuyoApp.

Our recent in-roads

CWBSA is proud to have contributed to UNICEF's new global report, *Parenting for the Digital Age - Strengthening Parenting Programmes for Preventing Technology-Facilitated Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*, developed in collaboration with the Universities of Oxford and Cape Town. Through consultations with South African stakeholders, we helped highlight how parents can better protect children from online risks and harms.

Building on these insights, we are integrating enhanced safety and digital parenting guidance into the SinovuyoApp (available as [web-based demo](#) and on Google Play and Apple App Store) to support parents of young children and teenagers in South Africa, as part of our [Safe Online](#)-funded work. SAPPIN partners interested in collaborating, piloting, or providing feedback are invited to contact us on details below.

Earlier this month, CWBSA co-funded and participated in the National Social Development Month launch in Johannesburg, where we showcased SinovuyoApp's core content and conducted a live demonstration. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with strong interest from attendees in how the app can enhance parenting support nationwide.

CWBSA is confident that SinovuyoApp will significantly increase our capacity to scale, reduce costs associated with traditional implementation by lowering per-family delivery costs by reducing facilitator time, travel, venue hire and printed materials, while enabling larger cohorts to be supported simultaneously across dispersed regions. We welcome interest from our SAPPIN partners and friends to walk this journey with us.

Contact us on info@cwbsa.org

WELCOME



A beautiful boy has joined our network. Luca was born on 15 July 2025 and weighed 3,59kg. Congratulations to Sive and the family on this amazing miracle.



Please don't forget to support SAPPIN on social media

