

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA supports spirit of Mandela Day**

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Whilst celebrating 101 years on service of public-sector employees in July 2021, the Public Servants Association (PSA) also embraced the spirit of Mandela Month by assisting various institutions that support vulnerable communities.

During July 2021, with due consideration of COVID-19 regulations, the PSA offered financial support to various worthy non-governmental organisations. In the Eastern Cape, *Siyakhana Choral Choir* supports the community by encouraging youth in developing and growing talent in choral music. This combats societal ills such as drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, mental illness and depression. *Star Uplifting Centre* supports disabled individuals, particularly children.

*Boitumelo Community Project* and *Khanya Family Centre* in Gauteng provide shelter, healthcare, counselling and psychological services respectively. *Ithemba Labasha Centre* in KwaZulu-Natal plays a huge role in assisting community orphans. In Mpumalanga, *Ekujabuleni Disability Centre* is the only local centre that empowers people living with disabilities in Barberton. *Woman to Woman* assists women and children who are victims of domestic violence in the Northern Cape. *Refentse the Vissionaries* in North West is structured to offer and implement solutions in crime prevention through a programme that aims to reintegrate previous offenders, parolees and probationers in communities as reintegration is the primary step towards crime prevention. A place of safety for children and abandoned babies in Limpopo and in the Western Cape, *Huis van Heerde* is a child and youth-care centre that focuses on youth development.

The PSA also supported UNICEF South Africa, which partners with the of South African government to create a nurturing environment where children are loved, cared for, and protected from violence, exploitation, and exclusion by strengthening and scaling up community-based prevention and early intervention programmes. The PSA offered financial support to three centres in Pietermaritzburg, the Free State and Limpopo.

The PSA's centenary year in 2020, despite being met by the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, was marked by various rewarding outreach projects that further cemented it legacy of being MORE than a Union.

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