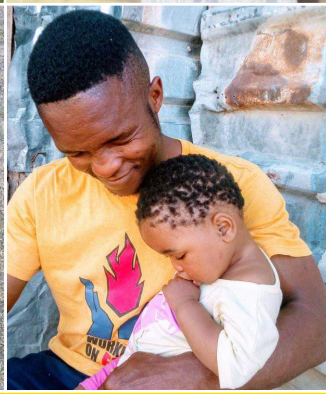
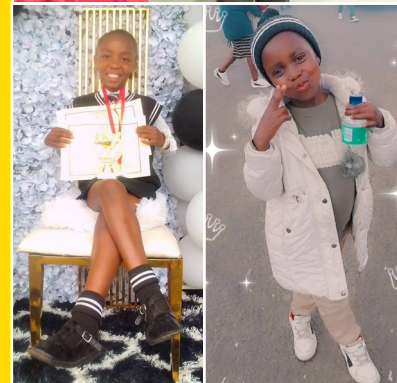




PROJECT



The Working on Fire Programme rolls out the WOF Kids Care Package at the end of the year, where participants' children receive gifts to ease the financial burden of the festive period and the back-to-school rush.

This is just one of the WOF Kids Project initiatives, and so we take a look at the various activities within the project. Read how the WOF Family and valuable stakeholders come together to carve better futures for our WOF Kids.

Saving Lives, Protecting the Environment, Restoring Dignity.



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WOF KIDS PROJECT

The WOF Kids Project resides under the WOF's Social Development department. WOF Kids are children of the Programme's participants and management and some of them

have grown up under the support of the WOF Kids Project with its various initiatives.



Aims of the project

It aims to support the socioeconomic needs of the children, assist them to carve better futures for themselves and equip them with life skills. It is about nurturing their unique and diverse talents and unleashing their potential.

The project also aims to strengthen family bonds (the parent-child relationship) and to help families deal with social ills and other challenges affecting young people.



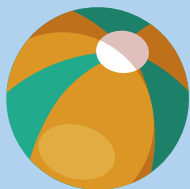
Objectives

We tackle many issues;

- Sexuality – body changes during puberty and self-esteem.
- Child Abuse Awareness.
- Financial Intelligence.
- Children's Rights education.
- Substance Abuse Awareness.
- Family relationships.

Initiatives

- WOF Kids boy scouts
- WOF Kids girls scouts
- WOF Kids Care package



WOF KIDS BOY SCOUTS



The boy scouts is a special project for boys between the ages of 10 and 18. It was birthed in 2019 and was established in KwaZulu-Natal with a concept based on 'The Brotherhood'. It supports positive learning in communities.

Mentoring our boys

The boys are mentored by the men of Working on Fire (management and participants) and community leaders. Men of different age groups participate in the project, creating an intergenerational dialogue needed for growing minds.

Community members are invited to assist in training the boys in various projects where they are taught skills like fixing door handles, and broken windows, working with electrical appliances, changing car tyres, and other repair or handyman skills.

Overnight camp

In addition to the various workshops and activities throughout the year, the boys attend a two-day camp where they participate in various activities aimed at educating, empowering, and entertaining them. There is also a special evening session 'sitting around the fire' for



a storytelling moment about education and moral regeneration through oral tradition.

FATHER-TO-SON PROJECT

In honouring fatherhood and guiding boys, WOF men dedicated a day to the 'Father-to-son' Project. This is a project about male figures realizing the role of mentorship they have on their sons, including other boys in the community. The project gradually introduces different topics that affect young boys such as smoking, alcohol, drugs, peer pressure, human trafficking, etc.

WOF alumni, Sandile Mthembu, who is a local entrepreneur joined WOF in the initiative, and other stakeholders, SAPS, social workers and community members also contributed to the importance of the day. According to Thulani Mkhonza, Crew leader Type 2, it is very important for men to spend time with boys in order to guide them because communities are engulfed by crime, drugs, rape, etc. and somehow young boys are also becoming perpetrators.

"This day was beneficial to both the boys and their parents; single mothers get to know there is support from males in the community, and the fathers learn to begin talking about sensitive topics at home" Mkhonza

The Vryheid team donated R1400 from their own pockets and raised R856.50 from their fundraising initiatives for the event. They reached out to different stakeholders and local businesses supported them.



WOF Kids boy scouts and their parents.

The team would like to thank local businesses and the Vryheid Taxi Association for their contribution, understanding of the project and its value in shaping young people's lives and fighting social ills.

The WOF Boy Scouts concluded the day with a friendly soccer match to promote good physical health. The project will continue and the aim is to reach as many boys as possible...watch this space!



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WOF KIDS GIRL SCOUTS



This project involves our women management and participants who coach and guide the girls of WOF Kids on being the best version of themselves. The aim is to give each little girl the confidence to stand up for herself, to be empowered, and to embrace womanhood with pride.

The project addresses issues of:

- Peer pressure through various self-awareness exercises.
- Self-esteem and self-confidence
- Puberty, menstruation
- Sexuality and friendships
- Financial Intelligence
- Girls are given a safe space to address their fears and plan toward fulfilling their dreams.
- There is also skills-sharing where the girls learn from each other.



DISCUSSING PERTINENT ISSUES

Mpumalanga held its first girl scouts session in August 2020 at the Mattafin township in Nelspruit. The young girls from the area and surroundings came together to discuss issues relevant to them.

A total of 10 girls attended the session, where Employee

Assistant Practitioner (SDP), Makoloi Tele, led discussions about gender-based violence and the changes in the body of a young girl growing up.

Assistant General Manager, Bongani Nhlabathi, attended the session to welcome the girls and offered words of support and motivation.



Employee Assistant Practitioner, Makoloi Tele with young girls of Mattafin, Nelspruit.

NORMANDIEN CELEBRATES WITH ZULU MAIDENS

In celebrating Women's Month, the Normandien team visited a group of young maidens called 'Imbalizezwe'. The team taught and encouraged them on how to take care of their bodies.

Crew leader Type 2, Mfankhona Radebe, said: "The aim of our visit was to motivate the Zulu maidens to continue with the pledge they have taken to abstain from sex, for them to continue to respect their bodies and take pride in their cultural practice."

Radebe shared how there were many

young girls following the latest trends popular amongst the youth, including drugs and alcohol and so they wanted to encourage the girls to dream big.

The team shared information about Gender-based Violence (GBV) and wished them well when going to uMkhosi Womhlanga (Zulu Maiden Reed dance).

"We also bought sanitary towels and refreshments for Izimbalizezwe, who showed appreciation by singing for us," Radebe said.



The Normandien team motivating Imbalizezwe.



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WOF KIDS CARE PACKAGE

8000
Care Packages
Since 2018

The WOF Kids Care Packages are an integral part of the WOF Kids Project. This is an annual gift initiative for WOF Kids that helps to relieve the financial burden that many parents face during December and January. Every child deserves a Christmas present and school supplies for their educational development. The packages cater to WOF Kids from newborn to 18-year-olds and can include cosmetics, toothpaste, toothbrush, toys, educational materials, snacks, clothing items, etc. based on the age group of the receiving child.

Help us to fundraise or donate a package!

Fundraising activities start in January to ensure there are enough gifts to distribute in December of each year. Donors include WOF Executive members, management, base partners, local businesses, partners, and community members. Nomination forms, where participants nominate children, are completed and captured annually.



ASSISTING IN DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES

Ntshuxeko Masangu, Employee Assistant Practitioner in Gauteng, expects to distribute the WOF Kids care packages to 96 participants in his province.

"Everyone will be offered these care packages even though it has been challenging to get more donations or funding. However, as a province we have done all possible to source funds and donations," explained Masangu.

Masangu said the care packages will alleviate the economic hardships children of participants face and among the items included in the packages is stationery for the new school year.

Benjamin Kotlolo, a participant at the Leeuwfontein base, said the WOF kids care package provides an opportunity for participants to save money, especially on toiletry and stationery.

"Buying things in shops has become more expensive. As a result of the high inflation rate, we are feeling the pinch. This WOF Kids care package is a good initiative given economic hardships," said Kotlolo.



Assistant Stock Controller, Precious Pitso, displaying items for the WOF Kids Care Packages.

A SMILE ON MY DAUGHTER'S FACE

Kgaugelo Kgalabina Kekana is a proud father and a Crew leader Type 2 for the Lepelle-Nkumpi team. He joined the Working on Fire Programme in 2012.

The leader thanks WOF for putting a smile on his daughter's face through the WOF Kids care packages received by the bases on an annual basis. "I am grateful to the initiators and coordinators of the WOF Kids Project. My daughter always looks forward to the end of the year because she knows she is going to receive a gift from her father's workplace."

A humble individual and role model to the community, Kekana was born and bred in the Rakgoatha Village. Since joining the Programme, he has acquired various skills which saw him being promoted to crew leader in 2016.



Kgaugelo Kekana's daughter is a proud WOF Kid.

PROUD OF MY MOTHER

When Nontembiso Godlo joined the Working on Fire Programme in 2011, her daughter Yanga Lisakhanya Godlo was eight (8) years old. Today Yanga is a 19-year-old young woman who was raised on the WOF stipend.

"She is very proud of me because I am a veld and forest firefighter, even though she gets upset when I have to be away at times due to my work obligations," said Godlo.

Godlo was promoted to Helicopter Pilot Assistant which means she would be away from home for long periods when she is deployed to the northern provinces in winter.

"Whenever she has time, she comes to spend time with me and would actually help when I am cleaning choppers," Godlo shared.

Yanga recently completed her secondary education and has applied to various universities where she would like to pursue a career in Fashion Design. Until such a time comes, Yanga is busy carving out a path for herself in the modeling industry.

"We are friends and we share everything. We are able to call each other when one of us has done something wrong. I love my mother and I appreciate everything she does for me and I am also grateful to Working on Fire for giving her a job so that she is able to raise me," said a proud Yanga.



Yanga Godlo is a 19-year-old young woman who was raised on the WOF stipend.

AIMING FOR THE STARS

21-year-old Kearabetwe Hope Sereo shared how grateful she is to the Working on Fire Programme for providing her mother with a job because it has made a huge impact on her life.

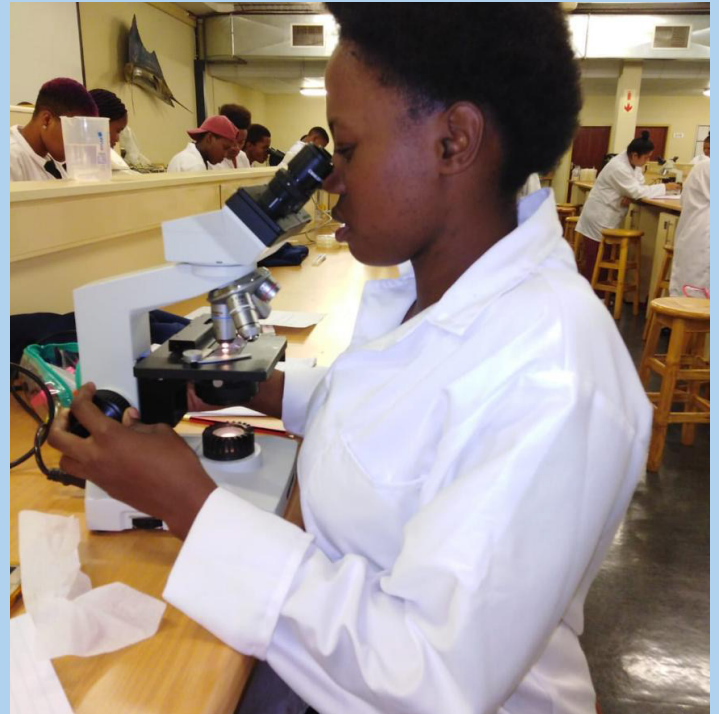
She is the daughter of Veronica Sereo, the Administration Controller of the North West. Hope is currently doing her fourth year at the University of the North West specialising in Pharmacy. "I would not have made it this far if it was not for WOF believing in my mother and giving her the opportunity. Her recent promotion made life that much easier," said Hope.

Life has not been easy for the duo and Sereo is the sole breadwinner and a single mother. Hope shared how despite the challenges, they never went to bed hungry and her mother made sure she gets the best education.

Sereo joined WOF in 2010 when she was recruited for the Boskop team. That same year she was promoted to her current position as a Provincial Administration Controller. The former participant celebrated 12 years of service within the Programme this year.

"I thank WOF for believing in me and giving me the chance to grow. I would not have made it this far and raised a smart young lady," said Sereo.

Hope says she enjoys her studies which entail the study of discovering, producing, preparing, dispensing, reviewing, and monitoring medicine. All the best to this WOF Kid!



Kearabetwe Hope Sereo is pursuing a career in the pharmaceutical industry.



ULTIMATE WOF KID

Abulele Mbovane shared how the Working on Fire Programme made a positive impact on his life. The young man is the son of Neliswa Mbovane, the Regional Manager of the Sarah Baartman District in the Eastern Cape.

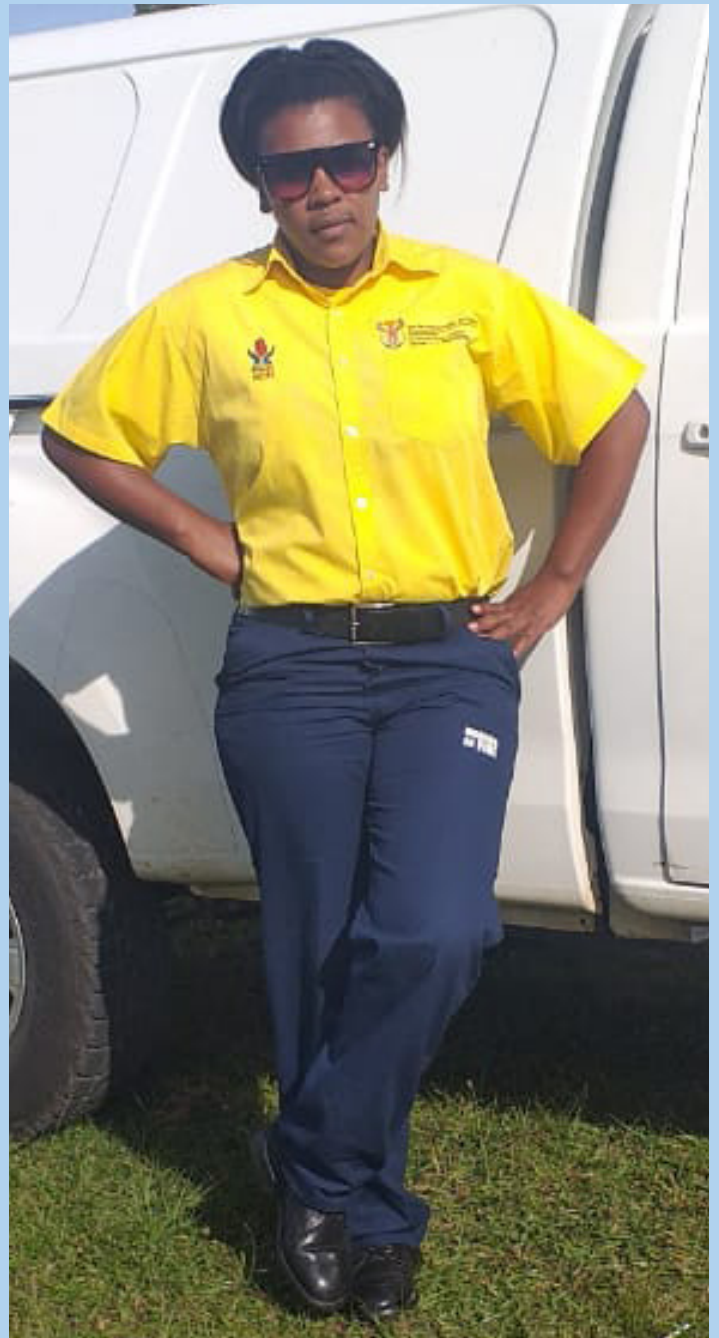
He expressed how proud he is to have a mother who does such an important job of saving lives and protecting the environment. "I basically grew up in WOF. My mother was recruited when I was two years old and now I am 14 years old. She works extremely hard to ensure we get a good education, school uniform, clothes, and food, and we always look our best," said Abulele.

Mbovane was recruited in 2010 at the Ugie base. Due to her passion

and her dedication, she was selected for the Crew leader Type 2 course and became one of the best leaders in the province.

"I worked very well with my team members, stakeholders, and the communities around our region. This exposure assisted greatly in my climb up the ranks and I was appointed the Regional Manager in 2021," said Mbovane.

The mother of three celebrated 12 years of service in the Programme this year. She is originally from the Ugie township and is executing a balancing act in every sphere of her life - whether at home, at work, or in her community. After her promotion, the former participant had to move to Tsitsikamma as one of the managers in that district.



Abulele Mbovane is the son of Neliswa Mbovane, the Regional Manager of the Sarah Baartman District in the Eastern Cape.



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