SAPF Newsletter
December 2025

A Message of Gratitude

As the year draws to a close, we offer a simple message wrapped in gratitude, reflection, and deep appreciation for the people who make our work meaningful.

Johannesburg stands at the heart of this message. We honour the pulse of the city and its surrounding neighbourhoods; places alive with creativity, generosity, and the small acts of kindness that keep communities connected. But our gratitude also extends far beyond the city.

Across South Africa, from rural towns to busy metros, everyday people continue to do extraordinary things. Small acts with big outcomes remind us that change begins with those who simply show up.

This year, we hold in appreciation:
- Our partners and clients, who trust SAPF with their hopes for impact.
- Businesses that choose responsibility, care, and contribution.
- Nonprofits whose teams serve with courage and heart.
- And the countless individuals who give, support, and carry out their work with diligence, kindness, and integrity.

To you, we say thank you.

Thank you for giving your time, talent, and care. Thank you for proving that good things are happening all around us because good people are everywhere.

As we wrap up the year, we hope this message finds you inspired, encouraged, and reminded of the power of simple, human generosity. May we all carry this spirit into the year ahead.

With gratitude,
Gill Bates (CEO), Team SAPF & the Board of Directors

We Are Grateful For:

A Shared Purpose and Collective Action

This year, as CEO of SAPF, I had the opportunity to attend and, in some instances, represent the Foundation at key events.

The year included the Valuable 500 Africa Summit 2025, hosted by Afrika Tikkun in Johannesburg, which brought global business, civil society, and philanthropy together around disability inclusion and values-driven leadership.

This was followed by the IPASA Symposium in Cape Town; the WINGS Africa Working Group in Nairobi, advancing a shared continental agenda; and the B20 Summit engagements in Johannesburg, where these perspectives entered global conversations on inclusion, climate, and social protection.

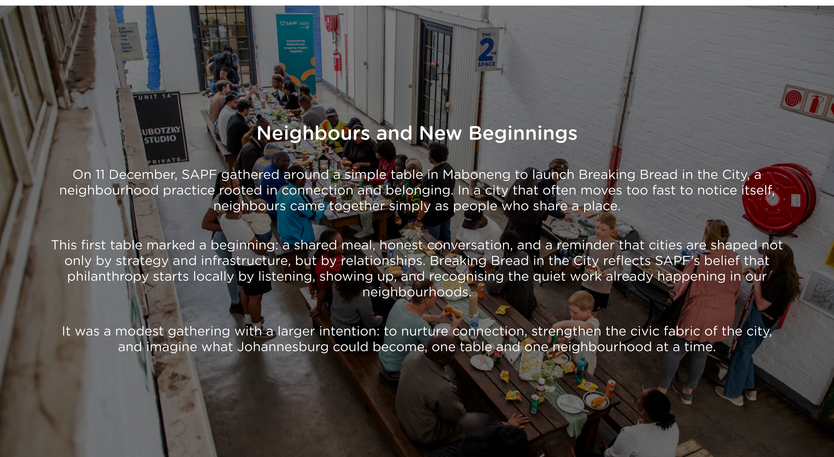
These engagements reminded me that when philanthropy listens, shows up, and collaborates across borders, it can help shape a more inclusive and thoughtful future.

Change and Delivery

SAPF evolved from its former role as an intermediary into an organisation offering a comprehensive, full-service catalogue for social impact delivery. This shift saw Team SAPF implement high-quality projects for clients across a diverse range of focus areas, scales, and geographies in 2025.

SAPF supported the demolition of an asbestos pavilion, delivered a fully equipped fire truck, refurbished an infant ward, and facilitated critical stakeholder engagements with community and traditional leaders to enable water infrastructure installation. In addition, employee volunteering initiatives were delivered across multiple regions, to name but a few.

The project team extends its sincere thanks to our clients and partners for the opportunity to collaborate on such a wide-ranging portfolio of work. Beyond successful project delivery, these initiatives also created meaningful employment opportunities for young people, reinforcing SAPF's commitment to inclusive and meaningful change.



Neighbours and New Beginnings

On 11 December, SAPF gathered around a simple table in Maboneng to launch Breaking Bread in the City, a neighbourhood practice rooted in connection and belonging. In a city that often moves too fast to notice itself, neighbours came together simply as people who share a place.

This first table marked a beginning: a shared meal, honest conversation, and a reminder that cities are shaped not only by strategy and infrastructure, but by relationships. Breaking Bread in the City reflects SAPF's belief that philanthropy starts locally by listening, showing up, and recognising the quiet work already happening in our neighbourhoods.

It was a modest gathering with a larger intention: to nurture connection, strengthen the civic fabric of the city, and imagine what Johannesburg could become, one table and one neighbourhood at a time.

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