

# Streetscapes News

## *From Andrew...*



In 2023, Streetscapes took a leap forward. We collaborated with experts and students from Mercer University to enhance our social enterprise initiatives.

Our goal? To become less dependent on funding and more self-sufficient. In the link below, I wrap up the biggest focuses on our social enterprises this year. Read on to find out more.

**Andrew Tulloch**  
Operations Manager  
Streetscapes

## *2023 Wrapped: Sweeping success for Social Enterprise*

This year was one of lofty goals: to transform the Streetscapes organization into one that strives to become more self-sufficient through hard work and inventive ideas. The transformation of the once derelict Kuilsriver farm is a testament to this. Under the expert guidance of horticulturist Thembi Macata, we turned sandy soil into a thriving green space. We now have a Layhen Project that produces 100 eggs daily and a budding beekeeping venture with an aim to house 14 hives by mid 2024.

Our clients are the heart of Streetscapes. They handle transactions, interact with customers, and see their hard work bear fruit. Jerome, for example, has shown remarkable dedication to hen care, successfully leading to a soaring demand for eggs.

However, we still face challenges. Expanding our customer base and improving financial accountability are at the top of our list. With Petra Frith, our new Finance Manager, we're making strides in all these areas.

As we look ahead, we're excited about scaling up our initiatives to provide our clients with new skills. A heartfelt thank you to our customers for their support. Here's to making Streetscapes even bigger and better in 2024!





## ***Thembi Macata - Fresh from the Farm***

The Streetscapes Kuilsriver farm has seen remarkable growth over the past year as horticulturalist Thembi and the team have been digging in to bring fresh life despite a very challenging year with the Cape rains. This one-hectar plot is known to have poor sandy soil, yet Thembi and the team have turned this place into a green haven.

The Kuilsriver team have an outstanding knack for picking the right crops for the tricky terrain. With a little help from compost and organic goodies like chicken manure and fertilizer, there's a vibrant variety of veggies growing. From spinach to spring onions, leeks to lettuce, and a spicy selection of peppers, including the super-hot Scorpion, Ghost, and Carolina Reaper, set to spice things up in January.

Watering used to be a hands-on job with hose pipes and cans, but now we have a shiny new irrigation system in place and the water comes directly from a wellpoint.

The farm is a busy place with eleven hardworking Streetscapes and SASSA clients tending to the crops. There are five growing tunnels, a seedling house, a nursery for ornamental plants, and even a hydroponics system for growing leafy greens.

But it's not all about the plants. There's a clucking community of around 120 chickens, laying around 90 eggs a day. Streetscapes client Jerome, the chicken whisperer, takes care of these feathered friends, feeding them fresh veggies and chicken pellets daily. He's even named every single one of them.

And the best part? You can enjoy the fruits (and veggies) of our labour. Fresh eggs, seedlings, potted herbs, succulents, and even raw honey are all up for grabs. So, here's to the Streetscapes farm, growing greener every day!

To have a look at what's available, please click here: [www.streetscapes.org.za/shop](http://www.streetscapes.org.za/shop)

## ***Richard Lintnaar - Streetscapes Urban Farms' Organic Impact***

Streetscapes client Richard, a former chef, has gotten back in touch with his talent for good produce and flavour at the Urban Farm in Vredehoek. After a series of personal tragedies left him homeless, Richard was referred to Streetscapes and has been with us for over a year. Now, he's not just a caretaker but also a mentor, teaching others how to garden. "I look after the place. I see that all the planting and composting get done," he says, "If anyone wants to know something about the farm, they need to ask me because I know it all here."

The farm has seen significant growth over the past year, with an increasing variety of produce. "We get veg from the urban farm in Kuilsriver and Trafalgar," Richard shares. The farm's market is thriving, often selling out of produce. "When the weather is good, the market is bustling," he adds.



Richard's story resonates with customers who often seek his advice on how to use the produce. "People now know my story and come and ask when they buy produce what I can do with this and that," he says.

The farm's commitment to organic farming is a point of pride for Richard. "Everything is 100% organic, no chemicals are being used, we make our own compost. 100% organic guaranteed. Straight from the ground and fresh."

For Richard and so many more of the clients, Streetscapes Urban Farms is more than just a farm; it's a hand up to help unhomed individuals get back on track.

Richard's journey from homelessness to caretaker is a testament to our mission. "People should come and have a look," he invites.



## ***Taryn Faro - A Brighter Future***

Taryn, a mother of four from Parow, has her eyes set on the future—a future she had lost sight of after the death of her spouse left her unhomed.

As she'll tell you herself, Taryn isn't a person of many words, but when she speaks of her future, she speaks with conviction: "I've been working on myself a lot since I've been here," she explains of her journey with the Matrix model of addiction treatment and personal counselling.

"I've grown a lot here at Streetscapes, from not knowing where I was going to. I know now where I want to go to and what I want to do for the future and for my kids. I'm now renting on my own," she shares, noting her determination to reunite her family.



Taryn has found valuable work at the eco-friendly LaundReCycle. "It's water and energy efficient laundry," she explains. This resource efficient social enterprise caters to residents, businesses, and the unhomed community and Taryn has earned a reputation for her work. "People say that I do a great job," Taryn adds.

LaundReCycle, launched in January 2021, is part of a three-year research project conducted by the Zurich University of Applied Sciences in Switzerland and Water Rescue in Paarl. It uses a natural and resource-efficient closed-cycle water treatment process, with water losses replaced by rainwater. The entire system is powered by off-grid solar power.

For Taryn, Streetscapes provided the support, but it's her own hard work and dedication that are truly making a difference. "I've seen changes in myself since working in the laundry the past year. I'm handling it very well," she says.



### ***If you found this newsletter interesting...***

Please consider passing it on to someone you think could appreciate gaining a greater insight into the plight of the unhomed, and how everyone can become valued, productive members of society. Together, we definitely make a difference.

You can visit our website to be included in our mailing list at [streetscapes.org.za](https://streetscapes.org.za). Or you can email us at: [info@streetscapes.org.za](mailto:info@streetscapes.org.za), and we'll do the rest.

Facebook [facebook.com/streetscapescp/](https://facebook.com/streetscapescp/)  
Instagram [streetscapes\\_urban\\_farms](https://instagram.com/streetscapes_urban_farms)  
YouTube [streetscapes\\_videos](https://youtube.com/streetscapes_videos)