



January 2024

PROPOSAL FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE REMEDIAL PROGRAM AT PATHWAYS KLOOF

Pathways is a centre for children with severe cognitive and physical disabilities which started in 1995 in Durban. Currently it offers 80 children and young adults with severe disabilities an opportunity to learn and grow to their abilities in a safe and nurturing environment. These are the children and young people who would otherwise fall through the gaps of what is offered for the disabled in this country. The centre is 100% dependent on private fund-raising as it does not receive any government funding.

In 2023, Jeanette Silver (Head of Academics) embarked on a new remedial project within the centre including 8 children. The growth of these 8 students being exposed to a higher intensity of education, has been awe inspiring. From an academic standpoint, children who were not able to read and write, are now able to read short books independently.

Children that appeared to have considerable visual-perceptual challenges and fine motor deficits have flourished, learning to color more accurately, replicate shape patterns and even write legibly. Some of our children with minimal expressive language previously, are now standing up in class and presenting orals. From a behavioral perspective, many of these students had not been able to stay seated long enough to participate in learning, or to follow rules and rituals in a classroom setting. They are now thriving in this secure and predictable environment.





The greatest and most unexpected progress has been seen socially. Eight children with a variety of diagnoses, backgrounds and even languages, have become a little 'family' unit, forming friendships and bonds that bring so much joy to each other. Additionally, the effectiveness of positive peer pressure has been clearly seen, where each child wants to become like those excelling in the class!

2024 has begun with an even greater interest in the remedial program at Pathways. There are so many children that aren't performing well enough to be accepted in the remedial schools, but they need more than a stimulation program. The ceiling needs to be raised to allow these children a chance to excel. We have a vision to see this type of education available to many more students in our school and in the surrounding areas.

For the first phase of this expansion, the Pathways team is looking to add another class in 2025 called the Pre-Remedial class for those students who are new and who need a strong foundation. They would flow into the Remedial class later.

In order to do this, we would need:

1. Another classroom space at Pathways, through extending the present building or through adding a prefabricated building on the premises. (All areas are fully utilized currently.)
2. Upskilling and educating present staff to fill the extra staff positions, as well as hiring more staff to replace their positions.
3. Following research, 1-2 suitable curricula will be chosen to (a) align students with the CAPS regular educational level, where appropriate and (b) suit the unique challenges in learning of children with developmental delays. (A variety of curricula are being adapted presently.)

We passionately believe that all our children are capable of so much more if they are just given the chance. These past two years at Pathways have proven that to us.

We would love you to participate in helping us make the lives of our children more joyful, as they learn and grow at Pathways!

Project Cost: R120,000.

