

DPV OUTREACH

Annual Report

1 July 2023–30 June 2024



**Devil's Peak
Vredehoek
OUTREACH**



Vision

A thriving and safe Devil's Peak Vredehoek community that is inclusive of all, family-friendly, ecologically sustainable, and commercially attractive

Objectives

- Facilitating support for and understanding of people experiencing homelessness.
- Creating an ecologically sustainable community.
- Fostering cooperation between residents, businesses, other stakeholders, and the City to actively build the community.

DPVO activities are focused on Devil's Peak and Vredehoek.

Our main goal is to try and find ways to alleviate chronic homelessness in our area by working with Streetscapes, and their clients – people who want to get off the streets.

We hope that by building bridges between the Streetscapes workers and housed residents, we will build greater understanding of the issues leading to homelessness and, over time, help people move off the streets.



The financial year 2023-24 was a busy one for the DPV Outreach: our street cleaning project thrived, with the Streetscapes workers collecting more than 1,000 bags of rubbish from our streets and using new skills to clean up graffiti. We held another successful Mandela Day drive, hosted our second AGM, and welcomed some new members to our team.

“The homeless people of the City do not exist separately from the rest of the residents. We are all part of the same whole. The City consists of and belongs to those who work in its corner offices and live in the mansions of Higgovale and Clifton, just as much as it does to those who eke out a living on the City’s streets and sleep on its pavements and in its parks. We are all entitled to the same level of respect and concern from our City and from each other.”

*Judge Michael Bishop
Western Cape High Court, 18 June 2024*



In this report, quotes by Western Cape High Court Acting Judge Michael Bishop are taken from his ruling handed down on 18 June 2024 in the case between the City of Cape Town and the homeless groups occupying spaces along Buitengracht Street, FW De Klerk Boulevard, Foregate Square, Helen Suzman Boulevard, Strand Street, Foreshore/NI, Virginia Avenue and Mill Street Bridge in the city centre.

ACTIVITIES

Our main focus

Much of our focus over the year has been to maintain and improve the work of the cleaning team in our area. As most DPV residents know, the team – currently made up of Zulpha Manuel, Cwenga Buru and Jonathan Manuel – is recruited and trained by Streetscapes from homeless people who are trying to get off the streets.

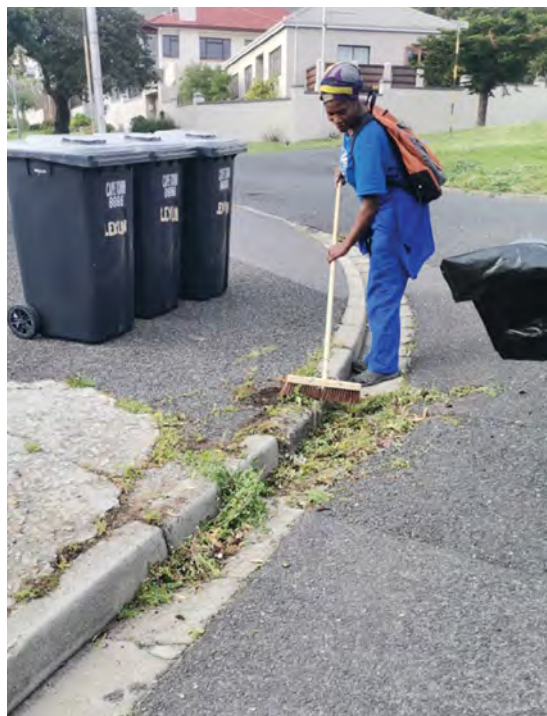
The Streetscapes programme has shown astonishing success. Many people who got work through the programme have been able to stabilise their lives. Approximately 50% moved into employment, and about three quarters moved off the street. Data from the programme showed that providing shelter alone is not enough: when combined with employment and psycho-social support, individuals are far more likely to transition from living rough to accommodation, and get their lives back on track.

Stipends for the team working in our area were funded through the Treasury's Public Employment Programme (PEP) until 30 June 2024 when the programme came to the end of its three-year cycle. Where possible, Streetscapes assisted beneficiaries of this programme to find other work, but a number of retrenchments were unavoidable.

Government funding might well become available but it was expected that there would be a gap of at least a year before it would come through.

So for us at DPV Outreach the priority was to raise funds to keep the team going. Thanks to kind contributions from many residents in the area, we have been able to do so, and even to help them expand their work.

Between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 the team filled 1,130 bags of litter and debris. Under the supervision of Hilma Amutenya, the team swept gutters, weeded pavements, and picked up rubbish. As per the standing arrangement with the City, Solid Waste were alerted as to where the bags had been left for





After experiencing abuse and neglect while in foster care, Jonathan Manuel slid into a life of drugs and alcohol on the streets. Thanks to Streetscapes, he is now getting his life together.

"All I want is a job"

While on the street, Zulpha Manuel started to use tik, and battled through a number of abusive relationships. Since joining Streetscapes, things are looking up: she has a new partner and is living in accommodation where her children can visit her.

"I'm proud of myself"



collection. From March 2024, DPVO drew up a weekly cleaning roster based on a map of our area. This allowed the team to plan where they worked, and although plans were affected by bad weather on occasion, the roster has helped to make sure the smaller streets and cul-de-sacs also get regular attention.

As reported last year, the team were trained by Straatwerk to remove graffiti correctly from a wide range of surfaces. The wet weather meant that the team couldn't get out on our streets to put their new skills to the test immediately – they finally got started in October 2023, allocating one day a week to this task.

When extra hands were needed, the team assisted at the Rugley Road and Roeland Street vegetable gardens. As part of the Streetscapes rehabilitation programme, they attended weekly 'recovery group' sessions and had individual counselling.

Chantel Sampson, whose salary we helped to cover in 2023, has moved on to become a Community Liaison Officer; a new position funded for three years by a UK organisation interested in health services/harm reduction programmes. She now supports a peer outreach team headed by Rudie Basson, as well as supervising the three Streetscapes beneficiaries who work on our cleaning team.

The peer outreach team works across the City Bowl (outside of the area covered by the CCID in the central business district), including Devil's Peak and Vredehoek.



Braving the cold during our Mandela Day donation drive in 2023.

Committee changes

Our Outreach committee has seen some changes: two of our founder members, treasurer Hester Lamprecht and web designer Natalie Spires, stepped down due to other commitments. Both have generously offered to continue to keep giving us a hand.

During the year and especially following our AGM in December 2023, several people expressed interest in becoming involved, and we were able to rebuild the team and to welcome a new treasurer, Jonathan Clark, on board in July 2024.

Calls for help

Early in May 2024 a resident who lives near the four-way stop on Upper Buitenkant Street called a meeting of residents, business owners, Streetscapes, and City officials to discuss the deteriorating situation with people living on the streets around the four-way stop. Following the meeting, the Streetscapes outreach team made regular visits to the area to engage with several homeless people whose behaviour was problematic. They also intervened to make sure that people who needed to be on medication received (and took) their meds regularly. Discussions are still taking place to resolve this situation.

Other calls on Streetscapes' expertise had successful conclusions after residents alerted Streetscapes to the plight of the people concerned: in particular, an elderly man was reunited with his family; and a very long-term resident of Stroompie also rehoused. In another instance, DPVO members liaised with SAPS to assist a man return to his home in the country. As residents are often understandably cautious about getting involved with individuals on the street, being able to call on Streetscapes and other roleplayers' expertise makes all the difference.

Events

In July 2023, we held our Mandela Day donation drive, concentrating on blankets, toiletries and men's clothing for the homeless people in our area. We tried a new location for the drop-off: alongside the Bradwell Street Courage Coffee cart. The coffee-cart owners kindly donated R5 for each coffee sold and then topped up the amount with an extra donation.

On 5 December 2023, we held our second Annual General Meeting at Shift Espresso Bar. After a brief overview of our activities and a review of our financial statements, Streetscapes presented an update on their activities. This was followed by a lively question and answer session, especially about the lack of public toilet facilities as well as the best way to handle discarded needles.

Following a request from residents, we organised a night-time walkabout with members of the Streetscapes outreach team and DPVwatch patrollers. This allowed the Streetscapes team to engage safely with a number of homeless people well known to the Watch. The Watch patrollers had the opportunity to hear about the services offered by Streetscapes and discuss issues that arise from having rough sleepers in our area.

FINANCIALS

In the financial year 2023–24, DPVO received R42,302 (see breakdown of income and expenditure on page 7). Most of this was allocated to our contribution of R3,500 per month towards Chantel Sampson’s salary. After discussion with Streetscapes, we stopped these payments at the end of 2023. As mentioned earlier in this report, our focus shifted to supporting the cleaning team’s stipends instead.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated funds to DPVO during the financial year. Other than our commitments to Streetscapes, our expenses are limited; small expenses incurred are generally covered by committee members. The surplus shown on the financial statements was mostly the funds set aside for the second half of the CEFA Social Auxiliary Worker qualification for which Chantel Sampson has been studying. She will be starting with her studies again in February 2025.

The full financial statements are available on request from funds@dpvoutreach.org.za.

“We can only care about the homeless when we see ourselves in them; we can only realise our own humanity if we commit to realising theirs; when we see that we are all a few bad decisions and some bad luck from life on the pavements.”

*Judge Michael Bishop
Western Cape High Court, 18 June 2024*

Devil's Peak Vredehoek Outreach

Registration number NPO 271 - 223

Annual Financial Statements for the period ended 30 June 2024

Balance sheet

As at

	Note	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	28,085	15,255
Total current assets		28,085	15,255
TOTAL ASSETS		28,085	15,255
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	4	-	3,500
Total current liabilities		-	3,500
Funds			
Opening balance		15,255	30,748
(Deficit)/ surplus for the period		12,830	(18,993)
Total Funds		28,085	11,755
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		28,085	15,255

DPVO is registered as an NPO. To be able to issue Section 18A tax certificates for donations, we would need to have our financial statements audited and be registered with SARS as a PBO. Because of the costs involved, we have not yet taken these steps.



CSB* graduated in accounting from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. He found work, but eventually his contract was not renewed. Eventually he ended up on the street.

Since joining Streetscapes he has stabilised his life; he plans to do a computer course and find a permanent home.

"Now I have a purpose"

*Full name removed at request of worker

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2025 we would like to improve communication with residents and put our fundraising on a firmer footing. We have a number of ideas of how to build the cleaning team's services to beautify our open spaces. A number of residents have already established pavement gardens and we would like to offer the team's assistance to maintain existing gardens and to develop new ones.

The cleaning roster has proved a helpful tool for the cleaning team, but it is intended as a guideline, not as a rigid timetable. With residents' input we plan to target areas which need more regular cleaning and continue to keep graffiti under control.

Streetscapes holds a monthly market at the Rugley Road garden to sell produce from the garden supplemented by free-range eggs, honey and vegetables from their Kuils River farm. We are exploring ways to expand the market, with a view to offering residents a space where they can sell crafts, jewellery, baked goods ... whatever takes their fancy.

DPVO would also like to find ways to tap into our community's expertise to find jobs or internships for the Streetscapes workers who are ready to move on.

A WORD OF THANKS

DPV Outreach's activities are made possible by the support of our community and partners. Thank you to everyone whose donations – financial and in kind – enabled us to support the work done by Streetscapes and to offer assistance to homeless members of our community.

Thank you to:

- The DPVO committee for their time and effort
- Streetscapes for partnering with us, and especially Jesse Laitinen, Chantel Sampson and Rudie Basson for prompt responses to problems and wise advice
- Eclipse Print for discounting the cost of our printing
- Kingdom Hall for allowing us to tap into their electricity supply
- Residents for their generous contributions to the cleaning team's stipends and for supplying snacks and drinks to the team
- City of Cape Town's Solid Waste department for prompt collection of rubbish bags
- Shift Espresso Bar for hosting our AGM
- DPVwatch for giving us a platform to disseminate news and information in their newsletters
- Hester Lamprecht for help with financial statements and Natalie Spires for help with the website, and ...

- Of course, last but by no means least, the hard-working Streetscapes workers who keep our streets and parks clean and tidy





"... homelessness is our problem. Homeless people are part of the City as much as all its other residents."

Judge Michael Bishop, Western Cape High Court, 18 June 2024

We also launched our own Facebook and Instagram accounts during the year.

Look out for news at  and 



**Devil's Peak
Vredehoek
OUTREACH**

271-223 NPO

For more information, email
info@dppvoutreach.org.za

<https://www.dppvoutreach.org.za/>

STREETSCAPES
GROWING BETTER LIVES



Visit the Streetscapes garden in
Rugley Road Park, Vredehoek

<https://streetscapes.org.za/>