



002-213 NPO

The start of our 140th Year Celebrations!



Pietermaritzburg Children's Home, provides a safe and loving home for orphaned and vulnerable children. Founded by Miss Mary Elizabeth Cook, we have been a beacon of hope for countless children in need of care, for over a century!

Here's to 140 More Years
of Making a Difference!

This year we will be taking a step back, to reflect on our rich history and celebrate 140 years of services to the most vulnerable children in our communities. Join us each month as we share some interesting facts and stories related to our Home.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Cook enrolled the support of many prominent businesses in Pietermaritzburg to help set up the Mary Cook Children's Home, ensuring that she was compliant with all requirements to register the home. She unfortunately passed on at the very early age of 44 years. In 1981, after a long search to trace her history, the then Matron of the home discovered that her grave was located at the Wesleyan section of the Commercial Road Cemetery.

This stone was sadly neglected at that time, and with valued advice and labour, the marble headstone was restored stating Mary Elizabeth Cook to be the Founder and first Matron of The Children's Home in this city.

At the foot of the stone was inscribed, "**Children rise up and call her Blessed**".



OCEANS8

CHARITY SWIM



In just 78 days - the Oceans 8 Charity Swim returns to Vetch's Beach at the Durban Undersea Club.

Four distances.

Fourteen charities.

One powerful weekend.

If you haven't entered yet - now is the time!

23rd & 24th (25th) May 2026 🖱️ Enter here: www.oceans8swim.co.za



Built by charities for charities and powered by you...

- 1 mile and 4-mile swimmers support our 10 incredible invitational charities.
- If you're keen on the 8 mile or 16-mile challenge, your fundraising goes directly to one of our four founding charities - you choose.

No matter the distance, every mile makes a difference to the communities our charities support.

HOW ELSE CAN YOU HELP?

Please contact PCH if you would like to donate any item in kind (big or small, any quantity) preferably eco-friendly, towards our 300 Goodie Bags that will be packed for our Swimmers!



To every swimmer, supporter, safety team member and sponsor already committed to 2026 - thank you.

With your support, and alongside our wider community, we are proud to keep building something sustainable for charity!

Join us - we would love to SEA you back at the Oceans 8.

Read more about the Oceans 8 Charity Swim:

- [Oceans 8 Charity Swim Returns to Durban for a purpose-driven weekend - Latest South African Sports News - SA Sports Press](#)
- [Oceans 8 Charity Swim returns to Durban for a purpose-driven weekend | Rising Sun Newspapers](#)
- [Oceans 8 Charity Swim Makes a Splash in Durban](#)

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A Letter of Appreciation to The Home That Changed My Life

Growing up at the Pietermaritzburg Children's Home remains one of the greatest blessings and defining foundations of my life.

When I arrived as a young child. I was fragile, wounded and carrying pain. I did not yet understand. Yet from the very beginning the Children's Home became a place of restoration. Where I was welcomed with compassion, stability and love. It did not merely offer shelter, but it offered healing, purpose and hope for a brighter future.

Within those walls I found safety, stability and unconditional love. The caregivers did for more than provide care. They became mothers, mentors and role models. They nurtured my spirit, disciplined me with care and encouraged my dreams and constantly reminded me that my circumstances did not define my future. Through them I learned confidence, resilience, respect and the power of believing in oneself.

Like many children at the home. I first stayed in a younger girl's unit (unit 1) when I arrived. As I grew older and entered my teenage years, I moved to Unit 4, The Real

Dreamers House. Most of my strongest and happiest memories were formed there. The Real Dreamers House was filled with laughter, friendship, growth and a powerful sense of belonging. We supported one another, celebrated together and learned important life lessons side by side. It was more than just a living space; It was a home where dreams were encouraged and futures were shaped.

One of my proudest moments of my childhood was when I performed a poem during the Home's 130-year celebration. Standing before the audience as a young black child, sharing my voice and my journey. I felt empowered and valued. It was a moment that showed me that the Children's Home was not only raising children, but it was raising confident and capable individuals.

The Home invested deeply into our personal development by teaching us lifesaving and leadership skills. I became a First Aid candidate and proudly received certificates for my training. Through those opportunities we travelled to another province to participate in a First Aid competition and we won. These experiences taught me responsibility, teamwork and courage. These were not just activities; they were building blocks that shaped the person I am today.

Now as the Pietermaritzburg Children's Home celebrates 140 years of transforming lives. I reflect with deep gratitude on how far I have come because of the strongest foundation laid for me there. I am now a finalist in my Bachelor of Education Degree, excelling academically and joyfully preparing for marriage as an engaged woman. Under the devoted leadership of Aunty Fiona and the incredible team, PCH has changed countless lives mine included. What could have been a story of struggle became a story of growth, success and hope. PCH gave me roots when I had none, strength when I felt weak and a future.

With profound gratitude and heartfelt appreciation, I thank the Pietermaritzburg Children's Home for being my foundation, my healing space and my forever home.

With deep respect and love

Khanyisile Dlamini



Looking for other ways to celebrate with PCH...

We have been blessed to have so many well-wishers and supporters over the years and acknowledge the wonderful contributions in cash and kind that are received for our children.

We look forward to your continued support for this special year!

LAUNCH OF OUR NEW WEBSITE

Watch this space ...

As we get ready to launch our new and upgraded website as part of our 140-year celebrations.

Banking details

Bank name: First National Bank

Account number:61093034331.

Branch code: 221325

Swift code: FIRZAJJ



DONOR APPRECIATION CORNER

Key Donors: Department of Social Development, PMB & District Community Chest, Ken Collins Trust, KFC, National Lotteries Commission, Motus Aftermarket Parts, NMI (DSM), 1Day Webs, Victor Daitz Foundation

Regular Donors: Thorbin Dethorbin, Y Chetty & Associates, Agri-sun, Alert Engine, National Chicks, Motor City, Sanzaf, Sunfresh bakery, Alfa Omega Charity Fund, Rehen Maharaj (Indlovu Manufacturers), Maumin Essack, Willowton Bakery School, Chicken Licken (Liberty MM), Sunshine bakery, Fazeela & Family, Mrs R Badrudeen, Venetian Blind Centre, Christ at Work Ministries International, Roadlodge (PMB), Stay Easy (PMB), AET Security, Magma Security, Merle Donnelly, Peggie Govender and Associates, Sunshine Seedlings, Shoprite, H.Mekraj, OT Khuzwayo, Magaye, Dr Manga, Shireen Singh and Mitzi, New Enterprise Trucking Logistics and Shallow Drift Farms, Honchos

Programs

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PMB Child Welfare
AFM Church
Creative Arts College
Woodlands Library
Mrs Dev Naicker
Incema
One Life foundation
Mountain Rise Primary School



Thank
you

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