



B | **Bridges** RETREAT CENTRE
FRANSCHHOEK

Our Vision

Many of us can remember times when our own lives were impacted on a camp or a time away. We believe that these retreats create significant moments that have the potential to positively impact the trajectory of young lives.

As the new owners of the Bridges Retreat Centre, we believe in the transformative power of short-term, facilitated group experiences where people are out of their normal home, work and community situations and are engaged in learning and growing emotionally, mentally, relationally and spiritually in the beauty of creation.

The Western Cape Education department recognises the many benefits for children, gained from outdoor education centers;

- Enhance their personal and communication skills
- Improve their physical health
- Improve their mental well-being
- Help develop their self-esteem
- Learn to co-operate with and respect the needs of others
- Develop an understanding of their environment
- Learn practical problem solving and team work skills

So what does this mean for children growing up in under resourced communities? We believe that these young people are most in need of transformational and hope inspiring experiences.

Imagine a place where every year, thousands of children are able to leave the realities of life for a few days and enjoy a world class retreat facility- where all their basic needs are taken care of and memorable adventure awaits. A place where they are able to partake in a program, facilitated by an invested team, that has been designed to ensure maximum learning and life changing impact.

THE NEED

We recognise that there is a lack of group retreat centers in the greater Cape Peninsula, available to serve the youth and school camp market. And we see that very few of them are meaningfully geared to deliver a life impacting program.

We also recognise that well equipped, group retreat facilities are generally not affordable for schools, youth groups, NGOs and PBO's that could benefit from them.

The combination of these factors has made this type

of facility generally inaccessible to the very people that could gain so richly from the experience.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Bridges Retreat Centre, nestled in the beautiful Franschhoek Valley, is made up of 12.5 acres of land and 1000m² of accommodation and meeting rooms.

This large campus has a Youth Retreat Facility that sleeps 150 and a Conference Facility that sleeps 50. Bridges is a comfortable commute, being only an hour's drive from Cape Town.

The campus boasts two swimming pools, a basketball court, a fire pit, established fruit trees, a running trail and full-sized soccer field, all set in a well-maintained garden. The property is surrounded by 360-degree awe inspiring vineyard and mountain views.

We would like to make the Bridges Retreat Centre available through fully funded camps for school groups from under-resourced communities. We want to see the treasure that is Bridges, shared with those that need it most.

We would also like to welcome staff teams, leadership groups and youth groups from NGO's and PBO's, at affordable rates, making this world class facility available to benefit them too.



School Camp Program

We believe that camps are most impactful when the program content and the venue are designed in synergy with one another, maximizing both the use of the facility and the resulting impact on the lives of those that visit. Our Educational Program will focus on the development of each learner in 3 areas;

1. MIND. CAPS Aligned Curriculum.

Catch up curriculum lost during COVID-19 and new CAPS aligned modules best taught in an outdoor educational space, will be covered, meaning that no teaching time is lost. Learners will cover all their usual work PLUS benefit from the added curriculum, taught in a fun environment, more conducive to learning for many types of children.

We will also focus on collaboration and problem-solving skills that will help these future leaders overcome obstacles in all of life.

2. HEART. Social Emotional Wellbeing.

The program will explore issues of the heart, seldom coached at a school level, but so especially important in dealing with the social and emotional impact COVID-19 has had on young lives. Sessions will include;

- **Who am I?** Identity, Self image, Purpose and Uniqueness, Character matters, Choices
- **Where Am I Going?** A vision for my future, Goals
- **How Will I Get There?** Respect for self and others, Self-management
- **Do I Belong?**

We want Learners to leave Bridges with a deeper understanding of their own value and a vision of hope for their futures.



3. BODY. Awesome Outdoor Adventure

Learners will have the opportunity to;

- Try new exciting activities, develop new skills
- Have plenty of healthy exercise and fresh air
- Learn valuable team work and leadership skills
- Learn to love nature and appreciate the environment
- Have lots of fun and memory making moments

We believe that these short-term, high impact, transformative group retreats, made available to learners from impoverished communities, will have a lasting impact on the developing minds and hearts of the young people who attend, which will ultimately contribute to shaping a better future for our country, for generations to come.



The ‘Mutual Benefit’ Model

We plan to have sponsored school groups through our Youth Retreat Facility most weeks of the year. And paying groups from other schools, NGO’s and BPO’s using the whole campus, most weekends of the year. This will enable us to bring down the overall costs for all groups, making our retreats more affordable for all.

You can partner with us through;

1. CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The Bridges purchase price was R20 million. Another R2 million is needed for upgrades to maximize the space. An initial R1.5M has already been given to secure the property along with a further R1.5M to cover the first season of operational costs, as we emerge out of the realities of COVID-19.

Until we raise all the capital, the seller has given us a R18.5m mortgage loan at a fixed 8% interest rate. We would like to pay this loan off as quickly as possible, to reduce and ideally completely remove monthly interest payments and redirect these funds into the development of the site.

No one personally benefits from the purchase of Bridges- proceeds all go directly towards social upliftment initiatives in Phillipi, run by Bridges of Hope SA, the NPO that sold the property to us during the difficult COVID-19 season. With the current impact of COVID-19 on the global economy, we know this is a huge amount of money. But we are confident that the opportunity that lies before us far outweighs the cost, and we are full of faith that every cent needed will come in through partners who share this great vision with us and desire to see this property serve many, for decades to come.

2. SPONSOR A LEARNER

Partnering with under-resourced schools from the poorest communities in the Cape and Winelands areas, we believe that there is a meaningful opportunity for corporates, small businesses and individuals to sponsor young lives to make it possible for them to attend this life impacting experience on our site.

We aim to have 4000 learners on site, over 40 weeks a year, with groups ranging from 70- 150, depending on each school’s specific grade size.

R1400 per learner, for the 48 hour camp, will provide for all accommodation, bedding, food, activities, facilitation staff and educational programming:

COSTS	Per learner per night (24 hours)	Per learner per camp (48 hours)
Accommodation	R 215	R 430
Food (3 meals and snacks)	R 230	R 460
Training & Curriculum	R 255	R 510
TOTAL	R 700	R 1400

LIVES IMPACTED

Number of Learners (average group size between 70- 150)	110
Number of weeks (annual average)	40
TOTAL	4400

Partner With Us:

As Bridges Retreat Center we have already said our big YES to being a source of blessing and strengthening to Cape Town and its surrounds. And as we steward this incredible resource, we want to continue to say YES to the possible transformational impact on under-resourced schools, BPO's and NGO's. We are taking a 100-year view on this venture and are excited about the possibility of many thousands of stories of changed lives in the decades to come.

Would you carefully consider saying your YES to partnering with us in stewarding this dream, through either becoming a capital investment donor, schools program sponsor, or by generally offering your skills to the development of this vision.

GET IN TOUCH

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Bank details:

Account Name: Bridges Current

Account Number: 62864303278

Account Type: Platinum Business Account

Branch Code: 250 655

Reference: CAPITAL or SPONSOR

Bridges Retreat Centre is a registered NPO

QR CODE LINK: SPONSOR A LEANER PLEDGE FORM

