



24/25 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

01

Message from our Executive Director

02

Vision & Long Term Goals

03

Pure Hope Hub Highlights & Stories

04

Bursary Program & Ministry Team Highlights

05

Message from Portia Tabola

06

With Joy Highlights & Stories

07

Board News

08

Team News

09

The Numbers

10

Ways to get involved

11

Dancing towards Hope: A Volunteer's Story

12

Our Generous Partners



Message from our Executive Director

Standing at the end of what feels like an exceptionally significant year for Rhythm of Hope, my heart wells up with joy over the fact that we still get to be busy with this work and are already seeing the first new leaves of the seeds planted these last 10 (formal)/12 (informal) years. I'm amazed by the favour we have been shown and have experienced, as we have figured out how to do what God has called us to do, namely: Building healthy identities through dance and empowering youths from low-income households toward better futures, in the process.

So firstly, I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who supported, encouraged and invested in this outreach and ministry up to this point. Our 10 year celebration, in collaboration with our profit generating studio, felt like a public commissioning of our company, leading to accelerated momentum for a broader scope vision: To Redeem Africa through Dance Families Ministering Hope.

To prepare for this, 2024 was also a year of 'getting our house in order' by really making sure every aspect of what we do, aligns with this vision and simplifying admin and accounting processes to gear us up for growth and expansion anticipated over the next 10 years.

Every year it feels like we align more with this vision, but in 2024, I personally have seen so many of the things I had hoped for, realized. Things like:

- Our **bursary students completing business plans to start a 'side hustle'** to help them fill gaps and learn entrepreneurship in the process and paying out small capital loans toward those whose plans were approved.
- Seeing the **With Joy Skills Development project grow** and gain momentum
- Seeing **more inclusive dancewear that complement body-types found in Africa** designed and structures created, so it can be locally produced by our community.
- Refining and creating a **practical, reproducible in-class identity curriculum manual** that builds relationships with others, God and ourselves in an age-appropriate and fun, yet meaningful way.
- But possibly most of all, seeing **Portia, our eldest bursary student thrive in her Matric Year**, receiving awards for dance at school, leading and serving at church and surviving heart wrenching circumstances during her matric finals with rootedness and faith, surrounded by a community that loves and encourages her.



“The recent passing of Micheala de Prince... has personally revived my commitment to our specific vision.”

The recent, untimely death of Micheala de Prince in September 2024, the orphan from Sierra Leone who was uplifted from her circumstances through dance, the dancer that inspired our whole initiative, has revived my personal commitment to our specific vision.

On Instagram, Micheala's sister Mia de Prince, described the circumstances that led to her passing as: "falling into peer pressure of what you think the norm is in the ballet world, including diets, sleep schedule, overworking yourself which all played a role in Micheala's mental state. Furthermore she had distanced herself from her family and surrounded herself with people who did not love her to the degree of her own family, who never reached out to her loved ones regarding her state and ultimately weren't there for her...".

The importance of not just uplifting through dance, but also intentionally building healthy identity in dancers, so they can weather the storms of life, cannot be overstated. Therefore, we'll keep working to make this our main priority. We also aim to collaborate with others with a similar vision, so we can challenge the status quo of the dance industry to transform from an environment of performance and competition, to one of hope, upliftment, belonging and ministry.

I hope you'll keep being here to see it realised and possibly also be involved to help make it happen.

All my love,
Talitha de Klerk

Vision & Long Term Goals

Redeeming Africa through Dance Families Ministering Hope

What do we mean by this vision statement?

Essentially we'd like to make dance accessible to more people and places that do not yet have access to this incredible gift. Our focus within South Africa would be empowering teachers to teach at orphanages or houses of safety and to schools in disadvantaged communities to students from low-income households. The idea is to empower more teachers with resources and mentoring/support to implement both the identity curriculum and high quality dance training at these locations so that encourages healthy community and ministry in the process.

On a broader scale, in Africa, we hope to empower teachers who are already informally teaching dance or to send 'missionary' teachers to communities in Africa who would want to start teaching dance at a grass roots level, until there are citizens who can continue teaching dance in a wholesome and holistic way in that nation. We envision short term outreaches to Africa as well as as long term processes towards this goal.



Long Term Goals

In Terms of the United Nations' Social Development Goal's, our long term goals include:

1. No Poverty

We envision that dance that facilitates healthy identity (A sense of belonging, worth and competence) will help dancers rise from their circumstances toward better futures for themselves but also for their generational lines. Through our skills development initiatives we also aim their families will be empowered with artisan skills and the entrepreneurial skills required to earn a better income and so also change the trajectory of their lives.

5. Gender Equality (Empowering Women)

99% of our beneficiaries are previously disadvantaged women and girls. By giving more of them access to the world of dance and by creating or growing Dance as an emerging market or a new career opportunity in Africa, we can pave the way for more women to rise to leadership and influence within this continent.

10. Reduced inequality

According to the UN's website, inequality is the greatest need in Africa. Through initiatives like empowering more profit generating studios toward outreach initiatives, and them coming together for an annual show, or a united ministry team, people from very different socio-economic circumstances can see each other on a more human level and realise how similar our needs as humans really are, but are also made more aware of how different our access to meet these needs are. In this way, those with more access can choose to empower those with less, and those with less are not only given access to more resources, but become more integrated in society and become dignified to dream towards a different future for their generational lines.

Pure Hope Hub Highlights & Stories



Project Overview

Pure Hope School is located in Moreleta Park, next to Plastic-view township where many of their students reside. This school caters specifically for children from low-income households in Tshwane, uplifting them through private quality education.

This is where our first classes started 12 years ago with six Gr 1 girls, of which Portia was one. Gr 1 Juniors are auditioned and receive ballet training from GR 1-3. In Gr 4 their exam marks determine whether they continue with formal ballet, or more recreational dance. Seniors who excel in their exams, get to audition at the Youth Dance Company of Tshwane where they are exposed to a pre-professional dance environment on a weekly basis.

Impact Story: Kananelo Piti

‘Ever since I started dancing with Rhythm of Hope Outreach in Grade one, I was excited to do Ballet at that time. I didn't even know the meaning of Ballet. The thing that inspired me the most was a ballerina movie I used to watch. Ballet has changed my life whenever I feel down. I play music and dance, Ballet has given me the courage to be myself on stage, and in the world, I have chosen it because it is my destiny, and I feel like I belong in the dance world.’

Impact in Numbers

- A team of 4 dedicated teachers (Larissa, Marika, Mia and Talitha) teaching at one location, in 3 halls, twice per week.
- 6 x 45 minute dance classes on a weekly basis to prepare 50 students for annual dance exam and show opportunities.
- A weekly 45 min choir practice for 26 children who participated in our Dust to Dawn Show.
- 50 students participating in Internal ballet & dance exams based on the Cecchetti Syllabus, achieving an average of 64%.
- 76 Students taking part in our Dust to Dawn Dance Production in November 2024 to an audience of 934 people, including their parents and esteemed guests.
- 5 Pure Hope students successfully auditioning at the Youth Dance Company of Tshwane and participating in their Sleeping Beauty Ballet Production at the Opera State Theatre from 19-23 November 2024.
- 3 of the senior students auditioning at Pro-Arte Alphen Park for 2024.

Bursary & Ministry Team Project Highlights & Stories

Overview and Long Term Goals

Our bursars are the students with the most potential from our hubs, based on their dance exam results and character. They are the seed we hope to sow into the communities they grew up in. We intentionally invest to give them pre-professional dance opportunities to help them determine if a career in the dance industry is for them. We also aim to invest more intentionally in supporting their identity and personal discovery journeys through coaching and psychometric testing.

Bursary Program Highlights & Impact

- 5 Bursars (ranging from Gr 8-Gr12) at Pro-Arte Alphen Park as Dance Majors, performing in their annual show, Absolute Dance.
- 4 Bursars participated in RAD Intermediate and Advanced Foundation exams in October 2024.
- 5 upcoming candidates and 4 high school bursars had the opportunity to dance with the Youth Dance Company of Tshwane on Saturdays, and ended their year performing in their Sleeping Beauty Season at the Opera State Theatre.
- Some bursars were trained in beading and helped create bracelets sold at our 10 Year celebration.
- All 5 bursars completed and submitted their own business plans for a small entrepreneurship venture and 2 were awarded small capital loans to start these businesses.
- Incredible voluntary exposure from Rapport, City Press, RSG, Impact Radio & Groot FM.



Dansdroom bied uitweg uit ellende
 Barmhartige Samaritanes gee kinders uit arm gemeenskappe geleentheid om taal township-stof van hul lyfies af te skuif, skryf **Riana de Lange**.

Ministry Team Highlights & Impact

- Started the year with a Dance Ministry Camp at The Restoration Well near Bela Bela
- We had the privilege to get invited to dance in churches and at events every month of this year, including Passievol for an audience of 6700 people, as well as conferences and services of Doxa Deo and Moreleta Church.
- Some of our ministry team visited Peas in a Pod House of Safety in October 2024 and got to minister to the girls through dance.



A Message from our Bursary Student: Portia Tabola

As I reflect on my time with ROHO, I realize how remarkable this journey has been. It has truly been a rollercoaster ride, filled with both exhilarating highs and challenging lows.

The highlights of my experience have undoubtedly been the countless dance memories and opportunities I was so fortunate to receive. Each of these moments will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Conversely, the lows, although tough, have brought valuable life lessons that have shaped me. I've learned through experiences that God's will prevails in all things. Never did I imagine I would come to feel grateful for this truth, but I truly am.

Being part of this ministry reminded me of my worth during times when I doubted my own abilities, especially in dance—something I always believed I excelled at.

I am also proud to share that, during my time at Pro-Arte Alphen Park High School, I have been honoured with several awards:

- Best Choreographer,
- Highest Achievement in Dance Theory,
- A spot in the Afrikaans Top 10,
- Meritorious Achievement in the Life Sciences Olympiad,
- the Arnold George Bennett Skinner Award and
- the Human Relations Award

Looking ahead, I am excited to pursue a dance internship next year with ROHO, carrying with me all that I have learned through ROHO.

Thank you for your support and encouragement throughout this journey. I will always cherish my time here.



With Joy Skills Development & ROHO Shop Project Highlights & Stories



Project Overview and Goals

With Joy is our Skills Development project, created to facilitate a community-environment and additional income for our Bursary Students and their mothers. We realised that uplifting the youth without also empowering their parents, did not lead to the family value we were aiming for. With Joy became our answer. In essence, With Joy is a corporate gifting company that provides customised gifts to company's by pre-order. Our ladies help pack the boxes on a mothly basis and not only receive wages per box packed, but get equipped with artisan and entrepreneurial skills to help them become more business savvy themselves. We are aiming for them to run this project/company more independently in the future.

Impact Story: Esther, Evelyn's Mom

With Joy Company helped us to be more confident about ourselves, to be creative also. The bursary program also inspired me a lot, 90 percent of the school fees was paid by the program. If there was no bursary I was not gonna be able to send her to that school. My daughter loves to persuing her dream in ballet.

With Joy Project Manager's Feedback

With Joy Gift Boxes has made remarkable progress this year— packing 353 boxes and contributing R5578.33 towards salaries and school fees for our 5 bursary moms and students. With Joy has also contributed R6577.63 towards the outreach program. The ladies took the initiative to purchase T-shirts to wear on packing days, building unity and team spirit. This year they have also participated in skills development workshops that covered ribbon-tying, entrepreneurship and stewardship. Upcoming workshops include leotard sewing and soap-making, to further expand their skill sets.

“With Joy Company helped us to be more confident about ourselves, to be creative also.”

Board News

Meet our newest Board Member: Anika van den Berg



Anika is a Business Consultant and Designer who creates insightful experiences to foster unity, resilience, and leadership capacity.

She holds a master's degree in arts education from Stellenbosch University, where her research explored how collaborative art can instill hope and a sense of belonging in students. Her master's research was recently published in the American Journal of Art and Design.

Anika also developed a first-year module on Active Citizenship through brand communication for a private university. Her educational theory is featured as a chapter in a handbook for social justice educators in South Africa.

Anika envisions a world where people care deeply, use their influence for good, and live reconciled lives. She believes that these values cannot be fully taught in a traditional classroom, and often, parents are not teaching them either—this is why the arts are essential.

A thinker, designer, and dancer, Anika lives in Pretoria with her husband and two young boys.

Reneilwe Dube's reflection on her first year as Board Member

Serving on the ROH Board has been an opportunity to use my industry experience and organizational expertise to add value to an entity that impacts young people's lives. The contribution is small, the direct impact measured, but the ripple effect could be significant in hearts, families and communities.

So it's been a pleasure and privilege. A form of ministry in the spheres of education and the arts. Serving on a professionally run board is growing my own experience in board service, which will serve me in serving others better even in future.



Team News

Our Intern Ayla's Experience & Introductory Music Pilot Program

It has been an incredible pleasure and privilege to be part of the ROHO team this past year. I have learnt about patience, perspective, perseverance, relying on God for guidance, and stewarding His gifts well. After all, God is intentional in how He prepares us for the next season, where He places us and why. For example, previously I struggled to see how my particular combination of talents and experience could be valuable or even useful, but evidently, they were exactly what ROH wanted. Turns out, God knows best.

Before I share how ROH has impacted me, I want to honour them and express my gratitude; anyone would be blessed to work in or alongside ROH.

I was involved with multiple aspects of ROH (the bursary students as their mentor; With Joy, the skills upliftment program for their mothers; and teaching music to a group of grade 1-3 students at Pure Hope) - through each project, I saw first-hand the effect of hope. Something beautiful happens when you give someone dignity, especially those who have been neglected or seen as insignificant...



...- their eyes light up because they now have a sense of purpose that comes from education/equipping and relational investment.

The biggest thing God taught me came from our weekly Teacher Training meetings. The way the team handles challenges, opportunities, disagreements, plans and change is always from the position of faith and using what God has already placed in your hands. This mindset taught me to go to Him whenever I need direction, even in small things like writing a message, planning a lesson or creating a post. The biggest thing I've learnt from ROH is 'trusting God no matter what's in front of you' - even if it's a bump in the road or a desert.

Farewell's & New Seasons

Marika Botha



This year we bid Marika Botha farewell who has been a part of our outreach team since 2018. Having been a part of many studios over the last few years, she is stepping back to focus on qualifying as a Pilates instructor and focussing her time and commitments bit more. We will miss her dearly.

Here is her farewell message:

I value the time I spent with ROHO, I was able to learn a lot from the teachers' creativity, belief and 'stive for excellence' during my time and I am grateful to have been able to work with a wonderful team, I will pass the experience on which I can use in the future.

Mia Uys

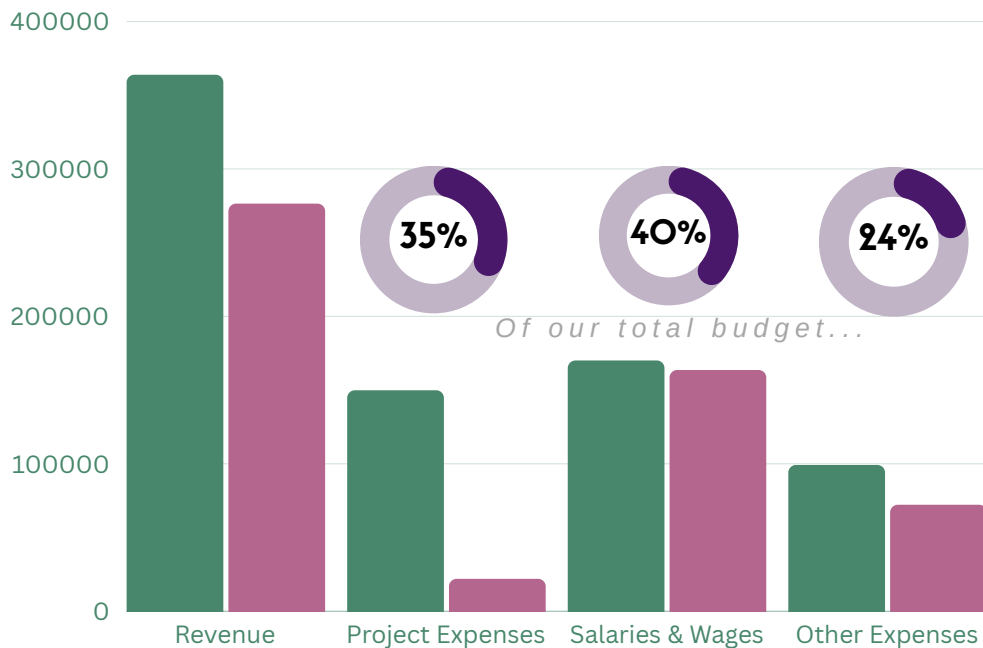
It has been a massive privilege and honour to work with these beautiful dancers. They have taught me so much more than I could ever teach them about ballet: to love life with open arms, to be loud, expressive and to take up space. Their kindness is intentional and their hugs are very tight. I will carry their warm and vibrant hearts with me forever! I am truly going to miss being a part of such a wonderful team and a amazing initiative. Thank you for the last 2 years it has been so fulfilling! Always remember that without a good plié it would be impossible to fly in your jeté!



The Numbers

Brief Financial Overview

A quick comparison of the last 2 years



2024

Financial year:
2023/24

2023

Financial year:
2022/23

*All Figures in ZAR



32%

Change in our revenue from 2023

428

HOURS SPENT IN
CLASSES THIS YEAR

83

STUDENTS
TAUGHT

532

DANCE CLASSES IN
2024

5

BURSARY STUDENTS

353

WITH JOY BOXES
PACKED

1

HUB LOCATION

You can join the Adventure

Our 2025 Wishlist/Prayer Points:

- **Mini-bus Transport Solution** for Bursars and Ministry Team - R700,000
- **6 Full Time Bursaries at Pro-Arte Alphen Park** - R210,000
- **Hostel Accommodation or commune living close to Pro-Arte** for 5 Bursary Students - R250,000
- **Basic Medical Aid** for our Bursary Students - R36,000
- **An Outreach to Swaziland** for our Ministry Team - R80,000
- **Bus services for a Theater outing** - R4,000
- **Publishing Identity Dance Journals for 40 Senior Students** - R2,800
- **3 Laptops for Bursary Students (New/ Second Hand)**

PRAY

We believe in the power of prayer. Thank you for praying with us that God will use ROHO to “Redeem Africa, through dance families, ministering Hope”

Contact us to **join our Monthly ROH Prayer Nights** ([here](#)), spent online in God’s Presence, to help us hear from Him, move with Him and bring our community’s needs to Him.

GIVE

Up to **10% of your taxable income can be given to Public Benefit Organisations like ours, tax free!**

We will then issue an Article 18A Tax Certificate for your donation. Your investment in our program or any of our specific projects, big or small, will make a difference to our society.

You can set-up a monthly debit order, make an EFT using our bank details or do an online payment [here](#)

VOLUNTEER

Our **term-ends and events (like exams and our annual show) depend on volunteers** to ensure all students receive care and attention. **Professionals like physiotherapists, psychologists, and tutors also donate their services.**

Your time & hands can make a big difference!

Join our Volunteer Base by clicking [here](#)

SUPPORT

You can also support us by **ordering corporate gift boxes from With Joy gift boxes** for your event/business.

To find out more about this initiative, visit www.giftwithjoy.co.za

Donating any gently worn dance attire is also a great source of support for our Thrift Store. These can be dropped/sent to 326 Susan Street, Die Wilgers, Pretoria

Dancing towards Hope: Finding purpose amid life's trials

By Ilona Matthee



When I first became part of Rhythm of Hope dance ministry for girls facing the harsh realities of poverty, I hoped to bring them a sense of hope and faith in their future by showing them how loved and valuable they are. What I didn't expect was how profoundly they would touch my own heart and inspire me to trust in God's purpose. In the faces of these young dancers, I saw resilience, a joy in their small victories, and an unyielding faith in God's promises. Through them, I began to understand that even the bleakest circumstances could be transformed when we surrender to God's plan. Their joy became my strength, their hope my reminder that God's love is powerful enough to lift any of us out of despair.

The past year, however, brought challenges I never anticipated. When my husband was diagnosed with cancer and later encephalitis which is a debilitating brain disease I felt my world crumble. I wanted to be even more physically present in the ministry but I found myself pulled in another direction, caring for my husband as he fought a battle no one should have to endure. My desire to serve clashed with my sense of duty at home, and I questioned why God would take me away from the ministry that had brought such fulfillment. Yet, through this, I came to realize that while God's plans may not align with our own desires, He never takes us out of the larger story He's writing.

My journey mirrored that of these young girls. Like them, I faced trials that felt insurmountable, and like them, I had to learn to trust that God had a purpose in it all. We each carry crosses—some visible, some hidden, but we all share in the struggle to keep dancing to the rhythm of His heart. There are moments we may stumble, lose the beat, or question the path set before us, yet His love draws us back, guiding us to find our rhythm once more.

I have met incredible people in this ministry—fellow volunteers who pour their hearts into these girls, mentors who've devoted countless hours to supporting them, and, of course, the girls themselves, each with her own story of resilience.

Through these relationships, I've come to understand that we are bound together not just by faith but by our shared commitment to trust in God's purpose. Even in the most painful times, we can feel His heartbeat, steady and true, reminding us that He is with us.

As I continue this journey, I hold onto the lessons I've learned from these brave girls. They have taught me that faith is not always a straight path; it's often a dance with unexpected steps. Together, we are learning to trust the rhythm, to surrender to God's timing, and to find hope in each beat of His heart.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 GENEROUS PARTNERS

ULTIMA FINANCIAL PLANNERS for ongoing investment since the beginning and through all seasons.

RHYTHM OF HOPE DANCE STUDIO MEMBERS for continued support in walking out this vision and 10% of your fees helping to cover ongoing costs.

PURE HOPE PRIMARY SCHOOL for giving us a platform to work with your students on a weekly basis and honouring all our logistical requests to make this possible.

MORELETA CHURCH for making your facilities available for weekly dance classes for Pure Hope Students, and renting us your Auditorium (and tech team) for our Dust to Dawn Show.

PRO ARTE ALPHEN PARK'S DANCE DEPARTMENT for making our bursary students part of your family.

YOUTH DANCE COMPANY OF TSHWANE

& PRO ARTE SENIOR DANCE ACADEMY for selflessly creating a space for our students to learn and develop with the company's students.

DOXA DEO PARKVIEW & BROOKLYN for making your facilities available for our With Gift Box Packing, exposure & dance opportunities.

DOXA DEO PARKVIEW CHERISH for the constant practical support especially with our exams, show & reward thrift store & sponsoring our Pure Hope outing to the State Theatre in November 2024.

IMPACT RADIO & GROOT FM for ongoing exposure and support, especially with our 10 Year Celebration and Dust to Dawn Show.

RAPPOR & RSG for exposure and raising awareness about our work on your platforms.

MARIKA KOK PHYSIOTHERAPY for making your services available to our bursary students at discounted rates.

PUNO SELESHO for making your incredible spoken word gift available on our 10 year celebration and our Dust to Dawn Show

GERRIT & REGINA VILJOEN; DEBORAH ELS for financial donations, prayer and support throughout the year.

LAYITA COACHING for monthly coaching and strategic planning sessions with our executive director.

THE RESTORATION WELL, BELA BELA for hosting our teachers' and ministry camps in January & February 2024.

KARMA FOOD SERVICES for sponsoring & catering for 79 Pure Hope Students at the Show Sleepover in November 2024.

THE BEAT DANCE STUDIO for inviting us to dance at your Lovely Masquerade Ball

STRATUSOLVE/TRISCHA for donating secondhand laptops for our bursars.

MELANI MALAN/ FERVENT FLOW for sponsoring the beads for our bursary students' bracelets & for presenting beading workshops to empower them.

DANCEDONATION.ORG for a significant dance attire & pointe shoe donation.

NICOLE VAN NIEKERK PHOTOGRAPHY for lovely photos at our internal exams as well as for Portia's Matric Farewell.

HMS PHOTO (HENNING SWANEPOEL) for Dust to Dawn Outreach Photos

MAP4LIFE for sponsoring Portia to attend your workshop on 23 November.




ELIZE ROELOFSE ART for creating Portia's beautiful original artwork based on Nathali van Lingen's photo and making the digital prints available for us to re-selling to raise funds for our bursary program.

INSPIRING HOPE CREATIONS for creating 90 pairs of Africa Earrings for our 10 Year celebration and the fundraising clay earring workshops you host on our behalf.



RHYTHM OF HOPE OUTREACH
FNB Cheque Account 62793897003,
Branch: 250655

Rhythm of Hope Outreach
NPC 2018/610626/08 PBO 930067805
326 Susan Street, Die Wilgers , 0081

www.rhythmofhopeoutreach.org 
rhythmofhopedance@gmail.com 
[@rhythmofhopeoutreach](https://www.facebook.com/rhythmofhopeoutreach) 

ROHO Board of Directors:

T van Loggerenberg, HJ de Klerk, L de Villiers, R Dube, A van den Berg, T de Klerk