



# VOLMOED YOUTH

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME

## Global Giving VYLTP Report April 2026

What a wonderfully active and energised few months it has been since our last report!

2025 ended with special end of year celebrations for VYLTP in mid-December at the weekly Volmoed Thursday service, when the young people received their 2025 performance certificates listing all modules and leadership experiences completed in 2025. These include drum making; the Makhanda drum tour; understanding gender based violence; spirituality and spiritual/mindfulness practices; leadership, and much more. A fantastic lunch by our wonderful caterers followed.



In January, Inathi and Masixole returned from three months of volunteering with the Taizé community in France, and engaged the young people with their learnings, challenges and joys of their time there. They even made it into the local newspaper!

January also held wonderful learning conversations

and amazing music, with the Tutu Travel Seminar and excellent speakers and experiential learnings, followed by Bongani Music Experiences, together with Village Harmony community choir from around the world. The choirs learned new songs from scratch in Xhosa, Zulu and Sesotho and were amazing in their new abilities! They participated in a choral workshop and then sang as a mass choir with the VYLTP young people at a choral workshop and concert at the end of the singing week, which was a huge highlight and joy.





In February the weekly Thursday learning sessions focused on the Volmoed core mission of reconciliation. Tom Rennard (visiting from the US and Lesotho), Dr Allan Boesak, Prof John de Gruchy and Dean John Witcombe of Coventry Cathedral UK, all offered thoughtful presentations followed by challenging questions and group discussions. The Dean also visited the Volmoed Youth drum making venue and loved seeing the young people at work making drums.

Another highlight was to enjoy the beauty of nature in a gloriously gorgeous morning walk to the top of a local hill, "Hoy se koppie" in Hermanus and then down to Grotto beach via the newly opened section of the gorgeous scenic cliff path next to the ocean. They were met by local volunteers with a tasty lunch and welcome cold drinks. We are thankful for volunteers Sarah and Walter!



March continued with a series of different groups of visitors visiting from around the world. Fifteen Canadians and nine Dutch students, and a few from the US, heard the story of the drums and drum making from the young people. They then walked around Zwelihle and Mount Pleasant, led by the young people, seeing local entrepreneurship, local culture, community and social life, as well as the challenges.

In March it was a joy for the young people to participate in another singing workshop with Bongani Music experiences, and another beautiful concert. A richness of music and singing that was good for the soul.

The leadership team continues to work hard at organising and sustaining both activities and planning. They came together in mid-February for our three day annual meeting. Quoting VYLTP Edwin Arrison: "We had an excellent session with two Volmoed Trustees to determine how we will journey forward together this year... and committed to journeying together as we really are a gift to each other."



This year the most exciting event is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June! Planning has started for a three day conference with VYLTP alumni, partners, founders and friends, to celebrate VYLTP 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, leading up to a large celebration on 16 June, which is the actual anniversary of the founding. It is all very exciting – stay tuned for more news of this and think of this as we raise funds for the massive undertaking and make plans to look at the Past, Present and Future in very creative ways.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR DONATIONS AND SUPPORT. VYLTP CANNOT DO THE WORK WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT AND WE ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL!