

Global Giving Volmoed Retreat Centre Report April 2025



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS AND SUPPORT!

These first couple of months have held enough for the year at least, with joys, challenges, heartbreaks and more. We are always grateful for so much.



After the holidays in January, a group of thirty people from Trinity Church Wall Street, New York, came to Cape Town and Gauteng, Volmoed and Hermanus, on the Tutu travel seminar, with Michael Battle and Edwin Arrison. What a great group! a privilege to spend time with them, sharing my story of my journey with the late Archbishop Tutu and my journey to ordination, and the issues of gender reconciliation and gender based violence in South Africa.

In February and March we had a number of different groups coming to Volmoed each week for four weeks. This helps us build up our finances and what interesting groups they were! We are grateful for them, and they have all booked their spaces for 2026 already!

An icon painting course, taught by a Danish teacher, Charlotte, brought eight people together to learn new skills in a quiet, focused, meditative way and learn the ancient art of icon painting. The meeting room turned into a quiet space of focus and artistic beauty. They produced beautiful works of art, most for the first time ever!

The Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation brought their flagship Leadership for Humanity program to Volmoed for the third year in a row. This stellar program brings together entrepreneurs, movers and shakers, aged eighteen to forty, to learn about the legacy of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Ubuntu, his values, and experience healing of selves, e.g. through body mapping, in order to heal humanity.



They began each day with body stretching exercises and walked in silence to the beautiful spaces at Volmoed, to do nature gazing, meditation, prayer, silence, body exercises and more. This was for them to get in touch with their deepest selves in silence, and to discover the power of silence for leaders, as Desmond Tutu did and practised and lived out. They loved this half hour before breakfast and found it inspiring.



come from different sectors of society, from corporate to non-profit, academic and more. It helps leaders integrate heart practices with leadership realities, and they learn strategies to address some of their most pressing leadership challenges.

The next week brought a group from around South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique, Burundi and Zambia. It was the first of four residencies for the Soul of Leadership program, held over eighteen months. Leaders of all ages



The last group was an international community choir from the USA and Canada and the UK. They came to sing! They learned South African songs, in Xhosa, Zulu, and Sesotho, from scratch and it was simply amazing how beautifully they sang in 4 days of long rehearsals. The music could be heard all around Volmoed and it brought a lot of joy.



Our big gratitude to our donors is that we were able to buy spectacles for Lucas, one of our staff, who has been in need to glasses for some time. We were

able to get the eye test done and provide him with lovely bifocal specs that he is now learning to use, and enjoying being able to read properly. Thank you all so much!



HOPES FOR 2025: The causeway across the river remains muddy and too watery after the September 2023 floods, and is not usable. This means there is no way across the river for a vehicle in the case of a fire. We now have the environmental permissions to build a bridge over the causeway and the river, and are consulting engineers about the best way to do this. It is going to be costly, and we will have to raise the money. We are hopeful to do it this year.

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