

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



TOUCHING
DREAMS

TOUCHING DREAMS NPC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Year ended 30 June 2025

I'm pleased to present the Touching Dreams NPC Chairman's Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2025. The past year has been one of meaningful impact and a growing commitment to the communities we support.

A YEAR OF PURPOSE AND PROGRESS

Touching Dreams was created to harness the collective power of South Africa's tourism industry to drive meaningful change in the communities and natural environments where hospitality providers operate. Over the past year, our programmes and partners have worked together to ensure that tourism doesn't just exist in these spaces, but actively uplifts them.

Despite a challenging economic environment, the organisation achieved **total income of R1.668 million**, representing a significant increase from the prior year. This growth was driven primarily by our signature fundraising initiatives, including the Hospitality Industry Think Tank, and the continued generosity of our donors. These contributions totalled **R1.457 million**, with the balance generated through the expanding merchandise initiatives across several hotels and resorts.

Our focus remained firmly on high-impact philanthropic activities. We continue to support a diverse group of beneficiaries, including Langkloof Orphanage Programme, Reach for a Dream, Juno Aurora Haven, Christel House, and Endangered Wildlife Trust. Each project reflects our ethos: ensuring that through meaningful collaboration, our communities and natural habitats are not only protected, but are able to truly thrive.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

The organisation recorded a **surplus of R195,500** for the year, strengthening our accumulated reserves to **R706,417**. This ensures greater resilience and positions the organisation for responsible, sustainable growth in the years ahead.

Operating expenses increased year-on-year, largely due to the expansion of events and outreach initiatives, including the gala dinners, golf days, and project-specific programmes. These were strategic investments—each event serving both as a fundraising engine and as a platform for community engagement.

Our financial controls, governance practices, and transparency remain paramount. The independent review conducted by LPH Chartered Accountants Inc. concluded that the financial statements fairly present the financial position of Touching Dreams NPC, in accordance with the organisation's accounting framework and regulatory requirements. We value this assurance as part of our ongoing commitment to ethical governance and accountability.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY

No non-profit organisation thrives in isolation. Our work is made possible by the generosity of donors, the energy of our volunteers and the dedication of our directors.

This year, we witnessed a notable increase in collaborative engagement—business partners deepened their commitments, individuals contributed both time and resources, and our networks unlocked new opportunities for growth.

In November 2025 we proudly launched the Think Big Academy, welcoming 20 unemployed learners into a one-year programme delivered in partnership with the International Hotel School, YES, and the Boundless Group. The financial investment per learner is R120K, equating to a total R2.4m contribution to youth development in South Africa. Furthermore, learners have been placed at Dream Hotels & Resorts properties across the country to gain the relevant work experience.

This is a sustainable initiative that will alleviate unemployment and help pull families out of poverty. By offering structured learnership opportunities to individuals who may lack formal qualifications or work experience, the programme empowers young people with employable skills, practical exposure and a pathway into long-term careers.

LOOKING AHEAD

The board remains confident in the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, supported by a stable donor base and by the continued passion of our team. In FY2026, we aim to:

- Expand support for existing initiatives and extend our reach to additional community-based projects
- Strengthen donor engagement through enhanced fundraising initiatives and events
- Improve the reach and quality of programmes within the communities and natural habitats where hospitality providers operate.
- Invest further in sustainable initiatives like the Think Big Academy to help address unemployment, empower communities and close the skills gap in hospitality.
- Build reserve capacity for long-term sustainability

Touching Dreams will continue to evolve, but our core belief remains unchanged: that the collective power of South Africa's tourism industry can drive meaningful, lasting change.

APPRECIATION

I extend my heartfelt thanks to my fellow directors—Anthea Faulds, Weston Dickson, Sonja Reyneke, and Chris Snyman—for their steadfast leadership. In 2025 we were also pleased to welcome two new directors to the Board: Michael Puffet of Profitroom and Rosa-Anne Naude Potgieter, a Dream Vacation Club Trustee.

To our volunteers, donors and partners: you are the heartbeat of this organisation. Your support ensures that Touching Dreams continues to make a tangible difference. Together, we remain custodians of hope—and hope, when nurtured, becomes possibility.

Chris Godenir

CHAIR
TOUCHING DREAMS NPC





Touching Dreams

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