



WINTER 2025

NEWSLETTER



From the desk of the president, Pam.

I am still living in Eswatini, nearly full time, as our daughter completes high school. The rigours of trying to run two households, maintain family and friend relationships, the cost and the travel itself are beginning to show signs of wear on me! (I hate to admit). We have one more year like this. Thankfully, currently Bruce is down there with Thula, as I recover from a broken leg, sustained in Mozambique. But in spite of it being tough, I still really love it and consider it an honour to have been able to devote this much time and energy to the work that Joe and I do on the ground in Eswatini. So, this opener is a thank you to all of you faithful donors who have been with us for so very long. The challenges don't end, but neither do the rewards. Please enjoy this, our latest, newsletter. Xoxo Pam



LOSS OF USAID and its impact in Eswatini

2025 got off with a stormy with the sudden suspension of all USAID activities, by the US Government. Eswatini is one of the many countries that receive aid from the US government to run most of their health, development and social interventions. The current stoppage of USAID activities in Eswatini will have significant repercussions. The closure has disrupted vital aid and development initiatives in the country. This has particularly affected healthcare and economic development programs, especially those related to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

The abrupt shutdown has caused anxiety among employees and uncertainty about the future of these programs. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other beneficiaries of USAID assistance have been advised not to engage with the media, adding to the confusion and concern.

The sudden cessation of these activities will lead to:



Reduced Healthcare



Economic Instability



Social Services Cutbacks

The prevailing circumstance reiterates the relevance of the work of Swazi Kids Society in Eswatini. In the absence of USAID funding, Swazi Kids' efforts become even more vital in ensuring that at least the children in our communities continue to receive support.





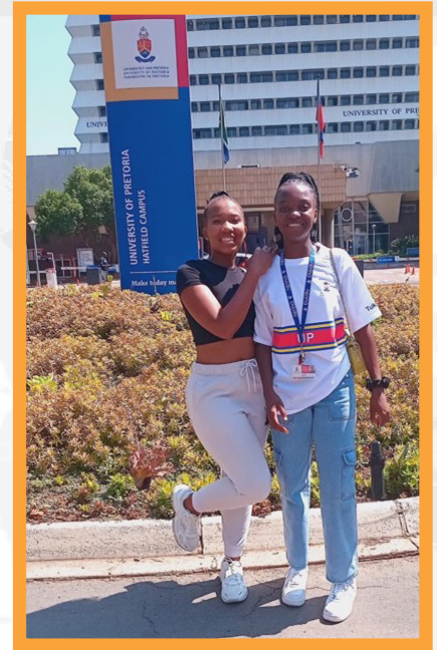
EMERGENCY RELIEF: FIRE STRIKES- Family Lost Everything



Swazi Kids was able to respond with haste to a real call for help. Locals were collecting clothing, food and other small items, but with the help of sponsors' donations, we were able swing into fast action. Grandmother Precious was asleep with her 5 children and a tiny granddaughter when the wind changed directing chasing a previously innocuous fire into a rage, up the hill and directly at their home. The seven people ran for their lives in their pyjamas at 2 am. They lost absolutely everything from personal ID to school books and uniforms to appliances that she had been saving to install in a new home. It was all ruined! We had the funds on hand to move fast. We provided the needed building materials for her adult sons to do the work and complete a better stronger home.

SCHOLARSHIP CANDIDATES, WINNING.....

Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program: We have had very exciting news in the form of TWO scholarships through Mastercard for two of our bright-light young women. Xondile has been with us for many years. She is sponsored by an amazing couple from Switzerland. Xondile is very strong in the maths and sciences she is going to study financial planning at the university. The other young woman Ayanda will be entering actuarial sciences, so they both must be good at math! The girls have gone together to University of Pretoria. Swazi Kids has provided both of them with suitcases, a clothing allowance and all the needed start-up items to live away from home.



2024-25 Graduations

We had nine of our senior students graduate in 2024/25 in various courses of study. Graduation ceremonies are ongoing. I include this list and these names with their permission, to show you that we are graduating young people from real, serious educational and career opportunities.

Name of student	Graduation course
Siphesihle Hlanze	Diploma in Information Technology
Lombuyiselo Mamba	Primary Teachers Diploma
Angel Simelane	BSc in Information Technology
Sivesonkhe Masuku	Bachelor of Law LLB
Wandile Mbonane	Diploma Office Mgt & Technology
Nobuhle Myeni	Diploma in Pharmacy
Nelsiwe Simelane	Diploma in Pharmacy
Philani Masuku	BSc Emergency and Rescue
Cebile Hlophe	Certificate in Emergency & Rescue



Graduation enhancement program

Our GEP sessions are ongoing with the first cohort and addition of fresh graduates to the group. Our plan this year is to focus on entrepreneurial skills development. This is necessitated by the decline in hiring in all sectors of the economy. Some of our students also have internship placements and others are volunteering to acquire skills and experience in preparation for job placements. We've been privileged to have one of our directors, Bruce Carlson (seen here) come and work with us on personal development skills.

SCHOOL RENOS- Mavula and Scgweni High Schools

Two very, very rural schools received major structural upgrades and face lifts. Both resulted in large numbers of students returning to attend school in their home areas. These projects are favourites of ours for several reasons. The cost is relatively low (\$10-15k CAD.). The results are very satisfying and rewarding to the eye. It restores pride to the village residents. And most importantly, students return to the classroom.



Mavula before & after!





ON OUR MANAGER: Joe's News:

Joe is now a bachelor at home! His eldest is now attending first year medicine in Ghana. His younger two sons are now in the US with their mother, Cynthia. She is, no doubt, working night and day to keep a roof over their heads. If one is a legal immigrant (as they are) the US appears to be treating them very well. The youngest is attending a good local high school, and he is in grade 9. The middle boy is looking for a part time job and also waiting for entry into a local college. I do not know when they will see each other again! But Joe did enjoy a Christmas feast this year, before his boys left.



Swazi Kids

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Ways to Help Swazi Kids 2025

I wish to help out in the following way(s)
Please fill in the appropriate blanks

An elementary student is helped in various ways and \$200 per year goes a very long way, (but does not get them a new uniform):

I would like to help _____

Our secondary students need \$500-750 per year, this is due in large part to expensive exam fees and uniforms:

I would like to help _____

Uniform \$175 _____

Graduation Enhancement Program

\$350 will get one of our grads through this new program and onto employment

Use my funds as you see fit for Swazi Kids work: _____

METHODS OF DONATING

1. Using credit card or Paypal, directly from our website. If this is your method, cut and paste this URL address into your address bar on your search engine; <https://swazikids.org/donate> It will take you to our donate page, which is a self-serve method of easy payment using your credit card or Paypal
2. If sending via an e-transfer, please use email address: swazikids@gmail.com and use password: swazikids
3. Please make donation cheques payable to Swazi Kids Society and post the cheque along with this form

Swazi Kids Society
4531 Gaspardone Rd,
Kelowna, BC,
V1W 5A7, Canada



Does a service trip to Eswatini interest you?

I guide groups ranging from 6-30 people in Eswatini. The trip can be quite customized to suit the group. Couples, singles, families, extended families, friends are all welcome. I have done this many times and can provide great contacts from happy previous travellers and testimonials. I know Eswatini like the back of my hand. The trips are usually 2 weeks long and include: service with children/building (no skills required), sight-seeing, hiking (all abilities accepted) and an amazing safari.

There is also a phenomenal music festival down here, called Bush-Fire. bush-fire.com and facebook.com/MTNBUSHFIRE and I look forward to bringing a group that could incorporate this! Costs range from about \$4,500-\$6,000 per person depending upon the level of safari, this does not include airfare.

Watch videos from the Bushfire festival:

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)

[Video 3](#)

[Video 4](#)

[Video 5](#)



Contact me, Pam Carlson, for more information on my trips: Pambigdog3@gmail.com



Note that for liability reasons, my trips are run by a separate entity, called Jacaranda Journeys and although my connection is to Swazi Kids, the trips are not. However, we work on and view many of Swazi Kids projects and we engage with students younger and older from our program.