

BREAKING NEWS

Khayaletu shelter project “a real expression of ubuntu”

After a 6 year struggle to secure funding from KZN Department of Human Settlements, a partnership between Youth for Christ KZN and our trading company, BESG Development Services, finally came to fruition with the handover of a R3.5m building contract on 19 October. The project is to renovate two dilapidated buildings in the upper CBD of Pietermaritzburg that form the Khayaletu Shelters for Street Children.

BESG has undertaken emergency repairs to the buildings twice over the past 12 years, to extend their life while seeking Special Needs Housing Subsidy. The Department of Social Development finally caused the buildings to close in June 2018 because they were considered a health risk. Our journey to secure funding for their redevelopment began in 2016, and faced continuous challenges to be prioritised in the face of repeated cuts to the housing budget.



The client, the funder, the builder and professional team all working together

Finally, persistence paid off and in November 2019, Youth for Christ entered into contract with KZN Human Settlements for a R4.1m grant to refurbish the buildings from top to bottom. BESG also assisted YfC in raising a further R500,000 from Swiss benefactors. Work was delayed by lockdown, but the buildings were handed over to local construction company Go Plan Homes on 19 October for a 5 month contract period.

The project is a real expression of ubuntu, as the entire professional team – BESG Development Services, T2 Design Lab, Kantey and Templer, and Preben Naidoo & Associates -- has discounted their fees by between 20% and 100% as a community contribution to the project. Local suppliers donated sanitary ware and a solar geyser.

Another exciting development to share is that the National Departments of Human Settlements and Social Development have agreed a joint policy that will pave the way for further funding for residential care projects for many of the most vulnerable members of our community – victims of gender based violence, street homeless adults, persons with physical and learning challenges.... For further information please contact Executive Director Cameron Brisbane on cameron@besg.co.za or call him on 084 247 3330.