



Scalabrini
Centre of Cape Town

LAWRENCE

HOUSE

IMPACT REPORT 2025

OVERVIEW

In 2025, Lawrence House marked a significant milestone, accomplishing 20 years of welcoming and walking alongside children and young people on the move. Since its establishment in April 2005, Lawrence House has grown into more than a place of care; it has become a space of belonging, growth, and transformation for all who pass through its doors.

The journey of children on the move is often shaped by a profound loss of relationships, stability, identity, and loss of belonging. Many have experienced conflict, violence, displacement, and disruption, while others carry the weight of intergenerational trauma. These experiences can affect trust, self-worth, and the ability to envision a secure future.

In response, Lawrence House continues to adopt a trauma-informed approach that recognises behaviours as adaptive responses to lived experiences. This approach prioritises safety, consistency, relational care, and cultural responsiveness. Through empathy, attunement, and intentional support, the programme works to rebuild trust, strengthen identity, and foster resilience.

Welcoming remains central to the Lawrence House model. It is not a singular act, but an ongoing, intentional practice embedded in daily life. Creating a warm, respectful, and culturally responsive environment allows children and young people to begin rebuilding their sense of safety and belonging. Affirming identity which is done through language, culture, and self-expression serves as a critical step in restoring connection and dignity.

In 2025, this commitment was further strengthened through initiatives such as quarterly cultural days, where children and young people celebrate their diverse backgrounds through shared meals, storytelling, and cultural exchange. These moments foster connection, mutual respect, and a sense of family within the home.

A critical component of the programme remains supporting pathways to legal documentation. Without legal status, children and young people face significant barriers to education and future employment, further compounding their vulnerability. Through collaboration with broader organisational advocacy efforts, Lawrence House continues to support access to documentation and uphold the rights of children on the move.

As Lawrence House reflects on two decades of impact, it remains committed to nurturing each young person's sense of self, supporting their aspirations, and walking alongside them as they build pathways toward independent and meaningful futures.



HIGHLIGHTS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

2025 was marked by meaningful achievements that reflect both individual growth and collective resilience:

- **Transition to Independence:**

Five young people successfully completed the Transition Programme and moved into independent living. Through structured support which includes job readiness, budgeting, and life skills development, the participants demonstrated readiness to navigate life beyond Lawrence House.

- **Celebration of Academic Milestones:**

Five matriculants reached a significant educational milestone, celebrated through a dedicated matric ball event. This occasion created a space of dignity, joy, and recognition, made possible through the support of partners and community members.

- **Community Engagement and Social Responsibility:**

Young people actively participated in outreach activities, engaging with elderly community members and frontline workers. These experiences fostered empathy, connection, and a sense of purpose.



HIGHLIGHTS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Sport and Personal Development:**

Participation in sport continued to support holistic development. Young people engaged in local football clubs, with some receiving awards, while others achieved leadership roles such as assistant coaching. Participation in external programmes also led to notable achievements, including representation at provincial and national levels in climbing.

- **New Recreational Opportunities:**

A partnership with a local surf school introduced weekly surfing sessions, providing a unique avenue for confidence-building, emotional regulation, and personal growth.

- **Academic Excellence and Leadership:**

Many learners achieved strong academic results, with several receiving subject awards and Top 10 recognition. Leadership development was evident through the appointment of prefects and a deputy prefect, reflecting growing confidence and responsibility.

- **Alumni Achievement:**

The success of alumni continues to inspire current residents. One alumna represented the Western Cape at a national dance competition, achieving second place, serving as an example of sustained growth and achievement beyond Lawrence House.



NEW INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS



In response to the evolving needs of children and young people, Lawrence House continues to strengthen and expand its approach through:

- Building new partnerships to increase access to recreational, educational, and community-based opportunities.
- Expanding creative and expressive programmes, including art, music, dance, and sport, as key tools for emotional wellbeing and self-expression.
- Enhancing intentional support for life skills development, tailored to each young person's stage of growth and individual needs.
- Strengthening a culture of recognition by celebrating both small and significant achievements, fostering confidence and a positive living environment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPRECIATION

Lawrence House extends its sincere gratitude to all individuals and partners who contributed to its work in 2025.

This includes the dedication of interns and volunteers, both local and international, whose time and commitment enriched the lives of the young people. Appreciation is also extended to organisational leadership and board members for their continued guidance and support.

Special thanks are extended to community and institutional partners whose contributions, whether through services, opportunities, or financial support, all this has made a meaningful difference in sustaining the programme and enhancing its impact.

As Lawrence House celebrates 20 years of service, it does so with both pride and reflection. The milestone is not only an testament of existence, but of sustained commitment to care, dignity, and opportunity for children and young people on the move. While challenges remain, Lawrence House continues to stand as a place of belonging and possibility, where young people are supported to heal, grow, and step confidently into their futures.



The centre is registered with the South African Department of Social Development as a non-profit organisation (021-079 NPO), as a youth and child care centre (C7569) and as a Public Benefit Organisation with the South African Revenue Services (930075335) and governed by a Trust (IT2746/2006).

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