

# FAREWELL

COMMUNITY  
H.E.A.R.T.

AMANDLA

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*the public service union*



## COMMUNITY HEART STATEMENT

It is with great regret that we have to announce through this, our final newsletter, that our Board have reluctantly decided that our charity will cease to operate with immediate effect.

This has been a very difficult step to take after 26 years of successfully supporting the communities of the new South Africa. However, our situation, in common with everything else in the world, has been changed utterly by the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We have been unable to carry out any fundraising work or develop our campaigns over the last year or so and we cannot see any prospect of a return to normality. It is particularly disappointing as we were about to launch several exciting projects which would have been fitting expansions to all our successful previous initiatives.

We were set up shortly after the first free elections in South Africa in 1994 by Denis Goldberg who sadly died in April 2020. Our aims, as reflected in our name, were to assist in overcoming the legacy of apartheid in the fields of Health, Education and Reconstruction Training.

For a small organisation, we believe that we have been remarkably successful in those aims. The success of Community HEART has been due solely to our wonderful supporters. We cannot thank them enough and the projects we have been supporting stand as testament to their solidarity with the people of South Africa. It is a great pity that we as an organisation are unable to continue with this work.

Of course, the pandemic has had a devastating effect on South Africa. The projects we supported still desperately need international solidarity. One of the main purposes of this newsletter is to encourage you to continue your great support for the communities and people of South Africa. You will find information within on the House of Hope/Denis Goldberg Foundation, Ikamva Labantu and Ububele with details of how to contribute.

We would like to thank our Director Izzy McVicar and Brian Stangoe for all the hard work they have done over the last 23 years.

On behalf of the Board of Community HEART

**Maggie Dunn Chair**

**Bob Bruce Vice-Chair**



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN BRIEF

In the last 26 years, some of the projects which have been supported include –

- Collecting and selecting almost 4 million books for school libraries throughout South Africa
- AMAKHAYA NGOKU, a community based housing project in Masiphumele Township
- MEDUNSA adult literacy project, providing a mobile library in the area surrounding the Medical University of Southern Africa
- Purchasing and equipping a Maths and Science Laboratory bus to support education in the area around MEDUNSA
- Providing a mobile clinic for primary health care work reaching out to more than 2 million people, particularly in schools
- Supporting HIV/AIDS projects
- UMTATHI Training Programme in Grahamstown helping families to make vegetable gardens
- Cooperating with Computer Aid International to ship thousands of computers to schools, colleges and universities
- Supporting Rape Crisis Centre Cape Town, including obtaining funding from Comic Relief
- Various art and cultural projects including in Soweto and Bethesda
- Funding UBUBELE psychotherapy resource and training centre in Alexandra Township

In addition, our latest operations were directed towards supporting IKAMVA LABANTU (The Future of our Nation) based in disadvantaged townships around Cape Town, a movement of social development organising more than a thousand locally led projects: raising funds for the purchase in South Africa of high quality beginner books in the 11 official mother tongue languages: supporting the Denis Goldberg Foundation and the construction of its House of Hope, an arts and cultural centre in Hout Bay township in Cape Town





## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY HEART

It was our 25th anniversary last year and I thought it would be a good idea to work out what difference we have made in South Africa over these 25 years. Along with the 3 million children's books we sent to set up school libraries in South Africa we also sent funds of £1.5 million to grassroots organisations supporting local people to overcome the legacy of apartheid. The support for Rape Crisis Cape Town over many years saw the organisation grow from exceedingly small beginnings and supported many women. A total of £800,000 was provided to Rape Crisis Cape Town which allowed them to build the organisation and help with the immense problem with rape in South Africa.



There are other organisations that we have supported on a regular basis like Ikamva Labantu Trust, an organisation which covers a wide range of community support from early years education through to support for seniors, Ububele Psychotherapy and Educational Trust, supporting young families before and after pre-natal and post-natal in Alexandra township, Kronendal Music Academy, bringing different communities of Hout Bay through music lessons and performances. We also received funds towards specific projects like the Rape Crisis Cape Town, Amakhaya ngoku in the

township of Masiphumulele, a house building project which replaced the informal housing with formal flats, the Science Bus which visited schools so that students could use lab equipment and carry out experiments. There were a few teething problems with the project to begin with because the teachers had learned about science under apartheid and had no experience of doing experiments because they were taught by rote. One of our trustees, Mmapula Tladi Small visited the project and talked to the teachers who were reticent to use the bus due to their inexperience. She then liaised with MEDUNSA (Medical University of South Africa) and they agreed to train up the teachers prior to any visit by the Science Bus so that they felt confident to teach and engage students in the experiments.

The Book And 10 pence was one of the first projects that was set up at the beginning of Community H.E.A.R.T. by the time we brought the campaign to a close nearly 3 years ago we had sent over 3 million children's books to South Africa to set up school libraries. The idea came from a discussion Denis Goldberg had with a South African education minister and the wish to inculcate a love of reading. So, the campaign was about children's books not textbooks. We were partnered by the ACTSA Scotland that collected the books in Scotland and sorted and packed them. We were the preferred provider of books because we only sent books that were in good condition as we checked every book we received. We also started to raise funds for mother-tongue books which was put forward by Nat Perez, one of our trustees.

Our founding Director, Denis Goldberg, set up the Denis Goldberg Foundation in South Africa to carry on the work he started to overcome the legacy of apartheid. The project that he worked on for the final years of his life was the House of Hope which would help bring different communities together. He worked through his illness to the very last. The building of the House of Hope is well under way but that has not stopped them getting on with project. They have been putting on events and workshops since the project was set up and continue to do this.

Our sister organisation in Germany, Community H.E.A.R.T. e.V. will continue their work supporting the House of Hope and the Kronendal Music Academy.

Isabel McVicar



*Izzy with Denise celebrating his 80th birthday*





## MESSAGE FROM DAVE PRENTIS, FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY OF UNISON

UNISON was extremely sorry to learn that Community Heart was wound up at the beginning of January 2021. It is an organisation that we have been proud to support since its establishment in 1995. For the last 25 years, Community Heart has done outstanding work in successfully supporting the communities of the new South Africa as they strive to overcome the legacy of apartheid in the fields of health, education and reconstruction training.

UNISON and its predecessor unions had long histories of support for the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM), and the life and death struggles for freedom in the southern states of Africa, particularly Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. They continued their support for the transition to democracy by assisting emerging, progressive trade unions through direct funding and education and development programmes, by providing independent international observers at national government elections and, in the case of South Africa, providing £100,000 from UNISON's General Political Fund to the African National Congress for voter education. This work continued with support for the AAM and its successor Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA).



*UNISON President  
Gerry Gallagher presents  
Denis Goldberg with honorary  
UNISON membership in 2010  
at UNISON's national delegate  
conference.*

Denis Goldberg, who had spent 22 years in prison as one of the Rivonia trialists, came from his native South Africa to join his family in London following his release from prison. South Africa held its first free elections in 1994 and it was then that Denis decided to set up Community Heart. Inspired by Denis's energy and enthusiasm, Community Heart achieved considerable success and impact and punched well above its weight.

UNISON was pleased to be involved in one of the first campaigns organised by Community Heart – the Book and Ten Pence campaign, a simple idea but one which enabled more than 3 million books to be sent to schools and libraries in South Africa. We also supported the organisation's work with the Medical University of South Africa to train nurses and other medical staff, the Phelophepa Train mobile hospital, the supply of information technology and mobile science labs for schools, rape crisis centres in Cape Town and elsewhere, projects for

the elderly, others for the young, orphaned or abandoned under the Aids crisis, projects for providing proper, permanent housing in the informal settlement areas around Cape Town, and many others. I want to record here my thanks to the many regions, branches and hundreds of individual members of my union who have done so much to provide this support over the years.

Denis was always a welcome visitor to our National Delegate Conference – an inspirational speaker who would leave our 3000 delegates spellbound. He also took part in many of our informal gatherings and spoke regularly at meetings of our regions and branches across the whole of the UK. Denis was a great friend to UNISON and we were privileged and proud to have known him. He was made an Honorary Member of our union in 2010.

Sadly Denis passed away in April last year. However, just as the election of a new government in South Africa on 10th May 1994, signalled the need for continuing not less support for the people of South Africa, Denis' passing must not stop us helping them in their on-going struggle to overcome the structural inequality and poverty left in the wake of Apartheid.

I am therefore calling on you all to keep alive your memories of Denis and Community HEART, by supporting Denis' legacy project, House of Hope. Details can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

***Dave Prentis***



## HOW DO YOU PAY TRIBUTE TO DENIS GOLDBERG?

Where can you begin? There are so many stories to tell. These are my favourites.

We were both part of an Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) delegation from Scotland in 2000. We were in Cape Town and went to a nursery school in Khayelitsha. Denis was like the Pied Piper. He was surrounded by children. He played with them. They sang to him. They danced around him. They clamoured to be photographed with him. The teachers were awestruck. They had a Rivonia trialist in their school. The children were just delighted. Denis was in his element. A Rivonia trialist was helping to build a new South Africa.

The other is similar. We were sitting in a fish restaurant in Hout Bay. Denis told me about the Kronendal Music Academy and how the children were learning self-worth and dignity through the playing of music. Denis saw children as the future of South Africa. He was right.

We must continue to work for Denis' vision of the new South Africa by supporting the House of Hope. It is what he wanted us to do, and we must take up the spear. Mayibuye i Afrika!

**David Kenvyn Board member**



## COMMUNITY HEART BOOK CAMPAIGN

I was introduced to Community HEART and Denis Goldberg through my trade union, The Fire Brigades Union. We had, as a union, been supportive of the Anti-Apartheid movement and had a tradition of internationalism. In October 2000 I was lucky enough to be sent as part of a delegation from the Scottish Trades Union Congress to South Africa. The delegation was led by the then General Secretary, Bill Speirs, and consisted of delegates from UNISON, solicitors from Thompsons Scotland, Scottish Anti-Apartheid and the FBU. We were accompanied by the President of Community HEART, Denis, and the then Chair, Brian Filling. Spending that time in South Africa with Denis convinced me that I should give as much help as I could to Community Heart.

My union had already been involved in the book and 10p campaign, something I was very proud of. Following the delegation I was invited to become a member of the board of Community HEART. I was delighted to accept. Shortly afterwards I was elected to a national position within the FBU where I was able to promote the work of Community HEART. This was, as far as I could see, a win win for the FBU. Nelson Mandela had been the first (and remains the only) honorary member of our union. Some members asked why and what apartheid and South African politics had to do with fighting fires. Promoting the work of Community HEART was a fantastic way of explaining to officials and members the importance of international solidarity.

I was proud of our members and officials who for many years supported Community HEART. I was particularly proud of our members in Manchester, especially Alan Anderson, who regularly turned out to load containers with the millions of books which were shipped to schools in South Africa.

Denis continued to be a friend of the FBU and attended our conference on a number of occasions, always taking time to engage with delegates.

It is with sadness but also pride that I comment on the ending of this small but brilliant charity. Sad as I know that there is much that still needs to be done for millions of Southern Africans; proud as I know that over the past 26 years the charity achieved so much.

I learned so much, my thanks and appreciation to all of those I met through Community HEART.

Amandla!

**John McGhee Former chair**





## UBUBELE

Ububele is a psychotherapy resource and training centre based close to Alexandra Township, just outside Johannesburg. Community H.E.A.R.T. was involved in supporting this organisation when it was first set up in 2000. Alexandra is a large township which has a great deal of unemployment and poverty. Adding to this the HIV/AIDS pandemic is a source of concern for many of the inhabitants with many affected directly or indirectly.

The organisation provides a much-needed service in the community. The importance of this organisation is not only its work with the communities and families in Alexandra but also as a centre of good practice in the area of psychotherapy. The need for mental health facilities is extremely important but is often an area which is forgotten about, as hunger and poverty are more visible.



Ububele is made up of several areas of work:

- a Psychotherapeutic Nursery
- a Training Faculty
- a Group Counselling Training division
- an Early Childhood & Families Training Division

The Psychotherapeutic Nursery currently caters for 50 children. It also offers training to preschool teachers and provides a resource for post-graduate interns and professionals.

The Persona Dolls Project helps children to talk about their experiences and express necessary feelings. The project trains counsellors and teachers to effectively use the dolls which are manufactured in-house, thus providing much needed employment for local women.

The Umdlezane Parent Infant Project provides vital mother and infant emotional attachment when this becomes “at risk” giving support to hospitals and clinics to help them provide counselling services to mothers and fathers with infants.

The Preschool Counsellors Project offers a one-year training course for lay counsellors to service 45 schools in the community, providing psychological assistance and a referral service to over 10,000 children. This is a very important project as it trains local women who can talk to the children in their mother tongue as well as providing employment in the local community.

You can read more about ububele at [www.ububele.net](http://www.ububele.net) though which you can offer financial support

*Gaenor Bruce Board Member*



## LIVES CHANGED FOR THE BETTER

Community Heart was set up by Denis Goldberg in 1994. This came just one year after the coming together of NALGO, NUPE and COHSE – three unions with a proud history of internationalism and support for the Anti-Apartheid Movement – to form the UK’s largest trade union in 1993. As the Head of International Relations for NALGO, I was delighted to be offered the same post in the new union and, soon afterwards, the opportunity to join the Board of Community Heart.

Under Denis’s leadership and guidance, Community Heart quickly established itself in the hearts and minds of UNISON staff and members. It presented a real opportunity to make a difference to people in South Africa whose lives had been blighted by decades of apartheid rule. For my part, the opportunity to collaborate as a member of the Board with like-minded comrades was a privilege and a pleasure – reports we received back from South Africa were a testimony to the impact we were having. Above all, getting to know Denis was a highlight – all of us who worked with him would go the extra mile to help in the task he had set us of contributing to the new South Africa. Community Heart has sadly now closed its doors, but I am proud to have been part of it and to know that Denis’s legacy will live on, not least for so many whose lives he changed for the better.

*Louise Richards Former Board Member*





## RAISING MONEY AND HAVING FUN

Not all our work was full-on, serious activity. We sometimes managed to enjoy ourselves. We had plenty of light-hearted, social events over the years, but they were rarely without a purpose. They were mainly fund raising events which became an important part of our activity. There were nights in pubs with music and dance, formal dinners and receptions at South Africa House and fundraisers in peoples homes.

These events gave supporters from different parts of the UK and Ireland the chance to meet in more relaxed circumstances and exchange stories and information on their solidarity work. Some events cost very little to organise, but generated a lot of income, while others were more elaborate, requiring substantial up-front funding, organising time and energy and major commitment from supporters to be successful.

In Scotland, Bob Bruce and I developed a model whereby a friendly pub would be asked to allow Community HEART to organise a fundraiser on a night when the pub was usually quiet. We would organise entertainment and the pub would provide a buffet. The pub would remain open to the public, allowing their regulars and passing trade to participate in the event and allowing us to get to a wider audience. Our regular supporters in the area would be told the date and time of the event and asked to come along with friends and family. Everyone coming into the pub after an agreed time, say 5 pm, would be asked to make a voluntary donation to Community HEART (almost all gave the suggested £10 a head) and later on raffle tickets would be sold and silent auctions would take place to raise more money. We benefitted from having a free venue for a fundraiser, and the pub benefitted from the extra trade on an otherwise dead night. The best examples of these were the events held in the Blane Valley pub in Glasgow, and we owe a debt of gratitude to John and Jonny Doyle, their family and staff for some superbly successful nights.

Another Scottish influence was the use of Burns' Night, as a wagon to hitch our fundraising onto. There were several successful nights at the South African High Commission, Glasgow City Chambers and elsewhere, with Denis Goldberg as the guest of honour. All of these raised vital funds for our project work on the ground and also gave us access to many prominent people who supported our endeavours.

So in the spirit of friendship and hospitality these events evoked, let us raise a glass to congratulate Community HEART on a job well done, to the memory of Denis Goldberg, to the success of his legacy, House of Hope, and to the brightest future possible for the people of South Africa.

**John McFadden Board Member**



***'I am very sorry to hear this news but completely understand that there was no option in these very difficult circumstances. The list of projects that Community Heart has supported is an impressive tribute to both the organisation and selfless comrades over many years.'***

*John Swinburne  
Edinburgh EIS*

*Father and daughter, Bob and Gaenor Bruce preparing refreshments at an Oxford fundraising event.*



*Denis's book launch in Glasgow*



## DENIS GOLDBERG AND COMMUNITY HEART



*Denis Goldberg with Brian Filling at Glasgow Transport Riverside Museum, 2013. The locomotive in the background was built in Glasgow and spent its working life in South Africa and was then transported back to Glasgow following the end of apartheid. The display describes apartheid and explains that black people were prohibited from driving trains and many other jobs on the railway.*

Denis Goldberg, along with Nelson Mandela and six others, was sentenced to life imprisonment in the 1963-1964 Rivonia Trial in South Africa. Following Denis's release in 1985 after 22 years in an apartheid prison he came to Britain and became a very effective spokesperson for the African National Congress (ANC).

I organised his first speaking tour of Scotland shortly after his release from prison in 1985 and he returned frequently over the next thirty years.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement's campaign for the boycott of, and sanctions against, South Africa during the years of the Thatcher-led Tory government in Britain was boosted by Denis's speeches and tireless campaigning. Denis had a great ability to condense complex ideas into short, accessible messages and his speeches were informative, gentle in tone, laced with humour, and inspired his audiences into action.

The struggle against apartheid by the South African people, led by ANC, and supported by a worldwide solidarity movement, led to the release of the remaining Rivonia prisoners and eventually that of Nelson Mandela on 11 February 1990 after 27 years in prison. ANC won the first democratic election overwhelmingly and Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as President on 10 May 1994. I had the honour of accompanying Denis and his wife Esme to the inauguration. In November 1994 I led a thirty-three strong delegation to South Africa and invited Denis to join the delegation as a special friend of Scotland.

During the visit many meetings were held with the new leaders of the country and we visited many parts of the country.

### Community HEART

As he was remaining in Britain to be with his family, Denis decided to establish a charity, Community HEART to assist with the reconstruction and development of South Africa. Denis asked me, Jane Coker and Bob Bruce to form the Board. It was launched in the South African High Commission in London on 27 April 1995, the first anniversary of the first democratic election in South Africa, with Denis as Director and myself as Chair of the Board.

Denis worked extremely hard to make Community HEART successful. He launched the "Book and 10p Appeal" which involved the collection, sorting, packing and transportation of books to South Africa. Nat and Elsa Perez played a crucial role in making this happen. South African exiles, Mmpula Tladi Small and Nat soon joined the Board. The Book Appeal took Denis all over the UK, speaking to all kinds of audiences, from former members of the Anti-Apartheid Movement to Edinburgh's independent fee-paying schools.

More than three million books were eventually sent to South Africa.

Denis succeeded in convincing Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) to commit itself to assist with our work following which Professor David Walsh, Dean of the Faculty of Health, and myself visited South Africa just before the election of 1994. Denis introduced us to the Medical University of South Africa (MEDUNSA) and there began a productive connection between the two universities. Community HEART through its fundraising provided a mobile clinic, and a maths and science bus for the university's use in the surrounding area.

We also visited the University of the Transkei (UNITRA) in the Eastern Cape which led to that university adopting a problem based nurse training curriculum assisted by GCU. These very positive and mutually beneficial partnerships were facilitated and nurtured by Denis over the years. They continue to this day.

GCU and MEDUNSA thanked Denis by awarding him honorary degrees.

When Denis's wife, Esme, died in 2000 Denis asked me to conduct a rationalist commemoration of her life at the funeral in London. It was not long afterwards that their daughter, Hilly, died.

It was a hard time emotionally and Denis was exhausted by the work with Community H.E.A.R.T. It was time for a new start. Denis retired as Director and was elevated to the position of Honorary President. Isabel McVicar, who had been working on the Book Appeal, was appointed as Director.

***'I am sorry to hear of this.  
We are grateful for the part  
that they have played in  
giving back to South Africa.'***

*Pumela Salela  
Country Head :  
United Kingdom  
Brand South Africa*



## Return to South Africa

Denis returned to South Africa in 2002 to act as Special Adviser to the Minister of Water and Forestry Affairs. He retired from this work in 2006 and devoted his energies to work in the Hout Bay community including becoming a Patron of the Kronendal Music Academy supported by Community HEART and later launched his legacy project the House of Hope.

Denis continued to visit Britain, often for fund-raising dinners in London and Glasgow for Community HEART.

I retired as Chair of the Board of Community HEART becoming Vice-President in 2010 and was succeeded as Chair by Nat Perez, John McGhee and Maggie Dunn.

During one of his last visits to the UK, the City of Glasgow College presented Denis with their inaugural Global Scholar award. In his acceptance speech Denis talked about the meaning of 'humanity': "What I have learned through good times and bad, is that to be human, in the words of Nelson Mandela, 'We must so live our lives that we respect and advance the freedom of others.'" Denis Goldberg certainly lived his life in that way and his creation of Community HEART and its work over 25 years made a solid contribution to the building of the new South Africa.

**Brian Filling Vice-President, Community HEART**



## MESSAGE FROM BOB BRUCE, VICE CHAIR

The events in South Africa leading up to the founding of Community HEART were traumatic. There is a myth that the transition to freedom following the release of Mandela in February 1990 constituted a peaceful revolution. In fact, the apartheid regime made every effort to thwart, or at least delay, that outcome.

In that period, at least 10,000 to 12,000 people were murdered.

No election date had yet been set by April 1993 when I arrived in Cape Town. My first days were spent at memorial meetings and on demonstrations against police stations protesting the killing of activists on the Cape Flats. I had arranged to again meet Chris Hani, former chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe and leader of the Communist Party, to discuss future fundraising activities following his appearance at a very successful Burns Night in London a few weeks before. He was assassinated before I had the chance. The upsurge of fury as a result of his death completely undermined the resistance of the regime and they were forced to agree the arrangements for the first free elections. Deaths continued, but the elections were a success and Mandela was inaugurated as President in April 1994. Later that year, Denis Goldberg (who had remained in the UK for family reasons) was invited to take part in an ACTSA Scotland delegation to South Africa. He held discussions with some of us on his proposal to set up an organisation to assist in the reconstruction of South Africa and Community HEART was subsequently launched at South Africa House on the first anniversary of the first free elections. Denis threw all his ability, enthusiasm and energy into the new organisation. On a further ACTSA Scotland delegation five years later, I was able to see some of the fruits of this effort including equipment at the Medical University of South Africa. The most moving experience was visiting a rural school in Kwazulu-Natal where the children put on a concert for Denis. He was greatly amused when a young girl with tight black curls was entreated "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your long, golden hair". Pride of place in the school was their library whose contents had come from our book and ten pence campaign. The library was so valuable to the children that it was contained in a metal cabinet locked tight at night. It was good to see some of the modest results of our efforts but so much remained to be done.

Denis decided to return home at the end of 2002 but remained a source of great inspiration, especially during his frequent visits. We suffered a further blow when our chair Brian Filling had to retire due to ill health. Brian was a founding member of the AAM Scottish Committee and is the honorary Consul for SA to Scotland. He had therefore a wealth of experience and contacts. His contribution to Community HEART was second only to that of Denis.

We thereafter tried our best to emulate Denis and Brian but the task was so much more difficult without them.

**Bob Bruce**

***'This is so sad and I'm sure it was done with a heavy heart.'***

***The legacy left will be remembered for all time and I have to congratulate and praise all you guys for your outstanding efforts over many years.'***

*Daniel Sweeney*





## A TRULY GIFTED COMMUNICATOR

Sometime after the UNISON merger in 1992 Denis came to Salisbury to speak to the annual meeting of the South West Region Health Group about Community Heart. I hadn't met him at that time and with some members of the Health Committee we had an informal dinner the night before. Not many legends visit the SW and needless to say everyone was fascinated to hear Denis talk his life before, during and after his 22 years in prison. The politics as well as the personal details were soaked up from the many questions. My favourite recollection was his answer to a question about what challenges he'd faced after coming out of prison. When he said "Socks" we were all puzzled but then laughed when he added dryly with characteristically straight face "for 22 years I didn't have to decide what socks to wear – now it takes me 20 minutes!". Denis was a great raconteur but not having heard him speak in public I wondered how he would get on addressing the fairly large gathering the following day. Well obviously I need never have been concerned because I witnessed the first of several orations that left me astonished. Some public speakers get their audience's attention by shouting and histrionics, but Denis never raised his voice and his measured tones, often dropping to a mere whisper, didn't just keep an audience's attention, it seemed that the softer he spoke the more intently people listened from the edge of their seats. He was a truly gifted communicator and certainly won many supporters for Community Heart, including on that occasion, in Salisbury.

Denis was low on rhetoric. He was an intellectual whose currency was truth and although always totally loyal to the ANC occasionally told some of his old comrades what they'd rather not hear. His views were always fresh, contemporary, within a carefully assessed historic context. But, as anyone who met Denis knows, he never had difficulty telling a story! Listening to his soft South African accent and conversational tones was always a pleasure when one had the opportunity to talk with him. Even in his advanced years he kept and used his amazing memory and intellect. When I went to his house in Hout Bay (Cape Town) with Richard Jewison in March 2019 to record an interview with him for his 86th birthday about his Foundation, physically he was not in great shape, but he had 100% of his faculties. We had a preliminary chat and briefed him about what we wanted. I was expecting to have to prompt him with questions but, like the old professional he was, when we switched on the camera he spoke for 26 minutes non-stop, providing a single flawless narrative and stopped. But then he decided he'd missed something so we turned the camera on again and he gave us another 6 minutes! Finally done and dusted we were treated to a tour of his art collection. Denis obviously lived and breathed politics, and as a civil engineer he loved science, but his love for art, and especially African art, was a great motivator, as well as pleasure, for him. He saw it as a vehicle for the changes he want to see in South African society and proud that his impressive collection was bequeathed to the Denis Goldberg Legacy Foundation to continue his work. It was a privilege to have known him.

*Ian Ducat*



## REFLECTIONS OF DENIS IN SOUTH AFRICA

I have not been as active in Community HEART as many of you, but was there at the start when there were discussions with Denis on how the new South Africa could be supported, and I feel as if I have been part of the organisation's network of supporters. I was also fortunate enough to be able to visit Denis on quite a few occasions in his Hout Bay home and at various local ANC events. I know that Denis was very proud of the work being done by Community HEART and the difference that the funds raised, and the books sent here, were (and are) making in the lives of children who otherwise would not have had access to them.

It is of course sad that this important organisation will no longer be around. However, the combination of the lockdowns and Denis's passing were bound to cause problems and sometimes hard decisions need to be made. I am sure all of us in our own ways will want to stay involved in activities that we know Denis would have supported. The network will live on. I for one will be happy to be contacted at any time to assist comrades in projects as and when they become possible.

All the best to everyone who contributed. It was important work, well done and well received.

*Richard Jewison*



**We at Community H.E.A.R.T. e.V. in Germany, regret the dissolution of Community H.E.A.R.T. U.K.**

A quarter of a century has come to an end in which the activists have successfully supported a long list of projects. For example, the Maths and Science Bus and through Province Educations departments managed to distribute several million books to schools and libraries and lessons in natural sciences have been organized in the countryside. Rape Crisis has guaranteed a safe escape from violent conditions for women.

We have worked closely with our sister organization on many projects and we would like to thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their tireless commitment. We will continue this work in Germany in the spirit of Denis Goldberg and continue to implement projects in the fields of health, education and rehabilitation training together with our partners in South Africa.

***Tina Jermann, Chairperson  
with Hermann Hibbe and  
Gareth Lubbe***





## PHIL ELLIOTT AND COMMUNITY H.E.A.R.T.

Early in 2003 I remember Phil telling me how he had been granted a secondment from his employer, UNISON Trade Union, to join Community H.E.A.R.T for up to 12 months. He was so enthusiastic and looking forward to this opportunity as in so many ways it embodied many of his personal beliefs. Phil was a passionate anti-racist and a lifelong member of the anti-apartheid movement. In the 1980s he would attend many of the events in London to protest against apartheid and willingly gave his support to the liberation alliance led by ANC, SACP, SACTU, the trade union organisation that became COSATU

Phil also knew that there was “hands on” practical help that he could give; getting UNISON to distribute old computers for school children in South Africa. Collecting, storing, and distributing books for these children too was a task particularly close to Phil’s heart. Phil was an avid reader of both factual books and fiction. Phil would much sooner have his head buried in a book than watch television. He knew of the power of books to educate and to entertain, and getting books to the children of South Africa, many of whom had never held a book, he saw not just as a matter of priority but as a basic human right.

Once seconded to Community H.E.A.R.T. Phil set about organising the collection of children’s books and raising money to ship and distribute them to schools in South Africa. He was always saying “we need more money!”

Phil worked with Izzy in the Manchester office where his aim was to set up administrative systems where there were none, or where they needed updating. Phil was just hitting his stride when his sudden and unexpected death on Saturday 28th September 2003, at the age of only 51, took him from us.

Denis and Phil were great friends. At Phil’s funeral Izzy read out a lovely letter from Denis in which he said how much he valued Phil’s friendship and that he would miss their chats about putting the world to rights. Following Phil’s death my family and I had the wonderful pleasure of meeting Denis at a Community HEART fund raising event at the South African High Commission in London. A truly inspiring individual.

Phil was my older brother by 11 years and, over the last 18 years since his death, it has given me tremendous personal satisfaction to know that my regular monthly donation to Community H.E.A.R.T. has, albeit in a very small way, enabled some of the work Phil was so passionate about, to continue.

Denis spent the last few years of his life working to establish House of Hope. This will be Denis’s lasting legacy and he asked all of his UK friends to support this wonderful project; I look forward to contributing now to this amazing charity, knowing Phil would have been passionate about supporting it too!

**Kevin Elliott**



*Denis with Dame Dawn Primarolo. Dawn was the successful bidder for the painting of Nelson Mandela in the Community HEART Fundraising auction held at the South African High Commission.*



## EARLY DAYS

One of the most important people in the history of Community HEART was Ignatius Perez. Nat was a founder member of the Board on which he served for most of our existence, including as Chair. He was at the heart of all of our campaigns and worked closely with Denis in the early days in our London office.

With typical modesty, he has asked for the following to be thanked from that period.

“Mish Motlathudi who worked tirelessly to establish viable science and computer departments in a number of secondary schools in Soweto, dealing with fragile science equipment, computers and books procured and shipped by Community HEART.

Yvonne Kassim a staunch worker and supporter who Denis claimed caused the computer to crash whenever she passed it. Denis insisted on using refurbished computers. Yvonne did the accounting. At her funeral, her sons spoke about her loyalty to Denis and Community HEART.

Caroline Mould who Denis relied on totally to find his way around an office where he didn’t know his ass from his elbow. She was employed 9–5 but worked long after”.

**Nat Perez Former Chair**





## BUCKET COLLECTION



ACTSA Richmond always had a close relationship with Community HEART. Because Denis was such a tremendous inspiration and a very good friend, this encouraged us to support him and Community HEART.

To this end, one of our doughty members, through some persistence, gained permission for us to collect for Community HEART with buckets at Twickenham Station when South Africa was playing rugby at Twickenham. We appreciated that Nat Perez usually joined us on these occasions.

On one memorable occasion in 2002, we were particularly excited to raise over £1,600 from the England/South Africa match! Further collections never quite matched that initial triumph but were still worth the effort. The weather was often not hospitable and we remember having to dry the coins on tea towels before we could bag them up to take them to the bank.

We were also involved in the 'Book and 10 pence' campaign, collecting books from local schools and various locations in Richmond then delivering them to the Community Heart warehouse.

***Judith Sawyer former Board Member***



## BOOKS AND DONATIONS TO SOUTH AFRICA

I can't remember the first time that I met Denis or even what year it was, but he certainly made a big impression on me. Of course, I'd known about him for years before I eventually met him and thought of him as one of the key figures in the ANC and trade union movement in South Africa.

It was at a UNISON national conference when I was first introduced to Denis by Rodney Bickerstaffe, who was a life long supporter of Anti-Apartheid and who had helped both NUPE and UNISON to actively engage in campaigns to end apartheid and for the release of Nelson Mandela and his comrades.

What an impression Denis made on me, and over the following years, both nationally and on his visits to the South West region, it was always a pleasure to hear about his history and that of other ANC comrades; about his early life and how he got involved with the ANC - his book is well worth reading.



But, it was the practical action of setting up Community Heart (CH) that made a real difference. Initially, there was a focus on getting books and donations, so that containers full of books could be sent to South Africa for children to use. We sent appeals out to branches and our regional council was always ready to support, when requested.

On one occasion, a man who was involved as a volunteer in a Bristol primary school, in Lawrence Weston, said that a large number of books would be available and would CH be interested. I was contacted by CH and made arrangements with a local comrade, Hedley Woods, to hire a van and go to the school to collect the books.

We collected the hundreds of books and drove up to Manchester to the CH store and were met by Izzy and her husband Brian Stango. We unloaded all of the books, which took some time, and then headed back to Bristol. We had a few adventures on the journey up to Manchester and returning home, but that's for another day.

When CH extended its brief and supported other organisations, like the rape crisis centre, we sent appeals out to local branches and had some success in raising funds. Although Denis was at the centre of this activity, much credit must go to the trustees who supported CH with their time, skills and money. I'm proud that my sister Maggie has played such an active part over the years.

Many organisations have a natural life cycle and develop, expand and then merge with others or close down. That happens in all spheres of activity and sectors of the economy. Just think about union mergers. We may have some regrets about CH closing down, but we should all feel grateful that it existed and did so much good work over so many years. *Amanda!*

***Paul Dunn***



## GENERATIONS WILL BENEFIT

Community H.E.A.R.T. was set up by Denis Goldberg to help in building a newly democratic South Africa. It has since become evident that recovering from the shattering impact of apartheid on Black lives and the country will take many years.

As a South African, I write this to say thank you to Denis who dedicated his life to ending the injustice of apartheid and the building of a fair society.

My gratitude extends to all those who worked hard to develop and deliver Community H.E.A.R.T. projects. Projects aimed at eradicating the devastating legacy of apartheid.

Also, to those volunteers and donors who made the work possible.

Community H.E.A.R.T. the organisation has ceased to operate. However, the seeds it sowed through its education, health and social development projects will continue to grow. Some of those who benefited from the education projects will go on to educate many children, while those who were aided by health and social development projects will serve the South African nation in various ways.

For me, working with Community H.E.A.R.T. was a privilege. Evaluation visits to projects showed the impact they were having. For example, the donated science bus at Medunsa University provided a mobile laboratory for a cluster of schools in Ga-Rankuwa. Books donated through the Book and 10 pence project helped to build school libraries. I witnessed the education and joy brought to children who had never had a book.

That was in contrast to my apartheid school experience. As a black child, school had neither laboratory nor library. Science was a teacher demonstrating an experiment to a class of 45 from the only available equipment. Books, including essential ones, were shared.

The computers Community H.E.A.R.T. donated to Thabo school, and teacher training-initiated computer literacy at a historically black only school. The school continues to benefit from the secure computer room erected under leadership of Meshack Motlhatudi, Community H.E.A.R.T. volunteer. Meshack's contribution to science teaching helped teachers develop from the limited Bantu Education training they had received in the apartheid era.

So, thank you Community Health and Reconstruction Training (Community H.E.A.R.T.). Future generations will continue to benefit from the seeds sown.

***Mmapula Tladi-Small***





## COMMUNITY HEART'S JOURNEY STARTED WITH DENIS AND OUR STORY CONCLUDES WITH DENIS



*Denis said "let us dance" and so we did*

Comrades, friends, supporters and donors have contributed to this newsletter and all have had a story to tell about Denis, Community HEART and the work we've done together. But as John McFadden said in his contribution we also had fun, and no one more so than Denis. I love the photograph of me dancing with Dennis. There is a little story that goes with this photograph; we were holding a fundraising event at the South African High Commission, and everything that could go wrong had gone wrong that evening. As I rushed past Dennis he took my hand and said let us dance; I responded Dennis I'm really busy, he responded "comrade the fight for freedom is also about the right to laugh, to sing and dance so let us dance". This was very typical of Denis, he had a wonderful sense of humour and who could forget his chuckle.

Denis never lost that chuckle and he still managed to tease me, despite being very poorly, on the last occasion that we met in his home in Hout Bay.

But teasing was put aside as Denis quickly got back down to business and quizzed me about what I was going to do to support his country. He showed Bob (my partner) and me his wonderful art Collection and then showed us the site on which the collection would be housed; the House of Hope. 'This building' he said, "is about the future of our nation, where young people will come together to enjoy and experience LIFE!"

We discussed the projects that Community HEART had supported since its inception and of course this included Ikamva Labantu; the name of this community organisation means 'the future of our nation'. It is a movement of social development, organising more than a thousand locally-led projects. We were proud to develop support for Ikamva Labantu over the years, particularly through our newsletters.

Across the townships of Cape Town, ordinary people are organising and mobilising to create change. Teachers are turning their homes into pre-schools, older people are demanding accessible transport, mothers are feeding entire neighbourhoods and street communities are standing up to crime.

Ikamva Labantu is working alongside these change makers, providing training, resources and support to empower communities to become self-sufficient. Early childhood development, training for practitioners and principals, registration of pre-schools, senior clubs, and home safety and support for the elderly are just some of the areas in which Ikamva Labantu does amazing work.

Community HEART worked hard to support township projects and this a typical example of the projects that we have supported. We urge you to continue to support them; they can be contacted through their website [www.ikamva.org.xa](http://www.ikamva.org.xa).



*Maggie and her partner Bob in Denis's home Hout Bay*

There is still so much that we can do to support organisations in South Africa. We can help to ensure that the dreams of the majority of its citizens is achieved.

Past Chairs, Board members, Staff, volunteers, donors and supporters have shared our journey and our dreams. It has been a pleasure and an privilege for me to work with the Board, and in particular Bob and John to edit and produce this our final Newsletter. You have all given your time, your expertise and your money. Please don't stop now.

I end where I began with Denis. Denis was intelligent, articulate, hard working...nay driven; he had a wonderful sense of humour and a thirst for life. He loved to be with young people and he was confident that the future of his country would be safe in their hands. But above all else Denis was an optimist who had an unshakeable belief in the goodness of humankind and the future of his country.

The House of Hope is Denis's legacy which bears testament to his overpowering optimism. Young people from across the community of Hout Bay, will come together to make music, produce art, play sports. They will get to know each other and through shared activities they will get to know and respect each other's cultures.

Please share this newsletter and encourage your family, friends and trades unions to donate to House of Hope and make Denis's legacy a growing movement for change. **Amandla**

**Maggie Dunn** Chair





## A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

Through all periods of his life, my father devoted his enormous energy to improving the lives of South African communities, defined both broadly and narrowly. His first efforts earned for him his 22-year prison sentence. His fellow-prisoners report how Denis cared for newer members of the white political prisoner community, and insisted that the limited rights they had were enforced and expanded.

After his release in 1985, Denis wasted no time in starting to work full-time for the ANC – building support for the release of comrades still in prison and, more broadly, a South Africa that gave rights and freedoms to all who live in it.

After the first democratic elections of 1994, Denis decided to stay in the UK with my mother, Esme, from whom he had been separated for so long. But he was clear that “the job was not yet done.” He now put his energy into establishing Community Heart to supplement the new government’s efforts to right the wrongs of the past.

Denis spent the last 15 years of his life in Hout Bay. He became a very active patron of the Kronendal Music Academy, but wanted to expand beyond music. All his energy then went into establishing an arts and culture education centre that would bring together children from the different areas of this still largely racially and class-divided local community to make art and music, dance, learn and enjoy themselves together.

Many of the readers of the Community Heart newsletter will remember the Goldberg family from Woodcraft and the Co-op. My mother, my sister Hilary, and I linked up with Woodcraft soon after going into exile. The Woodcraft Folk soon became our extended family. Hilary and I were regular attendees at the Friday evening meetings and holiday camps. My mother was the much-loved cook. When Denis joined us in London, he also got involved in Woodcraft. Thus the fact that Denis spent his last years on a project bringing children and youth together is not surprising.

Denis’s prison letters reveal his frustration at not being physically present while Hilary and I, his “saplings”, were growing up. But the Denis Goldberg House of Hope, for which the building is close to completion, will ensure that he continues to help children grow and flourish beyond his lifetime.

The Denis Goldberg House of Hope (DGHOH) is the core project of the Denis Goldberg Legacy Foundation Trust (DGLFT), of which I remain a trustee. You can learn more about the DGHOH by:

- Sending an email to [dghoh@goldberghouseofhope.co.za](mailto:dghoh@goldberghouseofhope.co.za) to be added to the mailing list for the quarterly newsletter
- Exploring the website, at [www.goldberghouseofhope.co.za](http://www.goldberghouseofhope.co.za) where you can also download and read past newsletters
- Following the Denis Goldberg House of Hope on Facebook
- Exploring our youtube channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCws9oo7JGZXJmhpUTDB\\_iYA/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCws9oo7JGZXJmhpUTDB_iYA/videos) which includes short videos of the activities for children, videos of the wonderful concert held in February 2020 on the site of the DGHOH – a concert that was Denis’s last real public appearance – as well as the May 2020 memorial service for Denis.

You can support us to make Denis’s dream a reality by making a one-off or standing-order donation to a UK-based account that I have opened especially for this purpose:

Account name: **David Goldberg**

Sort: **30-92-87**

Account number: **14372368**

Please email us at [dghoh@goldberghouseofhope.co.za](mailto:dghoh@goldberghouseofhope.co.za) telling us about your donation.



*Denis with his wife Esme soon after his release from jail.*



# WELCOME

## HOUSE OF HOPE



*Denis's last public engagement in February 2020 at a concert held on the site where the Denis Goldberg House of Hope now stands.*