2025

RAPPORT ANNUEL FINAL

FINAL ANNUAL REPORT

SPES BONA ASBL
BE0751907673
Avenue François Folie 26/4
1180 Uccle

SB Initiative for Medical Education
2020/701211/08
20 Grandiceps Road
7600 Stellenbosch

http://sbime.org

Merci ! Ngiyabonga ! Ndiyabulela!

Thank you! Dankie!

L'initiative Spes Bona a été créée en 2020 par de jeunes médecins belges et sud-africains, sensibles aux conditions de vie difficiles de certains étudiants issus de milieux défavorisés et désireux d'établir un réseau d'entraide ainsi qu'un système de bourses permettant de les soutenir dans leur formation médicale.

2025 aura vu l'équipe Spes Bona s'agrandir avec l'arrivée en tant que membres active au sein de l'ASBL de Victorine de Meeus dont la présence cette année au Cap a permis plusieurs rencontres avec les étudiants soutenus.

Cette année a aussi permis au projet Monganga de se concrétiser. Celui-ci vise à soutenir des médecins non sud-africains réalisant une spécialisation en Afrique du Sud, avec pour objectif de développer cette spécialité dans leur pays d'origine. Deux médecins Kényans réalisant leur spécialisation en médecine d'urgence à l'université de Stellenbosch ont pu bénéficier de bourses afin d'y poursuivre leur formation

Le nombre total d'étudiants soutenus en 2025 a donc été porté à 14, un record pour notre ASBL.

En plus des soutiens reçus de généreux donateurs, différents événements ont été organisés afin de récolter des fonds supplémentaires. Ces précieux moments permettent aussi de rencontrer et d'échanger avec les personnes qui soutiennent le projet.

Nous sommes heureux de voir le projet grandir, se diversifier et ainsi permettre la formation de nombreux médecins issus de milieux historiquement défavorisés

The Spes Bona Initiative was founded in 2020 by young Belgian and South African doctors who were aware of the difficult living conditions faced by some students from disadvantaged backgrounds. They wished to build a support network and a scholarship system to help these students through their medical training.

2025 saw the Spes Bona team grow, with Victorine de Meeus joining the NPO as an active member. Her presence in Cape Town this year made it possible to meet several of the supported students.

This year also allowed the Monganga project to take shape. It aims to support non-South African doctors who are specialising in South Africa, with the goal of developing that specialty in their countries of origin. Two Kenyan doctors specialising in Emergency Medicine at Stellenbosch University were able to receive scholarships to continue their training there.

The total number of students supported in 2025 was therefore raised to 14, a record for our NPO.

In addition to the support received from generous donors, various events were organised to raise additional funds. These valuable occasions also make it possible to meet and talk with the people who support the project.

We are pleased to see the project grow, diversify and thereby enable the training of doctors from historically disadvantaged backgrounds.





LE PROJET MONGANGA PREND VIE
THE MONGANGA PROJECT COMES TO LIFE

CComme annoncé précédemment, le **projet Monganga** a vu le jour en 2025 avec pour objectif d'octroyer à des médecins issus de pays d'Afrique des bourses leur permettant de se spécialiser en Afrique du Sud, puis de retourner dans leur pays d'origine afin d'y rapporter les compétences acquises et d'y développer la spécialité en question.

De nombreux pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest ou australe manquent cruellement de médecins spécialistes. Leur offrir des possibilités de formation est primordial. Il est cependant beaucoup plus intéressant pour eux de se former dans un système de santé proche du leur plutôt que de s'expatrier en Europe, par exemple, où les pathologies, les moyens et les réalités sociales sont totalement différents. L'Afrique du Sud constitue dès lors une opportunité unique pour eux, de par la qualité des universités et du système de santé que l'on y rencontre.

Les contacts développés par différents membres de l'ASBL Spes Bona ayant réalisé une partie de leur assistanat en Afrique du Sud ont permis de sélectionner deux candidates issues du Kenya afin de poursuivre leur spécialisation en médecine d'urgence via l'Université de Stellenbosch (SUN).

Il s'agit d'une étape supplémentaire dans notre partenariat étroit avec cette université, permettant une sélection plus éclairée des futurs candidats et un suivi plus rapproché. Nous remercions d'ailleurs à cette occasion chaleureusement **Ms Alison April** pour sa disponibilité et ses conseils dans le cadre de cette précieuse collaboration.

*As previously announced, the **Monganga project** was launched in 2025 with the aim of awarding scholarships to doctors from African countries, enabling them to specialise in South Africa and then return to their home countries to bring back the skills they have acquired and develop the specialty in question.*

Many countries in West and Southern Africa are in desperate need of specialist doctors, so offering them training opportunities is essential. However, it is far more valuable for them to train in a health system close to their own, rather than going abroad to Europe, for example, where pathologies, resources and social realities are completely different. South Africa therefore offers a unique opportunity, thanks to the quality of its universities and its health system.

Through the contacts developed by several members of the Spes Bona NPO who completed part of their residency in South Africa, we were able to select two candidates from Kenya to pursue their specialisation in Emergency Medicine at Stellenbosch University (SUN).

*This is a further step in our close partnership with this university, which allows for a more informed selection of future candidates and closer follow-up. We would also like to warmly thank **Ms Alison April** for her availability and advice throughout this valuable collaboration*

VESALIUS SCHOLARSHIP

CURRENT BENEFICIARIES
BÉNÉFICIAIRES ACTUELS



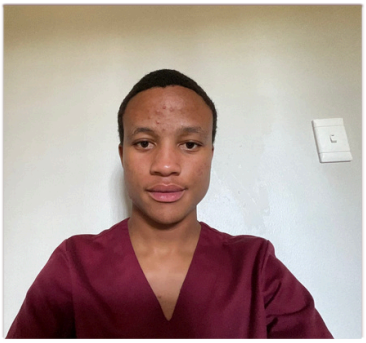
Naomi
NDUNKU (KEN)

Emergency - 2nd year
Stellenbosch University
Supported by the SB Initiative since 2025



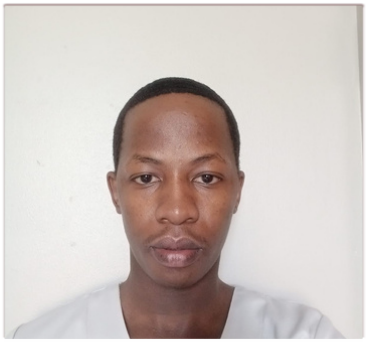
Sylvia
GENDO (KEN)

Emergency - 4th year
Stellenbosch University
Supported by the SB Initiative since 2025



Nhlonipho
SITHOLE (SA)

MBCHB - 3rd year
Stellenbosch University
Supported by the SB Initiative since 2024



Thabang
RAKGATHE (SA)

MBCHB - 3rd year
Stellenbosch University
Supported by the SB Initiative since 2024



Yusrah
KASU (SA)

BSc in Speech-Language - 3rd year
Stellenbosch University
Supported by the SB Initiative since 2024



Sharlotte
SHIVURI (SA)

MBCHB - 3rd year
Stellenbosch University
Supported by the SB Initiative since 2024

VESALIUS SCHOLARSHIP

CURRENT BENEFICIARIES
BÉNÉFICIAIRES ACTUELS



Andisiwe
SOVITI (SA)

BSc in Physiotherapy - 3rd year
Stellenbosch University
Supported by the SB Initiative
since 2024



Marie Reine
INEZA (RW)

MBCHB - 4th year
Stellenbosch University
Supported by the SB Initiative
since 2024



Anne
MBUSO (SA)

BSc of Nursing - 3rd year
University of Johannesburg
Supported by the SB Initiative
since 2024



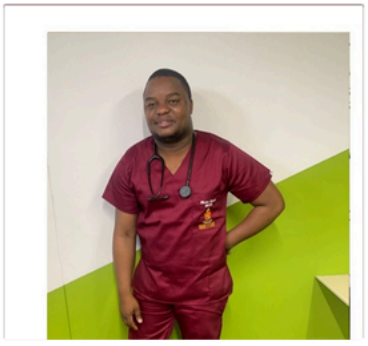
Moedi
RAMOHLAHE (SA)

MBCHB - 5th year
Stellenbosch University
Supported by the SB Initiative
since 2023



Yonwaba
MNTONGA (SA)

MBCHB - 6th year
University of Pretoria
Supported by the SB Initiative
since 2023



MBCHB - 6th year
University of Pretoria
Supported by the SB Initiative
since 2023



Nolindo
MASANGWANA (SA)

MBCHB - 6th year
University of Pretoria
Supported by the SB Initiative
since 2022



Bulelani
MBHELE (SA)

MBCHB - 6th year
University of Mtatha
Supported by the SB Initiative
since 2022

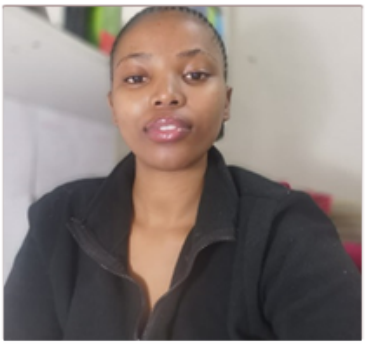
VESALIUS SCHOLARSHIP

PAST BENEFICIARIES
ANCIENS BÉNÉFICIAIRES



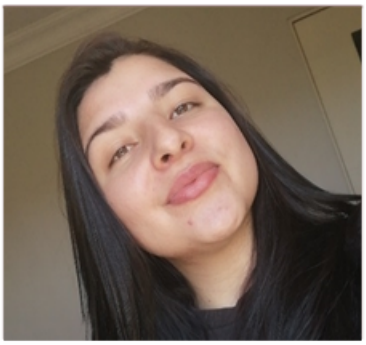
Zayyaan
DALVIE (SA)

Supported from 2021



Sindeka
MANGI (SA)

Supported from 2021



Marcel
SIMPSON (SA)

Supported from 2021



Asive
NTOYANTO (SA)

Supported from 2021



Lilyossa
MANDIZVIDZA (ZI)

Supported from 2022



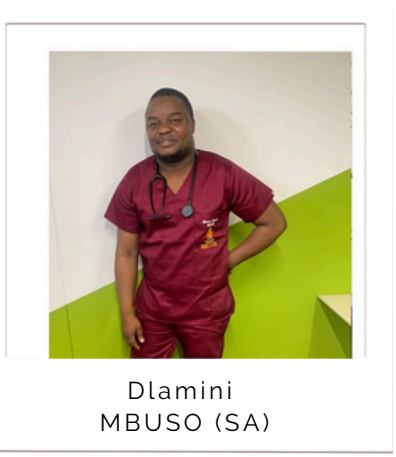
Queren
KAMUANYA (DRC)

Supported from 2023

RAPPORTS ANNUELS
ANNUAL REPORTS

Chaque année, nos étudiants bénéficiaires nous remettent un rapport reprenant leurs résultats académiques ainsi qu'une brève description de leur expérience personnelle durant l'année académique. Vous trouvez ci dessus leurs témoignages et remerciements

Each year, our student beneficiaries submit a report summarising their academic results and providing a description of their personal experience during the academic year. Pease find beloxe their testimonials and thanks.



Dlamini
MBUSO (SA)

II would like to thank the Veaslius scholarship for everything that they are doing for me, I am experiencing some problems at the beginning of the year due to previous debts, the University of Pretoria is very expensive we pay around R170 000 per year and thay makes me not to register the module early, and I end up missing assessments for the GNK 689(two weeks module) and we are not allowed to write those assessments and then pushed to supplementary exams.

The reduction of the amount really impacted negatively to me because we are living in a city where everything is very expensive but then it was beyond our control. I am really suffering a lot . Things are very expensive. But I will finish this Medical degree through my scholarship and God.

Thank you so much for the effort that the Scholarship offers to us as poor students.

Kind regards
Mbuso Dlamini.

Dear Spes Bona Team and Partners,

I hope this message finds you well. As I reflect on my fourth year of Medicine at Stellenbosch University, I am struck by how this journey has been both challenging and transformative. The diversity of personalities and learning styles I've encountered has enriched my growth, teaching me to adapt and find strength in collaboration. The bonds I've formed with peers have been a lifeline, grounding me when anxiety threatens to overwhelm. Above all, I am reminded daily that this path is guided by faith, a privilege I do not take for granted.

This year's clinical rotations, particularly in Internal Medicine, have demanded relentless dedication. Arriving at the hospital by 7:30 AM daily has left little room for rest, but the hands-on experience has been invaluable. Financially, however, the pressure is acute. With over R170,000 in unpaid tuition, I face mounting stress as a non-citizen over 25, ineligible for most bursaries. This threatens to block my 2026 registration and clinical progress. It leaves me reliant on miracles to resolve the debt before next year's registration.

Currently, rotations leave me with no time for part-time work, exacerbating the financial strain. I am unable to access my transcripts without payment. I've settled the fee required to view them and will forward the records once the institution verifies the receipt and grants me permission. Mid-year results will follow after my semester ends in four weeks. Your patience is deeply appreciated.

I humbly ask if there's any flexibility or emergency assistance available to help bridge this gap. Thank you for considering my plea. I'm available to provide further details or documents at short notice. My commitment to excellence remains unshaken. I aspire to specialize and serve with compassion, and your support makes this dream possible.

Thank you for being vessels of hope. Your generosity changes lives.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Marie Reine Ineza



Marie Reine
INEZA (RW)

RAPPORTS ANNUELS
ANNUAL REPORTS



Yusrah
KASU (SA)

Dear Spes Bona student team

I am pleased to report that this year of university is progressing well. I have been able to focus effectively and have taken the opportunity to attend of the university's student counseling sessions, which has been instrumental in my academic success.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the team for the scholarship I have received. It has helped me in so many aspects of my life. The financial support has assisted me with being able to pay my fees, pay my daily commuting fees(to campus) and I was even able to purchase a tablet to facilitate my academic work. This assistance has reduced a significant burden off from my and my family's shoulders.

With the support of the university's counseling services, recommended by the team, I have made progress academically as mentally. I am confident that I will continue to perform well and make the most out of the opportunities given to me. I am deeply thankful for your kindness and support.

I will forward my mid-year results as soon as they're made available.

Best Regards,

Yusrah Kasu

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for your generous sponsorship of my studies. Your support has not only lightened my financial burden but has also motivated me to work harder and pursue my goals with greater determination. Thank you to your kindness, I am able to focus fully in my education and make the most of this valuable opportunity. I am truly grateful for your belief in me and I will continue to strive to make you proud through my academic achievements.

I just finished the first half of the academic year, and while it was difficult to say the least, I was able to succeed because my only worry was academics not anything financial related and thanks to the scholarship. As I am in my final year, there is a lot of pressure in upskilling my clinical skills and I take it one day at time. At times we have to do weekend calls and over the weekends the school bus does not operate yet we are expected to report at the respective hospitals and the scholarship stipend has tremendously helped me in this regard with transportation and money for lunch in the duration of the calls.

My plans for the next months are to continue being focused and excel in my academics as it is the last push. Soon applications for 2026 internship placement will open and the plan has been to do as much research as possible about the potential hospitals I want to work in.

NE Masangwana



Nolindo
MASANGWANA (SA)



Bulelani
MBHELE (SA)

Dear Vesalius Scholarship

My name is Bulelani Mbhele, I'm a final year medical student at Walter Sisulu University in Mthatha campus (Eastern Cape). I'm a recipient of Vesalius scholarship since 2022.

Your support has made a significant impact through my medical journey.
The scholarship gave me an opportunity to focus more on my studies, without stressing about food and accommodation. The support from your organisation, does not only lower my burden but it also serves as the motivation to continue with hard work. The help I get from the organisation make me look like other students in medical school who have funding and have good background. Without your support I don't think I would have made it to the final year of medicine, since I am from a disadvantaged family and having both parents deceased.

Here at Walter Sisulu University, medical students are doing year modules, hence I do not have a mid-year results. As one of the unfunded students in the university I am currently owing them R271 874.51, this has led them to withheld my 5th year results. It is hard to get a bursary here after passing first 2 years and coming from another province, that is why even at this point I'm depending on the support I receive from the scholarship. I am grateful for your trust in me since 2022, I hope you will continue supporting me until I finish my academic year.

Yours sincerely
Bulelani Mbhele (MBChB-6)

RAPPORTS ANNUELS
ANNUAL REPORTS



Yonwaba
MNTONGA (SA)

Dear Vesalius Sponsors,

Thank you sincerely for your continued support. Your generous contribution has made a tangible difference in my life and education. Knowing that someone believes in my journey has been incredibly motivating. I am committed to becoming a compassionate and competent doctor who gives back to the community.

My experience at the University continues to be enriching and transformative. As a final-year medical student, I am currently completing clinical rotations, which provide invaluable hands-on learning in both primary and tertiary health care settings. I have been exposed to a range of complex medical cases and continue to deepen my diagnostic, patient communication, and clinical reasoning skills.

The Vesalius Scholarship has had a significant impact on my daily life. Financial support has helped alleviate stress around transport, and basic needs, allowing me to fully dedicate myself to my academic and clinical responsibilities. It has also enabled me to access learning materials and maintain internet connectivity for research and study.

However, the cut from R7000 to R4000 at the beginning of the year did affect me and this year. I couldn't prepare immediately and missed a week of work as I couldn't register, on a course that runs for only weeks. It is a very hard course under a different department, called Pathology, and the results speak for themselves. This cut was very unfortunate and really has given me a hard time, more than the previous years.

In the coming months, I plan to continue preparing for final exams, complete my clinical rotations, and begin to choose the hospitals I prefer to be allocated to when I finished this degree.

Warm regards,
Yonwaba

I hope this message finds you well.

How is it going at the University?
University has been both challenging and fulfilling. I am currently in my fifth year of medical school and recently started an elective in Orthopaedics. This has been a great learning experience, allowing me to develop practical surgical skills and deepen my understanding of musculoskeletal conditions. I am enjoying the hands-on exposure and the opportunity to grow clinically and professionally.

How is the scholarship improving your social, living and training conditions?
The scholarship has made a meaningful difference in my life. It has helped me cover essential monthly expenses such as food, transport, and study materials—allowing me to focus fully on my studies and clinical training. The support has also contributed to my overall well-being, giving me peace of mind and stability during this important phase of my education. I am truly grateful for this opportunity.

What are your plans for the next months?
In the coming months, I will be continuing my Orthopaedics elective and preparing for key assessments as I move toward the final year of medical school. I also plan to stay involved in leadership and social impact initiatives on campus, particularly those that support student wellness and community development.

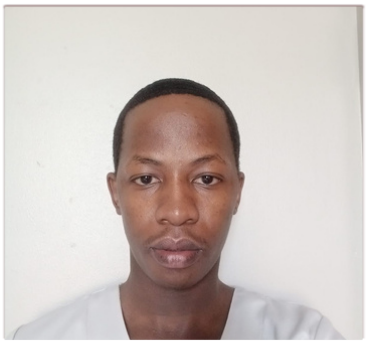
To my sponsors,
Thank you for your incredible support. Your generosity is helping me pursue my dream of becoming a doctor with dignity and focus. I appreciate the belief you have in my journey, and I am committed to making the most of this opportunity—not only for myself, but for the communities I hope to serve in the future.

With heartfelt Gratitude
Moedi Violet Ramohlale



Moedi
RAMOHLALE (SA)

RAPPORTS ANNUELS
ANNUAL REPORTS



Thabang
RAKGATHE (SA)

Message to the donors

I highly appreciate the help given to me and I am truly inspired to keeping working hard. Your generosity has truly impacted me in the greatest way possible, my focus on my academics has improved, living conditions also. I feel a sense of responsibility to help others in the way you helped when I graduate.

My university experience has been more enjoyable after I started receiving help from Spes bona scholarship, the financial worries are no longer there and my focus has been more on my studies, engaging with the school work has been more easier but even with the work load increasing every semester and the challenge being greater than the semesters before. There has been more sense of security ever since getting the scholarship and that has been comforting to me, I can focus on being present in the moment and give it my all socially and academically.

My plan for the next few months is to focus on my schoolwork, as this semester will be a great challenge and looking for it, it is the last 6 months of pre-clinical years until 4th year, so I want to go out with a bang.

Kind Regards,
Thabang

MESSAGE TO MY SPONSORS

I want to sincerely thank you for your generous support. Your sponsorship has made a huge difference in my life, allowing me to focus fully on my studies and clinical practicebwithout financial worries. Because of you, I have access to the resources I need and can pursue my dream of becoming a dedicated and skilled doctor. I am truly grateful for your kindness and belief in me.Thank you for investing in my future and making it possible for a rural girl who always feared to dream big because of her financial shortfalls and now has found her true meaning and purpose because of you , I am entirely grateful .

This semester was filled with growth, challenges, and achievements in a short period. Although it was not a complete rollercoaster, the heavy workload and transitions between blocks made it difficult to adjust. The focus on investigations was enjoyable, but the fast pace and new concepts left limited time for thorough understanding, especially in later blocks. Still, I gained valuable clinical skills, particularly in diagnosing both common and uncommon disease presentations—realising that patients rarely present exactly as described in textbooks. Case-based learning and application-style assessments initially challenged me, and I lost marks from rushing through questions, but I learned to adapt.

Personally, this was a tough time as I dealt with the grief of losing two of my loved ones in two months. My mental health suffered, and I feared not making it through, but I persevered despite feeling overwhelmed and burnt out. The scholarship has been a true blessing, easing financial burdens and allowing me to focus entirely on my academics and clinical practice without any struggles. Looking ahead, I plan to revisit difficult topics, sharpen my clinical reasoning, strengthen clinical skills through focused practice and feedback, and maintain a healthy balance by prioritising my well-being.

I remain committed to growing consistently and becoming the best doctor I can be.



Sharlotte
SHIVURI (SA)

RAPPORTS ANNUELS
ANNUAL REPORTS



Nhlolipho
SITHOLE (SA)

It has been going well. The semester had it challenges which I has to overcome by being strong and resilient and being able to bounce back but I overcame them. The content covered was overwhelming yet interesting that I had to overcome by working hard and believing in my dreams and goals. The learning experience was nice and how we were learning and getting more training and exposure from the doctors our facilitators.

Spes Bona has really improved my social, living and training conditions with definitely not being worried about food, the resources I need to study and the extra material. It has been hard though also because our amount for the bursary was absorbed into our outstanding debt and so has not
been getting the monthly allowances from Spes Bona Initiative. It breaks my heart but if it is in correspondence with the University then there is nothing we can do but the situation has been a bit tense but I have been trying to move and manage with what I have but it has at times took a toll on me. Next month I plan on studying harder and harder and getting more and more close to my academic goals.

Thank you, Spes Bona Initiative, for supporting my goals and being with me in this journey. The support is greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards
Nhlonipho Sonoma Sithole

IMy experience here at Tygerberg Campus remains academically fulfilling and personallytransformative. As a 3rd Physiotherapy student, I am learning to balance theory with growing clinical responsibilities. Despite the challenges, I remain committed to my academic and professional development.

While I am incredibly grateful for the scholarship support, I would like to share that the funds were allocated directly to my student account, which has existing arrears. As a result, I did not receive a monthly allowance, and this semester has been particularly difficult in terms of meeting my daily living needs. Nonetheless, knowing that my tuition balance has been partially addressed has lightened my financial load and enabled me to remain registered—something I do not take for granted.

Socially and emotionally, it's been a testing semester, but I continue to find strength in mypurpose and the support from mentors and peers. And I am looking ahead with focus on final clinical assessments, project submissions, and making the most of available academic support.

To my sponsors, thank you for your investment in my future. Even under constrained
circumstances, your support has allowed me to remain on track. I remain determined to grow, serve, and give back.



Andisiwe
SOVITI (SA)

RENCONTRE AVEC LES ETUDIANTS SOUTENUS
MEETING OUR SUPPORTED STUDENTS

4 membres de l'ASBL Spes Bona vivant à Bruxelles ont eu l'opportunité de voyager en Afrique du Sud début 2025 avec leurs enfants. Ils en ont profité pour rencontrer les deux médecins kényannes intégrant le projet Monganga puis certains bénéficiaires de la bourse Vesalius présents sur le campus à cette période. Un moment tant attendu et des échanges d'une extrême richesse. Les différents lauréats ont pu partager leur expérience, leurs difficultés au quotidien et témoigner de manière encore plus concrète de l'impact que la bourse a sur leur vie.

Four members of the Spes Bona NPO who live in Brussels had the opportunity to travel to South Africa with their children in early 2025. They took the opportunity to meet the two Kenyan doctors joining the Monganga project, as well as some of the Vesalius scholarship recipients who were on campus at the time. It was a long-awaited moment, and the exchanges were extremely rewarding. The scholars were able to share their experiences and daily difficulties, and to testify even more concretely to the impact the scholarship has on their lives



D'autres rencontres ont pu avoir lieu via le Dr Victorine de Meeus, dernière arrivée au sein de l'ASBL, partie vivre au Cap durant un an dans le cadre d'une expérience professionnelle. Elle a pu se rendre compte sur place des conditions très précaires dans lesquelles vivent beaucoup de communautés et a décidé de rejoindre le projet Spes Bona. Sa présence sur place a permis d'organiser plusieurs échanges entre les étudiants de l'université de Stellenbosch soutenus par le projet, et de tisser un lien particulier entre eux.

ther meetings were made possible through Dr Victorine de Meeus, the most recent member to join the NPO, who moved to Cape Town for a year as part of a professional placement. While there, she saw first-hand the very precarious conditions in which many communities live, and decided to join the Spes Bona project. Her presence on the ground made it possible to organise several exchanges between the Stellenbosch University students supported by the project, and to build a special bond among them.







NOS ACTIVITÉS EN BELGIQUE
OUR ACTIVITIES IN BELGIUM

L'équipe de Spes Bona a continué à se mobiliser en Belgique au travers de deux événements devenus traditionnels. Ceux-ci ont permis de récolter des fonds supplémentaires dans le but de soutenir toujours plus d'étudiants.

- **Les 20 km de Bruxelles** : cette année, 42 participants ont couru aux couleurs de Spes Bona, avec à la clé **4 200 € de dons** !

The Spes Bona team continued to mobilise in Belgium through two events that have become traditions. These helped us raise additional funds to support even more students.

- **The Brussels 20 km**: this year, 42 participants ran in Spes Bona colours, raising **€4,200 in donations** !



- **Le Spes Bona Padel Tournament** a eu lieu cette année à Tours & Taxis. Il a rassemblé 52 joueurs et joueuses dans une ambiance conviviale et festive avec un total de **1000€** de dons collectés à cette occasion !

- **The Spes Bona Padel Tournament** took place this year at Tour & Taxis. It brought together 52 players in a friendly and festive atmosphere, raising a total of €1,000 in donations!

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MERCI POUR VOTRE SOUTIEN !

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