



Honouring Our Past. Strengthening Our Future.

2025 Highlights
Newsletter

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**Where
community, care
and celebration
come together
in service of our
elders.**



Message from our Chairperson

A Year That Honoured Our Past



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This year, our residents marched against elder abuse. They sang at the Inter-Home Choir Festival. They gathered in dialogue on Human Rights Day, celebrated parents and grandparents, enjoyed beach outings and welcomed corporate volunteers during Mandela Month. These moments reminded us that ageing is not passive. It is vibrant, expressive and worthy of visibility. At the same time, we completed the final phase of renovations and upgrades and strengthened our dementia care facilities – ensuring that our physical

spaces reflect the dignity we speak about so often. This was not about aesthetics. It was about safety, accessibility and honouring the lived experience of every elder.

None of this happens in isolation.

In this regard, I extend my sincere gratitude to the Department of Human Settlements for its significant investment of R12.5 million, and to the Victor Daitz Foundation for its generous R4.2 million contribution toward our dementia facility, together with a further R1.2 million for the installation of a fully integrated solar energy system. These contributions have strengthened our infrastructure and enhanced our long-term sustainability well into the future.

To our donors and partners: you made 2025 possible. Your support enabled celebration, advocacy, healthcare, infrastructure and innovation. You did not simply fund activities – you reinforced a 65-year commitment to care.

Sixty-five years ago, this Home was built on compassion. Today, that foundation remains unshaken. Yet our responsibility grows – to ensure that every elder entrusted to us feels safe, valued and loved.

To every elder, staff member, volunteer, partner and supporter who has walked this journey with us: you are part of this legacy.

I invite you to journey through these pages and share in the moments that shaped our milestone year. May this edition offer you a meaningful glimpse into the lives you continue to impact.

With appreciation,
Guy Levene
Chairperson



65 Years in the Heart of Lamontville

For our elders, 2025 was a reminder that they are part of a legacy that has stood for 65 years in the heart of Lamontville. Throughout the year, the milestone was felt in quiet pride and shared celebration. Our elders spoke about what it means to grow older in a place that understands their history, their language and their lived experience.

For our staff, 65 years represented responsibility. It affirmed that the work they do each day is part of something far greater than routine care; it is a continuation of decades of compassion and service.

For the community of Lamontville, the Home remains a trusted presence – a symbol of stability, dignity and protection for older persons.



Sixty-five years on, the meaning is clear: we belong to one another.

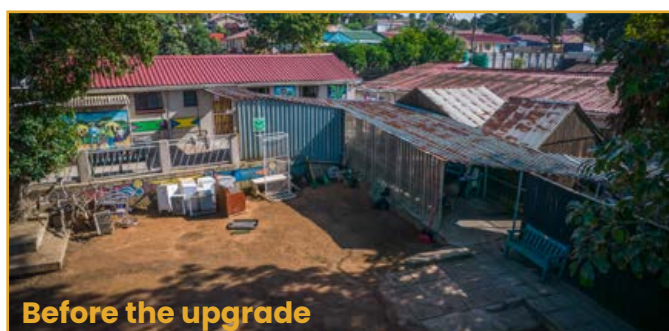
Final Upgrades & Renovations at the Home

2025 marked the completion of our final phase of upgrades and renovations – a significant milestone in our 65-year journey of service.

What began as a vision to modernise and enhance our facilities has culminated in refreshed living spaces, improved safety features, upgraded bathrooms, enhanced communal areas for staff, and continued strengthening of our specialised dementia care environment. Every detail was considered with one guiding principle: dignity in design.

For our elders, these improvements translate into greater comfort, increased accessibility, enhanced infection control measures and spaces that promote connection rather than isolation.

As Issy Geshen Lamont Home looks beyond 65 years, these renovations are a statement: that excellence in elder care must evolve, improve and anticipate the needs of tomorrow – because ageing with dignity should never stand still.



Encouraging Service Excellence



As we proudly marked our 65th anniversary, we reaffirmed our commitment to delivering the highest standard of care to our elders. In recognition of this milestone, the Home implemented a comprehensive staff training and capacity-building programme designed to strengthen service excellence across all departments.

Led by Mrs Zonke Mabude, the training ensured that staff remained fully aligned with organisational policies, procedures and operational standards. The programme received the full support from the Issy Geshen Board, reflecting strong governance and a shared commitment to continuous improvement.

Heart & Stroke Foundation Awareness Programme

In partnership with the Heart and Stroke Foundation South Africa, the Home hosted a comprehensive cardiovascular screening and wellness education session for our elders.



Preventative healthcare remains central to our commitment to dignified ageing. Residents received blood pressure, glucose and lifestyle assessments, alongside practical guidance on nutrition and mobility. Initiatives such as these reflect our continued

investment in proactive, holistic care. We are deeply grateful to our medical partners and supporters who ensure our elders receive not only compassionate care, but also the highest standards of clinical oversight and wellbeing support.

Wellbeing, advocacy, and celebrations

Human Rights Day

On Human Rights Day, residents engaged in an open dialogue centred on dignity, equality and the rights of older persons. Stories of lived experience enriched the conversation, bridging generations and honouring South Africa's democratic journey. The session affirmed our commitment to protecting the rights, voices and autonomy of every resident. For 65 years, the Home has stood as a sanctuary of respect and care. Events such as these ensure that our elders remain heard, valued and empowered.

Continued on next page →

Good Friday & Easter Celebration

Our Good Friday service and Easter celebration brought a message of renewal and hope. Elders gathered in worship and reflection, followed by a celebratory Easter lunch shared in fellowship. The season's symbolism resonated deeply, reminding us of resilience, faith and continuity. Easter reaffirmed our collective gratitude – for life, for community and for the privilege of serving with compassion.

Freedom Day Celebration

Freedom Day provided an opportunity for reflection on the nation's journey and the lived experiences of our elders who witnessed profound historical change. Through music, storytelling and shared memories, elders reflected on democracy, unity and progress. As an institution rooted in 65 years of service, we celebrate the freedoms that allow organisations such as ours to operate with integrity, accountability and purpose. We remain committed to advancing dignity and inclusion for older persons within our broader society.

Mother's Day Celebration

Mother's Day was a deeply moving celebration honouring the matriarchs of our community. Residents celebrated with flowers, music and heartfelt tributes acknowledging their sacrifices and lifelong contributions. Families joined, creating moments of reconnection and gratitude. In our 65th anniversary year, we recognise that the legacy of Issy Geshen Lamont Home is built upon generations of strong women whose wisdom continues to shape our community. Their stories are living testaments to resilience, love and enduring strength.

Valentine's Celebration

Love was beautifully expressed throughout our Valentine's celebration and special church service. Residents gathered in fellowship, re-reflecting on companionship, lifelong partnerships, family and enduring friendships. Handmade décor, music, and shared meals transformed the Home into a space of warmth and joy. Beyond romance, the day honoured the love of community – the caregivers, volunteers and supporters who surround our elders daily. In our 65th year, we were reminded that compassion is the cornerstone of Issy Geshen Lamont Home. Love remains our most powerful legacy.



Beach Outing

A scenic outing to the Durban beachfront offered our elders the therapeutic embrace of the ocean breeze – a nostalgic return to cherished seaside memories. The experience reinforced our belief that meaningful moments enhance emotional wellbeing and strengthen connection. It reflects our ongoing commitment to holistic care, ensuring that elders remain active participants in life beyond our walls.

Storytelling Day – Honouring Lived Wisdom

Storytelling Day reminded us that within every elder resides a library of wisdom. Elders gathered to share personal stories of resilience, family, faith and triumph over adversity. These moments are profoundly aligned to our 65-year legacy: preserving dignity by honouring lived experiences. At the Home, storytelling is not merely nostalgic – it is restorative, affirming identity and reinforcing the value of every voice. We remain committed to creating spaces where memories are preserved and wisdom is celebrated.



Father's Day Celebration

Father's Day was marked with a celebratory braai, laughter and heartfelt tributes to the men who have shaped families and communities. Stories of fatherhood, mentorship and perseverance were shared around the grill. The gathering reinforced camaraderie and pride, celebrating the influence of paternal guidance. As we commemorate 65 years of service, we honour the men whose strength and sacrifice form part of our collective heritage. Their presence continues to enrich our Home.



Mandela Month – Service & Legacy

During Mandela Month, corporates and volunteers generously dedicated their 67 minutes – and far more – to serve our elders. Companionship, visits and shared meals embodied the spirit of collective responsibility inspired by Nelson Mandela. We are reminded that legacy is built through action. Mandela Month reaffirmed our belief that when community and corporate South Africa unite, lasting impact is achieved.



Spring Day – Renewal & Joy

Spring Day symbolised renewal and vitality. Elders adorned the Home with bright colours and celebrated new beginnings through song and fellowship. The change of season served as a reminder that growth and joy remain possible at every stage of life. Spring Day reflects our enduring commitment to cultivating environments where elders flourish with dignity and hope.



Heritage Day

Heritage Day celebrated the rich cultural tapestry represented within our Home. Elders proudly shared traditions, music and attire reflective of South Africa's diversity. The day reinforced unity through difference – an ethos that has defined Issy Geshen Lamont Home for 65 years. By honouring cultural identity, we uphold dignity and belonging for every elder in our care.



Women's Day Pampering

Women's Day was celebrated with a pampering session and uplifting church service, honouring the resilience and grace of our elders. Beauty treatments, music and affirmations created a dignified space of celebration. Many of these women have lived through profound societal shifts, contributing immeasurably to family and nation. We honour their courage and leadership, recognising that their stories continue to inspire generations.



Dementia Care Community

A refined High Tea brought together elders living with dementia and their loved ones in an atmosphere of warmth and elegance. The event celebrated connection, memory and unconditional love. As pioneers in dedicated dementia care within the community, we are proud of the strides made in our specialised unit. We continue investing in compassionate, evidence-based dementia support – ensuring both elders and their families feel supported and valued.



Older Persons Week

Older Persons Week was marked with a series of events celebrating the invaluable contribution of seniors to society. Activities focused on wellness, advocacy and community engagement. The week reaffirmed our core belief that ageing should be honoured, not marginalised. As we celebrate 65 years of service, we recommit to being a beacon of dignity and excellence in elder care.



Inter-Home Choir Festival

The Inter-Home Choir Festival was a highlight of the year, filling the air with harmony and heartfelt expression. Elders from various homes united in song, celebrating talent and fellowship. Music continues to be a powerful therapeutic and unifying force within our community. In this milestone year, the festival symbolised the beauty of collective voice and shared humanity.



Christmas Celebration – A Season of Gratitude



Our Christmas party concluded the year in joyful celebration. Elders were treated to festive décor, gifts and shared meals, made possible through generous donor and corporate support. The spirit of gratitude was tangible as families, volunteers and staff gathered. We are profoundly thankful for the partnerships that sustain our mission. Christmas reminds us that compassion, community and dignity remain at the heart of everything we do. Special thanks to all donors that sponsored our Christmas meals.



To Our Valued Donors and Partners

Your investment in our Home signals something important: that the later years of life matter.

Because of your generosity, our elders receive comprehensive care, meaningful engagement, advocacy protection and specialised dementia support delivered with excellence. You enable us to innovate while remaining deeply human. You allow us to uphold the highest standards of governance and transparency. You help us ensure that ageing is accompanied by dignity, not decline.

Thank you for trusting us, for walking with us and for ensuring that dignity matters.

Together, we continue the promise.

With sincere appreciation,
The Issy Geshen Family

Credits and Acknowledgement:

Photography and video – Mark Whitlock (AngelMedia)
Design & Layout – Annika van Heerden (Shaped Creative)
Copywriting & editing – TUSO GROUP



Watch the video to see the Impact of your Generosity

<https://bit.ly/4b0sGnr>



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