

November  
2025

# WOZA MOYA

Crafts that empower, uplift and inspire

- Newsletter -

Find ways to support us on our website  
[www.wozamoya.co.za](http://www.wozamoya.co.za)



An economic  
empowerment project  
of the Hillcrest AIDS  
Centre Trust



## **Our Stores are Dressed for the Holidays!**

Our stores are looking super festive right now. We've got Christmas decorations everywhere: handmade baubles, tassels, Christmas little travellers, beaded Christmas jewellery, and lots of unique home decor pieces to make your home feel extra special this season.

If you can't make it to the store, no worries, all of these goodies are available online too at [www.wozamoya.co.za](http://www.wozamoya.co.za)







## Sewing Room Excitement!

This November, the ladies from our sewing room had fun learning how to make a brand-new bag. Mandy Kirk and Twig Hartwig came through to train our team. They got to make these beautiful reversible IsiShweshwe bag, using a pattern from Kate Toole in the USA, who generously let us use it to make the bags.

Seeing everyone stitching away, learning, laughing, and helping each other really brought home the heart of Woza Moya and the best part is these bags will be hitting the stores very soon.





# WOZA MOYA

## Bringing Back A lost Art

Another highlight this month has been watching Scelo Mhlongo revive the lost art of making Makarapas. Scelo has taken this fading tradition and breathed new life into it. Every Makarapa he makes feels alive with colour, personality, and pride. We were delighted that the first batch sold out in a week!

The best part of all this is that sports fans can now have their own Makarapas custom made. Whether you want your team colours, your name or a specific design, Scelo can create it for you. Just place an order at [orders@wozamoya.co.za](mailto:orders@wozamoya.co.za) and he'll make it from scratch.

It's been such a joy watching this art form return through his hands.





## **Sitting Down with Ntombifuthi Magwaza Sibiya**

One of the highlights of our month was spending time with Ntombifuthi Magwaza Sibiya, one of South Africa's most celebrated telephone-wire artists. If you've ever seen her work, you'll know why. Her bold colours, intricate patterns, and her blend of Zulu and Ndebele influences make each piece instantly recognizable and deeply meaningful.

Ntombifuthi has been weaving since the early 90s and has won 2 FNB Vita Craft Now Awards. Her work is held in major South African Museums, and is currently featured in the iNgqikithi yokuPhica / Weaving meanings exhibition at the Museum of International Folk Art in the U.S.

What stays with you most when you sit with her is not the accolades, it's her heart and presence. Hearing her journey in her own words was inspiring and the full story will be available on our website, a beautiful read for anyone who wants to know the woman behind the work.







## **Our Sparkling Beaded Snowflake Has Landed at Oceans Mall!**

After weeks of dedication and teamwork, our giant beaded snowflake is complete and proudly at Oceans Mall! This project was a true collaboration, but the real stars were our incredible beading ladies. Many learned new techniques—working with crystal beads and an open-weave style—while also earning much-needed income. The snowflake’s welded frame was divided into smaller shapes by our wireworkers, which were then beautifully beaded by the crafters. Once complete, Nqobile from our big-art team, together with Paula and several Woza Moya staff, assembled and painted the final structure and added internal lights to bring it to life.

A heartfelt thank-you to the Oceans Mall team for choosing handmade and supporting income generation in our communities. They are delighted with the final piece, which now joins their festive collection alongside the giant baubles and surfing snowman.



## Ways You Can Help

Your support makes an immediate and meaningful difference in the lives of our crafters and the broader community.

Here are a few simple ways to get involved:

**Support our Apple & Tea Fund:** Many crafters travel long distances and often arrive without money for food. A contribution of R500 feeds one group, and we host six groups each month.

**Donate Pre-Loved Clothing:** Drop off unwanted clothing for Ithemba, HACT's pre-loved clothing shop, which helps fund their hospice care services.

**Share Haberdashery:** Extra sewing supplies, beads, buttons, are always welcome for our Charity Shop.

**Share Bric-a-Brac:** Unwanted household items, linen, crockery, and toys all help our Charity Shop stay sustainable and support our community programmes.

**Sponsor a Training Workshop:** Empower crafters to grow their skills and help us train the next generation of makers by funding a Woza Moya craft workshop.

**Sponsor a Hospice Bed:** Our hospice provides compassionate care to patients with cancer and AIDS. Your contribution—big or small—makes a profound difference to those who need it most.

Every contribution, big or small, helps us continue building sustainable livelihoods. Thank you for your generosity and community spirit.



Copyright (C) 2025 Woza Moya - Hillcrest Aids Centre Trust. All rights reserved.

You're getting this email because you signed up to our newsletter, or we've done business with you in the recent past.

Our mailing address is:

Woza Moya - Hillcrest Aids Centre Trust P.O. Box 2474 Hillcrest Durban, KwaZulu Natal 3650 South Africa

---

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe