



The
Johannesburg
Children's Home

Established in 1892

ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

*"The Johannesburg Children's Home"
The Home of Renewed Hope"*



YEARS OF CARE

134

CHILDREN IN OUR HOME

64

ECD LEARNERS

60

FUNDED BY DONORS LIKE
YOU

72%

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WHAT DRIVES US

VISION & MISSION

OUR VISION

Resilient, empowered youth equipped to achieve their full potential, thereby making positive contributions to their lives and society.

OUR MISSION

At The Johannesburg Children's Home, our multi-disciplinary team provides a caring, healing, and nurturing family environment that:

- Delivers holistic care, developmental programmes, and therapeutic support that equip children and youth to realise their capability
- Implements initiatives to contribute towards the sustainability of JCH
- Involves children in activities to gain relevant world-ready skills

GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson	B.J Westcott
Vice Chairperson	C.M. Visser
Treasurer	A.C van der Colff
Deputy Treasurer	T.G. Mokoena
Secretary	N. Cara
Deputy Secretary	T. Semete-Makokotlela
Directors	D. Ramjettan S.A.F Niven
Executive Director	A.V (Sipho) Mdluli

GET IN TOUCH

CONTACT DETAILS

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Post Net Suite X421, Private Bag X19,
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Physical Address
59 Urania Street
Observatory, 2198
Legal Status
Non-Profit Organisation Number: NPO
001-034 NPC
Registration Number: 1939/012624/08
VAT Number: 4220121988
Section 18A Number: 156001111

FROM OUR BOARD

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2026

The Directors recognise the invaluable contribution of the many volunteers who support our children, often without material compensation. We extend our sincere thanks to them.

We have identified the ongoing challenges facing the City of Johannesburg as a significant risk to the standard of care provided to our children. To reduce reliance on municipal services, several resilience initiatives are underway:

- The borehole and water purification system is being extended to serve the whole premises if water shutdowns become more frequent or permanent.
- Reserve power capacity, including solar and emergency generators, needs to be expanded to support the laundry, kitchen and children's cottages.

The ECD is currently at capacity. Plans to build additional classrooms have unfortunately been delayed by the broader challenges affecting the city. Once these issues are resolved, construction can move forward.

We are privileged to have a loyal staff complement whose commitment provides the stability our children need. We thank them for their dedication.

Finally, I express my gratitude to our CEO, Sipho Mdluli, and to my fellow Directors for their support throughout the past year.



Chairperson — Board of Directors

FROM OUR MANAGING DIRECTOR

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It is with great pride and gratitude that we present this annual report on behalf of our organisation as we reflect on the 2025/2026 financial year.

This year, we are pleased to report a clean financial audit, an important milestone that reflects our commitment to sound governance, accountability, and responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. In an increasingly difficult financial environment, this achievement is especially meaningful. Like many South Africans, we continue to navigate a challenging economic landscape, yet we remain steadfast, resilient, and deeply committed to our mission.

For 134 years, our organisation has stood as a place of care, safety, and renewed hope for vulnerable children. Today, that commitment remains as strong as ever. We currently provide residential care and support to 64 children, each with unique needs, potential, and dreams. Our work is guided by our values and driven by a deep passion to ensure that every child in our care is given the opportunity to grow, heal, and thrive.

34%
OF SA POPULATION IS UNDER 18

1 in 4
UNDER-5S SUFFER STUNTING

The realities facing children in South Africa remain deeply concerning. With 34% of the population under the age of 18, the wellbeing of children is inseparable from the future of our nation. Yet too many children continue to face the harsh effects of poverty, food insecurity, neglect, and limited access to proper nutrition. It is particularly troubling that one in four children under the age of five suffers from stunting due to chronic malnutrition and poor diet.

We continue to strengthen our self-sustainability efforts through a number of initiatives. These include our thrift shop in Norwood, external catering services, hall hire, laundry services, a vegetable garden that helps supply our kitchen, and a jumble sale shop operating from our premises in Observatory. These projects not only contribute to financial resilience but also support our broader goal of building a more sustainable future for the organisation and the children we serve.

None of this work would be possible without the invaluable support of our community of partners and donors — our Friends of JCH. Your support affirms the enduring truth of the African proverb: it takes a village to raise a child.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our Board of Governors, management team, and staff. Your passion, dedication, and unwavering commitment are the foundation of this organisation. You are the pillars of strength and hope for the children in our care.

As we look ahead, let us continue to work together to ensure that our home remains a place of renewed hope — a place where children are nurtured, protected, and empowered to become confident and contributing members of society.

Thank you for walking this journey with us.



Siphso Mdluli
Managing Director

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MAKES POSSIBLE Programmes of Care

From therapy and education to sport, arts and life skills, a look at how we cared for our children this year, in their own Programmes and in their own words

PROGRAMMES OF CARE

SOCIAL WORK & CHILD AND YOUTH CARE: OVERVIEW

The organisation continues to provide holistic, child-centred care in a structured, safe environment. Children's basic needs — nutritious meals, well-maintained cottages, recreational activities, and 24-hour security — are consistently met. A structured daily routine gives children a sense of safety and predictability, which matters especially for those with trauma histories. The medical administrator continues to oversee children's health needs, and ongoing assessments ensure children are placed in the right schools.

Notable, 40% of children in our care present with psychiatric and/ or intellectual challenges, which shapes how individualised our care planning needs to be

Therapeutic Programmes: Psychosocial, Occupational and Speech Therapy

Our two social workers continue intensive therapeutic work with the children, focusing mainly on bullying and aggression, relationship difficulties, exit-related anxiety, communication skills, self-esteem, and depression. Weekly clinic meetings allow social workers to debrief and get support on cases, and monthly supervision (with an open-door policy for urgent cases) keeps this consistent. Social workers also attend monthly training forums and CPD training through Chevrah Kadisha to stay current in the field.

The Music Therapy programme continues to give children a healthy way to express themselves. This year, children accessed Occupational Therapy covering daily living skills, motor development, sensory regulation, and academic and emotional support, alongside regular one-on-one and group sessions with social workers.

At times, children show limited engagement in therapy due to discomfort, mistrust, or difficulty expressing themselves, and consistent attendance remains a challenge. Children often present with limited insight due to complex trauma, which can come across as negative or resistant. Going forward, we'll continue offering DBT, OT, and music therapy, and work on building a safe, trusting environment where children feel comfortable participating. Staff will keep encouraging participation to help children build healthy coping skills and resilience.

Educational Support

Children have access to a computer room where a computer teacher helps with school projects and homework, and CYCWs support homework time in each cottage. A remedial educator works with children to close learning gaps, build confidence, and improve school performance and retention.

Some children don't make full use of the support available, and a few continue to struggle with specific subjects despite the help in place. Going forward, we plan to introduce simple tracking and incentive systems to boost engagement, strengthen collaboration between CYCWs and the remedial educator, and set up individual support plans for children who are struggling.

Closer2Home: Family Reintegration & Exit Planning

Staff and community organisations continue working together on exit planning, with regular case conferencing and communication with reunification workers. Around 20 children maintain weekend family contact during term time, and 34 children were reunited with their families over the school holidays — a strong outcome for family stabilisation. One child has been matched with a prospective foster parent, and bonding visits are underway. Going forward, we'll keep facilitating family contact through holidays and weekends, run a Parents' Day to equip families with parenting and coping skills, and continue supporting children emotionally before and after visits.

Siphamandla — Give Us Strength

We continue supporting children around sexuality, self-awareness, and anger management, with younger cottages focusing on respect, self-love, and kindness. The Character Company mentorship programme continues to guide and mentor boys, with quarterly camps focused on growth, teamwork, and positive male role models. We also ran substance abuse awareness sessions covering risks, peer pressure, and healthy choices.

Speak Up: Promotion of Children's Rights

Regular consultations let children express themselves, with Child Protection Week activities raising awareness of children's rights and how to report abuse safely. Child representatives were elected from each cottage for Youth Forum meetings, and through Girls for Girls Training, CYCWs work with young girls on leadership, life skills, and money management.

ARTS & CULTURE

AARDKLOP — LET YOUR TALENT SHINE

Art and music therapy remain a big part of our children's development. The Art programme is thriving — we sell children's artwork to City Lodge regularly, which has really boosted the programme. Children attend Little Art weekly, and Ballet classes run every Tuesday for Cottage 5 and 7 girls, building confidence and self-esteem.

Art classes run Fridays and Saturdays for all children, and music therapy runs Mondays and Thursdays. Holiday activities include board games, movie afternoons, talent shows, and Easter arts and crafts. Our annual Art Exhibition continues, with most artwork sold through the event and corporate partners, and children still enjoy regular outings to the National Children's Theatre.



A movement and confidence-building class for our younger girls.



Children's artwork from our annual Art Exhibition — sold in support of JCH.

Ikhaya Lobukhona: Life Skills

This programme teaches children what's expected of them in a home environment, hygiene, cooking, baking, and chores. Children help prepare beds and plant crops as part of our garden initiative, and are exposed to holiday tasks like shopping, cleaning, and cleaning, and doing their own laundry, especially the older teens.

Scouts South Africa Leadership

Children built leadership skills like knot tying, communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. In the Ponte Challenge, children won three Gold, two Silver, and four Bronze awards. Outings included a visit to the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa and a night hike.

ONE GOAL ONE DREAM

SPORT

Children take part in a range of sports at school and at home. CYCW's ran aerobics and fitness sessions, and children joined weekly yoga classes to build focus and reduce stress. About 30 children took part in the Inter-Cottage Games, which was fully resume alongside our partnership with the Institute for Sports. It was fully resume alongside our partnership with the Institute for Skills Empowerment, with steady volunteer support for soccer, bowls, netball, and cricket, and daily use of the outdoor gym. Staff vs Children matches and "Minute to Win It" games kept things fun and built teamwork.



Weekly soccer under wide-open Highveld skies.

CAREER GUIDANCE

SIYASEBENZA

This programme helps children aged 12+ prepare for independent living - career guidance, exit planning, and life skills. Career guidance happens through expos, school visits, and work with social workers, with exit planning starting at least five years before a child leaves. Children research careers in our computer lab, and our computer teacher helps with interview skills, e-learning, and CV writing. Older children now prepare their own meals, and weekly Coding and Robotics classes build tech skills.



Every school day starts and ends with a safe, well-maintained ride — and a little more dignity and confidence

3
RECEIVED SMART IDS

8
CV-WRITING WORKSHOP

11
CROCHET WORKSHOP



DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMME

SIYATHUTHUKA

For children under 12, we run a structured programme with puzzles, Lego, building blocks, board games, and reading, continued in the cottages by CYCWs. Every evening after supper, children take turns reading aloud and doing homework, supported by volunteers.

Tutors from Prep To Perfection help primary school children three days a week, and we've kept strengthening maths for Grades 1-3 through games and times-table challenges. Reading sessions covered pronunciation and storytelling, writing activities focused on handwriting and spelling, and holiday storytelling built imagination and confidence.



Reading together, a small daily ritual that builds big confidence.

Behaviour Modification

Challenging behaviour is addressed at disciplinary meetings, with consequences like losing pocket money or TV time. Children are praised daily for positive progress, and CYCWs and social workers get ongoing training on managing younger children's behaviour, helping some children better understand boundaries and accountability.

After Care: Post-Exit Support

Youth who've left our care still struggle to reintegrate, often lacking survival skills and family support. We stay in telephonic contact with them — some have settled well back with family, while those living independently tend to struggle more with budgeting. We continue visiting children at the Hope, Faith, and Grace Youth Development programme.

LEISURE AND RECREATION

MAKING ROOM FOR CHILDHOOD

Weekends stay full of recreational activities thanks to donors, volunteers, and mentors. Children enjoyed shows at the National Children's Theatre, plus holiday outings including roller-skating, a picnic at the Botanical Gardens, Scouts SA, a 4- day camp in Clarens, a movie at Montecasino, Bunny Hop, the Museum of Illusions, ice skating, a safari trip, and a visit to the CemAir Hangar.

All children enjoy a braai before the start of the holidays, 20 attended the Bryanston Methodist Church Holiday Programme, 13 joined a Crochet Workshop with YarnDarland Co., 11 enjoyed a sponsored movie at Eastgate Mall courtesy of Little Artists, and about 23 took part in a "Master Chefs" cooking competition between cottages. These moments have really strengthened bonds between staff and children, and younger girls remain enrolled in Ballet and arts and crafts with an on-site volunteer.



Simple summer treats after a busy outing.



Family that eats together stays together.



THE NUMBERS BEHIND THE CARE

STATISTICS

CHILDREN	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Registered Capacity	64	64	64	64	64	64
Children Admitted	4	10	23	9	12	8
Children Discharged	1	0	13	0	5	3
Reunited with Family	3	5	9	5	9	5

34 children were reunited with their families over the 2025/2026 school holidays, a strong outcome for family stabilisation.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Our social enterprise initiatives consist of a vegetable garden, focusing primarily on supplying our kitchen with basic vegetables, a thrift shop based in Norwood, a B&B on JCH grounds, daily jumble sales, hall hire, external catering, and a skills centre based inside the property. Current projects focus on refurbishing furniture items and upholstery.

We held our second JCH dinner and wine auction in May 2025 at the Waterfall Courtyard Hotel. Another sold-out event, and we raised R283 500. We would like to thank all the wine producers from the Western Cape who donated the wine to make this event a resounding success, Nile Groenewald for sourcing the wine and curating the auction, and the passionate team at The Courtyard in Midrand and OR Tambo City Lodge for sponsoring the evening.



Learning to grow what feeds us — the JCH food garden.

R283 500 raised at our second annual JCH Dinner & Wine Auction, May 2025

FUNDA NGO THANDO — LEARNING WITH LOVE

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The ECD has successfully achieved its enrolment target of 60 children, reflecting continued growth and confidence in the services provided by the centre.

We successfully implemented aftercare and holiday programmes as a response to an important need within the community to provide safe, structured care and support for ECD and primary school children when schools are closed. Both these programmes contribute to the centre's fundraising and financial sustainability, supporting the ongoing operation and development of the ECD centre.

We are currently working on the renewal of programme and facility registration with the Department of Education and continue to work towards maintaining and strengthening compliance with all applicable ECD standards and requirements.

Our affiliation with the local ECD Forum provides a valuable platform for networking, information sharing, collaboration and learning. Through this platform, we have benefited from various training and capacity-building opportunities organised by the City of Johannesburg Municipality, contributing to the ongoing professional development of staff and improvement of programme implementation.

KEEPING THE HOME RUNNING

OPERATIONS

The Operations team ensures all the children's daily needs are supported and met. The department comprises a kitchen, which ensures that healthy, nutritious, and safe meal planning is implemented to meet our children's growing needs, including those of Funda Ngo Thando (ECD). Our food gardens provide much economic relief and ensure our children receive fresh vegetables daily.

Drivers and Maintenance ensure that our children travel to and from school in well-maintained, safe vehicles and collect much-needed donations. The team also ensures that the children's living and communal spaces are maintained by health and safety regulations.



Fresh vegetables, grown by small hands, on the way to the kitchen.

The laundry ensures that clothing donated for the children is washed and sorted for the children's ever-growing needs, as well as assisting with income-generating projects such as hall hire and continuously stocking Thrift Up (Thrift Shop) and Jumble Junction, generating additional income for our children's programmes.

The team also ensures that the children's living and communal spaces are maintained by adhering to current health and safety regulations.

POWERED BY GENEROSITY

The Fundraising Team continues to face the ongoing challenge of securing the funds required to meet the needs of the organisation and ensure that we can continue providing care, support and opportunities for the vulnerable children in our community. Year on year, the increasingly challenging economic landscape has made fundraising more demanding. Despite these challenges, the generosity, commitment and continued support of our donors enable us to meet the needs of the children in our care.



Children celebrate a generous R130 000 contribution towards our work, every gift, big or small, changes a child's story.

The Volunteering and Community Service Programme continues to grow, providing individuals, businesses and community groups with meaningful opportunities to contribute their time, skills and resources to JCH, while creating greater awareness and understanding of the needs of the children in our care.

Our online presence continues to expand, enabling us to reach a wider audience, share the impact of our work and connect with new supporters. Social media and digital communication have become increasingly important tools in telling the JCH story.

Donations in kind remain an invaluable source of support, assisting with the day-to-day needs of the home while helping to reduce the financial pressure on the organisation. These generous contributions, whether large or small, have a direct and meaningful impact on the children in our care. Thrift Up continues to grow, providing an important and sustainable fundraising stream while encouraging the community to donate quality pre-loved items, generating income while encouraging community participation and support.



A generous blanket donation, ready for winter in the cottages.

Together, these initiatives are strengthening our fundraising efforts, expanding our reach and helping us build a more sustainable future for the Johannesburg Children's Home and the children we serve.

EVERY GIFT CHANGES A STORY

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Our ongoing giving programmes make it easy to become part of a child's everyday story — here are a few ways our Friends of JCH stay involved year-round.





It's the most magical time of the year

Donate

BANKING DETAILS:

The Johannesburg Children's Home
 First National Bank, Bedford Gardens
 Branch Code: 252 - 155
 Account number: 50391 000 962
 Reference: Your name



Snap here to pay



DOWNLOAD THE SNAPSCAN APP!

SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE:

Snapscan is a safe and secure
 payment method. No information will
 be sent to a third party.

IN CLOSING

CONCLUSION

As we reflect on 2025, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible community that stands behind the children of Johannesburg Children's Home. Thanks to the unwavering support of our donors, partners, volunteers, and dedicated staff, we continued to provide a safe, nurturing environment where 64 children could heal, grow, and build brighter futures.

Every day, Johannesburg Children's Home offers vulnerable children a second chance in life. We strive to create an environment where children can experience stability, care, education, and hope, giving them every opportunity to thrive.

28%
OF OUR BUDGET FROM GOVERNMENT

72%
COMES FROM YOU — OUR DONORS

While government funding remains an important source of support, it continues to decline year after year. This financial year, government subsidies will cover only 28% of our operating budget. The remaining funding comes from generous individuals, trusts, foundations, corporate partners, and our home-grown initiatives.

Behind every success story is a team of committed professionals who work tirelessly to make a difference. From our care workers, social workers, therapists, educators and ECD teachers to our drivers, kitchen staff, laundry team, maintenance staff and administrative personnel, and our ever-helpful board of directors, each member of the Johannesburg Children's Home plays a vital role in creating a sense of normalcy and belonging for our children.

Their dedication ensures that every child receives the support, guidance and care needed to navigate life's challenges and pursue their dreams. While challenges remain, we are encouraged by the compassion and commitment of our supporters. Together, we will continue to provide a place where children can feel safe, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Thank you for standing with us and helping us fulfil our pledge:

**The Johannesburg Children's
Home of Renewed Hope**

We look forward to continuing this journey with you in 2026 and beyond.



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE CARE

OUR TEAM

Every child in our care is supported by a dedicated, multi-disciplinary team — from social workers and therapists to the kitchen, garden and maintenance staff who keep the Home running day to day.

MANAGEMENT & SOCIAL WORK

Managing Director	Mr Sipho Mdluli
Children's Services Manager	Ms K de Allende
Social Workers	Ms NSF Bihlmaier Ms C Malindisa

CHILD & YOUTH CARE TEAM

Shift Supervisors	Ms CK Matona Ms M Pakkies
Child & Youth Care Workers	Ms HP Gcuze Ms CS Madidimalo
	Ms MG Manyokole Ms Z Mbatyazwa
	Ms SG Mdluli Ms N Mngomezulu
	Ms NJ Mofokeng Ms NM Mohlabai
	Ms EN Mohlakoane Mr JE Mokoena
	Ms Z Msabala Mr MH Muluadzi
	Ms PS Ngcobo Balemba Ms JP Ngwenya
	Ms BS Nyathi Ms G Ralbone Ms A Siavhe

THERAPISTS & EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Therapists	Ms J Reid Ms A Paiken Ms L Kraitzick
Educational Support	Ms T Dobson Mr D Mudera

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES & FUNDA NGO THANDO (ECD)

Charity Shop	Ms Z Sithole
Food Gardens	Mr T Lechaba
ECD Principal / Head Teacher	Ms A Bhengu
ECD Teachers	Ms P Somo Ms LB Mbhele Ms BP Msibi Ms TA Muthwa

OFFICE TEAM

Financial Accountant	Ms A Mc Vey
Office Co-Ordinator	Ms N Pahle
Fundraising, Marketing & PR	Ms F Duke Mr L Mondlane Ms W Mahlangu

OPERATIONS TEAM

Kitchen Supervisor	Mr S Mangena
Kitchen Support Team	Ms M Matloga Mr T Ginya Ms Y Tshwaane
Gardens	Mr E Dube
Housekeeping & Events	Ms B Bond
Laundry Assistant	Ms L Ngobeni
Support Services	Ms A Ramshubby Ms NT Mkhize Ms L Mafa
Drivers	Mr L Mtaung Mr TI Khumalo Mr DJ Nxumalo Mr A Radebe
Maintenance	Mr CJ Khumalo

134 YEARS OF RENEWED HOPE

THE HISTORY OF OUR HOME

1892

The Johannesburg Children's Home, the oldest charitable institution in the City, was founded early in 1892 by a committee formed under the Chairmanship of Mrs.vonBrandis, wife of the Landdrost. These women raised funds for the running of a small home opened in Fordsburg. With the proceeds from a Fancy Fair, which totalled £4779, plus an enormous amount of courage, this organisation started its long life of activity.

Early years

The expenses for upkeep were met by weekly street collections. To help any and every child in distress, it was decided that the Home be entirely non-denominational and admit children of all creeds.

Growth

Soon, the need for larger premises arose, and eight stands in Twist Street, Hospital Hill, were donated to the committee by the Transvaal Government. While building on this site was developed, 70 children were housed in Beit Street, Doornfontein.

South African War

During the South African War, many children were cared for by friends. The remainder of the children were sent with the matron to Verulam, Natal. They were supported by donations of food and clothing from residents there and money from Johannesburg refugees in Natal.

1902

After their return in July 1902, the need for a larger and suitably designed Home became a priority. It was decided that the Twist Street position was unsuitable and the stands were sold back to the Government for £12,000. With this sum, and donations, our present ground in Observatory was acquired.

1906 – 1941

In 1906, a building (opened by the Countess of Selbourne, wife of the Governor-General) was erected and housed the children for 30 years. In 1939, a sub-economic loan was received from the Housing Board, and in 1941, the children moved into the Children's Home in Observatory.

Cottage System Project

The JCH approached the Department of Architecture at the University of Witwatersrand to consider alternative environments that might assist in de-institutionalising and normalising the children's lives. Gerald Gordon, a senior lecturer in the department, adopted the problem as a project for fourth-year students, who developed the designs on which the new buildings were eventually based. Each unit would comprise six bedrooms, a kitchen, and 2½ bathrooms, inclusive of a bedroom, bathroom, and lounge for the live-in parents. Desmond Niven pledged the Niven Trust's full support, and a unanimous decision was taken for the Cottage System Project to go ahead.

1985

The cottage system was introduced to create a more personal and less institutionalised environment.

1988

Another fortunate acquisition was the effective donation of the grounds adjacent to the Home by Eskom in the middle of 1988. The property included what had been a tennis club building, bowling clubhouse, tennis courts, and bowling green. The Home was, in fact, re-acquiring the land, since it had formed part of the original Observatory plot purchased in 1904. During the 1940s the Victoria Falls Company sold the property to Eskom, which used it as a sports club for its Johannesburg employees for the next four decades or so. By 1985, Eskom had relocated to Megawatt Park, rendering the Observatory premises redundant.

Today

Hundreds of children have passed through the Home since its inception in 1892. Many of them have become valuable members of the community, and we are confident that those now entrusted to our care will, in turn, play their part in the future of our country.

THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US

Johannesburg Children's Home — The Home of Renewed Hope

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