

# A Cause That Changes Lives

Relate Bracelets, a 100% non-profit organisation based in Cape Town, has been changing lives one bead at a time. Relate Bracelets not only provides earning opportunities for its bracelet makers, unemployed youth and senior citizens, but invests in an ever-widening social reach initiative.

The organisation also provides skills training, invests in enterprise development and benefits other causes such as the gift of safe drinking water to needy families through the Rotary SafeWater Project, and helping conserve rhino through the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

Individually, it also touches lives. And one young person who has benefitted immensely from Relate Bracelets is Abongile Ngalo. Originally from the Eastern Cape, Abongile, like many other youths, moved to Cape Town in search of better opportunities. "Before I moved to Cape Town I lived with 11 relatives in one small house. Life was tough because only one person was working," says Ngalo.

Finding the life of the unemployed here very tough, she was introduced by her aunt to Relate Bracelets in 2009. She joined Relate Bracelets as a bracelet maker and packer. She says she has always dreamt of being a nurse, but due to her financial circumstances could not afford to further her studies. "Since I was a little girl, I used to take care of my sick grandmother. Helping those in need is my passion," says Ngalo.

Through its upskilling programmes, Relate supported Abongile in completing professional English and parenting courses, and also helped her pursue her dream of becoming a nurse. She registered for a nursing course and is on her way to achieving her goal. "Before I joined Relate I had no hope, but since joining them I have realised that I can do anything I put my mind to. I can now even support my family and daughter back home," says Ngalo.

Abongile Ngalo is a clear example of what a helping hand can do in the life of someone else. Through the proceeds of the bracelet sales, Relate has been able to help many other women to gain skills and have a chance to better their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

Relate Bracelets has recently launched an online store, [www.shop.relate.org.za](http://www.shop.relate.org.za), after celebrating the sale of one million bracelets since 2010. This will help the organisation reach its goal of selling one million bracelets each year for the next three years, enabling Relate to change countless lives.



For more information, visit [www.relate.org.za](http://www.relate.org.za). Relate Bracelets is a 100% non-profit organisation and each Relate bracelet comes with Relate's signature 'R' bead, which is its way of saying that Relate is committed to authenticity and transparency. This means that you know what you have donated towards and exactly where your money has gone! If it doesn't have the 'R' bead, then it is not a Relate bracelet.

