



What can a round of golf do?



For Super Group's nine Mercedes Benz dealerships in the Western Cape, golf is more than just a beautiful walk spoilt by a little white ball, it is a way to change lives for the better. Year after year, the dealership has used the proceeds from its, now famous, golf day to support the most vulnerable in their community. Most recently, this included the Boland School for Autism.

Situated in Paarl, the school currently accommodates 50 learners, with many more having successfully moved through their ranks. The school offers three streams of specialised education

and prepares children between the ages of 3 and 14 for a return to mainstream classrooms, or for occupational opportunities in the outside world. This is because one child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) typically requires as much attention as six neurotypical children, the school tries to keep classes small, with no more than six children per teacher.

"While the Boland School for Autism's ASD-specific curriculum is a major drawcard, what truly sets them apart is the fact that they offer an extensive support network for children and parents," quotes the dealership's Marketing Manager, Bianca Fluckiger. Apart from the 10 teachers they currently employ, the school also has a full team of in-house therapists, including an educational psychologist, occupational therapist, social worker, child kineticist, speech therapist and a counsellor.

"The R75 000 recently donated to the school meant that a

sensory room could be created," says Fluckiger. "This room is a space dedicated to sensory experiences, designed specifically to help individuals with autism feel calm, supported and focused," she explains. The donation also meant the school was able to give its play area a new lease on life and complete several other small projects.

Children diagnosed with ASD, as well as their families, often feel helpless and isolated. "The Boland School for Autism has changed that for so many," shares Fluckiger. "We are humbled to be just a small part of this story of hope."

