



VALLEY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

*CELEBRATING
25 YEARS*



ANNUAL REPORT: 2013/2014

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Chairperson's Report

This past year has been very challenging, yet rewarding, with great strides made in the right direction, yet disappointments arising in other areas.

“Let us constantly investigate and implement smarter ways of operation, with our community first at heart.”

With great effort we have forged a better relationship with the Department of Social Development in terms of our role in the community. Challenges around remuneration for Social Workers remain an issue. The challenging part of this experience was discovering discrepancies between the expectations in the Valley and what we were, and still are, mandated to do. We have resolved some of the misconstrued illusion but sorrowfully still face a community that sees us as the only solution to social problems in the Valley. This has been highlighted in several meetings we have had with political figures in the Valley. The way forward has been suggested to get all role players around a table to tackle the social issues of our Valley collectively.

All our projects run on three pillars, namely: Social Development; Community Development and Early Childhood Development. They are still in dire need of funding, especially our Community Development pillar. We are still awaiting good news as to our application for funding from the National Lottery, which will hopefully assist us not only with the running of our projects but also in complementing our funding to commence our building project in Ocean View. At present our youth who are linked to various projects within Community Development are shuffled from pillar to post. Social Workers have to steal corners for office space and privacy. We now have a mobile feeding plan in the interim latched to our nutritional projects.

The Rotary Club has kindly come on board to assist us with our building plans in Ocean View, with Mr Hans Zwets going the extra mile to help us. This has taken a large burden off my shoulders. Furthermore, we have now employed a Project Co-ordinator – cum Fundraiser, who has taken the burden off the shoulders of our Project Managers and me in assisting with the day to day running of the organisation and will soon start with fundraising. This is in the person of Shirley Dunn, a former board member.

I wish to take the opportunity to thank all our funders, staff, executive committee, bookkeeper and board members for all their support and involvement. As the song writer says the road is long with many a winding road. Let us constantly investigate and implement smarter ways of operation, with our community first at heart.

Warren T. Kindo, Chairperson

The Open Door Community Development Project



The year 2013-2014 was another blessed year for the Community Development programme, as it worked to achieve its aims to create a structure of belonging and to strengthen the social well-being of clients through our following projects:

- Youth development
- Awareness raising in schools
- Feeding and Aftercare
- Camps, Holiday Clubs and Outings
- Adult Support Group and HIV/Aids orphan support

With up to 80% of adults unemployed, problems such as malnutrition, inadequate housing and ill health are endemic. In such circumstances, VDP provides a ray of hope for families trying to build a better life for themselves. With the above named programmes, our aim is to help young people develop positive social skills and provide a safe, stimulating environment during their free time.

The year's accomplishments include an increase in the number of children we feed daily in Ocean View, Mountain View and Masiphumelele from 140 to a total of over 500. Each day children (ages 1yr-17yrs) are fed a healthy nutritional meal which improves their micronutrient status, rate of growth, school performance, attention, physical activity and health. We have largely accomplished what we set out to do in this programme.

Food preparation is done by our Cooks and Assistant Volunteers under the supervision of the Project Manager. The meals are cooked and ready to serve for afternoon feeding. A refrigerator and freezer are available for food storage and were kindly donated by the Bradbury family and friends from the UK.

Unfortunately, we have experienced challenges with regards to space for our beneficiaries and activities. However, we continue to render our services to the best of our abilities.

The Open Door Community Development Project

The feeding programme has been very successful with the support of funding from Sybrandt van der Spuy (Cape Point Vineyards), the Bradbury family, Mr & Mrs Blacknel and Add Hope KFC. We are most grateful to all of our donors. We are also very grateful to all the people in the valley who have supported us with groceries, assistance with maintenance, clothing, games, toys and goods for our bazaar sales as well as parcels for our orphaned children.

We believe that our clients deserve no less than all the support to achieve happiness and security. The project provides new possibilities for each person in order to live a more satisfying and fulfilling life. All the support we received from our donors, supporters, staff and volunteers helps us to achieve these goals. We are therefore grateful for their positive contribution and ongoing dedication to the success of the Open Door Community Development Project.

Sherine Arendse
Community Development Project Manager



Early Learning Support Project

The Early Learning Support Project strives to ensure that educators become facilitators of good learning programmes that promote holistic development, thereby ensuring that children are cared for in a safe and caring environment where age appropriate activities feed the developmental needs of young children.

This project:

- Manages the Green Curtains Preschool in Ocean View and Masakhane Educare in Masiphumelele
- Coordinates the Family and Community Motivation Programme in Masiphumelele
- Offers support to 39 ECD centres both registered and unregistered in Ocean View and Masiphumelele and to Grade R educators from Marine and Ukhanyo Primary.
- Supports and mentors 24 Child minding sites who care for less than 6 children in their homes in Masiphumelele



GREEN CURTAINS PRESCHOOL

Green Curtains Preschool has continued the year with 138 learners participating in a successful learning programme that ensures development in all learning areas.



Weekly theme planning ensures that educators implement effective and relevant themes that create a platform for children to learn about the world around them. The NELDs and CAPS curricula work well at this school and allow for learner creativity and initiative in a structured programme that develops children's confidence. Children visited the Imhoff Farm during the theme farming and visited the Strawberry farm in Stellenbosch during the theme on journeys.

Educators continue to participate in training opportunities and capacity building programmes to improve their skills. Over this period, Ramonde Saunders and Bronwyn George completed Level 5, Veronica started participating in Level 4 through the Centre for Creative Education and Karryn Edwards, a new volunteer, is also busy doing Level 4 at False

Bay College. Ramonde Saunders received a high mark of 94% in her work place assessment.

Volunteers have always been key to this preschool and we have many volunteers from across the globe who bring richness and diversity to our learning programme.

59 Grade R learners left for primary school at the end of 2013 and we are very proud of the results produced by learners in Grade 1. One such learner is Aniqah Slarmie who had received a bursary from the Empowerment-through – Education Trust to attend Sun Valley Primary School. Aniqah is doing exceptionally well and is also learning to play the violin. Her teacher says she has a good ear for music and quickly notices when she plays a wrong note.

Educators Ramonde Saunders and Lindy Orgill say: “We are so proud of our school; everything runs so smoothly, we plan well and we always give of our best to the children in our care.”

MASAKHANE EDUCARE

Masakhane Educare has 143 children cared for by 6 educators, 3 volunteer teaching assistants and 3 support staff. Educators at this centre are all trained and over this period the volunteer teaching assistant, Phakama Mdingi, started participating in the Level 4 ECD training with the Centre for Creative Education.

Weekly planning ensures that children participate in an exciting programme, with excursions also being an important part of the curriculum. Children attended the Fish Hoek School Open Day and went on an excursion to the Strawberry farm in Stellenbosch. Grade R children participate weekly in the Wordworks/Nali Bali Literacy programme which takes place at the local library. For Madiba’s birthday, the Save our Seas NGO did a presentation with all learners on saving our seas and sea creatures and each child received a meal as well as educational toys and books for the school.

Over the past years students from Fish Hoek High School have been a great presence at our schools. Twice a week, a group of students lead by Mr Rob Douglas and Mrs Joubert, comes to the school to facilitate activities of music and movement. The children love these activities very much and you would often find a little one sitting in the class with his make-believe guitar leading his peers into song and loudly claiming that he is Mr. Robb. At Easter and Christmas, the students from Fish Hoek High provide children with Easter



eggs and Christmas treats. We are grateful for the school's service, as some of the students were also once learners at Masakhane.

The Cape of Good Hope Rotary Club continues to be a support to our schools and we are extremely grateful for all they that they have done and the many ways that they continue to be of service to us. We are grateful to all our donors and friends and it is only through your benevolence that we are able to continue the work that we do for parents and children in our community.

Masakhane Educare is a model school in the community of Masiphumelele. We are blessed with kind and caring educators who continue to instill happiness, confidence and pride in all our children.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MOTIVATION PROJECT (FCM)

The primary focus of the FCM programme is to improve the lives of young vulnerable children growing up in the community of Masiphumelele who, due to poverty, are unable to afford the services of a preschool. Through the intervention from the eight fieldworkers in the programme, 212 primary caregivers are exposed to skills that support the development needs of their young children. "*Parents become their child's first teacher*". Through this project we support 238 children.



Activities that support this initiative are the bi-monthly home visits, follow up visits during crisis or illness, play groups, toy libraries, networking and putting parents in touch with support services including the clinic, social work services, training opportunities, home affairs and community schools. Fieldworkers act as catalysts in their cluster group of families by helping to build circles of support which strengthen the home and improve the life of children growing up in these dismal circumstances.

Over this period, the 212 primary caregivers participated in monthly workshops on topics which included: You are the child's first teacher: Child safety: Nutrition; Hand washing and diarrhea; The road to health card; My family; HIV and Aids; Children's Rights; All in a day's work; Childhood illnesses; Positive disciplining; Domestic violence; Alcohol abuse and foetal alcohol syndrome; Improvised toy making. These workshops help primary caregivers to learn how to provide a stimulating environment for their children, and teach them about social issues that

impact on their child's development. In addition, they are supported in accessing and applying for child support grants, pensions and interdicts.

During the month of March, fieldworkers walked door to door inviting residents to outdoor workshops facilitating sessions on Prevention of fires. These sessions were attended by a total of 600 residents from Masiphumelele. The fieldworkers are skilled facilitators and have been utilised at preschool parent workshops, CWD parent workshops and workshops with youth from Ukhanyo primary school.



Staff Development and upskilling of staff is an important component. Over the past year, fieldworkers have participated in ECD enrichment training, English classes, First Aid and FAS training provided by the City of Cape Town and the amazing Persona Doll resource training.

A highlight in this project has been the new feeding programme which started in March and ensures that up to 190 young children aged between 18 months and 6 years who are able to access a well-balanced meal daily.

Over the past year we have recruited 24 child minding sites and, with the support from two additional FCM fieldworkers, we were able to support these stalwarts who care for less than 6 children in their homes. These caregivers work overnight caring for young children whose mothers do shift work at restaurants, bakeries and security companies. The presence of the fieldworkers has given them a sense of belonging and through monitoring and guidance we are able to do at-home support to this amazing group.

The fieldworkers work as the primary support structures to the many families in this project and many hardships are overcome through early intervention which is done by this dedicated team.

PRE-SCHOOL SUPPORT

This includes:

Monthly ECD Forum in Masiphumelele – coordinated by the project with a stronghold of 31 Principals of ECD centres, both registered and unregistered. Over the past year we have invited the Nali Bali, Persona Doll, Environmental Health, the clinic, Desmond Tutu and other resource centres into the Forum to share information to give educators additional knowledge to utilise at their



schools. The monthly forum gives educators an opportunity to share news, resolve challenges and refuel their engines while supporting each other.

Weekly NELDS and CAPS theme planning sessions take place in both Ocean View and Masiphumelele, with an attendance of 33 educators from a total of 17 schools. These sessions have given educators the drive to research further about the topic for the week so that they are able to teach children with confidence about the world around them. After an amazing talk by Jenni Trethowan of Baboon Matters, the baboon is now one of our elective wild animals in the “wild animal” theme. Educators were challenged as this was a first time that they were teaching about baboons, but they were assisted greatly by the beautiful resources donated by Baboon Matters.

The Project has worked closely with Persona Doll SA for many years and slowly but surely this amazing resource has found its way into many ECD centres and outreach programmes within the target communities. The persona doll has been used to work through challenges, to celebrate differences and very often to introduce a new maths or language or lifeskills game.

Through training with Inclusive Education WC, our ECD sites have recruited Inclusion Champions who are confident when recognising learning barriers in children and readily create an enabling environment which responds to the needs of all children.

Other support to ECD centres over this period has been food support in terms of gift vouchers which were used to purchase food items to supplement the menu at ECD sites. Additional support was the distribution of educational and support materials to various centres. This included sleeping mattresses, blankets, tables, chairs, kitchen equipment and educational toys. In addition, the project helped ECD sites with the drawing up of business plans, policy documents, constitutions and enrolment forms.

The support and guidance to Grade R educators has been successful and all our schools have hardworking educators who are passionate about their roles. Educators are very excited when children start using the new words that they have learned in

class when talking to their peers. At Masakhane Educare, the educators are always so excited when their learners start spewing English to the English staff as if they have spoken English for years.

We celebrate the ECD practitioners, educators and fieldworkers at all our ECD sites, who under the most difficult circumstances always strive to give of their best in making a difference in the lives of young children.



Lynne Lamb, ELSP Project Manager



The Open Door Social Work Project

ENVIRONMENT

Both Ocean View and Masiphumelele are areas where serious socio-economic problems exist. There is lack of employment, poverty and inadequate or insufficient housing. The gangster lifestyle around substance abuse is rife. The number of women abusing tik and alcohol is increasing which results in many cases of deliberate neglect, abuse of children and abandonment. Children are dropping out of school before they reach high school or in Grade 8. There are no schools of skills in the area. The rate of pregnancy among young girls is extremely high. Parents are fighting to protect their children against the environment influences. Behavioural issues of children are unmanageable by their parents. Domestic violence occurs too frequently.

SERVICES

Our offices are in the middle of both communities so clients have easy access to the services. Referrals are received from schools, the clinic, the trauma room, Red- Cross or Mowbray Hospitals and the other NGO's in the working in the community such as Living Hope and Soteria Ministries. In August, our team: Interviewed 200 clients, (30 of whom were new clients); Placed eight children in foster care through the court system; Placed twelve children in temporary safe care either through the court system or via private arrangement. We are currently mediating ten parenting plans, and five members of the community are being assisted by an informal recovery programme from substance abuse.

GROWTH

The Social Work Project continues to grow to meet the growing needs in the target communities. Over the past year, the Department of Social Development has supported the project by allocating three new posts, namely two auxiliary Social Workers and a new Social Work post. This brings the staff compliment to ten.

This allocation indicates the awareness the Department has of the issues facing the communities of Ocean View and Masiphumelele, and the need for greater resources. New staff members require office facilities, which will become a reality soon, thanks to kind support from the Rotary Club.

PARTNERSHIPS

One of the goals of VDP's Social Work Project is to partner with all the NGO's working in the communities to provide an umbrella of services that will assist our clients with a flowing referral system.

There is still a need for greater resources: an emergency shelter linked to the trauma room, facilities for victims of domestic violence, placement for tik using mothers with children who want to attempt recovery and improve the care of their children, a school of skills and programmes with teenage children identified as being at risk.

THANK YOU

The Social Workers and staff would like to thank all the role players who work with us to provide the best service we can. This includes the clinic, the police, the Trauma Room, the schools and all the NGO's with whom we partner. A special thank you is extended to the Department of Social Development who subsidises these services.

Sue Burger, Social Work Project Manager



Financial Report

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- Western Cape Education Department
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- KFC, Add Hope Campaign
- The Open Box
- Bruce Marvin
- Cape of Good Hope Rotary Club
- Imhoff Farm
- Fish Hoek High School
- SA Navy, Simons Town
- Catholic Church, Fish Hoek
- Pick 'n Pay, Longbeach Mall
- Mr and Mrs Bradbury
- Mr and Mrs Blacknel
- U3A
- Busy Lizzies

In addition, we would like to thank all those who have donated items in kind to our projects, as well as all the other organisations and service providers who provide us with valuable support and assistance. A very big Thank You also goes to all our volunteers who offer their time and talents to support our work and help those in need.

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