



VALLEY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



ANNUAL REPORT: 2014/2015

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Chairperson's Report

"May our programmes and projects continue to reach and benefit thousands of children and youth."

It gives me great pleasure to deliver my first annual report for 2015. We are also proud to host the Annual General Meeting of Valley Development Projects in our brand new building. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Cape of Good Hope Rotary and Dr Sylvia Howarth for making it possible that the new building is at its completion stages.

Board Members

A great thank you goes to Warren Kindo, our outgoing chairperson, for his term in office. A big thank you also goes to all the board members for offering their free time voluntarily and making sure that our meetings are successful for the sake of our various communities and projects where it is most needed. I must also thank the two Rotarians who offered their time to come and help as board members. Your expertise is greatly appreciated. We think of the times when the environment was not safe, but you still unselfishly travelled to attend the meetings, knowing that VDP does amazing work in the communities of the valley. Thank you once again.

Staff

These are the people who must truly be commended for the work they do in and for the different projects. The VDP projects are as follows:

- Early learning in Ocean View and Masiphumelele
- Youth development and feeding project
- Social work project
- Pink House Community Centre

These projects are engaged in many activities in addition to what their names indicate. To all the staff, including the project managers, teachers, social workers, fieldworkers, Shirley and our bookkeeper, I wish to convey the best wishes and gratitude on behalf of the board for the sterling work all of you are doing. I would also like to make it known that VDP will not forget the passing of Dennis Vusani, a much-loved Social Worker in Masiphumelele.

May our programmes and projects continue to reach and benefit thousands of children and youth.

Pink House

We were fortunate to have had Peter Fenton and Celeste Helm working hard to negotiate with Catholic Welfare and Development in order to obtain a long-term lease for the Pink House Community Centre in Masiphumelele. More information about this centre and the services it provides can be found in this annual report.

Prestigious Award

It was a highlight of the past financial year when VDP's FCM Programme was placed third in the National NDA ECD awards for outreach programmes. We are very proud of this award and of the sterling work conducted by our FCM Programme.

Conclusion

I wish to thank all the donors, sponsors, Lottery, local and provincial government and everybody else who contributed so generously and unselfishly to this worthy cause. With VDP being a nonprofit organisation, it is hard work raising funds to keep the flag flying high and at the same time making sure that the projects are successful and sustainable.

Thanking you,

David Dick, Chairperson

VDP BOARD MEMBERS

Chairperson: David Dick
Vice Chairperson: Siphso January
Treasurer: Peter Fenton
Secretary: Ralph Reynolds

Members:

Warren Kindo
Bev Frieslich
Riedewhaan Allie
Alan Ferguson
Noluthando Melamane

The Open Door Community Development Project

The year 2014-2015 was another blessed year for the Community Development programme, as it worked to strengthen the social well-being of clients through the following projects:

- Youth development
- Awareness raising in schools
- Nutritional Feeding
- Aftercare
- Holiday Clubs/ Outings/Camps
- Adult Support Group/ HIV/Aids Orphan Support



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 feeding programme continues to be very successful, reaching a total of over 700 children daily with the support from our funders, Sybrandt van der Spuy, (Cape Point Vineyards), Add Hope/KFC, the Bradbury family and the team from the UK and Kommetjie Christian Church.

We have experienced challenges with regard to space for our programmes. However, we are very excited to move into our new Child Safety Centre in November 2015.

The year's accomplishments include an increase in the number of children we feed in Mountain View, Ocean View and Masiphumelele. 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. There is a definite improvement in the health of the children and their behaviour since they joined the feeding and youth programmes.

Every Friday afternoon and evening, more than 60 children and youth participate in Youth Clubs at the Open Door, where they learn a number of valuable life skills,

The Open Door Community Development Project

develop leadership and behavioural skills and have a lot of fun. We have been very blessed to have a number of volunteers facilitating sessions at our youth groups, helping to broaden the youth's horizons and expose them to valuable skills and opportunities.

We have largely accomplished what we set out to do in this Programme and believe that our clients deserve no less than all the support to achieve happiness and security. The project provides new possibilities for each person to live a more satisfying life. We can proudly say that the Open Door has come a long way and has not allowed financial difficulties to hamper service delivery in the communities we serve. Through all the support we receive we are able to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

We are very grateful to all the people in the Valley who have supported us with funding, groceries, assistance with maintenance, clothing, games, toys, goods for our bazaar sales, as well as parcels for our orphan children from the Fish Hoek Catholic Church.

Sherine Arendse
Community Development Project Manager



Early Learning Support Project



The Early Learning Support Project conducts the following:

- Manages the Green Curtains Preschool and Masakhane Educare
- Coordinates the Family and Community Motivation Project
- Supports 44 independent pre-schools and runs the Masiphumelele ECD Forum

Green Curtains Preschool

The Green Curtains Preschool in Ocean View provides a place of stimulation and care for 123 children aged 3 years to 6 years. With a team of qualified and experienced educators, the school provides an exciting curriculum and children thrive in this stimulating, child-friendly environment.

Weekly theme planning allows children to learn about a new subject each week.



Children participate in exciting excursions to gain a better understanding of what they learn about the world around them. Over this period they had an opportunity to visit the Museum during the theme on dinosaurs, Imhoff farm during the theme on farming and the strawberry farm in Stellenbosch during the theme on journeys.

The school has two committed volunteers viz. Caryn Edwards and Veronica Smith who are extremely valuable to the grade R classes; both participate in the ECD Level 4 Learnership.

The educators are highly motivated and always give of their best to ensure that learning is exciting for their young learners. At the end of last year one of the grade R students received a bursary to attend the Sun Valley Primary School.

With its dedicated volunteers like Fish Hoek High School, a good parent support base and the wonderful team of educators, the school operates as a school of best practise where children always receive the best possible care and education.

Masakhane Educare



Masakhane Educare in Masiphumelele provides a range of exciting activities for the 143 young children who thrive in a place of safety, stimulation and care.

The school has a varied programme which includes weekly themes on topics like the seasons, growth and change, insects and creepy crawlies, day and night, my community, proudly South African, journeys and dinosaurs. Weekly trips to the library, regular community walks and excursions help children to learn more about the world around them. Children participate in additional language activities at the library which is facilitated by Wordworks.

The end of year graduation and Nativity play were enjoyed by all especially parents who were very proud of their young children's accomplishment.

This school has a committed volunteer team with 3 volunteer teaching assistant's viz. Milna Mlinganiso, Xoliswa Colelo and Nompumelele Norushu who are all very special to the grade R classes.



The staff, parents and children at this centre create a circle of trust which is conducive to a good learning environment. Children are happy and learn well.

Masakhane is a model school in the community of Masiphumelele and we are proud of the hard work and dedication of all staff.

Family and Community Motivation (FCM) Programme

The FCM Project takes learning into the homes of 381 vulnerable young children who due to poverty are unable to access the services of the local crèches.

Through regular home visits, monthly workshops and awareness raising projects, the primary caregivers learn about issues that impact on their children's development, and become capacitated to implement early learning in the home.

Monthly workshops facilitated mostly by the fieldworkers help build the capacity of the primary caregivers and help to build circles of support with other mothers and the community resources. These all contribute toward strengthening the home life.

Over this period the fieldworkers participated in many capacity building programmes including counselling skills and persona doll training.



Parents are put in contact with local support services like social services and are able to access support grants and pensions to improve the living conditions and the care of their children. The fieldworkers work as the primary support structure to many families in this Project. The intervention and support from the fieldworkers help families to overcome many hardships.

In recognition of the sterling work and intervention of this project, The FCM project was awarded third place in the National NDA ECD 2015 awards.

Early Learning Support

The Early Learning Support Project has continued to promote early childhood development services in the communities of Masiphumelele and Ocean View. This investment in the earliest years helps secure the best outcome for children.

During this period the project has formed partnerships with many organisations in order to increase the investment to young children. Partnerships included the Unlimited Child, Word Works, Inclusive Education and JAMSA.

Through these partnerships we were able to build the capacity of ECD practitioners so that they were able to teach more inclusively. Children were able to access quality curricula using superior learning resource materials and had access to nutritious cereals each morning.

ECD Forum sessions continued every month and guest speakers including Michael Tyhali from Ukhanyo Primary, Rosemary Luger the occupational therapist, representatives from the ECD congress and Thulisa Mayekiso from Nali Bali.

Other support included arranging capacity building programmes including Persona Doll training, Inclusive Education training, Baby Care training, support with business plans, policy documents and other needed for registration of centres.

Through the partnership with Inclusive Education we were able to ensure that 3 centres in Ocean View and 3 centres in Masiphumelele employ two teaching assistants each to support the teachers. These teaching assistants are paid by the Expanded Public Works Programme.

Each month this project reaches over 2000 children through the different projects.

Lynne Lamb, ELSP Project Manager

The Open Door Social Work Project

Due to the increase in staff and efficient work on the part of the staff, the organisation has attempted to improve the services to both Ocean View and Masiphumelele and continues to do so.



ENVIRONMENT

The areas within which we work have serious socio-economic problems; these circumstances give rise to neglect and abuse of children. Child protection is the core work of the social work team at VDP. Working to protect the child includes working with the family. The unemployment, poverty, lack of suitable housing and substance abuse are contributing factors to pressures placed on families. Neglect and abuse occur in children from birth to eighteen. There is a lack of resources for victims of domestic violence, children dropping out of school and sufferers of addiction.

SERVICES

Our core work mandated by the Department of Social Development through the Children's Court continues. We placed ninety-one children in foster care this last financial year and currently ten children are in temporary safe care via the court system. Mediation i.e. negotiating of parenting plans is another aspect of court work; generally we are working on approximately ten mediation of parenting plans at one time. Members of the community suffering from addiction are being assisted by an informal recovery programme run by this office which includes referrals to sponsored beds at treatment centres for substance abuse.

STAFF

The Department of Social Development continues to support the social work programme. Over the last year there has been a substantial increase in social worker

salaries. Staff policies and procedures were clarified via workshops with Alan Jackson and staff.

The working conditions and the fact that the organisation exists at this extreme south end of the peninsula, plus the coal-face factor of the work means there is a constant movement of social workers through the organisation. Dennis Vusani passed away in October 2014 and was replaced by Ntsekiseng Makeke. Trix Krumm and Juliana Rubain filled the new social worker and social auxiliary posts. Two social workers; Alison Brown and Angela Nicks resigned at the end of March and were replaced by Gamuchirai Chibage and Lilian Zweni.

VDP supports students from CEFA, Unisa and the Huguenot college as well as allowing students from foreign countries to visit and spend time at the organisation.



TRAINING

To increase their knowledge, the staff have attended workshops on Foster care report training, Refugee and Asylum rights, Standardised risk assessment training, Mediation, Child labour and exploitation as well as Parenting Skills. The Children's Act and other laws related to our work are continuously being amended and social workers need to keep up to date.

OUR NEW BUILDING:

Increased staff requires more office facilities and Cape of Good Hope Rotary has stepped forward to meet this need. This new building is almost complete and we will occupy the building in November. The Ocean View staff is looking forward to having the new premises in

order to run therapeutic and educational groups with adolescents and parents. The staff of this unit are extremely grateful to the Rotary especially to Hans Zwets.

THANK YOU

As always 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 magistrate and staff at the Simon's Town court, the staff at the clinic, our partners, Fish Hoek team of DSD as well as the police, the staff of the schools in the community and all the NGOs with which we partner.

Sue Burger, Social Work Project Manager

The “Pink House” Community Centre

Background

Located in Masiphumelele, the “Pink House” Community Centre was built by Catholic Welfare and Development in 1994. The soup kitchen was launched at the time the building project was completed and has been in continuous operation for over 20 years. The Pink House has assisted thousands of people; the poor and hungry, the dispossessed, and victims of fires and floods. In June 2015, Catholic Welfare and Development leased the Pink House property to Valley Development Projects. VDP will now provide management and oversight of the Pink House in coordination with its other projects in Masiphumelele and Ocean View.



Vision

To create and maintain a friendly community resource, addressing the needs of residents in Masiphumelele with a broad range of services.

What we do:

The soup kitchen is the cornerstone of Pink House activities, providing meals to clients referred by the Masiphumelele Clinic. Clients receive soup and a meal each morning, Monday through Friday, to enable them to take appropriate medication for TB and HIV/AIDS. They also receive meals for their eligible dependents. The programme feeds up to 250 clients and their dependents each week.

Our after-school programme provides a venue for young teens to engage in creative activities, such as the study of poetry, drama, singing and traditional dances.

The Yizani Sibonisane Seniors’ Club meets at the centre twice a week for a meal, friendly discussion, and craft-making.

The school holiday programme, supported by the U.S.-based NGO, World Teach, provides a 3-week programme for young teens, focusing on improved skills in the English language, both written and spoken, creative activities such as art projects, dance instruction and play time.

The “Pink House” Community Centre

Our organic garden was established on the property in August 2014. Created and supported by local donors, the ladies of the seniors’ club have pledged to maintain the garden during the 2015-2016 season.

The Pink House serves as an advice office, assisting Masi residents with a variety of issues from communicating with the Labour Department, location of social workers, assistance with document interpretation and photocopying.

The Pink House is host to many relevant NGO workshops, including those focusing on parenting and early childhood education.

It is recognised that the Pink House is an asset by geographic location and has the potential to provide significant and meaningful outreach to the community. Together with our generous supporters, the Pink House will continue to provide a warm and welcoming environment at the heart of Masiphumelele.

Celeste Helm: Manager: Pink House



Financial Report

Acknowledgements

Valley Development Projects would like to thank the following funders and donors for their support and generosity during the past financial year:

- Department of Social Development
- Western Cape Education Department
- National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund
- Jet Lee Will Trust
- Sybrandt van der Spuy, Cape Point Vineyards
- KFC, Add Hope Campaign
- The Open Box
- Bruce Marvin
- Cape of Good Hope Rotary Club
- Kommetjie Christian Church
- Noordhoek Farm Village
- Girl Guides South Africa
- Fish Hoek High School
- Catholic Church, Fish Hoek
- Catholic Church, Simonstown
- Catholic Church, Kommetjie
- Pick 'n Pay, Longbeach Mall and Fish Hoek
- Mr and Mrs Bradbury
- Mr and Mrs Blacknel

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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