



VALLEY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



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Chairperson's Report

**A message from
VDP Chairperson,
David Dick**

It is with great pleasure that I present my Annual Report for 2016. The past year has been extremely busy for VDP, as projects have been growing whilst the organisation has been working to improve its governance structures and systems. While we have faced many challenges during the past year, we have also experienced many successes, many of which will be highlighted in the reports of the individual projects.

Board Members

A great thank you goes to all our Board Members who give up their time voluntarily to serve VDP and its target communities. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Siphon January, Riedewhaan Allie and Alan Ferguson, who for personal reasons were not able to continue to serve on the Board. We would like to thank them most sincerely for the valuable contributions that they all made toward the organisation. We have been blessed with two new Board members, Gillian Anderson and Jo-Anne Smetherham, who bring a wealth of experience to our Board. Your commitment and expertise are greatly appreciated.

Staff

The staff of VDP 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
- OVC (orphan and vulnerable children) support project

These projects have all been very busy during the past year. In addition to project staff, there are also those staff members who work "behind the scenes" providing the necessary support to the projects to ensure that they run effectively. To all the staff, I wish to convey the best wishes and gratitude on behalf of the board for the sterling work that all of you are doing. May you continue to run excellent projects and programmes that improve the lives of thousands of children and families.

Highlights

In addition to the many successes achieved in the projects, VDP has experienced the following highlights:

"I wish to thank all the donors, sponsors, volunteers, local and provincial government and everybody else who contributed so generously and unselfishly to this worthy cause"

- Completion of the last stages of the new Open Door Child Safety Centre in Ocean View. In addition to the valuable input from Good Hope Rotary Club (and their sponsors) and Dr Sylvia Howarth, a generous donation received from Peninsula Beverages made the final completion possible. Thank you to all who contributed towards this building, which has greatly improved VDP's capacity to deliver effective services to children and families in Ocean View.
- The Board and Management Team have worked hard to improve some of VDP's governance structures and systems. Following a successful Strategic Planning session, the Board has been restructured, new policies have been developed and implemented, and necessary amendments have been made to the Constitution.
- In October 2015, VDP launched a new project when funding from PEPFAR was received from the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference Aids Desk. This new project provides a range of support services to more than 500 orphans and vulnerable children in both Masiphumelele and Ocean View.
- The Community Development Project launched its daily aftercare programme in Ocean View at the beginning of this year, following the completion of the new Open Door building. It is such a pleasure to hear the laughter and chatter of between 40 and 60 children every afternoon as they receive care, stimulation and access to a safe space.

Pink House

In June 2015, we were excited to obtain a long-term lease to manage the Pink House Community Centre in Masiphumelele (owned by Catholic Welfare and Development). Through the efforts of a dedicated volunteer, Celeste Helm, and the Pink House Caretaker, Derek Alexander, maintenance and repairs to the building were conducted and a number of programmes were initiated and revived. Unfortunately, CWD has since expressed its desire to resume the management of the centre and negotiations are currently underway to determine the way forward. However, VDP is pleased that the daily Feeding Project has continued to operate at the Pink House, providing much-needed food to chronically ill patients. This feeding scheme is made possible through the generous support of the parish of Sts Simon and Jude in Simonstown.

Conclusion

I wish to thank all the donors, sponsors, volunteers, local and provincial government and everybody else who contributed so generously and unselfishly to this worthy cause. We are hoping to see all of you in 2017. May you also enjoy the forthcoming festive season. Great Holidays and God Bless.

David Dick, Chairperson

The Open Door Community Development Project

The year 2015-2016 was another blessed year as the project achieved its aims to create a structure of belonging and to strengthen the well-being of its clients through the Open Door Community Development Programmes:

- Youth development clubs (6yrs -21yrs total over 70 children)
- Nutritional Feeding (ages 1yrs-17yrs)
- Aftercare (6yrs-16yrs, total of over 50 children)
- Awareness raising in schools (break the silence big march in Ocean View)
- Camps/excursions/Outings (depending on funding)
- Holiday Clubs (every school holiday)
- Home visits (5 fieldworkers)
- Capacity building workshops for volunteers and field workers. (10 volunteers)
- Emergency and poor relief (3 houses burnt down in Ocean View)



The two communities that we serve continue to be faced with many socio-economic problems such as child abuse, neglect, drug and substance abuse, truancy, teenage pregnancies and the escalating crime and murders in the area.

The feeding programme continues to be very successful, reaching a total of over 600 children daily with the support from our funders, Sybrand van der Spuy (Cape Vineyards), Add Hope/KFC and Kommetjie Christian Church. There is a definite improvement in the health and behaviour of the children since they joined the feeding and youth programmes. We were also very excited to move into our new building and to launch our daily afterschool

care programme, which enables us to keep children safe in the afternoons while they do their homework and participate in various fun activities.

Unfortunately, we have experienced challenges with regards to break-ins at our new Open Door building. However, I am impressed with the swift and speedy response of

The Open Door Community Development Project

the Community Development Project - a quality that ensures that the communities we serve receive quality care.

We have largely accomplished what we set out to do in this programme and 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 life.

We are most grateful to all our donors, people in the valley who have supported us with clothing, games, toys and goods for our bazaar sales and charity shop. 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 the staff, fieldworkers and volunteers for their positive contribution and on-going 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 (ELSP) has continued to support ECD initiatives in the target communities because it is our belief that by improving the quality of our early learning programmes we will ensure that children are better prepared for success by the time they enter primary schools.

The project continues to reach out to a total of 2021 children monthly, through the following services.

- ⇒ The management of Green Curtains Preschool in Ocean View
- ⇒ The management of the Masakhane Educare in Masiphumelele
- ⇒ Coordination of the Family and Community Motivation Project and
- ⇒ Support to 40 ECD partial care facilities including support to day mothers caring for less than 6 children in their homes.



The highlight in the project has been the new skills and insights developed through the participation in the Wordworks language development programmes. Our Grade R educators from both our preschools participated in the Wordworks STELLAR programme which was organised by the WCED while the FCM fieldworkers participated in the Every Word Counts Programme (EWCP) which supports parents and caregivers to build strong language and learning foundations in babies and young children from birth to 5 years.

PRE-SCHOOL SUPPORT

The Project supports ECD sites in both communities by coordinating a monthly ECD forum (in Masiphumelele), arranging capacity building programmes for educators, facilitating basic ECD training, offering curriculum support to grade R educators, assisting principals with ECD management, and through supporting and monitoring day mothers thereby ensuring that children are cared for in a safe, caring and stimulating environment. Over this period educators participated in the Persona Doll training, Inclusive training and ECD Enrichment training. Nomawande Hako, our ECD fieldworker along with many other educators in the

community, completed the level 4 ECD training at the Centre for Creative Education while Noluvuyiso Liwani and Zanele Bonsthi both completed the Level 5 Learnership at the False Bay College.



Through the partnership with The Inclusive Education SA we employed 11 volunteers to work in 6 ECD sites in Ocean View and Masiphumelele. The volunteers add value in the class by creating an opportunity for educators to work more closely with learners experiencing barriers. They receive a monthly stipend from the EPWP.

Through our partnership with the NGO JAMSA we support 34 ECD sites from Ocean View and Masiphumelele by providing them with a monthly supply of the highly nutritious CSS porridge. Educators from the Jam-Supported ECD centres claim that there has been a marked improvement in the health and appearance of children since the JAM porridge was first introduced.

GREEN CURTAINS PRESCHOOL

The Green Curtains Preschool provides partial care and education for 124 children aged 3 to 6 years. With a team of qualified and experienced educators and volunteers, the school provides a stimulating learning programme for all children.



Weekly theme planning allows children to learn about a new and exciting topic each week. Children participate in excursions to gain a better understanding of what they learn about the world around them. Excursions over this period included a visit to Fish Hoek beach during the theme The Sea and a visit to the Strawberry farm in Stellenbosch during the theme on journeys. Community walks including visits to the library have been a highlight.

This school operates as a school of best practise where children always receive the best possible care and education and we are proud of the team for their hard work and dedication.

MASAKHANE EDUCARE

Masakhane Educare with its 6 educators, 3 volunteer teaching assistants and 3 support staff, provides a warm and loving space for 140 children aged between 3 and 6 years. The staff, parents and children together create a circle of trust which is conducive to a good learning environment. The Fish Hoek High School outreach team has continued their outreach to the preschool on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

The greatest highlight over this period has been the successful proposal which we sent to Sustainable Energy for a food garden at our Masakhane Educare. The proposal was voted upon online and Masakhane won the opportunity for a food garden to be installed. This food garden was funded by the WWF and Nedbank and was installed on 18 July in honour of Nelson Mandela. Our gardener attended a 3 day garden training at Abalami Bezekhaya to give him the knowledge and confidence to tend the garden.



Masakhane is a model school in the community of Masiphumelele and we are proud of the caring and dedicated team for the role that they play in our Organisation.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MOTIVATION (FCM) PROJECT

This Project identifies and supports young children who are unable to access early learning services and, through early intervention and capacity building with primary caregivers, we are able to ensure that 238 vulnerable young children receive early learning, as well as improved care and stimulation.

Due to the challenges with child health in the community of Masiphumelele, the team met with the Manager of the local clinic and we have formed a partnership to ensure that young children in the project are regularly monitored. This includes ensuring that immunisations are adhered to and growth is monitored. Children who are underweight will immediately be screened for TB and referred to hospital if necessary. These children will also be referred back to our Organisation to receive nutritional supplements including baby formula and porridge.

The 10 fieldworkers in the project work tirelessly to ensure the basic needs of children; that they are protected from harm, receive love and support and participate in play and learning activities so that they may get the best start in life.

Lynne Lamb, ELSP Project Manager

The Social Work Project

This year, 2016, the Social Work Project report highlights the support that we receive from our many and various partners who make our work possible. We would like to express our gratitude to these partners who help us in this vital, yet challenging, work.

Firstly, a big thank you to the staff of the Social Work project who are committed and work tirelessly as advocates for children in challenging circumstances. Gang violence, drug and alcohol addiction, unemployment and domestic violence create unsafe and unstable homes making children extremely vulnerable. The percentage of children suffering from abuse is reportedly 50% (Children's Institute 2014). Children exposed to domestic violence are negatively affected and cannot emotionally develop or learn. Young mothers having children are insufficiently mature to be role models and to have the necessary parenting abilities.



Child protection is the core work of the Social Work team at VDP. Working to protect the children includes strengthening the family to prevent, where possible, the removal of children from their families. In our work with families we say thank you to our partners in parenting workshops, Living Hope, Community Cohesion, Hope House, Cape Town Drug counselling Centre and DSD Fish Hoek. To the outside resources, Hokisa, Lindelani, Safeline, Leliebloem, De Novo, Kensington, Home from Home and the many other NGOs we work with, we are most grateful for your support.

The statutory work, mandated by the Department of Social Development, of removing abused and neglected children through the Children's Court, increases at an alarmingly high rate. We are supported and guided in this work by Mr Cornelius, the magistrate of the Children's Court in Simon's Town. We have received the support and co-operation of all the schools in both Ocean View and Masiphumelele, as well as the clinics, False bay Hospital and the district surgeon from Victoria Hospital. When requested, we have received the back-up of SAPS in Ocean View. To all these institutions we are grateful for our good working relationship.

A big thank you also goes to the community members who support us by providing temporary safe care and foster care to the children in need of alternative care. We are grateful to the volunteers and members of the community who provide Eye on The

Child services by reporting instances of abuse and neglect to the Social Workers. Thank you to all of you who care for the children in these communities.

The Department of Social Development continues to subsidise the Social Work project. We thank them for this and their continuous involvement and support of our project in this area. To increase their knowledge, the staff have attended regular workshops and forums as required by the Department and as meets our needs for further knowledge and understanding. Thank you too for the unfailing support of the VDP Project Managers who make this work manageable. Each of VDP's projects works on behalf of the children, with the same objectives but with a different focus.

Our new Open Door Building has changed the level and quality of our services in Ocean View. Thank you to the Cape of Good Hope Rotary Club who stepped forward to make this building possible. We are also very grateful to the Rotary Club and to Rabie Properties for assisting with furniture and other necessary items. This new building is complete and we occupied it in November 2015. The Ocean View staff have enjoyed the new offices immensely and are also very grateful to have space to hold workshops, support groups and team meetings. This has made an immense impact on our work and on the services we deliver to the children and families in Ocean View.

Sue Burger, Social Work Project Manager



The OVC Support Project

The OVC (Orphans and Vulnerable Children) Support Project is funded by PEPFAR (the U.S. President's Emergency Fund for Aids Relief) through the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC). The project started in October 2015 and operates in both Ocean View and Masiphumelele.



This project provides support to more than 500 children affected by, and made vulnerable through, HIV/Aids, abuse, neglect and poverty. This project also reaches out to the guardians of these children, providing support to whole families. Sixteen Fieldworkers provide a range of services to the OVCs and their families, including VCT, HIV/Aids education, Health support, Educational support, Psycho-social support and Child Protection.

The OVC project has added so much value to the Community Development and Family and Community Motivation projects. There appears to be an increase in child abuse and neglect cases, as well as drug related problems. Behaviour problems, truancy and teenage pregnancies amongst school children are also on the increase.



The OVC Project plays a vital role in the constant monitoring of children and their families through the fieldworkers' home visits. This plays a huge role in encouraging people to report abuse and neglect, and in providing HIV/AIDS tests, enabling children and families to receive medical treatment and social work intervention.

The Families Matter Programme, facilitated by Aurum, has empowered parents and guardians to equip their pre-teen children with the necessary values and life skills to delay sexual initiation and protect themselves against negative influences.

Children and families have also benefitted immensely from the provision of goods and services, such as clinical nutritional support and the distribution of blankets and school uniforms. In conclusion, we can proudly say that SACBC and VDP contribute to positive life changes and make a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Sherine Arendse, Lynne Lamb and Shirley Dunn: OVC Project Co-ordinators

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
- Jet Lee Will Trust
- Sybrand van der Spuy, Cape Point Vineyards
- KFC, Add Hope Campaign
- Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
- The Aurum Institute / CDC / PEPFAR
- Community Chest of the Western Cape
- The Open Box
- Bruce Marvin
- Cape of Good Hope Rotary Club
- Peninsula Beverages
- Rabie Properties
- Herbie Eichel
- Kommetjie Christian Church
- Noordhoek Farm Village / Café Roux
- Momentum
- Clovelly Ladies' Golf Club
- Girl Guides South Africa
- Fish Hoek High School
- Catholic Church, Fish Hoek
- Catholic Church, Simonstown
- Catholic Church, Kommetjie
- HOKISA
- The Green House
- Pick 'n Pay, Fish Hoek
- Mr and Mrs Bradbury
- Mr and Mrs Blacknel
- St Luke's Charity Shop, Fish Hoek

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.

Overview of VDP

Introduction and History:

Valley Development Projects (VDP) is a registered Non-Profit Organisation operating in Ocean View and Masiphumelele, in the Southern Cape Peninsula. Focusing specifically on the protection and development of children and youth, VDP offers a number of services to children, youth and families in these disadvantaged communities. VDP began in 1989 as a satellite project of Catholic Welfare and Development with the aim of improving the lives of people living in the Ocean View and Masiphumelele communities. In 1995, VDP became independent and soon thereafter received its own NPO registration. Using an integrated development approach, VDP works to combat a number of social issues and alleviate poverty.

Vision:

Valley Development Projects has a vision of a healthy, self-reliant community, confident to make their own informed choices in a constantly changing environment.

Mission:

VDP's mission is to facilitate a creative process where people take responsibility for their own sustainable development.

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