



ANNUAL REPORT

1 APRIL 2016– 31 MARCH 2017

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The Board of Governors:

Mr. O. A. Barbeau (Treasurer) | Mr. R. C. Fletcher | Mr. G. P. Lockwood | Honourable Judge M. L. Mailula
 Mr. A.V. Mdluli (Chairperson) | Mr. A. F. W McCall | Mr. G.T. Mokoena | Mrs. S. A. F. Niven
 Mrs. N. Parbhoo | Mr. B. J. Westcott (Vice Chairperson) | Mrs. A. Brokensha (Managing Director)
 | Ms. M. Michaels (Secretary Non Board Member)

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Legal Status

Non-Profit Organisation Number:
Incorporated Association not for gain:
Registration Number:
VAT Number:
Section 18A Number:

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Vision Statement

Young people achieving their potential and making positive contributions to their future and society

Mission Statement

At The Johannesburg Children's Home, we believe that child care is not just the provision of food and shelter, but also includes the provision of a special place for a child to be, a home in which he/she can take pride and feel surrounded by love and warmth.

Chairperson's Report

Once again, it is my pleasure to present the Chairman's report for The Johannesburg Children's Home for the year ending 31 March 2017

We are proud to present a clean audit and an acknowledgment from the regulators that we are fully compliant in terms of Corporate Governance. A big thank you to the staff of The Johannesburg Children's Home for making this possible.

The past year has been very turbulent from all aspects of our society: the challenging socio-economic turmoil, the drought which has been catastrophic consequentially leading to tight disposable income, and most recently the senseless, brutal and inconceivable killing of women and children.

As South Africans and shareholders of "South Africa Inc" we all have a responsibility to be social activist. A famous African proverb illustrates this, "**when two bull elephants fight, it's the grass that suffers**", it is the most vulnerable who are most exposed during this colossal turmoil – our children.

Being cognisant of the current predicament in our country, we have proactively decided to "sweat our assets" by offering services to augment shortfall in donations. Two projects worth mentioning are the borehole and social enterprise project.

The social enterprise project is a truly collective initiative which involves the Board of Directors, Johannesburg Children's Home staff and the community. The current services are laundry, food platters, hall rentals and an unused building which was renovated and turned into a Bed & Breakfast. These projects are still at their infancy, and, we hope with your generous support we will realise our ultimate goal of becoming 100% sustainable.

The other project was resuscitating an inactive borehole and through this initiative there has been massive saving and this makes it possible to redirect the funds to other much needed projects. A big thank you to our generous sponsors.

I would like to thank the Department of Social Development for their continued financial support and the National Lottery Commission for your ever generous financial grants. Our grateful thanks to the corporates who support us every year despite the economic climate. We do not forget the ordinary South African citizens, who on a daily basis, drop off much needed essentials and offer services for the betterment of our children.

Lastly, to our relentless staff at The Johannesburg Children's Home, if there ever was an endless pot of gold, you would be the first recipients! You have resisted the temptation to join the corporate world and chose to stay at the Home. Words can never do justice, to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation, to you and to the Board of Directors. You make all of the work described in this report possible through your passion and dedication.

Siyabonga!!



Siphon Mdluli
Chairperson

Managing Directors Report

It is a great pleasure to present the Johannesburg Children's Home Annual Report for 2016- 2017.

This has been one of the most meaningful and satisfying years of my life. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with the children and staff at the Johannesburg Children's Home. This home truly offers children who have seen the worst of life an opportunity to heal and enjoy their childhood again. Our heartfelt thanks go to all of our donors who make this possible.

Our children continue to inspire us to find new ways to make the home successful and sustainable. Their wellbeing and success is our key priority, and thus we have embarked on several new ventures which I trust you will enjoy reading about.

CHILD CARE

Once more the children's achievements are cause for celebration this year. A highlight of our year is the children's award ceremony where we honoured a host of achievements – academic, sport, good behaviour and leadership. Eleven children completed their Bronze Awards for the President's Awards Programme and are actively working on their skills development for the Silver Award. Some children have been enrolled in further education and training in electrical engineering, graphic design, office administration and computer graphics. One of our girls completed matric with a distinction in history and is studying law at University. The child care department managed by Linda Madhoyo has done an excellent job in diligently supporting the children to achieve the best they can. We are equally proud of our children and our care workers.

A lot of very special care goes into the process of helping children to develop, but we are currently grappling with the issue of what happens to children when they leave care and how they are managing the process. Our compatriots at Girls and Boys Town are doing ground breaking research in this field, and are generously sharing their research as they go along. The research shows the importance of keeping active contact with children, especially in the first 6 months after leaving an institution. We are therefore now keeping active contact with young people who have left our care, and hope to share many success stories with you in years to come.

We continue to run our programmes focusing on the holistic development of our children. The children and care workers work in teams to develop life skills such as team work, confidence, creativity, sharing and public speaking. They implemented sporting competitions, treasure hunts, cultural days, bead making, reading circles, debating and even our very own fashion parade.

The Arts and Culture programme was boosted by the donation of a music room by Servochem. A music teacher now offers lessons 3 times a week and very soon the home will boast its own band.

Our soccer and netball teams held their own in the matches against other children's homes. The care worker with the special sports skills unfortunately resigned, but we have recently found a volunteer who will offer his services to coach the children. A number of children have been chosen for their school sports teams - we have very enthusiastic volleyball and soccer players.

Many individuals and corporate volunteers have assisted with the programmes. This is encouraging for the care workers, and shows the children that people are prepared to invest in their lives.

We have had many visits this year from people who lived in the home in years gone by and look forward to hosting a special reunion later in 2017 to celebrate 125 years of the Home's existence.

PARTNERS IN CARE

Our team of part time staff members are simply amazing – we thank them for their joyful commitment to seeing our children excel in art, in computer use, music and in their remedial classes and therapy. We've said goodbye to a few people who were ready to pursue new opportunities and in true style the Johannesburg community responded with support programmes now offered by the WITS Occupational Therapy and Speech and Hearing teams.

We are grateful for ongoing medical support from the Charlotte Maxeke Child and Family Unit, Hillbrow Health Precinct, Tara, the hand clinic and burns unit at Baragwanath Hospital and some new support from paediatricians at the Rahema Moosa children's hospital.

Two of our children who left our care have been placed with an organisation called Home Base, an organisation that help young people with the transition between life in a children's home and the "real world". They are learning about the value of personal integrity, networking and a disciplined lifestyle.

The Bright Stars mentorship programme has proved beneficial, but due to staff constraints we have had to take on the programme ourselves. The Peace Agency have shared all of the Bright Stars training material with us and we are deeply grateful that the programme continues - several children are enjoying the support of mentors and are feeling inspired and encouraged to focus on their futures. Our mentors are so dedicated and make a significant difference in children's lives.

Many organisations have partnered with us for fun events or outings with the children which remain highlights in the children's lives. Thank you to all of you.

OPERATIONS

Our operations department runs with great efficiency under Fiona Duke's leadership. The team of experienced and dedicated staff members keep the cottages, kitchen, laundry, vehicles, security and grounds in tip top condition. The team takes great pride in providing for the children's basic needs in preparing healthy meals, clean clothes and ensuring a safe living environment for the children.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to the Johannesburg community for your material support for our operations. We regularly receive donations of food, clothing, furniture, maintenance materials and much, much more.

In the tough economic climate the team did a fantastic job to control expenses and we thank our suppliers who have also been willing to keep increases at a minimum.

We are very pleased to report that the borehole is now fully functional and the water quality is excellent. The borehole was commissioned in November 2016 and we extend our sincere thanks to Barrow Construction, WET, Mason Plumbing, DV Build, Aquatico and Vollie Brink for generously donating their services. Regular tests are conducted to ensure safety for consumption. Our water bill is drastically reduced and we look forward to extending the food garden.

Food and Trees for Africa with support from the ABSA HR team launched the first Food Garden here at the home this year. The gardening team from Life Landscapes, our entire kitchen and maintenance team along with care workers, office staff and the children got their hands dirty and planted a lovely garden, which has produced a generous amount of food.

Life Landscapes is supporting a complete waste food recycling system using Bokashi. We have drastically reduced food waste and are very proud of the fact that we continue to reduce our carbon footprint (yes we have also started recycling all our waste paper). The humus rich compost produced by the food waste and garden refuse as well as borehole water has made food production almost cost free.

FUNDRAISING

Our fundraising team under the leadership of Margaret Michaels continues to raise funds to provide for the children's needs. The JCH Board plays an active role in our fundraising efforts.

The home has transparent systems of record keeping, which assures donors that every donation is used carefully to ensure maximum support for the children in our care. The auditors have once again given JCH a clean audit.

We are grateful to our loyal platinum donors for their significant contributions: The National Lotteries Commission has funded us this year. The Gauteng Department of Social Development continues to partner with JCH and we thank them for their heartfelt support. DGB, the Robert Niven Trust, Elkin Trust and Lowenstein Trust continues to support the home. Fresenius Kabi and the Sunshine Foundation supported tertiary education for our older children. Servochem continued with their programme to revamp our cottage garages into usable spaces and installed a music room this year which provides a creative outlet for the children.

We commend the team for setting up a fund raising club in the form of a closed Lottery, even though we did not get enough members to make it viable initiative, it was a good experience. We learnt some great lessons and made many new friends. We thank everyone especially Mix93.8 FM and Tandem Create who came on board to help us advertise the Club. All but one of the people who signed up donated their fees to the home. Some people have even continued with their stop orders indefinitely.

We thank every one of our donors – companies and individuals, who have given according to their means. Your donation has given children a safe place to live and grow up in. We are in awe every time we realise how loyally the Johannesburg community supports its children.

SELF GENERATED INCOME

We have started a couple of self-generating income opportunities and to our delight the catering project has taken off. Joseph Siavhe, our chef has been cooking for the home for 35 years and people simply love his food. Our local newspaper even featured an article on his service to the home.

The following projects are now in operation:

- Catering platters for meetings and events are very popular.
- Cupcakes for office celebrations (Valentine's Day) or children's birthdays can be ordered from us.
- We offer a laundry service to the businesses and homes for bulky items like table cloths and bedding.
- An unused building was converted into a comfortable B&B which is now open for business and registered on AIR B&B.
- The Westcott Hall on the property makes for a very professional training venue as well as a gorgeous place for a wedding. We've hosted our first wedding at the end of last year which was a great success.
- The local community continues to donate second hand furniture and goods. Items that we cannot use in the children's cottages are sold at a modest price in our charity shop.

We are really thrilled that these opportunities now give our children the chance to learn additional skills to prepare them for the world of work.

CONCLUSION

In a year of significant change at the Johannesburg Children's Home, the Board of Directors have ensured stability in the transition and played a very active role in supporting the process.

We look forward to our continued partnership with all our friends and supporters. Together we can continue to assist the children to reach their God-given potential.

Annette Brokensha

Annette Brokensha
Managing Director

The Team

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Mrs. A .Brokensha

OFFICE TEAM

Head of Communications & Fundraising
Head of Operations & PR
Fundraising & PR Support
Receptionist & Office Support
Financial Accountant

Ms. M. Michaels
Ms. F Duke
Ms. R. Phiri
Ms. S. Mangyane
Ms. A.McVey (Outsourced)

SOCIAL WORK TEAM

Social Work Manager
Social Worker

Ms. L. Madhoyo
Ms. C. Honeywell

CHILD & YOUTH CARE TEAM

Child & Youth Care Co-ordinator:
Shift Supervisors
Child & Youth Care Workers

Ms. B. Bond
Ms. I. April | Ms. N. Skosana
Ms. L. Mabaso | Ms. G. Manyakole |
Ms. N. Mofokeng | Ms. G. Mdluli | Ms. M. Mlangeni
Ms. S. Ngcobo | Ms. P. Siavhe | Ms. N Zulu
Ms. L. Matyeni | Ms E Mohlakoane | Ms N Pahle
Ms. G. Baloyi | Ms. K Nyathi | Ms. C Madidmalo
Ms. M Molutsi |
Ms. A Siahve

SUPPORT TEAM

Kitchen Supervisor
Kitchen Assistants

Mr. J Siavhe
Ms.G. Matlala | Ms M Matloga
Ms. V. Motswalo

Laundry Supervisor
Laundry Assistants

Ms. C. Matlala
Ms. I. Mabusa | Ms.L. Ngobeni | Ms F. Kula
Ms S. Ngqasa

Drivers

Mr. T. Rampau | Mr. P. Mongwe | Mr. L. Mtaung

Maintenance Staff

Mr. E Rangwaga | Mr. R. Mongwe

Cleaning Staff

Ms. T. Soga | Ms. K Manqele

The History of our Home

The Johannesburg Children's Home, the oldest charitable institution in the City, was founded early in 1892 by a committee formed under the Chairmanship of Mrs. von Brandis, wife of the Landdrost. These women raised funds for the running of a small home opened in Fordsburg. With the proceeds from a Fancy Fair, which totalled £4779, plus an enormous amount of courage, this organisation started its long life of activity.

The expenses for upkeep were met by weekly street collections. To help any and every child in distress it was decided that the Home be entirely "undenominational" and that children of all creeds be admitted.

Soon the need for larger premises arose and eight stands in Twist Street, Hospital Hill, were donated to the committee by the Transvaal Government. While building on this site was developed, 70 children were housed in Beit Street, Doornfontein.

During the South African War friends cared for many children. The remainder of the children were sent with the matron to Verulam, Natal. They were supported by donations of food and clothing from residents there and money from Johannesburg refugees in Natal.

After their return in July 1902, the need for a larger and suitably designed Home became a priority. It was decided that the Twist Street position was unsuitable and the stands were sold back to the Government for £12,000. With this sum, and donations, our present ground in Observatory was acquired.

In 1906 a building, which was opened by the Countess of Selbourne, wife of the Governor-General, was erected and did yeoman service for 30 years. In 1939 a sub-economic loan was received from the Housing Board and in 1941 the children moved into the Children's Home in Observatory.

In 1985 the cottage system was introduced to create a more personal and less institutionalized environment. With exciting and dramatic political change in South Africa, the Home now caters for children of all races between the ages of 3 and 18 years.

Hundreds of children have passed through the Home since its inception in 1892. Many of them have become valuable members of the community and we are confident that those now entrusted to our care will, in turn, play their part in the future of our country.

Statistics

Children	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Registered Capacity	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64
Number of children admitted	11	7	6	4	8	11	12	4
Number of children released	12	2	2	1	5	6	7	7
Number of children re-united with family						4	2	2