



ANNUAL REPORT

1 APRIL 2022 – 31 MARCH 2023

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson B.J Westcott: | Vice Chairperson: T .G. Mokoena | Treasurer: A.C van der Colff
 ISecretary: C.M. Visser I Directors: N Cara | S.A.F. Niven | D. Ramjettan
 Executive Director: A.V Mdluli

CONTACT DETAILS:

Postal Address

P.O. Box 28542
 Kensington
 2101

Physical Address

59 Urania Street
 Observatory
 2198

Telephone:

011 648 1120 | 011 023 6780 | 011 568 0470

Legal Status

Non-Profit Organisation Number:
 Registration Number:
 VAT Number:
 Section 18A Number:

NPO 001-034 NPC
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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The year was overshadowed by the untimely passing of our Executive Director, Annette Brokensha. She will be remembered for her dedication to the care and development of our children and child welfare as a whole.

Fortunately, our former Chairperson, Siphon Mdluli, volunteered at short notice to temporarily take over the Executive Director's role to keep the Home functioning through this very difficult period. Thank you to our incredible staff who have rallied round in this distressing time. Siphon has subsequently been appointed to the position on a permanent basis, the Home is fortunate to have found such an able replacement. The Board wishes him well. Changes were made to the composition of the Board and member's duties were re-allocated.

The COVID pandemic exacerbated the challenging economic situation. Due to the prudent financial management of our predecessors on the Board, the Home was able to survive. Thank you to our loyal staff for their dedication as well as to all the volunteers who enthusiastically give of their time to promote the many welfare programs provided for our children. The Department of Social Development has continued with their financial support, and we are grateful to them and to the numerous organisations, trusts, and individuals whose loyalty has been unwavering. The Home faces uncertain times and their continued involvement will enable us to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

The Johannesburg Children's Home has once again received a clean report from our auditors. We will continue to follow the example set by past Boards to ensure this remains the case in the future. Thank you to the individual Board members for their efforts.

Several projects have been initiated to enhance the lives of our residents as well as those of other underprivileged children in the neighbourhood. These include a Skills Development Centre to teach, amongst other disciplines, furniture repair, carpentry, and upholstery. A traffic awareness facility is being developed at the nursery school and a sustainable vegetable gardening project is in operation.



Bryan Westcott
Chairperson – Board of Directors

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S NOTE

To echo our Chairperson's sentiments, in mid-June 2023 the Johannesburg Children Home experienced a life changing episode with the sad passing of our beloved Managing Director, Annette Brokensha.

Annette was a vibrant, enthusiastic and caring leader, much loved by the staff and children. She was passionate about providing holistic quality care for the most vulnerable children in the city, as well as ensuring the longevity of the Home by implementing a self-sustainability strategy. We will honour Annette's legacy by striving to maintain all the amazing projects she initiated; we are grateful to the board of governors for their support and guidance.

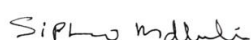
At the heart of JCH is our children. We are committed to providing them with education, therapeutic and developmental initiatives, and constantly remind ourselves of JCH's vision: Young people achieving their potential and making positive contributions to their future and society.

Annette you will be sorely missed by everyone; you will be forever a part of The Johannesburg Children's Home.

We would like to acknowledge donors who have been consistently supporting our home given the strained financial strain we are currently experiencing as a country. We are blessed to be sustained by diligent individual donors who support us financially and in-kind donations. The Gauteng Department of Social Development for their continued financial support, we are eternally grateful. The corporates who have been part of our family, we are blessed to have partners dedicated to our sustainability.

The staff of Johannesburg Children's Home, you are the heartbeat of this organisation. Given the unexpected turmoil we experienced this year, you kept your professionalism, sterling work ethic and most important our children's day to day activities were not affected

Siyabonga



Siphso Mdluli
Managing Director

VISION STATEMENT

Resilient, empowered youth equipped to achieve their full potential thereby making positive contributions to their lives and society.

MISSION

At The Johannesburg Children's Home our multi-disciplinary team provides a caring, healing and nurturing family environment that;

- Delivers holistic care, developmental programmes and therapeutic support that equip children and youth to realise their capability
- Implements initiatives to contribute towards the sustainability of the JCH
- Involves children in activities to gain relevant world ready skills.

ANNUAL REPORT

SOCIAL WORK & CHILD CARE

This department is the cornerstone of our existence. Our children's basic needs are provided for including but not limited to; nutritious meals, comfortable well maintained cottages and grounds as well as recreational activities and 24 hour security on the premises. A structured daily routine schedule is in place which makes the children feel safe in having a predictable structure. The child and youth care worker coordinator sees to the medical needs of our children. We continue to have our children assessed and placed in the correct schools. We continue to work with the University of the Witwatersrand's social work department.

We have also partnered with the social work department at the South African College of Applied Psychology (SACAP) for monthly placements of their students. We have implemented a Music Therapy program with a music therapist. The children really enjoy this form of therapy and have learned new, healthy ways to express themselves. The social workers continue to attend monthly trainings and forums with colleagues in the field to problem solve and share insights into therapeutic interventions. 48% of our children have psychiatric and/or intellectual challenges. Low turnover with CYCW, this creates stability with the children.

Closer2Home (family re-integration & exit planning)

Professional staff and Community based organisations are working together on exit planning. Regular communication with reunification workers is continuing. We were able to send a record number of 42 children home to be with their families. This is a huge achievement in terms of stabilising children and them being reintegrated into their family units. We would like to engage community volunteers to assist us in monitoring children who visit their families during holidays.

Aardklop – Let your Talent Shine (arts & culture)

Art lessons and music therapy continue to be a huge part of the therapeutic and developmental aspects of our children. The Art program continues to flourish, we appreciate the funding from the City of Johannesburg. JCH's Art Exhibition is held on an annual basis and most of the children's art is sold through this initiative and through corporates

Speak Up (promotion of children rights)

Lead with Love will be starting a program for our older teens in August 2023. A new forum was elected in March 2023 and they will be attending a human rights day concert at the end of April at Constitution Hill. We also have regular consultations with children for them to express themselves.

Ikhaya Lobukhono Bethu (teaching life skills)

The programmes focus is teaching expectations and responsibilities in a home environment. The home skills focuses on how to cook, bake, pack cupboards, decorating rooms and gardening. Children are getting involved in preparing beds and planting different kinds of crops. In addition, children have been exposed to shopping at our JCH tuckshop spring cleaning and doing their own laundry especially the older teenagers. Many of our older children also enjoy getting involved in sorting and packing in the children's cupboard/ storeroom.

One Goal One Dream (sport)

We have resumed all sporting activities as well as our relationship with the Institute for Skills Empowerment. We have consistent volunteers who have started coming for soccer practice, bowls, skate boarding and cricket.. The outdoor gym equipment is used daily by the children. Eight of our children have joined a professional bowls club and three of them are participating at provincial level

Siyasebenza (Career guidance)

Children are given career guidance. Exit planning is usually done and life skills for balancing work and studying when they leave JCH. Children are given the opportunity to research their careers of interest in our computer lab. Our computer teacher helps the children on basic interview skills, e-learning, homework assignments. We are implementing practice sessions for learners license tests in our computer centre, and have signed a contract with IM driving school for 6 x children to do their learners and drivers licences.

Siyathuthuka (Development program)

A more structured program aimed at stimulating children and developing gross and fine motor skills has been put in place. Children under 12 do puzzles, Lego, building blocks, board games and a reading program. The Siyathuthuka programme continues in our cottages with smaller children

After Care (post exit program)

Youth that have left our care continue to experience challenges in reintegrating into society and majority of them lack survival skills and family support. We maintain telephonic contact with youth that have left care. Good progress has been made by all whom have left JCH's care. Most children are either in tertiary education / working. A PHD student from the University of Johannesburg has started consulting with us to discuss issues faced by Youth Leaving Care to assist us in improving our interventions..

Leisure & Recreation

Our weekends have always been filled with recreational and developmental programs some of which are courtesy of donors, volunteers and mentors for our children. We have been able to reintroduce most of the pre-Covid weekend activities and this has proven to be highly beneficial to the children. We have implemented a holiday roster during school holidays, a big thank you to DGB for refurbishing our playground

Statistics

Children	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Registered Capacity	64	64	64	64	64
Number of children admitted	11	3	4	10	23
Number of children discharged	6	1	1	0	13
Number of children re-united with family	4	3	3	5	9

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Our social enterprise initiatives consists of vegetable garden, Thrift shop based in Norwood, B&B which is on JCH grounds, bi-monthly jumble sales, hall hire and kitchen catering. Due to a tough economic environment, unfortunately we had to close the department but all the initiatives listed are still continuing and we are seeing "green shoots" with some of these programmes. The Thrift shop is showing steady growth, the B&B is slow but with the help of our marketing department we are implementing new campaigns. Our hall hire and catering initiatives are showing good and

consistent growth, our vegetable gardens are now focusing primarily on supplying our kitchen with basic vegetables, this helps to decrease our food bill.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE – Funda Ngo Thando (Learning with Love)

The Funda Ngo Thando Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre is now a fully-fledged operation, running two and a half classrooms with 41 enrolments, our capacity is 60 children. Several of our own children attend the ECD and have the wonderful opportunity to mix with children from our local community. The children receive two nutritious meals daily prepared by our kitchen at JCH. Our qualified teaching staff continue to provide development and stimulation programmes. Our children are assessed for speech, language, and hearing impairment with the help of Wits University school of human and community development. The children that need further assessment and intervention have been referred to clinics and parents are being guided on how to support them with interactive activities at home. All children are assessed on time for progress reports handed out at the end of each school term.

OPERATIONS

This team ensures that our children and staff are in a safe and comfortable environment. This department comprises of the laundry department which is critical in the daily lives of our children, all the donated clothing is sorted, washed packed for distribution to our kids by a dedicated team, the drivers who are key in the daily lives of our children, they are responsible for school runs, collecting donations and also help in the upkeep of our gardens. The kitchen staff is the lifeline of our home, they diligently ensure our kids are fed daily, nutritious and wholesome meals. They also responsible for our food gardens and external catering. The maintenance team ensure our staff and children live and work in a safe space

FUNDRAISING

Our fundraising team works tirelessly to try and maintain our sustainability. We are eternally grateful to our donors from corporates, bequest estates and individuals who tirelessly continue to donate to JCH. We acknowledge the devastation that Covid-19 has done to our economy, a lot of companies had to retrench staff and individuals lost their livelihoods but they continued to support our 64 vulnerable children. The JCH Board of Directors is extremely committed and continues to play 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 audited financial report is attached for your perusal. As our chairperson mentioned, we have received a clean audit again for the financial year 2022/2023, we thank the entire team including our financial manager who ensures our funds are utilised prudently and effective.

CONCLUSION

We are committed to stay true to our vision statement: “Young people achieving their potential and making positive contributions to their future and society”

A big and warm gratitude to our board of governors, you are like a conductor in an orchestra, you give us guidance and ensure we work as a team and we are flawless in our execution.

I am always reminded by a story of a man who sells feather dusters in our neighbourhood on his bicycle. Every week he is there selling his goods, one day he came to our home and donated R200, the money he made from selling his feather dusters. Quoting him, “ I am sorry to give such little but I will try harder the next time, I appreciate the work you do for our children”.

This is what gives us hope, this country has amazing people who live in it, every donation to our home is cherished because we know it comes from, a good heart and the effort it took, the staff and the children are indebted to you.

THE TEAM

MANAGING DIRECTOR	Mr. Siphon Mdluli
SOCIAL WORK TEAM	
Children’s Services Manager	Ms K. De Allende
Social Workers	Portia Mateyisi & Kaeleigh Goss
CHILD & YOUTH CARE TEAM	
Child & Youth Care Co-ordinator:	Ms. M. Mei
Shift Supervisors	Ms. M Meyatho Ms. C Matona
Child & Youth Care Workers	Ms. N. Mohlabai Ms. A. Dlaku Ms S. Ledwaba
	Ms. C Madidimalo Ms. G. Manyakole Ms. G. Mdluli
	Ms. N. Mofokeng
	Ms E. Mohlakoane Ms. S. Ngcobo Ms S Hlathswayo
	Ms. K. Nyathi Ms N. Pahle Ms. M Pakkies Mr. M Boloshe
	Ms. G Ralebona Ms. A. Siavhe Ms. P Siavhe
Relief Child Care Workers	Ms L Dlangamanga Mr. H Mulatezi Ms J Zwane
Therapists	Mr. G. Sacks Ms N. Shaik Omar Ms J Reid
Educational Support	Ms. C Von Mayer Mr. D. Mudera
SOCIAL ENTERPRISES	
Charity Shop	Ms. J. Xavier
Food Gardens	Mr. T. Lechaba
ECD FUNDA NGO THANDO	

Head Teacher	Ms Ayanda Bhengu
ECD Teachers	Ms C Manthata Ms P Somo Ms K Mphasha Ms M Chiya
OFFICE TEAM	
Financial Accountant	Ms. A. McVey
Receptionist & Office Support	Ms K Lewane
Fundraising & Support	Mr. G. Gibson Ms. P Manyisa
OPERATIONS TEAM	
Head of Operations & PR	Ms. F Duke
Kitchen Supervisor	Mr. S. Mangena
Kitchen Support Team	Mr. T. Ginya Ms M. Matloga
Gardeners	Mr. R. Sibanda Mr. Edward Mr. E Dube
Laundry Supervisor	Mrs B Bond
Laundry Assistants	Ms. L. Ngobeni Ms F. Kula
Drivers	Mr. L. Mtaung Mr. I. Khumalo Mr W. Ndlovu
Maintenance	Mr. J. Khumalo
Cleaners	Ms. K. Manqele Ms. M. Makgoba

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 non-denominational and admit children of all creeds.

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 many children were cared for by friends. 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, (opened by the Countess of Selbourne, wife of the Governor-General), was erected and housed the children 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.

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.