



The
Johannesburg
Children's Home

Established in 1892

ANNUAL REPORT

1 APRIL 2024 – 31 MARCH 2025

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Legal Status

Non-Profit Organisation Number:	NPO 001-034 NPC
Registration Number:	1939/012624/08
VAT Number:	4220121828
Section 18A Number:	130001111

Chairmans Report 2025

The Johannesburg Children's Home is well aware of the privileged position it occupies amongst childcare facilities. The facilities and resources available to the Children at JCH have been created through many years of prudent operation exercised by the Staff and the Directors in preceding generations. The current generation is well aware of our responsibilities to uphold this legacy. Apart from ongoing efforts to continuously improve the care given to our children, JCH is striving to help our surrounding underprivileged communities by offering an Early Childhood Development (ECD) facility. The Skills Development Centre (SDC) has been built on the JCH premises to provide skills training for our children as well as our neighbours. The ECD is operating at full capacity, offering substantially reduced subsidies to deserving children. The SDC, still in its early stages, provides basic joinery and upholstery training. In addition, the traffic awareness track is in full operation. It is available for school bookings and private children's parties.

"About 58% of children in South Africa miss out on early childhood education"

(according to Basic Education Minister Siviwe Gwarube).

There is a growing need for Grade R education in our wider community. This has prompted JCH to investigate a Grade R teaching facility adjacent to the ECD. Plans have been drawn and submitted to Johannesburg City Council, and a fundraising campaign is underway to cover the cost.

The dedication of our staff and the volunteers results in Johannesburg Children's being held up as an example for other similar organizations. Well done and thank you to all.

Dr Tumi Semete-Makokotlela has joined the Board of Directors. Her medical and corporate management expertise will be of great value. Thank you to my fellow Directors for their unwavering support

Bryan Westcott



Chairperson – Board of Directors

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We are proud to present an unqualified audit opinion once again, as the operational team of the Johannesburg Children's Home. The audited financial year was challenging for the entire Child and Youth Care Centre sector, primarily due to shrinking donor funding driven by global socio-economic pressures. It would be erroneous of us not to be eternally grateful to the continued support we receive from "friends of JCH", which spans from corporates, trusts, individuals, and the Gauteng Department of Development.

We are always cognisant of the mammoth task the Gauteng Department of Social Department is facing, in South Africa we have over 295 000 registered non profit organizations, 60% of these organizations receive no funding from the government, at the Johannesburg Children's Home, the funding we receive from department of Social Development covers only 24% of our annual budget, to put it in perspective, it covers 9 of the 30 days in a month, the other 21 days is from our income generating initiatives and generous donations from corporate, trusts and individuals.

The funding we receive makes it possible for us to deliver our primary objective, "home of renewed hope". Through your unwavering support, both in-kind and monetarily, we have managed to achieve the below on top of the holistic care we provide daily for our children:

- We have managed to secure 54,000 L under tanks, making sure our children have a consistent water supply, given the current water challenges we are experiencing as a country
- Our 1,100 m² organic vegetable garden is fully functional, and all the vegetables harvested supply our central kitchen to feed our children
- Our gardens are using drip irrigation: it is efficient, no water is lost through evaporation, cost-saving, and environmentally friendly
- The last report we were proud to mention our fully equipped skills centre, 6 of our children are now involved in carpentry, as previously mentioned, we aim to teach some of our children artisanal skills like carpentry and upholstery, 55% of our children have psychological and/or intellectual disability as a result of painful backgrounds they come from, they can't attend mainstream schooling
- Our children are transported to school and other activities in three minibuses; unfortunately, our fleet is aged, and maintenance costs are astronomical. The safety of our

children will never be compromised. Through the efforts of our board of governors, we have managed to replace one of the three minibuses

- Our Early Childhood Development School (ECD), which has a capacity for sixty children, is now fully equipped with solar power and air conditioners to help those chilly winters. Thank you once again to our generous donors

To the board of governors, management, and staff members, thank you for your passion and absolute dedication in making sure we fulfill our mandate, giving our children hope and a chance to be productive citizens of this country.

Siyabonga



Thank you

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

Our children's basic needs are provided for, including but not limited to: nutritious meals, comfortable well 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 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. 55% of our children have psychiatric and/or intellectual challenges.

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 total of 34 children home to be with their families over the school holidays. 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 the 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. 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. Further to this, most of our younger girls are enrolled in Ballet, which has been beneficial to their motor skills. Regular attendance of age-appropriate shows at the National Children's Theatre continues to take place.

-

Speak Up (promotion of children's rights)

We also have regular consultations with children for them to express themselves. Girls for Girls Training: Child and youth care workers train with Girls for Girls to work with a cohort of young girls. This aims to teach young girls leadership skills, important life lessons, and financial pragmatism.

The child and youth care workers host a speak-up program that works with the children in recognition of Child Protection Week. The children are separated into groups and tasked with making posters that represent the importance of child protection and the many ways in which children are currently being harmed in the world. The children are given a workshop that teaches them how to stop and report abuse

Ikhaya Lobukhono Bethu (teaching life skills)

The programme's focus is teaching expectations and responsibilities in a home environment for all ages. From basic to advanced hygiene, cooking, baking, how to manage and contribute to a household through chores / being helpful, and also being part of a family unit. Children are getting involved in preparing beds and planting different kinds of crops as well, as part of sustainable agriculture and gardening. In addition, children have been exposed to shopping at our JCH tuckshop, spring cleaning, and doing their 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, netball, and cricket. The outdoor gym equipment is used daily by the children. Staff versus Children Matches: Netball and soccer. This is a sports program that intends to give the children an opportunity to engage in fun competition. The staff of JCH form teams and play against the children. This creates a wonderful opportunity for engagement and fun between all children and staff. Minute to win it games focused on team building, mentally challenging problem-solving games, and physical activity. The day includes the children completing a series of different tasks, such as egg-spoon races, dice balance, one-legged races, and more.

Siyasebenza (Career guidance)

- Children are given career guidance through various platforms, i.e., expos at corporates, schools, and developmental interactions with their social workers. Exit planning, life skills, and balancing work and studying when they leave JCH are discussed and planned meticulously at least five years before their exits. Children are allowed to research their career of interest in our computer lab. Our computer teacher helps the children with basic interview skills, e-learning, CV creation, and homework assignments. Older children are preparing their meals, and this has proven to be successful over the year. Coding and Robotics Classes (Weekly) are introducing children to foundational technology skills, coding concepts, and problem-solving. Organized an educational trip schedule with (Child and Youth Care Workers) CYCWs to familiarize and teach children how to use public transport.

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 and then. The (Child and Youth Care Workers) CYCWs continue to implement new skills that they have learnt. Daily Reading and Homework Sessions: Each evening after supper, children take part in dedicated reading and homework time. Every child gets a turn to read aloud, helping to build their reading skills and confidence. These sessions are also supported by homework volunteers who assist children with their assignments and school projects. Tutors from PrepToPerfection work with our primary school children every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, offering structured academic assistance.

After Care (post-exit program)

- Youth who have left our care continue to experience challenges in reintegrating into society, and the majority of them lack survival skills and family support. We maintain telephonic contact with youth who have left care. Good progress has been made by some children who have left care and integrated into their family systems. Poorer outcomes are seen in children who have integrated into independent living and struggle to maintain their budgets.
- Regular visitations take place to children who have exited our care at the Hope, Faith, and Grace Youth Development program.

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. Our children have had opportunities to enjoy various shows at the National Children's Theatre, which they have thoroughly enjoyed. The children were able to enjoy several outings during the holidays, which included roller-skating, a picnic at the botanical gardens, enrolling with Scouts South Africa, Montecasino Movies, Bunny Hop, Museum of Illusions, Ice skating, and a safari trip, as well as a visit to the Cem Air Hangar.
- This went a long way in terms of building relationships and strengthening existing ones between staff and children. Further to this, the younger girls have been enrolled in Ballet Classes and arts and crafts with a volunteer on the premises.

Statistics

Children	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
registered capacity	64	64	64	64	64	64	64
number of children admitted	11	3	4	10	23	9	12
number of children discharged	6	1	1	0	13	0	5
number of children re-united with family	4	3	3	5	9	5	9

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Our social enterprise initiatives consist of a vegetable garden, focusing primarily on supplying our kitchen with basic vegetables. Thrift shop based in Norwood, B&B which is on JCH grounds, daily jumble sales, hall hire, external catering, and skills centre which is based inside the property. Current projects focus on refurbishing furniture items and upholstery.

We launched our inaugural JCH dinner and wine auction held in May 2024 at the Waterfall Courtyard Hotel. It was a great success and we managed to raise just under R 300 000!! The event was sold out, and thank you to all the wine sponsors from the Western Cape and Courtyard Hotel for sponsoring all our operational requirements

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

Funda Ngo Thando ECD Centre currently enrolls 53 children, which means we are only 7 children short of reaching our capacity of 60. With this growth, we have received our registration certificate from the Department of Education, which recognizes and approves of our educational programme and premises as a place of care.

We have managed to establish relationships with neighboring schools, where we have a two-way referral system with RTC and Observatory East Primary. We continue to raise children who thrive in Grade R and have received good reports from parents and the schools.

The ECD centre supports inclusivity, and we are grateful to work with Lannette Hatting, an educational psychologist, who assesses and refers children with behavioral disorders, and also conducts workshops for the ECD staff on identifying and supporting the children and parents. We run various fundraising activities to ensure sustainability and have made use of social media to reach out to a wider audience.

OPERATIONS

The Operations team ensures all the children's daily needs are supported and met. The department comprises the following: a kitchen, which ensures that healthy, nutritious, and safe meal planning is implemented to meet our children's growing needs, including those of Funda Ngo Thando (ECD). Added to the Kitchen portfolio to maintain food sustainability at JCH, our food gardens provide much economic relief and ensure our children receive fresh vegetables daily.

Drivers and Maintenance ensure that our children travel to and from school in well-maintained, safe vehicles and collect much-needed donations. The team also ensures that the children's living and communal spaces are maintained by health and safety regulations.

The laundry ensures that clothing donated for the children is washed and sorted for the children's ever-growing needs as well as assist with income generating projects such as hall hire and continuously stocking Thrift Up (Thrift Shop) with items that are not suitable for the children which are sold generating additional income for our children's programs through Thrift Up and daily jumble sales.

Fundraising

Our fundraising is tasked with the challenge of raising money to meet the needs of the organisation in order to continue caring for children from the community. Year on year, due to the tough economic landscape, this task is increasingly difficult; however, thanks to the dedication of our donors, we can meet these requirements. The JCH Team and Board of Governors are steadfast in achieving these goals and work tirelessly behind the scenes to achieve the targets and budgets set.

The team has revisited creative ways to raise money by introducing a quarterly pop-up shop in Norwood. Every effort is made to create awareness of the organization, and a digital media strategy has been implemented to raise awareness on social media platforms. Active volunteering and community service programmes are run throughout the year to engage and educate the community.

Transparency in record-keeping is crucial for assuring donors that their donations are being carefully utilized to support the children in our care. Providing an audited financial report further reinforces this transparency. The Johannesburg Children's Home has received a clean audit for the financial year 2024/2025, which reflects the diligent efforts of the entire team. Thanks to our financial manager,

who stringently monitors spending public funds prudently and effectively, ensuring our children's needs are met.

CONCLUSION

A big THANK YOU to the management and staff members for making us deliver on our mandate every day. As a conclusion, I am going to use an extract from our newsletter, and I hope it will emphasize the gratification I have for the JCH team. "Today I am pausing to thank everyone behind the scenes at JCH: the management team who are the engine of this home, the social workers, who have to carry the pain of every child and convert it to hope and love, the maintenance team who looks after our property and ferry our children to school and back every day and they do this with a smile in their faces, the kitchen and laundry staff, you are not a support function but an integral part of this home. To all the therapists, your interventions will make our children stars in the future. The supervisors, child and youth care team, without you, our children will have no guidance and daily care. We are grateful. The ECD staff thanks you for shaping the future for the little ones; you are laying a solid foundation for their education."

OFFICE TEAM	
Financial Accountant	Ms. A. McVey
Receptionist & Office Support	Ms P. Pahle
Fundraising & Marketing	Ms. F. Duke Ms. S. Ntombela Ms. K. Lekwane
OPERATIONS TEAM	
Kitchen Supervisor	Mr. S. Mangena
Kitchen Support Team	Mr. T. Ginya Ms M. Matloga Ms. Y. Tshwaane
Gardener	Mr. Edward
Laundry Supervisor and Support Services	Mrs B Bond
Laundry Assistants	Ms. L. Ngobeni Ms F. Kula
Drivers	Mr. L. Mtaung Mr. I. Khumalo Mr. K. Radebe Mr. J. Nxumalo
Maintenance	Mr. J. Khumalo
Cleaners	Ms. K. Manqele Ms. M. Makgoba

MANAGING DIRECTOR	Mr. Sipho Mdluli
SOCIAL WORK TEAM	
Children's Services Manager	Ms K. De Allende
Social Workers	Donatella Belfiore & Kaeleigh Goss
CHILD & YOUTH CARE TEAM	
Shift Supervisors	Ms. M Meyatho Ms. C Matona
Child & Youth Care Workers	Ms. N. Mohlabai Mr. H Mulatedzi Mr. J Mokoena
	Ms. C Madidimalo Ms. G. Manyakole Ms. G. Mdluli
	Ms. N. Mofokeng Ms Z Msabala
	Ms E. Mohlakoane Ms. S. Ngcobo Ms S Dlodlo
	Ms. K. Nyathi Ms. M Pakkies Ms J Zwane
	Ms. G Ralebona Ms. A. Siavhe
Therapists	Ms J Reid & Dr A Silva
Educational Support	Ms. T Dobson 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

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.

The JCH now approached the Department of Architecture at the University of Witwatersrand to consider the kind of alternative environments that might assist in de-institutionalizing and normalizing the children's lives. Gerald Gordon, a senior lecturer in the department, adopted the problem as a project for fourth-year students, and these students developed various useful designs on which the new buildings were eventually based. Each unit would comprise six bedrooms, a kitchen, and 2^{1/2} bathrooms, this being inclusive of a bedroom, bathroom, and lounge for the live-in parents. Desmond Niven endorsed the Chairman's summing up and pledged the Niven Trust's full support; thereafter, a unanimous decision was taken for the Cottage System Project to go ahead.

In 1985, the cottage system was introduced to create a more personal and less institutionalized environment.

Another fortunate acquisition was the effective donation of the grounds adjacent to the Home by Eskom in the middle of 1988. The property included what had been a tennis club building, bowling clubhouse, tennis courts, and bowling green. Actually, the Home was re-acquiring the land, since it had formed part of the original Observatory plot purchased in 1904. During the 1940's the Victoria Falls Company sold the property to Eskom, which for the next four decades or so used it as a sports club for its Johannesburg employees. By 1985, Eskom had relocated to Megawatt Park, which included its own sports facility and hence rendered the Observatory premises redundant.

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.