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Elkana Childcare

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Annual Report
2011/2012

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Dr. Bertus Olivier
Chairman's Report

Elkana Childcare has reached maturity after 10 years of operations. Despite various challenges to our sustainability during this period Elkana steadily remained on the road of success through the continued efforts of a motivated board of directors and staff. We also look forward to meeting the challenges as presented in the new Children's Act which came into effect on 1 April 2010.

Mr. Alfred Harris of the Department of Social Development (DSD) was the keynote speaker at last year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and delivered an insightful and informative address on "Child and Youth Care". I must admit that I was astonished at how little I knew about this subject and would therefore like to highlight some of his points shared at the AGM.

Firstly, he mentioned that children in need of care is not a new phenomenon and pointed out that wars such as the Anglo Boer War, First and Second World Wars left women behind with the responsibility to make the economy of the country work and attend to other social responsibilities regarding children and the rest of the family whilst the men went off to fight. This resulted in less care for children, families became fragmented and young children took to the streets and were thus introduced to negative activities such as assaults, theft etc. which became part of their life style.

The first people who started caring for children were the churches who saw this as their Christian duty. There certainly is nothing new in this social phenomenon as here in Malmesbury, it was also the churches which met this challenge and pioneered the establishment of Elkana Childcare. Initially the emphasis was to care for the children through providing food, clothes and shelter. Specific skills were not necessary because only the basic needs were addressed at the time and not the trauma the children had undergone. Mr. Harris emphasized a startling truth i.e. that the number of children who experience trauma far outweighs the number of children who need food, clothing and a place to live.

Someone said it takes a village to bring up a child, which means that today we need trained people to adequately address the needs of these vulnerable and at risk children. The new Children's Act replaces the former Act and was formulated in line with the South African Constitution.

One of the major shifts in this legislation is to work towards the goal of ensuring that children are reunited with their families in the shortest period of time possible. Furthermore, this means that the indefinite time for a child to stay in an organization's residential facility is over.

Children's homes are being renamed as Child and Youth Care Centres which in practice means that children and youth receive a variety of services (basic developmental and therapeutic) to help them survive/cope physically and emotionally in a healthy manner and to heal the trauma and where possible, to be restored to family. The Children's Act along with other relevant legislation is the leading guide for services rendered in care facilities for children and youth, therefore it is imperative that Child and Youth Care Centres have to comply with and align with the provisions of the Children's Act. Mr. Harris mentioned that a review of such compliance will take place every five (5) years.

Coming to Elkana then, it is clear from the background that Mr. Harris provided for us during his speech that Elkana needs to ensure alignment through implementing some significant changes and that most importantly, our child and youth care work needs to be professionalized. Fortunately, we have already commenced with NACCW training (National Association of Child Care Workers) during this financial year and will continue into the upcoming (2012/2013) financial year.

We also have to look deeply into our work with street children. Over the years our after care programmes have contributed towards a decline in the numbers of street children in Malmesbury and furthermore some street children have been reunited with families or found jobs which further reduced the numbers. Nevertheless, our outreach activities brings to light that there are still day strollers in the community and we are currently considering ways to address this problem. We need to be acutely aware of changes in our external environment in order to strategize and meet the needs appropriately.

Due to generous funding from the LOTTO, we enlarged the capacity of our facilities with the addition of four (4) classrooms. Col. Joop Pinckaers provides more detail in his report.

A delightful evening was experienced by all who attended the official opening ceremony of the new wing on 08 November 2012 and we were most honored by the presence of Mr. Albert Fritz, the Minister of Social Development who delivered the key note address.

Funding enabling the implementation of specific programmes and services had been mainly and generously provided by Department of Social Development, Kinderfonds MAMAS the Netherlands, and Swartland Municipality. Donations were also received from a few companies and private individuals. We deeply value and are grateful to all funders and donors who have enabled us to continue to render vital services and interventions to the children and youth in our care. Very necessary also, is funding for security and repairs and maintenance of our buildings and assets as this ensures a safe physical environment for our children. It is in these aspects that we are experiencing gaps in funding and we have therefore decided to establish Elkana trust fund which can be partially financed through proceeds from investments. Col Joop Pinkaers will elaborate more on this topic in his report.

We have during the past financial year (2011/2012) enjoyed a working co-operation with Prof. Bertus Leijenhorst and his students from University of Zwolle in the Netherlands. During 2011 we had two (2) final year social work students working with our children under the guidance of our social worker Hanlie Rossouw for a period of six (6) months and from February to April 2012, four (4) students who worked under the guidance of our executive director to conduct research on the impact of our after school care programme on school-going children and their families. Their presentation at the end of their research evidenced that Elkana's after school care programme indeed has positive and beneficial impact on the children who attend. We are still awaiting their research report which they will send to us once they have finalized it in the Netherlands. We find this arrangement to be mutually beneficial as it adds value to both the learning and knowledge base of Elkana Childcare and the University of Zwolle.

In closing I thank my fellow board members, executive director and staff for all the support and inspiration in leading Elkana Childcare to new levels of performance. My grateful thanks especially to Mr. Abe Witbooi who acted as Chairman during the first half of 2011 and to Col. Joop Pinckaers for all the work and supervision during the building of the new wing as well as well as the special funds he raised to finance the furnishing thereof as well as the opening ceremony. Thanks again to all our sponsors for funding, support and even arguments in the interest of using Elkana Childcare as the vehicle in Malmesbury to alleviate the plight of the children we work with and to add value to their lives.

A very special word of thanks to Mrs. Louisa Mostert and again to Col. J Pinckaers who indicated that they will not be available for re-election at our AMG in June 2012. Since Louisa joined the board of directors as treasurer approximately five (5) years ago, her excellent management of finances and financial reporting always gave us a clear understanding of our financial status and therefore eased decision making about financial matters. This Louisa did voluntarily and we owe her a debt of gratitude. Col Joop Pinckaers was one of the directors of Elkana from the very beginning. I do not have words to thank him for his inspirational efforts to establish Elkana as a Child and Youth Care Centre. He has been at the forefront in promoting Elkana's network.
We warmly welcome Mr. Uys de Jager who joined the board of directors in March 2012 and are optimistic that we will benefit from his contribution of wide knowledge and experience in management and general administration.

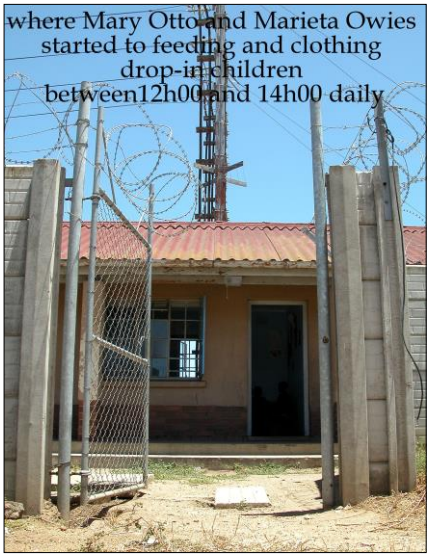
Above all, we thank OUR LORD FOR ALL HIS GLORY AND LOVE.





Col. Joop Pinckaers
Vice-chairperson of Elkana Childcare

Where are we coming from
It is only a bit more than 12 years ago when a group of business and church people from Malmesbury came across two wonderful ladies, Ms. Marieta Oewies and Ms. Mary Otto. These two ladies spent hours of their daily available time to look after and care for street children and drop-in children in a little house owned by the local municipality.





After Swartland municipality decided to sell this accommodation to Pioneer Foods, a number of our residents, driven by deep concern for the increasing number of children on the streets in Malmesbury who were exposed to the winter elements of the region and to pimps pushing them into crime and drug habits, joined in a private initiative and brainstormed on possible ideas and solutions to deal with these issues as a joint problem.
This initiative resulted in the establishment of Elkana Childcare, projects for street children, as a non-governmental/Section 21 organisation and the first of its kind in the entire Swartland Region.

First phase of Elkana Childcare Centre
Thanks to the generosity of our local municipality and the consent of the residents around Jasmyn Street, a beautiful erf was earmarked for the Centre to be established.

The most difficult phase was the raising of the necessary funding for the building of the Centre. Another difficulty was that we were not allowed to build a fixed construction. Thankfully, when the Dutch Government, in the person of the Consul-General of the Netherlands Ms. Ellen Berends came on board with a substantial financial contribution and the support for our project, we were able to attract local and international sponsors to fulfill our dreams.
It became a Centre consisting of nine sea containers made available by Maersk Logistics. Thus the foundation for the containers, the transport, conversion and reconditioning of the containers could be financed thanks to the above mentioned sponsors.





Due also to the generosity of business people from Malmesbury and Scheveningen in the Netherlands we were able to add a roof on top of our "Container" Centre for a better climate inside the Centre with the result that we added more inside space to the Centre.

In 2004 we were all very excited to have the official opening of Elkana Childcare Centre with key-note speaker Prof. Edna van Harte from Stellenbosch University. We could finally start working on our mission to better the lives of the vulnerable children and youth from Malmesbury and surroundings.





Second phase of Elkana Childcare Centre

Rather soon after completing the first phase of Elkana Childcare Centre, it became obvious that there would not be enough space in the existing Centre for accommodation of residents, space needed for education, staff, kitchen and storage. The Board then commenced discussions with the local municipality on the possible extension of the Centre and we were delighted when Swartland municipality told us that they would support Elkana Childcare, not only in what we were achieving amongst the vulnerable children and youth, but also that they would not object to any fixed extension of our Centre. In addition and beyond our expectations, they offered to financially support the extension with an amount up to a maximum of R185.000!

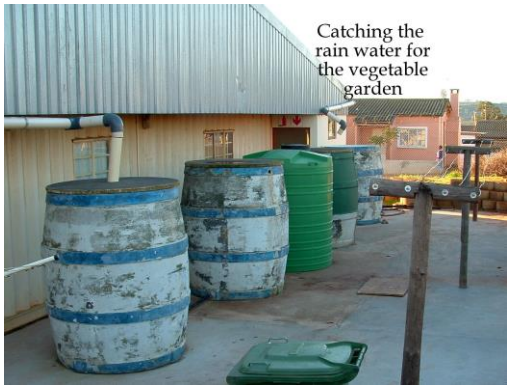
We were then able to build additional accommodation for girls and boys in different age categories, a class room, and 2 multi-functional rooms for meetings, assessments, etc.


The builders have come in


The official opening of the new addition 2007

The Board could then, with great pleasure announce the official opening of the newest addition on the same day as we had the AGM in 2007.

In the same period, Swartland Municipality agreed to "let" to us the unused part of the erf next to our Centre for agricultural and sport activities. This gave us the opportunity to add crop growing and sport activities to our programs. For the irrigation of the garden we had our gutter system extended to enable rain water to flow into storage tanks for that purpose. Again local and overseas sponsors supported us overwhelmingly to realize this important project for our children.


Catching the rain water for the vegetable garden


The original vegetable garden

Third phase of Elkana Childcare Centre

In 2010 we sent an application to the National Lottery for the extension of Elkana Childcare Centre.

Due to lack of space the Board of Directors of Elkana decided that the after school care program needed to be moved to St. Thomas Primary School.
The programs for drop-in children from the Swartland could only be accommodated during the morning hours and have since been extended to15h00 in the afternoon after moving the after school care program.

Finally, the Board of Elkana was of the opinion that all the space in the current Centre needed to be used for street children programs and their accommodation, for drop-in programs and for staff purposes. All other programs: After School Care Programs, Life Center Programs, Parental Skill Programs, Art, Culture and Music Programs needed to occur in a separate new wing to be built onto the existing Elkana Childcare Centre. The

National Lottery has granted a substantial amount as capital expenditure for the extension of the Centre and an additional amount as capital expenditure on security. With the extension of our Centre capacity, we are now able to add programs for the parents of our children and possibly art and music classes.





This latest addition to our Centre was officially opened on 08 November 2011 by our key note speaker and guest of honor, Mr. Albert Fritz, Minister of Social Development of the Western Cape.



Minister Albert Fritz presents a key to executive director, signifying the opening of the new extension.



Hermann Bakker Trio providing good entertainment at the Official Opening Ceremony

Thanks to the generous contribution from the National Lottery Trust for the extension of Elkana Childcare Centre and the generous contributions from Stichting Elkana Childcare Maastricht and the Order of Sint Lazarus from Maastricht for the furnishing of the new addition, the Board of Directors and Staff of Elkana Childcare is very proud that our accommodation problems through the years have come to a closure. All accommodation pre-conditions for the fulfilling of our mission have been accomplished.

Friends of Elkana Childcare

Naturally, there are always deep concerns about adequate funding along with hard work from year to year to ensure adequate funding for implementation of our programs. We constantly acknowledge with great gratitude the programmatic funding from Department of Social Development, Children's Fund Mamas in the Netherlands, Swartland Municipality and Stichting Elkana Childcare Maastricht.

The aforementioned funders have contributed significantly towards sustainability of our programs which are aligned with relevant governing laws and regulations, particularly the Children's Act.

More problematic is the vital funding for maintenance and repairs for our buildings and transport, yet this is a very important component of ensuring that our premises are a stimulating and safe environment in which children and youth can feel protected, learn and grow. The participation of all vulnerable children and youth in our Centre is very much dependent on the reliability of our transport.

During the official opening on 08 November 2011, the Foundation of Friends of Elkana Childcare was announced by Mr. Fanie Malherbe in his role as a great supporter of Elkana Childcare. We are thus in the process of formalizing this foundation and appealing to all businesses, churches, schools and individuals in the Swartland to become a Friend of Elkana Childcare through the pledging of a monthly, quarterly or yearly contribution to Elkana Childcare. Income tax exemption in terms of section 18A will be applicable.



Mr. Fanie Malherbe



Mr. Tymen van Essen (Mayor)
Ms. Maude Goliath (Deputy Mayor)

Ronni Mehl
Executive Directors Report



WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

What is the true reality of the lives and experiences of the staff working at centres accommodating and providing programmes to children in need of care and protection? Aggression, violence, teenage pregnancies, substance abuse, gangsterism, school drop-outs, sexual promiscuity, AIDS infected and affected children and youth and various other forms of extremely challenging behaviours which children/youth have adopted as a means of survival and coping with unbearable situations. Whether children come from the streets or family homes or any other place where they have lived, such behaviour is the manifestation of the hurts and injustices that children have suffered out there before they walk through our doors. Many of them, boys and girls alike, are victims of sexual abuse, violence, neglect: all unloving acts towards children who need love to grow and thrive as well-balanced, happy and responsible citizens.

It is not my intention to paint a bleak and morbid picture, but rather to emphasise that we at Elkana Childcare (hereafter referred to as Elkana) strive to be a place of love, hope, healing and transformation for the broken child. That is our purpose. We accept that the level of caring has been raised to far beyond just caring for basic needs but rather, that through our work with the child, we offer a loving accompaniment to a child on his/her journey towards healing and wholeness. We also accept that it is essential that we gain formal skills and knowledge to care for a child in a way that will make a significant and positive difference in his/her life. Yet, in this particular field, all the formal learning will not make a scrap of difference if it is not applied and practiced with love, even at times when those in our care appear to be unlovable through their actions/behaviour. Alas, no certificate, diploma or degree exists that will teach you how to love!

We cannot work in a mechanical manner with fellow human beings, especially children, as human relationships require warmth, a giving of the self and it is only in a good relationship with the child that we can contribute to healing hurts, helping the child to develop good self-esteem and help them to change negative mind-sets and behaviour to more positive.

Working with children and youth who have been hurt to their very core is not a job, it is a serious calling which often draws those who love children and deeply care about their plight to become involved in places such as Elkana. There are world renowned figures who are a shining example of just how healing and far reaching love can be such as Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa. Yet, looking closer to home, I must acknowledge that we have our own unsung heroes such as staff, the board of directors, funders, volunteers and many members of the community who in various ways express their love for the children and youth of Elkana.

Elkana is a temporary place of safety therefor we may not always witness the long-term impact of our loving care of children when they leave us, so the result is largely invisible. Nevertheless, we continue to dignify children with love and care, trusting that it will have some positive effect on their future. The story below aptly illustrates how our actions can be held in the memory of a child.

"When Larry Brendtro was president of Starr, he encountered me in a waiting room outside my counsellor's office. I sat there with pants too short, wearing what we boys called "ankle busters", cheap, institutional socks that barely reached the ankles on my size 13 feet. Larry joked that perhaps the clothing store should issue these socks to staff. Then as if to join me in my solidarity society of the poorly-dressed, he sat down and lowered his own socks to ankle-mast. There we were, the bad-socks twins, as if posed for a fashion photo for 'Gentlemen's Quarterly'. Larry had used his humour to treat me with dignity. He does not recall the incident, but I preserved this memory as part of my life narrative for 25 years. I was touched in a small way."

(By John Sieta). Extracted from NACCW Module 1 Learner Guide

Social Work and Programmes

Regrettably, Miss Hanlie Rossouw left us at the end of December 2011 to pursue her church's community and evangelical work. We thank her for her sterling contribution as Elkana's social worker and wish her well. We welcome Mrs Roché Afrikaner who filled the vacancy on 05 March 2012.

The role of the social worker at Elkana is a crucial and central role in ensuring that all our interventions are in the best interest of the child and which encompasses, too mention just a few:

-Social work assistance and support as laid down by law

-Ensure proper care of and interaction with the children /youth of Elkana in compliance with the Children's Act

-Facilitate relevant communications with family and community in all matters of care and development of children/youth of Elkana

-Assessments of children/youth

-Enable, where possible, successful reunification of children with their families

-Re-integration of children into society

(Re-unification and re-integration work also comprises working with the family or foster parents to prepare them and to ensure successful re-integration).

Supervision

The social worker provides supervision, mentorship and guidance to youth care workers in the Drop-In Centre who are responsible for the execution of the Drop-In programs as well as to the child and youth care workers in the Residential (temporary safe shelter). It is crucial for all care workers to build very good relationships of trust with the children and to ensure that the child/youth feels loved, care for and comfortable at Elkana. The social worker also oversees the design and monitoring of programs to ensure that it is presented on a level which can be comprehended easily by the child/youth.

We will now look at programmes in a little more detail.

Residential Care

Up to the end of this financial year, a total of 47 children were accommodated in our temporary shelter (25 girls and 22 boys). The majority of this intake comprised of children with behavioural problems (school truancy, substance abuse, petty crimes – first offenders). This definitely makes the work of staff, especially direct care-giving staff much more challenging, but Elkana has started a process of appropriate training for staff.

Elkana is proud of a healthy 51% placement rate as 27 children/youth have been placed out of Elkana into the following situations:

Re-unification with family, extended family foster care, foster care and Children's Homes.

We have also acquired qualified and experienced child and youth care workers as well as making NACCW training accessible to current staff. The aforementioned combination has really impacted well on the quality of care rendered to residential children/youth.

Weekend and holiday placements of children have been emotionally beneficial to residential children, but sadly there were some children who had no-one to go to. In addition some of the residential children benefitted greatly through participation in therapeutic processes such as the Montrose Equine Therapy as well as a weeklong attendance at the Educo Camp in the Groot Winterhoek Mountains. Drug rehabilitation programs were also made accessible to 3 youth in residential care.

Drop-In Program

We exceeded the target number of 30 per annum. Our records reflect that approximately 56 youth attended and overall, there was good, regular attendance except for the beginning of the year when drop-in youth do seasonal work on farms and during the winter months. The Drop-In program was well planned and executed by the youth workers.

Drop-ins also participated in a number of therapeutic and developmental programs such as Educo Wilderness Therapy, Anger Management, Montrose Equine Therapy and Life Skills programs. Educational outings to Lions Head in Cape Town, Robben Island etc. were informative and fun, especially Robben Island, where youth were made strongly aware of the suffering and sacrifices made by Nelson Mandela and other heroes to free the South African nation from apartheid - and above all, the glorious victory!

Six youth were sent for drug rehabilitation at Toevlug and Western Cape Youth Rehabilitation Centre.

An important development and addition to our programmes during this year was the ABET (Numeracy and Literacy) programme offered to Elkana by MAVOS. All drop-in attendants have dropped out of school due to the adverse circumstances in their lives. Now they are given the opportunity at Elkana to complete levels 1 – 4, which bridges their gap in education. Furthermore, on completion of level 4, they could then apply to an FET college for further training. I must emphasise that we are not attempting to replace formal schooling and we firstly encourage/motivate that children return to school or attend night school, where possible. We have successfully placed one drop-in attendant back into mainstream schooling, but their reasons for dropping out of school is very complex. None of the children have reached level 4 yet during the course of last year but we continue into the new financial year. All drop-ins participate in this program

Reunification

The Children's Act places much emphasis on the reunification of children with their parents, families or another life-long family system. We provide the opportunity for parents, family and significant others to maintain contact with the children while they are at Elkana. These include telephone calls, visits at Elkana and weekend or holiday visits where possible. Reunification services are always done in conjunction with the designated welfare organisations which monitor the circumstances of the parents and family.

Seven (7) children were reunited with their family during 2011/2012. It is noteworthy to mention that there has been an increase in numbers reunified with their families from 3 in the last financial year (2010/2011) to 7 during 2011/2012. Sadly though, most of our children are placed in other Children's Homes because the social circumstances of parents or family are not in the best interest of the children.

The Individual Development Plan (IDP) is designed for all children in residential care to address their developmental needs. These plans include therapeutic sessions, anger management, drug abuse, trauma counselling, life skills, educational and sport and recreation programmes.

After School Care Program

The main goal of this program is to prevent/protect school-going children from the risks of drugs, gangsterism, dropping out of school etc. Most of our after school care attendants are alone at home after school, therefore vulnerable to the aforementioned risk factors. We are proud to say that we regard this program as our main prevention program which has been attended on a daily basis by 80+ school going children from all of the primary and high schools in Wesbank.

School children are assisted with homework and studies and are also afforded the opportunity to participate in other stimulating activities such as Aikido and the Steel Drum Band. Daily meals are also provided and as the majority of our children are from very poor families, this daily nutrition is absolutely essential and often for many, the only meal that they will have for the day.

This program has been running from the premises of St. Thomas Primary School for the past 2 years due to the lack of space at Elkana and we are deeply grateful to St. Thomas for so kindly accommodating us for this period. The program is now up and running on the premises of Elkana as the building of the new extension of 4 classrooms was completed in October last year.

Garden Project

Food and Trees for Africa facilitated the learning of organic gardening skills for children and staff of Elkana. It is planned for the upcoming 2012/2013 year that children, Drop-Ins and Residential, have their own little patches of garden and then also to extend the gardening project to the community. Drop-in youth have already enthusiastically started to cultivate the ground and plant vegetables in our tunnels and are excitedly coming forth with ideas to plant flowers at Elkana to beautify our premises.

Skills Development Centre (formerly known as Life Centre)

During the last year we have successfully trained 80 students in our Computer Literacy Course. Some of these students have migrated to the city to secure employment and 25 students were placed in the learnership initiative steered by Workforce and the Dept. of Tourism and Financial Development of the Western Cape. The demand for our Computer Literacy Course is extremely high and as renovations and upgrades to the building have been completed, the SDC [Skills Development Centre] has moved into a new lecture hall. With generous donations received through the efforts of Anton and Ineke Nijboer of the Netherlands we have been able to purchase ten (10) new computers. This will enable us to train almost 160 students per year in computer literacy. Additional courses in Office Practice, Work Readiness; Life Skills and other skills development courses will also be implemented as of April 2012.

Of the 25 youth that were entered into the learnership in December 2011, 8 have already succeeded in securing employment and an additional 3 students have been offered contracts. There are 3 students that will be enrolling in further studies and the remaining 11 are still in the programme. The programme will conclude in May 2012.

Finally, there were many events last year in celebration of National Days which Elkana used to raise awareness amongst our children/youth and the community on various different issues such as Human Rights Day, Women's Day, Children and Youth day etc., but there are 2 events in particular that lives on in our memory as really special. They are:

Christmas Carols/Concert at Elkana -December 2011.

This was very well attended by the parents and the community and children/youth performed the Christmas play, singing and dancing exceptionally well and thereby touching the hearts of the audience through bringing a strong sense of Christmas spirit. Thanks to Mrs Valerie Brown and the team who assisted her in making this event such a success.



Heritage Day – September 2011

We celebrated and raised awareness of some of the diverse cultures in South Africa e.g. Malay, African etc. Children and youth portrayed this through cultural dress, cooking foods of different cultures e.g. curries, pap en wors etc. and through song and dance e.g. traditional African dancing, the Coons (minstrels) and other. Children shared that they understood the various cultures much better and that it was important that we all appreciate and respect cultural differences**.** Thanks to the Drop In Youth Workers George Faroa and Mary Otto and all who assisted them for organizing this event – let's do it again!



Snap shot of achievements: 2011/2012

PROGRAMME	GOAL	ACTIVITIES	TARGET GROUP	ACHIEVEMENTS
Drop-In	Develop & empower children and youth to becoming contributing members of their communities	Daily meals, Life skills Training, Sport& Recreation, Arts& Crafts, Educational programs, gardening, different therapies, numeracy and literacy programs	Children and Youth from Malmesbury, surrounding townships and other areas and farms in the Swartland. All the above are inclusive of street children.	56 children/youth attended our Drop-In Centre 30 Drop-Ins participated and progressed in Literacy and Numeracy courses
Residential (Shelter)	Create a safe& nurturing environment for children aged 8 - 18 years and in which their therapeutic and developmental needs are met	Place them in school or let them attend the Drop- in program, mentoring and care by Elkana's staff. Several recreational/ sport activities. Individual and group therapy. Future placements in situations conducive to upholding their human rights.	Children in need of protection due to adverse social circumstances at home	47 children found protection development opportunities 27 were placed out into better living conditions The majority of residents attend school. 7 children were reunited with their family
After School Care	Prevent/protect school-going children from the risks such as drugs, gangsterism, dropping out of school etc.	Assistance with homework and studies, and the opportunity to participate in other stimulating activities at Elkana, daily meals	Poverty- stricken School children who are mostly unsupervised in the afternoons	80 children attending and kept safe from risk Many young children are attending, proving the trust of the community in Elkana High school children's reports show positive increase in their marks
Skills Development Centre	To make accessible computer and related skills training to poor unemployed youth to create a more employable workforce.	Computer courses , Arts& Craft program	80 per annum Unemployed, poverty-stricken youth	80 youth were successfully trained and more marketable for employment. Of the 25 youth that took part in the learnership 11 were successfully employed
Garden	Sustainable natural/organic food and improved nutrition to contribute to our kitchen and sale of excess produce	HIV/AIDS square meter gardens, teaching how to plant vegetables for own use, permaculture	Children and youth of Elkana, community members	Organic gardening skills acquired.

Networking

Our ever-growing and strengthening network comprises of government, organizations who work with vulnerable communities, donor partners as well as individuals who give the gift of themselves through donating their time and expertise to Elkana. We are deeply appreciative of our existing network which adds value to the work of Elkana in various ways.

Department of Social Development (DSD): In addition to being our biggest funder, we have benefitted from participating in the many workshops hosted by DSD which has enhanced our learning and knowledge about major issues impacting on the welfare and development of children/youth e.g. The Children's Act and expected standards of service delivery from organizations in the Child and Youth Care/Development Sector. We value this active partnership and the guidance and support which stems from it. A special and grateful thank you to DSD also for financing and thereby enabling staff to attend NACCW training in modules 1 – 4 and module 13 during the past financial year.

Swartland Municipality: We have, since Elkana's inception, enjoyed their strong support in the form of practical assistance, donations and professional advice. Our communication with Swartland Municipality remains a vital link for us and for which we are deeply appreciative. It is inspirational to be associated with a municipality that cares so much for the community and that initiates activities and processes to the benefit of the community.

National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF): Our application for funding to extend the buildings of Elkana has been approved during the past year (see Col. Joop Pinckaers report) We also commend NLDF for hosting workshops in Cape Town to give guidance about the correct way to apply for funding and reporting procedures.

National Association of Child and Youth Care Workers (NACCW): This is the most appropriate and sought after education and training for child and youth care workers. The Executive Director and two Child and Youth Care workers have now completed modules 1 – 4 which comprises of fundamentals such as child rights, basic caring skills, working developmentally and therapeutically and many more. Module 13, Behavior Management, was also completed towards the end of this current financial year (2011/2012). This training was sponsored by Department of Social Development to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for this contribution towards staff training, development and empowerment. What was also really special about the training (usually a week long for each module) is that Child and Youth Care workers had a good opportunity to engage in some meaningful networking, learning from each other and feeling generally strengthened by the common purpose and essence of their role i.e. the best interest of the child/youth in their care.

Western Cape Street Children's Forum (WCSCF): An important link maintained by Elkana through regular attendance at their meetings. WCSCF provides a wonderful opportunity to organizations to keep abreast of what is happening in the lives of street children, new trends, new approaches and challenges etc. WCSCF have often pioneered new initiatives for street children, stood up for their rights and have influenced relevant policy making. I have been involved with WCSCF for many years prior to commencing at Elkana and I continue to be deeply appreciative of the positive impact they have on the lives of street children as well as the street children organizations.

Local organizations, business and individual partners: Continuous interaction with the Police, Correctional Services, Rotary, Lions, Churches, local newspapers and many individuals etc. during the past year has enriched Elkana in so many ways that are too numerous to mention here.

It indicates a partnership with a giving and caring local community. This is such a necessary pre-condition for an organization such as ours to survive and thrive.

St. Thomas Primary School, Wesbank: Our valuable partner in the implementation of our After School Care Programme until late in 2011 when our new extension was completed enabling us to run the programme from our own premises. We extend our deep gratitude and appreciate this generosity in allowing us to use four (4) of the classrooms and other facilities.

ACVV and BADISA: Together with your social workers and other services, we are enabled to render the proper statutory interventions needed; therefore this partnership is most vital to Elkana.

Children's Fund MAMAS, Netherlands (CFM): This partnership has strengthened over the past year with continued funding but also with other meaningful ways of interaction e.g. information / knowledge sharing that is mutually beneficial.

Zwolle University: We are most appreciative of Prof. Leijenhorst and his students of the University of Zwolle in the Netherlands for the working co-operation between us which results in new learnings for both Elkana and the students of the University of Zwolle. [As illustrated in the Chairman's report]

Stichting Maastricht: We very much appreciate their financial support in areas where we locally will not be able to find the necessary funding for school clothing, shoes, sport equipment, furniture, etc.

Community leaders in the area of the Swartland: Their support of our services by informing us of day-strollers and early school leavers enabling us to intervene.

Local Police and Municipal Police: The men and woman of the Police and Municipal Police have served above and beyond their duties in assisting us on a daily basis. A heartfelt thank you to these dedicated men and woman who have continually supported us.

Department of Tourism and the Workforce group: Through the efforts of the Department and the Workforce group almost 75 students have been fortunate in receiving skills development training and have had access to participate in an in-service learnership programme.

Board of Directors

Dr. A. H. Olivier	Chairman
Mr. A.I. Witbooi	Director (Education)
Col. J.P.M. Pinckaers	Vice chairman / Director (Strategic Planning/Sponsorships/Communications
Mrs. L. Mostert	Director (Treasurer)
Mrs. M. Goliath	Director (Communication with Local Government)
Ds. F. Claassen	Director (Human Resources)
Miss M. Holtzhausen	Advisor to the Board
Mrs. A. Bester	Advisor to the Board
Mr. Uys de Jager	Director (Joined the Board in March 2012)

Elkana Childcare Staff

Mrs. Veronica Mehl	Executive Director
Miss Hanlie Rossouw	Social Worker (left in Des 2011)
Mrs. Roche Afrikaner	Social Worker (appointed March 2012)
Mrs. Anet de Beer	Administrator
Mrs. Gerda de Beer	Financial clerk (appointed Oct 2011)
Mrs Valerie Brown	Educator: Drop-Ins, Residential and After School Care
Miss Wilhelmien West	Homework assistant in After School Care program
Mrs Martha Adonis	Homework assistant in After School Care program
Mrs Mary Otto	Child and Youth Care worker: Drop in Programme
Mr. George Faroa	Child and Youth Care worker: Drop in Programme
Mrs. Glenda Conrad	Care giver: Residential program
Mrs. Bernetta Howburg	Care giver: Residential program
Miss Georgina Whitlow	Care giver: Left in May 2011
Mrs. Bettie Cloete	Care giver: Left in Feb 2011
Mr. Mujaahid Naidoo	Care giver: Appointed June 2011
Mr. Andre Brink	Care giver: Appointed June 2011 – left Sept 2011
Mr. Joshua Freeman	Care giver: Appointed Sept 2011
Mrs. Sheraldine Blanckenberg	Care giver: Appointed Sept 2011
Mrs. Jaqueline van Rooyen	Left Sept 2011
Mr. George Jooste	Cook : Appointed Oct 2011
Mr. Xola Tsholoba	Gardener
Mr. Johan Esterhuizen	Driver/Maintenance

Summary Financial Report 01 April 2011 to 31 March 2012

Income:	
Children's Fund MAMAS, Netherlands	R 565 041.00 (personnel, programs & operational costs)
Department of Social Development	R 988 666.00 (personnel, programs – Drop ins and Residential care - & operational costs)
Swartland Municipality	R 45 000.00 (operational costs)
Other Donations	R 305 549.00 (personnel & operational costs)
Interest Received	R 52 883.00
Total Income	**R1 957 139.00**
Less Expenses:	
Personnel Costs	R 929 514.00
Drop ins	R 46 434.00
Residential Care	R 18 607.00
Skills development Programme	R 72 328.00
Motor Vehicles Expenses (License, fuel, repairs, services)	R 141 155.00
Training (computer training programme)	R 44 848.00
Maintenance & Repairs (buildings, and movable assets)	R 57 885.00
Meals/Nutrition – Children	R 192 895.00
Electricity and water	R 54 314.33
Other expenses	R 141 171.00
Stationary and printing	R 33 496.00
Communications (tel, fax, internet).	R 37 971.00
Surplus	**R 1 86 521.00**
	R1 957 139.00

WISH LIST

▪ Book Shelves ▪ Paving for pathways ▪ Sport equipment ▪ Indoor games (e.g. monopoly, cards, dominoes, etc.) ▪ TV's ▪ Rugs/loose carpets ▪ Small electrical appliances such as kettle, iron ▪ video camera

The Board of Directors, Staff and Children hereby express their heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all individuals, businesses, foundations, organizations, volunteers and funders who have financially and in kind supported and assisted Elkana Childcare during the past financial year. We most definitely would not have been able to fulfill our obligations towards the children and youth in the Swartland area without the kindness and generosity of your support.

Department of Social Development
Swartland Municipality
Children's Fund MAMAS (Netherlands)
National Lottery Fund
Malmesbury Local Businesses (financial support and goods in kind)
Geard Pharmacy, Malmesbury
J.B. Nissan, Malmesbury
Perdeberg Motors, Malmesbury
Swartland Kelders, Malmesbury
Kentucky
Pick and Pay
Kekkel & Kraai
Noordhoek Melkery
Ishona Melkprodukte
Lowensvlei
Mr. Humphries
Sasko
Local Churches
Individuals from the Community
Malmesbury Kwekery
Grande Provence Wine Estate
Prima Verhuring
Raiel (PTY) Ltd
Herman Bakker
Dolfie Walters
Karl en Marionne Knops
Loubser Transport
PPC Cement
Cedric van der Westhuizen
The Order of Sint Lazarus Maastricht
JD Kirsten
Bubbles

Volunteers:
David Wickham- Steelband
Dr. Fritz Zollner – Aikido
ABET facilitators (Mr. Mouton / Mr. Carelse)

ELKANA CHILDCARE
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