Elkana Childcare Annual Report 2013/2014

VOLUME 12



ELKANA CHILDCARE
NPC: Reg.No. 2003/006176/08 and NPO reg. no 036-188 NPO
P O Box 1161, Malmesbury 7299
Tel: 022 4864178/9; Fax: 022 4865389; website: www.elkanachildcare.co.za
e-mail: elkanamal@telkomsa.net
Bank: Nedbank Malmesbury (South Africa); Cheque Account: 1285056434
Branch code 154605; Swift Code: NEDSZAJJ

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Chairperson's Report

I take great pleasure in presenting our 2013/14 Annual Report to you, accounting for the period April 2013 - March 2014.

The economic environment predicted a bleak future, but Elkana Childcare was blessed with funders and partners during the past year that ensured a positive outcome for us and the communities we serve. We have managed to successfully deliver on our agreements with our two major funders, Department of Social Development and Kinderfonds Mamas (Netherlands) with the following primary projects:

- Temporary safe care : 24 children (full capacity)
- After school care : 100 children (full capacity)
- Drop-In program: although our numbers decreased during the end of the financial year, we managed to maintain an average number of 30 teenagers. Due to the decline in participant numbers the program is currently under review to ensure that it remains relevant.
  *The above projects included the provision of food to the child and support to both the child and the family.

The escalation in cost and simultaneous escalation in the number of children in need remain a cause of concern to the Board and we have taken a decision to actively source a pipeline of possible funders/partners to ensure our future expansions and ultimate sustainable existence.

We find ourselves in a transition phase, where we are growing into a more mature organisation with well-developed programs. Although this is a positive position to be in, we need to review our current offerings and identify our core strengths. We are further in a process of enhancing our measuring and evaluation and will continue to do so in an effort to provide valuable feedback to our stakeholders and to further assist us in our program review process.

Full financial details can be found in our financial statements.

I want to thank each funder who contributed to Elkana Childcare, without you we would not be able to serve the community and to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children.

Thank you to my fellow Board members and to staff, for their dedication and hard work during the past year. The combined efforts of our hands-on Board and staff have ensured our success.

In conclusion I want to take the opportunity to thank two remarkable people and previous Chairpersons, who sadly both passed away early 2014. I dedicate this report to Dr Bertus Olivier and Mr Uys de Jager who truly have been an inspiration to everyone at Elkana Childcare; your legacy will live on!

Mrs Tania Botha

Chairperson of the Board

Executive Director's Report 2013/2014

My reflection on the past year brings home to me just what an awesome year it has been!

I am not only referring to successes and that which has gone really well, but also certain organizational aspects which has propelled us into deep introspection and review. The latter does indicate changing the way we do certain things to ensure that our practice remains relevant, has value, is effective and above all, is truly transformative for our children and their families.

Our organizational review and planning process was held to review the work of 2012 and 2013 in December 2013 at the beautiful Goedgedacht Trust Farm in Riebeeksrivier. All staff and a board representative actively participated in the process out of which has surfaced much that we can be proud of, our weaknesses and the challenges/risks that lie ahead. I love these processes because I firmly believe that "Together we are Clever"!

More detail on the programs i.e. CYCC (Temporary Safe Care), Social Work, Drop-In and After School Care follows on the next few pages of this Annual Report.

This year again, as in past years, generosity abounded from long-standing funders (Dept. Social Development (Western Cape), Kinderfonds MAMAS (Netherlands), and Swartland Municipality as well as new funders/donors.The children benefitted directly from The Foschini Group, G5 Investments, Methodist Church team from Oklahoma, U.S.A. and Rainbow Chickens, Worcester, Mrs. Inneke Wolf (Netherlands) and through the liaisons of Marionne and Karl Knops, The Order of St. Lazarus (Netherlands). Their warm-heartedness and generosity took the form of Christmas parties for children, gifts of clothing, toiletries and toys, renovating and revamping children's bedrooms and bathrooms and other areas at Elkana, a fun-filled day of carnival proportions at the spectacular Bloemendal Estate in Durbanville, the establishment of the Elkana Steel Drum Band and Play Therapy for residential children.

To all of the above, there are no words adequate enough to express our deep gratitude for your outstanding largesse!

Training, re-visioning, monitoring and evaluation will always remain top priority in our journey towards professionalism and excellence. We are but a teenager (only 14 years old) compared to our big brothers and sisters in the field of Child Protection and Development such as Huis van Heerde, Durbanville CYCC and numerous others to whom we turn from time to time for guidance and advice. The aforementioned, along with the Department of Social Development is an anchor to us in this time of furious learning and keeping up to date with the latest developments - all to ensure that we give the best of ourselves to children who face so many hardships and suffering, most of them still at tender ages.

Improvement/positive growth in the way work is executed at Elkana Childcare is admirable and commendable and staff is deeply appreciated for this. Their efforts are evidenced in visibly happier and more peaceful children. There is a sense that we

are really moving beyond basic needs to a more holistic care and development approach. Not bad for a 14 year old!

I commend also the Elkana Childcare Board of Directors, who is practically brand new except for two long-standing members. The mammoth task of governance undertaken by our new board members has been daunting, yet taken on with such professionalism, passion and dedication under the able chairmanship of Mrs. Tania Botha.

In conclusion, we embrace the future, with all its changes, with renewed energy and trust that we can, with humility, always remain open to learning (see ourselves as a learning organization), particularly in matters that entail relevant and transformative interventions from which the community will benefit.

"In times of change, the learners
will inherit the earth, while the learned
will find themselves beautifully equipped with
a world that no longer exists" - Eric Hoffer

Veronica (Ronni) Mehl
Executive Director

Social Worker

In March 2014 I celebrated 2 years' service at Elkana Childcare and feel privileged to be in a position that demands my best in striving towards making a meaningful difference in the lives of children so extremely challenged at young/tender ages.
My role, to mention a few core functions, comprises of the following:

- Social work assistance and support as laid down by law
- Close liaison with external case workers DSD, ACVV etc.
- Ensure proper care and interaction with the children of Elkana in compliance with the Children's Act
- Facilitate the relevant communications with family and community in all matters of care and development of children/youth at Elkana
- Assessments of children/youth
- To enable, where possible, successful reunification of children with their families-integration of children into society : Re-unification and re-integration work also involves working with the family or foster parents to prepare them and to ensure successful re-integration
- Individual and group therapy: This holds deep and valuable meaning to me as it affords me deep insights into where children's emotions stem from and where the child would fit into his/her circle of courage at any given point in time.
- Supervision
  I provide supervision, mentorship and guidance to our child and youth care workers [hereafter referred to as CYCW's] in the form of rhythmic intervention of meeting with all CYCW's once a month and also monthly individual one-on-one's

  Our current reality is that most of our CYCW's are not fully NACCW qualified, but are on a continuum of training. Therefore, we aim to strengthen, support and also challenge them where necessary in their vitally essential role at Elkana. This

will continue until such time that they are more skilled and confident to work more independently. I do believe that they have the potential and simultaneously acknowledge and commend them for their best efforts.

Conclusion:

It has also been wonderful to witness how positively Elkana is growing in its child care / protection, early intervention and child development strategies. Elkana is but 14 years old – a young teenager compared to the very long standing CYCC's in the field and from whom we learn much.

Visible evidence of our positive growth is as follows:

- Children absconding has been reduced to a bare minimum
- 100% of our children are enrolled in school [mainstream and evening classes]
- Positive behavior changes [from aggressive to more calm and peaceful]
- Children abstaining from drugs and cigarettes where this has previously been a challenge for them

Rochè Afrikaner – Social Worker

Program Overview:
Residential Program

Beneficiaries: We provide a safe and secure place for children who are in immediate need of care and protection in accordance with the Children's act 30 of 2005. We aim to provide a safe haven for those whose development, physical and emotional well-being has been severely affected as victims of social ills e.g. exploitation, rejection and outright cruelty.

Elkana Childcare provided Temporary Safe Care to :

- 40 children in 2013/14 : 14 boys and 26 girls
  - Four [4] were placed in foster care
  - Four [4] were reunified with family
  - Ten [10] were transferred to other Child and Youth Care Centres

We have children from far and wide and these areas include Vredendal, Citrusdal, Paarl, Bonteheuwel (Cape Town), Ceres and areas and farms in and around the Swartland Area. We strive to as far as possible create an environment that is based on family values and we rely on our staff to operate as a family, not just a social welfare organization. We strive to instill a sense of belonging and safety, and above all, to assure children that they truly matter and are loved.

Our main focus is the child self, seeing that their immediate needs are met first and thereafter further assessment is done in terms of the child's holistic development. We acknowledge that children entering Elkana's doors come from harsh backgrounds where they were the victims of abuse. As time has progressed it has been established that some children need more than our internal therapeutic intervention. Play therapy was explored and it has had amazing results thus far. We are extremely grateful for

the role played by Karin Rabbets when exploring this new avenue and we are deeply saddened by her death in a motor vehicle accident in January 2014. Play therapy addresses issues such as:

- Socio-emotional assessment
- Handling deep seated (old) trauma such as sexual harassment, grief, violence, abuse
- Improvement of emotional awareness
- Handling of emotions such as fear and aggression
- Psychological development and support
- Empowerment

The abovementioned therapeutic interventions enable us to work more effectively with the children placed in our care. Elkana, together with the local schools, St Thomas Primary, Liebenberg Primary, Swartland Primary, Wesbank Senior Secondary and Napakadi Primary and Secondary Schools have successfully managed to make education accessible to Elkana's children and instill a sense of empowerment that they previously never had. Children, who are unable to attend main stream schools, attend night school at Schoonpruit High School and both educational structures have had a positive impact on the children's development as well as their self-confidence.

This has been a good year, all our children are in a schooling system, which is a first for Elkana, our absconding rate has decreased tremendously and we have managed to increase family reunification, whether by visits of telephonic contact.

<u>After School Care [ASC]</u>
Beneficiaries: 100 school going children Gr 1 to Gr 12
Daily program: Monday to Friday

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 approximately 100 school going children from all of the primary and high schools in Wesbank.

Children are motivated to remain in school despite challenging home circumstances for many of them. None of the children who participated in our ASC program have dropped out of school during 2013/2014. This once again testifies and confirms how vital the practices of early intervention and prevention programs are - it truly does prevent children from dropping out of school / ending up on the streets.
School children are assisted with homework and studies and are also afforded the opportunity to participate in other stimulating activities such as the Steel Drum Band which comprises of children from After School Care and Residential care [CYCC] programs.

Highlights for the year:
Increased numbers of young children (Gr 1's to Gr 3's) entered the program. We hope to walk a long future journey in their development.

Most of the children have achieved good June and December school results.

The enthusiasm and commitment of children who are members of Elkana's Steel Drum Band is very positive.

The allocation of Project Costs as part of funding received from DSD (Dept. of Social Development): This has made possible the purchasing of educational aids and reading books and various other materials which truly enhance the quality of our assistance to the children

Drop In Centre
Beneficiaries: 30 teenage school drop-outs. This program was fairly well attended until the 4th term of 2013. Since late 2013 drop-in numbers have declined drastically.

This programme aims to assist and empower school drop-outs to make good choices for the future.

The Drop In program was Elkana Childcare's first intervention at Elkana's inception approximately 14 years ago when Elkana worked solely with street children. It has enjoyed much success in drastically reducing, almost obliterating, the amount of children living and working on the streets in Malmesbury. Subsequently, the Drop In Centre then focused on other groups of vulnerable and at risk children, particularly those who have, due to adverse circumstances, dropped out of school.

Elkana Childcare has over the years moved gradually but definitely towards focusing on prevention of children ending up on the streets. The need for such interventions in Malmesbury and Swartland has been found to be overwhelming and are effected through our other programmes.

Despite the low numbers of attendance, the Drop In Program has fulfilled the activities stipulated in our DSD contract as follows:

- Awareness program held in August 2013, work-shopping with 78 community members "The Dangers and Risks for Children Living on the Streets"
- Daily activities comprising: social and life skills; sport and recreation; counseling and implementation of individual development plans; the provision of 2 meals per day and assisting with basic hygiene needs
- Quarterly parent training skills workshops covering various subjects pertinent to their rights and responsibilities. These have been very interactive and successful resulting in parents expressing that they would like to participate in more workshops at Elkana.
- 2 Holiday programs

Highlights:

- Parents were so proud and empowered by being enabled to complete St. Johns First Aid Level 1 which was made possible through Kinderfonds MAMAS [Netherlands] funding.

- Two [2] teenagers participated in voluntary drug rehab intervention at Department of Social Development [SDS] after receiving counseling from Drop In staff.

Skills Development Centre

During the past year we were able to provide training to approximately 60 youth in Basic Computer Literacy, Work readiness and Life Skills. Due to the fact that other organizations such as FET colleges have expanded their courses and have initiated government funded training opportunities that provide stipends to students, the number of students applying for our training course has declined drastically. Continuous review will guide future actions.

Board of Directors

Mr. Uys de Jager	Chairman
Dr. Bertus Olivier	Vice Chairman
Mrs. Tania Botha	*Acting Chairperson
Mr. Attie Slabbert	Director (Operations)
Mr. John Louw	Director (Treasurer)
Mrs. Maude Goliath	Director
Mr. Abie Witbooi	Director
Mr Reginald Korje	Director
Mrs Veronica Mehl	Executive Director

*Mrs. Tania Botha was nominated to act as chairperson during the 1st quarter of the year when both Dr. Olivier and Mr. de Jager were incapacitated by poor health

Elkana Childcare Staff	Executive Director
Mrs. Veronica Mehl	Social Worker
Mrs. Rochè Afrikaner	Administrator
Mrs. Anet de Beer	Financial Clerk
Mrs. Eileen Basson	Cook
Mina Botha	Cleaner
Susan Karolus	
AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM	
Mrs Valerie Brown	Educator and After School Care coordinator
Miss Wilhelmien West	Assistant in After School Care program
Mrs Martha Adonis	Assistant in After School Care program
DROP IN CENTRE	
Mrs Mary Otto	Youth Worker
Gleston Adams	Youth Worker
RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM	
Mrs. Glenda Conrad	Child and Youth Care Worker
Mrs. Bernetta Howburg	Child and Youth Care Worker
Mr. Mujaahid Naidoo	Child and Youth Care Worker
Mr. Heinrich Wentzel	Child and Youth Care Worker Commenced - July 2013
Miss Mersha Nero	Child and Youth Care Worker Commenced - Sept2013
Mr. Xola Tsholoba	Child and Youth Care Worker and Driver
Resignations	
Mrs Sheraldine Blanckenberg	September 2013
Mr. George Faroa	June 2013
Mr. Christo Brand	January 2014

In Loving Memory



Dr. Bertus Olivier

06/12/1941 - 17/04/2014

Dr. Bertus Olivier was a founding member of Elkana Childcare. Since 2003 he has been a member of the Board of Directors, mostly in the role of Chairman.



Mr. Uys de Jager

17/03/1949 - 15/01/2014

Mr. De Jager joined the Elkana Board of Directors in 2012 and subsequently led the Board as Chairman.

Elkana Childcare deeply values the legacy of positive growth and striving for excellence which we inherited from the dynamic and purposeful leadership of Dr. Bertus Olivier and Mr. Uys de Jager.

Gone but never forgotten.

Elkana Childcare Outreach Foundation
(Registered in terms of the Trust Property Control Act, 1988. No: IT 3553/2012)

Because we care!
Elkana Childcare Outreach Foundation was established in 2012 and will fund, if finances are available, Elkana Childcare for any of its activities, but mainly for maintenance of the infra-structure and capital investment for infra-structure and means of transport. The ideal picture would be to raise funds that will generate the necessary interest for funding.

The Foundation intends to raise those funds, inter alia by the granting of points to donors for their scorecards in terms of the Code of Good Practice of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act. One of the seven elements on the generic scorecard is Socio-economic Development (SED) and by donating to the Foundation, points can be achieved for SED to improve the level of compliance with B-BBEE of the donor. The majority of the beneficiaries of Elkana Childcare are black children; therefore donations to Elkana will fall within the ambit of the Codes of Good Practice of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act. Thus, the SED component of the B-BBEE scorecard renders a wonderful opportunity for businesses in the Swartland Municipal Area to simultaneously meet the compulsory requirement of SED and assist Elkana Childcare at the same time.

Income tax exemption/approval of any donations in terms of section 18A applies.

During the past financial year the Foundation was unfortunately not able to render any financial contribution to Elkana Childcare as the announcement of the Foundation in the Swartland (business) community did not land immediately. We will address the issue by organising a meeting with the Business Chamber of Malmesbury.

The current trustees of the Foundation are Col. Joop Pinckaers, Mr. Chris de Jager, Mr. Fanie Malherbe and Mrs. Veronica Mehl. We deeply regret the loss of one of our trustees, the late Mr. Uys de Jager in January 2013

Col. Joop Pinckaers
Chairman: Elkana Childcare Outreach Foundation

Thank you

The Board of Directors, Staff and Children hereby express their heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all individuals, businesses, foundations, organizations, volunteers, funders and through various services and networking that 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 [Western Cape, West Coast and Local Office]
Swartland Municipality
Swartland Social Development Forum
Children's Fund MAMAS (Netherlands)
Mrs I Wolf (Netherlands)
Elkana Childcare Outreach Foundation [ECOF]
Order of St Lazarus, Maastricht, Netherlands
The American team from the Methodist Church
Malmesbury Local Businesses (financial support and goods in kind)
Geard Pharmacy, Malmesbury
Pick and Pay
Kekkel & Kraai
Noordhoek Melkery
Mr. Humphries
Sasko
Pioneer
Swartland Vleis
G & H Verwerking
Raimondi's
Rainbow Chickens
Local Churches
Individuals from the Community
Malmesbury Kwekery
Raiel (PTY) Ltd
Karl and Marionne Knops
Bubbles
Malmesbury SAPS
Private Doctors
David Wickham – Steelband
Nashua
Checkers
Foshini Group
G5 Investments
VOLUNTEERS
Volunteers Germany: Allie, Lucas, Caroline, Max
University of Zwolle, Netherlands: Social Work Interns: Jelte, Frans, Mariah and Manilla