Elkana Childcare

Annual Report
For the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

Volume 13



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	Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) Reg. no 036-188 NPO
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I am so PROUD to live at Elkana Childcare
because the word means
God has created a place for homeless children.

I have more opportunities
than others and has the BIGGEST home
of all children that is known by me.
It is a blessing to know that!

Lucinda

1. Chairperson's Report

INTRODUCTION:

It is once again time to reflect on the year gone by and to share with you our journey of April 2014 - March 2015. It is a privilege to present our Annual Report to you, containing an overview of our financial status, our programmes and our successes during this period.

GRATITUDE:

Our operating environment remained strained with tight financial resources, but we are grateful to report that despite all we have been blessed with adequate means to sustain our programmes. This is only possible with the support of our donors and I therefore want to thank them as they are indeed those who enable the sustainable existence of our organisation. I further want to thank our very capable Board of Directors for assisting in steering Elkana Childcare in the right direction and staff who has served tirelessly to ensure delivery to our children and community. I start this report with expressing my gratitude to these stakeholders, as without them, there would be no report!

CHANGE:

As an organisation we have continued to focus on our core projects being Temporary Safe Care (residential) and After School Care. We have identified these projects as the primary focus areas after a thorough needs analysis and consultation with various stakeholders. I therefore confirm that both the Drop in and Skills Development Centre programmes have been terminated during the reporting period. It was found that the initial need for these programmes have been satisfied and therefore a decision was taken to focus our resources on current, more pressing needs.

The Social Development landscape has also transformed and qualified staff is no longer a nice to have, but a need to have. Elkana Childcare has responded to these changes by affording each staff member the opportunity to develop and grow, ultimately becoming registered and certified Child and Youth Care workers. We have further aligned our Board of Directors to compose of the relevant portfolios, as prescribed by the Department of Social Development.

A decision was taken to dissolve The Elkana Outreach Foundation Trust and to align our fundraising efforts, channelling all interventions through Elkana Childcare. All parties involved with the Foundation remained committed friends of Elkana, despite the structural change of our funding channels. Direct individual funding will in future be effortless via our new website.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Limited resources coupled with an increase in the number of children in need will always remain a challenge and we will continue to find resourceful ways of serving the community, enhancing the service we provide. I do however remain positive and look forward to continue working together towards achieving a shared goal; to transform the lives of children who live in severely adverse situations, negatively impacting on their development by embracing them in our programmes, ensuring positive change.

Full financial details can be found in our Annual Financial Statements for period under review.

Mrs Tania Botha -Chairperson of the Board

2. Executive Director's Report 1 April 2014-31 March 2015

This period has been highlighted by strong positives such as:

- Healthy financial position
- Continuous professional development of staff, especially child and youth care workers with NACCW and various other relevant training with other service providers
- Acquisition of a sport field enabled by the generous sponsorship of Mrs. Inneke Wolf (Netherlands)
- New Donors from Ireland, namely "Friends of Zelda House" who confirmed early in 2015 their future financial support of Elkana
- Successful applications for funding to Dept. Social Development (hereafter referred to as DSD) and subsequent registration by DSD of our Temporary Safe Care and After School Care programmes for the next four to five years
- A positive response and funding received from National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund (NLDTF) to an application submitted in 2012. Funding commenced in December 2014
- Stronger and more efficient systems and policies governing aspects such as Human Resources, Financial Administration etc.
- More smoothly managed programmes aligned to clearly stated goals and objectives (arising from formal Review and Planning processes held in December 2013 and January 2014), for implementation as from 01 April 2014.

I am not claiming that the year was problem-free but there is a definite sense of good learnings derived from challenges and problems and how to prevent or do things differently in the future. One such challenge was our Drop-In Centre Programme which has, over a period of approximately two (2) years prior to end March 2015, dwindled in attendance to one or two participants. Many outreach and awareness activities were executed to raise the numbers to the prescribed amount of thirty (30) participants, but to no avail. The question of the relevance of and need for this programme strongly came under review as well as efficient/justifiable use of the subsidy received from

DSD and other funders. Regrettably, after consultative processes with the DSD on a local, regional and head office level, Elkana Childcare decided to close the Drop-In as from 01 April 2015. However, in re-assessing the needs of the community, it was decided to expand on the After School Care programme by increasing intake from one hundred (100) children to one hundred and twenty (120) children as this programme is geared towards prevention of children dropping out of school and possibly ending up on the streets. The After School Care programme, since its inception in 2006 has successfully met the aforementioned goals/impact as none of the children, except one in 2014, have dropped out of school. An application to this effect was submitted to DSD in March 2014. We are registered for one hundred and twenty (120) children but need to raise funds for the extra intake before we can implement.

Elkana Childcare has been truly blessed with stakeholders, partners and friends who have been faithfully supportive of our work for a very long time such as DSD, Kinderfonds MAMAS, Swartland Municipality, Col. Joop Pinckaers and the trustees of the Elkana Childcare Outreach Foundation (ECOF), local churches, businesses and many individuals from the community. An exciting new venture has been initiated and launched by Kinderfonds MAMAS in October 2014 by their newly formed branch called MAMAS Alliance. They aim to enable access to CSI funding in South Africa for the twenty-three (23) organisations that they fund/partner in South Africa. Kinderfonds MAMAS goes beyond a funding relationship to face-to-face involvement with their organisations through a biennial SHARE Conference in South Africa whereat organisations learn from each other through sharing their best practices and challenges, and now, through this latest venture, to empower and strengthen their organisations' sustainability.

Our work was also enhanced by three (3) final year socio-pedagogue student volunteers from the Viaa University in the Netherlands who commenced with us in January 2015 and will stay until June 2015. They did their internship in our Temporary Safe Care programme under the supervision of our social worker and truly added value as their studies resonates with much of the disciplines practised in social work and child and youth care work in South Africa. This is an annual arrangement as we have an on-going working agreement with Viaa University. Likewise, we also benefitted from the assistance of volunteers from Germany who are students who have completed Matric. This too, occurs annually in collaboration with the Swartland Municipality's Student Exchange Programme.

We were also blessed with a caring Board of Directors who practice sound corporate governance principles in their strategic leadership, which had positive impact on Elkana Childcare's obligations in accountability and transparency.

Finally and in conclusion, I commend and thank staff, who against all odds, continued to render sterling work during this period. Their efforts and dedication has evidenced itself in the progress, safety, healing and transformation of the vulnerable and at risk children whom we serve.

Veronica (Ronni) Mehl - Executive Director

3. Social Worker's Report 1 April 2014-31 March 2015

I am privileged to be practicing social work services at Elkana for the past three (3) years and find it to be both challenging yet very rewarding as I am doing what I love!
The direct care-giving team consists of me and Child and Youth Care workers who collectively fulfil the essential functions in practicing holistic child care, protection and development. Annually, final year socio-pedagogue students from Viaa University (Netherlands) also form part of this team when they do their internships at Elkana for the first six (6) months of the year. Functions are broadly summarized as follows:

- Assistance and support to each child in the Temporary Safe Care Program in accordance with the Children's act 38 of 2005.
- Acting as a mediator between the child and the external organizations to ensure that decisions made are in the best interest of the child and in accordance with the Children's Act 38 of 2005.
- Facilitate communications between the child and family and significant others by means of family conferences/panel meetings to ensure that the family/significant others are involved as far as possible in the intervention concerning the child.
- Individual therapy: This is very delicate and at times very emotional but it allows for a deeper understanding of the extent of trauma that the child has endured and also allows for recommendations when placement is terminated.
- Group therapy: Very important as it allows the child to feel more at home as they get to know the other children at Elkana on a deeper level and it helps if they don't feel all alone.
- Helping the child adapt to their new temporary home and preparing them for the shift to a more permanent placement in the future.
- Ensuring good quality care that enables a child to develop more positively on physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual levels.
- Individual Development Programs for each child.
- Life-space work with children, maintaining and adhering to the Residential Care Daily Program

TEMPORARY SAFE CARE PROGRAM

We are registered with the Dept. of Social Development as a Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC): Temporary Safe Care (TSC) accommodating twenty-four (24) children aged 8-18 for 3-6 months.
More long-term placements or re-unification with family is arranged by external case-workers from Dept. Social Development, ACVV etc. Areas from which our children have come from over this period of reporting are as follows: Malmesbury, Piketberg, Wolsley, Atlantis, Moorreesburg, St. Helena Bay, Saldanah, Vredendal, Citrusdal, Paarl, Wellington, several farms surrounding the Swartland Region and Cape Town townships such as Bonteheuwel and Montana.

Children admitted to our CYCC have all been traumatised physically, emotionally and psychologically. The children do present with challenging behaviour as a result of their exposure to unjust circumstances or the impact of severe social ills experienced within

their family situation/communities. We therefore aim to provide a safe haven wherein children can adopt more socially acceptable coping skills and experience positive development.
Elkana Childcare provided Temporary Safe Care to thirty-one (31) children, (14 girls and 17 boys) in urgent need of care and protection during 2014/2015.
The following results were attained:

- Three (3) were placed back with biological family (re-unification)
- Ten (10) were placed into foster care
- Five (5) were placed in other, more long term CYCC's
- Two (2) were placed in CYCC's offering Secure Care programs and interventions

The rest of the children were still in our care as at 31 March 2015.

Our main focus is to secure the child's safety and ensure that all their basic needs are met (bed, food, ablution facilities, schooling) and thereafter an assessment is done in order to ascertain what therapy/intervention is needed in order to assist them to gain good self-esteem, behavior modification and to flourish. We aim to work in a holistic manner whereby various aspects of the child's life is taken into consideration before a specific type of therapeutic intervention is decided upon.

Play Therapy, (Mrs. Susan Botha was the play therapist during this reporting period), is an out-sourced intervention, which was introduced in 2013 after thorough assessments indicated that very deeply traumatized children needed a more intense type of therapy that we do not have in-house. Play therapy, in combination with Elkana Childcare's internal individual and group therapy activities worked great together and enabled the child to open up more and to verbally express their feelings. It has most positively impacted on school attendance and progress for those children in play therapy and has dramatically decreased our abscondance (run away) rate.
During this reporting period, seven (7) children benefitted from play therapy.
Our grateful thanks to Mrs. Inneke Wolf and Kinderfonds MAMAS for their financial support which enabled our children to access play therapy!

HIGHLIGHTS:

Ninety-eight percent (98%) of our children in TSC attended school. Overall, our incidents of "run aways" has decreased considerably. The children have responded very well to all therapeutic interventions available at Elkana. I have built good relationships with external social work service providers resulting in the occurrence of regular panel meetings which impacted positively on recommendations about where children should be placed when they exit Elkana.

Children's holiday placements are improving. There was a marked increase in foster care placement during this period - ten (10) children have found new homes with foster families. This is always a good thing as the child is part of a family structure again which is always preferable to institutionalization.

Sport, Recreation and Stimulating Activities: Our new sports field has made it possible for regular sporting activities to take place on the premises. The sport coach, Mr. Jannie Patterson, conducts sport/games/physical training in such an interesting and fun way that truly ensures the children's participation and enjoyment. It has been observed that children are physically healthier with improved concentration span.

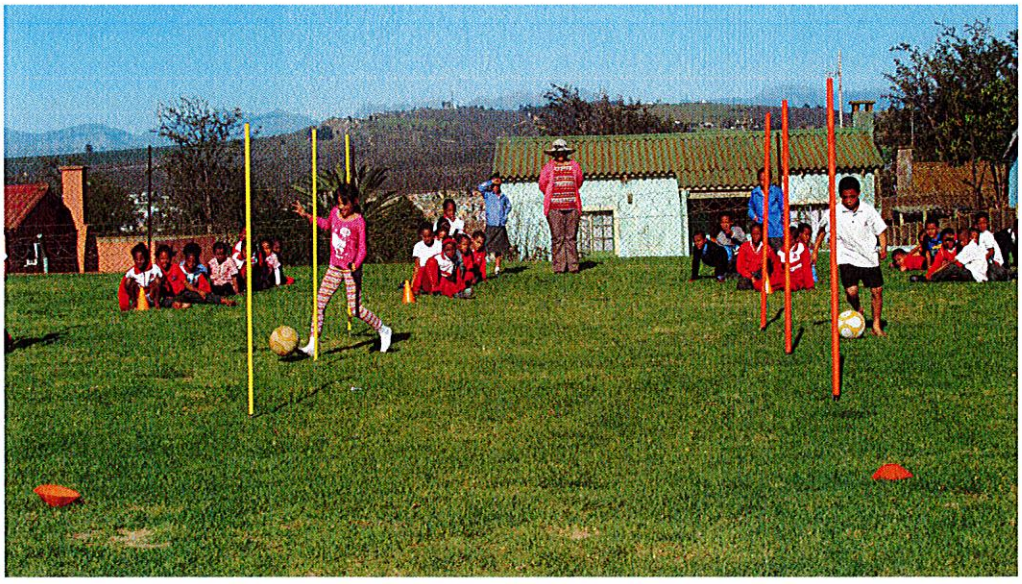
Residential children enjoyed various recreational and educational outings during the year that has helped them to learn more about their world/environment and was always great fun!

Some residential children, along with children in the After School Care Program make up the Elkana Steel Drum Band who have performed publicly at Waterfront, Baxter Theatre and other places. They have truly grown in confidence and positive comments on the quality of their performances have been received from many people. David Wickham from Steel-band Project: Western Cape, tutors the band twice weekly and under his most able and creative leadership, the band is thriving! Although the membership of the band is challenged by the fact that children in TSC exit the band when they exit Elkana, it has not negatively impacted on the quality of learning and performances. It is therefore understood that children in the After School Care program form the majority of the membership and remain in the band for a much longer period.

CONCLUSION:

Although we have had our share of challenges, we feel that the successes achieved during this period far outweigh them. The common thread that drives the implementation of all our programs is our duty to uphold, promote and maintain the rights of the child, as prescribed in the Children's Act 38 of 2005 - and more importantly, to equip children with the tools to know their rights and responsibilities and to be able to stand up for themselves.

Rochè Afrikaner - Social Worker



4. After School Care [ASC]

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. A great majority of our children 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 their very challenging, poverty-stricken home circumstances. None of the children who participated in our ASC program have dropped out of school during 2014/2015, except one. 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, Sport and Recreation (kindly refer to Temporary Safe Care Report on page 8) as the same information contained therein also applies to the ASC program.

We look forward to expanding the intake of children to one hundred and twenty (refer to Executive Director's Report, page 5, paragraph 1) as we are aware that there are many more children who are alone at home in risky situations in our community needing a safe place and assistance with homework and studies.

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 with them in their development, just as with the two (2) young people who have started Matric at the beginning of 2015 and who have been at Elkana for many years.

Most of the children have achieved good June and December 2014 and March 2015 school results. A significant amount of new children admitted during this period did not progress well with their schoolwork, especially with reading and numeracy when they started the program. It was therefore most rewarding to observe how their marks improved steadily during the course of the year in comparison to what it was at the time when they were enrolled in ASC.

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 from DSD: This has made possible the purchasing of educational aids, audio visual equipment, reading books and various other materials which truly enhance the quality of our assistance to the children.

A memorable Christmas Play "Bethlehem Star" in which children from all our programs took part was enjoyed by parents and community on 9 December 2014.

5. Drop In Centre (Final Report)

Beneficiaries: During this year, numbers of participants have reduced drastically e.g. fluctuating numbers attending were between one (1) and four (4), with zero attendance in the last quarter of this period i.e. 01 Jan 2015 - 31 March 2015. (Refer to Executive Director's Report, page 4, paragraph 2)
This program's main aim was 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 15 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 in the community, 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 staff fulfilled most of the activities stipulated in our DSD contract as follows:

- Awareness programs
- 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. Unfortunately the attendance rate of drop-ins has also affected parent participation in planned workshops
- 1 Holiday program

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Two (2) teenagers returned to school (ABET) to further their education
- One (1) teenager sought help for his drug addiction problem through attending a program run by DSD.

6. Board of Directors & Staff

Board of Directors

Mrs. Tania Botha	Chairperson
Mr. Attie Slabbert	Vice Chairperson
Mr. John Louw	Director
Mrs. Maude Goliath	Director
Mr. Abie Witbooi	Director
Dr. Anita Jacobs	Director
Mr Reginald Kortje	Director
Mrs. Eileen Basson	Director
Mrs Veronica Mehl	Executive Director

Elkana Childcare Staff

Mrs. Veronica Mehl	Executive Director
Mrs. Rochè Afrikaner	Social Worker
Mrs. Anet de Beer	Administrator
Mrs. Eileen Basson	Financial Clerk
Mrs. Marion de Kock	Cook
Mrs. Susan Karolus	Cleaner

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 Program

Mrs. Mary Otto	Child and Youth Care Worker
Mr. Gleston Adams	Child and Youth Care Worker

Temporary Safe Care (TSC)

Mrs. Glenda Conrad	Child and Youth Care Worker
Mr. Mujaahid Naidoo	Child and Youth Care Worker
Miss Mersha Nero	Child and Youth Care Worker
Mr. Xola Tsholoba	Child and Youth Care Worker
Mr. Heinrich Wentzel	Child and Youth Care Worker
Mrs Bernetta Howburg	Child and Youth Care Worker

7. Our Children Share

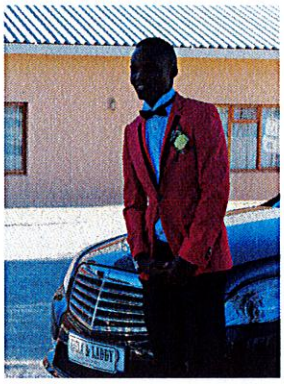
Contributions shared are unedited

Temporary Safe Care:

Elkana Childcare is place of safety to everyone without regarding your ethnic. It is a place where every child has the right to reach his/her stars and develop well-being amongst other people. It's a place filled with love of God found through people such as social worker, management, child and youth care workers etc. As individual Elkana Childcare means a lot to me and to other who pass in this path. I can further my studies at Elkana Childcare and I am very passionate about it.

God Bless Elkana Childcare

Laddy



Drop in:

I have learned a lot at Elkana Childcare and it improved my life. I always felt welcome, happy and don't regret it. When we went on camps I discovered things about my character that I never knew - discovering things about myself is one of the greatest things that could happen to me. Elkana Childcare is a fantastic facility and I thank everyone who played a role.

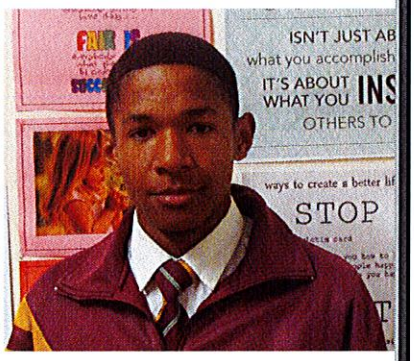
Jason



After School Care (ASC):

I am in ASC since 2007 and was still in primary school when I first came to Elkana Childcare. I am now in Matric (GR12) and the love, respect and assistance that I've received are one of the main things that kept me at Elkana Childcare and it meant a lot to me. I want to make a success of my school career and want to thank Elkana Childcare for the love and care towards us as after school care children. I do hope that more children will benefit from this project.

Keaton



7. Thank you

The Board of Directors, Staff and Children hereby express their heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all individuals, businesses, foundations, organizations, volunteers and funders of the past 2014/2015 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.

Children's Fund MAMAS (Netherlands)
Department of Social Development (Western Cape)
Elkana Childcare Outreach Foundation (ECOF)
Swartland Municipality
Swartland Social Development Forum
Mrs I Wolf (Netherlands)
National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund (NLDTF)
Order of St Lazarus, Maastricht, Netherlands

Malmesbury Local Businesses and friends (financial support and goods in kind)
Geard Pharmacy, Malmesbury
Kekkel & Kraai
Pioneer Foods (Including Sasko)
Swartland Vleis
G & H Verwerking
Raimondi's
Rainbow Chickens
Local Churches
Malmesbury Kwekery
JB'S Nissan
Karl and Marionne Knops
Bubbles
Dr. van Niekerk
Checkers
G5 Investments (Henning Foundation)
Ackermans
Rooidraai Boerdery

Numerous individuals from the Community

Volunteers
Volunteers Germany: Allie, Lucas, Caroline, Max and Thora
Viaa University, Netherlands: Social Work Interns: Frank, Wianne and Anneke

Funders