Elkana Childcare

Annual Report

Period 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

Volume 17



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Name of Account:	**Elkana Childcare** **Cheque Account: 128 505 6434** **Branch Code: 154605; Swift Code: NEDSZAJJ**

Cover photo: Friends of Zelda House (Ireland) visit in March 2019

1. Chairperson's Report

Introduction

It is with pleasure that I present our 2018/19 Annual Report to you in reflection of the reporting period 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019.

Gratitude

Thank you to all stakeholders that blessed us with their time, their passion, their knowledge and where possible with their financial assistance. Elkana Childcare can only deliver on our promises due to your involvement and dedication. Without the continued support of our staff, Board members, the community and our donors, this report would not be possible.

Change/Challenges

Certain challenges remained constant although the Social Development arena has changed over the past few years. Despite this, we still regard ourselves as privileged and remain thankful for the support we received during the past 12 months from longstanding funders, donors and our community. An exciting and refreshing addition has been the launching of our new After School Care in Riverlands as from 01 August 2018. More details will be shared in the Executive Director and After School Care reports in this edition.

Thankfully we have not reached "Day Zero" in the Western Cape, but a positive mental shift took place to never underestimate nature and our dependence on our natural resources. We have always followed a sustainable approach, but the recent draught has certainly created a renewed sense of urgency to respect nature and to minimize and manage our footprint.

Looking ahead

A new season with new leadership in various positions will commence on 1 April 2019 and I wish them well with their journey. May the Lord keep His hand of protection over Elkana in every way so that the organisation may prosper and continue to be the place where lives are changed and future leaders are shaped.

Conclusion

Thank you for the privilege granted to me of leading the organization as Chairperson for the past 6 years, it has been a good journey with lots of learnings and personal growth, I salute you!

Tania Botha

2. Executive Director's Report

Brief Overview

It truly has been a good year evidenced by the following:

•**Financial stability** (we are not rich but thanks to God and all our funders, enough income (also goods in kind) has been received to meet all children's needs)

•**Expansion of our services**: Addition of a new After School Care (ASC) Riverlands.
A new ASC was implemented at the Riverlands Primary School, Riverlands in August 2018. Riverlands has been identified as a community where this programme would add much value. The programme replicates the model of our ASC at our centre in Wesbank.

The addition of the ASC in Riverlands means that Elkana Childcare has increased its reach to one hundred (100) more children and that we now serve two hundred and twenty-four (224) vulnerable and at risk children through our various programmes ie. (24 in Temporary Residential Safe Care and 200 in After School Care).

Without the following partners, this significant growth and expansion would simply not have been possible and I hereby express my deepest appreciation to:

- Mr. J.B. Saunders, Principal of Riverlands Primary School who acknowledged the need for an ASC in the area and for consenting to the accommodation of the ASC at his school. We value his participation and insights during the planning processes and his continued support.
- Special tribute to Kinderfonds MAMAS (Netherlands) for full sponsorship and continued support.
- Friends of Zelda House (FOZH) Ireland for their generous co-support

We are confident that in time, that this new programme will be just as successful as our 13 year old ASC in Wesbank.

•***Quality Monitoring/Evaluation of the Temporary Residential Care Programme by Department of Social Services (DSD) 29 – 31 May 2018***

The outcome of the above-mentioned process has resulted in huge and valuable learnings for us. Despite the fact that we were found to be compliant on most matters as an organisation, there were also issues of near compliancy and non-compliancy. Thereafter, the rest of the year was dedicated to efforts in reaching compliance, with regular monitoring and feedback from DSD. This process will continue into the new financial year of 2019/2020 and is earmarked for finalisation by September 2019. We have progressed/achieved much by end March 2019, therefore, I acknowledge, with heartfelt thanks, the team effort of our board of directors, social worker, administrator and child and youth care workers for their hard work and dedication in striving to fulfil the goals stemming from the DSD Evaluation.

• ***Share Conference***

11-15 October 2018 – The above was attended by Roché and I. The event is hosted by Kinderfonds MAMAS every two years and is always a rich platform of learning and sharing our work in aiming to provide services and interventions which are truly in the best interest of the child. Kinderfonds MAMAS supports approximately thirty-five (35) organisations working with

vulnerable at risk children throughout South Africa. This event, for me, is the epitome of not working in isolation but engaging with like-minded partners to find solutions to address the suffering of overwhelming numbers of children in South Africa.

Funder Visits

Kinderfonds MAMAS and Friends of Zelda House visited the organisation during this period and communicated that they were very pleased with the work of Elkana. Friends of Zelda House treated the children to various outings, meals etc. and the children truly had fun interacting with them.

We sadly bid farewell to Mrs. Mary Otto, Child and Youth Care Worker who was also one of the founders/pioneers of Elkana. She has been in our employ since the year 2000 and retired in December 2018 due to ill health. Elkana Childcare commends Mary for 18 years of loving and dedicated service and her huge contribution towards the well-being of children in her care.

We also bid farewell to Mrs. Tania Botha, Chairperson of the Boards from 2012 – 31 March 2019. Elkana has benefited positively from her leadership skills and professional knowledge.

Conclusion

I conclude my report by expressing my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all our stakeholders, board, staff and children at Elkana – Together we make a difference!

Veronica (Ronni) Mehl



FOZH visit to Elkana in March 2019

3. Financial Director's Report for the year (2018/2019)

I have now served a full financial year as Financial Director and it is really with thankfulness that I present this report. There were various challenges eg. the constant increases in daily running costs as well as our maintenance/repairs of our aging vehicles.

We are thus deeply appreciative of the following funders, many of whom are long-standing, multiple year partners of Elkana Childcare:

Department of Social Development:	
Child and Youth Care Centre	R 1 081 460.00
After School Care – Wesbank	R 211 200.00
Kinderfonds MAMAS (Netherlands):	
Child and Youth Care Centre & After School Care (Wesbank)	R 600 000.00
After School Care (Riverlands)	R 300 000.00
Friends of Zelda House (Ireland):	
Child and Youth Care Centre & After School Care (Wesbank)	R 220 751.95
After School Care (Riverlands)	R 59 999.04
Beansa Trust	R 16 500.00
Mix Telematics	R 50 411.00
Poultry Handling Services	R 23 310.50
Swartland Municipality	R 45 000.00
Stitching The Order of St Lazarus (Netherlands)	R 28 000.00
VGK Church	R 11 163.15
MC Steel	R 15 000.00
Donations – Various Donors	R 16 886.80
TOTAL FUNDER & DONOR INCOME	R 2 679 682.44

Funding income reflects 11% growth in comparison with the previous (2017/2018) financial year which is very positive indeed. Likewise there was significant growth in expenditure as well, especially on running costs such as food, electricity, fuel etc. but despite this, we nevertheless managed to close the financial year (2018/2019) with an operational surplus of R25 657.66.

It is my opinion that the Board together with the management and personnel of Elkana Childcare has done really well in providing care and development to our children at Elkana. We will continue in serving and managing Elkana to the best of our ability with available funding and resources.

The full financial information for the period under review can be found in our Audited Annual Financial Statements on our website: www.elkanachildcare.co.za

Catharina (Karen) Bester

4. Social Worker's Report

Introduction

What a year it's been. New challenges, new beginnings and new cases. This year has seen me at my lowest as well at my highest. Professionally it was very challenging. It is amazing how our society evolves every year and how issues that were dormant spring to life and causes an increase in child removals. Every child that is placed in our care is special and unique, they are a product of the families. Many judge too harshly and do not allow room for the children to tell their story. No child was born to misbehave or be disrespectful. My heart bleeds for those without voices, for those who live just because they are alive. I want to help them to love life and live it to the fullest.

Residential Temporary Safe Care Program (TSC)

Elkana is registered with the Department of Social Development as a Child and Youth Care Centre specializing in Temporary Safe Care. It can more simply be defined as an immediate access to care and protection for vulnerable and at-risk children. Temporary safe care is for 3-6 months, within this time the child will be assessed and the social worker will then determine what interventions are most needed for that child. Most of the children who enter Elkana have more than one type of trauma and therefore assessments are vital to establish which areas to develop first. A daunting task but clearly in the best interest of the child and in this regard, I rely on Child and Youth Care Workers to give feedback on the child. They work within the life space of the child and should most definitely pick up on issues that I may be unaware of.

Once assessments are completed which includes medicals and IDP's (Individual Development Plans), there are four main referral options. They are as follows:

- CYCC's (Child and Youth Care Centres): specialising in programs that could potentially help the child. There are different levels of CYCC's, namely level 1, 2, 3 and secure care.
- Family reunification: either back to biological parents or extended paternal or maternal family.
- Foster care placement: placement is secured for a minimum of 2 years and does not have to be biological family. State grant are issued to foster parents. All foster parents must be screened by an external social work agency and police clearance certificates are essential.
- Adoption: this option is very rare for our age group of children, but still remains one of the referral options.

Elkana accommodates 24 children, 12 girls and 12 boys up until the age of 18. Our total new intake for this financial year stands at 16. It has decreased from last year's 36 and it has had negative impact on many of the children. CYCC's are constantly full and foster care parents are becoming very picky as to whom they want to foster. The other reason is the biggest, the family structures are not strong enough to hold the children, therefore Elkana has to care and protect them until a suitable placement is found.

Children were placed out during this period as follows

Re-unification: 9

Re-unification back into the family system is very poor, the exact reason is unknown, due to the low numbers of reunification our children tend to stay longer as they have to wait for placement at long term CYCC, which could be quite a wait. This total decreased from last year's 11.

Foster care: 0

Really sad that no foster care placements were done this year, could be due to the increased rise in foster care breakdowns.

Long term CYCC: 10

Due to weak family bonds and addictions, this number has increased from last year's 2.

Secure CYCC: 0

Adoption: 0

Core functions of my role

- Assistance and support to each child at Elkana with adherence to and in compliance with the Children's Act 38 of 2005. In addition, to act as a custodian of the aforementioned Act and to ensure that it is complied with internally at Elkana.
- Act as a mediator between the child and relevant external organisations to ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of the child and in compliance with the above-mentioned Children's Act.
- Facilitate communications between child, family and significant others through family conferencing and panel meetings to ensure that family/significant others are involved as much as possible in interventions concerning the child.
- Help to ease the adaption of children into Elkana and prepare children for the eventual shift to a future, more permanent placement.

Therapeutic interventions

Individual therapy

This type of therapy commences on intake. Assessments are done on intake to ensure that the child concerned understands why he/she is placed at Elkana and all misconceptions are dealt with. During the first individual sessions expectations are discussed and a plan of action is formulated with the child. Emotional trauma is assessed and referrals are done accordingly as well. The importance of schooling is also discussed to prepare the child for school. Elkana rules and regulations are also discussed and implemented.

Group therapy

These groups are formulated from individual sessions with the children. Through individual therapy, group therapy is formulated depending on the issues of concern. Group therapy can

be formal or informal. The set up and information will change depending on the different age groups. All groups are presented in an age appropriate manner.

Play therapy

Dr. Potgieter saw 7 children and one Child and Youth Care Worker this year. The results were very good and has helped children to work through trauma that was so deeply buried. Play therapy occurs once per week and I refer children with complex trauma to Dr. Potgieter to assist in assessing what the correct therapeutic invention would be as well as a permanency plan for the future. We work together to act in the best interest of the child.

Highlights

We had an amazing and blessed year amongst all the hi's and lo's. Our funder from Ireland, John and his wife visited us in March and took the time to know the children and to spoil them with a beach visit and nice treats. We also had a project/raffle done on our behalf by the Comfy Kidz project which helped us renovate our TV room and purchase big comfortable poofs for the children to sit on and watch TV.

I am also happy to report that all our children have been enrolled and are actively in school and are coping well. We pride ourselves that all our children have a fair chance at schooling no matter the challenges and obstacles that might come with it.

Conclusion

What more is there more say except that my passion drives me daily, I am proud of who I have become since I walked in Elkana's doors 7 years ago. I have grown so much. Balancing being a professional and a mother and wife is at times challenging and draining but I would not change it for the world. Social work is my calling and every day I come to work I realise I am keenly aware of that. The children who are placed in my care have all shaped the social worker I am today.

Roché Afrikaner



Residential programme bush camp in March 2019

5. After School Care Report (ASC)

Purpose:

The main purpose of our ASC programmes is to prevent/protect school-going children from the risks of drugs, gangsterism, dropping out of school, crime etc. A great majority of the community's children are alone at home after school, therefore vulnerable to the aforementioned risk factors. We proudly regard our ASC's as our main prevention program and is attended on a daily basis by approximately 200 school-going children in Wesbank and Riverlands. We believe that motivating and encouraging children who are vulnerable and at risk to complete schooling, will have positive impact on their futures.

Beneficiaries

200 school going children living in poverty and challenging circumstances.
Daily programme: Monday to Friday
Areas: Wesbank and Riverlands

I am honored to have been managing the ASC and forming part of the establishment of ASC Riverlands since the beginning of the financial year. Small changes were necessary in the working structures to ensure good standards of work and improved communication between parents and ASC staff.

We welcome the new staff appointed in August 2018 to run the ASC in Riverlands (refer to Organogram on page 13) as well as Claudia Stuurman to Wesbank ASC who is qualified and experienced in Drama. Congratulations to Martha Adonis who was promoted to Assistant Co-Ordinator at the Wesbank ASC after many years of employment as ASC Assistant.

Daily Programme Activities:

The program offers nutrition, assistance and support for homework, study, and some life-skills in a safe, caring and stimulating environment. Children also have the opportunity to be part of our own Steel Drum Band, Drama group, Sport and recreational activities, and stimulating educational games.





Numerous activities, and school holiday programmes, in addition to the daily programmes, took place throughout the year. This resulted in positive outcomes for the children such as:

- Awareness of the significance and meaning of Mother's Day, Youth Day, Hygiene, My Heritage, Women's Day, Child Rights and Responsibilities , Child Abduction and Safety Awareness etc.
- Improved self-esteem and confidence
- Steady / Gradual Improved School results.

Elkana Steelband's public performances occurred at:
- POP Centre in Riebeeck West
- Waterfront and Baxter Theatre Cape Town
- Official opening of the ASC Riverlands
- Elkana Childcare AGM 2018

We are so proud of both Wesbank and Riverlands Steelbands.

Feedback on School Progress

Most children have achieved good school results in 2018/2019. A significant number of children struggle with literacy and numeracy. Children cannot read, therefore they cannot write and are unable to read the exam questions. We do our utmost best to assist the children in subjects that needs improvement. It was rewarding to observe the steady improvement in their marks.

Challenges

We are challenged by the following:
- Registration forms: Parents often do not return these forms or do not complete them properly. We need to submit registration details to Department of Social Development (DSD)
- Attendance: Children do not attend during exam periods therefore we are unable to assist with exam preparations.
- There are many children who only attend ASC for 1-3 days per month, therefore we are unable to register them as part of our 100 children. We are registered for 100 with DSD and this inconsistent attendance results in reporting reduced numbers to DSD.

We will seriously address the above-mentioned challenges in the New Year.

Conclusion

During this financial year we made some changes to the way we work which has made a difference such as, maths and language marks improved, bullying – almost none for the year, improved attitude of children towards staff and peers. My team has shown growth and I am extremely proud of them and appreciate their various abilities. This has made it so much easier to plan for the year and to implement and improve on certain aspects of our program. We will keep on striving to improve on the program and to have a positive impact on our children's lives.



Tania Boonzaaier-Snel

6. Elkana Childcare Organogram

Elkana Childcare

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tania Botha	- Chairperson
Veronica Mehl	- Executive Director
Karen Bester	- Financial Director
Rizqoh Bowers	- Director
Dr. Anita Jacobs	- Director
Reginald Kortje	- Director
Elizma Titus	- Director

Elkana Childcare

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Veronica Mehl

SOCIAL WORKER
Rochè Afrikaner

CHILD & YOUTH CARE WORKERS (CYCW) (7)

Xola Tsholoba
Sheraldene Blanckenberg
Joslin Nero
Estelle Domingo
Glenda Conrad
Moipone Tsoloane
Viwe Mabombo

AFTERSCHOOL CARE */ CO-ORDINATOR
Tania Boonzaaier-Snel (Wesbank)
Muneebah Sulaiman (Riverlands)

ASC -ASSISTANTS (Wesbank)
Martha Adonis (Asst. Co– Ordinator)
Wilhelmien West
Claudia Stuurman

RIVERLANDS
Sherene Hendricks
Elsabe Kay-Dirks

Katriena Smith (Cook)

ADMINISTRATOR / PA
Shelton Cottee

COOK/Ass. CYCW
Samantha Du Toit

FINANCE CLERK
Rizqoh Bowers

Groundsman / Driver
Xavann Arendse

Cleaner
Rachel Muller

Staff turnover: 01/04/2018 - 31/03/2019
C. Du Plessis left in September 2018 - replaced by Sheraldene Blankenberg in January 2019
M. Otto - retired on 31 December 2018 - replaced by Viwe Mabombo in January 2019

7. Thank you

Funders:

Department of Social Development (Western Cape)
Kinderfonds MAMAS (Netherlands)
Swartland Municipality
Order of St Lazarus, Maastricht, Netherlands
Friends of Zelda House (Ireland)
Lotto
Investec
Community Chest
Mac Steel
Santam Insurance
Mix Telematics RSA

Various Cash Donors (Named in Annual Financial Statements)

Local Businesses and Friends (financial support and goods in kind/services)

Malmesbury Superspar
Pioneer Foods
SASKO
Local Churches
Bubbles
Checkers
Pick & Pay
Ackermans
Jet Malmesbury
Tip Top Malmesbury
OK MiniMark
Legit Malmesbury
Food Forward SA