ELKANA CHILDCARE

Elkana Childcare Annual Report

Period 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Volume 18



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1. Chairperson's Report

Introduction

It is with pleasure that I present Elkana's Annual Report to all Stakeholders, reflecting on the year 2019/20. The report is somewhat late, but you will understand given the Covid 19 limitations and the sudden death of Ronni Mehl in June 2020 and the impact it had on everyone.

I will always remember Ronni for her hard work, dedication and commitment. Elkana was her "home" and she protected it with everything she had.
Thank you, Ronni, you were a special person.

Due to strict Covid 19 directives, the AGM and the last Board meeting were combined. I apologize for the late report.

Overview

2020 was a year that no one could have predicted. It was sudden, we were scared, anxious and one of the biggest challenges was the unfamiliar terrain that everyone had to face. To all the stakeholders who gave their time and energy, we are very grateful and feel blessed. Many thanks to all donors, employees, Board members and those with knowledge regarding Covid 19 who came forward.

The children to whom Elkana provides a service surprised us through their understanding, behavior and cooperation. A special occasion was also organised to thank the employees and the children. Their actions are undoubtedly commendable.

Challenges

The term "new normal" is used to describe the future. For Elkana, it is a reality with the death of Ronni Mehl in June 2020. Not only was it a shock, but everything changed again in one day and the management of Elkana had to continue. Rochè Afrikaner took over the responsibilities of Ronni Mehl together with her existing tasks as the Social Worker. We are also grateful that she was appointed into Ronni's vacancy and that the Social Worker's post could also be filled with a very good candidate.

2019/20 was also a period of great changes in the upgrading of assets of Elkana. We got funds from the Lotto and were able to exchange our old Bus and car for a brand new 16-seater Bus and a good used car. The local Municipality also made funds available that we could use to fence the site with a cement wall. Other funds from House of Zelda and Mama's have incredibly helped to upgrade old assets as a service to our kids.

To all the donors, big and small, myself and the Council would like to thank you very much because your contributions make it possible to raise the standard of Elkana, every year.

The future

The future of the world and that of Elkana will be influenced by Covid 19. We are very grateful that none of the children or employees contracted Covid 19. Yes, there were a few that had to go into isolation, but through good management and the effective compliance of PPE directives, Elkana has been to date able to escape the virus.

Our biggest challenge for the next 12 months is going to be financial. Initiatives have been put into place to save money in all areas to enable us to pay the fixed costs. We are very aware of the financial pressure that Covid 19 is putting on donors, but we believe that with good governance and a culture of responsibility, 2021 will also be a productive year for Elkana.

Last words

It is not possible to say thank you to all donors by name, but you know who you are and for that every child is grateful, because in that way a safe haven for them can be maintained.

I greet you with these words:
Gratitude is a vaccine, an antidote and a cure"

Richard Kruger

2. Executive Director's Report



"If I accept you as you are, I will make you worse; however if I treat you as though you are what you are capable of becoming, I help you become that" – Johann Wolfgang van Goethe

Mrs. Veronica Mehl used to live by the above quote, in meaning if she sees potential in a person she will strive to help the person to do better and go the extra mile.

Due to the sudden passing of Mrs. Veronica Mehl in June 2020, an Executive Directors report is not available as we will never see the Organisation through her eyes and also the vision that she had for Elkana Childcare.

Funder Visits

Kinderfonds MAMAS (Nov 2019) and Friends of Zelda House (March 2020) visited the organisation during this period and communicated that they were very pleased with the work of Elkana. FOZH treated the children to various outings; meals etc. and the children truly had fun interacting with them. They also spoiled the Elkana Childcare staff members for a breakfast at one of our local restaurants.



3. Financial Director's Report for the year (2019/2020)

It is really with great thankfulness that I present this report. The year 2019/2020 was a year where so much planning and work came together in results that exceeded our expectations. With daily running cost just getting higher it stays a challenge to keep on seeking funding, but through hard work of our leader and her team extra funding was obtained, and this helped carry the rising expenses. Last year this time we had the worry of vehicles getting old and just increasing in cost, and this year we were blessed with a bus from Lotto and we could trade in our old bus and Golf and buy a reliable second hand car.

We are very thankful for the following funders who supported us during the year, many of them with whom we have a relationship for many years, for which we are very thankful. We also welcome all of our new funders aboard and really hope we can continue with a good relationship for many years to come:

Department of Social Development:	
Child and Youth Care Centre	R1 137 014.00
After School Care – Wesbank	R 206 712.00
Kinderfonds MAMAS (Netherlands):	
Child and Youth Care Centre & After School Care (Wesbank)	R 550 000.00
After School Care (Riverlands)	R 275 000.00
Friends of Zelda House (Ireland):	
Child and Youth Care Centre & ASC (Wesbank & Riverlands)	R 305 174.40
Beansa Trust	R 16 500.00
Capitec Foundation	R 60 000.00
Investec	R 23 536.00
Murray & Roberts	R 30 000.00
Swartland Municipality	R 92 340.00
National Lotteries Commission	R 442 726.00
Grandslots	R 114 000.00
Sygnia	R 40 000.00
Donations – Various Donors	R 17 356.75
Total	R3 310 359.15

The income shows a 23.50 % growth in comparison with the previous financial year, which is very positive. Although we had a significant growth in expenses, specifically on normal running cost like food, electricity, etc we still managed to close the year with a profit of R595 694.02. This must not be misinterpreted as the donation from the National Lottery was exclusively allocated for the purchase of the bus of R442 726.00, leaving us with a profit of R152 966.02. This profit, for a NPO like Elkana can only be reached through hard work and dedication of all involved, namely management, personal and the Board.

All of our projects, including Temporary Safe Care and our two After School Care programmes are running smoothly and with great success, for which we are thankful to all involved.

Keeping this NPO viable and financially healthy will always be a challenge, but as Board we believe that with the continued support of our Funders and well managed structures and leadership we will be able to carry on the good work done by those before us.

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:

This year brought on new changes and new challenges. Unemployment has increased and with this the increase in domestic violence within the household increased at a rapid rate, leaving our children vulnerable and at risk.

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 as to what help is needed so that the child concerned gets the intervention most needed. Most of the children who enter Elkana have more than one type of trauma and therefore assessments are important to look at which areas to develop first. This is quite a daunting task but it is in the best interest of the child and in this regard, I rely on my Child and Youth care workers to give feedback on the child as they work within the life space of the child and could most definitely pick up on issues that I have not picked up on.

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

- **CYCC's** (Child and Youth Care centre's), specializing in programs that could potentially help the child. There are different levels of CYCC's, namely level 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, it does not have to be biological family. In this regard, a grant will be issued to help with financial liabilities. All foster placements must be screened by an external social work agency and police clearance certificates are essential.
- **Adoption**, this option is very rare for older children, but it still remains one of the referral options.

Elkana accommodates 24 boys and girls 6-17 years of age. Our total intake for this financial year stands at 23.

Children were placed out during this period as follows:

Re-unification: 15

Re-unification back into the family system has increased considerably this year. I must admit it was a good year for Elkana in terms of placing our children back into their family systems. This is thanks to regular panel meetings and update reports from external social workers and biological family. Our staff also played a huge role in helping our children work through their trauma so that they could be placed back into the family system.

Foster care: 0

Really sad that no foster care placements were done this year, reasons could stem from the Covid 19 pandemic and the fact that social workers only went out on emergencies and avoided home visits where possible. Foster care breakdowns are also on an increase so social workers are extra cautious in their screenings and placements.

Long term CYCC: 16

Due to weak family bonds and addictions, this number has increased from last year's 10. The start of the COVID 19 pandemic also played a huge role as many parents lost their jobs and home circumstances deteriorated.

Secure CYCC: 2

These children needed deeper interventions which Elkana was not equipped with as we are only a temporary safe care facility.

Adoption: 0

This remains an option but Elkana has not had one adoption thus far. It is very rare but still one of the best options should it present itself.

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 the relevant external organizations 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.
- Ensuring that the child's developmental needs are met on all levels possible and this includes education (schooling).
- Assessment of children and to transfer for external therapeutic services where needed.

Therapeutic interventions:

Individual therapy:

This type of therapy commencing 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 as 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:

Elkana uses play therapy as one of the external therapeutic interventions to help the children with complex trauma adjust to their new environment. Play therapy aims to do the following:

- Teach the child to communicate better
- Change existing dysfunctional behaviour and understanding where it comes from
- Help the child develop coping mechanisms that are not destructive or harmful to themselves and others
- Enhancing the child's natural ability to express their feelings to resolve conflict through play.



Our children have one session per week and we send about 4 children at a time. We have seen remarkable changes in children since they started play therapy. It does not have an effect on all our children but the majority have proven that it has altered the way they deal with difficult situations and has eased traumatic experiences so that they can be part of group work and interact with others. Directive and non-directive approaches are used in this type of therapy.

Highlights:

Definitely one of our highlights for this year is that at the end of 2019, 15 children were reunified with their biological families. We have also experienced a huge decrease in our abscondence rates and that can directly be linked to our modified programs (which we are still busy upgrading).

Conclusion:

This year was by far the most stressful of my 8 years but I have grown and learnt so much about my profession, the clients (children) I serve and about myself. I have learnt that self-love is needed in order for you to help the most vulnerable, our children. Every day I get up for work, I am blessed because I can make a difference every day, and that is what drives me. I am looking forward to all the new programs that are yet to come.

"As we lose ourselves in the service of others, we discover our own lives and our own happiness" -Dieter. F. Uchtdorf

Roché Afrikaner

Pictures of Elkana Childcare Residential children



Valentine's Day 14 February 2020



Residential children at Waterfront



Christmas day 2019





Heritage day 2019



Steelband outing to Waterfront



16 Days of Activism Nov 2019

5. After School Care Report (ASC) RIVERLANDS & WESBANK

Purpose of the ASC Programmes

The main purpose of our ASC programmes in Riverlands and Wesbank 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. We believe that motivating and encouraging children who are vulnerable and at risk to complete schooling, will have positive impact on their futures.

Riverlands After School Care

Beneficiaries

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

Elkana Riverlands afterschool care opened its curtain in August 2018 and had the official opening on 14 August 2018. Upon opening we had incredible support of the Riverlands community, Riverlands Primary teaching and non- teaching staff and our stars: all the lovable faces of Riverlands Primary learners. Elkana Riverlands afterschool care had a successful opening, and are up and running thanks to Elkana Wesbank afterschool care staff and all Elkana staff.

Elkana Riverlands afterschool was initiated to support 100 learners from poverty stricken circumstances and encourage them to stay in school which prevents them from dropping out of school due to various challenging circumstances at home. Prevention of children landing on the street is also pertinent here as it is the proven case with most school drop outs in the Riverlands community. The purpose of the afterschool is to feed 100 learners and assist them with homework and other school work and activities with the focus on Languages and Mathematics. We strive to do all this in a fun way.

Daily Program Activities:

Our daily program consists of 45 minutes free play to allow the learners to relax after a 7 hour school day of sitting in a class (what a challenge for their little brains). During the free play they get their warm plate of food or a sandwich to enjoy. A routine bathroom break follows the free play and immediately after, the class work and homework session starts. Class activities are planned according to the curriculum and with the guidance of the teachers at Riverlands Primary. Elkana Riverlands afterschool care staff and the staff of Riverlands Primary works hand-in-hand to ensure the learners receive the assistance they need. Together we discuss the progress and development of learners and identify the learners who need any other assistance. Quarterly reports are done of learners' progress based on their marks obtained in their school reports.

July 2019 we said goodbye to an afterschool-care assistant, Sherene Hendricks. We wish her well with her future endeavors. On 26 August 2019 we welcomed Siroudia Davids to the afterschool family as our new assistant. She has proven since then that she definitely belongs.

Challenges:

Elkana Riverlands afterschool care got to face a whole lot of challenges within these two years. The staff together with Mrs. Mehl always found solutions and no challenge was ever too big for us to overcome.

Successful Fundraising:

On 14 February 2020 Elkana Riverlands Afterschool held their very first fundraiser. The learners sold sweets and chips and they thoroughly enjoyed it. In March 2019 we got a visit from John and Margaret from Friends of Zelda House and the children loved the attention and spoils. In November 2019 we had a visit from Kinderfonds MAMAS. The learners kept them entertained and what a sight it was. The learners who are part of the Steelband went to perform at the Waterfront on two occasions. The exposure and performance did them the world of good. For some of our learners it was seeing Cape Town for the very first time or seeing a big truck for the first time.

Feedback on School Progress:

According to the results of March and June 2019 examination, 92% of the learners in the intermediate- and senior phase who are registered at Elkana Riverlands afterschool had an overall improvement in their work 38 learners improved, 9 learners delivered outstanding work but can do better, 2 learners achieved average results and 9 learners did not meet the requirements. These 9 learners have repeated a grade in the phase already and some of them, the school itself enrolled at the School of Skills. The foundation phase had a 72% improvement according to the results. 20 learners improved, 6 learners showed improvement and weakened in some subjects and 10 learners didn't have any improvement.

Two pupils in grade 2 were unsuccessful in term 4, two pupils in grade 3, four learners in grade 4 and one learner in grade 5. Even though they did not pass the exams, they have been improving remarkably. The remaining 90 children registered at Elkana Riverlands after school has passed in 2019.

We are proud of all our learners because no matter what their academic results were they remained in school. This is our greatest achievement.

Conclusion:

Elkana Riverlands afterschool care wish to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who made all of this possible for us and our learners. Thank you for trusting us, thank you for putting a smile on each of their faces.

Muneebah Sulaiman

PICTURES OF RIVERLANDS ASC

Children playing chess





Valentine's day Fundraising







MAMA Ronni with Riverlands ASC during Kinderfonds MAMAS visit.

Wesbank After School Care

***Beneficiaries**:*

100 school going children living in poverty and challenging circumstances.
Daily programme: Monday to Friday
Area: Wesbank

This was yet another successful year for the afterschool; we could see the development and growth of the learners over this period. I am thankful for the teamwork between staff and parents who assisted us in the development of their children.

Afterschool staff attended a strategic planning workshop December 2019 and this was fruitful to be part of the process.





Activities:

The program offers nutrition, assistance and support for homework, study, and some life-skills in a safe, caring and stimulating environment. Children are granted the opportunity to be part of our own Steel Drum Band, Drama group, Sport and recreational activities. We play stimulating educational games with the children and focus on all age groups.
Numerous activities and school holiday programmes, in addition to the daily programmes take place throughout the year. This resulted in positive outcomes for the children such as:

- Awareness of the significance and meaning of public holidays such as: Freedom Day, Mother's Day, Youth Day, Heritage Day, Women's Day, Women and Child Rights, Fight against abuse, Right and Responsibilities of a Child, Peer Pressure and Safety Awareness etc.
- This improved the children's self-esteem and confidence
- It resulted in steady/gradual improvement in school results
- Children learned how to work in a group, but also individually

During these awareness programmes the children were able to ask questions and got a better understanding of the importance of such developmental programmes.

- Our drama and dance group had various performances and this enhanced their self-esteem and discipline

Elkana Steelband performed at:

- Elkana Childcare AGM
- Waterfront and Baxter Theatre Cape Town

We are proud of each child that attended the afterschool and formed part of our programmes this past year.

Feedback on School Progress

There was an improvement in the children's school results in 2019/2020 and most children achieved good results during this period.

Challenges

Attendance during exams were very poor and this is the period where children need more assistance to prepare them for the exams. It came to our attention that most children were playing in the streets and were not in a safe environment during the exam periods. We seek assistants from parents/guardians and school's in this regard to ensure that children are attending not only school but afterschool as well.

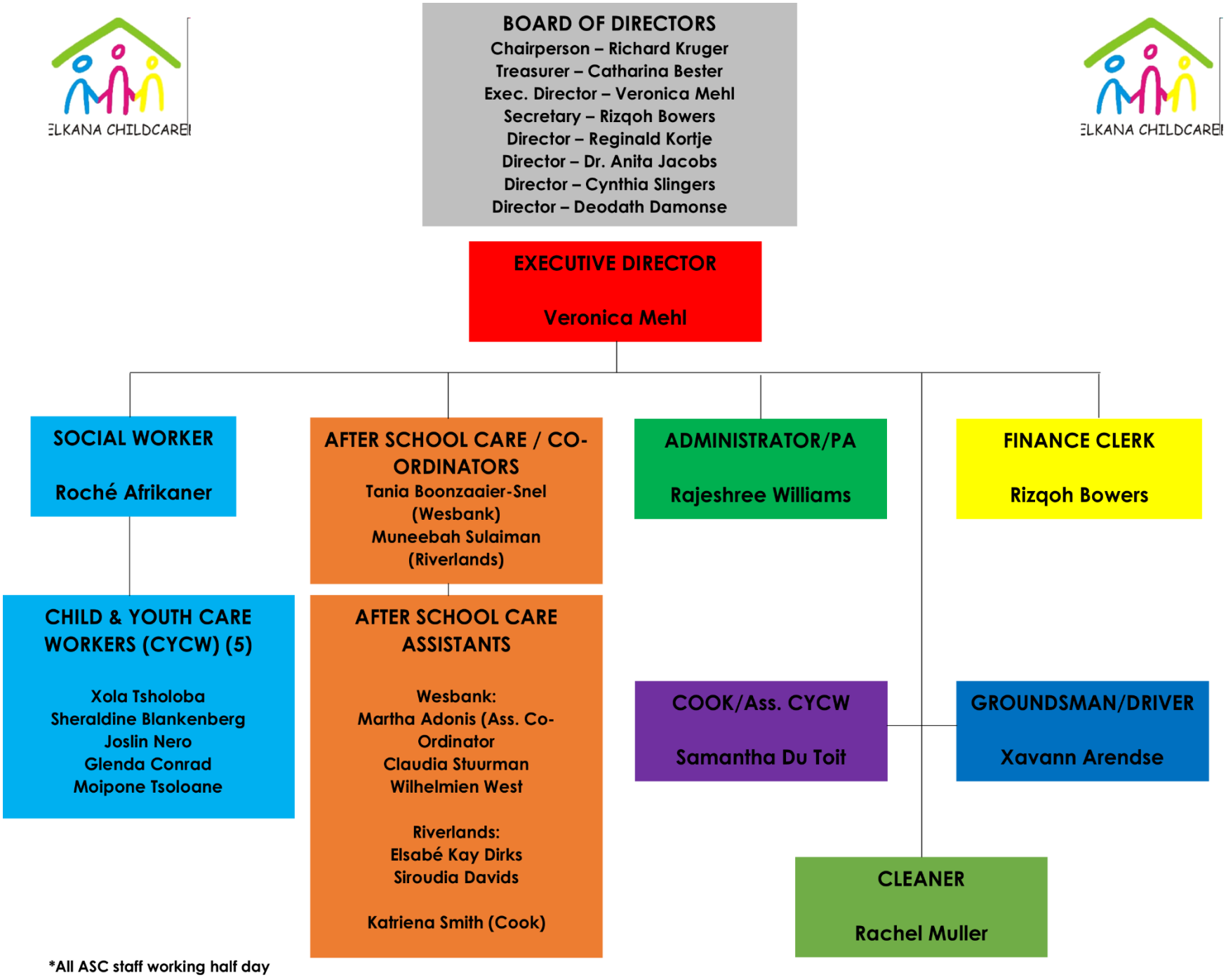
Conclusion

I am proud to Co-Ordinate the afterschool and to see the impact the afterschool is making in our children's lives. My team has been growing in various fields this year and I thank them for their different abilities as well as the way they portray themselves in their work. Success of an afterschool can only be achieved if your team is working as one and I can say that the teamwork this year was very good.

We will keep on striving to improve on the program and do our utmost best to have a positive impact on our children's lives.

Tania Boonzaaier-Snel

6. Elkana Childcare Organogram



*All ASC staff working half day

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
Sygnia
Capitec
Grandslots
Old Mutual
Murray & Roberts
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
Food Forward SA
Dr. Kortje
Kaap Agri
Beansa Trust
Legit Malmesbury
Geard Pharmacy