

ELKANA CHILDCARE

ANNUAL REPORT 01 APRIL 2022- 31 MARCH 2023

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BANKING DETAILS:

BANK: NEDBANK

ACCOUNT HOLDER: ELKANA CHILDCARE

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 128 505 6434

BRANCH: MALMESBURY

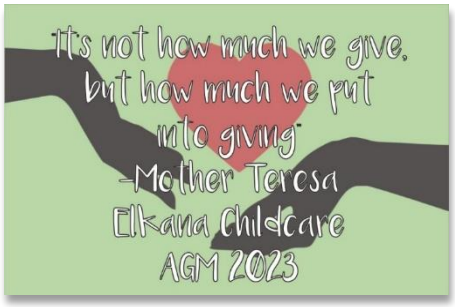
BRANCH CODE: 154605

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OVERVIEW







Stepping out of Covid back into normality was difficult. To revert back to doing things we always did, seemed overwhelming. We geared up as a team and slowly reverted back to the old way of doing things. We had a good year, and that is thanks to our dedicated funders (local and international), Malmesbury community, our staff and the children we serve. With the continuous support from all our funders we were able to do what we always have done.

We started the year off with gearing our children in our care to attend school every day and to apply themselves as much as they can. We created new programs within our different sections in order to help our children focus and apply themselves at school.

FUNDER VISITS:

FOZH:

Friends of Zelda House have been part of the Elkana family for over 11 years and FOZH is situated in Ireland. Mr. John Crowely and his wife Margaret, visited Elkana from the 20/03/2022 to 25/03/2022. His love and dedication to our children can be seen in everything he does. He started off by taking our residential girls to Langebaan beach on Sunday the 20th March 2022. They had an awesome time with Uncle John and Aunty Margaret. The on the 22/03/2013, John took the Elkana staff out for breakfast, it was a beautiful morning filled with laughter and forward planning. We also took time out to remember the late Mrs. Mehl. On Friday the 25th March 2022, Mr. Crowely joined us as we officially opened Riverlands as now they had full registration and was eligible to apply to DSD for funding. It was a day filled with gratitude and reflection. The Riverlands community joined us in this celebration and Mr. Crowley spoke a few words and he also commemorated the two late founders and pioneers of the Riverlands After School Care, the late Mr. Saunders and Mrs. Mehl. The evening was celebrated by a braai, where staff and the Board of Directors together with Mr. John Crowely and Mrs. Margaret Crowely celebrated Elkana's good work over the years.









MAMAS:

We were privileged to receive a visit from our funders from the Netherlands. Their Country representative for South Africa, Sylvia Mwila visited Elkana on the 3 August 2022. It was a very good visit and we received a lot of positive feedback. Struggles and limitations were highlighted and discussed. Highlights and the way forward were also discussed and certain plans put in action for the following financial year. We also visited the Riverlands Afterschool Care, where limitations were identified. Ms. Mwila spent some time in the community and getting to know their daily struggles. It was a good visit and Ms. Mwila was impressed with our developments thus far, she also gave us tips on certain issues which really helped.

SHARE CONFERENCE:

The share conference is a conference initiated by MAMAS Alliance. At this conference all the organizations in South Africa that is funded by MAMAS comes together to have their stories heard and to help other organizations in whichever way that they can. This year's conference took place from the 31 October to 4 November 2022. The conference highlighted the following:

- Ecosystem of support: finding a common ground-success stories
- Early stages of support: positive and inclusive learning-interacting with other organizations
- Support in Action: visiting other organizations in the JHB area. Seeing how they operate
- Supporting You(th): importance of governance and organizational support

This year's conference was attended by Mrs. Roché Afrikaner (Director) and Thembisa Faro (Social Worker). It was a great experience to see and hear that we are not alone. NGO organizations are all vulnerable but if we stand together and practice good governance, we can rise higher and do more. Learning from other organizations like our makes what we do all so more rewarding. Key concepts that we as a team took home:

- Replenish the person
- You are enough
- Standard operating procedures (SOP)
- Develop more awareness programs
- Positive inclusive learning
- Good governance is key
- Strengthening the board of directors



SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT

Elkana Childcare Child and Youth Care Centre is currently 22 years year old, and since 2020 we have been an only girl facility. It has been going well but with having 24 girls aged 4 to 17, it comes with its own challenges. We aim to give all the girls entering our doors the same holistic treatment which includes developmental programs as well as therapeutic interventions. We strive to use their strengths to help them rebuild themselves and adjust to their new environment. Now that we are girls only, we can truly see what effects the evils within the community have had on our girls, our future mothers and leaders of South Africa. So many of them have been silenced after being violated that it takes a while before that silence is broken. Our girls have low to no self-esteem when they enter our doors and this has a great impact on their developmental progress, and how they adapt to their new temporary "home" (Elkana).

We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked, and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty. — Mother Teresa, or Saint Teresa of Calcutta, a nun, missionary and founder of The Order of the Missionaries of Charity

At Elkana we strive to show each girl entering our residential program, that they are loved and that they matter.

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.

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 Centres), 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 girls ages 4-17 years of age. Our total intake for this financial year stands at 46. This number is significant proof that our decision we made in 2020 was indeed the correct one.

Children who were placed out during this period as follows:

Re-unification: 2

Re-unification back into the family system has decreased considerably this year. The main reason is the situations certain families found themselves in during Covid (unemployment and incarceration due to unemployment) has not changed much. They are not able to look after their children as their situations have not improved. It is a sad reality that we have to face.

Foster care: 4

Foster care placement is not as much as what we have hoped but we do understand the economy at this stage does not allow external family members to take in children other than their own.

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Long term CYCC: 8

Due to weak family bonds and addictions, this number has increased. Level 2 Child and Youth Care Centres are becoming full very quickly as the children's home circumstances is not conducive for them and many times the situation that led to the removal has stayed unchanged. For many of our girls it is a sad reality that they will never go home, and that in its own is a traumatic subject to process. It affects their sense of belonging and could slow their development process down.

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 the social workers 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 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 as to prepare the child for school. Elkana's 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.

Highlights:

This year was a year full of learnings. It was an adjustment but with team work and thorough planning we were able to reset Elkana to normal mode again. All our children returned to school, as hard as it was. The continuous support from our local and international funders allowed us to give our children what they deserve and it allowed us to help where we could. The support of the Malmesbury community does not go unseen, we are blessed to be part of such a willing and strong community.

Conclusion:

"Children are not things to be moulded, but are people to be unfolded." – Jess Lair

With the above quote, it reminds us of who we are taking of and what our main goal is. Unfolding a child's entire life and helping them make the most of today is all that matters. Our children need good role models, so let's strive to achieve this, one kind act at a time. Today can never be relived, nor can the past be erased but we can choose how we deal with both. Let's live life and just be kind. Our children deserve peace.



TEMPORARY SAFE CARE



Elkana Childcare Modelling Show



Paltrack visitation



Angels in Action Teddy Bear Drive



Malmesbury Correctional Services pampering day at Elkana Childcare

Growing children and youth have many needs. The Circle of Courage describes the four most fundamental of these. It provides us with a model to understand the importance to a young person's wellbeing of having these met. It also helps us recognise where needs are not being met, causing broken circles.





Steinthal Skills School (flipflops donation)



Villa Crop donation



Reading programme with local community individuals

WESBANK AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Another year has passed in a blink of an eye. How fortunate are we to witness the remarkable growth of Elkana Afterschool Care?

Elkana Afterschool care in Wesbank, Malmesbury were initiated to support 100 children and youth in the Swartland community. The afterschool is a place of safety for the majority of these children. This is a place where they are stimulated, fed a nutritious meal and a place where they are encouraged and motivated on a daily basis.

Elkana Afterschool runs a daily program where we offer homework support and intervention of all the school subjects with the focus on Languages (Afrikaans and English) and Mathematics. The afterschool care has three school holiday programs annually and I am proud to report that the programs are always successful. The learners' attendance during the program multiplied from last year. Learners enjoy various recreational activities including arts and crafts and different sport codes and often make up their own games to enjoy. Elkana Afterschool strive to stimulate each and every brain present to ensure maximum participation and cooperation of all learners. The afterschool celebrated all special days in special ways. We celebrated Mother's day with cupcakes that the learners decorated and gifted to their mothers or special mother figures. Valentine's Day were celebrated with a dance competition that was an absolute hit. The learners are always up for some healthy competition. All the children at the facility were celebrated on International Children's day with a delicious treat. Due to generous donations of local businesses the learners were able to enjoy a cupcake day and an end of year braai. The learners also received warm blankets and flip flops. Learners were welcomed back to the afterschool in January 2023 with a welcome candy pack. The donations of these business are highly appreciated and they received our heartfelt appreciation in writing. Different recreational programs are set in at the afterschool care and exciting ones are in the pipeline. Year Beyond assistants visit the facility once every week and facilitate programs to help with concentration and to boost the confidence of learners through play. The Steelband practices are also done once a week and the band members get the necessary exposure by showcasing their musical talents on the stage of the amphitheatre at the Waterfront.

Elkana Afterschool had a pass rate of 96% at the end of the school year in December 2022. The afterschool boasts with 130 applications and a constant of 87 learners that attend the afterschool daily. The discipline of the learners improved remarkably with the reward systems that the afterschool facilitators have in place. Personal hygiene is an obstacle the children of the community struggle with because they do not always have the necessary recourses to clean themselves thoroughly. In many cases the adult responsible for them are unable to properly care for them.

Elkana Afterschool care wish to extend sincere gratitude and appreciation to each and every hand that helped and contributed so generously towards the facility.



Blankets received by Seeff Malmesbury







Steelband programme outing

RIVERLANDS AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Riverlands Afterschool Care caters to the needs of the learners and young children in Riverlands and the broader communities around. The learners see it a safe place, a second home, targeting main areas such as Home – and Additional Languages & Mathematical skills.

The learners follow a daily routine, under supervision of facilitators. The aftercare is situated on the schools' premises, which makes it accessible and convenient for the learners. When the learners leave their classrooms at day-end, they go straight to the assigned classrooms where they are served a nutritious meal. Each facilitator dishes up in their own classroom where they facilitate. Each learner has to clean their own cutlery after lunch was served, where after we have toilet routine and start with homework or revision if its exams. Facilitators always offer to help and assist where needed.

Reading & Writing or Maths (depending on what subject is set out to focus on) starts after homework is completed. The learners are often urged to read, whether it's a book of their own choice or a given passage with questions that need to be answered. For maths we also do a variety of games, Maths 24 and Dominoes amongst others, "Guess the number" is one of the learners' favourites. We always strive to find better methods, whether it's through games or cognitive learning, to accommodate each and every learner's ability to learn. The goal is to let every learner learn at their pace, but also to better the learning process. We always encourage them to always do and give their best. We make sure that methods that are instilled through Maths or reading and writing, can be used in real-life situations. During the June holiday (2022) we had an operation "Clean-up", cleaning the school premises and the surrounding areas. It brought much joy to the learners that they could do something to plough back into the community. In October 2022 our former Cook, Tannie Kate, retired from Elkana. We wish her well on all her new endeavours. The Christmas lunch of 2022 was amazing! We are used to having a minimal amount of learners attending the lunch, but we had a full house! They performed a Christmas dance; one of the facilitators gave them some Spiritual food for the December holiday (verse from the Bible). Lunch was served, and to just see those little faces brighten up made our hearts melt. Mercia Theunis was appointed as our new cook in February 2023.

We have a Steelband Project at the Aftercare. Steelband performed in Waterfront Ampitheatre on 17 March 2023. The learners were so excited and pleased to perform there.

With much gratitude we report that 94% pass rate in 2022. We wish and strive to better this percentage in 2023. Some of the learners' parents extended their gratitude towards Elkana Riverlands for all our help and effort in ensuring that the learners do their best in tests and exams. Four of Elkana's learners were top students. Elkana Riverlands wishes to extend their sincere gratitude to everyone who helped us through this year, it doesn't go unseen. We want to thank you for all the love, care and joy you shower our little ones with. We are forever thankful.



Steelband Programme outings







Newly appointed Cook: Mercia Theunis

ORGANOGRAM

ELKANA CHILDCARE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ACTING CHAIRPERSON/TREASURER - CATHARINA BESTER
MANAGING DIRECTOR - ROCHÉ AFRIKANER
DIRECTOR - ELMARI DU PLESSIS
DIRECTOR - ADELLE STYGER
DIRECTOR - HELENA KALP

ELKANA CHILDCARE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ROCHÉ AFRIKANER

SOCIAL WORKER

MARY-ANN WHITE

CHILD & YOUTH CARE WORKERS (CYCW) (6)

MOIPONE TSOLOANE
BERNADETTE APRIL
CIKIZWA MALITI
SOPHIA COLLINS
ZELRICE FORTUIN
CECILIA MOSES
X TSHOLOBA

AFTER SCHOOL CARE CO-ORDINATOR

MUNEEBAH SULAIMAN (WESBANK)
SHARNIQUE SOLOMON (RIVERLANDS)

ASC ASSISTANTS (WESBANK)

WILHELMIEN WEST
MARYNA MOORE

ASC ASSISTANTS (RIVERLANDS)

ELSABÉ KAY-DIRKS
SIROUDIA DAVIDS

COOK

MERCIA THEUNIS

ADMINISTRATOR/PA TO MD

RAJESHREE WILLIAMS

CLEANER

RACHEL MULLER

GROUNDSMAN/DRIVER

XAVANN ARENDSE

FINANCE CLERK

RIZQOH BOWERS

COOK

SAMANTHA DU TOIT

ELKANA CHILDCARE STAFF

MANAGEMENT, ADMIN & GENERAL WORKERS



ROCHÉ ARRIKANER
MANAGING DIRECTOR



MARY-ANN WHITE
SOCIAL WORKER



RIZQOH BOWERS
FINANCIAL CLERK



RAJESHREE WILLIAMS
ADMIN CLERK



RACHEL MULLER
COOK



XAVANN ARENDSE
GROUNDSMAN/DRIVER



SHALEEN HENDRICKS
CLEANER/ASS. COOK

CHILD and YOUTH CARE WORKERS



SAMANTHA DU TOIT
CYCW



MOIPONE TSOLOANE
CYCW



BERNADETTE APRIL
CYCW



CECILIA MOSES
CYCW



ZELRICE FORTUIN
CYCW



SUE-ANITA WARNICK
CYCW

AFTER SCHOOL CARE



MUNEEBAH SULAIMAN
COORDINATOR (WESBANK)



WILHELMIEN WEST
FACILITATOR (WESBANK)



MARINDA MOORE
FACILITATOR (WESBANK)



SHARNIQUE SOLOMON
COORDINATOR
(RIVERLANDS)



ELSABÉ KAY-DIRKS
FACILITATOR
(RIVERLANDS)



SIROUDIA DAVIDS
FACILITATOR
(RIVERLANDS)



MERCIA THEUNIS
COOK
(RIVERLANDS)

THANK YOU

We would like to thank each and every one of our funders and local donors for the continuous support and donations over the years. Your support makes a huge difference in our organisations running costs.

FUNDERS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (WESTERN CAPE)
KINDERFONDS MAMAS (NETHERLANDS)
FRIENDS OF ZELDA HOUSE (IRELAND)
MARIONNE KNOPPS (NETHERLANDS)
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JENNY NEELS
ESTELLE HARDCASTLE
OLD MUTUAL SPIES & ASSOCIATES
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MALMESBURY CLINIC
SWARTLAND HOSPITAL
WEST COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
LOCAL GENERAL PRACTIONERS
LOCAL THERAPISTS
ASTRID DISTRIBUTORS
MALMESBURY MUSLIM YOUTH
ACVV HUIS BERGSIG
JULIANA NASKOOL
RAINBOW
ANGELS IN ACTION
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