ELKANA CHILDCARE

ANNUAL REPORT
01 APRIL 2023 - 31 MARCH 2024

ELKANA CHILDCARE

#CHANGETHESTORY







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MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stepping into my 4th year as the Director came with many changes, changes that were vital for growth. First change that came about was change of Board of Directors, this was not an easy task, especially in the NGO sector were there is no remuneration for your duties. We searched and had many setbacks but I am pleased that we have found our Board of Directors, all based in Malmesbury and who share my aspirations, dreams and values when it comes to vulnerable and at-risk children.

We introduced many new and exciting programs to both our residential and after school care programs. It has proven to be stimulating and we are aiming to add more in 2025, especially were sports and recreation is concerned.

We are forever grateful to our funders for supporting us for another year, we could not have achieved all that we have without your understanding and support. We hope to continue our partnerships in 2025 and beyond, changing lives one at a time.

This year was fulfilling but also humbled me, life is full of uncertainties but where you can create change you should not hesitate. As Director I have grown, I have come to understand that everyone needs motivation and self-assurance in order to grow and heal.

A quote that really got me through many tough situations is "it always seems impossible until it's done." Nelson Mandela

I am really looking forward to 2025, with this year's changes and policies that have been put in place, I hope to motivate my staff to reach the very top. Caring is nothing without true passion. The children in our care deserve a fair chance at a bright future, they deserve to know what unconditional love is.

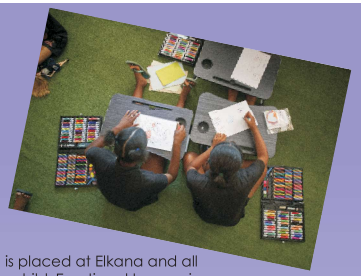
Our theme for 2025 will be "Make them fly". If they do not wings let us create those wings and enable them to fly and reach their full potential.

Wishing all our donors, sponsors and faithful funders a safe and enjoyable festive season. Looking forward to changing lives together in 2025.





SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT



Elkana Childcare Child and Youth Care Centre is currently housing 24 girls between the ages of 4-17 years of age. We are an only girl's facility. All the children placed at Elkana comes through the court system and are here with a court order confirming her stay at Elkana. We receive children from different cultures, backgrounds and circumstances and we shower them with love and acceptance the moment they come in our doors. All the children placed at Elkana are children that was found in need of care and protection according to the Children's Act 38 of 2005. Most of our girls was subjected to physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse and some are placed in the system due to behavioral challenges. Our children are exposed to harmful circumstances in our communities and the social ills increases by the day. At Elkana we pride ourselves in creating a safe, stable, healthy, loving and stimulating environment for every child that comes in. we believe that child protection is everyone's responsibility.

"There can be no keener revelation of society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." - Nelson Mandela

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 needed intervention. 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 address and 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 families.
- **Foster care placement**, placement is secured for a minimum of 2 years or until 18 years depending on the circumstances, 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 designated child protection 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 50 that includes the overnight and weekend emergency placements.

CHILDREN WHO WERE PLACED OUT DURING THIS PERIOD AS FOLLOWS:

Re-unification: 7

Children are reunified with biological parents or with external family members. This process is facilitated and monitored by the external social worker.

Foster care: 8

The children placed in foster care are either placed with family members or with people within the community willing to care for them.

Long term CYCC: 14

We have found that most of our girls are placed into long term placements due to the act that they have no one willing or available to care for them and the only option is to be placed in a children's home. It is the sad reality but we prepare our girls and make them part of this process, by arranging panels with the external social workers.

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 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:

Elkana has had a wonderful and yet challenging year, we had successful reunifications of children reunified with biological parents or immediate family. We also had children who found long term placement and could get stability and feel a sense of belonging. We could also accommodate siblings so they would not be split from each other. We implemented a reward system and it contributed to positive behaviour modification. 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.





WESBANK ASC REPORT

It is a blissful feeling to be able to witness the remarkable growth of Elkana over the past year.

Elkana Afterschool care is a facility to support 100 learners daily from poverty stricken and low socio-economic backgrounds. These children are living in the deepest and lowest creases of the Malmesbury community. For most of these children the afterschool is a place of safety and in most cases the place that they have their last meal of the day. We strive to stimulate, feed, encourage, protect and motivate these children on a daily basis.

Elkana Afterschool care offers homework assistance and intervention in all school subjects with special attention to the main subjects: Afrikaans, English and Mathematics. The marks improved remarkably with the help of the afterschool staff who are doing amazing work helping each learner. Learners are assessed by the staff and intervention is given where it is needed. Homework assistance and reading exercises are done daily to ensure the learners progress in all subjects. School holiday programs are held at the end of every school term. These programs are always a big success because of continuous improvements and changes to make it work every time. The social skills and development of children are promoted through our choir project, knitting and sewing project and our amazing gym and sport project.

The children are always very excited to join any of the above programs. The facility gets countless visits from various businesses and individuals who love to spoil the children of Elkana. We truly appreciate all the donations and love from everyone. The afterschool care had a visit from the Department of Social Development on 14 March 2023 and got a good review. We will continue with the good work so far and will improve where it is necessary. Improvements and upgrades of the building are being done over time. Knowing that all my children are safe when coming here is such a big pleasure.

Due to the budget cuts from the Department of Social Development the afterschool experience some difficulty with purchasing and upgrading recourses and stationery. This is a necessity for every child to be able to complete their daily activities. The afterschool staff are planning to raise funds to fulfil this need. The harsh weather that the Swartland face yearly has a big impact on the attendance of learners as they walk to and from the facility.

At the afterschool we choose to celebrate any and every victory, no matter how big or how small it may be. This encourages personal growth and promotes inclusivity of all children.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to every hand who makes Elkana Afterschool care possible. Thank you for putting smiles on the face of our children.











RIVERLANDS ASC REPORT

Riverlands Afterschool Care caters to the needs of the learners and young children in Riverlands and the broader communities around. The learners see it is a safe place, a second home, where they are being taught and served a nutritional plate of food. Facilitators give them much needed attention and support in every area of their school career, 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 easier 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 notional meal. Each facilitator takes their own dish of food with cutlery, to their classrooms where learners are served a nutritional meal. It was instilled in each learner 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. Mondays are set out for Steelband practice and preparations only if needed.

Reading & Writing or Maths (depending on what subject is set out to focus on) starts after homework are 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" are most 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.
Mercia Theunis was appointed as our new cook in February 2023. Steelband performed in Waterfront Ampitheatre on 17 March 2023 and 6 December 2023. The learners were so excited and pleased to perform there. MAMA'S visited the afterschool.

The learners were very thrilled to have them here & also performed for them.
In March 2024, the Aftercare received visitors from Ireland, friends of John & Margaret.
Elkana has started a dance group (spiritual dancing). We are hoping for funding for the dance and sports program so it can function fully. The Dance group and sport commences Fridays. The dance group got their first invite to perform on 6 April 2024.
Elkana Steelband is flourishing!! They are being invited to perform at local events in Riverlands.
12 March 2024, Margaret and John came to visit the Aftercare. The joy on our little ones faces when they saw John & Margaret, and how thankful they were to receive nice sweet treats. The aftercare is forever thankful for their visits and we always look forward to seeing them.
During the Easter holiday program, the Aftercare hosted a Career day. We got a visit from a local soldier (from Riverlands). He showed them all the drills from the army, and hopefully one of these days Elkana Riverlands will have their very own Drill Squad.
The local Riverlands Nature Reserve, Cape Nature is going to include Elkana ASC in their monthly awareness programs.







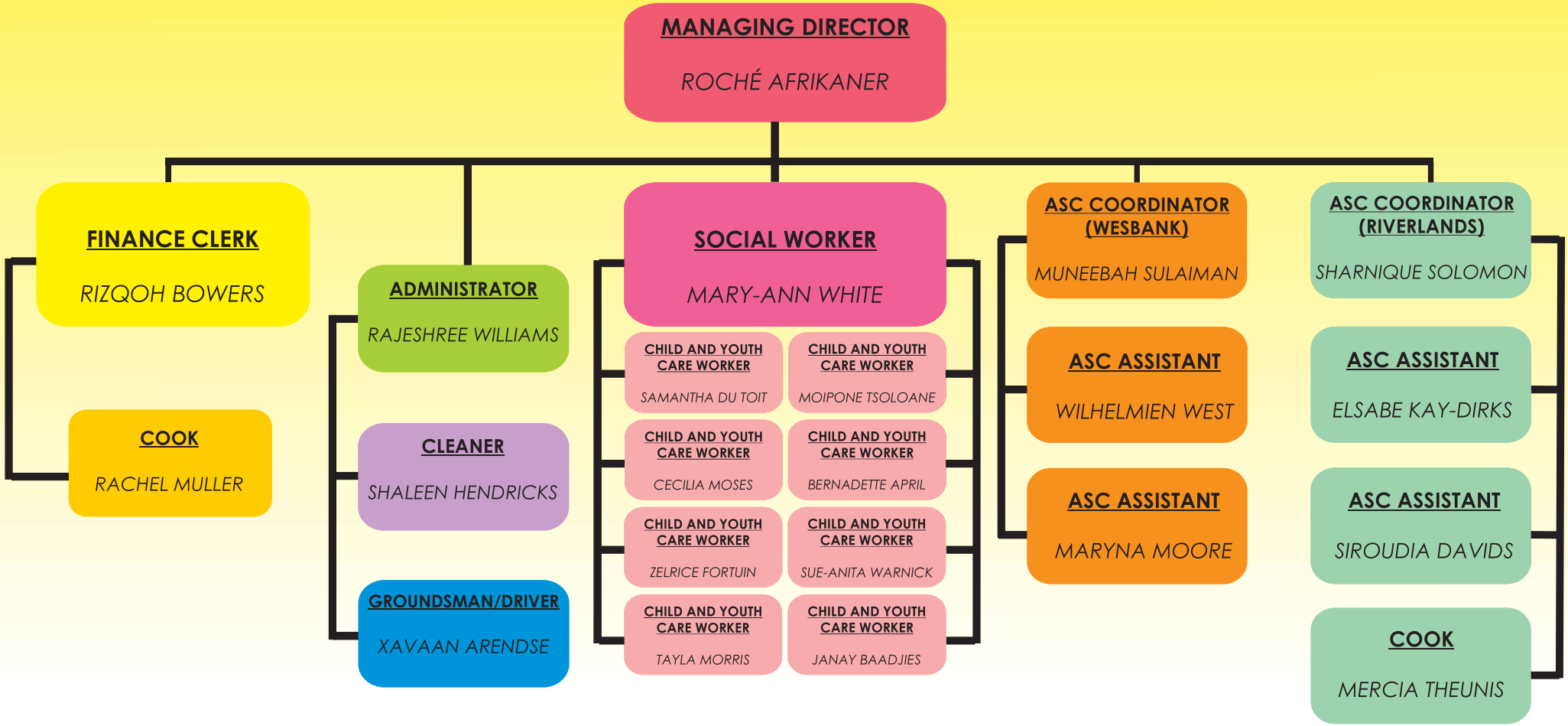




ORGANOGRAM

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TREASURER - ZUHBAIR ALLIE
MANAGING DIRECTOR - ROCHÉ AFRIKANER
DIRECTOR/SECRETARY - RIZQOH BOWERS
DIRECTOR - STRISZA ALBERTYN
DIRECTOR - ADRIAAN JANUARIE



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SOCIAL WORKER



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(RIVERLANDS)



SIROUDIA DAVIDS
ASC ASSISTANT
(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)
SWARTLAND MUNICIPALITY
BEANSA TRUST
SYGNIA
VILLA CROP
ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS (EFF)
HOLLYWOOD FOUNDATION
POULTRY HANDLING SERVICES

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(Financial support & goods in kind/services)

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