



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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ORGANISATION INFORMATION

VISION

Helping Children take the next step.

MISSION

To make a positive difference in the lives of our children in our residential and community programmes.



INCORPORATING: St George's Home (NPO 009-474) and St Nicolas Home (NPO 000-873)

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

NAME	PORTFOLIO
Lesley Blake	Chairperson
Funeka Ndungane	Deputy Chairperson
Penelope Lucas	Treasurer
Samuel Mokgopha	Secretary
Lungi Dube	Vice Secretary
Moir Simpson	Board Member
Mbali Swana	Board Member
Andrea Swart Pinho	Board Member
Colette Saldanha	Board Member

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It is time to reflect on our past year and look forward to the year ahead, once more.

It is hard to believe that this is a further locked down period, and that there is no real end in sight to the Covid pandemic.

We have been fortunate to have truly dedicated staff who have helped us to survive these difficult months, where we have had the infection of staff, children at the home and service providers, making it very difficult to render the services to our children that we would like.



The challenge at the level of the Organisation, has been to keep our staff motivated and going in the light of the very difficult conditions that our children are experiencing. Like everybody's else children's, ours have been cooped up with one another for far too long and often bored.

We are very lucky however, that they have more siblings than most average homes and that we have, in many cases a very good team of teachers in our houses.

In the circumstances, it seems strange to say that we have had an uneventful year and that our finances are not any more catastrophic in previous years.

We really wish to thank our fundraiser Sandhira and the new members of Corporate South Africa, who have come on board as our sponsors, such as Capitec and Old Mutual. They have realised that in this pandemic, that it is the poorest of the poor who suffer the greatest effects and we have been very blessed and privileged to have seen a new dedication from Corporate South Africa to trying to contribute to the NGO sector.

I wish to say a very deep thanks to everyone in the community of Saint George's retirement village, who have provided us with additional funds and in some cases bequests for the children and to remind everybody how blessed we are to be part of the Anglican communion who have created these homes and who continue to provide us with the support and encouragement that makes it possible for us to do the work that we do.

God's richest blessings to you all.

Compiled by: Lesley Blake
Chairperson

TREASURER'S REPORT



When this past financial year started one would never have dreamt where we were heading and what was about to take over our lives and impact them greatly!

The pandemic of Covid 19 has seen many changes and COACH was certainly not left unaffected.

Income generation was lower especially with regard to donations and being able to complete training courses and workshops during the various lockdown levels. Having said that it should also be noted that expenses in these areas was also slightly lower. Donations “in kind” rather than monetary donations were generously received this year.

Staff challenges proved to be much greater as a roster for staff to stay in the homes had to be implemented and our children had to be kept within the home boundaries and given more activities to keep them from boredom. The disruption for the children was enormous.

Covid impacted on expenses such as PPE gear and sanitizer products having to be bought. During the “hard lockdown in 2020”, we had to provide transport for staff to reduce risk of exposure from use of public transport, which led to increased costs on petrol. The utility bills all increased as staff had to stay in for longer shifts. Food costs increased as we had to also provide for staff staying at the homes.

We continue to contract an Employment Agency to find replacement staff when necessary as they, although slightly more expensive, do thorough security and background checks and we have found this works well. Our bookkeeper is now on permanent employment and working well. Child and Youth care worker positions were more challenging with many turnovers of this category.

Maintenance and upgrades to enable receipt of the Ekurhuleni Certificate of Occupation for St George's Home was challenging throughout the past year and is still ongoing. Fees were charged for special consent use and costs incurred for water and sanitation.

Millar House repairs were not all covered by insurance hence we had to draw into our building funds. There is still some outstanding work to be finished here. Maintenance across all Coach houses is a major expense as our buildings are old and we also had to make alterations to comply with municipal requirements.

The liquidation of Bishop Bavin school in July 2020 brought extra expenses to COACH as the electricity was cut off from January 2021 and staff at COACH House have had to work using a generator to power their laptops and copier machines. Staff had major challenges having to juggle working from home and sharing working time in the office without electricity. Safety for the ladies at Coach House is an issue as two ladies alone down on the property is unsafe. The electricity and rates utility bill are still an issue.

DSD funding was well and timeously received during the past financial year.

Compiled by: Penny Lucas

Treasurer

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

“Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work.”-C.S.Lewis.

The outbreak of the Corona virus which led to the whole world being thrown into chaos for the most part of 2020/21, had a huge impact on many non-Governmental organisations within South Africa. In many cases, Organisations had to re-think and re-strategize working methods with the view to ensuring sustainable services to their beneficiaries. For Coach, this meant reviewing our internal routines and restructuring our programmes to meet the needs of our beneficiaries holistically.



As essential services both our social workers and child and youth care workers worked throughout the lockdown to ensure that all our children felt supported and remained safe. A 7-day shift system was put in place for the childcare workers and they were accommodated on the premises during this time. In addition, staff were also provided with transport to work in order to reduce the risk of exposure.

On the St. Nicolas side, adjustments were made to the daily routines in order to incorporate more educational programmes to enable our children to keep abreast with their schoolwork. Various platforms were used in order to communicate with the relevant schools so that schoolwork could be received timeously. In addition, the residential team was also able to come up with creative solutions on how to continue implementing childcare services of the highest quality to our children in order to sustain ongoing growth and development. As a result, many of our children showed remarkable improvement in terms of their behaviour and attitude because of the fulltime care they received during this time.

Children were also engaged in weekly therapeutic sessions with the social worker to help them deal with personal problems and work on undesirable behaviours. Ongoing support was also provided to assist children in dealing with their fears and frustrations related to the lock down, as they could not visit their families during this time.

On the St. George's home side, young people were involved in all the programmes despite certain disruptions caused by the lockdown. At the beginning of the lockdown, ABET classes were held 3 days a week and children were given tasks to complete on their own in order to ensure that they kept abreast with their schoolwork. Learners were assessed on weekly basis which served to prepare them for the final exams. A total of 9 learners were registered for the September 2020 exams and many managed to achieve good results. This in turn served to motivate the young people to work harder and we are happy to report that many of our young people have since progressed to the next level. Two young people were even registered for their Abet matric at the beginning of 2021 and are currently still attending external classes at the Ekurhuleni training centre. It is encouraging to note how young people are slowly starting to take their studies more seriously. As we moved into level one of the lockdown, daily classes resumed and provision was made for all our day scholars to resume with the programme. Arrangements were also made for the separation of the day scholars from the residential students to prevent cross infections as day scholars have to commute from their homes to the programme daily.

Further to the above, during this period, all the residential young people placed at St. George's home were also encouraged to follow the daily routines as per usual. This included performance of daily chores, attendance of all programmes namely: Abet, Skills training, childcare programmes as well as ongoing therapy with the social worker. Young people were involved in many programmes aimed at building resilience, improving hygiene, addressing issues relating to gender-based violence and were equipped with effective skills to manage their anger and deal with grief and loss.

In addition, high risk children were prioritised and referred for specialised services. During this period, one boy was referred to the St. John's eye hospital. As a result, the child's vision has improved and he is now able to read properly. In addition, we were also able arrange for free dental services for some of our children and for a free consult with an audiologist for one of our girls. Strategies were also put into place to ensure that children with chronic conditions such as diabetes and depression received the necessary support.

Children at both Homes, were also involved in a range of sports and recreation programmes as well as yoga and meditation exercises to help them get rid of negative energies. As a result, our children showed significant improvement all around.

In addition to the above, in order to ensure good governance during the lockdown, a comprehensive Policy and Procedures Manual for COVID 19 was introduced to provide clear guidelines on hygiene procedures to be followed in order to promote health and safety of both staff and children. The Organization also sought to ensure that the essential PPE gear and hygiene products were provided to ensure ongoing compliance with government directives relating to Covid 19 safety protocols. This in turn had a significant impact on our finances.

During this period, many challenges were also experienced with staffing. The sudden resignation of key staff within the programmes also had a huge financial impact on the Organisation, which ultimately led to us engaging the services of a professional employment agency to recruit suitably qualified staff. Furthermore, we continue to use Labournet to provide expert guidance on all labour related matters. On a more positive note, we are happy to report that we were able to pay all our staff their full salaries throughout the period of lockdown.

Further to the above, we are also happy to report that despite many challenges we finally managed to get our special consent of use and health permit for St. George's Home. This in turn enabled us to get our full registration certificate from DSD. However, due to the low number of beneficiaries in the programme for the duration of the lockdown, DSD funding was reduced in 2021.

Despite the abovementioned challenges however, we are happy to report that Coach continues to do invaluable work in developing best practice in the field of childcare and social work. During 2020/ 2021, we managed to continue providing training to other Organisations to improve practice and to provide leadership in the field. Thus, we successfully managed to fulfil all our commitments as per our Service Level Agreement with DSD, by providing the following trainings to social workers and child care workers from both the NGO sector as well as government, namely: Grief and Bereavement, Child and Youth Care training on Conflict Management and Behaviour Management, Risk Assessment as well as training on Statutory Interventions which focussed on parenting plans and assessments.

Thus, when reflecting on all that we managed to achieve over the past financial year, it is evident that despite the adverse effects of the pandemic on our finances and social welfare, the Coach team has shown an incredible ability to be resilient and to remain focussed on our vision of "Helping Children Take the Next Step." In view of this, I would like to thank all my staff for their dedication to the children and for their willingness to go the extra mile whenever needed.

To my Board of Management, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued dedication and support through all the hard times. I am also thankful to all our donors who have continued to support our children throughout this period.

I would also like to especially thank Mrs. Deborah Davies, who has been a tremendous help in assisting us with the finances. It is through her support, that COACH was able to stabilize during our difficult financial period and we are extremely grateful to have her.

It was once stated by John F Kennedy who was the 35th President of the U.S, that “Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.” In view of this, we feel that the work done by Coach is indeed ‘GOD’s work ‘as it focusses on shaping the character of children so that they can become more responsible and productive members of our society.

Thank You!

Nagapushnum Reddy

Managing Director

FUNDRAISING / PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT

I would like to start off by saying thank you to each and every one of our donors for your donations and financial contributions to COACH. It is an understatement to say, that we could not have got through another year without your support.

A very special thank you to Mr. Mike Campbell, an ex St George's Home Boy and one of our largest donors for many years. We are so blessed to have your long-standing support. There are no words to express our gratitude for helping us pull through this last financial year.

Like so many organisations, as a result of COVID-19, we too felt the much-added pressure to secure additional funding as our projected income was not what we anticipated.

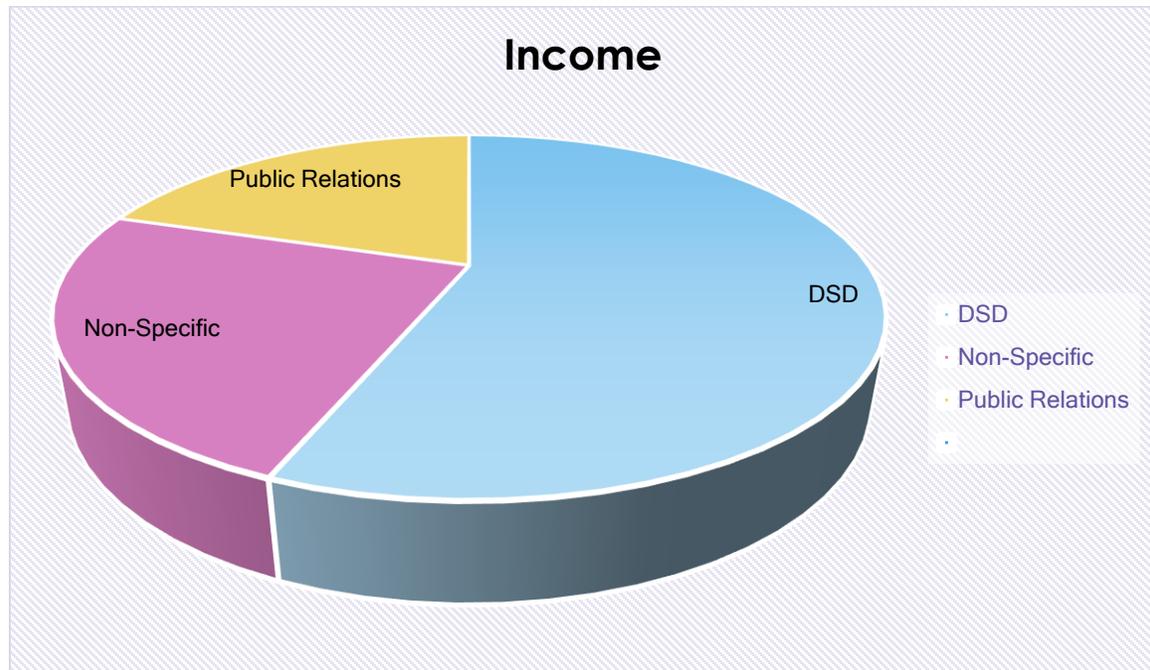
While we managed to retain most of our existing donors, it was noted that there was an overall reduction in donor funding as many businesses found themselves facing financial crisis due to reduced revenue. This led to many companies cutting back on their CSI budgets and redirecting funds to sustain themselves. It was noted that even funding from Trusts and Foundations were reduced by up to 60% in certain cases. There was also a huge drop in the funding received from Parishes as well as individuals over the course of the year. In addition, we also saw a decline in rental income paid to Coach by Grace Village during this period and the rental from Bishop Bavin school was stopped altogether.

As a result, the fundraising team had to work extra hard throughout the year to find new sources, of funding. More effort was made to register on various local and international platforms with a view to accessing a wider pool of potential donors and we also saw an increase in donations in kind received towards the latter part of 2020.

However, on a positive note, in 2021, we were granted funding from the National Lotteries Commission which was not included in the projected income for the year. We also received unexpected bequests and individual funding which helped us start the year on a promising note.

As we continue to fight the effects of the pandemic together as a nation, we are so grateful for being able to still take care of our beloved children who are the most vulnerable during this time. We thank you for being a part of our goal to continue our journey.

Income Stats for the period April 2020 - March 2021



Compiled by:

Sandhira Poonsamy
Public Affairs Manager

PROGRAMMES REPORT

ST GEORGE'S HOME

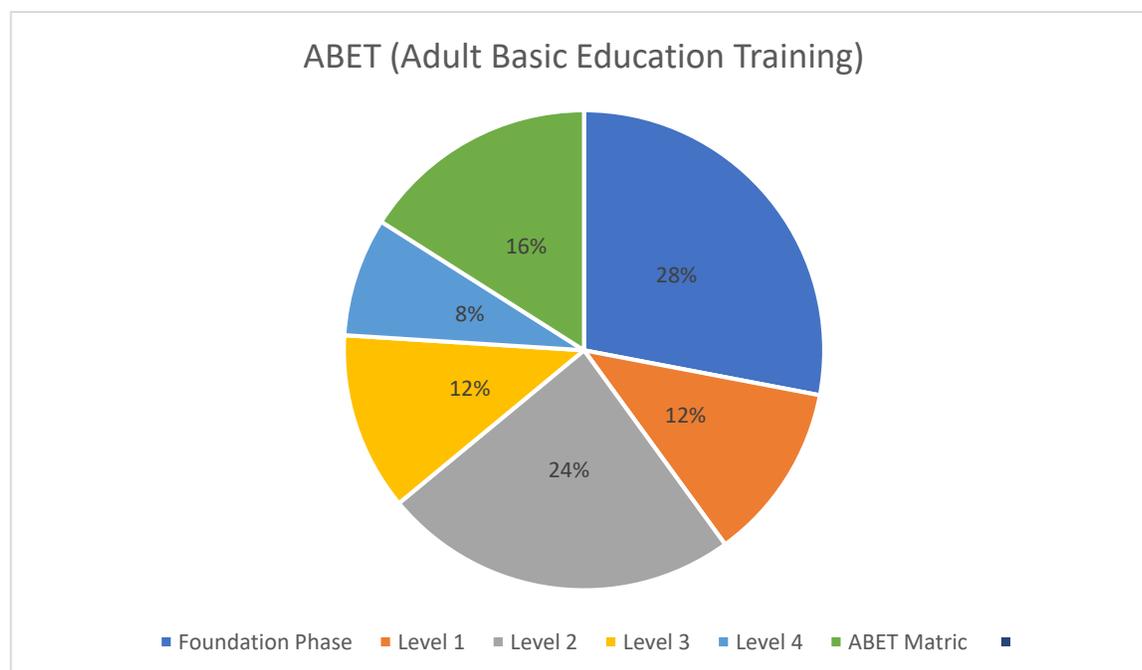
St George's Home currently accommodates 17 residential students and 9 day-scholars. We offer therapeutic and life skills programmes to young people that struggle to cope in mainstream education.

During this period, all students passed their examinations and all were promoted to the next ABET Level. Three young people have started ABET Matric.

It must be noted that there are a few young people who have been good role models to their peers and one of them receives monthly paid duty for his positive behaviour and commitment to his garden and skills work.

In addition, we have changed our children's leadership, which gave two young people an opportunity to be house leaders.

ABET STATS:



SUCCESS STORIES:

1.) “John” was admitted to St George’s Home in October 2020. When this young man first came into the programme, he was struggling in school, as he could not spell long words and had no self-confidence. He was placed in ABET level 1 for both numeracy and communication. Since then, he has improved in his studies and in June 2021, wrote his examinations and passed very well, with a distinction. He now is not only good at spelling, but also has been found to excel in mathematics. So much so, that he helps other children with their homework and encourages children to ask him when they need assistance with their studies.

John shows respect to everyone around him and has developed more confidence about himself. He is always eager to help and is hardworking and dedicated towards his studies.

He has made so much progress and shown a lot of promise at St George’s Home and as a result of his efforts and achievements, he has recently been elected as a house leader.

2.) “Sbu” who came to St George’s Home in June 2019, previously lived on the street. As a result of the neglect, he suffered serious eye damage. Follow ups also revealed that his eye problems were not properly dealt with at his previous children’s home. He was even partially blind in one eye and Sbu was on the verge of losing his eyesight.

When he first came to the Home, we noticed that he was very withdrawn. He was quiet and would often isolate himself, making him seem unhappy. This also meant that he had a low self-esteem and lacked many social skills.

Sbu was initially referred to the hospital for his eyesight problem. However, the treatment process at the hospital was slow. He was then taken to Optical Alliance for an assessment who referred him to a private Optometrist. This was a pro-bono service, and he was prescribed medication. Due to the amount of the medication, another option was reviewed and the child was referred to St Johns Eye Hospital through the services of St John’s Hospital through the services of Optical Alliance in conjunction with The University of Johannesburg. He was diagnosed with severe photophobia. After months of the course of the treatment, it was found that Sbu’s eye was no longer infected. His eyes were not itchy anymore and he recently mentioned that the eye in which he was partially blind has been healing and he is able to see clearly.

In addition to this, he also learnt how to read and write. Social and life skills together with therapy was done with Sbu. This has led to him being emotionally stable and improved his self-esteem.

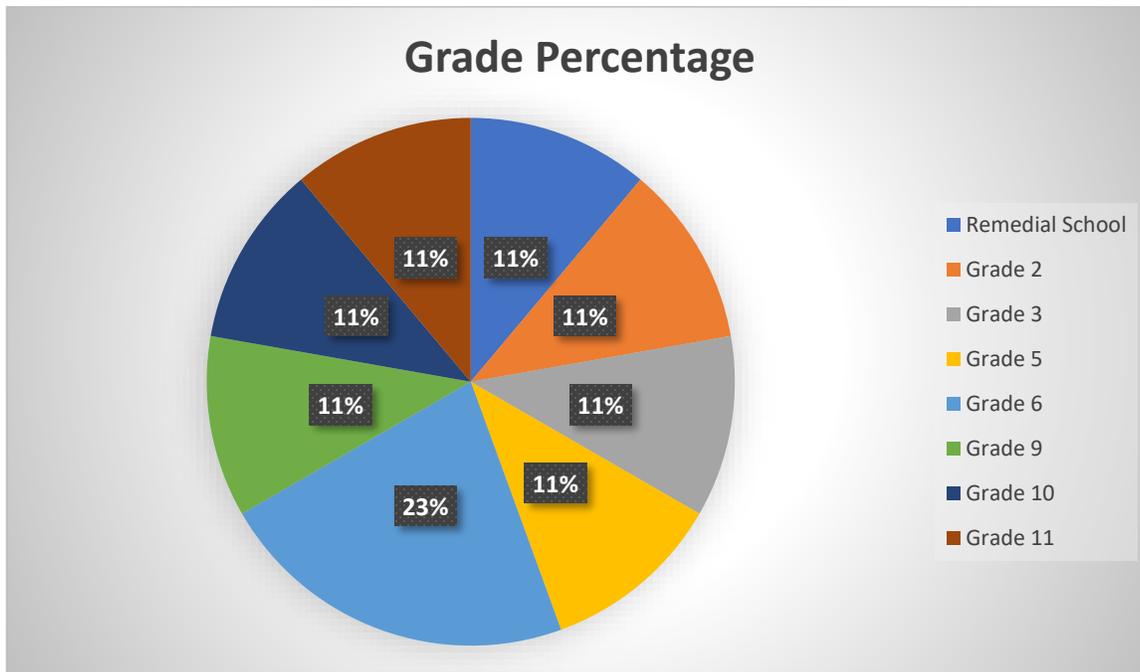
We have seen a remarkable change in him as he is now happy and is not afraid to express himself. He also enjoys gardening and manages the food garden in the absence of the skills coordinator. He does very well in both, the ABET and the Skills Programme and was given an award for student of the year at the end of 2020.



ST NICOLAS HOME

St Nicolas Home currently accommodates 11 children. These children have been placed in our care via the Children's Court as a result of abuse and neglect. The Home offers the children a loving and caring environment so that they can overcome their past traumas. We also aim to ensure that our children do not feel institutionalised and have a sense of belonging and people around them, that they can call family.

ACADEMIC STATS



SUCCESS STORIES

1.) Lemo was first admitted to St Nicolas Home in February 2016 at the age of 4 years. She was placed in our care as a result of severe neglect by her mother. Since she was still a toddler, we placed her in a day care centre for two years.

During that time, we noticed that Lemo could not grasp concepts the way children her age should. She was taken for an educational assessment at the local hospital. It was then, that we discovered that she suffers from Neurodevelopmental Disorder as well as Foetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Immediately, we arranged for Lemo to be placed in a school that caters for her specialised needs and gives her the individual attention that she requires. She is now 9 years of age and her developmental needs are on par. Lemo has learned boundaries within the Home and can communicate effectively when she experiences any challenges. She is well behaved and has over the years, developed good leadership qualities. She also visits her grandmother during the holidays which is something she always looks forward to.

2.) Caylee came to St Nicolas in 2011 at the age of 11 years old. She, like Lemo was neglected by her mother. When she came to the home, she was placed in a nearby school. During her school years, Caylee excelled in all her subjects, achieving distinctions and showed great commitment to her studies. In 2020, when she was in her crucial Grade 12 year, her mom tragically passed away. She grieved very deeply during this time as she had just begun building a relationship with her mother. These were challenging days for her.

Despite all the odds, Caylee persevered and continued to work hard in school. Indeed, her drive to succeed paid off. She passed Grade 12 with a National Diploma as an entry level for tertiary education.

This year, Caylee found a job as a student assistant at the high school that she was at. She is also currently pursuing an interest in the Child and Youth Care field which she intends to make a career of.

