



## Annual Report 2016

Flying Children had a productive and very busy year. We planned for and have extended our work to include centres in Carletonville, planned and will start a baby course in April 2017 and have eight new graduates of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year (equivalent to level 5). Although we did not take on many new centres in 2016, we were able to put effort into our 'old' centres and to ensure that we mentored and helped the staff and owners to consolidate and enlarge their learning and capacity for self-managing their centres. Anxiety about funds did hobble us in this respect.

We brought our 3<sup>rd</sup> year curriculum into even closer alignment with the requirements set out in National Curriculum Framework (NCF). We have also developed out educational activity ideas and resources a great deal to further strengthen the teaching of literacy, numeracy and self-care and nurturing interactions with adults.



## Centres and upgrades

We were able to put toilets and bathrooms into 5 of our centres thanks to Clyde and Co's donation and Russell Allsop's hard work in getting this work done. Another step towards registration with the Department of Social Development!



We aided the completion of a wood and iron playroom in Skoonplaas where one of our Graduates has started a school. We also were able to have a wooden jungle gym, paint and many toys donated to this centre. AFFT will be trying to provide funds for a baby room soon.

In Slovoville we assisted with the costs of creating 2 wood and iron playrooms but were pleased that the owners initiated and paid for the bulk of the costs. We feel that this shows self-reliance and the understanding of the space requirements of children for a happy learning pre-school environment.

One of our centres had a great deal of trouble having a container removed from their property from which fried chicken was being sold. This was a requirement from Health officials. Although we did not provide monetary support we helped them in other ways and worked with our partner organisation, AFFT, to effect this. We were proud of the way in which our students were able to mobilise their own resources to succeed in dealing with the issue.

The drought made any playground beautification difficult but Emang does have more grass for the children to play on and Roedean will be spending Human Rights Day working to do this.

We were able to support the park we created with the Slovoville community to keep it maintained but also have some more large play equipment donated. Roedean also built a 'bottle bench' which was an education for all of us in how to utilise waste in building.

We provided the furniture and educational materials for 7 playrooms as well as maintaining art supplies to all our centres and replenishing and adding to their educational activities and games as needed.



*The bottle bench – Slovoville community members turned to help enthusiastically including many excited*



## Training

In 2016 we had classes of students at three levels, who were in class once a week and were given intensive on-site mentoring virtually weekly. We consolidated all our training to one venue which made the trainers' work easier and more effective. Additional workshops and seminars were held as follows:

- Day-long workshops for the first year class were held on Saturdays at the start of each term to introduce that term's work.
- We continued to run termly principals' workshops, held in the afternoon, to strengthen and mentor good leadership.
- We held two week-long seminars for our students in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years in the June/ July holidays. Our centres do not close then but fewer children attend so we find that this is the least intrusive time to have them and supports our belief that teachers should be in the classrooms in the mornings rather than using these times for trainings.
- Our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students are required to hold parenting sessions with the parents in their schools. This means that four of these are held with parents at each of the schools where we work.
- We had two workshops for the grade R teachers and principals to ensure that the grade R programme was well carried out.
- Pastor Chad Naakgeboren gave a rather terrifying talk on alcohol and drug abuse which we hope helped some of our younger teachers to think about their own lives but also gave us all a better understanding of how the drugs act on the body and how best to help those who are addicted.
- Visiting trainers gave 3 sessions to our 3<sup>rd</sup> years on storytelling, movement, drama.



Altogether around 700 children attend the centres where we work, including 12 severely disabled children.

For 2017, we arranged for 5 centres in Carletonville to join us as well as one in Ruimsig and another in Tshepisoong. We have quite a few first years for 2017 from our existing centres.

## Accreditation of the Flying Children course

This continues to be a challenge. The application was formally submitted early in January 2016. We received a visit and made requests several times during this time (going right to the top!) for news and were told we would hear in April, then June, then August. We finally heard from them in December – but the outcome is unclear. We have been trying to make contact with the relevant people this year, so far unsuccessfully.



## Centre registrations

Having centres registered with the Department of Social Development continues to be an aim, since it would unlock government subsidy and make them more viable. However, it remains a difficult task, since there is a lack of clarity on the requirements, involves several complex steps and because the social workers who play a key role often are often ignorant of the rules, of the real needs of ECD and can sometimes be simply obstructive. We cannot organize registration for the centres we work with, but can support their efforts. This includes infrastructural aid, obtaining forms, aiding the filling out of forms, and helping them to put the correct administrative and financial systems in place. Owners do need to do the work of taking in the application forms, making requests for health workers and social workers to visit and so on.



At present, 6 centres are registered with the DSD.

## Community

We held two community workshops for the broader ECD communities. One was on music, movement, percussion and drama in the pre-school and the other on Grade R and educational games. Attendance far exceeded our expectations, and people came from as far as Randfontein and Carletonville. We get many requests for help from these people but at present do not have the staff and resources to take more than the 7 centres that we have started with in 2017.

## Public engagement

We are still members of 'The Bridge' and the ECD Stakeholder associations. We attend the meetings (usually about 4 a year). These have helped us to understand government policies around ECD as well as to network with other ECD NGO's.

## Funding and support

DGMT provided us with the bulk of our financial needs in the middle of 2016. This money, R390 000, ensured that we could pay our trainers and mentors, rent, provide for transport costs and some of the other training costs. This money will take us through to the middle of 2017. We are extremely grateful for this.

Roedean provided us R17 000 in total as well as providing many other goods and support. We also hosted a day for young people from all around Africa during their Round Square conference. We all had a lot of fun. Roedean girls gave our children a very happy day at the end of the year. Many thanks to their kind and thoughtful support of us.



Clyde and Co donated R23 000 which has gone to the creating of 5 toilet areas

Russell Allsop, through his business Control Solutions, has provided us with R30 000.

Eskom donated R15 000 and an anonymous donor gave us R20 000. We are very grateful for this help.

We have applied to many funders and continue to do so. We have been waiting anxiously to hear from Lotto as we are definitely on a short list with them.

We continue to receive donations of toys and other useful things from a range of donors, for which we are profoundly grateful.



### **Governance**

We have been lucky enough to have Emmah Mutimutema join our board. Emmah works in a leadership role with AFFT.

We hope to become BEE compliant this year. AFFT has provided us with a possible way to get this quite cheaply.

### **Staff, systems, organisation**

Teaching is supervised carefully as well as carried out by Lindy Harris and Caroline Tuckey. Kanyi Ncube especially did a sterling job with the 1<sup>st</sup> years as well as team teaching the 2<sup>nd</sup> years. We were all ably supported by Nelisiwe Mtiya and from the middle of the year Vamisele Nokukhanya. Having five trainer/ mentors has increased the amount of time we can spend mentoring in the centres and how much individual time we can give to each student. We hope to have the funds for more mentors soon. We have ex-students who would be able to fill this role.

All our teaching was done from our Tshepisonong training site which we left at the end of 2016 for more comfortable rooms even more accessible to most of our students. In time, we would like to create our own centre.

The fact that we were able to firmly put into place our policies in 2015 has stood us in good stead and has aided the work of funding proposals and the general smooth running of the organisation.

Lindy Harris's ageing Clio has taken a beating on the roads of the West Rand, and we are still looking for some support to find a new and more suitable vehicle.

We hold monthly management meetings, in addition to weekly teachers' meetings, which have helped improve our functioning. The 2016 audit will be conducted soon.



## Thanks

Many thanks to all who have so willingly and expertly helped us in 2016: donors, partner organisations, board members and staff. We particularly need to thank AFFT for being so helpful all through the year.

Lindy Harris, Director, and the Board of Flying Children

[lindyharris@mweb.co.za](mailto:lindyharris@mweb.co.za)

0829055881

