



Annual Report 2017

2017 was an interesting year. Funding became critical halfway through the year but we managed to find funds and continue. We added 3 mentors to our training staff. We also started a 0-3 class and added considerably to our training materials, theme plans and games and activities for the children. We spread our wings and successfully started a training programme in Carletonville. This year we have taken on more schools in Soweto and one in Protea Glen so our reach is growing.

Centres and upgrades

We did 6 makeovers in the first term of 2017 and created four baby rooms in the 2nd term. After the makeover the students had intensive mentoring for a week. All the 2017 new centres are further away so that we could not visit as often as we wanted to. But four of the schools are flourishing.

By the end of 2017, we were working with 21 centres, while a further two get some limited support. The full list of centres is:

- In Tshepisong: Ratabana, Rishile, Retabile, Fundisa, Foundation, Bokomoso, Kopano
- In Swanieville: Emang, Lehae, Sunshine, and Kingdom
- In Dobsonville (Soweto): Teresa
- In Slovoville: Khanya, Entlantleni, Little Angels and Telly Tubbies



1Children playing a traditional game, at the time of the "My Culture" themes

- In Carletonville: Little Smurfies, A&U, Lizoba
- In Leratong Village: Fundisa
- In Ruimsig: Apex

For 2018, eight new centres are being taken on. This means we will be reaching around 1048 children.

Training

As usual, 2-hour afternoon training sessions were held during government school term time. They are held in our training rooms in Milkbeet St, Tshepisong. In addition, students are mentored once a week in their centres – an average of three to four hours a week. The 1st years receive the most intensive mentoring and the 3rd years the least.

First years had their four termly Saturday workshops, 2nd years and 3rd years had a week long seminar each in the July holidays. We have two Grade R training workshops for the teachers who teach Grade R each year. Since we expanded into

Carletonville, we had to find a venue for training there, and were grateful that the Carletonville Methodist Church accommodated us.

We added a year-long training for looking after the 0 to 3-year-olds, which runs that runs from April to March in 2017

We held several trainings for our trainers and mentors in 2017. This is part of an ongoing programme to skill ourselves. We hold a weekly meeting to discuss training and mentoring issues.

A total of 35 students participated in the end of year written and practical exams. Four did not meet requirements. The total numbers were:

1st years: 21 students. 3 did not fulfil the requirements

2nd years: 5 students

3rd years: 5 students. 1 did not fulfil the requirements

0-3 group: 4 students



Graduation

This was held on the 16th of March 2018 at Horison Methodist Church in a much enjoyed occasion. Emmah Mutimutema of Africa Food for Thought, who is also on our board, delivered the keynote speech, which was very well received. We received wonderful donations of food and cool drinks from Roedean High School for girls and De la Salle High school.

Training materials

We have updated and continue to update all the training materials. Caroline Tuckey has added Reggio inspired invitation boards and loose parts play. By the end of 2018 we will have at least 30 invitation/ loose parts and sand play activities. Caroline has also used her considerable knowledge of religious teaching of children to revolutionise the way we approach this area in our programme.

We now have a 40 week theme programme for the 1-2 and 2-3 year-olds with related posters. We also have 40 games and activities each for the 1-2 and 2-3 year-olds. We also have activities for teachers to do with the 0-1 year-olds depending on their age and stage. We also have added many games that we have designed and made for this age group as well as adding to games for the 3-5 year olds.



2Children creating fish with Reggio inspired invitation boards

To help our junior trainers and to standardise trainings we have a detailed training programme for the 1st years and the 0-3 trainings.

Parenting

Parents were reached through our parenting programme that students start running in their 2nd year. Our trainers and mentors did workshops with parents on activities they could do with their children during the holidays in November and early December.

We hope to have a parenting Facebook page up and running quite soon. The Institute for Psychodynamic Studies will be helping us with this project.



Staff

Our staff grew in 2017, after we were able to use the opportunity of the government's Siyakholwa job creation scheme to subsidise the salaries of some additional mentors for a few months. We hope that this will again help us later in 2018, and are very grateful to AFFT for drawing our attention to the opportunity. We now have a director, a senior trainer, a bookkeeper, two junior trainers and three mentors. Joe Kiggle does extensive and very useful work with us as a volunteer.

The staff complement is now:

Lindy Harris (director and at present a volunteer)

Caroline Tuckey (senior trainer)

Anisha Mayet (bookkeeper)

Khanyi Ncube (manager of junior trainers and mentors)

Vamisile Khanyile (junior trainer)

Thoko Kele (mentor)

Nokukhanya Khanyile (mentor)

Nomthandazo Mtiya (mentor)

Funding and support

Funding from the Solomon trust, Investec, Roedean, The Charlotte Roberts Trust, Clyde and Co, Lotto, AFFT and several private individuals provided the money we needed to run the organisation. The Charlotte Roberts Trust donation of 20 000 went towards the upgrades early in 2018. Most of the other money went to salaries, other training costs and rent and some to the many games and activities we provide for each school. The Clyde and Co money helped us to finish the toilet areas we started in 2016 and finished in 2017.

Non-financial donations

These continue to make stocking our schools with toys, furniture and other fun learning activities possible. We also donated some books suitable for children older than pre-school to a literacy programme. Roedean did a lovely day in eight centres for our children as well as planting trees and plants at some of our centres during a work day.



3Playing snap with teacher



Jo Kiggle has made a space to store donated toys and other items, and the storeroom is full to overflowing.

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.

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