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Prochorus Stellenbosch project report

Introduction:

After a well-deserved rest following a tough 2020, the staff was ready to embrace a new year. Unfortunately, three of our staff members tested positive for Covid-19 just after the new year started. Gratefully they all recovered quickly and didn't experience too severe symptoms or had to be hospitalized. We are proud of our staff, who always have a fighting spirit and come ready to love and serve the beneficiaries and people of the community.

Staff news, welfare, and training:

Several essential volunteers started to volunteer at our projects. Some include a lady who assisted us with our Monitoring and Evaluations procedures, an assistant teacher at Little Builders Playgroup doing her practice for the year, and an Early Childhood Development expert volunteering once a week at Siyanda and Little Builders Playgroups. There is also a solid team of volunteers assisting at our Jonkershoek Aftercare Centre and the Development Cycling, doing exciting things with the children like art, reading lessons, and loads of other things. We are pleased about so many willing people who donate their time to help in our cause.

All the different project leaders attended a pervasive eight-week Child Protection training. Our Child Protection Policy was reviewed and updated, and all staff was trained and informed about new regulations regarding Child Protection. Currently, all project leaders are busy with a Strategic Training hosted by Valcare and presented by Ezra. This training is hosted about once a month for twelve months. It covers all facets of how to implement and execute well-designed projects and programmes strategically. Project leaders and associated staff members have to



PROCHORUS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

relook their projects to see where changes are needed and improve our service to the beneficiaries we serve.

Monthly staff lunches have started from the beginning of the year, motivating regular connection and interaction between staff and management. We celebrate the people who had their birthdays during that month and any other achievements while enjoying each other's company. Sometimes relevant topics are discussed, while other times, we mainly focus on social interaction. We have received positive feedback about this, and seeing relationships grow between the different areas and people is encouraging.

Donors: Lifetrust, Individuals, Wish Internet, Adept Internet, Shofar Christian Church.

Project Feedback:

Support a child

Children supported: 18 children between the ages of 6 and 18 years.

Project focus: To support children at risk with basic school necessities to ensure that they attend school.

It has been an exciting year for the Support-a-Child Project. We have managed to support 18 children for the year so far. At the beginning of the year, we received all stationery and school uniform lists. The cost to help one child with basic school necessities for an entire year is about R1850. After every term, all the progress reports are collected and reviewed to determine where the beneficiaries need additional support. If children are not attending school regularly, meetings are set up with parents and schools to try and resolve the related problems.



PROCHORUS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Success story:

One of our beneficiaries who have been on the Support-a-Child project since he was in Gr. 3 is finishing school this year. He is very determined and self-driven to make a success in his life. He is always a top achiever at school. His performance at school dropped because of lockdown as he was not attending school classes for two months. However, this year's first term shows a vast improvement compared to last year's performance. He has already applied to 12 Universities for tertiary studies in 2022. We are excited to see him flourish into a very bright future.

Donors: Sinapi Biomedical, PEP Foundation, Individuals



PROCHORUS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Playgroups (Siyanda in Kayamandi and Little Builders in Cloetesville):



Little Builders staff team:



Siyanda Staff team:

Children supported: 34 children supported

Project focus: To create a safe, educational environment for at-risk children to prepare them for Grade R and beyond.

Special events during the year: Child protection week at the beginning of June was a highlight. Child Protection Week was another highlight. We had a busy programme, with loads of activities happening during the week. Our Child Protection Officer hosted talks at Siyanda about "saying no when someone tries to touch you inappropriately." The children from Siyanda also participated in a "child safety" walk-in, Kayamandi. The Kayamandi Early Childhood Development Forum organized this walk. After the hike, some community stakeholders, such as the Police and Fire Brigade, hosted presentations about safety matters.



PROCHORUS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



The children attended an outing to Butterfly world and received gifts from Santa Shoebox at the end of the year. Children visit the library every Wednesday and get to choose their storytime books.





PROCHORUS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Project summary:

After re-opening the playgroups following lockdown level 4 suspension in 2020, the playgroups struggled to regain momentum with the children's attendance due to the impact of Covid-19. Many parents were hesitant to send their children to school. Siyanda playgroup started 2021 with 16 children and Little Builders with 18 children. Both playgroups can host more children, but due to Covid-19 regulations, that is the maximum number of children we can now host.

When the children start at our playgroups at the beginning of the year, most of the children struggle to adapt to the new daily routine, discipline structure, socializing, and communicating with other children and teachers. Generally, they battle to complete daily activities such as cutting, fine motor activities, coloring, etc. We have seen a massive improvement in the children's physical, emotional and intellectual development during this year. The teachers are very pleased about the children's progress. We are also getting good feedback from the parents. They regularly thank us for looking after their children so well. It is a privilege for us to be able to walk a road with these families.





PROCHORUS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Success story and new project/programmes implemented:

We receive food from The Lunch Box Fund. Their focus is to provide children in learning with nutritious food. We have been receiving food from them for the last two years. Their food donations have better enabled us to be able to provide healthy nutrition to our children. The children receive two meals per day, which includes protein, vegetables, fruit, and carbohydrates. We started a new Bible program called "One Hope" at the beginning of the year. The children memorize a Bible verse every week and learn the stories from the Bible. This program has added much excitement to our daily schedule.



We started with a building project at Little Builders in Cloeteville. To date, we have built an extra two toilets and upgraded the one building to have an additional classroom.

Plans for 2022:

The next project will enlarge and upgrade the other two classrooms and a kitchen into brick buildings. The bigger space will enable us to host more children. We are very excited and feel thankful and privileged to be able to do the building project. The goal is to have three big classrooms instead of two and start an Aftercare project with the Gr. R's who graduate. Little



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Builders will host more children between the ages of 4 – 5 years. By doing this, we will ensure that more children are ready to go to Gr. R.

Donors:

Individuals, Bester Feed and Grain, Bextrans, Clemengold, Oprah Winfrey Foundation, Lunch Box Fund, Cape Classic Foundation, Santa Shoebox.

Prochorus Early Childhood Development Training

Crèches supported and trained: 18 Principles and or teachers

Project focus: To teach and train principles and teachers of Early Childhood Development centres to create an educationally safe environment for the children that attends their centres.



Project Summary: During September and October, Prochorus hosted two workshops to train principles from unregistered crèches in the Prochorus Early Childhood Development



PROCHORUS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Curriculum. Each training lasted for a week, and every principal received a copy of the registered Prochorus ECD curriculum. In total, 18 crèches completed the workshop, and all their beneficiaries will benefit from the lessons and activities. The training aims to provide unregistered crèches with a registered curriculum to ensure that children receive effective education. This training will also aid in their process to become a registered crèche.

Jonkershoek Aftercare Centre.



Jonkershoek Aftercare Centre staff team

Children supported: 47 children supported

Project focus: To create an educationally safe aftercare environment to support, enable and motivate school-going children to finish high school and attend tertiary education.

Special events during the year:

We were privileged to have the NGO, Lessons in Conservation, come and do a 6-week course. We had two excursions with Eagle Encounters. The learners then went to Butterfly World,



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

which they loved and had the opportunity to touch snakes and other reptiles. They learned so much about conserving their environment and natural habitat in general.

Every Tuesday, the children received art lessons. The children enjoyed this thoroughly.

Child protection week was also a highlight in Jonkershoek, with many different activities.



Project summary:

The year started with some twists and turns. With the announcement that the schools will only open in middle February and that children only go to school every second day, the beneficiaries were not motivated, and attendance wasn't fantastic at the beginning of the year. As the first term progressed, it was great to see the children attending more regularly. We had about 35 children attending the center daily throughout the year and 47 children registered in total.

The Aftercare Centre received food from The Lunch Box Fund. The food has been a tremendous asset to the Aftercare Centre. There has been a significant improvement in the children's focus since we've started with these wholesome daily meals. Samp is the most favorite food. The children have not received the soya mince with excitement, but we have found several recipes to improve their liking. We want to thank The Lunch Box Fund for its continuous support.



PROCHORUS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



We have implemented the One Hope Bible programme into our Aftercare Centre; we have three different programmes for our little ones; it's full of beautiful pictures, memory verses, and fun activities. The programme for the junior school learners is a bit more informative with lots of fun and educational activities. Our high school learners take a much more mature look at the Bible, which teaches them to implement it into their daily lives. This programme has also been an effective discipleship tool to build essential life skills in the children's lives.

Weekly mentoring sessions have continued throughout the year, and it has been great to see how the girls and boys are responding to the sessions. A life coach facilitated life-coaching sessions with the girls every second week. We implemented a mentoring curriculum with the teenage girls, focusing on identity, purity, relationships, etc. There was also a reading specialist who assisted the children with reading.



PROCHORUS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Success stories:

The Aftercare Centre had a facelift, thanks to the Jonkershoek Special Rates Area NPC. The facility now has a fresh feeling with the new layer of paint and a few minor repairs.



We have experienced trouble getting all the computers in working condition at the Centre, but we've finally managed to have ten computer stations with internet and Microsoft Office. The computers will facilitate different programmes like Khan Maths, Reading Eggs, and computer literacy.

This year has been a year of growth for the Centre. There have been some essential changes in structure to ensure that the project constantly develops to influence the beneficiaries positively. We want to thank our prominent donors for the project.

Donors:

Redstor, The Lunch-Box Fund, JSRA, Grant-in-Aid, Santa Shoebox, Individuals.



PROCHORUS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Jonkershoek Cycling project:



Tayo with some beneficiaries.

Children supported: 22 boys supported

Project focus: To use cycling as a tool to effectively teach youth life skills and restore hope.

Special events during the year: Spur Schools League MTB series. At the beginning of September, the team took part in the Fedhealth MTB Challenge. Stillwaters Sports sponsored the entries for the race. The team went on a cycling tour at the end of September. The camp took place at the Back to Basics campsite in Grabouw. Activities such as cycling, team building, devotions, and some heart-to-heart talks with the boys.



PROCHORUS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Project summary:

The year started slow for the cycling project. Usually, much excitement is blooming for the Cape Town Cycle Tour at the beginning of the year. The Cape Town Cycle Tour was canceled due to Covid-19. The weekly rides continued as usual, and in May, the riders finally got to take part in the first leg of the Spur Schools League MTB series.

In June, we had to say goodbye to one of our beloved coaches. He and his wife have volunteered in the project since 2015. Daniel and his family have returned to Germany. Their departure has left a hole in our cycling family and our hearts. We are, however, very excited for their new season as a family and to see them flourish.

Victories:

We are happy to share the news of our new cycling project leader, who started at the beginning of August. His passion for the children was visible when he volunteered at the project and proved his eligibility in various ways. In August, Tayo began to take the boys to Amplified Youth events, a weekly highlight on Friday evenings. We can already see a difference in the attitude



PROCHORUS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

and commitment of boys who have been participating. Some of the children have made some decisions to change their lives. There have been some significant life changes in the team. Recently we implemented a structure to ensure the boys prioritize time for their academics. Initially, it was not received well, but soon, the beneficiaries started asking for more help and became more committed in this area.



Lorenzo Le Roux was our first beneficiary on the project ten years ago. He and his partner won the Exxarro category in the Cape Epic. We are tremendously proud of him as he is well underway to reaching his dream to become a professional cyclist.

Donors: Individuals, MTO, Valcare, Banhoek Conservancy, Flandria.