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WHAT LOVE CAN DO.

NTHANDO HOME OF SAFETY ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

1 March 2016 – 28 February 2017

Letter from the Chairman

We have been working with The Ark since January 2015, and it continues to be such a blessing to all of us involved.

In 2016 we took on the Grade R class (26 learners), Grade 1 class (35 learners), and the educare (80 learners). This was a big jump in work load from the previous year, but we felt the need was too big to ignore. Since January 2016, we have assessed all the Grade R learners and all the new Grade 1 learners, and all the educare learners were screened for developmental fallouts. We offered weekly occupational therapy to relevant children, and referred children to psychologists, doctors, audiologist and speech therapists when needed. We upgraded the educare, ran the 'Skipping' initiative and our annual Mandela Day drive, Winter warmer hampers and Christmas shoeboxes. We also ran a parent workshop for the parents of the children attending the Grade R and Grade 1 class, in order to support and enable them to better parent their children and establish bonding.

Looking back over this year, it has been an exciting year, full of love and encouragement. We have developed such special relationships with those we work with, including the teachers and relevant staff members. We look forward to what 2017 holds for Nthando, for what God has in store for us, and how He plans to use us in sharing His love for the least of these.

Kind Regards,

Caraleigh Otto (Founding Managing Director)

Our Management Committee

I would like to thank our outstanding and faithful management committee for their support and service over this past year. To Kelly Blair for her effortless management of our financial wing, and for her wisdom and organizational skills; to Michelle Orwin for efficiently ensuring that contracts and administrative functions are all in order, we will dearly miss you as you close this chapter of serving on Nthando's board; to Rob Jones for his unlimited resourcefulness, continual support, and efficiency in procedural functions; and to Julie Botha for her enthusiasm and logistical management in marketing and fundraising projects. Without this team Nthando would not be where it is today, so thank you to each one of you.

Thank you too to Matilda Nowers, our Occupational Therapist, who passionately goes to The Ark on a weekly basis to treat relevant kiddies and manage their development. We will miss you as you end your time with Nthando and begin a new adventure abroad. We wish you all the best in your new chapter. Thank you to Etna Kotze, the Social Worker at the Ark for always going the extra mile in making sure every child's need is met.

Our Funders

Our faithful funders continued to give generously, and for this we thank you. We have never had a month where we were without capital to cover our running expenses. May each of you be blessed for willing to be part of Nthando, and may you know that you were part of making a difference in the lives we cared for.

What has happened in the last year?

Upgrading of Lambs Educare

Lambs Educare was in great need of some TLC. With the help of some creative and generous volunteers, we upgraded four classes, a common area and the reception in one day! The teachers love their new space and the kids are thriving in beautifully themed classes. Thank you to our team of volunteers, you guys were amazing.



Top right: The common area before and after.

Right: One of the classes that was upgraded, before and after.



Skipping



This initiative was launched at the beginning of the school year at the Somerset West Baptist Church Sunday school. Each child received an empty money tin, which they were tasked to fill with money they receive from choosing to “skip” a treat, an outing, or a luxury. The money raised will be put towards a tangible item that the children at The Ark School need. Thank you to all those that gave up something for someone else.

Mandela Day July 2016: Blanket drive

Mandela Day for 2016 saw us collecting blankets for a fellow organization, Tereo. These blankets allowed the vulnerable children attending Tereo school, a warmer winter. Thank you to all those that gave so generously towards this cause.

Winter Warmer Hampers



This year 128 hampers were given to the children attending the Ark Educare, grade R and grade 1. These hampers included a soft toy, beanies, scarves or blankets, or wellington boots and hot chocolate. The children were so excited to be treated to a few items to make their winter a little warmer.

Parent Workshop: 17 September 2016



We were given the opportunity to provide a parenting workshop to the grade R and grade 1 parents who have children attending the Ark primary school in September 2016. We had a great turnout and the parents were so appreciative for their take-home toolkits on discipline, routine and bonding.

Painting

Two Grade 7 learners from Somerset House Primary school took on Lambs Educare as their community project for 2016. They decided to brighten the childrens playground by painting a wall with chalkboard paint. Encouraging constructive play and motor development for these little ones.



Training: Early Childhood Development & Child First Aid

We are continuing to send teachers at the Educare and those teaching in the foundation phase on courses and workshops throughout the year. These opportunities allow for empowering, upskilling and motivating these dedicated staff. We look forward to further training opportunities in 2017.

Therapeutic Services Offered

We continue to offer weekly occupational therapy to those learners requiring it, free of charge. Some have been referred for speech therapy, psychometric assessments and/or medical paediatric consultations. It has been a blessing to provide these services to learners who would usually be unable to access these services, due to lack of funds.



MySchool



MySchool continues to bring in a steady flow of income for Nthando. If you load Nthando as your beneficiary, every time you swipe your card, you automatically assist us in raising funds. So if you have not yet have a card or have not loaded Nthando as a beneficiary, just pop online and get started.

What does 2017 hold for us?

In 2017 we will be overseeing the Educare learners, the Grade R, 1 and 2 learners. We are hoping to implement a much needed Literacy Project for the grade 1 and Grade 2 classes at the start of the year, and trust this will better equip these learners in their academic performance.

We also look forward to our annual events, parent workshops, winter warmer hampers, Mandela day and the Christmas shoeboxes.

We once again **THANK YOU** our supporters and God, for this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the vulnerable children in need of love, support and care.

The Nthando Family

