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WHAT LOVE CAN DO.

NTHANDO ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

1 March 2017 – 28 February 2018

Letter from the Chairman

This is Nthando's fourth year working alongside the Ark, and it continues to be such a blessing to all of us involved.

Over the last year, March 2017 to February 2018, we have been very busy in the Educare and with the foundation phase role players of the Ark. We have encouraged bonding between mother and child, equipped parents with tools for teaching and growing their children, we have empowered teachers through training opportunities and we have fostered healthy development amongst the children we engage with on a daily basis.

We have been thoroughly blessed by the continual support and generosity shown by our local community. It is such a privilege to bless the children we work, to see the joy on their faces and to bring hope and positive change to their lives.

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 organization of our financial wing, and for her wisdom and managerial skills; to Rob Jones for his unlimited resourcefulness, continual support, and effectiveness in procedural functions; to Julie Botha for her passion and logistical management in marketing and fundraising projects; and to Kalyn van der Vyver, our newest board member, we look forward to the skill and enthusiasm you will bring to the team. Without this team Nthando would not be where it is today, so thank you to each one of you.

Thank you too to Bronwyn Lindsay, one of our Occupational Therapists, who passionately goes to The Ark on a weekly basis to treat relevant kiddies and manage their development. 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. And welcome to Benita Alant, our Speech and Language therapist consultant, who joins our team from January 2018.

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?

Literacy Project

We started a Literacy Program in 2017, as we saw a need for literacy enrichment and one on one time for those that were struggling with reading. We developed a literacy program, which aims to see each grade 1 and 2 learner that is struggling with reading, once a week for 30 minutes. As with any new project, we had a few creases to iron out along the way, but by the third term the program was running effectively. We have thus continued the program into 2018, which sees just over 30 learners a week, run by volunteers either from inside or outside the Ark.



Hearing Tests & Eye Tests



Many of the children attending the Ark do not have access to hearing or eyes tests. Some have been on waiting lists for months, others do not have transport to get to clinics and some do not have the financial resources to pay for fees involved. We have been very blessed in making several partnerships with professionals who see the children we refer. Either free of charge or by accomadating with earlier appointments. Thank you to these very special role players, your generoisty is changing lives.

Easter Event

This year we decided to bless the Grade R, 1 and 2 learners with a Easter programme. This consisted of a object lesson, teaching them about the reason behind Easter, followed by a Easter egg hunt. The children loved every minute, and were filled with excitement as they interacted with the Nthando volunteers. Thank you to Julie and her fantastic team for making the children smile, and allowing them to experience the love of Christ.



Mandela Day July 2017: Book Drive



In keeping with our literacy theme, we decided to have a book drive and 67 minutes of reading for Mandela Day 2017. We had several volunteers give 67 minutes on Mandela Day to come and read to the children at the Ark, something not many of the children get to experience. We also collected over 200 books to add to the literacy project and to the individual foundation phase class libraries. In addition to books, ABSA Bank in Somerset West and Bargain Books at Waterstone Village, collected over 100 scarves for The Ark. These were distributed to the foundation phase learners and to the staff, and were a timely gift for the Winter season.

Winter Warmer Hampers

Just over 140 Winter Warmer Hampers were handed out this year. Each child at the LAMBS educare received a colourful fleece blanket to keep them warm this winter. As per tradition, the Grade R's received a pair of wellington boots, perfect for the muddy playgrounds. The Grade 1's received hand-knitted scarves and beanies, as well as a pair of bed socks, and the Grade 2 learners received their own hot water bottle.

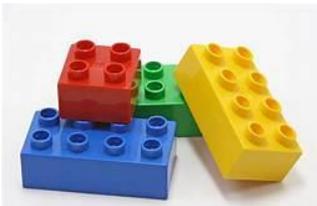


Developmental Stimulation Groups at LAMBS Educare



For the year of 2017 we have decided to start developmental stimulation groups with those attending the Lambs Educare. The ages of the children ranged from 18 months to 5 years old. Each Friday an age group got a turn to take part in a experiential group activity, covering area's of development such as gross motor, fine motor, language, sensory play and life skills. We had some great experiences, and were able to share idea's and skillswith the Educare teachers as well.

Training: LEGO Foundation



We had the opportunity to send some of our team members and teachers to the LEGO foundation 6 bricks training this year. The training is free, and a playbox consisting of Duplo was provided to NPO's that work with vulnerable children. LEGO is a great medium to teach skills such as literacy, numeracy, sharing, problem solving and language. Thank you to the LEGO foundation team for your great support.

Therapeutic Services Offered

We continue to offer weekly occupational therapy to those learners requiring support, free of charge. Some learners have been further 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. We have seen great progress in the learners receiving the services we provide, not just academic improvements but social and emotional developments as well.



MySchool

MySchool awarded Nthando R20 000 to put towards buying books for the children at the Ark. So we headed off to Bargain Books Waterstone Village, as they are a great supporter of ours, and purchased R20 000 worth of books. This purchase resulted in each Grade R, 1 and 2 learners receiving three brand new books to take home and read with their parent(s). Not only did this foster a love for reading but it also encourages continued bonding between parent and child.

Together with MySchool, we raise just over R1000 a month. So if Nthando is one of your beneficiaries, every time you shop and swipe, you are making a contribution to the work we do. Thank you.



Santa Shoe Boxes



Just over 90 children from the Ark School received Santa Shoe Boxes this year. It was an incredibly special sight to see their expectant faces as they opened their gifts. Thank you to all those that made up boxes and to Huibie and Sarah Jones for co-ordinating this momentous task.

In addition to the Santa shoe boxes that the Grade R, 1 and 2 learners received, we decided to bless the LAMBS Educare learners with individual Christmas gifts for their end of year party. There was much excitement and appreciation when the gifts were delivered and handed out.

Teachers Tea



The teachers tea was an opportunity for us to bless the teachers at The Ark school for all the hard work they do. The afternoon was spent getting to know each other, hearing challenges they face as well as receiving the appreciation they have for the work Nthando does. We hope to make this an annual event, as it was a real highlight in the teachers calendar.

What does 2017 hold for us?

In 2018 we will continue overseeing the Educare, Grade R, 1 and 2 learners, and will continue running the Literacy project. We look forward to welcoming our new Speech and language consultant onto the team, and know she will provide great skill to the team.

Our big project for 2018 is the Grade R playground and class upgrade. We hope to have these completed by the third term, and look forward to making these learners learning environment more comfortable and colourful.

We continue to look forward to our annual events, such as our workshops, Easter event, winter warmer hampers, Mandela day and the Christmas shoeboxes.

We thank God for the daily opportunities he has given us to be a part of these learners' lives, and to make a difference where we can. We also thank you our supporters, for your prayers, donations, finances and encouragement. We look forward to what God has in store for us in 2018, and look forward to journeying along with you once again.

The Nthando Family

