

Annual Report



2017/18

SA CARES FOR LIFE

CHANGING THE DESTINY OF
CHILDREN FOR 25 YEARS



“And as we let our light shine,
we unconsciously give other
people permission to do the
same”

- NELSON MANDELA-

Our Vision

1.

CHANGING THE DESTINY OF
CHILDREN



Content

2.

- 3. Message from SA Cares MD
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MESSAGE FROM SANET FAGAN- MD

3.

The general principle of the 'best interests of the child' is a central and all-embracing principle stipulating that "a child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child".

This principle is integrated in all our modules, programs, projects, services and decision-making processes affecting children.

The team of SA Cares for Life are dedicated to being the voice of the poorest of children in our society, the orphans who no one seems to reach. Our children do not have access to some of the essentials of life, and this accelerates our drive to make a difference.

South Africa is one of the few countries in which maternal and under five mortalities has increased since 1990. 23, 000 babies die before they reach one month of age, and in total 75, 000 children die before they reach their fifth birthday.

Our dreams seem unreachable, yet we dream of children never being without food, shelter or safety. We dream of children who do not have to worry where their next meal will come from or what their future will hold.

Children are brought to us from police stations, hospitals, social workers, young mothers, and people who can no longer turn a blind eye. These children have been neglected, abused, and in some cases, been given the gift of life from young mothers. These children all need a place of safety care and a forever family.

Our founder Riekie van der Berg, started SA Cares for Life, 25 years ago. She believed she was called to make a difference, to turn death into life, and we are blessed to be able to take this calling forward, and save children, one child at a time.



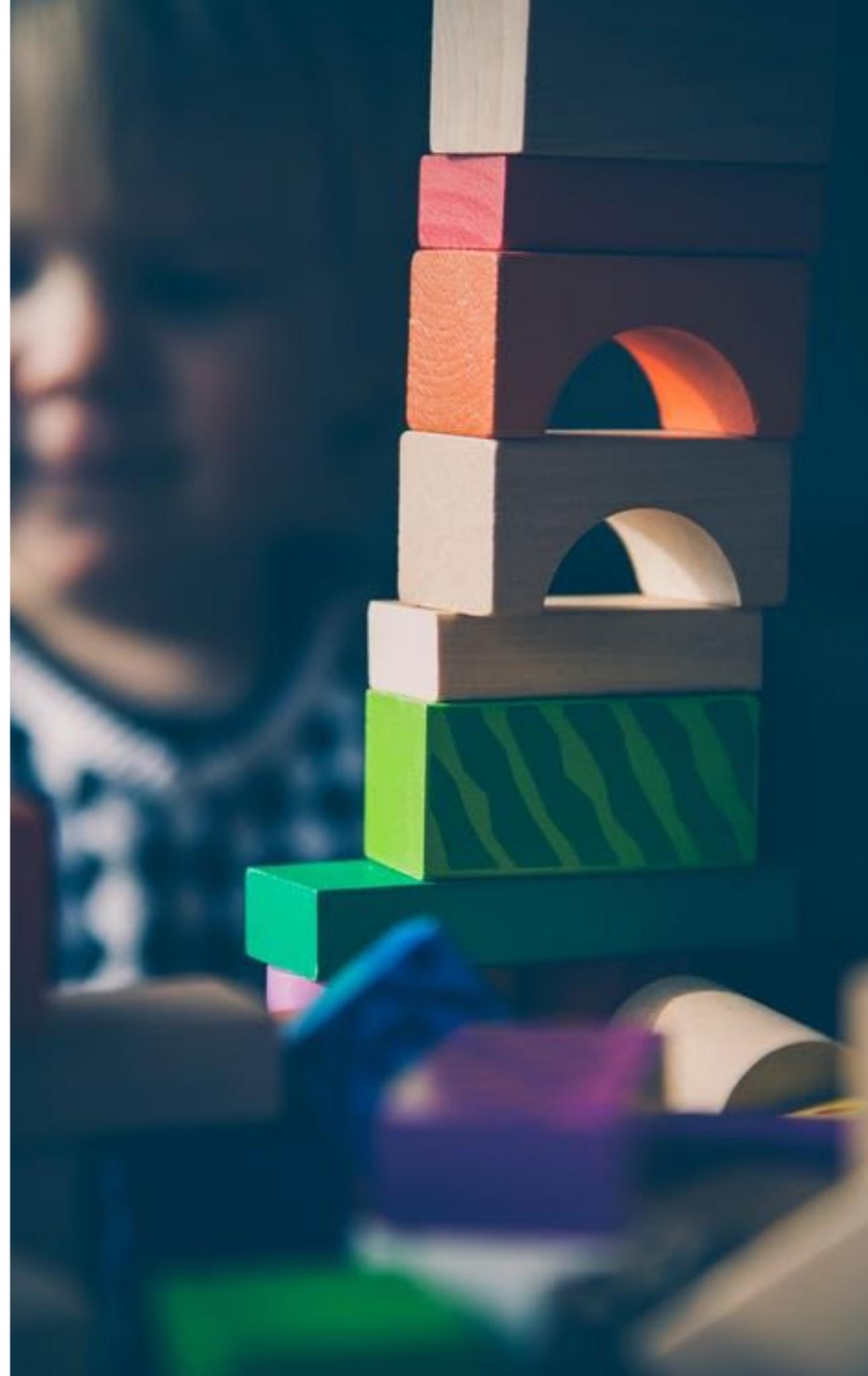
CHALLENGES AT SA CARES FOR LIFE

4.

Since 2017, SA Cares for Life felt the effects of an ever tightening economy. All non profits are bearing the brunt of donors that struggle to make ends meet and the logical step for them is to pull their support . We want to thank each and every person who keeps donating, supporting, praying, baking, teaching, and taking hands with us. 2017 and 2018 was not without challenges and we would like to share them with you.

Looking back, SA Cares for Life, had a challenging 2 years with regards to funding. Looking at our current funding and forward into 2019, we cannot help getting a bit uneasy around our financial capacity. We continue to explore new partnerships and looking at our existing projects to see how we can be able to keep on delivering the much needed support and services to all our communities.

Our biggest challenge is to see and experience the need first hand, but not always having the funding to assist where needed. Expansion of our teams remains difficult, as we need to control our HR cost, but still need to reach many people in need.



1983

5.

CHANGING THE DESTINY OF
CHILDREN

THE
START OF
THE
JOURNEY



1993 - 2016

The journey of SA Cares for Life began in 1983 when Riekie, as a registered social worker counselled a pregnant, divorced mother of two small children about abortion.

This woman was adamant to go through with an abortion and Riekie decided to be there for her and went with "to hold her hand". To see the reality of a suction abortion on a 16 week old baby traumatised Riekie to such an extent that she experienced post-traumatic stress syndrome symptoms. After much intense wrestling with her feelings of guilt, shame and confusion, she realised that Hosea was right in saying: "without knowledge, people perish".

One morning, she locked herself in her room and prayed: "The blood of this baby in on my hands, I take responsibility, Lord, please forgive me".

What happened then was life changing. Riekie experienced God's presence as a thick cloud covering her for a while and when it lifted, so did the heaviness on her heart, and she sensed God's forgiveness and peace in a supernatural way. In 1993, Riekie started Abba Adoptions to offer an adoption service which would be different than the norm.

Over the years God showed Riekie, and SA Cares for Life, that children are still vulnerable, not just due to abortions, but also due to disintegrating family life, poverty, teenage pregnancies, and HIV.

Children are left without protection that a family should provide, and the families that are still available are struggling under the weight of the ever increasing amount of orphans needing care.

For 25 years, SA Cares for Life has been standing in that gap. We want to support and strengthen the "walls" of protection and build new ones around the children entrusted to us.



6.

2016

7.

THE VISION OF OUR FOUNDER: SOMETHING NEW IS COMING

**THE DAWN OF A
NEW ERA**

2016 - 2018

New Managing Director

AFTER 25 YEARS - HANDOVER

- New Managing Director was appointed in 2016.
- After being mentored for 3 years, a final hand over was done from Riekie and Justus van der Berg to Sanet Fagan and Russell Fagan to take SA Cares for Life into the next 25 years.



8.

2016-2018

9.

“REFRESH” BUTTON

Our new logo came to light



10.

Significance of the Tree

Corporate Symbol: A **tree** is a universally recognisable symbol which represents many things, such as **life, prosperity, strength,** etc. A **Tree logo** symbolises the **stable growth of a company, just like a tree.**

Biblical Symbol: By Jesus' dying on the tree of death (the cross) we now have access to the Tree of Life (Rev 22) and that represents His death for our eternal life. We aim to bring the gospel to our families and children.

Emotional Symbol: A symbol of **family** and **connection to your ancestors.** A tree symbolises the generations of your family; a tree sprouts from a seed, grows and branches out, sees how far it can go, and then creates a new fruit that gives life to the next generation, to begin anew. SA Cares for Life will always be passed on to a new generation that can take it into the future.

The branches as a Symbol: The tree of life also symbolises family through its intricate network of branches, showing us the continuity through all generations. We are connected through ever-expanding branches to our projects, and families and children, through all the different generations. When trees are young, they pretty much all look the same. But, as they grow older, they weather storms and are battered by the forces of wind and water. Their branches may break and grow back in a different direction, or the very soil beneath them will erode away, causing them to grow even stronger roots to hold on.

Significance of the Woman and Baby

The woman and baby was incorporated from the previous U-SA Cares for Life logo, and had a significant meaning to Rose Phylidis. In honour to her, and the support SA Cares for Life received over 16 years, we decided to incorporate the woman and baby into our new logo. This will also spark recognition from loyal supporters in the USA, and will assist with the process of brand synergy. The woman holding the baby to the right side, inspires **emotion,** as it would be with a mother holding her baby on her right.

Symbolises a maternal bond :

A **maternal bond** is the relationship between a mother and her child. While typically associated with pregnancy and childbirth, a **maternal bond** may also develop in cases where the child is unrelated, such as an **adoption.**

Symbolises the need and silently address the following:

love, sacrifice, abortion, adoption, foster care, safety, bonding, caring for, lifetime emotional attachment

Biblical Symbol:

God's sovereignty not only over the **child,** but also **Mom** and Dad....**meaning** of dedication.

Significance of the Colours

Green is a cool colour that symbolises **nature** and the natural world. Green also represents **tranquility, good luck,** and **health.**



Front Row: Left to Right: Bernice Schoeman, Agnes Radebe, Tanya Knollys, Marlize Venter, Metisha Marx

Back Row: Left to Right: Janice Spencer, Ixantha Spangenberg, Sanet Fagan

THE FUTURE

11.

WE HAVE A PLAN

FOR THE

CHILDREN OF

SOUTH

AFRICA



Impact

12.

PREVENTION AND
INTERVENTION

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- Aim to prevent disintegration of families, and abandonment of children.
- Multi-cultural.



AGNES RADEBE

Executive Project Manager -

Plastic City

Prevention

CLUSTER CARE PROGRAM

- Circles of care to change communities from the inside out.
- Aim to prevent disintegration of families, and abandonment of children.
- More than 1700 beneficiaries.
- Multi-cultural.
- Key Focus Areas:
- Orphans, Prevention of Human Trafficking, Rape Crisis Support, Entrepreneurship, Disabled Care, Community and Rural Development, Poverty Alleviation, Health, Welfare, Water and Sanitation, Education

13.







Circles of Care around Orphans, Vulnerable Children and Woman. We aim to keep families together and strong

We find and train woman and men as cluster care workers. A cluster care community is based and form circles of care to touch and change communities from the inside out, through the close interaction with 15 individual families each. Care Workers walk a close and committed road with families in need, following a 12 month program,

addressing key issues and assisting with practical things such as a birth registration and ID documents. This enables a child to receive his Government Grant, and Education. A family can stay in our program from 1-5 years or more. We aim to prevent disintegration of families, and children being left abandoned.

STATISTICS AND PROFILE OF PEOPLE WE SERVE

- The breakdown of families from these different areas are as follows:

30 Mmakaunyane, 90 Hammanskraal, 40 Plastic City.

- The 160 families consisted of 1280 people, 1100 children and 180 adults.

- We have 636 boys and 464 girls in 2017 and 2018

- The age categories were: 0-5 years = 445 children, 6-9 years = 404 children, 10-13 years = 251 children.

- The care givers were as follows: 0 Child Headed Households, 48 Granny Headed Households, 176 Single Headed Households and 16 Dual Headed Households.

- Classification of languages 52 Tswana, 14 Sepedi, 39 Zulu, 40 Tsonga, 3 Xhosa, 26 Sesotho, 1 Swati, 4 Venda, 3 Ndebele, 3 Northern Sotho and 1 Afrikaans. Foreign nationalities consisting of people from Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Nigeria, and Mozambique.

- Form of housing 112 Governmental Houses, 93 Formal Shacks and 35 Informal Huts and 40 Dwellings of Cardboard boxes and Plastic Sheets.

- Division of Sanitation 161 Pit Toilets, 4 Community, 8 Septic Tanks and 6 bucket system





Team

Our Cluster Care team consists incredibly talented and passionate people who are proud to make a difference in the community by doing work that they love every day. They have been selected due to their passion for the community they live in, and because they took actions to improve and assist families around them.

Currently we have:

16 Cluster Care Workers

Each one looking after 15 families each on average



Assessment

Assessment is central to identifying needs, making decisions and providing services. **Assessment tools** have a role in relation to co-ordinating **care**, communication between professionals and gathering data for monitoring and service improvement.

Our team worked hard in identifying and assessing the families in need in these areas; faced with poverty, unemployment, affected and infected with HIV/AIDS.

Though continued monitoring and evaluation, we ensure all our families meet our assessment criteria.

2017/2018 Highlights

2 Wheelchairs distributed
 960 Food Parcels distributed
 1200 Blankets distributed
 200 Knitted Jerseys handed to the elderly and children
 50 Vegetable Gardens started with training and Tools hand out
 30 School Uniforms and Shoes issued
 10 Medical Appointments
 1 House re-built

2017/2018 Lows

We did have a low point when we lost one of our little boys due to suicide. He was diagnosed with ADHD, and he struggled to cope with school, and also his family circumstances. At that point the family has been with us for 4 months. A confirmation to us, about the importance of what we do, and to keep on discovering these children in need.

2017/2018 Events

Christmas Party for all the children

Substance and Abuse Training

HIV/Aids info session and assistance



PARENTAL TRAINING Monthly Themes

The care workers introduced monthly themes on parenting since it is one of the key roles that parents have to perform. The care workers help guide and improve these experiences to each and every family and these themes have influenced a positive feedback on the parenting responsibilities.

Each visit to the families is accompanied with a theme which helps shape the parents to be better and able to shape the future of the children in a good way.

The themes are as follows:

- Child Safety and Protection
- Children's Rights
- Physical Development
- Health and Nutrition
- Intellectual and Language Stimulation
- Positive Discipline
- Healthy Family Relationships
- Play and Creativity
- Social Development, Emotional Development and Confidence Building
- Grief and Bereavement.
- Handling of Crisis Situations
- Financial Planning
- Family Planning





Prevention

COMMUNITY CENTRES AND LIFE HOUSES

- House or public place where members of the community can come for safety 24 hours a day, or gather for activities.
- Aim to assist the Cluster Care Program, should they need a place of safety to place a child in danger.
- Painted Red for easy recognition in the community.
- Key Focus Areas:
- Safety to Woman and Children, Orphans, Rape Crisis Support, Entrepreneurship, Community and Rural Development, Poverty Alleviation, Health, Welfare, Water and Sanitation, Education, Family Support





Life Houses



20.

Life Houses and Community Centres painted red for easy recognition in the communities

It is important to provide opportunities for residents to engage in social, cultural, recreational and educational activities within their communities from the ground up by growing leaders, engaging people, preparing them for change, building relationships and supporting their individual capabilities. Our design is to group together a

Life House, and Early Development Centre, and Skills Development, onto one piece of land. This enables the community and children to attend the centre and receive education, safety and skills training, and for them to also serve their community. The Life House/ Community Centre provides a service to the community.



Team

Our Life House team consists of incredibly talented and passionate people who are proud to make a difference in the community by doing work that they love every day. They have been selected due to their passion for the community, and their willingness to open their houses and provide a place of safety to woman and children in danger.

They also provide and run a project from their home, in order to assist with a need in the community, and to provide and income for themselves.



Currently we have:

7 Life Houses

Providing the following services to the community:

1. Transport services taking children to school each day
2. Homework assistance
3. Feeding Schemes
4. Day Care Facilities to single mothers and young mothers having to go to work
5. Maintenance training to men, and providing maintenance service to the community
6. Skills training, in the form of beading, needlework and crafts



STATISTICS

520 children were kept safe in 2017/2018

10 woman were received during the night in danger

8 more houses coming in 2019

350 children attended the Christmas Party and received a Christmas Gift

4160 Children fed through the Soup Kitchen

3 Netball Teams started

6 Soccer Teams Started

2 Potential Rape cases prevented

240 children received after school care, and assistance with their homework



Why a Life House?

Many woman and children are vulnerable due to their husbands leaving them, or abusing them.

Children are not safe, especially young girls.

Where do you go late at night if you need a safe place?

Imagine having a safe environment where you can develop and follow your dreams for a better future.

Imagine there is a house in your community, close to where you live, where you can find hope, safety and food, any time of the day.

Then you will know the value of a Life House.

Our Life Houses are situated in communities, in and around Gauteng, and they provide safety to woman and children in danger, 24 hours a day.

They are owned by home owners in communities and a painted red for easy recognition.

SA Cares for Life, comes alongside them, and assist them, to provide social services to the community.



Intervention

ABBA TODDLER HOUSE

- 36 Freeland Avenue, Kilnerpark, Pretoria
- Place of Safety for Abandoned and Abused Children
- Key Focus Areas:
- Safety to Children, Orphans, Health, Welfare, Education, Family Support

24.



JANICE SPENCER

Executive Project Manager Abba House,

Abba Care Home Moms and

Mmakaunyane Community Project



Abba Toddler House



All children are welcome in our place of safety, ABBA Toddler House

Abandoned, neglected, abused, and HIV/Aids infected children are placed in our care by the court until their cases have been finalized.

Abba House cares for a maximum of 14 children at any given stage and more than 400 children have moved through our house since its opening in 2000.

Children are received and are evaluated for a period of 6 months until a more permanent placement can be found through family placements, foster care or adoption.

All our children are loved and receive the best emotional, and physical care.

We work closely together with social welfare organisations, Hospitals, DSD and SAPD.



NEW BABY ARRIVALS FROM OUR BABY SAFE

2017 - 5

2018 - 4

TOTAL TODDLER ARRIVALS

2017 / 18 - 34

TOTAL CARE HOME BABIES

49



TOTAL FOSTER CARE CASES FOR 2017/18

2017 - 39

2018 - 39





Abba Baby Care Homes



Abandonment of infants in South Africa are, unfortunately a common occurrence. Many of these children are left to die, or simply abandoned in dustbins, open fields, public toilets or even train tracks.

SA Cares for Life provides care and safety to these infants, by placing them in an Abba Baby Care Home Family where they will receive love and skin to skin contact, until they are adopted or reunited with extended family.

Babies who have not had ample physical and emotional attention are at a high risk of behavioural, emotional and social problems growing up. A baby can stay with a family for up to 6 months. All the items need to care for this baby, are provided to the Care Home by SA Cares for Life. Our Care Homes are carefully selected, screened and operates with the support from our team as well as Social Workers.

Our babies come to us from our baby safe, hospitals, police stations, mothers who will bring their babies to us, social workers, and community members.

* Active Care Home Moms - 30

* Average Cost per month per baby - R600-R800



CARE HOME MOMS ARE SUPER MOMS

Babies are cared for by them and their families for 6 months and sometimes longer, until they can join their forever families.





Abba Pre-School
& CDC



Children arriving at Abba House comes to us from Police Stations, Hospitals, Social Workers and Adoptions Agencies. Many times these children have been neglected, abused and abandoned.

This mean that they have not yet had the privilege and opportunity to attend a day care, or a pre-school, and interact with children or develop and learn.

Our dream is to give them this opportunity, and thus we started out by building a new wing to the house, as the school for ABBA House.

At Abba School, we present the official departmental curriculum, for our children who have received no formal education, and have gross emotional negligence.

Our teachers, and care givers, are trained to acknowledge and respect the individual abilities and competencies of each child.

At Abba School, they have the opportunity to adapt naturally into a school environment, which leaves them ready to face social interaction, and educational expectancies, upon entering normal educational environments, once adopted or in a foster family.





Highlights and accomplishments for the year

Building of new school started in November 2017

Educational curriculum was set in place

General outings for the children

Repainting of the outside wall for future sensory wall

Repainting of the outside wall for future sensory wall

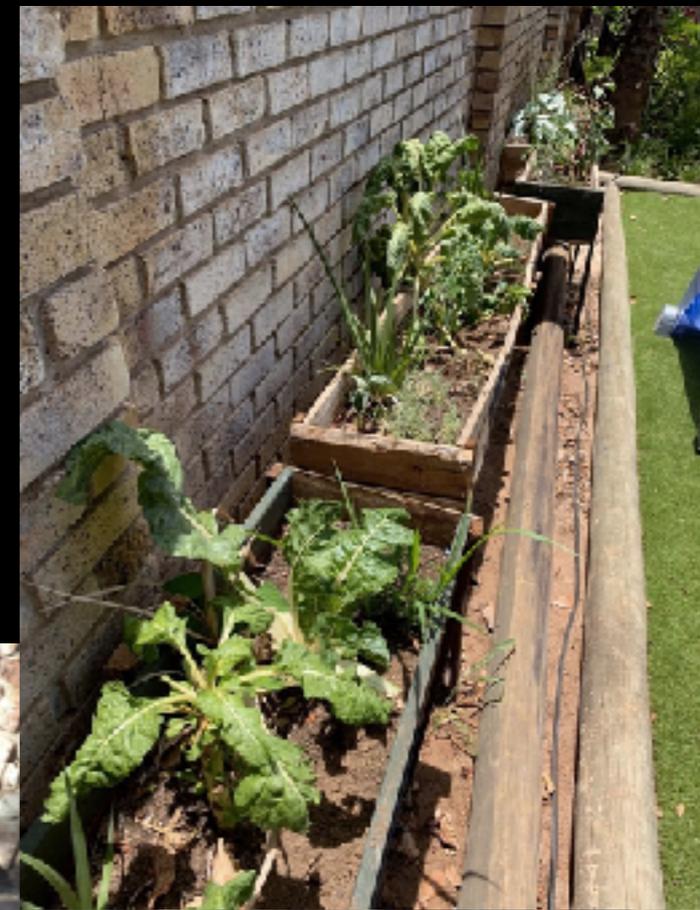
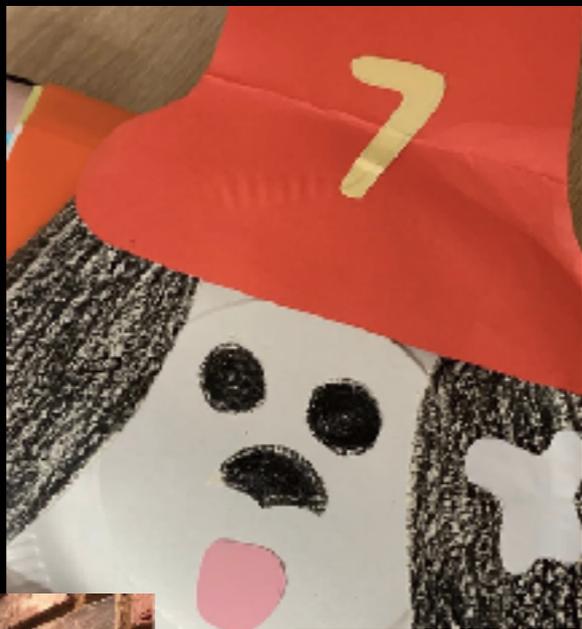
Our aim is to develop all aspects of the child which includes gross motor, fine motor, cognitive, language, emotional and social development.

We also have trained, skilled professionals in the fields of speech therapy, play therapy and occupational therapy assisting us with any of our children.

Due to the fact that Abba School is only for the children from Abba Toddler House, the maximum amount of children in a class is 14.

We currently have 1 Full Time Teacher, and 1 Assistant for the school.





Income Generating Project

BLESSINGS BOUTIQUE

- Designed to create an additional income for ABBA Toddler House.
- Shop designed to have affordable clothing on sale, whether second-hand, vintage, or brand new.
- Address: 20 Braam Pretorius Street, Montana, Pretoria

30.



MARLIZE VENTER

Admin Assist and Blessings Boutique



Blessings
Boutique

Affordable Clothing
NOW OPEN



Blessings
Boutique

Blessings
Boutique
Affordable
Clothing



Prevention and Intervention

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

- We recognise the primary importance of human relationships and we aim to be vehicles for change, advocacy and equity. We want to restore and improve families and communities, in our aim to keep children safe
- We are the voice for all our children in court and all legal matters, influencing the futures of our children
- Emotional and Legal support for our biological parents, as well as our Foster Care Parents are of utmost importance
- Information mornings and Education about foster care and adoption are key
- Great care is taken to screen possible care home moms, foster parents, and adoptive parents

31.



IXANTHA SPANGENBERG

Executive Manager Social Work, and Foster Care

Support

MARKETING AND EVENTS

- Events are very important to us, in order to assist us with fundraising for our projects.
- Our Annual Golf day is our largest fundraising event each year.
- Christmas Parties for the children in all the communities, are the biggest highlight for us and for them!

32.



METISHA MARX -

Executive Manager,

Marketing, Fundraising and Events

EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

List of Fundraising Events:

Golf days

Spar Woman's Challenge

Emanuel Christmas Box and Christmas Parties

Food and Wine Tasting Evenings

Market Days

Mandela Day and Special Project days

Special Celebrations - 25 year anniversary of SA Cares for Life

Music Festivals

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLE

#sacares4life

33.



EMMANUEL SHOE BOX PROJECT

Packing a gift for a vulnerable child is an act of Love.

Join a panel of "heart" people and help us too pack a Christmas Box for a child in need.

Each box must contain at least 5 items in total, 1 of the following suggestions each, according to age and gender:

1. **Something to hold and to have:** **Younger children:** Soft toys, dolls, a soft blanket. **Older Children:** jewellery and watches, arts & crafts, soft blanket, a ball, or radio.
2. **Something to wear:** T-Shirt, shorts, a dress, a hat, a cap, or socks, **all ages**
3. **Something for school or educational material:** Books, pens, sharpeners, markers, crayons or colouring books and pencils, notebooks. **all ages**
4. **Something for personal hygiene:** Toothbrush and -paste, hairbrush, roll-on deodorants, bubble bath, body lotion, shaving cream, nail clippers. (Please put soap in plastic bag) **all ages**
5. **Something to play with:** A car or doll, skipping ropes, marbles, playing cards, Christmas crackers etc.
6. **Something sweet:** Liqui fruit, chips, (small packets) chocolate bar or cookies etc.

34.





Support

FINANCIAL SYSTEMS AND STAFF SUPPORT

- **FINANCES:** Governance is key, and we follow a very strict financial system to ensure transparent reporting on funds received.
- **STAFF:** The biggest challenge remains a HR Payroll for us a NPO, and to find funding for salaries for STAFF.
- STAFF plays an integral role in caring for the children and families in need.
- We appreciate the fact that our STAFF is willing to take on more than one portfolio, for a small salary.
- Volunteers remain key in our organisation, and we have a very streamlined process whereby people can apply to volunteer at SA Cares for Life.

35.



TANYA KNOLLYS

**Executive Project Manager Hammanskraal,
General Finance and Staff Support**

STAFF

The staff working at SA Cares for Life has extreme passion for the work that they are doing and they do the work because they are called to do so. Each and every member of staff is unique with unique personalities, gifts and talents. We see each staff member as part of a mosaic picture, and each piece is needed in order for the picture to be whole and complete and the grouting that holds the picture together is the Lord

They are dedicated and loyal even though some of the work is done in challenging circumstances for example removing a child or visiting clients in difficult to reach spaces etc., but they are always willing to go the extra mile to ensure the safety of what they are called to do. So much growth has taken place in the staff over the past years and it is wonderful to see.

But most importantly something each and every staff member strives to be and do as Jesus did and spread His word and by doing this they install HOPE into each and every person's life they touch. We see each and every staff member as being a bearer of **HOPE** and **LIGHT**

36.





Staff Compliment = Permanent Staff, Contract Workers, Community Members, and Volunteers

Cluster Care

9 Staff Members

Early Childhood Development

6 Staff Members

16 still in Training

ABBA House

8 Staff Members

30 Volunteers

4 Contract Workers

Foster Care

2 Staff Members

Life Houses

1 Staff Member

9 Community Members

Executive Team - Head office

8 Members

