



We Build Brighter Futures

Christine Revell Children's Home



Annual Report

1 April 2011—31 March 2012



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Board of Trustees

As stipulated in the trust deed the Christine Revell Children's Home Trust (IT 1921/2000) consists of at least five and at most 11 trustees, half of whom are to represent the Uniting Reformed Church and the other half the broader community. Four Trust meetings were held during the year in review.

Mr Hassan Khan and Mrs Elizabeth Apollis joined the board during the year. Both Mr Khan, as executive head of the Haven Organisation, and Mrs Apollis, with her experience as a social worker, brought with them valuable skills and experience.

Trustees at year-end:

- Ms Nadene Rolston (Chair)
- Mr Marcel Hooebeben (Vice Chairman)
- Mrs Elizabeth Apollis
- Mr Hassan Khan
- Rev. Benjamin Lemboe
- Rev. Benjamin Nicholls
- Mrs Gwendoline Rosant
- Ms Hannarie Wenhold

Management Committee

A management committee, consisting of eight volunteer members from the community, met 12 times during the year together with the director. Important management decisions were taken and numerous problems and issues addressed.

Front from the left: Dirk Hoffman, Director Alicia Rhoda, Serena Rossling, Rev. Benjamin Lemboe, Alfons Genseberger.

Back: Kirsten Scheltema, Hannarie Wenhold (chair), Lionel Daniel, Sonja van der Sandt.



Message from the Chairperson of the Christine Revell Children's Home Trust



The other day I was thanked by a lady in her 40s for the great work we do in caring for abandoned children. She had grown up in a children's home and knew how important this type of facility was in her life.

While busy with the everyday running of the home, we seldom think of where these children will be in 30 years' time. At least I can report that we are doing everything possible for our children. It's wonderful to walk through the corridors and see the happy, smiling faces. I must commend our staff and all the extra volunteers who work with the children for their excellent input. It is not easy running after little ones all day. They all have to be fed, clothed, educated and loved each day, and they are!

The Home is still financially sound, due the wonderful donations we receive from many different sources. To all our donors a very gracious thank you! Every penny, product or second-hand item is put to very good use and helps us to fulfil our mission to build brighter futures for the children in our care.

Our enterprising and hard-working Director, Alicia Rhoda, has a lot of support from the Management Board, who play an integral part in helping her manage the home. They bring a wealth of extra experience for her to draw from. I thank them for all their dedicated contribution. I would also like to acknowledge the support we get from the Department of Social Development, without which we would not be able to function.

In today's world of tight budgets and less income I do pray that the CRCH will still be blessed with the great support system it has now, so that it can continue to be a true 'home' for the most vulnerable small children in our society.

Nadene Rolston

Historical Background

The origins of the Christine Revell Children's Home go back to 1940 when the Uniting Reformed Church started a confinement home for young unmarried girls who chose to give up their children for adoption. From 1975 some of these babies were cared for in the nursery section started by a community worker, Ms Christine Revell.

The organisation later transformed into a place of safety and home for abandoned, abused, neglected and orphaned children.

In 2000 the Church established a trust that took over the premises and the Home. Today Christine Revell Children's Home is registered to care for 49 abandoned, abused, neglected or orphaned children from birth to pre-school age irrespective of gender, race, religion or HIV status.

Director's Report

The smallest things can change your life in a blink of an eye; something unexpected happens and alters the journey of your life. This is the story of our children – something happened over which they had no control, but it altered their lives.

When children are admitted to our Home we help them to adapt to the changes they are experiencing and strive to improve their lives through our service delivery. For this we attempt to involve the community as well.

We measure our achievements by the development of our children; their successful placement; the development of our staff, and our networking skills. Therefore we are honoured that the Monitoring and Evaluation teams of the Department of Social Development who audited us gave very positive feedback. We were also chosen to receive a visit from the Standing Committee of the Premier's Office in August 2011.

We were challenged by the many changes and resultant backlogs that developed within the various departments and constituencies due to the implementation problems experienced with the new Children's Act, but it has not deterred us from rendering our services. We also reviewed and updated our existing policies in line with changing demands.

Staff Matters & Training

Our staff compliment consists of 20 permanent staff members and 10 relief workers. Due to more sickly children, we had to make more use of relief staff. Our child care workers attended training courses of the National Association of Child Care Workers that were funded by the Department of Social Development. More than 14 of our staff members made use of this opportunity and completed Modules 3 and 4. Our trustee member, Mrs Gwen Rosant from Melomed, arranged for training to improve the medical observation skills of staff.

During the year three staff members left our employ. This led to the following changes: Shireen van Reenen was appointed as social worker in September 2011 after the resignation of Sarita Sirmonpong. Two relief workers, Zameka Duka and Merle Jacobs, were appointed as permanent child care workers to replace Patricia Sias and Rowena May. This led to another internal shift when Rayleen Gertse took over as one of the three educare teachers.

The Children

During the year under review 25 children were admitted for the following reasons:

- 10 due to abandonment
- 9 due to parents' drug or alcohol abuse
- 6 due to lack of basic provision.

During the year under review we discharged 8 children:

- 1 returned to a biological parent
- 2 were placed in foster care with family (grandparent)
- 3 were placed in foster care with an alternative foster family
- 1 was transferred to another home due to medical reasons
- 1 was adopted.

Educare Programme / Extra-mural activities

At our Little Star Crèche we did not only rely on our three staff members to address developmental delays and behavioural problems of the children, but actively went out searching for external support.

This helped us a great deal, specifically in the case of children who display behavioural problems.

Children who have been through severe trauma sometimes withdraw emotionally and when they arrive here they initially refuse to communicate. Final-year speech therapy students from UCT helped us with specific exercises for these children and undertook workshop sessions with staff.

Volunteer play therapist, Mush Perrins, gave her support on a needs basis by offering awareness sessions on baby play therapy. In one specific case we also had valuable support from clinical psychologist, Shanaaz Hoosain.

The three teachers each had one group to work with, where children were not only placed according to age, but their level of development also played a role.

Volunteer Programme

International volunteers: During the year in review, we had 31 international volunteers from Sweden, England, the USA, Finland, the Netherlands, Spain, Brazil and Denmark. We are very thankful for these volunteers who work here four days a week for at least eight weeks. They helped us with daily activities and accompanied children to clinic and hospital appointments.

Community Service: There has been an increase in Community Service learners from various schools. We have worked out a programme for the learners and during the year under review we had 79 learners from the following schools: Rustenburg Girls, Islamia College, Herzlia, Reddam, Cedar House, Wynberg Boys, St Joseph's Marist College, Rhodes High, Rondebosch Boys, Spine Road, Herschel, Westford High, Bergvliet High, Springfield Convent, Mondale High, Christel House, Spes Bona and Jan van Riebeeck.

Learners are very enthusiastic and we've noticed how the networking cycle progresses, when learners talk to their parents and families and keep on coming back to visit. Some of the schools also visit and arrange play activities with the children.

Medical Programme

Professional medical assistance came from the following general practitioners in our community: Dr Samie, Dr Osman and Dr Navsa, and especially from paediatrician Kathy Krige, who was involved until November 2011. The dental care needs of the children were taken care of by Dr Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed, together with his team.

The children were also referred to several hospitals, including Groote Schuur, New Somerset, Red Cross Children's and Tygerberg. We also made use of the Hazendal Clinic, Athlone Pharmacy, Abdurahman Day Hospital and Silvertown Clinic for TB cases. Over the period of this report, many children had appointments at the various clinics at the hospitals, such as the Speech and Audio Clinic, Developmental Clinic, Renal Clinic and Infectious Diseases Clinic.

Visitors and Activities

Various groups come for visits; some of them arranged special outdoor or indoor activities for the children and others regularly dropped off donations to cover our ongoing needs. Among them were:

ANC Youth league - ward D 60, Arise Children's Ministry, Athlone Towers Social Club, Blue Financial Service, Brimstone, Build-a-bear, Claremont Rotary, Common Ground Church members (regular bedtime reading sessions and Saturday morning activities), CPUT students, Dept of the Premier, Edelweiss Pharma, Fairheads, Fairmont Interact club, Gail Bevan & friends, Genevieve & friends (birthday club), Goodhope Foundation, House of Grace, Lauren Sampson & family, Leo Club of Kirstenbosch, Light-house Educare, Maryka Vermaak & ladies, Masakhane, Naidoo family, Dr M Mohamed & team (dental awareness), Nedbank, Rand Merchant Bank, Reddam Atlantic Seaboard, Pathcare HR Dept, Shoneez Claassen & group, Synovate (Pty) Ltd, Tennessee University, Undictated MCC (bikers), The People Shop, Triumph International, Zapop (Pty) Ltd,

Churches of all denominations: St Aidan's ladies group; Lofdal Congregation; Commonground Church; Seventh Day Adventist; Stellenberg DR Church Sunday school; Redeemed Pentecostal Assemblies; Rylands Baptist Church; Church in Westridge; Latreuo Ministries; St Mark's Church; Rosebank Methodist Church; Vredehoek Apostolic Church; Desire of all nations – Toddler ministries; Uniting Reformed Church Die Slot.

Hosting Programme

There has been talk of placing more children in foster care, but because of certain problems regarding the implementation of the new Children's Act, we find that the processes are taking longer. Our hosting programme plays an important role to give children a real family life, although it is only short-term over weekends and holidays.

We have approximately 65 host parents, of whom 20 are actively involved. During the year we held four meetings to discuss the role of the host parent and the impact it has on the child and to discuss the development of the individual children. Training included how to deal with behavioural problems and the 'oh-so-often' tantrums.

On average 6-10 children went out over weekends. This is a very important component of the development of the children, because it prevents them from becoming typically 'institutionalised'. With such large numbers of children, all still small, we cannot replicate true family life. That means that weekend outings also help with general development and social skills.

To maintain the balance between the Home and family life, we shared our experiences with host parents and volunteers in training sessions. We have found that children do need boundaries at all times, and we imparted this knowledge to our host parents and volunteers.

Infrastructure

At the end of the financial year we completed the final phase of our aluminium window replacement project. This gave the phrase 'all things are possible' new meaning. The cot re-spraying project was completed in July 2011. Unfortunately, we were unable to obtain funding for a new garage and the replacement of floor tiles.

Conclusion

My personal thanks to the staff, management committee and trustees for their support. Our success as an organisation is furthermore due to the support of the general community, the corporate sector and the Department of Social Development. As partners together we made a difference in the lives of the children in our care. We thank you all for that and challenge all our donors, volunteers, friends and supporters to continue helping us build brighter futures for our children – a motto we actively strive towards every single day of the year.

Alicia Rhoda

Age Groups we Care for

Group A1: Younger than 6 months — 4 babies

Group A2: Age 6 months to 18 months —11 babies

Group B: Age 18 months to 2 years —12 toddlers, with an extra bed for emergencies

Group C: Age 2 - 5 years — 22 children with an extra bed for emergencies.



Sources of Income for the Year

| | 2012 |
|--|------|
| Government Subsidy | 51% |
| Project related income: Dutch Stichting tot Steun CRCH; Breadsticks Foundation; Iqraa Trust; Grand West; Aegis Media | 40% |
| Fundraising drives | 4% |
| Church donations | 3% |
| Sales & sundry donations | 2% |

Major Costs for the Year

| | 2012 |
|--|------|
| Salaries + related costs (1) | 69% |
| Essentials: Food, Domestic needs (2) | 10% |
| Building, Equipment, Security: Maintenance, Services, Repairs (3) | 2% |
| Municipal: Electricity, Water, Sewerage | 10% |
| Vehicles: Licensing, Services, Fuel | 3% |
| Administrative: Insurance, Computer, Bookkeeping, Auditors, Bank, Telkom, Cell phones, Postage | 5% |
| Other | 1% |

- (1) Includes all office, edu-care, child-care, domestic and relief staff.
- (2) Notwithstanding higher food prices, costs were contained due to food donations and sponsorships from Iqraa Trust, Grand West International and others
- (3) (3) No major maintenance and repairs, and minimal security upgrades were undertaken.

Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the following:

ANC Youth League- ward D60 – Financial & in kind
Acceleration Media – Financial
AEGIS- Financial
Bless Africa Church – Financial
Botha. S.L. – Monthly Financial contribution
Breadsticks Foundation – Financial
Carl & Emily Fuchs Foundation – Financial
Catalyst Care – Financial
Christel House, Mr Steenkamp – Transport
Community Chest – Raaihanaah Johnson – Financial
Common ground Church- Financial
Courier IT- Financial
Department of Social Development – Subsidy
DG Murray Trust – Financial
Finger of God Church – Financial
Foodbank – Food donations
Freudenberg Nonwovens – Outing sponsorship
First National Bank – Financial
Futuregrowth – Financial
Gail Bevan & friends –Financial
Garth Andrews & group – Financial
Grand West Casino & Entertainment World – Food sponsorship
Gerd Siquvela nd Vagle – Financial
Yank Berry (Global Village) – Financial
Y2A – Volunteer Financial
Gregory Maragelis – Financial
Guesthouse One Belvedere – Donation cleaning materials
Herschel High School – Financial
Hyman Goldberg Foundation – Financial
I to I Volunteers – Financial
Iqraa Trust – Albaraka bank – Milk sponsorship
Islamia College – Financial
Incy Wincy College – Financial
Kantonen family – Adopt-a-child contribution
Klaasen – Adopt-a-child contribution
Maasdorp Tours overseas tourists – Financial
Marpro Trawling – Monthly fish donation
Make-a-donation Fund – Financial
Malin Hull & family – Adopt-a-child contribution
Meihuizen International – Financial
Medical Students – Rende – Financial
Meljo Tours- Dutch visitors – Financial
Momentum Charity Golf Day – Financial
Momentum Golf Day – Financial contributions from the following players: Beyers,

Darren Botha, K. Cousins, WG Deventer, A. Jordaan, Kohlmeyer, Laurium, Fairturn, Erik Nel, Nitrogen Fund, Obsidian Capital, Proteus Capital, PSG Absolut, M.T. Salie
Moodaley – Financial
Mohini Naidoo – Financial
Planthire c/o Nigel Ramiah & friends – Sponsorship Camera system – phase 2
Party with a Purpose – Financial
Prince family – Monthly financial contribution
Schools – Athlone North Primary, La Rochelle Girls, Spine Road High, Tygerberg High, financial + Springfield Convent – Marimba band & financial
Protektum Makelaars – Financial
Rotary Club Claremont – Project grant
Rotary Club Waterfront – Financial
RCM Wesel – Adopt-a-child contribution
Renee Bishop Recruitment – Financial sponsorship
Rosemary Slogget – Financial
R & D Informatics – IT support
Rob Anonymous –Financial
ShopSA (NOPSA) – Financial project donation
South African Australian Association – Financial
Stichting tot Steun CRCH – Financial for cot project
St Marks Church – Financial
The People's Shop – Financial & monthly products
TNS Research – Financial
Tony Davis – Financial
T2H Holdings – Financial
Uniting Reformed Church (URC), Christelike Vrouediens – Financial
URC Mitchell's Plain – Financial
URC Synod levies – Financial
Wastebusters – Financial

Mission statement

We build brighter futures
and strive to nurture &
develop the children in our
care, and work towards
their successful
re-integration into a family
and the community.

Up to R500

Ashleigh
Booyesen, J.
Larinda, Fabiola
Exotic Travel
Glaser, Marcel
Japhta, J.
Lang, Lavona
Lesch, E.
Mrs Mitha
MXchange
Oppelt, Shamielah
Retief, Bonny
St Stephen's Church
Truter, F.
URC Ebenezer
URC Maitland Kinderbond
URC Welgelegen
Van den Berg, Isa
Van der Zande, Wibbens

BANKING DETAILS:

First National Bank
ATHLONE
Branch code: 202 409
Account number:
5133 1151 278
Swift code: FIRNZA JJ133

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