

SAMARA FOUNDATION

2017/18 IN REVIEW



THE EASTERN CAPE, one of South Africa's larger and more rural provinces, has a wealth of natural resources and beauty with breath-taking, sweeping landscapes. But just as sweeping is the poverty there. The further one moves away from the cities and larger towns, the more rudimentary things become and the fewer opportunities there are for those living there.

It is in these villages that we are increasingly finding ourselves, where we not only deal with lack of infrastructure and resources, but where gaining access to these is another hurdle to face. However even with the difficulties and the often slow pace of change, there are always the moments that justify our involvement there – may it be a child's head bent intently over a new book, the first vegetables harvested from the food gardens or the laughter and discussions at our teacher workshops.

Beginning on 1 July in 2017, this has been Samara's first year in operation, having taken over from Ulrich Feiter at Parceval (Pty) Ltd who started the projects together with the Umckaloabo Foundation. And while much of it has been about finding our feet and getting to know the

communities in which the Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres with whom we work are located, we can look back at some milestones of which we are proud.

This includes a visit from an Austrian youth group to one of our ECD centres, two successful workshops, infrastructure improvements at several ECD centres and the engagement with various stakeholders from government to other like-minded organisations and individuals.

We thank all those that supported us along the way: the Umckaloabo Foundation for their continued funding and support of the projects, Ulrich Feiter and Parceval (Pty) Ltd for their donations in kind, administrative support and the use of their facilities, and all those that offered advice and insight along the way.



Louisa Feiter
Managing Director



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

6 ECD CENTRES

13 TEACHERS

177 CHILDREN

This programme supports Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in the areas of Alice and Whittlesea with educational resources, equipment and infrastructure improvements. Samara believes that creating a safe, healthy and welcoming space is the first step in promoting learning and allowing children and teachers to blossom.





NOMZAMO

The longest standing relationship is with Nomzamo Day Care Centre which has received support since 2011, long before Samara got involved. However Samara has continued the partnership and has been happy to see the centre thrive with two new teachers arriving at Nomzamo in March 2018, bringing new energy and ideas to the centre. We look forward to the continued journey ahead with them.

Material assistance given to Nomzamo:

- Sponsorship of their caretaker
- Seeds for their vegetable garden
- Continued maintenance of premises

NGWABENI

This centre has been receiving support since 2015 and has been transformed from a run-down building into a safe haven for the children from Ngwabeni Village. Here too, Samara has continued the partnership and supported the upkeep of the premises.

Material assistance given to Ngwabeni:

- Sponsorship of their caretaker
- Sponsorship of one of the teachers
- Seeds for their vegetable garden
- Continued maintenance of premises
- Some new toys and Xhosa books for the children





NOLUTHANDO

Located in an old farm house in Allandale Village outside of Alice, Noluthando hosted the Austrian youth group. They spent several days renovating the premises – stripping, painting, digging, plastering, fixing – and got to know the community through a community day where songs, food and fun were shared. An impromptu skills exchange also took place when some youth group members showed the Umakhulu’s (grandmothers) how to crochet woollen balls. Here Samara also invested in some further infrastructure improvements throughout the year.

Material assistance given to Noluthando:

- Sponsorship of their caretaker
- Kitchen equipment and utensils
- Repainted rooms
- Addition to and painting of outdoor playground
- Repurposing of an outside room into toilets
- Fencing for a vegetable garden
- Seeds for the vegetable garden

SIBONILE

Located the furthest outside Whittlesea, Sibonile had received support since 2016 and has the highest enrolment of all the centres with whom we work. The major achievement here has been to receive conditional funding from the Department of Social Development (DSD) which means that they can cover some of their running costs. The next step will be to ensure they receive permanent funding from DSD – a development we would like to see at all the centres.

Material assistance given to Sibonile:

- A stove for cooking meals for the children
- Seeds for their vegetable garden
- Xhosa books for the children
- Stationary for the teachers
- Fixing of an electrical issue





SIXOLILE

The second newest centre to join the growing ECD family at the beginning of 2017, Sixolile had received much needed equipment and resources already and Samara focused on filling the gaps on educational materials and infrastructure improvements.

Material assistance given to Sixolile:

- Toys and books for the children
- Swings
- Improved fencing around the premises
- Stationary for the teachers and the children
- A fire extinguisher and first aid kit
- Seeds for their vegetable garden
- Electrical wiring of the premises
- A stove and kitchen utensils for cooking meals for the children

MASOMELELE

Located just outside Whittlesea in a dusty village known as Poplar Grove, this is Samara's first (of many, we hope!) full partnership with a centre. Our efforts were therefore focused on making several infrastructure improvements and on getting the needed resources for the centre.

Material assistance given to Masomelele:

- Installation of a water tank
- New fencing around the premises
- Toilets
- Swings
- Electrical wiring of the premises
- Tables, chairs and mattresses for the children
- Toys and books for the children
- Stationary for the teachers and children
- Garden equipment and seeds for a vegetable garden





CAPACITY BUILDING

2 WORKSHOPS

13 TEACHERS

Most teachers have not had the opportunity to undergo formal training so an important part of supporting the centres is to equip the teachers with the skills needed to provide a daily programme that allows the children to develop holistically.

Our first workshop focused on craft and handwork and the teachers learnt how to make toys out of recycled material, as well as simple craft activities that could be done with children. For the second workshop we partnered with the Centre for Creative Education which offers an isiXhosa course for ECD teachers. This meant we could focus on a lot more on child development theory and the teachers had many fruitful discussions and 'aha' moments. There were also plenty of practical parts to the workshop and the teachers left armed with new songs, games and the skills to make their own beanbags, pom-pom balls and hand-sewn felt balls.





STITCHES OF HOPE

9 KNITTED BLANKETS

35 SOFT TOYS

Stitches of Hope focuses on enabling women connected to the ECD centres – mothers, grandmothers, friends – to use their handworking skills (and gain a few new ones) to earn a small additional income by making items that we can use at the ECD centres. Still a fledgling project that has been slow to take off, nevertheless it has already produced some products that we have been able to make use of at the centres and we are excited to grow this in the coming year, focusing on quality.

For this project we were very thankful to receive a wool donation from Elle Yarns and a donation of leftover material from the Elizabeth Galloway Fashion School.







CONNECTING NORTH, SOUTH, EAST & WEST

1 VOLUNTEER YOUTH GROUP

6 MEETINGS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

10 ORGANISATIONS NETWORKED WITH

Part of establishing ourselves and the continued work in the Eastern Cape has been to meet with like-minded organisations to both learn from them and explore possible collaboration opportunities. Meeting with local government has also been important to establish a presence in the Eastern Cape and while these relationships can be slow to grow and bear fruit, we are encouraged by the open way we have been met so far.

Our favourite moment however was the visit of the Austrian youth group to Noluthando – while they made beautiful physical changes to Noluthando, it is the memories they left behind that will have the longer-lasting impact. Read more about this event [here](#). We hope to welcome many more volunteers in the future.

TEACHER WITH HEART

We would also like to feature the efforts and accomplishments of our teachers who work hard on their side to create better environments for the children. Yoliswa Zenzile has been at Sixolile Educare Centre since 2015, travelling from Sada (a township outside Whittlesea) more than 10km to the village where Sixolile lies, despite the fact that she only earns a sporadic salary, dependant on how many parents pay their monthly fees or not.

When asked what motivates her, her answer is simple: “I believe children need love. Some of them don’t get love from their parents...I give them love.”

Yoliswa grew up in a Christian household which has shaped her values and outlook. After finishing school she wanted to become a secretary, however as her family relied on her for an income, she instead tried to get a job, first as a volunteer at a clinic, then as a domestic worker, moving from East London to Bloemfontein in search of a steady income.

Then she found temporary work at a school’s after-care facility and hasn’t looked back since. When asked what she enjoys most about working with children Yoliswa says that their stories and re-enactments after the weekend always make her laugh.

Though Yoliswa is now on a different path to what she initially envisaged for herself, one can see that she would have

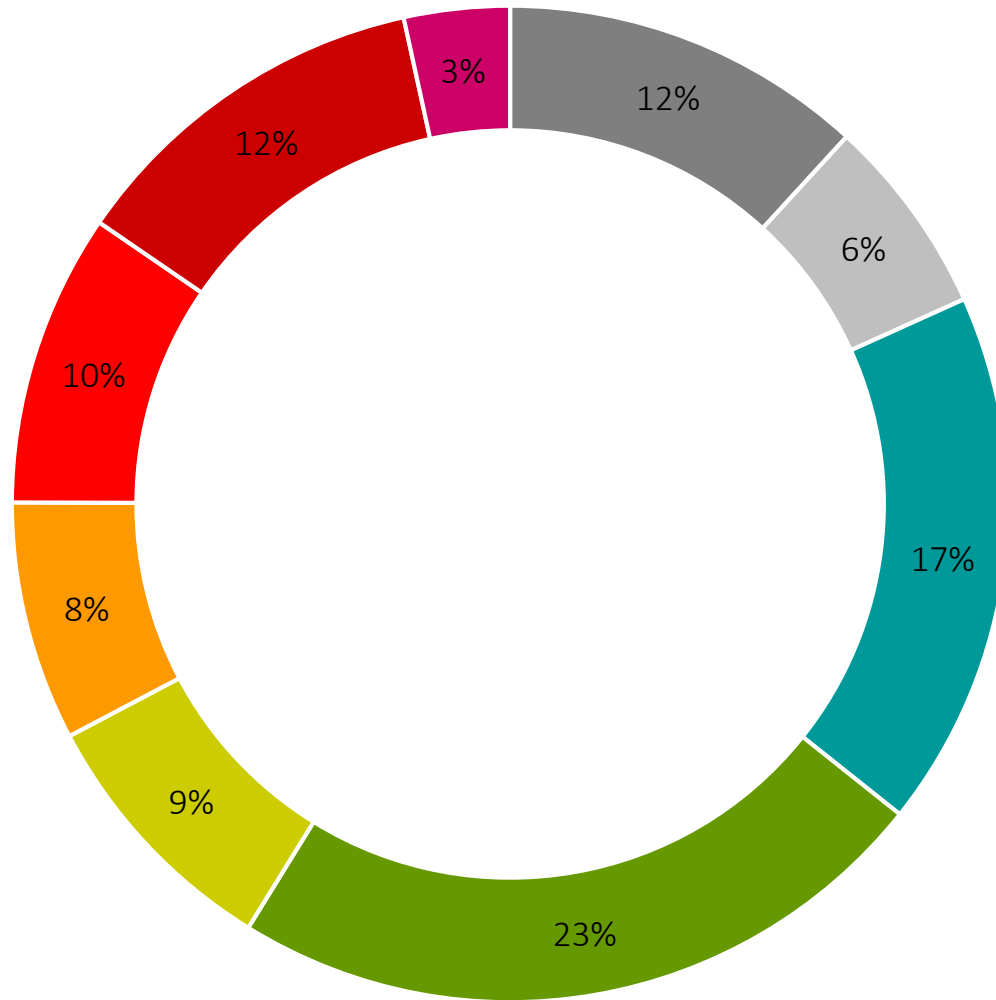
done well in an administrative job too. Sixolile’s finances are meticulously recorded in a notebook and Yoliswa has been instrumental in registering Sixolile as a non-profit organisation with the Department of Social Development, going to the local internet café to type up their submission. Now she is working on registering Sixolile as a partial care facility which would allow them to receive DSD funding.

Samara is proud of all her efforts and looks forward to continuing to work together with Yoliswa to create a safe and healthy space for the children from the surrounding community.





HOW WE SPENT OUR MONEY



- Samara administration
- ECD project management
- ECD maintenance
- Teacher capacity building
- ECD staffing costs
- Communications/PR
- ECD infrastructure improvements
- ECD educational resources
- ECD on-site support

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR SUPPORT, DONATIONS OR RESOURCES GIVEN:

CENTRE FOR CREATIVE EDUCATION

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HELISE AND PAUL ASHTON

LIFE CHOICES

LYN SCHEIBE

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VIP SANITATION