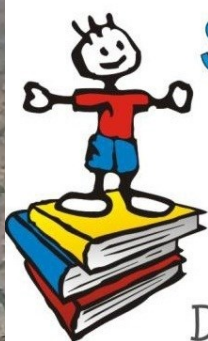


ANNUAL REPORT

2016



**Sikhula
Sonke**

Early
Childhood
Development

Addressing the need for quality
early childhood development
in Khayelitsha since 2001.

The year in review has been full and fascinating, and as always, Sikhula Sonke has seen much development take place. Challenges have been overcome and progress has been made in pursuit of the overall goal of positively impacting the Early Childhood Development (ECD) sector in Khayelitsha, and the lives of young people who experience less than ideal basic education before the age of six.

In terms of highlights for the year, there has been great progress in governance, and growth in both general operations and staff development. This has been evident in the positive external assessments and verification by Connect Network and Alternative Prosperity, who specifically examined our governance, people care, child well-being, child protection, project planning and design. These assessments had a positive impact on general organisational structures, which in turn led to Sikhula Sonke receiving a certificate of due diligence from Community Chest, and a recognition certificate from VIVA Network, who are well known for their advocacy work for vulnerable women and children.

These positive developments made the staff of Sikhula Sonke particularly proud of the work they were doing, and brought much needed motivation to a team of people that work in very challenging conditions in Khayelitsha. Not even the stagnant economic growth and less-than-convincing political administration of the country could deter them from their developmental endeavours.

Thank you to all of the employees of the organisation who work at ground level with the children and families in need. This work is tiring and requires strength, commitment and a degree of care that is evident in each and every one of you.

And thank you to our funders – the CSI departments, the foundations, the trusts and the individuals - who have supported the organisation's efforts in both good and bad times. It's liberating to know that this sort of support exists for our efforts despite the ever-changing economic climate in which Sikhula Sonke operates.

We're very proud that Sikhula Sonke has become an inspiration to other small organisations who have knocked on our doors for coaching and mentoring in governance over the past year. We are also incredibly proud that the organisation has stood the test of time and has become the longest-serving entity in Khayelitsha that advocates for children's rights. Sikhula Sonke has also opened doors to partnerships with organisations from outside of Khayelitsha, and facilitated community entry and engagements with a variety of different stakeholders which has led to encouraging dialogues and partnerships.

Sikhula Sonke has proven itself to be a model for social development and has successfully driven early childhood development causes and progress in Khayelitsha. Core projects and interventions have attracted the attention of government departments, academic institutions and external agencies, and this has given us the opportunity to learn from their positive and constructive feedback, and make even more progress in striving to achieve our goals. In striving to be a 'learning organisation' we've often received feedback – for example, from the ELOM assessors recently, who assessed our public space programme – and implemented proposed changes in the shortest possible time. We're proud to be an organisation that is growing and learning as it expands its scope and footprint of operation.

Let us never forget that *"it takes a whole village to raise a child"*.

Mdebuka Mtwazi
Executive Director

Evan Torrance
Chairman



Mdebuka Mtwazi



IMBIZA FAMILY COMMUNITY MOTIVATOR (FCM) PROGRAMME

FCM is a home-based programme that reaches out to 200 families and more than 200 children in Khayelitsha. The programme uses referral, door-to-door, one-on-one and group learning methods to facilitate early childhood development.

Children from 0- 2 years of age are provided with developmental stimulation through one-on-one play sessions between the caregiver and child. Children older than 2 years participate in two one-on-one visits, two playgroups and a toy library visit each week.

"Thanks to the First Rand Foundation, at the beginning of every year, every child who participates in the FCM programme receives a toy kit of age-appropriate games and learning material," says Winkie Cebisa. "We are particularly grateful to the Childwick Trust who believed in this project and have supported it since its inception."

Thembi Nxesi, Community Development Manager, reports: "We have seen and continue to see tremendous change and holistic development in the lives of the children who are part of FCM. As the children mature they move into local primary schools naturally and their parents and teachers report that they are progressing quite well."

Sunshine Educare writes:

Thank you so much for the cooperation between Sikhula Sonke and my ECD centre. I see a lot of difference in my children; they can work as a group. Their language skill has developed, they can build puzzles now because in our centre we did not have enough resources to develop them.

My children get excited when we go to the library because they say they get toys that they are not used to and the library teachers are friendlier than their teachers.



Mrs Simamkele Ntamo (Enkanini) commented:

"Hi Amanda, you know what, Libhongo sits us down, forcing us to read a story for him. When I put Vaseline on his bum he says he will report me, I must not touch his private body. I really salute you for the work you are doing."

Site C Team Feedback:

"SISO did a best way to raise positive children in vulnerable areas, we transfer parenting skills in order to help caregivers and parents to be better equipped and love their children unconditionally and serve as excellent role models to their children."

Site B Team Feedback:

"Sikhula Sonke improve the care and learning environment of community to enhance quality learning of young children."

Mrs Nomfanelo from K2 Site B:

"I want to thank you all for teaching our children, we really see the work you are doing, Ntombikayise prays always before she eats, in this house we have never prayed before."

QUARTER	FAMILIES REACHED	CHILDREN REACHED	HOME VISITS	SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN	CASES REFERRED FOR FOLLOW UP	RESOLVED CASES
1 st	173	212	713	8	41	5
2 nd	192	249	1049	10	68	9
3 rd	198	268	1709	23	81	13
4 th	197	281	1576	23	42	13
TOTALS	198	281	5047	23	81	40



EMTHONJENI PROGRAMME: WELLSPRINGS OF LEARNING

The Emthonjeni programme has two key objectives: to reduce the number of children who are not exposed to formal early childhood development and to raise awareness about the importance of the first 1000 days of a child's life (from conception to 2 years old).

In 2012 we met with Chris Giles of Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrade (VPUU) and the City of Cape Town to develop a strategy around using public spaces as connection points in the community. This quickly led to the strategy of using community spaces like water collection points to create safe play areas to reach the most vulnerable children in the poorest areas of Khayelitsha; those who have no exposure or access to ECD resources or teaching.

The Emthonjeni teams are mobile teams, visiting different sites each day. They interact with caregivers, individuals and families, building relationships and creating opportunities to visit people in their homes. At the Emthonjeni playgroups (held in the public spaces) children can participate in facilitator-led activities and explore themes aligned to the NELDS curriculum. The spaces are also used for community discussions, gatherings and information-sharing.

In 2015 we formed a very valuable partnership with Mapula Trust who introduced us to the BrainBoosters resources, now being used across a number of our programmes.

The Emthonjeni Programme team leader, Babalwa Ndim, says: "Our trained 1000 days Programme caregivers visit individuals and families within different communities, walking from house to house. They provide information to parents and caregivers about immunization, nutrition and the importance of intentional early childhood development activities that can stimulate brain growth, muscle and fine motor development."

One of the key highlights of Emthonjeni is arranging quarterly outings for the children. Many children have never been outside Khayelitsha—and the outings allow them to experience so much. Outings include trips to botanical gardens, the Cape Town Science Centre, farmers gardens, local beaches and parks.

"I do not know what to say, I am short of words because my children were taught at Sikhula Sonke, both of them. My eldest child is very clever at school, the teachers are always commenting about him from Grade R to Grade 2. I put Sikhula forward as place that gave my child a good foundation."

Mrs Bukelwa Yeye from Monwabisi Park

"Yhuuu!! Miss Nothemba you have helped me so much by giving our children shoes, I could see that my children are really suffering! I cannot remember when was the last time they ever had new clothes, I am short of words about Sikhula Sonke."

Mrs Nosango Dumiso, Monwabisi Park



QUARTER	FAMILIES REACHED	CHILDREN	GIRLS	BOYS	SESSIONS HELD
1 st	142	394	203	191	131
2 nd	150	400	183	217	73
3 rd	150	285	121	162	65
4 th	150	342	177	165	76
TOTAL INTERACTIONS	150	1421	684	735	345



Emthonjeni activities throughout the year—a chance for every child to play, learn and grow in safe spaces.

IMBEWU PROGRAMME: COACHING, TRAINING AND SUPPORT

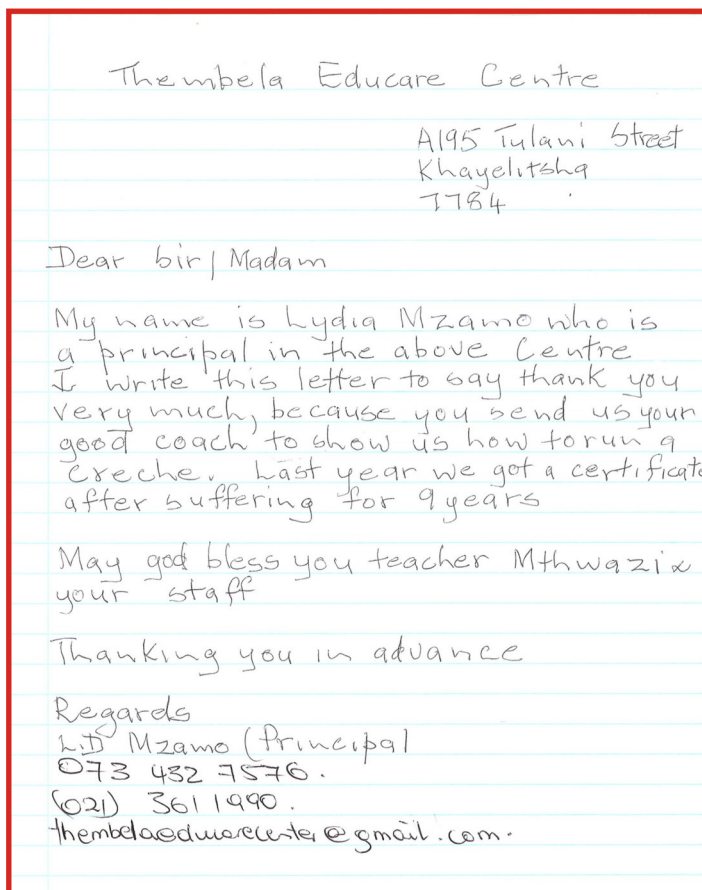


The graduating class of 2015

The main goal of the Imbewu training and support programme is to capacitate, empower and train ECD practitioners from Khayelitsha's ECD centers.

Practitioners are empowered with basic skills of how to developmentally stimulate learning in children and create a conducive environment for learning, as well as meet the legal requirements of the Department of Social Development for ECD facilities.

"The programme is bearing fruit at the centers year by year and growing in its reach, says Thembi Nxesi, Community Development Manager. "Sixty ECD centers around Khayelitsha benefited in the Unlimited Child training in this last year. Of the 60 learners who registered, 54 learners completed the training and graduated."



"Mna nditsho ndanomdla kwi ECD ngenxaka unlimited child, bendikade ndingazinto ngofundisa abantwana, u unlimited undenzele lula kuba seyeplane ngokwakhe."

QUARTER	CLASS SESSIONS	NUMBER OF CENTRES	SUPPORT VISITS TO CENTRES	GIRLS REACHED	BOYS REACHED	TOTAL CHILDREN REACHED	SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN
1 st	3	60	28	628	628	1256	0
2 nd	9	60	113	1728	1666	3394	13
3 rd	18	57	112	1414	1349	2763	16
4 th	14	57	74	1414	1349	2763	15
TOTALS	44	60	327	1728	1666	3394	16



ECD practitioners meet for training and each receive toy boxes to take back to their ECD centres.

FUNDA UDLALE TOY LIBRARY PROGRAMME

The Percy Fox Foundation has enabled Sikhula Sonke to create and grow a space that provides educational toys, books and stimulation for children from 0-9 years. Their support has helped us to resource the library and, through training of staff, provided a quality library service.

Children are exposed to different age-appropriate educational activities and toys, participating in play sessions held either at the library premises in Harare Square (attached to local Harare Library) or through mobile toy library interventions facilitated on the Toy Library Bus (a partnership with VPUU) or mobile fieldworkers.

Children come from outreach sites, from the ECD centers and from the community. Parents are also offered workshops on how to use educational toys at home.

Funda Udlale runs from Monday to Saturday each week and complements the outreach and ECD center activities in order to enhance holistic early childhood development.

"This programme is a great example of how all our programmes interlink as children from ECD centres, our FCM programme and Emthonjeni all get to utilise the library through planned visits, the Library Bus and workshops. We are also successfully drawing in children outside of our programmes, which is very exciting and an affirmation that Funda Udlale is accepted in the wider community," says Mdebuka Mtwazi.



"Sikhula Sonke gives children a chance to learn through play by providing educational toys and books to disadvantaged ECD'S and children who cannot afford to buy toys. Thank you, thank you."

Keep up the good work - you are really making a huge difference in our children's future and education."

Toy Library Team

QUARTER	EMTHONJENI SESSIONS	COMMUNITY CHILDREN SESSIONS	FCM SESSIONS	ECD SESSIONS	SATURDAY SESSIONS	NUMBER OF BOYS	NUMBER OF GIRLS	CLUSTER WORKSHOPS
1 st	4	3	0	3	0	197	200	1
2 nd	6	7	2	12	0	395	367	1
3 rd	8	7	9	17	7	650	641	2
4 th	5	16	5	15	4	476	442	0
TOTAL INTERACTIONS	23	33	16	47	11	1718	1650	4

"We have seen a lot of improvement in our children since they have been attending the Toy Library. They have developed their cognitive skills especially. For example, when it comes to money they can differentiate between coins and notes, they can count fluently and they can recognize colours, they know the shapes and they can interact with the others because they have been doing activities that promote team work. Their behavior has also changed in classroom."

The toy library not only stimulates the children but also educates us as the practitioners when we look at the librarians doing activities with children. All thanks to the library team for their excellent work that they do. May they continue to do so even to other Pre-Schools that are attending at the library." - **Esibaneni Educare Centre**



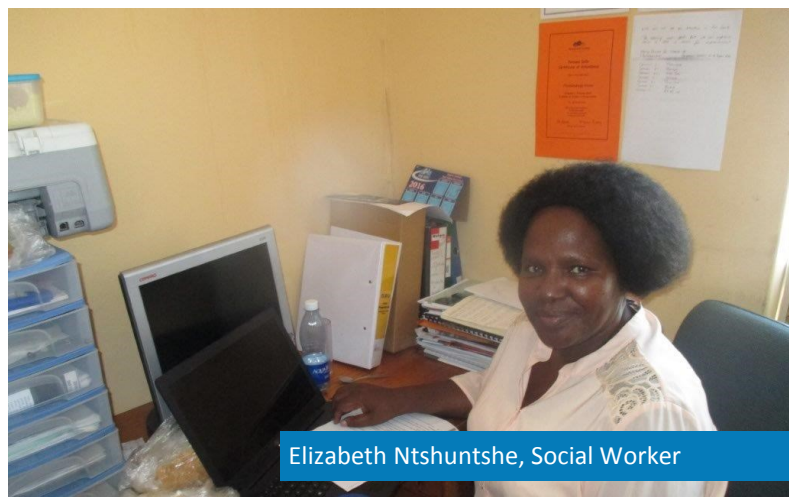
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Parents are increasingly becoming self-motivated to apply for their children's admission at Primary Schools.
- The nutrition programme in partnership with JAM has brought improvement to children's physical and cognitive development. Jam's nutrition intervention has also brought much relief to struggling families.
- Children who were part of the FCM programme in 2014 are reported to be doing very well in their learning in Primary schools.
- ECD centres have raised the standard in implementing The Unlimited Child programme; Siyakha, Arise and Shine and Imizamoyethu Educare centres were each awarded with certificates of excellence in running the programme.
- An improving relationship with Monwabisi Park ECD centres.
- Ten Sikhula Sonke employees received the *Train the Trainer* course by Brain Booster.
- Five Sikhula team leaders were trained as trainers of the FCM programme.
- The appointment of a Social Worker has helped to speed up referral processes and streamline how families are assisted.
- Increased membership in the Toy Library.

ONGOING CHALLENGES

Challenges we continue to face include:

- High levels of gross child neglect and substance abuse are sadly still a reality in many families
- Disappearing families when it's time for children to be removed by Social Workers to places of safety.
- Some children relocate to the Eastern Cape just before their end of the year graduation.
- High demands of the programmes and limited resources.



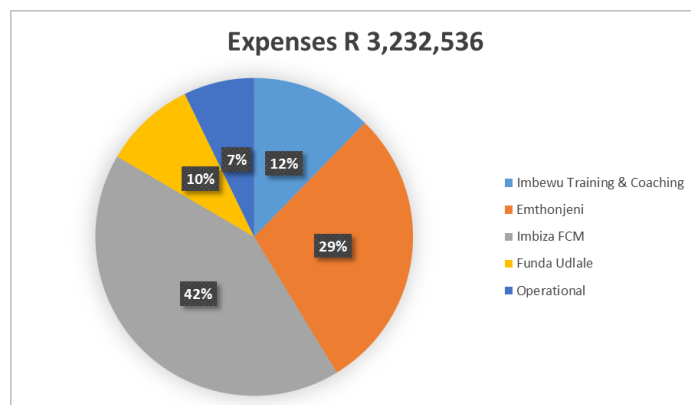
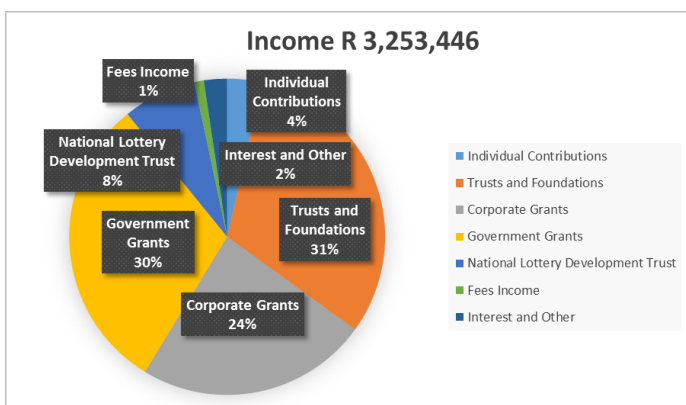
Elizabeth Ntshuntshe, Social Worker

A child's voice comes out

Babalwa Ndim reports that in the Emthonjeni programme a child from the Mkhabile family could not talk. The child was referred to Red Cross Children's Hospital where the doctor assigned requested the child's assessment form and report card. The doctor was very impressed with Sikhula Sonke's programme and encouraged the family to continue with the programme. As a result of this collaborative intervention, the child's voice has finally come out.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

The Audited Financial Statements (AFS) for the year ending 29 Feb 2016 are now available together with this Annual Report. Expenses per specific programme are available in the Notes to the AFS which may be useful information for donors.



Our Cash flow has been well managed in line with funding from funders and at year end our total Cash funds were R1,601,746. This is largely due to funds received in one lump sum from funders and then being appropriated across the period. This also indicates that we are well funded going into the start of our next financial year. - Janet Glanville (Financial Director)

Child Protection Week 2015



"Child Protection IS Everyone's Business" was the message of Child Protection Week 2015. Working closely with our partners, pamphleteering and public dialogues occurred in different Sections during the week despite the winter rains that swept across the Cape Flats.



Sikhula Sonke workers met with more than 350 parents to discuss topics like daily care, nutrition, protection, abuse and education. The week ended with World Play Day.



Team Training Time



Our Sikhula Sonke team embarked on a team building exercise in February under a great concept, LEAD (L=Looking out for others, E= Endurance by ending well, A= Attitude, D=Discipline). They all loved different activities in this journey.



Thank you to Ezrah Community Training and Development NPC for supporting us and conducting this powerful exercise. Everybody came out of the time refreshed and rejuvenated.

Reaching out to fathers



In September we piloted our first fatherhood outreach workshop. The men who attended spoke about issues of safety and cleanliness in their surroundings, the lack of respect and dignity that they experience because of un-employment and the need for development in their communities. Although the workshop did not have a high attendance, connecting with these fathers was a great start.



Makhaza Wetlands Picnic



Sikhula Sonke hosted a wonderful educational event at Khayelitsha Wetlands Park in Makhaza. A total of 687 children from the outreach programmes and from pre-schools around Khayelitsha attended the event.

Children enjoyed face painting, games, storytelling and also had the chance to explore the walks, wildlife, lake, jungle gyms, play areas and all that the recently opened Wetlands Park has to offer.



THE BIGGEST KIDS PICNIC EVER!



Sikhula Sonke ECD invites you to explore Khayelitsha with us on 13 October

LET'S TAKE LEARNING & ECD OUTDOORS!

ECD Graduations

Sikhula had an exciting, glorious and well attended joint ECD graduation event of 160 children; 53 children came from the outreach programme and 107 were from the ECD centers.

There was much jubilation and many very proud parents as the children prepared to move on to primary school.

Well done to all the ECD practitioners who worked so hard with the children, and to our teams who walked the journey with the centres, children and families.



The Toy Library bus comes to town



You can't teach hungry kids



SOUTH AFRICA

Joint Aid Management has partnered with Sikhula Sonke to identify centres which feed children regularly with the aim of providing nutritious porridge for young children.

The number of ECD centres receiving regular "JAM porridge" increased from 48 to 80 ECD centres by April 2015.

Teachers reported back that general health improved and that the meal served at school was the most nutritious meal that some children received during the day.

**It takes a village to raise a child.
- Old African proverb**

Site B opens 1st Emthonjeni site



We're excited to partner with Hlumisa Children's Project who have been working in Site B, K2 Section. Our new site opened with 26 children who have no previous exposure to ECD resources or play.

Hlumisa's current ECD interventions can accommodate six children at a time in volunteer households - now together we are helping this community to set up their very own community ECD facility and pull in more children.

Connect-ing and refreshing

Six of the Sikhula Sonke women had the opportunity to attend Connect Network's annual women's retreat. This time away was wonderful and refreshing; together the ladies reflected, were encouraged and prayers were offered for the different non profit and social ministry organisations represented.

No birth certificate = no school



Avile M. received his birth certificate for the first time at the age of eight. Through Sikhula Sonke's facilitation and assistance, he finally managed to get a birth certificate and register at a primary school for Grade 2.

Well done to the FCM team who actively reached out to this family, helped with developmental stimulation and laid the foundation for a young boy to go to school.

New Emthonjeni ECD site opens



A new A12 Emthonjeni ECD site was opened and dedicated with ululation, music and dancing by the parents, children and of course the Sikhula Sonke team on Tuesday 23 June.

The site is large, with football and netball fields which allow older children to come and play whilst also watching their younger siblings play with toys in the ECD site.

The site was opened with the presence of the Nal'ibali team who read stories for both parents and children in the new space and also in the mobile bus.

Babalwa Ndim, the Team leader, created and encouraged a strong sense of ownership of the ECD site by the community. It is our hope that this new space will be a hub for both children and parents as well as a community meeting space.

Wider experiences



Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens is world-famous and a favourite outing for both teachers and children. One small boy from the Emthonjeni programme took a long silent look at the beautiful green lawns and then asked in awe: "Is this the soccer stadium?"



Grassroots Soccer Cultural Comp



Every year, Grassroots Soccer holds a cultural competition. Winners in 2014, the Sikhula Sonke team and Emthonjeni children prepared hard this year to participate in the competition again.

The Emthonjeni children's performance was marvellous and the team was dressed most elegantly in bright outfits which were sewn in-house by our own Sikhula Sonke Dressmakers on machines donated by HomeChoice.

We are very proud of their fourth place award.

WITH APPRECIATION AND THANKS

It is important to acknowledge the contribution that has been made by our partners in development. They have made sure that they are available to support with us in many different ways. Thank you to:

- City Of Cape Town Environmental Health, Social Economic Development and ECD
- Connect Network
- Early Learning Resource Unit
- Ezrah Community and Training Development NPC
- FAMSA
- FNB Foundation
- Grassroots Soccer
- Heads-Up
- HomeChoice Development Trust
- Inclusive Education
- Jim Joel Foundation – The Childwick Trust
- Joint Aid Management
- Khayelitsha ECD Forum
- Mapula Trust
- Nal'ibali
- National Lottery Development Trust Fund
- Percy Fox Foundation
- Persona Doll
- Simameleni
- Stella and Lorenzo Chiappini Trust
- Unlimited Child
- Violence Prevention Through Urban Upgrading (VPUU)
- Western Cape Department of Social Development
- Word Works

A heartfelt thank you especially to the Individual Donors, and Friends and Employees of Sikhula Sonke.

We would like to take our hats off to those stakeholders and role players who have contributed to making early childhood development services in the Khayelitsha area better than ever before.

We salute you ***maqobo nani maqobokazana - ukwanda kwaliwa ngumthakathi.***

We have confidence that Sikhula Sonke is strategically positioned to facilitate the creation and maintenance of conducive environments for the provision of universal early childhood development services.

The team extends its gratitude and appreciation to the board for making sure that we operate as a sustainable entity, and to Mdebuka in particular, for his continued commitment to the organisation and hard work throughout the year.

And lastly, thank you to the communities in which we work for opening your doors and trusting us with your own children.

STAFF MEMBERS COMMENT...

"Sikhula Sonke is doing a great job to me because I never knew how to treat a child. SISO has taught me things that nobody can. And not everyone has the heart to teach children."

"Sikhula Sonke is a good organization that helps vulnerable families and educate parents on how to teach their own. I wish that Sikhula Sonke can have more funds so that the organization can grow bigger".



Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development

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SARS PBO Registration Number: 930 004 377

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