

Message from the Chairman

A Ray of Hope

It was Helen Keller who once said that 'optimism is the faith that leads to achievement and that nothing can be done without hope and confidence'. In recent years this annual report has had a generally sombre tone to it, due in large to the precarious financial situation that the organisation has found itself in. It is with great excitement and appreciation to our funders and partners that I submit this 2012 annual report with a far greater degree of optimism, hope and certainty about the future of this much-loved and well-regarded NGO.

Sikhula Sonke means simply 'we grow together'. As an early childhood development (ECD) focused non-profit organisation located in Khayelitsha, we are pleased to report that we have indeed grown together over the past 12 months. With a mandate to meet the need for quality ECD interventions in the area, we believe that we are better positioned to offer practitioners, caregivers and parents the information and resources that they require in order to ensure that their children receive the input that they deserve.

The organisation's programmes continue to offer outreach services to poor children and families in Khayelitsha communities using programmes like Emthonjeni, Family and Community Motivators (FCM) and a variety of other initiatives. With a dedicated team of 13 staff, these programmes extend support and provide valuable input for parents and caregivers in particularly vulnerable areas of this country.

As described in previous reports, Sikhula Sonke's key areas of focus remain:

- The provision of basic Early Childhood Development (ECD) education and training to between 40 and 60 pre-school teachers / caregivers in Khayelitsha on an annual basis.
- The management of an FCM programme with outreach services to children and families outside of the formal ECD sites, supporting 48 families and more than 65 children.
- The Emthonjeni activity space based programme

reaching out more than 70 children.

- The provision of young children's library services supporting outreach, parents and ECDs.
- The training of over 100 parents and caregivers annually in various topics related to development and child care using mechanisms such Cluster Workshops, Campaigns etc.
- The upgrading of physical structures and educational facilities of at least 3 ECD centres each year by installing fire-resistant structures for pre-schools that meet stringent safety criteria.
- The collection and distribution of toys, puzzles, books, stationery and other equipment from interested parties to ECD centres.
- The support of between 20 and 35 pre-schools through a coaching program.

It is with much appreciation and gratitude that we thank the following partners and funders without whom the work would not take place. Your generosity, support and willingness to draw alongside us during a difficult financial time has meant the difference between closing the operation



Winkie Cebisa

and becoming sustainable, and for this we are truly thankful. I would like to acknowledge those partners who have made these contributions:

- The Jim Joel Foundation (Child wick trust) through Mrs Giuliana Bland
- Tshikululu (FNB) through Mr Adam Boros
- The Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading through Mr Chris Giles
- The Percy Fox Foundation by Mr Gerald Fox
- The Rivers Edge Community Church in Canada through Y. Masella & Mr R. Lummack
- Schneider Gallow Reef &Co Attorneys
- Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs
- The Engen Oil (Pinelands) by Melanie Holland
- Nussbaum Foundation by Ms Stella
- PREMEDIA via Stop Hunger Now In South Africa.
- Biblione S.A.
- Dr Woods (Claremont)

While funders are integral to the sustainability of any NGO, in a practical way it is the staff of the organisation who deserve the greatest thanks and appreciation from the board for their hard work and constant endeavour. They undertake the work in often trying circumstances and receive little reward for their labour.

Thank you!

I would like to extend my greatest appreciation and Thank you to all Sikhula Sonke Board members, who against all odds have shown the greatest commitment and support in all aspects of the operations of this organisation. A special Thank you to you Janet for the long hours that you invested in the financial management of this entity– your efforts have not gone unnoticed and also to all other board members –Sindy, Jenny, Gloria and Deborah – thank you for your continued efforts to make Sikhula Sonke a more sustainable entity. And finally to Anja who has assisted on the marketing and fundraising portfolios, thank you for your willingness to get involved and share your time with us.

To the SISO team, who have remained committed and hard-working through some difficult times, thank you for placing your faith and optimism into this entity. Mdebuka Mtwazi remains a faithful servant to his community, a humble leader of his team and a generous participant in all aspects of Sikhula Sonke's work. Thank you Mdebuka. To Thembi Nxesi, a similar vote of thanks needs to go to you for your hours of diligent work and your positive demeanour at all times, well done Sisi! Thank you Thembi. To the team, the FCM's, Coaches, Emthonjeni and Admin personnel: without your efforts we wouldn't have been where we are now, keep it up! And more especially to Babalwa Ndim who has driven the new Emthonjeni programme and learnt from all the experiences she came across. A special thank you and warm welcome to three dynamic ladies who joined SISO late in 2011 but have already shown us what they are made off in their work. Those ladies are Winkie Cebisa, Nomathemba Peter, Buyiswa Balani, "khululani ibhatyi zenu sizixhome nisonge imikhono sisebenze maqobokaza namkelekile".



Nomathemba in a Pink striped top, Buyiswa in a white top, jeans and a white strip on her hair

We look forward to sharing a productive and fruitful 2013 with you, and many years thereafter. Ndibamba ngazibini Mawethu!!!!Maz'enethole

Yours in service
Evan Torrance
Chairman

From The Executive Director's Desk

In this world's current economic situation, Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development organisation among many other South African non-profit organisations has also finished its financial year with success in its operations despite all the financial uncertainties. The decline in funding and the funding agencies being more structured in what they fund, has led to many social service organisations scaling down and others facing an ultimate closure. This is a very sad situation because the government departments are facing difficulties in terms of service delivery of the basic services to the people; a living example is the Department of Education which dismally failed to give basic rights to the children of South Africa i.e. the failure to deliver correct books on time to schools.

It is again not advisable or encouraged that we should look, observe or point fingers at other people, departments etc. about what has happened or is still happening. Every proud South African must stand up and begin to take his/her own responsibility in building this country for the better. Many civil society organisations have started working towards finding joint solutions in countrywide social problems. Among these social problems, young children are being affected the most and we continue to read and hear about the rising statistics of children living under extreme poverty stricken conditions.

If Early Childhood Development is really seen as one of the strategies for poverty alleviation, then it needs more attention by world leaders. It is time that our children are really given the first priority in this world, as The Centre for Early Childhood (CECD) would suggest, "Putting young children first". This

means that the collaborative initiative that is led by the Department Social development and ECD service providers in the Western Cape are in the right lane in working towards the professionalization of the ECD sector.

Strategic Partnerships:

Sikhula Sonke ECD, as one of the service providers working in the Western Cape, has embarked in many activities that are working towards the realisation of the importance of the ECD sector. This is evident in the extension of the programmes offered, the introduction of the activity space-based ECD service called Emthonjeni Outreach Playgroup Programme, which is linked with the children's library service in Harare Public Library. The programmes were made possible by a strong partnership between Sikhula Sonke and a development agency known as Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU). Strategic partnerships have been the key towards the success of the introduction and implementation of this project. This includes ECD forum, Harare Public Library and Sikhula Sonke.



Engagement about Emthonjeni



Children and parents at the library

Our programmes have not only attracted local partners but also the attention of other agencies like PREMIDIA who decided to sponsor *Stop Hunger Now in South Africa* so that they can supply or donate food for our outreach programmes. The Claremont Methodist Church in Cavendish Road has contributed tremendously in making these food parcels even more nutritious by conducting a quarterly food pack collections from the members of the congregation. This is well received and greatly appreciated.



Food parcels donated by Stop Hunger Now in SA and The Claremont Methodist Church of Southern Africa

In Closing!

It is one of my strongest belief that if each and every one of us invested in early childhood development in any way possible our investment could lead to reduction of many of our social problems like crime, poverty, diseases etc. A better founded nation is a future prepared nation and that could be achieved by putting greater emphasis and energy on early childhood development.

Mathol'anyongande kukudlela!!! Enkosi.

M. MTWAZI EXEC. DIRECTOR

Sikhula Sonke Goes Against The Flow

This financial year has been unique in the way that it has challenged everybody's thinking within the organisation. Every adventure has been an experience from senior management to employees. Everybody has been innovative, creative and developing new streams of doing what they have been doing. This is one of the reasons why I feel I am at the right place in working at Sikhula Sonke. This entity does not only focus on its core business but strengthens and develops those who are involved in running of programmes i.e. its employees. This strength has led to success in the implementation of both new and old programmes innovatively and creatively. Sikhula Sonke has gone against the flow to add brand new activity based outreach programmes and library services to contribute in reducing the 70% of children who are not accessing any form of early childhood development service. This kind of activity-based outreach around the "community water tap" is new.

Programmes in full review

The FCM programme went fairly well in the financial year 2011/2012. The main yearly objective is to transfer stimulation skills to 50 families each year. This is done through home visits, cluster workshops and play groups. Each family receives two visits a month. Generally all families do get the two visits per month unless there are other activities to be done in the office. The children have experienced

quality stimulation by the FCM's. They have noticeable improvements in their development holistically.

This programme has produced school-ready children who are now doing grade 1 and showing progress. It has created healthier and cleaner households through Hygiene Cluster workshops. There is only one child (Phila) who is a physically-challenged child whose home situation is not improving but she is getting on well with ECD activities. Sikhula Sonke started networking for her and received a wheelchair for her with the assistance of the Chaeli Campaign in Plumstead. She is now undergoing regular check-ups with specialist doctors at Red Cross Memorial Hospital. Our wish is that Phila could be accepted in inclusive schooling.



Phila playing with old tyre with friends.

Phila on her new wheels

Again, through cluster workshops caregivers received a lot of awareness on very important issues that affect child development. These include children's rights, immunisation, hygiene and many more. The caregivers also formed income-generating projects through their clusters but they couldn't manage their profits properly because of the need for the basic foodstuffs like bread in their homes. These small cluster businesses are not showing any sustainability because of the high levels of poverty.



Concentration as women learn to manufacture earrings for income. Group showcasing money generated from small Cluster projects.

Name of the Fieldworker	No of families	No of girls	No of boys	referrals	Clinic cards and health related attained	Social grants received	Birth certificates	Total achieved referrals
Bongiswa	12	8	5	14	7	3	4	14
Bukiwe	12	9	11	10	3	3	2	8
Nonzame	12	8	4	16	3	3	3	9
Nolitha	12	11	5	12	2	6	3	11
Totals	48	36	21	52	15	12	12	41

Coaching and Support programme

This project is implemented to support ECD centres in Khayelitsha. In the financial year, there were 51 centres that were part of the Sikhula Sonke coaching and support programme. Of the 51 centres, 33 are today registered as non-profit organisations and also registered with the Department of Social development. Twelve of these centres have registered as NPOs and are in the progress of being registered with Social development. Nine of these centres are not yet registered as NPOs and they are still under the support of Sikhula Sonke. There have been many challenges encountered in regards to registration; those include issues like zoning of ECD facilities by the City of Cape Town, plans approval, fire issues etc. As part of the Coaching and support programme Sikhula Sonke has been over the years providing fire-resistant classrooms to the most needy through the courtesy of the Percy Fox Foundation. This year, we only managed to construct one ECD site, Graceland Educare, due to financial demands also in other programmes.

Basic Teacher Education Programme

The main objective of this programme is to train 60 practitioners in Basic Assistant Teacher training skills. We enrolled +/- 65 ECD practitioners. We took a higher number deliberately in order to manage the reduction of statistics during the course of the year. There is normally a lot of excitement and hype at the beginning of a year as everybody wants to register. People drop off as the year progresses due to varying reasons: some lose their jobs, others relocate and many simply cannot cope with being in a learning environment again. Of the group, 28 practitioners graduated by the end of the year. We are proud to state that most of our 2011 learners were enrolled at Falsebay College for ECD NQF level 4 qualifications. We are really blessed to see them developing their careers. We know that soon they will be ECD graduates.

Principal of Graceland ECD flanked by our Coaches, Lizzy&Vuvu. Kuyasa.



Joint Preschools graduation in December 2011. Children's gifts in a form of white shirts from Sikhula Kunye (PEP stores CSI)



Graduating teachers showcasing manuals and starter kits donated by Social Development Fund under the auspices of VPUU

Tshidi's story

Tshidi is one the student practitioners that were in the basic teacher programme in year 2011. In class she was showing noticeable development in her ECD teacher career. She was participative in class, always submitting work on time and she always reported when she could not be at school. She had exceptional care with children, her classroom was well-cared for. Tshidi proceeded to False Bay College to do level 4. She is doing very well in the college according to the reports received.

Emthonjeni Outreach Programme

The Emthonjeni programme seeks to reach out to children who cannot access formal ECD learning through a space-based programme. This programme reached approximately 35 children each day and 70 children during holidays, from Monday to Thursday. Out of the 35 children that attend the programme each day, 31 were very much consistent in attendance with an estimate of about 90% attendance except for days with bad weather and when there is no outreach activity happening. This programme also reached out to three children (2 boys and 1 girl) who were supposed to be at primary school but because of different reasons they were not schooling. Referrals are made to deal with children who are not at school although their ages permit them to be at primary schools. We had six who graduated to primary school, three boys and three girls. They became part of the joint graduation.



The Emthonjeni programme has also helped children to expand their knowledge and exploration by taking children to the library every Tuesday. Children enjoy using the ECD section in the library. They watched the puppet shows and some DVDs. They also learnt literacy and numeracy games on the computer. The children's session is complemented by the toy library for the programmes, parents, caregivers and ECD sites.



Emthonjeni Outreach playgroup children enjoying themselves at Funda Udiale, the children's section at Harare Public Library

The Play Space Construction

VPUU did an excellent job in constructing the play space at Emthonjeni. It had been difficult for children to play in sandy and muddy space without tables to do their creative activities. Now the space has been constructed with beautiful mosaic art on the workspace. Children love the space; they now play there even when the practitioners are not there.



The workspace with mosaic art on it Cluster parents assisting in sewing children's graduation hats.

Luphumlo's story:

Luphumlo Lobese has been in our programme during 2011. He was one of our brightest children. He graduated in December to start Grade One. Sikhula Sonke has been following Luphumlo's progress. He is attending Luleka Primary School and we have had good reports about Luphumlo. It is reported that he has shown strong leadership qualities amongst his peers. He is doing exceptionally well in his work.

In closing, all these programmes have not been smooth sailing and without challenges, which some of them included:

- Families relocating and being unable to track their whereabouts
- Extreme weather conditions for both the outreach programmes made it impossible for programmes to continue smoothly in both winter and summer.
- Poverty is still continuing to be a challenge.

May The Wonderful Lord Bless you
Thembi, The Programmes Manager



Bongiswa Mthwazi: I'm very glad to be a part of a working organisation changing lives of the people and developing future leaders of this country, the young children. My participation in community development courses has afforded me skills to deal with both young children and caregivers within the FCM programme. The children that I'm working with are really inspiring me and give real fulfilment, joy and happiness in working with them.



Winkie Cebisa: I am only 7 months with this dynamic group, but it feels like 7 years. Sikhula Sonke has changed me personally as I came here with only love but not understanding children; now I both love and understand children. SISO groomed me spiritually and made me realize how great it is to give/help someone else. I have learnt and gained a lot of experience. SISO is making a great impact in Khayelitsha mostly in Nkanini and Ndlovini areas. Thank God for being part of Sikhula Sonke ECD.



Bukiwe Genu: This is the organisation that has developed me since I began working here. Even today I'm completing my course, NQF level 4 certificates in Early Childhood development at False Bay College. Thanks to Sikhula Sonke for giving me the opportunity. My role in working with vulnerable children is to stimulate those who are not in the ECD centres. This prepares them for school even though it's not a full ECD program but it helps.



Lindiswa Ngwendu: Being part of the Sikhula Sonke team made me see things in different ways. I have never thought that there are many children who do not access ECD education. Many children won't differ from pre-school going children because of Sikhula Sonke. May God Almighty give strength to our organisation to expand to other areas that need these services more than ever!



Babalwa Ndim: When I joined Sikhula Sonke, it was for the first time for me to work in this environment as I used to work as a teaching assistant. Let me tell you I've learnt so much, in this kind of set up you cannot do one thing every day; each day has its own challenges. There are a lot of capacity building opportunities in such that I'm now doing my NQF level 4 in Falsebay College. My studies support my intellectual development as well as my experience in working with children.



Lizzy Magazi: I'm so grateful to be a part and parcel of Sikhula Sonke. rnt so much not only about the children but also about myself. I have been touched by so many things; one of remarkable things is to see children hold a pencil for the first time. SISO gives joy in my spirit - I don't have enough words to express my feelings about SISO.



Buyiswa Balani: Sikhula Sonke is the father of the children around Khayelitsha. It brings the light to the children and adults when they are in need of something, they do not hesitate to knock at Sikhula sonke. The organisation opened the doors for our children at Monwabisi Park. When Sikhula Sonke came to Monwabisi Park to start the programme I didn't have the job. I volunteered first. I knew nothing about the children and how to talk to them, but now I am a teacher of the Emthonjeni outreach programme.



Nonzame Gaz: Sikhula Sonke has equipped and shaped us very well to cope with difficult situations as well as developing young children. As individual I learnt so much in development of the young ones. I know something that I didn't know before like facilitation skills. Since I started working with vulnerable families on our FCM programme my life changed and I'm more able to offer advice and courage in difficult situations. The support from SISO management becomes my everyday pillar of strength. I also motivate others in such that one of the caregivers decided to wake up and enrolled for a nursing diploma.

Making a Difference

One Child, One Woman, One Community at a Time

Annual Report



2012



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