



Home from Home

End of Year Report: December 2019

As we at Home from Home approach our 15th anniversary, we are grateful and humbled by the support we have received from our donors and sponsors over these years to enable the phenomenal growth we have undergone. Starting with the first foster home in 2005, we now have 36 homes across the broad area of the Western Cape and Eden Karoo. Furthermore, we are recognised as a pioneer in this Cluster Foster Care work and provide consultation and support to other organisations across the country in our Model of Care. While it is important to celebrate the amazing work done by our founders, Jane and Pippa, in establishing Home from Home so well, we don't have any time for complacency. The economic situation in the world has changed significantly and even more so in our beloved country South Africa. This has an impact directly on the funding we can raise but also, on the opportunities for our young people transitioning out of our care and trying to establish themselves as positively contributing adults in society. We need to ensure that we continue to run a sustainable organisation and, just as importantly, prepare and support our young adults for the world that awaits them after our foster care. In this regard we are so excited to report that our Evelyn Connolly Transitional Support Programme has begun and we believe will be a significant factor in HfH's work into the future (see below for details).

Organisational Update

- **Staffing:**

Sithembele Phandle, our Metro East Social Worker resigned, but we were fortunate to fill his position with the very capable Professor Mapendere who is settling in well to his new role.

A great loss is the leaving of Kathrin Herms, Financial Manager, who has managed to develop many important systems for the finances since coming to HfH only two years ago. She has been an excellent support to the new management and other staff, who have needed to rely on her knowledge of the financial running of the organisation. Kathrin has recently married and is going back to live in her home country, Germany. Realising the importance of finding a strong replacement for Kathrin, led to a four month process with five rounds of advertising and three rounds of interviews. We are thrilled to report however, that we believe our patience has been rewarded with the appointment of Londolani Masiagwala who will begin on 2nd January 2020.

P O Box 18237, Wynberg Cape Town, South Africa Tel: +2721 761 7251 * Fax: +2721 7611581

E-mail: info@homefromhome.org.za Website: www.homefromhome.org.za

PBO 93100118033, NPO 053-721, TRUST NO. 11/1496/2005, Section 18A Approved

Managing Trustees: Anna Vayanos (Chairperson); Prof. Andrew Dawes (Vice Chairperson); Deepa Daya (Treasurer); Thulane Gxubane; Freda Brock;
Louise Driver



Mafi Moyo, who was our office Admin/Receptionist last year, has been excelling in her Social Auxiliary Worker (SAW) studies and is well along the way to becoming fully qualified for this role she has been playing in our programme team.

- **Strategic planning:**

With the strategic workshops done with the HfH team and the new leadership at the start of the year, a more short term focus on consolidation of our work, until 2020, was established. The motto coined was, *“Vision 2020: Dreaming to grow by cementing the basics”*. This focus on the more fundamental aspects of our work has been crucial in the growth of the team this year. Restructuring the workspaces of the team in the office, clarifying roles and job descriptions, improving reporting and record keeping systems, limiting and clarifying meeting purposes; these have gone some way in addressing the overloaded/overwhelmed experience many of the team were expressing about their work. This has had the additional positive effect of the staff members improved teamwork and relationships. Not surprisingly, the focus on fundamentals uncovers further ground work that needs attention and so there continues to be a need to establish some of these. However, we do believe that we have moved forward sufficiently to start developing a longer term strategic plan of three to five years. This process of involving management, Board members and staff, will begin early in 2020.

The ‘Loving Family-Home Programme’ is the core of our work

It is sometimes easy to get distracted by well-marketed programmes that offer many different services in promoting the development of our children. As beneficial as these other options can be, it is important however, for both us at Home from Home and those that support us, to keep our focus sharply on securing our core business. This core business is about creating a ‘Loving Family-Home’ at each of our foster homes which allows each of our children to have a ‘second chance at family’. We do this by very deliberately doing the following things;

- providing a comfortable and safe home in the community from which the children originate.
- accessing and establishing networks with other service providers within the communities.
- screening and employing Foster Mothers and Assistants that have those unique ‘ubuntu-mothering’ qualities that we are so blessed to have in abundance in Africa. These Foster Mothers/Assistants have been the bedrock of this programme and we have been blessed to have so many that have

P O Box 18237, Wynberg Cape Town, South Africa Tel: +2721 761 7251 * Fax: +2721 7611581

E-mail: info@homefromhome.org.za Website: www.homefromhome.org.za

PBO 93100118033, NPO 053-721, TRUST NO. 11/1496/2005, Section 18A Approved

Managing Trustees: Anna Vayanos (Chairperson); Prof. Andrew Dawes (Vice Chairperson); Deepa Daya (Treasurer); Thulane Gxubane; Freda Brock;
Louise Driver



remained loyal and committed to this vocation.

- providing training, supervision and support to our Foster Mothers/Assistants through a team of Social Workers (SW) and Social Auxiliary Workers (SAW).

This foundation of a loving and caring environment where family values are actively taught and positive relationships with 'brothers', 'sisters' and foster parents are created, is what enables other programmes to be effective. We have found it necessary to remind ourselves of this core aspect of our work that enables us to walk into any of our homes and be immediately struck that 'family' lives there. This belonging to family, has to be the foundation on what positive outcomes for these most vulnerable in society must be built on.

The Evelyn Connolly Transitional Support Programme (ECTSP)

This is a very exciting and significant development for Home from Home. Where for some years there has been the recognition that we need to do more in preparing our 'aging out' young people for the eventual reality of leaving our care, we have managed to get support to intensify this work in 2020. We have had a history of working with the organisation, Mamelani, in developing our Ibhathane (butterfly) model in preparing the four identified age groups of our children with the particular transitions they experience. This year however, we managed to find the support of a funder to intensify the development of our work with our young people who are 16 years and older, which Mamelani will be involved in. Home from Home has a growing population of young people who are nearing that age of needing to leave our care. This can be a scary transition for anyone, but particularly with our children, who often don't have the resources others have in this situation and with the SA economy as it is, this is a significant challenge to face.

The ECTSP will involve Mamelani running training workshops with each of the following groups over the next year, i.e. Foster Mothers, Social Work team and 16+ young people. This programme also involves the establishment of a Transitional Home, where young people leaving the care of HfH are able to be supported while setting themselves up in more independent life in community. Here we are partnering with an organisation, 'Echo', who are specialists in setting up transitional homes for the last ten years in South Africa. This home opened in November 2019 with the first young person moving in and we are expecting another three to be moving into the home in January 2020.

In securing further funding and support for this programme, HfH will look to continue this development of our work beyond 2020, but also, to expand to open transition homes in all the metros. It is a need we must face and adapt to in order to improve our caring for our children.

P O Box 18237, Wynberg Cape Town, South Africa Tel: +2721 761 7251 * Fax: +2721 7611581

E-mail: info@homefromhome.org.za Website: www.homefromhome.org.za

PBO 93100118033, NPO 053-721, TRUST NO. 11/1496/2005, Section 18A Approved

Managing Trustees: Anna Vayanos (Chairperson); Prof. Andrew Dawes (Vice Chairperson); Deepa Daya (Treasurer); Thulane Gxubane; Freda Brock; Louise Driver



The “Affiliate Support Programme”

Previously called the “Growth Programme”, we realise that we cannot continue broadening our active consultation to more and more organisations indefinitely. Jane has continued to do a wonderful job of helping at least eight organisations in specifically implementing the HfH model and overseeing this. We refer to these organisations as our ‘Affiliates’, where specific MOU’s are developed with regard to the support we offer them. Although we are always open to other organisations approaching us for information and advice, for the foreseeable future we will limit our support to the ‘Affiliates’ group we currently have. This will ensure we do not over stretch our capacity or costs and maintain a good quality of service. This does not exclude development in this area if future opportunities allow, but for now, we more appropriately are referring to this part of our work as the “Affiliate Support Programme”.

Linked to our outreach and partnerships with other organisations has been the excellent development in establishing a Cluster Foster Care networking forum. Here a number of Cluster Foster Care Schemes in the broader Cape Town region have come together regularly to share best practice and to support each other. Recently the Department of Social Development has also joined these meetings, supporting this initiative of Home from Home.

Educational Support

- **Tutoring:**

This past year has seen the formalisation of a relationship with a tutoring service provider, ‘Preeva’, and the growing of these services to reach all four of our metros. Under Sue Balie, our Education Coordinator, this support for our children has grown to 99 of them receiving regular tutoring during the year. Sue reports that she has seen significant change both in the children’s academic results and in the general attitude towards academic application. We are pleased with the number of our children who have received academic acknowledgements already this year. We are hopeful that we will continue to receive support for the provision of this valuable support to our children’s academic education.

- **Virtual Reading Gym (VRG):**

This has been a pilot project with 19 of our youth to develop their English reading and comprehension skills. Sue reports of the pleasing results achieved where on average, all children’s vocabulary use has improved by 52 words and 28 phonic patterns. Also, one of the children who will be going to her final year of school in 2020, reached the highest level (level 8), for VGR.

P O Box 18237, Wynberg Cape Town, South Africa Tel: +2721 761 7251 * Fax: +2721 7611581

E-mail: info@homefromhome.org.za Website: www.homefromhome.org.za

PBO 93100118033, NPO 053-721, TRUST NO. 11/1496/2005, Section 18A Approved



- **Extracurricular activities:**

With schools in South Africa mostly limiting their education to academics only, we realise how important it is for our children's education to also be exposed to extracurricular activities. With much support from our donors we have been able to access wonderful opportunities for our children in regular sports, but also activities like surfing, through 'Waves for Change' and Hip-Hop dancing. One of the highlights in the last period has been that our relationship with an organisation, 'African Impact', has seen them successfully assist nine of our children to completing their 'President Awards' this year.

Home Upgrades

Our new Operations Coordinator, Hein Koen, who started with us in June, soon identified that many of our houses are quite advanced in age and are now requiring maintenance intervention more often. With this realisation he has suggested that he systematically reviews the condition of all our homes and develops upgrading projects where necessary. He planned to begin with the most needy first and we are so pleased to report that we had most generous funders (Cliff and Rose Ratkovich) to support the upgrading of our two Kayamandi (Tapestry Houses) houses in Stellenbosch. In fact, not only have the two houses been renovated, but a 'therapy office' on the property too, as well as the securing of the entire property was included in these. The safety and comfort of our homes is a critical part to us providing the second chance to our children of having 'Loving Family Home'.

Thank You

In much the same way that we have recognised our loyal Foster Mothers as the 'bedrock' to our success in creating a second chance at loving family homes for our children, our donors and supporters have made this all possible. The loyalty of the support has been very humbling especially where the tighter constraints of the economy have come to bear. Like family, the community of Home from Home has pulled together to ensure that the work goes on and that we continue well beyond our 15th year – we thank you for being part of the family.

P O Box 18237, Wynberg Cape Town, South Africa Tel: +2721 761 7251 * Fax: +2721 7611581

E-mail: info@homefromhome.org.za Website: www.homefromhome.org.za

PBO 93100118033, NPO 053-721, TRUST NO. 11/1496/2005, Section 18A Approved

Managing Trustees: Anna Vayanos (Chairperson); Prof. Andrew Dawes (Vice Chairperson); Deepa Daya (Treasurer); Thulane Gxubane; Freda Brock;
Louise Driver