

By Bianca Petersen - KDG Communications Manager

Pseudonyms were created to protect the identity of this family.*

UNRESOLVED TRAUMA CAN BREAK A FAMILY.

Dominique Adams*, an eight-year-old girl, was referred to Khula Development Group after showing a pattern of absenteeism at school. The referral stated she repeated a school grade and struggled with maths and her home language, Afrikaans. During the Khula assessment it was established that her fine motor skills were developed, she can write her own name and knows when it is her birthday. When the home visit was conducted, our community worker struggled to get hold of her mother, Elmarie* and her father, Neil*.



Dominique Adams playing with her little doll. She is still having nightmares after the horrific ordeal she went through in April 2021.

Neighbours reported that the parents were drug abusers and probably getting high somewhere or using their children to beg in town. Dominique has two younger siblings, Monique*, aged four and brother Sergio*, aged one year-old. With the continued struggle of trying to get hold of the parents, we delivered our services to Dominique at school.

During a one-on-one session with Dominique, our School2Home facilitator was busy with a “My Body Worksheet”. The worksheet gives learners a basic understanding of their body parts. While Dominique was busy colouring on the worksheet, she drew a big circle around the private parts of the body. The facilitator was alarmed and decided to confer with the class teacher first, not wanting to embarrass Dominique. The teacher revealed the shocking news that Dominique had been sexually abused some time before. A formal complaint was logged with the SAPS and the perpetrator was imprisoned. It was clear, however, that Dominique was still suffering emotionally. The facilitator also suspected that abuse might still be taking place at home. She then created opportunities and a safe space for Dominique to start sharing her emotions verbally. Dominique revealed that she had been sexually abused by a close family friend. Through her drawing, she revealed her emotions of anger, anxiety, confusion. At the same time it was an outcry for help.

Dominique and her siblings were exposed to substance abuse and violence. When our social worker and social auxiliary worker finally got hold of Dominique’s mother Elmarie, it was evident that her three children were in desperate need of alternative care. Elmarie was very honest and cooperated fully. As a child she herself was a victim of sexual abuse while being in the care of her grandmother who did

not believe her when she told her about the terrible things that was done to her. She never received therapy to deal with that trauma, nor a supportive shoulder to lean on. Later in her teen years, she moved to Paarl East to live with her biological mother Jenny*. Here she became rebellious, befriended the wrong people and started her long-lasting pattern of substance abuse. A relationship with Neil, the father of her children, also developed during this time. Neil often physically abuses Elmarie in front of their three children.

Both Elmarie and Neil are unemployed. Neil has talent working with his hands and on the rare occasion he uses wood to make items to sell. Elmarie depends on Neil to feed her drug addiction. Her other alternative is to use her children to beg for money in town. After several home visits, she refused to make use of the community resources we offered in an attempt to improve her life. She did not want to report the physical abuse she faced because her abuser is the person that also takes care of her. All she wanted was help, not for herself but for her children.

The neighbour residing next to the Adams family was well aware of what was going on in their house. Although the elderly lady, Mrs Jones*, did not have good relationship with Elmarie and Neil, her heart was open to their children. Dominique and Monique often went to her when they were cold, scared and hungry. Mrs Jones fed them, got them ready for school and reported the situation to their school principal. Finally a member stepped in. Elmarie’s mother, Jenny*, took in Dominique and Monique after she had heard about the abuse Dominique went through and the neglect her grandchildren faced. Although she wanted to, Jenny could not take in her grandson, Sergio, the one year-old baby. Jenny’s house was

at capacity with two bedrooms and a sleeper couch occupied. Jenny faces hard times too. She is not employed but sells fresh fruit and vegetables providing for her family while she suffers from several medical conditions.

Jenny is a very strict grandmother. She implements rules and routine in her house. The area she lives in is impoverished and struck by gangsterism and substance abuse. Recently, during a conversation with Jenny she disclosed how she feared for the safety of her granddaughters. Not just their physical safety but also their emotional safety. With tears in her eyes she started talking about Dominique and the nightmares she’s been having. In the middle of the night she starts screaming and crying uncontrollably in her sleep. Jenny begs for help. She says she does not know how to handle it and it breaks her heart.

Elmarie, Dominique’s mother, was given a referral to take her to a psychologist after her terrible ordeal, however she never took her. We are currently working on a plan to get Dominique the necessary trauma counselling she needs to work through various emotions she is feeling. Dominique is attending school every day and showing signs of improving in schoolwork. Neil and Elmarie still have their son Sergio, in their care. This has been reported to a social welfare organisation. A social worker who has been assigned to the case, is currently addressing the matter.

This story of Dominique Adams is just an example of the child protection cases our organisation faces on a daily basis. Our staff work tirelessly, collaborating with welfare organisations and the Department of Social Development to improve the living conditions of vulnerable children and families. **Through love and education, we can make a difference.**

THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Achievements January to June 2022

812 - Number of Children Reached

1903 - Individual and Group Sessions with Learners at Risk of Dropping Out

1941 - Home Visits to Children not attending school and to empower Parents to Reduce Drop-Out

81 - Primary Caregiver Group Sessions and Workshops

1292 - School visits, Network and Collaboration Meetings to Empower Teachers and Children to Tackle the Issue of School-Drop-Out

Special child protection focusses: 16 Form 22's referred to DCPO's and 100 urgent child protection cases were escalated to urge up the service delivery to most vulnerable children.

DONOR Spotlight

"By working with children, you stand a chance of altering the trajectory of a young life. Khula's approach of reintegrating primary school children at risk of dropping out back into the school system, offers more opportunities than you actually realise. These children are given an opportunity to further their education rather than becoming beggars, homeless or involved in crime."

~ CORNE RABIE



Karen and Corne Rabie have been donating towards Khula Development Group in their personal capacity for the past ten years.

Khula Development Group caught the attention of myself, Corne Rabie, and my wife, Karen, twelve years ago. I am proud to say that for the past ten years we have been making financial contributions towards the cause of Khula Development Group. As new parents we became increasingly aware of the importance of early childhood education and having both parents involved in the life of a child.

We related to Khula's objectives and wanted to be part of something that could potentially change our valley.

Over the years, Khula developed into a public organisation that acquired the cooperation of community workers, social workers, occupational therapists and ordinary folks with the need to be part of the change in the valley. Families are visited, children's progress are monitored and schools are well aware of their social responsibilities thanks to what was put together by Khula Development Group.

Both Karen and I are proud to be one small cog in the much larger engine of Khula Development Group.

Donations

If you would like to join the act of charity you can donate via Zapper, EFT or Givengain.

EFT: Khula Development Group, Nedbank, Cheque Account 1019306149, **Branch Code:** 198-765, **Swift Code:** NEDSZAJJ, **Reference:** Your Name

Did you know donations made by individuals and businesses to Khula Development Group can result in **reducing their tax liability** upon submission of their annual tax return? As a Public Benefit Organisation, Khula can issue the donor with a Section 18A Certificate for submission to SARS with an annual tax return.

Donating to Khula Development Group has great benefits, both in terms of the reduction in tax liability as well as the contribution made to further the education of vulnerable children.



givengain

Child PROTECTION week: BUILD or break

We are passionate about child protection and coordinated our annual child protection project during National Child Protection week, 30 May – 3 June 2022.

At Khula Development Group we are committed to the well-being of children and believe the following:

- That all children are precious gifts from God and harming children is offensive to God.
- That God requires us to protect children and defend the helpless and rescue the weak (*Isaiah 1:17 and Psalm 82:3-4*).
- That all children have value, worth and dignity, for they are made in the image of God and should be treated with respect and cared for in ways that honour God.

One of the push factors of school disengagement is bullying. Thus, we celebrated National Child Protection Week under the theme "Build or Break", proclaiming the message that we must build children up instead of breaking them down. This anti-bullying campaign raised awareness about the various types of bullying and empowered learners, parents and educators with tips on what to do when bullying occurs.

We collaborated with many role players

who also facilitated anti-bullying projects during Child Protection Week. Various activities were conducted at the schools in Paarl and Stellenbosch where we operate. **These activities included the following:**

- Lessons on bullying
- Colouring, poster making and drama competitions for different age groups where we provided the colouring page specially designed for Khula.
- Specific lessons and activities regarding bullying in our School2Home and Love2Learn programmes
- Go-Go and So-So shows
- Anti-Bullying Fun Walk

We would like to thank the following organisations for collaborating with us: Western Cape Department of Education, StellCare Stellenbosch, Community Keepers, Department of Social Development Paarl East, Salt and Light and Renew Your Mind.

We are excited to see how this anti-bullying message and project will impact the lives of children and communities in a positive manner.

Right: Mascots Go-Go & So-So during a play at Klappmuts Primary School. Below: A colouring page specifically designed for Child Protection Week.



Below: Learners spreading anti-bullying messages at Orleansvale Primary School in Paarl.

THROUGH LOVE AND EDUCATION, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Collaboration MATTERS

Ezrah Community Training and Development collaborates with our Love2Learn Programme



Primary Caregivers at Orleansvale Primary received certificates for successfully completing “*Die Bou Slim Werkboek Vir Veerkragtige Ouerskap*” compiled by Ezrah Community Training and Development. The workbook has seven themes with the focus on how to become a resilient parent. Here, together with the Primary Caregivers, are our two **Love2Learn programme** facilitators: Niesha Februarie left and Andriëtte Diedericks right.

Journal Club for Social Workers

Khula, in partnership with Valcare, launched the Journal Club for social workers on 10 June 2022 at Ashanti Estate.

The event was attended by 40 social workers from DCPOs, the SAPS, other NGOs, as well as social workers in private practice where the topic pertaining to inter-organisational collaboration was discussed. The goal of this Journal Club is to discuss a variety of selected research articles in order to reach the following objectives:



1. **To keep up to date with published literature.**
2. **To improve the critical thinking skills of social workers.**
3. **To translate forefront knowledge into guidelines for practice.**
4. **To promote personal and professional development of social workers.**

time to say goodbye



Juanita Benade worked at our Paarl branch as an Office Administrator for the past five years and three months. She was recently blessed with a beautiful baby girl and decided to devote her time to her daughter by becoming a full-time mother. Her kind and warm personality will surely be missed.



Janine Petersen worked as a Child Well-Being Coordinator at our Stellenbosch branch for the past year. She received an opportunity as a Social Worker at another organisation. While her beautiful smile and work ethics will be missed by her colleagues, we wish Janine well on her future endeavours.



welcome

Moriska Thomas recently joined our Paarl Branch as a Community Worker. Her journey started at our organisation in 2021 when she was enrolled as an intern in the @Home Learning Programme. We are delighted to have you among us Moriska!

promotions



Niesha Februarie was employed as a Community Worker for the past two years and ten months. Showing dedication towards primary caregivers in the community prepared her for her next role. Niesha has been promoted to a Facilitator in our Love2Learn programme.



Eunice Paul was employed as a Community Worker for the past two years and four months. Her welcoming personality and beautiful heart led to her promotion as Receptionist.

Congratulations on your well-deserved promotions ladies!

Volunteers

Khula Development Group relies on Volunteers to deliver services in the local community.

Our next Volunteer Information Session will be held on 26 July 2022 between 11AM-1PM at 6 Loop Street, Paarl. This is for the recruitment of Volunteers in Paarl only.

For more information please contact **Niesha Februarie** via e-mail at niesha@khuladg.co.za or **WhatsApp +27 76 746 3116**.

Please take note of the following requirements:

- As our values are based on Christianity, our volunteers are required to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- We work with vulnerable children, which means volunteers should be patient, caring, loving and approachable.
- Volunteers are required to volunteer during school hours, at least two hours per day per week between Tuesday and Friday.
- Volunteers should undergo a fingerprint clearance at SAPS at their own expense.
- Volunteers should complete a TB screening questionnaire at our offices.



Meet our Stellenbosch Volunteers.

SUCCESS stories

School2Home Programme

As this little boy in the bottom right corner celebrated his birthday, his mother, top left asked one of our social workers for help to enrol in a rehabilitation facility for her substance abuse addiction. Her son wore a crown celebrating his special day and his little sister in the left bottom corner joined in on the fun while we sang happy birthday to her brother. This was the first time the family spent good quality time together. They are playing with colour and number cards to promote number and colour concept as well as fine-motor skills. At Khula we not only want to see children actively engaging in education, want to see families heal too.



Love2Learn Programme

A disabled primary caregiver is eager to learn new skills to help her children with their developmental needs. Her disability makes it difficult for her to move around, thus she was unable to attend primary caregiver group sessions at our different locations in Stellenbosch. Our programme facilitators accommodated her through home visits on Wednesday mornings. She is extremely grateful for the people God has placed on her path to support her. Her children are attending school regularly and showing improvement in academic performance.

Child Well-Being Service

Alcohol and drug addiction are contributing factors to absent parents and primary caregivers. During this term, our social workers and social auxiliary workers worked tirelessly to have three mothers from Lantana, in Paarl East, enrolled in rehab. Out of the three, two are making great progress while one was expelled. We are not giving up on her. She will be readmitted on the next admission date to complete the programme.



Primary Caregivers from Lantana received certificates for attending the Love2Learn Programme during term two. With them we have Community Workers lanthea August (left) and Divene Pietersen (right).



We hosted our first **Start Up training in School Drop-Out** on 24 May 2022. Attendees ranged from NGO's, teachers and community members. They were given the tools to prevent drop-out. We are in the process of hosting another training event. Details to follow on our website and social media.



School2Home activities at Klapmuts Primary.



Meet our **Go2Teachers** based in Stellenbosch. This team meets once a term discussing various topics, cases, and drop-out prevention.



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