



News

Q2: 2021

And the Lord said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle." ~ 1 Sam 3:11

A FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR A FAMILY – never to old for school

"I am Matilda Davids. The mother of four children who were not enrolled in school. I am grateful to the people from Khula Development Group who help other people. I asked for help, and they helped me. I am standing here today, eyes filled with tears. I am glad my children are in school. Praise the Lord!"*

These are the words of a mother who took four of her children to primary school. Two of them attended for the very first time.



By Bianca Petersen
KDG Communications Manager

Her life has not been easy. Unemployed, uneducated, and impaired cognitive functioning. These could be the contributing factors that turned her into a bibulous person. Despite her flaws and shortcomings, she cooperated to get her children into school. Eleven-year-old Shaun* and his sister Megan* who is a year younger than him both dropped out of Grade one. Their siblings, Tracey* and Clint* aged eight and six have never seen the inside of a classroom before. Apart from sharing the same DNA, there are other things these children have in common. None of them have or has ever had a birth certificate. This is because they were not born in a hospital. They were born at home, a contributing factor to Matilda not registering their births.

During the WCED @Home Learning Pilot, formal and informal activities fascinated Megan and Tracey. The sisters were present every day. Learning through play fostered their interest in school life. At that stage, one of our Social Workers was busy

with another case at the Primary School. The Principal mentioned the school could accommodate more learners. This was where staff and interns made plans to get these siblings enrolled. One morning they knocked on Davids family door and shared the good news. The children were ecstatic. They got up and got dressed. Some of them slipped into old school clothes they had in the house. They were going to school after all.

Clint, the youngest one was age appropriate and enrolled in Grade R immediately. After meeting his teacher, he received his school roster and started school the following day. Enrolling the older siblings into age appropriate school grades were a bit more challenging. The school Principal, was adamant to see these children in school. He contacted the WCED Social Worker and consulted with the learner support teacher for assistance. It took a little longer and required more intervention, but they were enrolled in school. Shaun is in Grade 5,

Megan in Grade 2 and Tracey in Grade 1. This was based on their capabilities and the type of support they would need in class.

Since some of these siblings dropped out of school in the past due to the lack of birth certificates, this remains a concern. To prevent history from repeating itself, our Social Workers are working around the clock with the WCED and Child Welfare to ensure these children get documented soon. We will continue to do regular check-ups at home and school to ensure the siblings are attending. To date, the children have not been absent. This story shows that through collaboration in the community, life changing events occur. We would like to thank all the parties involved, especially the Principal, who's selfless act of kindness has been a life changing experience for these children.

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

Quarter 2 ACHIEVEMENTS

665 learners on our database

1901 activities/meetings/engagements

75 learners fully reintegrated

14 learners dropped out

Special child protection focuses:

221 child protection engagements. (42%) consisted of complex child protection cases escalated for urgent attention and intervention.

30 interns mentored in the WCED @Home Learning Programme **373** home visits

1639 formal activities **7340** informal activities



@Home Learning in Progress

COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY TO FORM SAFETY NETWORKS FOR CHILDREN

10 family meetings

7 Children discussed by the School-based support team

10 Referrals to Community Support Partners

65 Parents gave permission to Khula to provide in depth holistic services to their children.

Sustainable community asset engagements form safety nets for children and form part of our **Love2Learn Community Programme**. It strengthens family networks and forms a community-based support team around the child.



Child, Parent, Teacher Sessions by our Staff

657 individual sessions / home visits, school visits and office visits were conducted by our Child Wellbeing, School2Home and Love2Learn Team to assist children, families, and the school. They work selflessly, strategically, and relentlessly in challenging weather and safety conditions (COVID-19) to prevent children from dropping out of school.



Internal Teamwork and Collaboration

For holistic and multi-professional service delivery to children and families in need. Through collaboration around 130 (57 internal case discussions and 73 supervision discussions) learners worked together to safeguard children and prevent school drop-out. During May and June 2021, we collaborated with a list of over 50 partners including networks, schools, donors, trusts, forums, government- and NGO partners.

People Care In Difficult Times

Spiritual and Emotional Support to our own Staff: Each Branch gathers weekly where we provide time and space for reflection, internal problem solving, brave communication, individual discussions, promoting teamwork and weekly devotional and prayer sessions. Many of our staff went through difficult times due to illness, love, loss and grief.

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

We celebrated **Child Protection Week between 30 May – 6 June** under the theme **Protect Yourself, "Protect your Dream"**. This event is commemorated in the country annually to raise awareness of the rights of children as articulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the Children's Act (Act No.38 of 2005).

The acronym **"STERK"** [STRONG] was used to teach children a variety of important aspects and stands for:

- S** = Self [Self]
- T** = Toekoms [Future]
- E** = Emosies [Emotions]
- R** = Regte [Rights]
- K** = Keuses [Choices]



Short video clips can be viewed on our social media pages where these words are explained.

Other Child Protection Week initiatives included:

- The wearing of green brooches and ribbons by staff and interns.
- Trees at schools decorated with green ribbons.
- Child Protection training for interns.
- Children drawing the outline of themselves with chalk on paving with the message "do not step on me".
- Puppet shows regarding child abuse and what to do if someone touches you inappropriately.
- Go-Go and So-So shows.
- Khula Social Workers and Social Auxiliary Workers providing tips to primary caregivers and children relating to child protection and protective factors during their home visits.



SCHOOL AS A SAFE HAVEN

During a video shoot in the Paarl East area, a thirteen-year-old girl was sitting alone on the pavement at school. We approached her and asked why she was not in class. She told our staff member on that day, she was not assigned to be at school, but she came because she felt safe there. Sharing her story, it became clear that she is a victim of rape and abuse. The circumstances in her home have been dysfunctional for an extended period of time. Most of her male family members are engaged in gangsterism and other antisocial activities. She is at extreme risk of future harm. Her case has been referred to a Child Protection Organisation for intervention and we will continue to advocate for her well-being and safety.

A SUCCESS STORY

The mother of a learner who received academic help from our WCED@home leaning Yeboneer interns, was extremely grateful. She approached the interns and thanked them for the support offered during home visits. Since her son's marks improved along with his school attendance, she asked the interns to continue supporting him. In the past, Khula has struggled with this learner. We are once again reminded of the impact community members have on each other. If these interns who live in the same community did not try to engage with him, he would still be a potential drop-out.



PROGRAMME NEWS

We are excited to share what our new programmes will look like!

1 School2Home Support Programme

- Will be more preventative in nature and will focus mainly on school- and home-based support by way of an individualised support plan.
- The cohort will be Gr R – Gr 4 as early identification and mitigation of risk factors contributing to school disengagement is essential.
- The referral criteria include the progression and retention status of a learner, school attendance, insufficient academic progress, learning difficulties and other social factors impacting school disengagement.
- In Paarl this programme will be rolled out at New Orleans, Orleansvale, Nederburg Primary and Magnolia Primary Schools.
- In Stellenbosch these programmes will be rolled out at Cloetesville, Weber-Gedenk, Pieter Langeveldt and Klapmuts Primary Schools.

3

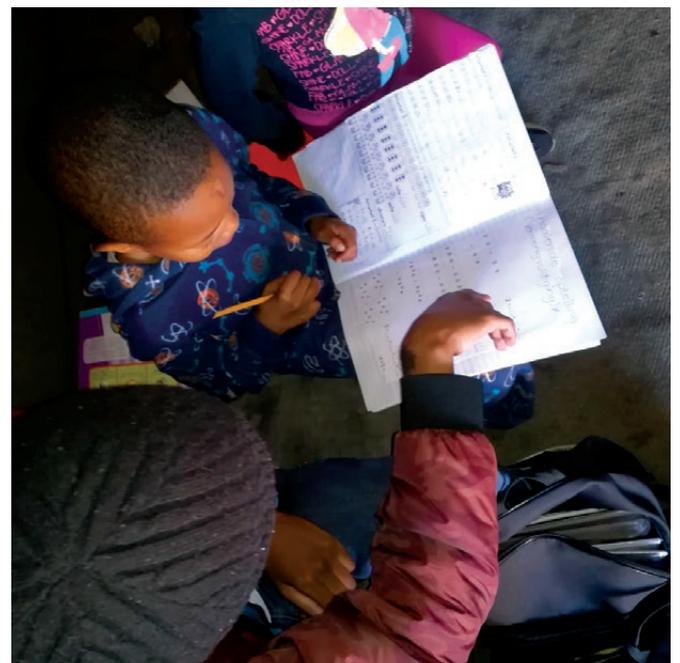
Child well-being service

Children referred by the School2Home or Love2Learn programmes will receive a comprehensive needs and risk assessment. A support plan will be compiled stipulating the support services needed to reduce risk and activate community "safety nets" by identifying protective factors to get in place while parallel child protection processes are activated and pursued. This preventative, therapeutic and pre-statutory service follow a holistic approach, doing multidisciplinary work in collaboration with Designated Child Protection Organisations as well as other NGO's providing support services outside of our scope of practice. This team will deal with a smaller cohort of learners to enable them to do in depth work to speed up the support and intervention process.

2 Love2Learn Community Programme

This programme has three focus areas.

1. Community Activation & Awareness – An asset-based community mobilisation approach, @Home Learning and youth activation.
2. Networking, Collaboration and Activation of Community Stakeholders.
3. Primary Caregiver Engagement.



Time to say goodbye.

After more than two years we are saying goodbye to two remarkable women at our Stellenbosch Branch. Maryke Holtzhausen worked as a Social Worker and will be spending her time at home with her newborn baby and her family. Jeneke Petersen worked as a Social Auxiliary Worker and will continue with her career at a new organisation. We would like to thank you for helping us working towards our mission. Farewell, and may success follow you everywhere!



Maryke Holtzhausen



Jeneke Petersen

Our heartiest welcome goes to the following three ladies joining our Stellenbosch Branch.

Congratulations on being part of our growing and dynamic team here! We're honoured to have you with us!



Claudia Beukes
Community Worker



Lize Eloff
Programme Coordinator



Janine Petersen
Social Worker

On the 11th and 23rd of June, a collaborative project was done by the Valcare Educational Support Coordinated Effort to hand out shoes to learners at Magnolia Primary School in Paarl, sponsored by Samaritan's Feet. Volunteers from the area assisted with the project and made the hearts of little boys and girls very happy.



World Foster Day was celebrated on 31 May. Our organisations posts were featured on the official Instagram page of World Foster Day. One of our employees shared a testimony about her journey as a foster parent while other employees shared the well-known three finger smiley faces.



@Home Learning Activities - PUPPET SHOWS
In support of Child Protection initiatives, our Programme Facilitators initiated puppet shows where interns made the puppets themselves. A series of shows were showcased at different schools under the topic of sexual abuse and how to get help in that situation.



In collaboration with local community members, the Khula Yeboneers hosted two Youth Day Events in Chicago and Lantana. Children participated in games and group activities and watched an Anti-Bullying Awareness Show. All participants were treated with a mug of soup and bread supplied by local community organisations.



DONATIONS

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



EFT: Khula Development Group | Nedbank | Cheque Acc No: 1019306149
Branch Code: 198765 | Swift Code: NEDSZAJJ | Reference: Your Name

Did you know donations made by individuals and businesses to Khula Development Group can result in the individual or business 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.



SCAN TO PAY

CONTACT DETAILS

Paarl:
+27 21 871 1511
Stellenbosch:
+27 83 228 6032

www.khuladg.co.za

