

# NET VIR PRET

## ANNUAL REPORT

01.04.2016 – 31.03.2017

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Registered as a Non Profit and a Public Benefit Organisation with the Dept. of Social Development

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## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

### **Executive**

Shane Petzer – Chairperson  
Hendrik Plaatjies – Deputy Chair  
Carol Morris - Treasurer  
Suzette Plaatjies – Secretary

### **Additional Members**

Hermanus Bron  
Norma Brönn  
Hannes Majola

### **Staff**

Youth & Community Director – Peter Takelo  
Youth Development Co-ordinator – Sudonia Kouter  
Sports Co-ordinator – Angelo Endley  
Assistant Youth Worker – Herman Witbooi  
Assistant Youth Worker – Clarisa Jonas  
Administrator – Derek Joubert

### **Part-time Tutors**

Gari Crawford – Music  
Jean Bittkau – Pottery  
Cherie Dirksen – Craft

### **Interns**

#### **2016**

Hermanus Braaf - Henzel Claassen - Falisma Esau  
Daphne Herdien – Charl Jonas

#### **2017**

Natasha Christoffels – Charl Jonas - Catherine Kortje  
Chriselda le Roux – Selanvor Platjies – Anwill Spielman

## MINISTERIAL AWARD

We are proud to report that our work gained official recognition in 2016 in the form of the

### Impumelelo Silver Ministerial Award for Youth Excellence

which was presented by Social Development MEC **Albert Fritz** at the Cape Town City Hall on 20 June 2016.

### ACTIVITIES

Net vir Pret continued its work with children and youth in Barrydale and on the surrounding farms and ran 17 different programmes during the year under review; these are described below.

The **Homework Club** was a new venture. The **PETS** workshops were run by **Dr. Michael Rice** of the **PETS Foundation**; Net vir Pret was the facilitating partner.

### THE 2016/17 PROGRAMME

Programme	Activities	Time frame	No. participants
<b>After-School Care Programme</b>	Story-telling, reading, art & crafts, puppet-making, play-building, drumming, riel dance, toy-library	Mon – Fri 14h00-17h00	35-50 children daily (age group 5-11)
<b>Sports Programme</b>	Summer: cricket, handball, bowling, tug-of-war, tennis Winter: rugby, soccer, netball, bowling, table tennis Matches on Saturdays	Mon – Fri : <b>Farm schools</b> 10h00-12h00 <b>Barrydale:</b> 14h00-17h00	Barrydale: 30 (ages 5-15) Farm schools: 200 (ages 5-12)
<b>Holiday Schools</b>	Arts & crafts, play-building, games, sports	During the school vacations	130 (ages 5-17)
<b>Farm school outreach</b>	Story-telling, reading, art & crafts, play-building; 4 farm schools visited weekly	10h00-12h00 Mon-Thursday	200 children over the 4 days (ages 5-12)
<b>Young Leaders</b>	Structured 2-year course in weekly workshops. Occasional residential weekends & educational excursions	Fri 15h00-17h00	24 participants
<b>Matric Outreach</b>	Final year high school students are offered individual counselling in career pathing and are assisted with applications to tertiary institutions & for bursary support.	Group motivating sessions; individual counselling throughout the year.	26 participants
<b>Bursary Programme</b>	Financial assistance for tertiary students for registration deposits, transport and food.	As needed	20 beneficiaries
<b>Internship Programme</b>	Interns are on a one year placement at Net vir Pret where they learn new skills.	1 Mar-31 Dec	5 interns
<b>Jazz Programme</b>	Individual and ensemble instrumental tuition provided in 4 sessions a week.	Tuesdays to Fridays 14h30-16h30.	15 participants

<b>Drama Programme</b>	Weekly rehearsals in which plays are improvised. Public performances and entry in the Overberg Drama Festival.	Wednesdays 15h00-17h00	10 participants
<b>Pottery Programme</b>	Studio work twice a week leading to an end-of-year exhibition and market.	Mon & Wed 15h00-18h00	15 participants
<b>Craft Programme</b>	Studio work twice a week leading to an end-of-year exhibition and market.	Mon & Thurs 15h00-18h00	15 participants
<b>Blikkies Band &amp; Riel Dance Programme</b>	Training in drumming and riel dance three times a week with participation in competitions and festivals	Mondays to Thursdays 15h00-17h00	144 participants in 18 groups based at NvP and 10 farm locations
<b>Bike Club</b>	Cycling and training in road safety and bike maintenance three times a week; participation in Renosterbos Marathon.	Monday – Friday 15h00-17h00; Sat 10h00-13h00.	18 participants
<b>Project Hope</b>	Creative and healing activities for young school drop-outs in conflict with the law.	Tues, Wed, Thurs 10h00-13h00	14 participants
<b>Homework Club</b>	Access to a supervised space for homework with internet access and printing facilities.	Mon-Thurs 16h00-18h00	30 participants
<b>Programme for Educating Teachers - PETS</b>	In partnership with the PETS Foundation providing workshops for teachers from in schools in Barrydale and on surrounding farms	A two-hour workshop every second month	15 participants

## THE DECEMBER PARADE

2016 marked the seventh and final year of a partnership with the **Handspring Trust**, supported by the **Centre for Humanities Research** at the **University of the Western Cape**. The partnership has proved to be an extraordinary association that has not only transformed Net vir Pret beyond recognition but has also had a resounding impact on the Barrydale community.

The partnership has centred on an annual **Day of Reconciliation Parade** through the township and the village employing giant puppets and this has been followed by a performance in the amphitheatre at the local primary school.

From small beginnings, the event now provides a focus for co-ordinated work which runs throughout the year across Net vir Pret's different programmes and which sparks creativity on every side, from story-telling, scripting and acting, to music, song and dance, and most importantly, the design, construction and manipulation of puppets.



The plays that have been presented in the past few years have dealt with serious and relevant issues that have required in-depth research. In 2014 we explored our **KhoiSan** heritage; in 2015 we told the story of our **Cape Slave** ancestors and in 2016, loosely based on *The Elephant Whisperer* by the late **Lawrence**



**Anthony**, we asked important questions about the sharing of the Land between ourselves and also with the Elephants and other wildlife.



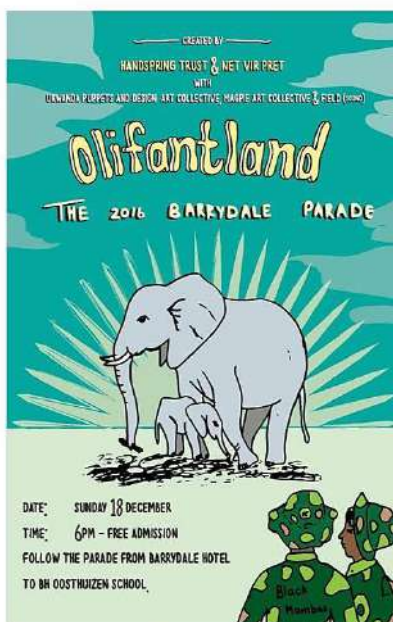
The 2016 process began in February with a reading of the book and extensive research on elephants conducted by staff and Interns which was presented for discussion at Saturday morning workshops which Young Leaders also attended.

The Interns produced a community wall newspaper on *Elephants and their World* which was mounted in the **Barrydale Library** and much interesting material was uncovered. A three-day excursion to the **Addo Elephant Park** in June by Young Leaders, Interns and staff helped to deepen our understanding, but underlying all was awareness of the shocking fact that poachers kill an African elephant every 15 minutes and a total of 30,000 are wiped out every year.



After the research process, the next step was to bring the youth of Barrydale and the surrounding farms on board and this was

achieved in our Winter Holiday Schools which featured elephants as their theme. Young Leaders told the children elephant stories, and the children drew and painted elephants, made elephant masks and made up their own stories and plays which featured elephants.



The project took a serious turn on a Saturday in July where an all-day workshop with director **Aja Marneweck** pinned down our final version of the story and *Olifantland* was born.



Music has come to form an essential part of the show each year, with the highlights in the story marked by the children singing original songs composed by our **Jazz Monkeys** and our **Riel Dance** coordinator.



In 2016 we were fortunate in having the contribution of film composer **Simon Kohler** who came from Cape Town on several occasions to guide our efforts, bringing with him recordings of elephant communications as a starting board. He and the music team spent many months devising a complex soundscape for the performance.

Part of the story involved the threat posed by poachers and in October two female staff members accompanied by two of the female Young Leaders headed for Limpopo to spend a week on site with the **Black Mambas**, a renowned female anti-poaching unit operating near the Kruger Game Park.

The elephant puppets – four life-size adults and a baby as well as an Africanus dog, were designed by Handspring and constructed by the **Ukwanda Workshop** from Masipumelele who spent three weeks on the job in Barrydale where they were assisted by the Net vir Pret team who learned much in the process.



All the children in the show carry hand-held puppets which they have made themselves and 2 staff members spent a week in Cape Town with designer **Jill Joubert** at the beginning of November receiving training in their design and construction. They in turn trained the Young Leaders who later guided the children in the making their own puppets.

The hectic weeks leading up to 18 December culminated in a performance before a huge crowd of Barrydalers and others who had come from far and wide to see the show (including visitors from the **Universities of Toronto and Minnesota**) and everyone agreed that the event had surpassed expectations.

The issues presented have never been addressed in Barrydale, especially in such a vivid, public and popular way. The tremendous creative and co-operative effort that has gone into the creation of these annual events demonstrates very clearly what group effort can achieve within an impoverished community and how entrenched opinions can be challenged.

The Handspring partnership has resulted in an annual event that is precious in terms of the development of our youth and the healing of our fractured community. We thank them greatly for it. The partnership is now at an end but we have learned a huge amount through it and we are determined that the Day of Reconciliation Parade will continue regardless.



## THE AFTER-CARE PROGRAMME



The **After-Care Programme** ran successfully throughout the year on every afternoon during term time at the Net vir Pret centre. Between 30-50 children attended regularly and received a daily meal. The Programme followed a planned curriculum which included developmental activities in art and crafts, a reading club on the **Nal'ibali** model, educational games which developed language and maths skills, as well as outdoor games to develop

motor skills and team play.

In November, the Programme held an outreach event on an open field in Rondomskrik, the new extension of the township. Dozens of children attended with their mothers for a morning of games and fun. It was clear that many of the children had never played with toys before.



## PROGRAMMES FOR TEENAGERS

Programmes targeting teenagers included Pottery, Music, Art & Crafts, Drama, Drumming, Riel Dance, Biking and Cricket.

The **Pottery Class** met twice weekly during term time with 18 youngsters attending. A special 5-day programme was held during the December vacation which 10 attended. The group exhibited their work in the Barrydale Library and also at the Barrydale Blooms Festival in October.



The **Jazz Studio** operated on 4 afternoons a week during term time with 16 participants falling into 4 groups. The senior group, the Jazz Monkeys performed regularly at the local hotel and made a major contribution to the Day of Reconciliation Parade, providing original music for the show. One of the groups is an all-girl band.

The **Art and Crafts Class** met twice a week with 12 participants, concentrating on fashioning decorative items from recycled material and also working on fabric design and printing. Work was exhibited at the Barrydale Blooms Festival.



The **Drama Group** with 8 participants took their new play *Logika*, conceived by Net vir Pret Director, Peter Takelo, to the **Overberg Drama Festival** in September and were selected to go forward to the **Zabalaza Festival** at the Baxter in April. The play also performed at the **Suidooster Festival** at Artscape later in the month.

The **Drumming Group** practised weekly with 15 participants and performed regularly at the Barrydale Hotel. They led the December Parade through the streets of both township and village.



Three **Riel Dance** groups practised weekly at Net vir Pret with 24 participants.

The senior group made it to the finals of the **ATKV Festival** in Paarl in November, were placed third and received the trophy for the most improved group.

The senior group helped to train new dancers on the farms, where 17 groups are now operating, giving 160 participants in total. The dancers contributed an essential part to the December Parade.



The **Bike Club** ran regularly on weekday afternoons with occasional excursions further afield on Saturdays. There were 18 regular participants. 6 participated in the **Renosterbos 47 km. Marathon** in October (together with 6 of the Project Hope boys). All completed the course and were awarded medals.

Seven **Cricket Teams**, 3 based at Net vir Pret and 4 on the farms, practised regularly throughout the year and competed in a Cricket Tournament on 5 November.



## HOLIDAY SCHOOLS

The 2016 **Winter Holiday School** ran in three sessions – each a week long. In all three sessions, activities centred round elephants in an attempt to prepare youngsters for the end-of-year December Parade which was to be based on *The Elephant Whisperer* by the late Lawrence Anthony. Children drew elephants, made clay and fabric elephants as well as cardboard elephant cut-outs and then, in groups, devised a story involving elephants which they then scripted and performed on the final day.

The **Spring Holiday School** ran between 3 and 7 October and was attended by 83 youngsters. Conservationists from the Bontebok National Park came in on Day 1 to run a morning which focused on the protection of our flora and fauna. On



Day 2 participants cleaned up the hill which separates the village from the township, collecting an enormous mound of black bags. On Day 3 the rubbish was sorted into what could be recycled from what could not and the youngsters spent Day 4 creating decorative objects from the recycled material. The Young Leaders supervised this activity under the guidance of the Art and Crafts tutor.



The **December Holiday School** ran for a fortnight in early December and culminated in the Day of Reconciliation Parade on the 18<sup>th</sup>. 153 teenagers and children participated, including 47 from the farms who were brought in every day. Children made their own hand-held puppets under the guidance of the Young Leaders and learned song and dance routines for the show.

## YOUNG LEADERS

The **Young Leaders Programme** continued to operate throughout the year. 15 participants attended a weekly workshop which focused on leadership skills and all assisted with the delivery of the Holiday Schools.

The Young Leaders participated in the year-long research into elephants and their place in the world, in preparation for the 2016 December Parade, attending Saturday morning discussion sessions.

Six of the Young Leaders joined staff and Interns on a three-day visit to the **Addo Elephant Park** in mid-year and two of the females spent a week with the **Black Mamba** anti-poaching unit in Limpopo in October.



All Young Leaders attended a recycling workshop run by the Craft tutor in preparation for the Spring Holiday School and they spent a week in early December training in the construction of the hand-held puppets the children would make for the Parade so that they would be able to guide the children in the following week.

In January this year Young Leaders joined our *Almal in die Skool* (Everyone in School) campaign. They took part in an awareness raising march through the village and the township and then joined the team who conducted door-to-door visits to identify out-of-school children of school-going age and offered our assistance in getting them registered.

## INTERNSHIPS

The **Internship Programme** took on 5 new Interns in March for a 10-month term which ran until the end of December.

Working alongside Net vir Pret staff, the Interns learned to take on roles in the day-to-day running of Net vir Pret and were assigned duties in the After-Care Programme, the Homework Club, the Farm Outreach Programme, the Craft Workshop, Project Hope and the Bike Club.

As part of their programme, they were tasked with conducting research into Teenage Pregnancy and the issues surrounding it. They were required to read up on the theme, summarise and present content and then conduct and record interviews with a wide range of stakeholders including young mothers and fathers, their peers, parents, grandparents, teachers, religious leaders and clinic personnel.

The next step was to edit and order information, find focus, create headlines and finally to present their findings in the form of a community wall newspaper. The newspaper went on display at the Barrydale Library, the schools and the Clinic.



In a further development, they were required to script and present a play on the theme which could tour schools. This project resulted in an astounding hour-long creation called **Hoe Nou?** (What Now?), which had its première on 30 July.

Opening with an hilarious scolding from a (giant puppet) school principal and presented as high

comedy with riveting performances from the actors, the play was able to hold school audiences as large as 400, and often outdoors, on tenterhooks. But although there was a joke a minute, it dealt with serious issues of loyalty and betrayal, hope and despair, responsibility and recklessness.



Hoe Nou? toured schools and farms in the Overberg with great success throughout the month of August, as far as Ladismith, Bontebok, Slangrivier, Montagu, Robertson and Bredasdorp and also spent a week in Cape Town at schools on the Cape Flats, giving 32 performances in all.

The Interns played an essential part in all the Holiday Schools, leading groups of youngsters in the various activities.



## MATRIC OUTREACH & BURSARY PROGRAMMES

The **Matric Outreach Programme** counselled 35 youngsters in their final school year on options for further study and provided assistance with applications to institutions and for financial support, and finally with registration procedures on registration day. The **Bursary Programme** aimed to provide assistance where NSFAS, the state financial aid system, fell short.

8 new students were assisted into tertiary study this year, and a further 4 will register in the second semester. In another very welcome development 2 others were offered apprenticeships by **TMS International**.

The following table shows the growing number of young people from Barrydale who are now studying at tertiary level and presents details of the new students as well as of returning students and graduates.

New tertiary enrolments	2017	
1. Cupido, Glanice	Northlink College Parow	Nat. Dipl. Primary Health N4
2. Europa, Johan	Northlink College Belhar	Nat. Dipl. Civil Engineering N4
3. Filton, Imran	Univ. Western Cape	B Ed 1
4. Hess, Dylan	Univ. Western Cape	BA 1
5. Scheepers, Elroy	Northlink College Belhar	Nat. Dipl. Civil Engineering N4
6. Skippers, Gerald	Northlink College Wingfield	Nat Dipl. Mechanical Engineering N4
7. Williams, Charlton	Boland College Worcester	Nat. Dipl. Farm Management N4
8. Windvogel, Callen	Northlink College Belhar	Nat. Dipl. Civil Engineering N4

<b>Apprenticeships</b>		
9. Botman, Gurshim	TMS International	Diesel Mechanics
10. Davids, Macwin	TMS International	Boilermaking
<b>Returning students</b>		
2017		
11. Braaf, Sonja	South Cape College	Nat. Dipl. Educare 2
12. Du Toit, Christiaan	Northlink, Tygerberg	Nat. Dipl. Marketing N6
13. du Toit, Davina	West Coast College	Nat. Dipl. Management N6
14. Dyanti, Brandon	Northlink, Tygerberg	Nat. Dipl. Financial Management N6
15. Ernest, Simonia	CPUT*	B Ed 3
16. Esau, William	Univ. Western Cape	BA 2
17. Hendricks, Romano	Northlink, Tygerberg	Nat. Dipl. Marketing N6
18. Joubert, Fiogen	CPUT*	B Tech (Tourism) 3
19. Koppies, Nuroshaan	West Coast College	Nat. Dipl. Management 2
20. Michaels, Shayne	Univ. of the Western Cape	B Ed 4
21. Nel, Patrick	Northlink, Tygerberg	Nat. Dipl. Management N6
22. Pekeur, Deslin	West Coast College	Nat. Dipl. Office Technology 2
23. Pieterse, Sheryldine	Northlink, Tygerberg	Nat. Dipl. Tourism N6
24. Ruiters, Ethan	Boland College	Nat. Dipl. Sport Management 2
25. Swart, Herschelle	Univ. of the Free State	B Admin 3
26. Swart, Peden	West Coast College	Nat. Dipl. Elec Engineering N6
27. Van Rooi, Henrico	Northlink, Tygerberg	Nat. Dipl. Human Resources
28. van Rooi, Vanessa	CPUT* (Hotel School)	B Tech (Hospitality) 3
29. Windvogel, Tay-Lea	Univ. Western Cape	BA 2
<b>Graduates</b>		
30. Afrika, Franco	Univ. of the Western Cape	BA
31. Britz, Charlene	CPUT*	B Ed
32. Jooste, Mickhyle	Univ. of the Western Cape	B Com
33. Levendal, Cecil	Univ. of the Western Cape	B Com
34. Moses, Clarence	Univ of the Free State	B Admin
35. Nel, Grace	South Cape College	Nat. Dipl. Safety & Security
36. Snyman, Rowann	CPUT*	Nat. Dipl. Management

\*Cape Peninsula University of Technology

An urgent issue arose during the year when eight students in self-catering hostels found they had to provide their own food. All come from indigent homes who were not able to help them. Thanks to the kindness of several donors we were able to support them with this expense.

## FARM SCHOOL OUTREACH

The **Farm Outreach Programme** operated at four farms, **Weltevrede, Vleiplaas, Akkerboom** and **Lemoenshoek**, with two staff members accompanied by two Interns visiting the school on each farm once a week where they ran two 45 min. sessions at each school, reaching a total of 212 youngsters. Activities included story-telling, drumming, art and crafts, riel dance and sports.

The second week of the July Holiday School was held at the



Vleiplaas Farm School where 56 youngsters joined in. Activities centred round elephants, and the Young Leaders began the

week by performing a play they had written which aimed at presenting the wonders of the elephant world and the terrible threat posed by poachers. In the days that followed the youngsters made elephant masks and other props, devised their own stories about elephants and presented these in dramatic form on the final day. In the third week 20 teenagers from the Akkerboom Farm School were invited to spend 5 days at our Farmhouse where they engaged in similar activities. Thanks to our new mini-bus we were able to bring in 48 farm youngsters to participate in the December Holiday School and the Day of Reconciliation Parade.

## PROJECT HOPE

With the help of local volunteers, Net vir Pret was able to round up the boys at risk – 14 in all – and take them for a weekend of fun and developmental activities at the Farmhouse. None were in school and all were from very poor homes, where alcohol abuse seemed prevalent.

However, the boys responded well to the interest shown in them and all were invited to join the Bike Club, where they were assigned their own bike which they had to repair and maintain.

Over the weeks, they developed a pattern of dropping in at Net vir Pret every morning and so **Project Hope** was born. Gradually a structured week was put in place with morning activities including drumming, craft work, basic literacy and a weekly visit to the Barrydale Library where the librarian read to them and the afternoons spent repairing their bikes and cycling.



All had been involved in petty theft from homes in the village and we were very encouraged to learn late in the year that no break-ins had been reported since we started working with them. Two of the boys withdrew early on, but their places were taken by two new ones and so at year's end we had maintained the total of 14.

We assumed that the chances of their returning to school were very slight – two had never been to school and the rest had been out for two years or more. It was therefore quite unexpected when we reconvened after the 10-day Christmas break to hear them all say that they wanted to go back to school.

Of the 14, 12 are now back at school. The remaining two are 18 this year and the school felt the age gap was too big.

## THE PETS PROGRAMME

PETS (Programme for Educating Teachers) completed its fourth year of operation in Barrydale at the end of 2016.



Led by **Dr. Michael Rice**, chair of the **PETS Foundation**, the initial aim of the programme was to explore the viability of an alternative method of in-service training

Participating teachers and the PETS team

which would employ ICT (Information Communications Technology) but which would, above all, emphasise the fundamental principle that teachers themselves need to take responsibility for their own learning and professional development. Net vir Pret is the facilitating partner.

21 teachers have participated and over the years, drawn from Net vir Pret, Barrydale High, BF Oosthuizen Primary, and 3 farm schools (Vleiplaas, Lemoenshoek and Weltevrede) and these teachers have come to constitute a learning community which has developed a first in the country - an online course written by teachers for teachers, designed to improve content knowledge and classroom application in the teaching of Fractions, Decimals, Percentages and Basic Operations. Thanks to a newly-established partnership with **E-classroom** this course is now available to 145,000 teachers nation-wide. The course can be accessed on [www.trainingteachers.org.za](http://www.trainingteachers.org.za) and [www.e-classroom.co.za](http://www.e-classroom.co.za). PETS is continuing its work in Barrydale in 2017.

## FUNDING

Nothing would be possible without the support of our many donors to whom we express our deep gratitude.

The following table records donations above R5,000 received during the financial year.

### DONOR SUPPORT 01.04.2016-31.03.2017

R's

<i>Government</i>	
Dept. Social Development	63,360
<i>Trusts, Foundations &amp; Corporate</i>	
ELMA Foundation	300,000
Claude Leon Foundation	262,000
DG Murray Trust	222,000
King Baudouin Foundation (BE)	202,852
Stichting Projecten Zuid Afrika (NL)	120,000
Anon (via Investec)	75,000
Education for Democracy in South Africa (UK)	70,000
Max Kohler Trust	63,000
Gauteng Hydraulics	50,000
Superb Tyres	50,000
TMS International	50,000
Tube City	50,000
Anon.	25,000
Afrikaanse Taal en Kultuur Vereeniging	18,980
Impumelelo Award (sponsored by the Community Chest)	10,000
Swanns Busdiens	8,400
<i>Private donations above R5, 000</i>	
Gordon Browning (UK)	41,533
Zoë Wicomb & Ann Brown	21,000
Anne Page (UK)	20,000
Michael Chanarin	5,000
Geoff Budlender	5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,733,125</b>

Much appreciated donations were also received from **Amanda Shackley, Barrydale Cares, Bob Wolf, Brian Wides, Chris Beer & Rene Weinum, HJ von Vroenhoven, Heidelberg High School, Karen van Heerden, Kevin Joubert, Mullersvlei Primary School, Peter & Heidi Lund, the Potgieter family, Richard & Heather Glasstone, Riekie Harm, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, Swellendam Municipality** and others who wish to remain anonymous.

**OK Grocer** contributed towards providing school uniforms for the beneficiaries of the **Almal in die Skool** campaign and **Lawrie Mabin** kindly donated the printing of our brochures.

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