

Chairperson's Report

Calabash Trust for March 2009/ March 2010

Introduction

A key initiative undertaken by the Trust for this year was the decision to engage in a detailed strategic planning process which would position ourselves more favourably and allow us to work together from a jointly developed perspective. We decided that we would invest some of our funds into a formal evaluation. This was conducted by Dirk Marais of Vision Quest Africa which resulted in a three to five year strategic plan. All Calabash Trustees and staff members participated in the process. It was a very rewarding process. It has consolidated the work of Calabash Trust, rooting it more clearly in a broad school-based programme. We emerged clearer on who we were and what we wanted to achieve. It allowed for each person to develop an understanding of the important contribution that each of us makes to Calabash Trust; and the importance of having time to work, reflect and work on ourselves as we are key to all processes. We developed an understanding of the Theory of Change and applied this to our work in multi-disciplinary & community development partnership. It consolidated our work into the following six main focus areas:

1. Nutrition Programme:

Feeding scheme

- We continued to feed 100 children a day at Ramaphosa. We contributed to the nutrition scheme at Emafini, Sakhisizwe, Masibulele, Isifungo and Masikhulisane.

Vegetable gardens

- Trench garden and environmental programme for children and parents instituted at Joe Slovo primary school.

2. Early Childhood Development Centre Support and advancement Programme

- Engagement with parents, community and committee structures to get a qualified teacher and assistant teacher for Lavela to take ownership of their project.

3. School Support and advancement programme

School Furniture /Container:

- We have distributed 8 containers of school furniture to six cluster schools in 2009.

Computer Project

- This was conducted through our partnership with Saga Holidays in the UK. We employed 6 tutors for the schools we support through computer project to train teachers and learners for a period of two years which ends in Dec 2010.

Sports Field Development Project:

- We have built one netball field, sports field and cricket nets in two cluster schools in the year 2009.
- An annual sport tournament was held between PE and Addo region in acknowledgement of LVS and Reeds College. This was attended by both our cluster schools and local teams.

Sport Development Project:

- The sport development programme sought to scope the needs of schools and to implement a programme. Unfortunately Luyanda Mthathi, Sports Coordinator decided to resign and because we were keen to limit and not expand projects, we decided to hold the programme over into 2010.

Art Project:

- This project included the distribution of art materials to different cluster schools. It served to assist schools in unlocking the artistic potential of children, providing the opportunity for them to express themselves creatively.

Library Project

- We have built a library at Isaac Booi in the year 2009.

School fees and educational material

- 63 Sponsored children @ R250.00 per month to a bursary fund.

4. Skills Development Programme:

Early Childhood Development Training:

- 4 young women given bursaries to attend Early Learning Centre, all graduated with ECD teaching qualification at level 5.
- Project leaders at all 4 ECDC's we support were trained on financial management workshops.

Soap Making Business

- We continued in partnership with PPC and University of Helsinki to work with sixteen adults in soap making
- We also supported them with entrepreneurship skills via Siya Sebenza's Business School where they learnt in a simple manner how to conduct their business.

Cluster Schools development

- Various workshops such as team-building exercises, and workshops on stress, conflict resolution and time management were conducted by Christen, Susan and Hilda (CSH) Skills academy for different schools of the cluster.

5. Micro Enterprise

Soap Making

- Successful production of soap is aimed at providing unemployed parents with the opportunity to become small-scale business owners.

6. Internal Learning and growth

Critical to our work and vision for Calabash Trust is the ongoing upgrading of skills for all staff members. We believe it is vitally important to invest in our staff and to promote their ongoing development. In this way their interest and enthusiasm for work and Calabash Trust will be maintained.

- N. Khunjuza: Internal training on Pastel Express and management skills.
- B. Gongxeka: Internal training on Pastel Express and Partner
- N. Madinda: External Training to CDRA in Cape Town June 2009 on a development course.

Calabash Trust Partnerships for 2009:

We have maintained and developed partnerships with the following:

- Saga Charitable Trust UK
- Calabash Trust UK
- PPC
- Greater Good South Africa
- University Of Helsinki
- Siyasebenza Business School
- Summerstrand Hotel

- CSH Skills Academy

Special Events and visitors:

- Mr & Mrs Weatherley and Mr & Mrs Griffin from UK spent time in the projects and with Calabash Trust team.
- Sallie Grayson from 'People & Places' visited to explain the role People & Places could play in tourist philanthropy. Her mother, Mrs Rachel Grayson, trained six women in our sewing project.
- Judy Aljoe and her friend Pamela attended the opening of the Judy Aljoe Library at Sakhisizwe School whilst at the same time being part of the blessing ceremony held to dedicate the cricket equipment funded by Judy and friends.
- Judy sponsors a bursary for Zimasa Dyonashe and was able to spend time with Zimasa and Family.
- LVS School in England paid their first visit to South Africa and built a sports field and cricket nets at AV Bukani
- Reeds College returned for the fourth annual visit and built a netball field and library at Isaac Booii School.
- Carol Payne from CTUK Board members attended the strategic Planning workshop
- Visit from Janice Lee in England, Saga Charitable Trust Director, to see the computer projects and the role that Saga will play in the Trust.
- Klaas van Panhuis with friends from the Netherlands visited Ramaphosa and other Early Childhood Development Centres.

Human Resources:

1ST March 2009, the staff contingent was made up as follows:

Mrs N. Khunjuzwa	Office Manager
Mr. Simphiwe Madywabi	Project Manager
Ms B. Gongxeka	Financial Officer/ Sponsorship coordinator
Ms. N. Madinda	Project manager
Mr. L. Mthathi	Sports development
Ms. M. Meleni	Receptionist/ Administrator

May 2009 L. Mthathi resigned and Carla Collins joined us as a part time worker in June.

Conclusion

2009 into 2010 has been a good year for Calabash Trust. We are very grateful for all the hard work done by Marion Gate and Lynne Lawson in supporting the work of the Trust in such a hands-on way. Marion announced her retirement and whilst we have certainly missed her exuberant and dynamic ways since the year-end, we are delighted that she remains an active Board member.

We look forward to 2011 and all that it has to bring. We are confident that the work we have done with Dirk at the start of this year will bear fruition. We look forward to continuing our path of growth and development, confident in the knowledge that we have developed a common vision that will serve to support the communities with which we work.

26 November 2010
Therese Boule
Chairperson