

**CALABASH TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 15.09.2011**

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT COVERING 1 MARCH 2010 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2011

INTRODUCTION

Calabash Trust programmes and projects in 2010/2011 were followed, as far as budgets allowed, in line with the Operational plan, born from our 3/5 year Strategic plan developed last year. Due to Breadline Africa, one of our major donors, being unable to accept further applications this year, we have been unable to deliver all programmes in the Operational plan. However, even though it has been a very tough year financially, never the less we have achieved some amazing results by being prudent with our existing funding.

Our Key Focus Areas:

1. Nutrition Programme
2. Early Childhood Development Centre Support and Advancement Programme
3. School Support and Advancement Programme
4. Skills Development Programme
5. Micro Enterprise Programme
6. Internal Learning and Growth Programme

1. Nutrition Programme:

Feeding scheme:

- We continued to contribute to the nutrition scheme at Ramaphosa, Masibulele, Isifungo Early Childhood Development Centre, Masikhulisane Youth Development, Emafani Primary and Sakhisizwe Senior Secondary School in the Nelson Mandela Metro. We have assisted with the feeding of approximately 1000 children on a daily basis.
- In our experience, the government school feeding programme has failed due to poor implementation by the Eastern Cape Education Department. Children are collapsing at school and it is imperative that they are fed as nutrition plays a key role in their development.
- As a result of ongoing requests from schools, we have looked at new ways to support nutrition and have been fortunate to partner with Food Bank who have now put us on their database to receive regular food, we also encourage schools to begin Nutrition gardens (See below)
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Vegetable gardens:

- In July 2010 Reeds College started a food garden at Henry Nginza Primary School in Kwazakhele. This garden helps with the nutrition programme and allows the school to sell some of the produce to pay for gas etc.
- In February 2011 Chaucer Business and Enterprise College from Sheffield England, worked with the teachers, parents and children at Mboniselo Primary School in Motherwell. An amazing, productive food garden was established.
- The interest in these gardens that was shown by teachers, parents and learners resulted in Calabash holding a 2 week permaculture workshop course which was attended by representatives from other cluster schools. From this workshop a Nutrition garden forum was formed. This forum acts as a support group for schools who want to start their own garden and has been very successful.

2. Early Childhood Development Centre Support and advancement Programme:

- We support 3 Early Childhood Development Centres and a Youth Development Centre. Both ECD's are staffed by fully qualified pre school teachers, two of whom had a bursary from Calabash Trust to complete their ECD training.
- Afrox has given us sponsorship of gas for a year to ensure that there is fuel to cook the food. We have realised the importance of a solid educational foundation for children and to this end have implemented proper ECD programmes in our pre schools.
- Absa Bank staff in Govan Mbeki Port Elizabeth has contributed towards food on a monthly basis and hosted a Christmas Party for Lavela in December 2010. This Centre is in a very poor informal

settlement area. It was such a wonderful moment for these children, as they had a party and received gifts to end off their educational year.

- Business Link Magazine donated educational material to the centre for the next years modules and we hope to build on our relationship with Business Link in order to create awareness of our programmes to local business.
- Rotary Club in Port Elizabeth host the tree of joy each year. The youth who attend our Youth Development Centre were asked to send a list of the gifts they would like for Christmas, which is then hung on the Tree of Joy and sponsored by the general public. All the children received a gift.

3. School Support and advancement programme:

School Furniture /Container:

- This has been a very difficult year with the furniture project from the Netherlands. In the beginning of the year we did not have any funds to carry the landed cost of the containers. Our Dutch donors managed to pay for these and we received 5 containers during 2010. Through the help from Tribe foundation we have managed to source funds to carry administrative costs of the container project which will also pay for the containers that are due in January 2011. The desks , chairs and other furniture, delivered in 2010 from the Netherlands has reached 4 schools in our Cluster schools and other home based care projects that benefited with containers filled with home based equipment. The impact of this furniture has been amazing and it is our priority to seek more funding for landing costs.

Computer Project:

- In Dec 2010, we completed a two year computer programme in 6 schools. This was through our partnership with Saga Charitable Trust in the UK, making use of computer tutors to support teachers in integrating computers into the learning programme in schools. A way forward has been outlined in terms of the partnership between the schools and Calabash Trust.

Sports Field Development Project:

- Through partnerships with Calabash Trust UK schools in the United Kingdom Sports Field was erected at Vusumzi School in July 2010.
- Inauguration and the blessing of the Isaac Booie Netball Court and A. V Bukani field was held in July 2010

Sport Development Project:

- As part of developing schools of excellence, Calabash Trust has identified the need for stimulating children in all aspects of their development, including sport. In addition, through partnership with a local NGO, The Umzingisi Foundation, Calabash Trust has been able to facilitate training for teachers as coaches in various disciplines, as well as introducing Development through Sport programmes.
- All six Calabash Trust Cluster Schools participated in the July 2010 Holiday programme organized by Umzingisi Foundation.
- One of the clusters Vusumzi School participated in a week's Sport programme facilitated by Umzingisi Foundation in November 2010. 166 children graduated and were certificated by Umzingisi Foundation on the commitment and dedication showed in the Life Skills programme through Sport.

Art Project:

- Through sources (using travellers Philanthropy) and Art works for Youth art classes were facilitated after school for two days a week. The children spent two to three hours on art each day. The focus is to do Visual Art and Performing Art as some children might be interested in performing Art.
- Calabash Trust has provided the schools with art material as well as art manual that the schools can use as their guide line and also to have a uniformed programme in all the schools
- Barry Hinchliff spent a month at W B Tshume implementing art programme including pottery

Library Project:

- Through partnerships with Calabash Trust UK schools in the United Kingdom, Reeds College have been able to convert a classroom into a library at one of our cluster school Henry Nginza
- Mr. Mrs Kugler and family brought a container of books to A.V. Bukani in Addo. The Kugler family worked with the local community to catalogue these books and prepare a system, prior to setting up a library. This was funded by the Kugler family fund.
- Through various sources (using Travellers Philanthropy) Calabash Trust has been able to supply thousands of reading books, which are age appropriate, to most schools within the Cluster. What has become evident however that is a method of managing those books, and the development of

a checking in/out system is required. Due to the staffing constraints currently experienced by schools, librarians do not exist, so any system needs to be simple, outcome focused and practical.

School Fees and Educational Material Project at New Brighton SDA:

- In the beginning of 2010, after various challenges we had experienced for a number of years with the individual sponsorship.
- Non Profit Organisations have been wrestling with the question of individual child sponsorship vs the notion of thematic or specific project sponsorship with the individual sponsorship.
- Calabash Trust Board of Trustees with the staff felt that if we rather consider the "school" as a meaningful target or project and not the individual child, then the School Project as a whole, will in turn support the children as decided by the school.
- We met with the school to discuss the above challenges and mutually agree on a way forward of supporting the school in a development way. In May 2010 the decision was taken by the school to replace the individual sponsorship programme with a bursary fund, which will be administered by a bursary committee. In this period we had 43 children that were on sponsorship programme.

Bursary and Educational Material Project at NMMU:

Fees were paid for Zimasa Dyonashe from Kamvelihle in Motherwell. 2010 was her third year of her (BAdmin) degree. Unfortunately she failed two modules leaving her 47 points short to get a degree. The donor decided to continue sponsoring to allow Zimasa to graduate and get a Degree in 2011

4. Skills Development Programme:

Early Childhood Development Training:

- Through various sources (using Travellers Philanthropy) Calabash Trust has been able to send 2 Grade R teachers from cluster schools and 3 ladies from Early Childhood Development Centres to get proper skills on Early Childhood Development at the Early Learning Centre. These ladies are now fully qualified as grade R teachers.

Skills Transfer:

- Calabash Tours runs an effective, Fair Trade in Tourism Certified volunteer programme. Retired professionals are targeted to come and share skills within the school environment. This tightly managed programme focuses on teachers working with teachers to develop effective classroom strategies, and for a sharing of work experiences. It is premised on the understanding that local teachers have as much to share as visiting teachers. Our experience has been however that this often leads to a situation where local teachers feel supported, re inspired, and invigorated.
- One area which the Trust and Cluster schools are keen to focus on is parental involvement in schools. We were fortunate to have two volunteers, Mr. Mrs Kugler, who delivered a parental programme in A.V Bukani School. They worked on a memory quilt with the Mothers and used this opportunity to talk to parents about the roles they should play in their children's education.

Business Development:

- Through our partnership with Siyasebenza, Sinomtha Soap Project has gained skills on how to run their business. This has been very fruitful as Siyabenza trained these women from Grassroots level.
- Training at Siya Sebenza Business School commenced on the 3rd of May 2010, comprising of 23 sessions, twice a week for 4 hours each in total. The training ensured a break through with most of the soap ladies, and they became much easier to work with. **Read more below**

5. Micro Enterprise:

Sinomtha Community Soap Project:

- PPC funded Sinomtha mainly to assist with marketing, branding, packaging and setting up office.
- In May 2010, co-operative registration took place at Eastern Cape Development Organisation (ECDC) where the soap ladies submitted six new names for their new co-operative. Their first set of names were not accepted as it was already taken by another group (the name 'Latita' is very popular and already taken by other co-operatives), so they have resubmitted six new names for consideration and the name Sinomtha Community Soap Project was accepted.
- In March 2010 one of the Soap Makers Noncedo Gebeda was chosen to attend an Old Mutual visioning workshop in Cape Town.
- Since the registration of Sinomtha Community Soap Project, the soap ladies have received support from SEDA, who guided them through their initial stage of being a co-operative.

- On the 4th of April 2010, Sinomtha Community Soap Project was very proud to be selected by the Old Mutual Legends Programme, Level 3. This means they have received group support, including group training, participation in peer group networks, as well as access to information sharing and shared programme resources.
- Sinomtha was awarded the "Due Diligence" prize by the Old Mutual Legends Programme at the end of 2010. The 2010 Awards by The Legends recognised excellence amongst the 34 participant organizations and 800 Legends beneficiaries, and Sinomtha proved to be the most responsible and diligent participants.
- Sinomtha received a branding and marketing voucher by SEDA. They used this to help with commercial branding which they outsourced to Fly Piggy Fly, a local media and marketing company.

Internal Learning and growth programme:

As an organisation, we have prided ourselves in the development of our staff.

- In March 2010 Simphiwe Madywabe, Calabash Trust Project Manager chosen to take part in the Rotary Trip 2010 Group Study Exchange Programme and spent one month in the UK.
- In July 2010 Noluthando Khunjuzwa attended a five day training on Pastel Payroll by HH Accounting.
- In August 2010 Ntombentsha Madinda, Mandisa Meleni and Simphiwe Madywabi attended Old Mutual financial workshop
- In September 2010 Noluthando Khunjuzwa, Calabash Trust Manager chosen to attend the 'Leadership Skills for Women in the 21Century short learning programme at the NMMU Business School.
- Continuous internal training and workshops have also taken place.

Calabash Trust Partnerships for 2010/2011

- Business Link Magazine
- Calabash Tours
- Calabash Trust UK.
- Chauser Business and Enterprise College UK
- Face Africa
- L.V.S School U.K
- PPC Cement
- Reeds College U.K.
- Saga Charitable Trust U.K.
- Siyasebenza Business School
- Stichting Township (Netherlands)
- Summerstrand Hotel
- Trees 4 Africa
- Umzingisi Foundation

Special events and visitors:

Due to difficulties with funding constraint we had no special event for Calabash Trust in 2010. Our visitors this year made such a good contribution and have given so much joy and happiness. It is always with much appreciation that we can link up our beneficiaries directly with our partners and supporters.

- LVS School in England paid their second visit to Port Elizabeth in July 2010 and built a sports field at Vusumzi School in Addo.
- Reeds College returned for the fifth annual visit to Port Elizabeth in July 2010 and converted a classroom into a library and also established a food garden at Henry Nginza.
- Janice Lee Saga Charitable Trust Director paid a visit to Port Elizabeth in October 2010 to look at the way forward of supporting the Trust.
- Douwe and Gerry Helfrich with friends from Holland they paid a visit to Port Elizabeth and the Trust staff and Board enjoyed an evening with them.
- Sylvia and Bill Stuart from Scotland paid a visit to South Africa in December 2010 to see the staff and looking at ways of fundraising for the Trust in the UK
- Chauser Business and Enterprise College in the UK paid their first visit to South Africa in February 2011 to establish a food garden at Mboniselo in Motherwell. This was facilitated by Face Africa's director. Tim Ellis.

- Barry and Brenda Hinchliff paid a visit to Port Elizabeth to continue their work at W.B Tshume schools. Both in an art project and in the schools foundation phase.
- PPC CSI Manager Francie Shonhiwa visited Sinomtha soap project
- Rita Machin from the Co Operative U.K. also came to visit Sinomtha.
- Peter Hancox from Manchester visited our projects and hopes to seek funding from the Prison Officers Association from the UK to assist us with our programmes.

Calabash Trust Staff

March 2010 to February 2011 staff:

Mrs Sharole Moss	Director
Mrs N Khunjuzwa	General Manager
Mr S. Madywabi	Project Manager
Ms. B. Gongxeka	Financial Officer/Sponsorship Coordinator
Ms. N. Madinda	Project Manager
Ms. M Meleni	Receptionist Administrator
Ms Carla Collins	Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

We employed a Director for Calabash in May 2010, but unfortunately Sharole's ethos and skills did not fit into the Calabash model and she was asked to leave Calabash in Sept 2010 after a long process was followed.

In August 2010 Mandisa Meleni left the organisation without notice and in Feb 2010 Mr. Madywabi was dismissed. We appointed Lindiwe Mahambehlala as an Administrator in Feb 2011.

Conclusion:

2010 to 2011 has been a very difficult year for the Trust, due to the recession and cutbacks by funders. Never the less, we have continued to grow our programmes and develop the staff in an inclusive way.

Between 80/90% of the objectives on our Operational plan have been met and this shows that Calabash continues to move forward in developmental practice.

We are grateful to our dynamic staff and the Board members who continue to support the Trust. Our new Board members have all been duly registered by the Master of the Supreme Court and we hope they will be able to take Calabash Trust forward in the years ahead.

As we approach yet another difficult year financially, we hope that the partnerships we have worked hard to develop will be a good foundation for the future of the Trust and that we will continue to show what an open, transparent and inclusive organisation we have become. Let us all strive to move ahead and be an inspiration to the Communities we serve.

15 September 2011

Marion Gate (Chairperson)