

**CALABASH TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
THURSDAY 06 09 2012**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT COVERING 1 MARCH 2011 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2012**

**INTRODUCTION**

During the past year Calabash Trust continued to follow the operational plan which was devised from our strategic plan. However during this year our focus has began to change as we worked towards a more developmental approach. After participating in several Asset Based Community Development training workshops we realized that this new and exciting approach to development was the way forward for Calabash Trust. Another aim for the Trust was create awareness with local business around the work of the Trust. This was managed through our association with Business Link Magazine and culminated in a wonderful township tour where we were able to invite 80 representatives of local business to view some of our projects.

Again this has been an extremely difficult year financially never the less we continued to reach many of the goals we set and we have continued to look at innovative ways to seek funding.

Our Key Focus Areas remained:

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 contributed to the nutrition of children at Lavela, Masibulele Early Childhood Development Centre, Masikhulisane Youth Development, Emafini Primary, WB Tshume and Sakhisizwe Senior Secondary School in the Nelson Mandela Metro.
- We assisted with the feeding of approximately 2000 children on a daily basis.
- Our schools were applying for quintile 3 status and we hope by 2012/2013 the government will be feeding in these schools.
- Food Bank continued to partner with us and donated food to some of our schools on a monthly basis.

**Vegetable gardens:**

- As mentioned in the previous annual report, the interest in school food gardens increased after a 2 week permaculture workshop course which was attended by representatives from other cluster schools.
- From this workshop a Nutrition garden forum was formed, comprising of 6 schools, who have all started their own gardens to contribute towards school nutrition.
- WB Tshume had extra external support on 1 September 2011 for Spring day, where Mazar's staff members assisted with the soil preparations and planting of cabbage, spinach, cauliflower and lettuce. The school successfully harvested for their nutrition programme, replanted, and have kept the garden producing since then.
- 8 Cluster Schools now have gardens (with the other 2 probably receiving support for starting a garden in 2012), The Food Garden Forum continues to meet regularly to share, learn and improve.

**2. Early Childhood Development Centre Support and advancement Programme:**

- On a daily basis an average of 200 children between the ages of 6 months and 6 years were fed at these centres twice daily.
- 120 children were educated at the ECDC's each week. This was in accordance with the Early Learning Centre Programme Syllabus. All our teachers have been trained in early childhood education. The teachers were

experiencing difficulties monitoring and evaluating the "school readiness" of the children and Calabash Trust hopes to assist the teachers in methods of Monitoring and Evaluating in 2012/2013.

- Calabash Trust will also encourage regular meetings between the early childhood educators for sharing, learning and inspiration.
- Lavela ECDC moved from Ramaphosa informal settlement to Joe Slovo Primary School. This was due to the relocation of the Ramaphosa community. This means we now have a Pre-Grade R class of 40 registered children, operating in two combined containers which were joined to make one classroom. Our aim is to ensure that these children feed in to Grade R at Joe Slovo, creating a strong foundational base for the children to progress through to Joe Slovo School.
- Mr and Mrs Griffin & Mr & Mrs Weatherley contributed towards an outing for Masibulele in December 2011. Over 50 children had a wonderful day on the beach.
- The 50 young people who attend our Youth Development Centre each received a Christmas gift from the Tree of Joy sponsored by Rotary Club East and the ladies who support the project gave the children a party in November.
- Port Elizabeth East Rotary East distributed many pairs of Tom shoes both into the ECDC's and primary schools.
- Afrox continued to sponsor gas to assist in the feeding of the Youth Development Centre.
- Although various topics and activities were covered with about 50 children throughout 2011, Masikhulisane YDC struggled with implementing a proper structured programme due to lack of capacity and challenges with finding a suitable permanent venue. The Calabash Trust fieldworker will thus present a Ready for Success Programme, designed by the GM Foundation, to the youth at the centre to assist in 2012. Calabash Trust is also assisting with finding an alternative suitable venue.
- Renewed Memorandum Of Understanding will be signed with all 3 centres for 2012/2013, this will assist the centres to become more sustainable and eventually to operate independently of Calabash Trust.

### **3. School Support and advancement programme:**

- Calabash Trust facilitates Quarterly meetings of the Cluster Schools. This forum allows the schools to share both news and challenges. It is hoped to identify good practise which can be shared within the cluster schools.
- Monitoring and Evaluation continues to be a big problem area with few of the schools completing the M and E documents. This problem will be looked at with the Community Development Manager and the Cluster and hopefully a win win outcome can be achieved.
- The main goal of these meetings is to become a platform for dialogue, sharing and inspiration between the Cluster Schools.
- A logo and profile has been designed and put together for the Cluster Schools, encouraging the group to become an entity on its own.

### **School Furniture /Container:**

- We received 6 containers with desks, chairs and toys delivered to 5 of our cluster schools, 1 of the 6 containers went to Patterson school as our Dutch donor requested. The cost for these containers were met by Tribes Foundation UK and Stichting Foundation Netherlands.

### **Sports Field and Library Development Project (Grassroots UK):**

- In July 2011 Reeds College from the UK spent two weeks at Charles Duna building a netball court and upgrading the library.
- An official opening and blessing of the Library and Food garden at Henry Nginza was held in 2011.
- We continue to partner with the grass root development in U.K. which provides valuable sporting facilities at our schools.

### **School Fees and Educational Material Project at New Brighton SDA:**

- We continued on our three year programme to phase out the individual child sponsorship programme. At the end of 2012, our partnership with New Brighton SDA School will come to an end.

### **Bursary and Educational Material Project at NMMU:**

Through sponsorship from Mrs Judy Aljoe, fees, living accommodation and expenses were paid for Zimasa Dyonashe from Kamvelihle in Motherwell. In 2011 she was in her third year studying her Degree Bachelor of Administration (BAdmin). Zimasa has now obtained her B Com.

#### **4. Skills Development Programme:**

##### **Early Childhood Development Training:**

- Ms Noluthando Maqutyana graduated in July 2011, she is now amongst those qualified Grade R teachers, who received an opportunity of getting proper teaching qualification through early childhood development. She is now employed by the Department of Education as a Grade R teacher.

#### **5. Micro Enterprise:**

##### **Sinomtha Community Soap Cooperative:**

- Sinomtha Community Soap Cooperative undergoes new branding by Fly Piggy Fly, introducing their new soap range called 'Umama'
- On the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2011, Noncedo Gebeda, Chairperson of Sinomtha attended the Legends Costing and Pricing Workshop in Durban. This was her 3<sup>rd</sup> trip to other cities in South Africa, networking and learning with other business people around South Africa
- Calabash Trust organised a Business Tour in partnership with Business Link magazine earlier in 2011, which included visiting the soap project. After the tour a local company called Entacom offered to assist one of the soap ladies with additional business training and support.
- The training was completed 29 June 2011, and thus more knowledge was given to Noncedo, and she made contacts for additional support, especially relating to costing and pricing.
- Sinomtha was chosen to feature in SAA's in-flight magazine in August 2011 for Women's month
- Entecom, who offered to assist Noncedo Gebeda with additional business training and support on 29 June 2011 (mentioned in the June 2011 report) has written a piece on the project in their newsletter which they will distribute to their database for some extra exposure.
- SEDA offered additional vouchers in Mentoring and HR Management as it was felt that they needed hands on mentoring from a business professional. Three business mentors came forward, of which a joint decision was made to ask Richard Wyndham and Associates to mentor Sinomtha until their business becomes more sustainable.

##### **Internal Learning and growth programme:**

Staff development continues to be a priority for Calabash Trust,

- Bukelwa attended Pastel Payroll training with HH Accounting also Fundraising Training by Service Seta.
- Lindiwe Mahambehlala attended basic finance training by Service Seta
- Ntshantsha Asset Based Community Development by Ikhala Trust also a Facilitators course by General Motors Foundation
- Noluthando Khunjuzwa Business Women Association Mentoring Programme
- Leadership Development by Eastern Cape NGO Coalition and ECSEC
- Carla attended various Asset Based Community Development workshops.

##### **Calabash Trust Partnerships for 2011/2012**

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

- Travel Pledge
- People and Places
- Rotary PE
- SEDA
- Food Bank
- Khanya Hygiene Service
- Afrox
- Old Mutual Legends/Fetola
- SRCC

**Special events and visitors:**

- In March 2011 our visitors were, Barry and Brenda Hinchliff from the UK, Lisette Hofman from the Netherlands and Donna from ITC Travel London.
- In July 2011 Reeds College returned for the sixth visit to Port Elizabeth
- In October 2011 Rosemarie and David Weatherley and Janice and Keith Griffins from CTUK.
- In November Douwe and Gerry Helfrich from the Netherlands.
- In December Tim Ellis of Chausser Business and Enterprise College in the UK.

**Calabash Trust Staff**

March 2011 to February 2012 staff:

Mrs N Khunjuzwa	General Manager
Ms. B. Gongxeka	Financial Officer/Sponsorship Coordinator
Ms. N. Madinda	Project Manager
Ms. L Mahambehlala	Receptionist Administrator
Ms Carla Collins	Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

Calabash Trust Volunteer

Mrs Riet Miedema  
Mrs Cynthia Davies

**Conclusion:**

Calabash Trust has continued to strive to meet the objectives set within our operational plan and I am happy to report that in the year 2011 to 2012 our objectives have mainly been met. We continue to look at best development practise and see ABCD as the way forward.

At times during this past year we have wondered if we would be able to survive financially, however due to the prudent way our treasure and financial officer have balanced the books and ensured that our budget have been adhered to we have been able to survive another year.

My personal thanks must go to our General Manager, staff, volunteers and Board Members who together to make up the Calabash Trust team. We would not be where we are today without the hard work and dedication of Board, staff, and volunteers.

Of course our work would not be at all possible without the generosity of our donors, we are extremely fortunate to have people whose ethos is to improve the life of others.

As we move to a new financial year let us all work hard to ensure that Calabash Trust has a future in community development.

06 September 2012

Marion Gate (Chairperson)