



**ST. PHILOMENA'S
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

92 RIPPON RD, SYDENHAM DURBAN

P.O. Box 19194, Dormerton 4015

Children's Home



"I lift my eyes to the mountains, from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth"

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

"History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children." Nelson Mandela.

This year has been a challenging year for St Philomena's however we have overcome these many challenges for we know where our strength lies, in placing our faith and trust in God. During this past year at St Philomena's which has been a trying financial year we have experienced God at work in sustaining us and meeting the needs of the organization.

place on record our sincerest appreciation to the Archdiocese of Durban for the continuous support it provides to St Philomena's. We are extremely grateful for the assistance of our donors and the funders that have contributed generously to our cause. We cherish your partnership and look forward to a continued partnership with you. Your donations allow us to excel as we strive towards providing the best that we possibly can for our children at St Philomena's. We understand it is a trying time in South Africa where the economic climate is most challenging and the helping hand you have provided in the form of your donation will forever be remembered with gratefulness. We also wish to place on record our sincerest appreciation to the various government departments especially the Department of Social Development which supports our mission to serve effectively. Your generosity has allowed our doors to remain open. May God richly bless and prosper you.

To our Director, Father Herman Giraldo and the committed staff at St Philomena's, thank you for providing a safe haven for the girls at St Philomena's. No words can express our gratitude for the valuable and exemplary work you are performing at St. Philomena's, sometimes under difficult conditions and challenging circumstances. May God richly bless you and the committed staff at St Philomena's.

We also place on record our sincerest appreciation to His Grace Archbishop Siegfried Mandla Jwara CMM for his continued support and prayers. May God richly bless you.

To my fellow Board Members, thank you for your dedication, support and the unwavering service you have demonstrated over the past years. We have been faced with challenging decisions and numerous obstacles in this past year but we have remained united as we forged ahead fulfilling our duties as the board members of this amazing organization. I look forward to more fruitful and productive years ahead. May God richly bless you.

To all the precious and gifted girls at St Philomena's, continue believing in yourself and shining as the bright stars that you are! The best is yet to come. To God be all the glory as he sustains us and gives us the strength and grace to continue his work. Thank you.

Ms Jaydene N Fitzgerald
Chairperson of the Board

Donor List 2022 Report

Archdiocese of Durban

BV Eckersley

Dr P A Lazarus

WG Kidd Friends

Fr De Hahn

My School

Malcom Canham

JA Memella

The Victor Datiz Foundation

Reetha

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Clientele Life

Fr Herman Giraldo

Capstan

Sister Monica

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Grace Connect

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Dr P Ramlachan

The Durban Brewing Co

CV Steel and Aluminium

Everard Simpson

VYJ Construction CC

Jenisha Govender

Fuchs Foundation

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Paige Transport Pty Ltd t/a Transmec

Trish Marimuthoo

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Jayden Fitzgerald

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Mr. Mozzies

Angel Wings

Future Life Foundation

Woolworths- kloof

Gift of the Givers

Brenda Tomlinson

South African Sugar Association

Belaire Suites Hotel



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

60 Years of Service in the Care of vulnerable children:

60 years has passed since St Philomena's started rendering their services for the care and protection of Children in need, we cannot forget the pillars of this noble work that are the Augustinian Sisters who dedicated their lives and time for the planning and building a safe place for vulnerable children, since the foundation of St Augustine Hospital, then to Malvern and finally in Sydenham.

During this 60 years we have to recognize the number of people that have been rendering their services in caring for children, including the Child care workers, social workers, managers and other staff that with dedication have care and empower children who besides being away from their families, they found love and protection through all of them.

We are grateful with the Archdiocese of Durban who for the past 60 years have been supporting the work of those who strive in the upkeep and guard of vulnerable children that have passed and continue coming into our Home.

Needless to say that the Department of Social Development has play a very important role in supporting us from the very beginning up to now, in this upright work, through implementations of the basic foundations of the regulations that we must be aware while caring for the children.

Our Donors are a very important pillar for us, without them we couldn't continue with our work, from the very small donations up to those who help us to keep our building and projects. We are always grateful for those who with generous heart also take care of the children in a very different but important way.



2021 – 2022 Report:

The past year has been one of the most difficult years for us as NPO, but through God's grace, we manage to make it through. We were in a constant battle in rising funds to pay our bills and conservation of our building that with the years has become difficult to maintain. Sometimes I feel that we are working to sustain the Municipality bills that are over R130000.00 a month and they are not open to dispute, they just want to be paid. We have lost hope in our counsellors whom we have approach in a number of times to help us in this regard, but no action has been taken to try and solve this issue.



We know our community in Sydenham could do more for the home, but maybe because of the many NPOs in the area, we feel that we receive more help from people from communities outside Sydenham than our own.

The consequences of the pandemic, the looting during the unrest and the floods, have make the pool of donors to become drier and drier every time, and the possibilities to get help is becoming more and more difficult. But we are grateful with those who in daily basis come to our doors bringing sugar, oil, toiletries, etc., up

to those who help us to maintain our building and the work we do. May the Good Lord continue to bless you all for your generosity.

Our staff plays an important role in the care, formation and development of the children, our Child and Youth Care Workers, who have received their certification in Child and Youth care, and at the moment, together with the Senior Child and Youth Care Worker, are busy studying the level 5 in Child and youth care, well done for your dedication. Our Social Worker who thanks for the many years of experience, helps the children with counselling and therapeutic programs. Roxanne is part of the management team who meets in regular basis to program and evaluate work done with the children.

Pamela Xuma from the Department of Social Development has been of a great support to us, making sure we are rendering professional service to the children, and that we are in harmony with the requirements from the Children's Act. Thank you very much for your support Pam.

We do not discard the help of the Archdiocese of Durban, for the past years Card. Wilfrid Napier has been blessing us with his presence and for many year being part of our AGMs. For the past two year Archbishop Mandla Mjwara has

tance and support throughout the year,
Neighbouring child & youth care centres
King Dinizulu Hospital & their social work/psychology Department
King Edward Hospital
Addington Hospital
Sydenham Clinic
The local schools (which our girls attend)
Department of Social Development (DSD)
Sydenham Police
The local churches
Social workers from referring agencies (Welfare and Departmental offices).

There are a few people who cannot go unmentioned for their extra effort and care for us at St.Phils. Our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs Moodley- our counsellor and staff trainer, my personal mentor and counsellor- Mrs Premie Pillay (Durban Children's Home). Last but definitely not least Mrs Pamela Xuma our co-ordinator from DSD Durban Service Office who has been ever so supportive and helpful in guiding us with compliance. We salute you for all that you do for us. Siyabonga. God bless.

Roxanne
Social worker



SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT:

St. Philomena's Child & Youth Care Centre continues to provide holistic care and protection to 33 young girls aged between 6 and 18 years. Our Centre provides an array of services targeted at the needs of each individual girl child. Each child is assessed and services are tailored to that specific child's need through programmes, therapy sessions which are focused not only on their emotional well-being but also on basic life skills, their health and education. These basic skills are inclusive of communication, problem solving, conflict resolution, peer pressure, leadership, self-confidence.



Daily programmes are facilitated by staff either individually or collectively (group work). These programmes focus on developing each child's physical, social, emotional and cognitive ability. The services that we are unable to provide we outsource. We therefore called on various stakeholders to assist us in fulfilling these needs.

The Covid 19 pandemic and the KZN floods were among the challenges that resulted in many of the girls being housed at the Centre for most of the holidays. Reunification social workers, families and host families were very understanding and cooperative in the matter. This had resulted in the development of various fun activities to keep our young people occupied.

It truly does take a village to grow children, and it is through all of the professional assistance that we receive that we are able provide emotional, physical and psychological care to our girls. Our daily goal is to work towards ensuring that the girls feel safe in this warm and therapeutic environment. We work aimlessly to ensure that the girls have a sense of belonging and have a sense of family and encourage family contact.

A warm and delightful thanks to our extended hands for their generous assis-

been with us and has committed to continue supporting us and blessing us with his presence. Archbishop thank you very much for becoming the grandfather of the children at St Philomena's, and for being here with us today.

There is a team of members that dedicate hours of their time to planning and fund-raising for the home, our Board of management whom I am very grateful with, they are my right hand in the work we do, I find in them support every time I need it. To my Board of management and especially to the chair lady, thank you very much for in spite of your own work, you dedicate time to come and meet with the rest of the team.

We have a support team, among them Jenny who cater for the children and Cokkie Moodley that help with counselling for the children, you are a pillar in the formation of the children, and we appreciate everything you do for them.

Something that I do treasure a lot, is the networking among in the forum of principals, where we discuss issues pertaining to the Child and Youth Care Centres, and the support is given to all. Also a local level we try to work together with the principals of other homes around Sydenham. Thank you very much to Mandy Goble, Debbie Bowes and Marie Theres Naidoo for the help and support that always I received from you all.

Finally thank you to KZN Book Keepers for your constant support, Devena and Gary have become my every day point of consultations and especially in the running of the finances of the organizations and in raising funds, thank you very much for all you do for us and especially for the children's home.

To all the present, you are here because you care, and understand the work we do, you are our advocates, and we appreciate your help and presence here. May the Good Lord Bless you all.

Thank you.

Fr Herman Giraldo



CHILD MAMAGER'S REPORT

We at St. Philomena's try to follow and maintain the statements of Trust, Belief and Hard Work. We don't always obtain the outcome we desire, but put our heart and soul into whatever we do.

Our home caters to the needs of 33 children ranging from ages 9 to 18. We are divided into 3 cottages namely, Galilee, with the 9 – 12 years old, Bethany, with the 13 -15 years old and Eden with the 16 -18 years old.

The organisation caters for the needs of the girls in respect of daily needs, schooling, therapy, and any other need that arises. We have been working diligently with our girls to create a programme highlighting the importance of education, social etiquette and spiritual growth which teaches our young one's values and morals necessary for them to blend into society. Our therapeutic programmes in conjunction with the local hospital and our local counsellor, Mrs K.Moodley has assisted us tremendously in rendering the necessary services required.



We have trained, experienced and qualified staff that deal with all aspects of the children's lives as required. We try to create a balanced life for our children: education, social, spiritual. Staff development is an ongoing process as we attend NACCW monthly forums for child care practitioner's support. We have staff involved in Level 5 training in Child and Youth Care to upgrade their qualifications and to enhance their work with the children.

Our programme includes a range of activities that include cooking and baking, sewing classes, self-defence, arts and crafts that is to be promoted. We continue to run our programmes based on the holistic development of our children. The children and child care workers work in teams to develop life skills such as team work, confidence, creativity, sharing and public speaking. They implement Cultural days, bead making, debating and dance competitions. The children are also encouraged to embrace the concept of participation by being members of the Youth Forum. A special acknowledgement to our representative, Sneh who is the current Chairperson of the forum for KZN.

Or heartfelt thanks and immense gratitude to all donors and volunteers who al-

ways ease the financial, educational and social strains we are faced with. Without the blessings from warm hearted individuals and organisations we would walk a lonely road. To name a few, City Glass and Aluminium for replacing the doors and windows of Bethany cottage, Sanjay Dwarika and team for replacing our kitchen ceiling, Lightco for supplying us with new light fittings, Diane Aaron for assisting with various projects throughout the year, and many others who helped to bear the burdens of running the home.

Thank You and God bless.

NADINE GOVENDER

