



Annual Report

2020/2021



Owning my own book from Bookdash

**Presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Thabang
Children's Project in Thabazimbi
28/09/2021**

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Classroom learning during Lockdown.

Vision:

Thabang Children's Project is an organisation that empowers children, families and communities to restore their dignity and independence.

Mission Statement:

- To provide centres for the reception, care and development for orphans, vulnerable children and youth.
- To empower the children in our care by providing educational opportunities and skills development.
- To empower family structures through therapeutic services, advocacy to families and communities, through partnership with other stakeholders

Values:

Thabang Children's Projects' work is driven by the following values:

- We value equality of all human beings
- We encourage participation of our beneficiaries and staff
- We value transparency, honesty, integrity and accountability
- We prioritize our vision and mission
- We value mutual respect of people and properties
- We value commitment to serving the needs of our beneficiaries.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT by Elize Olivier

The Board of Thabang Children's Project, with myself as chairperson, are meant to meet quarterly to serve Thabang Children's Project. We act as overseers on behalf of the Thabang Children's Home Trustees. We also provide oversight on behalf of various donors, the local community and the relevant Departments which provide registration and subsidies.

Due to Covid-19, these meetings were not always possible, but the necessary oversight was still done via the executive members.

Our thanks to the donors who supported Thabang even during this difficult economical period. Although Thabang receives some subsidy from the department of Social Development, of which we are grateful, we still rely heavily on donors to fill in the gap. Many new supporters, whether individual or companies, stepped forward to help feed the hungry in Smash Block. Fortunately, our staff at Smash Block, feel the heartbeat of the community and know exactly where support is needed.

We deeply appreciate all our donors, internationally, nationally, and locally, and all the volunteers who have the care and development of the children at heart. Thank you for your effort to make a difference.

I wish to thank the management team and the staff involved in the Thabang Children's Project, for their continuous input and loving care of the children, guiding them with competence and compassion to reach their highest potential.

We thank each and every one for their effort in bringing about another successful year despite its challenges.



Left: Staff training on Zoom

Above: Food parcels for the hungry

TREASURER'S REPORT by Magnus Poggenpoel

– Treasurer of Thabang Children's Project NPC

JPD Registered Accountants, our auditors, have completed the audit for the 2021 financial year and have issued their opinion which is included in the annual financial statements. Stakeholders are reminded that the operating activities of Thabang Children's Home Project are under Thabang Children's Project NPC, as the sole beneficiary of Thabang Children's Home Trust. The Trust is the custodian of all assets used to the benefit of the children.

The revenue generated reflecting on the financial statements of the Trust has decreased from R4.5 million in 2020 to R3.7 million in 2021. This constitutes a drop in revenue of over 18%. Of the total donations received, 32% came from Department of Social Development, 25% from Daniel Jaeggi, with the other major donors being, Solon foundation, Interflex Holdings, Berlin Verein, Thaba Tholo, Chamberlains Foundation, with various other smaller donators.

The Trusts' total expenses amounted to R3.7 million an increase of R122 981 compared to the previous financial year. The staff cost accounted for more than 57% of our expenses. The high staff costs are a necessity in the Trust's line of work as taking care of children is a fulltime responsibility. The other major expenses were food, electricity, education and schooling activities.

Covid-19 had a significant effect on operations with R67 932 spent on PPE and related expenses. We have seen reduced costs relating to travel, school activities and special projects. However, when the Covid-19 pandemic influence and measures subside, we expect these expenses to increase to pre-pandemic levels.

We would like to extend our utmost gratitude towards each and every donor/funder for the continuous support. We would also like to encourage our donors and funders to please keep on supporting the Trust and ultimately the NPC, without your support the Trust cannot keep on doing what it was intended to do.



Learning to balance

General Manager's Report

By Tessa White

During the year from April 2020 to March 2021, Thabang went through many challenges, as did the rest of the world with the Coronavirus pandemic.

When the schools were closed during Lockdown, all our children at Thabang Child & Youth Care centre had to remain at the centre. Keeping them occupied with various programmes was an endless job. This had to be done with less staff, as all non-essential staff had to remain at home. Fortunately, the centre has nice big grounds and so the children never felt very inhibited, besides not being able to go visit families or friends or to enjoy outings.

Once schools opened up again and the assistant teachers could return to the centre, academic work started in earnest. When the children attended school on a rotational basis, they could receive extra academic support during the days they remained at the centre.

Fortunately our children remained fairly healthy during this challenging time, and most of our staff as well. I thank our essential staff who worked through this tough period and were diligent even though they were concerned about their families back home.

Obviously during the past year, not many of our yearly and special activities were allowed to take place at the Child & Youth Care centre and the Thabang Drop-in Centre. For a large portion of the year, the Thabang Drop-in Centre at Smash Block had to perform its essential caring work in a different manner as before.

Even though the Drop-in Centre was ordered to keep its doors closed to curb the spread of Covid -19, the important work of monitoring and ensuring that our children in Smash Block are being cared for, continued via 'home visits'. These visits were done by the few essential staff members to the individual homes of the children.

Thank you so much to every individual, company and organisation who diligently supported with finance or foodstuff to provide much needed food parcels to our hungry households at Smash Block. Even though our doors were officially closed, food parcels and other necessary items, such as toiletries, were delivered to the households to ensure that the children remaining at home stayed healthy. Over and above our regular households, Thabang was able to provide food parcels to many other families in need, due to the breadwinners not being able to work in Lock down.

In November 2020, plans that we had to build a brick structure for the Drop-in Centre, materialised, and today we are now able to accommodate the children once again, even with social distancing. Presently, we are even completing the upgrading of our Drop-in Centre kitchen. These plans came about with the support of generous donors.

Future plans: to ensure that the Skills Development room at the Child & Youth care Centre, is equipped with various tools and that programmes are offered to empower our youth with career skills and life skills.

General Manager's report cont.

Thank you once again to our diligent donors and supporters. Even though things have been tough economically, you have remained faithful partners and carried us through the tough times.

Thanks to our staff at both centres who have held their heads up high and pushed forward despite the odds. I appreciate you.

Thanks once again to our Board of Trustees and our Management Board for their monitoring and guidance.

Teamwork is essential for progress



Thanks to the Thabang team who willingly adapted their working methods to effectively serve our children.

SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT by Linda Grobler

Being part of the Thabang team for 5 years has been a good journey. Making decisions together creates a safety net for the staff and management team at Thabang. There is strength and wisdom in unity and team support.

As social worker at the centre, I get to deal with all the behavioural issues – the good ones as well as the challenging ones. I am entrusted with the children's secrets and their deepest hurts and assist them to work through it. Some things need more time and attention than others to recover from - each person has their own pace. It is very rewarding to see the development and emotional growth in the children over time in dealing with past incidents and obtaining coping skills and life skills to move forward.

Individual counselling sessions take place with children with emotional and/or behavioural challenges. Different techniques are used from play therapy to cognitive restructuring. Group work takes place on a monthly basis with all children. Juniors and seniors are in separate groups. Junior group work themes are based on needs identified such as bullying, respect, honesty, my safety, sharing. Senior group work themes include relationships, job interviews, family planning, budgeting, etc.

Discipline forms a big part of behavioural management at the centre. Children must learn from mistakes and deal with the consequences of behaviour to become responsible and contributing members of society. We have a behaviour management plan combined with House Rules we apply. When new scenarios appear, vacancies are identified, and the rules are adjusted accordingly, to accommodate the vacancy or need. The children are familiar with the house rules and punishments and consult these documents (pasted on the bulletin boards in their respective houses). Incident forms are completed for behaviour challenges and the facts are indicated as well as the proposed consequences. The children can sign and comment on the form as well.

During the COVID pandemic we had one teenager in June that was tested positive and had to isolate. No other children have tested positive since then. Despite the Covid pandemic, there have been many achievements over the past year for 2020 to 2021. One of the highlights has been that one of our girls was chosen as a head girl at a private school for a fourth year in a row, due to her good behaviour and attitude – which makes us very proud.

We all had to adapt to the new normal of wearing masks, sanitizing, taking temperatures and schooling from home. I also had to jump in and assist with teaching as it became a challenge to deal with all the schoolwork with no volunteers or non-essential staff allowed access to the centre.

Social Worker report cont.

One major challenge during this period was children who were reacting out because they were not able to visit any family for nearly a year. They were frustrated and longing for contact with loved ones. Fortunately, they were able to visit their homes and host parents in December.

Family reunification and the development of bonding with siblings, family, parents, and host parents are pursued by:

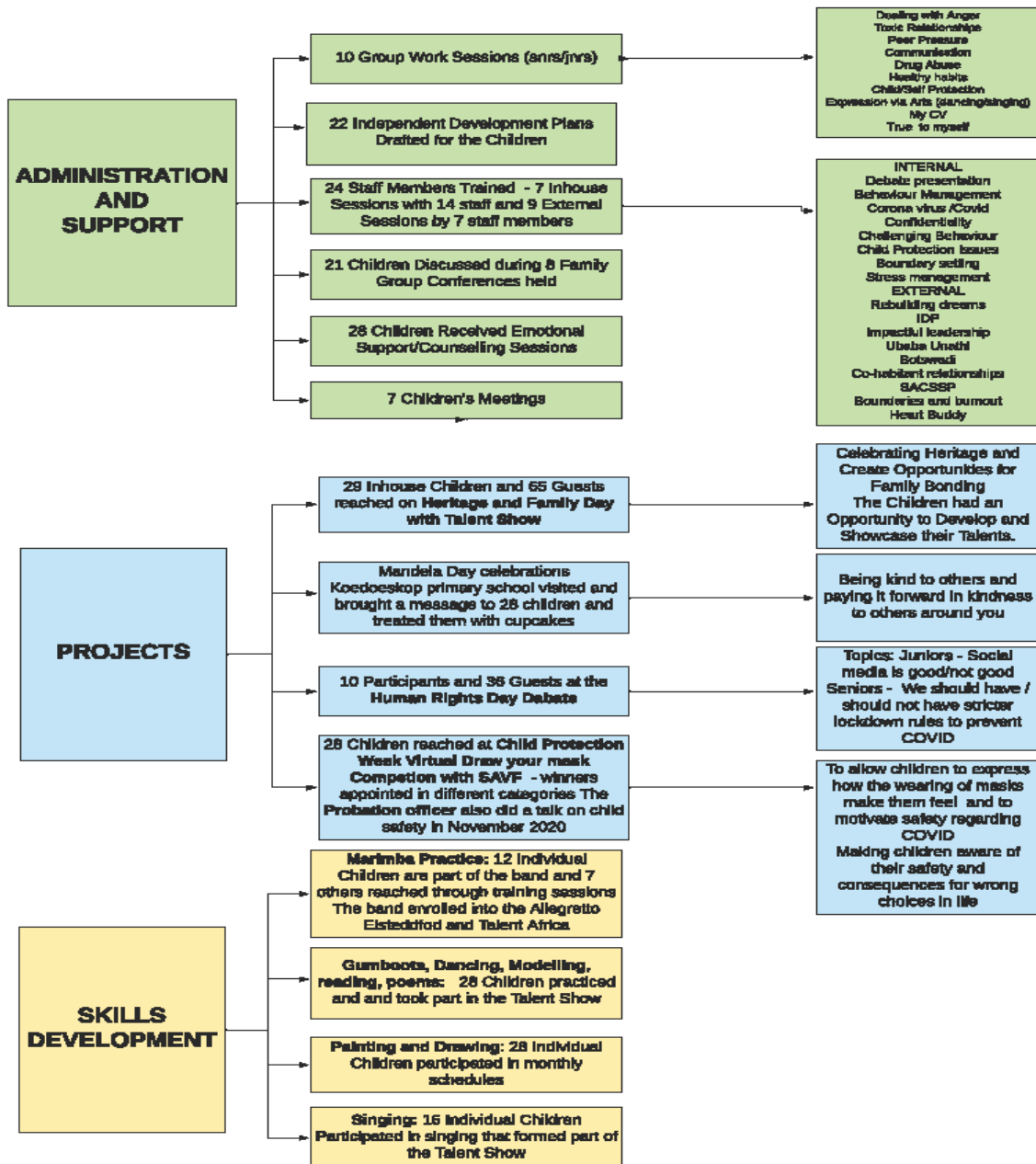
- Telephonic calls to parents and family by the children and receiving calls as well
- Sending photos and videos of children to parents and sharing the ones from parents with the children
- Family group conferences that we arrange exceeds the expected of 4 a year from the Department of Social Development by far!
- Attending and accompanying children to funerals of immediate family where possible
- Day visits to parents to share a birthday or special occasion with a child
- Assisting parents with transport to visit children at the centre
- Inviting parents/family to Heritage Day which we combine with family day to bond with their children
- Food parcels are provided to needy families and host parents over long holidays
- Providing local transport to family and host parents for the holidays
- Sending school reports home to parents

We have many success stories of children leaving the centre to study further or work. One example is of our 2020 grade 12 girl who was planning to study further. We were applying to different places and looking for opportunities for her to pursue Human Resources on a tertiary level. Although she passed her national exam, her marks were not good enough to enter government university. But then an opportunity arose- see poem of 'Flying the Thabang Nest'.

In conclusion, I want to say that it takes a big team effort to care for and raise a child at the centre. THANK YOU to each and every staff member for their efforts and input and to our Heavenly Father for His grace, guidance and protection.

The following chart summarizes some of the activities covered from the social work side:

SOCIAL WORKER REPORT 2021



Flying from the Nest of Thabang

She tried, but she didn't attain the marks she hoped for,
She cried because her dreams to study seemed no more.

Suddenly the adult world was upon her,
And all her previous ideas became a blur.

Then out of the blue, a stranger phoned
"Hey, Madam, we have your CV zoned,
Please come for an interview."

She adorned herself in a dress so blue
And with a spark in her eye, and a spring in her step
She took our advice and all our prep,
And today she is working at Rhino Mine
A proud product of Thabang's design.



Above: ready for the
interview

Left: Ready for her
Matric farewell



Developing skills



THABANG DROP-IN- CENTRE by Glory Vilakazi

The Drop-in-Centre (DiC) is an after-care programme, where Orphan and Vulnerable children (OVC) from the informal settlement of Smash Block are served daily. Thabang Child and Youth care givers go out to visit the households of the children, to identify the basic needs of the children.

Due to much poverty in this informal settlement, there are many needy children.

Our main goal is to support the OVC's from these poverty-stricken homes. Due to the pandemic that we are in since March 2020, the community life has totally changed from the impact of COVID-19.

The community experienced a lot of changes: schools were closed during certain times and when they opened it was during limited periods, people were retrenched, others were not allowed to continue with their small businesses and the only Drop-in-Centre in the community was closed.

Sports and cultural activities could not be conducted due to Lockdown regulations, and this affected the children because they love these activities.

Children used to get some food while attending school, but when school was closed, they were unable to receive it. The School Feeding project was helpful in providing a plate of food for the children because many of the learners come from disadvantaged homes.

The Thabang Drop-in-Centre also provided a nutritious plate of food every day for the OVC's who attended; but then everything was forced to close down.

Thabang 'jumped in' to provide relief for this situation to the people of Smash Block. Thabang aimed to provide for every household who needed support during these hard times. We managed to identify all the needy households of the community. Hands were joined together by businesses, Social Development, individuals and Thabang, and through this food parcels were provided monthly to the identified needy households.

Clothes were given out where needed. The DiC children still received toiletries on a quarterly basis.

Unfortunately, the number of babies without supportive fathers increased. Thabang also supported by providing milk formula, clothes, and disposable nappies.

This pandemic with the Lockdown regulations affected the community and its children very badly.

Other Challenges

The Foster care grant for some children expired during the lockdown period because the children reached 18 years of age. However, because they were still completing their schooling and living with their guardians, the grants needed to be renewed. This was a challenge as often the relevant offices were closed due to Covid-19 outbreaks or Lockdown regulations. So, Thabang had to provide more support to these children.

Mismanagement of social grants by some parents and guardians, leads to their children suffering. Thabang works with the local Social Workers to try and address these irregularities.

Although, the doors of Thabang Drop-in Centre were closed to children for many months, care and support continued as the Thabang carers diligently visited the relevant homes, monitored the children and arranged for food parcels etc.

I thank all of my Team who worked hard by walking to the different needy households and providing the necessary services.

Thank you to all donors who generously gave towards food parcels to feed the hungry of Smash Block!!

We are also so grateful for the new, spacious brick structure we could have built to accommodate our OVC's. We are now able to have our OVC's attend the DiC and still adhere to Social Distancing.

THABANG DROP-IN CENTRE STATS TABLE

Activity	Input	output	Impact/ Goal	Resources	Average per month	No. of Beneficiaries Impacted
Home visits conducted throughout the community of about 25 000 people	<p>Door to door home visits to every household identifying all Orphans and Vulnerable children in the community.</p> <p>Also identifying the needy households due to COVID-19 and Lock-down.</p>	<p>Refer the children to the relevant institutions e.g. Social Workers, Home Affairs, SASSA etc.</p> <p>Register the households for food parcels</p>	<p>To improve the lifestyle of the OVCs.</p> <p>To fight poverty and ensure community members who are hungry due to the pandemic, receive support from Thabang.</p>	<p>Relevant stakeholders' e.g. Department of Social Development, Home Affairs and SASSA.</p> <p>Carers, Community leaders, Local Health clinic, Social Development, all referring stakeholders</p>	110 households.	65 children
Home visits for Thabang's 65 registered OVC's	To monitor and assess their well-being, refer when necessary, and educate with life skills & parental skills	Referral letters, carers monitoring reports	To ensure OVC's are receiving quality care even during Lockdown	Carers, Social Workers, Clinic and Doctors.	32 households	65 children
School work & Homework	Homework support by carers while at home during Lockdown	Ensure the OVC's still cover their prescribed schoolwork while at home	To ensure that learning continues even during Lockdown.	Child and Youth Carers. Pens Relevant books...	45 children	45 children
Extra classes	From our OVS register- to identify children having challenges with their schoolwork, then help them, when regulations allowed, with extra classes at the DiC.	Provision of extra classes to children on a rotational basis.	To ensure the children pass even during this pandemic. Improve the school marks & reports			

DIC STATS CONT.

Food parcel relief to the DiC children remaining at home during Lockdown.	Purchasing or collecting food parcels and distributing them to the households.	Ensuring the OVC's continue to receive healthy food even while the DiC does not provide meals.	To ensure that no OVC's go hungry during Lockdown while they may not attend the DiC, or may not eat at the DiC.	Carers, drivers, distributors, suppliers		320 Food parcels to the DiC children
Food parcel relief to the needy households because of the effects Lockdown	Purchasing or collecting food parcels and distributing them to the needy households.	To ensure that all hungry households affected by the pandemic, receive food parcels.	To ensure that no households within Smash Block suffer from hunger.	Carers, drivers, distributors, suppliers		208 Food parcels to the Needy households in Smash Block
Toiletry packs for the OVC's	Arranging funds and in-kind donations; purchasing & distributing the toiletries	To ensure all OVC's can have their basic hygienic needs met.	To ensure that all DiC OVC's remain clean and healthy	Drivers, carers, distributors		182
Vegetable garden at the DiC	Identify the relevant age group of the Drop-in-Centre children to work at the garden.	To gain skills on how to develop a vegetable garden.	To gain knowledge on vegetable farming and have skills to implement it at their homes.	Garden plots. Spades Rakes Water pipe Watering can		11 children old enough to take responsibility in Veg garden
Vegetable plots at the community households	Teaching the guardians and children how to start & care for their own veg garden at home	Guardians and children receive seed and skills to develop their own garden	Households to develop their own veg gardens in order to supplement their diets	Seeds, Tools, Carers,		7 households have implemented veg gardens at their homes

Donors

Without its donors, Thabang could not exist. We thank all the private businesses and caring individuals who supported our children this past year. We appreciate each, and everyone.

Thabang’s main donors and contributors during the reported period are:

• Anglo American	• Northam Toyota (PTY) LTD
• B-BBEE Empowerment Services	• Peter Trollope
• Berlin Verein	• Platinum Health Thabazimbi
• Chamberlain Foundation Trust	• R. Macnamara
• Daniel Jaeggi	• Shofar Church, Johannesburg
• Dinaledi Concepts	• Shofar Church, Polokwane
• Fourie	• Shofar Church, Pretoria
• G. Visser	• Solon Foundation
• Grit Procurement Solution PTY (LTD)	• Tau Voere
• Happy Feet Sport System	• Thaba Superspar
• Interflex Holdings	• Thaba Tholo PTY (LTD)
• Jeucon Construction	• Thabang Trust
• Julie Dickerson	• Thabazimbi Pest and Weed Control
• Limpopo Department of Social Development	• Thokwe Agricultural Holdings
• Northam Platinum (LTD)- Mine Hostel	• W. Sieberg



Food buckets for the needy

THANKS TO THE STAFF OF THABANG CHILDREN'S PROJECT



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