

NEWSLETTER

EDUCATING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

PROGRAMME UPDATES

SERVING DURING COVID-19



AGM

OUR FIRST
VIRTUAL ONE!

CHALLENGES

...AND CHANGES

**THUSO RELIEF
PROJECT**

ALMOST R700 000 RAISED

FAREWELL

TO A COLLEAGUE
AND SUPPORTER



Challenges

COVID-19 has dominated SAEP this quarter, changing the way we work and what we have been able to achieve. We share with you some of the challenges and achievements of this time, and suggest the way we might move forward.

...and changes

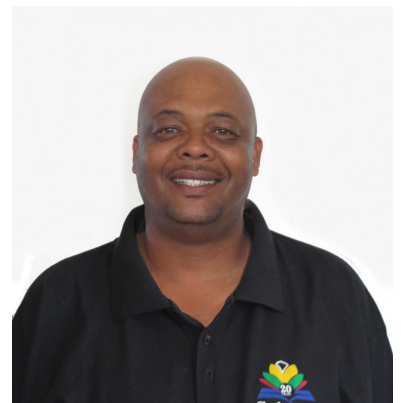


We are moving towards a change in leadership at SAEP when our director, **Jane Keen**, retires at the end of this year. To ensure that the change is positive and that we have continuity, our board and staff are engaged in a strategic planning process which includes recruiting a new director to start in 2021. We acknowledge Jane for her immense contribution to SAEP and want to honour her by maintaining the core values and vision of the organisation. We will keep all our friends and supporters informed of the process.

Farewell

We mourn the passing of our much loved colleague, **Eric Nduna**, in May 2020. Eric worked in the Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme helping centres to register as safe and nurturing educational centres for the children of the deprived community of Philippi. As we are preparing the ECD centres for reopening after the COVID-19 lockdown, we particularly miss his knowledge, care and commitment for the community, and his generous, good-humoured spirit.

We also remember Tessa Welch, an SAEP Angel, very generous donor and friend of long standing who died earlier this month. She worked for SAIDE and supported our primary school reading programme through the African Storybook Project. She will be sadly missed.



Our Annual General Meeting

COVID-19 has dominated SAEP this quarter, changing the way we work and what we have been able to achieve. We share with you some of the challenges and achievements of this time, and suggest the way we might move forward.

Our first virtual Annual General Meeting was held on 30 May. The remote format enabled people in other parts of the county and the world to attend, which has never been possible before. In future we hope to set up a link for supporters to join us even when we can meet in person again.

Board members were thanked for their service in 2019 and for being willing to continue serving on the board in 2020 including Isabel Essen who stays on as chairperson, Kayin Scholtz who has taken over from Mogie Dass as vice-chair, Nicola Lloyd who remains treasurer and Gina Leinberger as secretary, together with other members: Gemma Oberth, Helena Duk and Mogie Dass. We **welcomed Fundiswa Yuba as a new board member** with a great deal of HR expertise and experience. We presented our work in 2019 and reported on our work during the time of COVID-19.

We welcomed a number of partners and supporters and were pleased to hear from Athenkosi Mashicila of Tshilidzi who spoke of their plans to cooperate with the Hope Scholars Programme in 2020, providing volunteer tutors for after-school programmes while HSP concentrates on life skills and experiential learning. Constance Ndzewelwane, Principal of Thandolwethu Educare Centre spoke about the impact of SAEP on her centre, as she strives to provide quality educare in a deprived community.

[READ OUR 2019
ANNUAL REPORT](#)



[WATCH OUR
AGM MEETING](#)



Thuso Relief Project

Thuso means help in seSotho. You answered unstintingly our appeal in April to help Feed the Children. We received donations big and small, financial contributions and donations in kind and were able to channel these to beneficiaries. To date we have received cash donations of nearly R700,000, hundreds of food parcels, masks and donations of fruit, vegetables, books and other learning materials which were distributed to the children and young people in our programmes.

We thank you for every donation. We are proud to be able to call on such generous, concerned people to help us to serve our beneficiaries in this time of crisis.

Queen Sono Fundraiser

Particular thanks to our board members in the USA who organized a virtual discussion about the South African Netflix series Queen Sono, including Kagiso Lediga, creator of the show, and international film experts.

Together they raised USD 6,500 for the Thuso Relief Fund.

BENEFICIARIES AND THEIR FAMILIES RECEIVED:

LEARNING



- 205 COVID-19 flyers
- 308 packs of learning material

FOOD



- 513 food parcels
- 471 loaves of bread
- 796 food vouchers
- Soda/cool drink
- Fresh fruit and vegetables

TESTING



- 755 people screened for COVID-19 (in conjunction with the Department of Health)
- 39 individuals referred for testing

SAFETY EQUIPMENT



- 1000+ face masks (hand-made by volunteers)
- Hand sanitizer to all ECD centres
- Safety packs

SAEP programmes quarter two update

SERVING DURING COVID-19

We achieved the remarkable reach for Thuso Relief Fund shown in the previous infographic, by activating all our networks and partners to source food parcels and funds, and by committed staff reaching out to our beneficiaries who were at home during lockdown. In addition to distributing food, masks and information about COVID-19 to our beneficiaries, programme staff also kept contact with them electronically to share learning materials and links to resources. Every programme worked hard to support our students and to promote their learning.

ECD

DEVELOPS UNDER-RESOURCED TOWNSHIP EDUCARE CENTRES

Through the Early Childhood Development programme we provided food relief to their beneficiaries and developed a programme - Stimulation at Home - for parents and caregivers to implement during lockdown. The ECD staff in unregistered sites had no income for March, when the lockdown was declared. Generous funding allowed us to assist 75 ECD centres, providing 327 ECD staff members with shopping vouchers worth R500 each. ECD practitioners expressed appreciation.

"I had beans in my house but could not prepare them for the family as I did not want to use up all the remaining electricity, not knowing when and where I would get the next funds." - ECD practitioner

The Stimulation from Home programme was very well received and helped to keep the link between children, their caregivers and the ECD centres. Children were given simple learning kits and our staff developed ideas for activities which were distributed by the ECD principals to children at home. The families sent some lovely pictures of the results.



SIYAKHATHALA PRIMARY

AFTER-SCHOOL READING GROUPS TO
STRENGTHEN LITERACY & READING.

Through this programme we distributed food and learning materials including books and Nalibali stories to the children in the programme to enjoy at home.





HOPE SCHOLARS

Students were informed of data-free learning sites that were appropriate for their stage of learning. The learners and their families all receive generous food parcels from Community Chest.

Our partner organization, Tshilidzi's volunteers kept contact with the learners they were tutoring and learning materials were distributed.

LIFE SKILLS &
STIMULATING
ENVIRONMENTAL
EXTRA-MURAL
OUTINGS FOR
GRADES 8 & 9
LEARNERS.



BRIDGING YEAR

Our students received food vouchers and were linked with tutors through virtual classrooms. In spite of the challenges of working remotely and the cost of data, we were able to continue some tutoring via Zoom.

In June, under level 3 regulations of lockdown, we resumed contact classes at our office in Mowbray, limiting class sizes and applying every safety measure to limit the spread of coronavirus. Some classes are still being held remotely for students who have comorbidities or who cannot attend in person.

UNIVERSITY
PREPAREDNESS FOR
MATRICULANTS.