A message from the Chairperson

When we started Kamvalethu and then took on our first business partner, which allowed us to take on our first project, it felt a bit like we were trying to build a plane while we were flying it. Fast forward two years and we are involved with and supporting three projects and considering supporting others as our funding model starts to take shape.

This stability has also given us the opportunity to take a breath and revisit our strategic framework. So, at the beginning of 2017 the board started the process of relooking at Kamvalethu’s Vision which we decided should remain the same but for the way we communicated it to our various stakeholders to change.

It was in our Mission where the change was needed to reflect what we felt was the driving force behind making our Vision a reality. It became clear that without our business partners we could not and would not see Kamvalethu’s Vision reached.

These changes also give an insight into how Kamvalethu is different in its approach to education and funding.

On behalf of the board and the children who benefit from the generosity of our business partners and individual donors I want to thank all our partners for investing in our Vision.

Finally Kamvalethu owes a debt of gratitude to our Trustees Alex, Quinton, Emily, and Zinzi for their service over the past year and to our amazing Project Director Lauren McGill who drives us ever-forward.

Rowan Haarhoff

“IT WAS IN OUR MISSION WHERE THE CHANGE WAS NEEDED TO REFLECT WHAT WE FELT WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND MAKING OUR VISION A REALITY.”
The Operations & Service Report

1.1 GENERAL

With the addition of Ncinci Ones Montessori, we increased our project partners to three. We also partnered up with Beautiful Gate in Philippi to bring science projects to Bongalethu Primary School learners. This was a wonderful opportunity for the staff of our business partners to get involved.

On the 26th May 2016, we welcomed five young ladies from Sinenjongo High School to our offices for the “Take a Girl Child to Work Day” initiative. The aim of the initiative is to help girl children explore work and professional opportunities of which they might not otherwise have access to. Each of the partner businesses contributed at least one member of staff to be involved in the day as well as a small gift. The day was packed full of activities ranging from panel discussions, office tours, talks on purpose and opportunities for the girls to be in their own TV and audio features.

1.2 IKHAYA LABANTWANA MONTESSORI (ILM)

The last year for Sustainable Coffee Bay and by extension Ikhaya Labantwana Montessori (ILM), was not only a year of change but a year of growth. Marlene Scholtz joined us as Principal of ILM at the beginning of 2016 providing much needed direction for the school. First-Children are also on board to provide further teacher training in 2017. ILM is running at capacity with 58 children enrolled in 2016 and the full 60 in 2017.

“...wonderful opportunity for the staff to get involved.”

Further highlights from the year include:

- Kamvalethu putting together starter school packs of a school bag, school uniform, stationery and a personalised card. These were presented to each of the learners progressing to Grade 1 at an end of year party.
- Finance and systems assistance from staff within one of our business partners Munro Forensic Actuaries.
- A jungle gym was installed by another partner of Sustainable Coffee Bay to help with the kids’ gross motor development.
- Ongoing staff mentorship and continuing professional development from the First-Children Programme.
- Sustainable Coffee Bay consolidated its current projects with more effective systems and completed a strategic review.
- Partnering with Bulungula Incubator in early 2017 to offer the Wellness Wagon service to junior and pre-schools in the area. The Wellness Wagon is a mobile health clinic for children that visits the area every six weeks.

1.3 THE PRINCIPALS ACADEMY

Mr. Keith Richardson from The Principals Academy has continued to meet fortnightly with Mr. Halbert Mlindazwe from Bongalethu Primary in Philippi.

“To really change a school for the better, you have to aim for the heart of it: its people. Specifically its leaders. So we start at the top. Because excellent principals lead to excellent schools and excellent schools lead to exceptional individuals.”

Further highlights from the year include:

- Halbert went through the Management Development Programme at the UCT Graduate School of Business.
- Teacher development workshops aimed at changing attitudes; strengthening oversight; best practice and understanding different learning needs.
- Weekly Maths and English teacher meetings with a neighbouring school to develop lessons and learning materials.
- Pairing Bongalethu teachers with those from Wynberg Girls to exchange views and learning areas.
- Collaborating with Beautiful Gate in piloting a science project plan. BG devised a set of science projects aligned with the CAPS curriculum for our staff to partner up with learners to complete. The topics covered were sound; electrical circuits and Hydraulics.

“This has borne strong leadership qualities in the way the daily school business is conducted.”

Mr. Halbert Mlindazwe

“I think to experience difference within our own city can only impact you in a good way. I was humbled at where these children live and how chaotic their streets are.” Robyn Belling

“Where I am particularly pleased is how the school is using data to promote awareness among teachers about areas where they can improve. They are using end of term statistics as well as systemic results to bring this awareness home to phase heads and to the teaching staff.” Keith Richardson
1.4 NCINCI ONES MONTESSORI

The school has transformed from an old mud hut into an attractive, stimulating and safe early learning centre. The indoor and outdoor environments have expanded and improved greatly. The 14 young Xhosa children that have been attending Ncinci One’s are all developing at an amazing pace! Their English and isiXhosa vocabularies have exploded over the past year, with several of the children reading isiXhosa and English phonetic words and some children working with the decimal system.

It is truly wonderful to see how these 14 young children have taken ownership of their school and how they ensure that the ground rules are maintained. They really love their school and have even made a little song about it.

The main challenge this past year has been watching the waiting list for the school grow. It is currently sitting at 27.

MEET BUKHO:

Bukho Wright is a 5-year old little girl who has been attending Ncinci One’s Montessori since April 2016. Bukho lives with her grandfather and grandmother (who are illiterate) and her 19-year old sister, who is in grade 11. Bukho’s mother works in Libode and comes home about twice a year.

When Bukho started at Ncinci One’s Montessori last year, she could not speak any English. She was a very quiet little girl who enjoyed working by herself. After about 2 months, Bukho blossomed and got the Montessori Shine! She was the first child to learn all her number symbols (in 5 days flat!)

She has loved numbers since then and has moved through the maths learning area at a rapid rate. She is currently doing addition up to 9000. Bukho is very creative and really enjoys drawing. She often draws her homestead, with all the structures, pathways and water tanks. When Bukho decided she wanted to learn English sounds, during her Sensitive Period for language, she once again dedicated herself to that mission and finished learning all 26 English sounds within a month. She is currently reading and creating 3-letter English phonetic words with ease. Bukho is the only left-handed child in the class.

“Their English and isiXhosa vocabularies have exploded over the past year.”

Dawn Brochenin, Principal, Ncinci Ones
We sincerely thank our donors, most of whom are staff from our partner businesses and family members connected to them.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DONORS

Kamvalethu is very fortunate to partner with both amazing businesses and individuals who work in them. We see you as integral to the Foundation and every bit a part of it as we are. Thank you not only for your financial contribution but also your generosity of spirit over the last year.