The Kamvalethu Foundation | Annual Report | 2019 - 2020
As I write, we are experiencing an unprecedented nationwide lockdown while our country prepares itself for the inevitable onslaught of the global COVID-19 virus in the months to come. Looking back on the progress made in 2019, one cannot help wondering what the impact of this virus will be on the projects and the people we support in 2020 and beyond.

Each year I read through the Annual Report, it strikes me how we are becoming more strategic and organised in our approach to addressing the many challenges our country’s children experience. No doubt it is the massive endeavour of the amazing people whose desire to impact children and their families that makes it easier for us to get better at our efforts.

And let us be honest, the challenge is big (particularly in the Eastern Cape):

84% of children in Grade 4 cannot read for meaning.
31% of children completed Grade 12
78% unemployment
R 1,216 is the average household monthly income

*PIRLS (2016); Wazimap (2017)

The second trip included the directors of our businesses, as well as board members.

Over the past five years we have seen a remarkable increase in the distribution to our projects. I am also encouraged that we are getting closer to our goal of keeping our expenses at 15% of our income. Currently, we are tracking at 17%. We are grateful to our business partners and suppliers who support us by availing their staff to us to carry out various roles or work, which include our board of trustees within Kamvalethu, without charge or at cost.

Finally, the biggest thank you goes to our Project Director, Lauren McGill, and to the leaders of the various projects with whom we work, whose unbridled passion and tireless efforts make all the work we do so impactful. Let us pray for God’s mercy on the people of the rural Eastern Cape that they will be spared the horrors of the COVID virus that we have seen throughout the world.

Rowan Haarhoff
CHAIRMAN
B.A. LLB (UCT), B.Th. (UP), Lic.Th.(CTBS)

The Bulungula Incubator provides Early Childhood Development services in the form of twice-weekly village-based playgroups and ECD in the homes. The playgroups bring together children and their caregivers for a fun morning session, where cookies and juice are served and the children receive a bowl of nutritious, fortified porridge. A toy library is provided, with toys on hand to entertain and educate children from just a few months old to around 3 years old. Every session incorporates a dance and storytime. Caregivers are required to accompany the children, as the development of their knowledge in the principles and practice of ECD is also crucial.

The 0-3 year olds are also given the opportunity to receive ECD in their homes when the Home-based Care team visits to monitor their height and weight for healthy growth, and checks for any signs of early disability or any other health issues. When the 4 to 6 year olds return home from preschool, they are also engaged in the travelling toy library and fun activities that the Home-based Care team is trained to offer.

*B Hernandez (2010); Nelson (2000); Spaul (2017); World Health Organization (2018)
THE MONTESSORI EASTERN CAPE HUB

The hub is a joint venture between Kamvalethu and First Children. The initiative aims to bring together the grass roots Montessori preschools on the Wild Coast to learn and grow together. The hub has been working with community leaders and teachers to ensure all the schools achieve a minimum standard in 2020.

The schools will also be exposed to teacher workshops, parent talks, assistance with administration and testing for the children to ensure the programmes are maintaining a consistently high standard of education.

TEACHER TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The five original ladies who underwent training with First Children in 2013-2015 continue to attend mentorship and supplementary training. They are all doing incredibly well and remain excellent role models in their communities.

The 14 new teacher trainees have completed 120 hours of formal contact time and are gaining momentum, becoming more self-assured, competent and engaged in their work and the children. Rural training requires plenty of opportunities for discussions and exploration of new concepts.

ZITHULELE MONTESSORI

Since joining the Hub, Zithulele Montessori has been able to make significant improvements to the prepared environment at school. After physical changes through some simple, yet effective rearranging of furniture and equipment, and through the purchasing of some beautiful materials, they have been able to focus on implementing the Montessori 3-hour work cycle properly and consistently. This was quite challenging for teachers and children alike, but 2020 heralded a new context where teachers and returning children eased into an now familiar environment. There is still room for a lot of improvement, but the team is working steadily along with the Montessori Eastern Cape Hub, and towards becoming a centre of excellence.

“Things are looking good. There is a lot that has changed and the kids have improved with the work cycle. We have struggled a lot with it but it was our first goal; we wished to improve it and we did.”

Lindela, Teacher

“I thank you very much to Ncinci One’s and Siyafunda, you are really helping our children with education and feel…Siyafunda.”

Nobandla, Parent

IMPACT

179 children; 15 teachers
Children graduated to Grade R: 20
Children graduated to Grade 1: 58
Parent workshops: 12
School attendance: ranging from 63% to 88%
LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

The other activities that Kamvalethu is involved in fall broadly under the category of ‘Literacy Development’. We are trying to do our part in addressing the literacy challenge in South Africa (78% of Grade 4 children cannot read for meaning). Every area in which we operate has a slightly nuanced way of how they are addressing this challenge and we are supporting those projects which are the most promising.

AXIUM EDUCATION

Axium Education catalyses positive change in South Africa’s worst-performing rural schools in order to unlock further economic and social potential in the country as a whole. They believe that there are vast amounts of untapped potential in every rural student, teacher, community and school. Axium Education aims to raise student achievement and to facilitate effective pathways for rural students to become successful lifelong learners.

Kamvalethu and Axium Education joined forces in the Nobalisa programme in 2019. This programme sends “Nobalisas”, or community readers, into schools and communities to assist with helping children to read.

“Teachers tell us that they can see a BIG difference now that we are using the TaRL methodology.” Phumza, CWP Nobalisa Co-ordinator

SIYAFUNDA AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMME

Siyafunda afterschool club was launched because many families in the village approached Ncinci One’s during 2018, requesting help with their children’s education. The children attending Ncinci One’s could read better than families’ education. The children attending Ncinci approached Ncinci One’s during 2018, Siyafunda afterschool club was launched for effective pathways for rural students to become successful lifelong learners.

Siyafunda utilises the Thanda Creative Curriculum. This curriculum disrupts traditional education models by moving away from rote memorisation and encouraging curiosity. The children develop their isolithsa by means of stories, discussions and doing activities connected to the story. They improve their Maths and English by using the IXL online programme and 7 tablets are utilised for this activity.

The project employs 3 female facilitators and a cook. The children enjoy a cooked meal, fruit and a vitadrink on a daily basis. The project supports 50 children in Grade 1 to 3. Children are only allowed to attend the programme if they have attended school that day. The average attendance for Siyafunda in 2019 was 92%!

THE OTTO FOUNDATION

Before the Liyabona Library at Holy Cross Primary School was launched on 25 January 2020, the staff, management and learners of the school had endured numerous obstacles and disasters. However, the school community has been so focused on their goal of establishing a library that neither fire nor flood could deter them. That is how we know that the Liyabona Library will be much more than just a beautiful space. It will make a difference to the quality of learning at Holy Cross.

We are looking forward to our next library project – The Protea Library at Walmer Estate Primary, together with The Kamvalethu Foundation. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and the country’s lockdown, the opening which was scheduled for May 2020 has had to be delayed. The design, recruitment and organisation behind the scenes still continue.

THE JABULANI FOUNDATION

The Jabulani Rural Health Foundation aims to bring hope and positive change to the area around Zithulele Hospital by supporting the hospital and partnering with the community in its development and growth. To achieve this vision, they carry out a range of programmes that focus on healthcare, education, poverty relief, environmental issues and community development.

As well as supporting the Zithulele Montessori Preschool, which is run by Jabulani, Kamvalethu is also partnering with the afterschool literacy club, which is run from the community library in Zithulele. In 2020, we will be significantly upgrading the library to allow for more children to experience the joy of reading for fun!
THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

It is our privilege to partner with amazing businesses and the individuals who work for them. We consider you to be an integral part of The Kamvalethu Foundation. We appreciate not only your financial contribution, but your generosity of spirit and support over the past year. Thank you to Lynne Snell for assisting us with the proofreading and to the Kamvalethu Board for always having the beneficiaries’ best interests at heart. Finally, a big thank you to our awesome Project Partners, without whom none of this would be possible! Your passion, dedication and determination inspire us!