



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

January - December 2024



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# VISION



To see established places of light, safety, nurture and learning for children.

# MISSION



To set a new standard for education, nurture, and holistic development for pre-school children and their caregivers, preparing them to assume the fullness of their God-given potential in every sphere of their lives.

# VALUES

**I AM** - A child of God.

**HUMILITY** - It is only through an attitude of humility that we can truly serve the vulnerable children and communities we work with.

**FOCUS** - We embrace the need to remain intentional and deliberate in everything we do.

**LEARNING** - A love of experiential learning, and understanding how to translate knowledge into practical application, is inherent to the competencies we seek to impart.

**RELATIONSHIPS** - Knowledge and understanding grow as we communicate truthfully to ensure the building of deeper relationships based on trust.





**Supporting 33 pre-schools which employ 149 staff, who serve 1839 children and their families.**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT DIRECTOR



Being a coordinating body in the heart of a community is like being a lighthouse in the middle of the ocean. Each principal is steering their ship, and we are here to assist in navigation; to warn of dangers and to guide to safety.

The activities that you will read about in this report detail our way of guiding the ECD centres as we assist them in navigating their way through the Rainbow Development Framework so that children in Vrygrond have a safe and nurturing learning environment.

The True North team and the Vrygrond principals have many years of experience in navigating the ups and downs of working together to increase quality learning for young children, and yet we never stop learning and adjusting accordingly.

2024 was a year to learn from others and to share with others.

The Department of Education introduced the Bana Pele ECD registration drive through the new online e-cares system. We partnered with them to ensure that principals were informed and excited to come into the regulatory net and begin their registration process.

Our Four-year research project with The Children's Institute from University of Cape Town was concluded and the findings were shared widely, including an article in the South African Child Gauge 2024, entitled "Key principles for successful local policy implementation: Lessons from research on early learning in a vulnerable community."

We were invited to present at a conference hosted by DataDrive2023 focusing on what it takes to drive "micro change at scale".

The Vrygrond ECD parent Indaba expanded to include other ECD professionals, like Linda Biersteker and Malibongwe Gwele sharing insights of safety, inclusion and participation. Dr Mhairi Maskew sharing some findings from the Siyakhula health project, and Loxion Mobile Library and the Mikhulu Trust sharing information about their offerings to parents.

The words of 1 Peter 3:8 is a worthy challenge, *"Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind."*

# TRAIN

32 training opportunities  
provided



Maskot 3-5yr curriculum



Recognition of Prior Learning ECD level 4



First Aid Training



Learn2Live birth-3yr curriculum



Book Sharing



Waste 2 Toys



# SUPPORT

239 support sessions  
provided



3 ECD Registrations



108 support Visits at ECD Centres



4 ECD Community Engagements



27 Growth Group sessions -  
principals supporting each other



3 New ECD Partnerships



101 support visits (at True North offices)



# EQUIP

Over R550,351 worth of resources  
distributed to pre-schools



Mandela Day - Porridge drive



Educational Resources



Computer Donations



Minor renovations



ECD Connect App Pilot



Food support



# CONNECT

**Volunteer projects bring added value to the lives of children**

The Kirstenhof Primary school Interact group and Steenberg Wine Farm took part in our Mandela Day activities. Having them here with us for the morning was such fun. Between both groups they collected 540 bags of porridge for the pre-schools. The two groups went into the pre-school kitchens to prepare and serve breakfast to the children. They also took part in a fun creative Mandela Day activity with the children. We were inspired by their commitment and joy in serving the children with humility and love. The porridge that was provided ensured that hundreds of breakfast bowls have been served to the children throughout 2024.

We welcomed a team of volunteers from the Crossroads church in the USA as part of Build the Future's volunteer program. The team worked hard and their creative efforts made a massive difference to KIM Educare, Little Lambs Educare, Bright Morning Star and Little Daisy's Educare. Their painting and repairs have brightened the learning environments for 169 children. They also arranged a mobile petting zoo that visited the community, providing a fun and unusual learning experience for many children.





# RESEARCH PROJECT

The SIPP project was an international research project, aiming to identify and contribute to ideas on learning and teaching strategies that are safe, inclusive and participative. The five international project partners were: Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa; International Centre for Research and Policy on Childhood, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Bethlehem University, The West Bank, Palestine; University of Eswatini; Childhood and Youth Studies Research Group, Moray House School of Education and Sport, University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

A Community Advisory Committee was established with ten local organisations. We considered ways that teachers could engage with children on the topics of safety, inclusion and participation, and one of the ways was through book sharing. Book packs were made up of 15 beautiful books which highlight the three main topics. We sourced the contextually relevant books from Bookdash and Mikhulu Trust. The packs were handed out to all ECD centres. Mikhulu Trust ran a workshop for teachers on the techniques of book sharing and how to pass on this skill to parents at their centres. A parent information leaflet was designed and printed so that it could be distributed to all parents. The leaflet is a guide for parents when choosing an ECD centre and it explains the different levels of an ECD centre's development in relation to the Rainbow Development Framework.

Through the project we co-created an action plan that captures the strategic priorities for ECD in the community. This action plan is based on the findings from the research project.





# So that every child can shine!



Exploring the world



Positive Relationships



Physical development



Well nourished



Developing imagination



Independence



# NEW CLASSROOMS



## **Sunrise Educare**

Sunrise Educare, the largest and oldest ECD centre in Vrygrond and Overcome Heights, serves 205 children. The centre urgently needed new classrooms because the old metal container structure, which housed several classes, was in poor condition with rust and leaks. Despite efforts to maintain and improve it over the years, the conditions were not conducive to learning.

Two new prefabricated classrooms were added to Sunrise Educare giving it capacity to hold 80 children in the new classrooms. This addition allowed the centre to remove the old container infrastructure and reconfigure its space.



## **Bright Morning Star**

Breadline Africa infrastructure was first installed at Bright Morning Star Educare in 2018. Since then, the centre has thrived under the leadership of Principal Doris and now their new leader, Principal Mbali.

With unused space still available on the property and a strong educational program underway, it was the perfect time to install additional infrastructure at Bright Morning Star. A much-needed office and staffroom were added, along with a new classroom, providing essential space for the centre to expand.

It is such a pleasure to be in partnership with Breadline Africa and they are making a big difference in the community!



# A SECOND PLAY PARK



Over the last four years we have run several Early Learning Outcomes Measure (ELOM) assessments and these have shown us that children's gross motor skills are not where they should be. This is in part due to limited play space available at both homes and pre-schools, while community amenities such as the public parks are in poor condition and unsafe. More purpose built secure spaces are needed to give young children the freedom to play in safety .

To address this need we installed our first purpose built pre-school play park at the Vrygrond Community Centre in 2023 and this was featured in our previous annual report. After much planning and thanks to successful fundraising from our partners, Movement4Improvement and Chic Mamas, we were able to install and resource a second pre-school play park at the Vrygrond Community library, which all pre-schools have access to.

The library is situated within walking distance of several other ECD centres and it offers children a secure and engaging outdoor environment for learning and play. It's prime location at the entrance to Vrygrond now provides a bright and welcoming introduction to the community.





# FINANCES

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Dec 2024 R	Dec 2023 R
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Property, plant and equip	36001	42140
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Trade and other receivables	8751	21084
Cash and cash equivalent	1332224	1614641
	1340975	1635725
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1376976</b>	<b>1677865</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained income	1376893	1672855
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	83	10
Funds received in advance	-	5000
	83	5010
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1376976</b>	<b>1677865</b>

## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Dec 2024 R	Dec 2023 R
Income	3193080	3874733
Operating expenses	(3594247)	(3768931)
<b>Operating profit (loss)</b>	<b>(401167)</b>	<b>105802</b>
Investment income	105492	117289
Finance costs	(287)	-
<b>Profit (loss) for the year</b>	<b>(295962)</b>	<b>223091</b>

## INCOME BREAKDOWN

	Dec 2024 R	Dec 2023 R
Donations	2894610	3576559
Subsidies	228408	228462
Cost Recoveries	45682	13600
Gain on Disposal of Assets	4000	
Sundry Sales	20380	42364
Insurance proceeds		13603
Profit on Exchange Differences		145
Investment Income	105492	117289
	<b>3298572</b>	<b>3992022</b>



# THANK YOU



Claudia Conway - Finance Leader



Elizabeth Marepula - Office Cleaner



Peter Hagen - Operations Leader



Sivu Kwatsha - Office Administrator



Nosipho Jali - Project Coordinator



Leigh Morrison - Project Director



Nonyameko Lirula - Social Auxiliary Worker



Mikel Kumalo - Director



Vicky Kumm - Director



Paul Durrant - Director



Peter Wasserfall - Director



Anthea Mesias - Director



Faranaaz Johnston - Director



# SUPPORT US



## Banking Details:

First National Bank  
Branch Name: Fish Hoek  
Branch Code: 20 23 09  
Account Number:  
62519024749

Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

True North can issue Section 18A  
certificates for financial donations

**given**gain



**INTERNATIONAL  
DONATIONS**

 SnapScan



**LOCAL  
DONATIONS**



TrueNorthVrygrond



TrueNorthNGO

## True North Consulting NPC

16 Berg street, Vrygrond Community Centre, Vrygrond, 7945

Tel: +27 (0) 21 702 6102

Website: [www.true-north.co.za](http://www.true-north.co.za)

Email: [office@true-north.co.za](mailto:office@true-north.co.za)

True North is a registered NPO and has PBO status