



Down Syndrome Association Pretoria/Tshwane

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT 2017 - 2019

This report is done on behalf of the current board of DSA P/T

Current Steering committee

Magda Lourens	Chairperson, Special Olympics, Training and School to work transition
Marinda Lingenfelder	Vice chairperson, Parent support, 0-2, 3-5 and Sport
Dhesan Naidoo	Treasurer
Rudi Esterhuizen	Secretary and maintenance
Shamilla Naidoo	Early Childhood Development Centre and Finance committee

Current Other Board members

Baatile Komane	Khanya support group, Finance committee and DSSA
Ansie Cilliers	Jeans and Tekkies Club
Sam Masilela	Fathers group
Johan Joubert	Early Childhood Development Centre and safety
Louis Lingenfelder	Self advocate adult club
Danzell Jones	Finance committee and Fathers group

Current Office staff

Elaine Passmoor	Office Manager and Education officer
Shanice Naidoo	Office Admin and Finance
Elsie Mokwena	Early Childhood Development Centre and Outreach Support

Together, they assist with general and financial administration, enquiries from the public and new families, dissemination of information to the more or less 500 members, raising awareness, fundraising and playing a key role in the organising and rolling out of the annual programmes.

Current School to Work Staff

Anika de Kok	Facilitator of the school to work transition programme.
Zelna Labuschagne	Co-facilitator for the cooking and baking course
Thandi	Association driver and assistant with the school to work and sport

Part time Staff

Part time staff includes our office cleaner Paulina and Garden assistant Andy.

Independent consultants include

Our 3 therapists at the Lyttelton Early Childhood Development Centre Marianne Smit (OT), Magda-Marie Booyesen Kinderkineticist and Anika Altin (ST)

Sport trainers working with the athletes in the Athletic programme



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INTRODUCTION

When I look back over the past two years it is impossible to capture the strides and progress of the work that the Association has done in one report. Our current programmes / projects are constantly being evaluated and renewed to keep it relevant and ensure a positive impact. And all of that happened amidst a climate where fundraising became more difficult by the day.

NEW SERVICES / PROJECTS

NEW LITERACY PROGRAMME

We identified that the vast majority of learners with Down syndrome are not literate which has a huge impact on schooling and quality of life. Elaine and Shanice started the literacy programme on Saturdays and the progress of the learners attending regularly is astounding. Definitely an aspect to focus and expand on in the future.

NEW ECD PROGRAMME (Previously referred to as our OUTREACHES)

This programme has undergone a major change over the past two years.

Based at our offices, each child with Down syndrome between ages 0 and 10 who are enrolled in this programme, receive one free monthly therapy session from an Occupational Therapist, a Speech Therapist and a Kinder Kineticyst.

More or less 21 families make use of own transport to attend these sessions on appointment.

For the more or less 51 families who need assistance in transport we made a plan. We partnered with the City of Tshwane (Disability Directorate) who is offering free transport weekly to our families from Mamelodi, Soshanguwe, Ga-Rankuwa and Atteridgeville.

3 Schools needing assistance with ECD are attending the programme each week as well which enables us to assist more or less 20 school going learners as well.

A free home programme and group sessions are also provided and empowerment of the mother or caretaker of the young child is largely our focus area.

WINTER HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

In 2018 we started with a very successful holiday programme during school holidays. Children between 7 and 15 attended, enjoying days filled with learning and fun and much needed funds for the Association were raised. These are mainly presented by the staff and volunteers

BUILDING PROJECT

In 2018 we were the fortunate recipients of R500 000 as a grant from the Free Masons. This was allocated to a building project to improve and extend our current premises. Once the plans were drawn and approved and the builder and engineer was appointed, the project has started beginning of May 2019 and we are looking forward to the change.

ESTABLISHED SERVICES / PROJECTS

SUPPORT GROUPS

Our outreach co-ordinator, Elsie, meets with parents in Atteridgeville, Mamelodi and Ga-Rankuwa once a month at different hospitals and clinics in the areas. In the last year 2 new support groups have been established at Steve Biko hospital and Tembisa Clinic. Information is shared and support provided to parents.

PARENT SUPPORT

Marinda Lingenfeder and our other trained parent support coordinators follow up and visit new families and provide support where needed. More or less 15 new families of young children joined the Association over the past two years



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The office staff also plays a vital role in linking with parents.

EDUCATION

Elaine, our Education officer visits mainstream and LSEN schools that have children with Down syndrome and shares information with teachers and facilitators to provide appropriate support to the learners.

Annual Education Symposiums and workshops were held and the Symposium held in March 2019, was presented by the Dept of Education and focused on Inclusion of learners with Down syndrome.

JEANS AND TEKKIES TEENAGE CLUB

Ansie has been coordinating this group for our teenagers and social get –togethers which are held every 4 months. They socialise, families get to know one another, friendships are formed and slowly but surely the young teens are moulded into self-advocates. The families determine the content of the group activities.

SCHOOL TO WORK TRANSITION PROGRAMME

This programme started in May 2017 as a transition programme for adults into the world of work and in 2017 and 2018 it was structured as follows:

Phase 1 – Skills training and literacy

Phase 2 – Job shadowing at businesses

Phase 3a – Short course training such as cooking and baking at Centurion Academy

Phase 3b – Placement in the world of work

In 2019 the programme evolved into a very busy combined phase 1, phase 2 and phase 3a with Hospitality evenings twice a year to showcase the culinary skills of the students

This programme has without a doubt caught the eye of the public and we predict that it will be a key component of awareness in the future. The committee is actively involved.

ADULT SELF-ADVOCATE- AND SOCIAL CLUB

The self-advocate social club remains as popular as ever. Our sokkies occur four times a year and are always well attended. The group has the usual Valentines dance, April dance, Spring Dance and Year end function.

SPORT CLUB

The sport club of more or less 23 athletes has been running for 3 years and it has grown from strength to strength. As a member of SASA – II our athletes have been participating in all their Athletic and swimming competitions, regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally.

Weekly Marinda Lingenfelder and her team train the athletes for a morning in stamina, muscle strength and athletic skills.

Our Annual Athletics day at the beginning of September has been running for 3 years and according to our records it is the largest event of its kind in South Africa. Judging from the press coverage, this day plays a huge role in the raising of awareness of the potential of persons with Down syndrome. Carl Lingenfelder and the organising committee works very hard every year to make this a reality.

AWARENESS

Our efforts to raise awareness amongst schools, businesses and members of the public, peaks around 20 October (National DS Awareness day) and 21 March (International DS Day) annually. These events include press coverage, Rock your socks challenges as well as talks at schools and clinics, Social gatherings for our members, Right to run participation, Parkruns, Drama events at Pierneef Theatre, etc



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Our Awareness jewellery is popular during events for gifts.

TRAININGS AND NEWSLETTERS

An electronic newsletter is sent out to all the members every 4 months with news and updates from all our activities. We also send out information Newsletters every 4 months, on topics that has been identified as necessary for members. These are all available on our website.

At least once a year a training morning is done covering topics of interest. The recent Motivational Morning in 2019 with Sheri Brynard was a massive success.

FUNDRAISING

The following avenues have been started and / or established for fundraising

- Casual Day
- Back a Buddy
- Tekkie Tax
- 94.7 Ride for a Purpose
- Jewellery and awareness products
- Holiday programme
- Functions such as the Motivational Morning
- Dance / Ball
- Smaller contributions
- Year End Blast
- Louis Box project

Grant funding from Lotto assisted us in 2018 as well.

We are blessed to have monthly contributions from RMA in 2018 and 2019 specifically covering half of the ECD Outreach therapy programme.

Waterfall also assisted us in 2017 with monthly contributions and a golf day.

All our funders receive tax deductible receipts

Funding at this stage seems to be our biggest challenge and hopefully we can secure funding soon.

CONCLUSION

It has been my experience that the board and staff all aim to improve service delivery, equal access and respect for persons with Down syndrome in a responsible way.

I trust in our God Almighty and in the structures that are in place, that the future of our Association is bright and the role that the Association has to play in the lives of persons with and affected by Down syndrome in Tshwane will without question continue positively.

As I am stepping down as Chairperson I look back on the past 4,5 years and I am proud that we raised the bar of our services and relevancy to a new level.

I thank the Board, staff and members for working hard and giving their precious time towards our ventures.

Magda Lourens

Chairperson 2017 - 2019