



NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL
HEALTH FOUNDATION

- 78 Years -



ANNUAL
REPORT
2023 - 2024



MISSION STATEMENT

Our children are precious gifts

The foundation's manifesto is to provide community assistance, where needed, to all people in the Cape South-Western Region regardless of their colour, religion, political persuasion or gender with an emphasis on the development of children at pre-school level enabling them to advance mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially, integrating children with special needs or disability alongside their peers, preparing them to cope with their role as the adults of tomorrow.



NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL HEALTH FOUNDATION NPC

Incorporated Association Not for Gain

003-162 NPO

www.nwmhf.co.za

Executive Committee

Mr I Mahali: Chairperson

Mr G McPherson: CFO

Mr A V Bean: Hon Member

Miss M Basson

Mrs G A MacPherson

Mrs W Martin

Mrs J Matthee

Mr Karl Rutti

Mrs J Willemse

OUR CRÈCHES

Maja Educare

at Ruyterwacht | 021-534 6006

Silvertree Crèche

at Woodstock | 021-447 4962

Ysterplaat Educare

at Rugby | 021-510 2743 or 021-510 0562

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

For the past 78 years The National War Memorial Health has remained steadfast and committed to its founding principles and manifesto, enabling children to grow holistically so that they are equipped with the ability, skills and knowledge to become productive members of society. Despite the negative impact of external influences and forces, the Foundation remains financially sustainable. The drop in child attendances at all our Centres during the past year and a tight economic environment were major contributing factors impacting on the financial position of the Foundation.

The Foundation continues in its endeavours to establish new Early Childhood Development Centres in areas where new housing projects are developed and where the need exists. It is a sad reality and indeed shameful that after 30 years of democracy more than a million children are not attending any form of early learning programmes. With more women entering the workplace, the number of children requiring early childhood education is increasing. The Executive Committee therefore resolved to admit babies from age 6 months as from January 2024.

Children from single-parent families tend to be more vulnerable as they may get less parental attention and positive stimulating experiences. Early Childhood Education is particularly beneficial for these children. Parents have a profound and lasting influence on their child's learning experience and education during their formative years.

I wish to thank our dedicated Principals & teaching staff for the crucial role they play in our children's future physical, cognitive and socio-emotional development. Thank you to the Executive Committee, Financial and Administration Management Team and non-teaching staff for their dedication and support during the past year.

My sincere gratitude is also extended to our long-standing auditors MGI Bass Gordon for their continuous interest and for preparing our annual financial statements, our generous donors, parents & volunteers for their contributions during the year.

Izak Mahali
Chairperson



"A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth & children does not deserve its future."
- Oliver Tambo

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

We often stand in awe of the magnitude of the task that confronts us in our schools. The small beginnings, the hardships, the silent gradual struggle, these are the climate in which an enterprise really thrives and grows. Some organisations cannot cope, some manage to ride out the storm. This organization has had to face tough times and had to make complex decisions but has survived because of sound monetary management and staff that were prepared to make the necessary adjustment.



Today, seventy-eight years later, this Foundation can be proud of its history because so many of our children are able to hold their own and can be counted equal to any of their peers. We cannot stress enough the importance of self-discipline in our children from an early age, and the fact that discipline begins at home and not at school. We cannot operate in isolation but need to combine with the parents to enhance our efforts to give our children the best we can.

When one looks at the school drop-out rate in our children, we know we must remain focused on building a good foundation for our children.

We have heard so much about children with special needs yet way back we were approached by the Department of Education (DBE) about space at our facilities for this specific purpose, many meetings were held and sadly not enough was done by the DBE to make it happen. We made our three facilities available for this purpose, and our staff went for training then suddenly no children or it was just a lack of urgency to take this project to its logical conclusion by officials from the DBE.

At all our facilities this year we have children with special needs, and I find that it is such a tragedy that the DBE, after raising the issue of space for children with special needs and talked of a waiting list, dragged their feet. Light at the end of the tunnel — we now have an NPO on board called The Learning Initiative who is concerned with the development of young children in the critical years before they start school. The majority of learners

who start Grade 1 in South Africa will not complete their schooling because their holistic development is severely compromised when living under impoverished conditions. Starting school on a back foot has a dire knock-on effect in later grades, where learners struggle to “catch-up” with curriculum demands contributing to poor school results, drop-outs and associated social and economic consequences. We have a therapist visiting both our Silvertree and Ysterplaat Educare Centres.

The social revolution of the post war era has resulted in increased urbanization. Despite all efforts, the authorities have not been able to avert overcrowding, deterioration in living conditions and absence of adequate recreational facilities, with their consequences of disease, delinquency, crime and the final resort of drunkenness and despair.

Since January 2024, parents have been hesitant to bring their children to Early childhood facilities because they are told by school principals to bring their children to primary school otherwise, they will not be accepted for Grade 1. How unwise a decision as children of that age should still be nurtured. Currently there are more than 30 children in a classroom. What is the Department of Education doing about overcrowding – absolutely nothing if the primary school numbers are full, at what cost to the child holistically.

The Foundation continues to focus on early childhood development as this is the very start for all future human development and survival. Our children must be fully equipped with the necessary learning skills so vital to meet the challenges.

We continue to serve the various communities and strive daily to influence the lives of our children.

A sincere thank you to all our staff for the dedication and love shown to our children.

To our parents, thank you for your continued support.

To members of my Executive Committee, thank you for giving so unselfishly, and to our loyal donors for their support.

Geraldine MacPherson,
Manager



“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”
- Jane Goodall

SILVERTREE CRÈCHE AND YSTERPLAAT EDUCARE REPORT

The past year was a roller coaster at both our Early Childhood Centres, and the challenges keep increasing.

We used social media such as facebook, our website, WhatsApp, and printed material to market our facilities. The main problem encountered is that Pre and Grade R learners go to public schools, hence being afraid of not being accepted in Grade 1.



We have more and more children being diagnosed with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) and other learning barriers. Our staff apply intervention programmes with remarkable results integrating them alongside their peers, but often we find that parents are in complete denial. Our approach is that no child be left behind.

A little insight: We often find that the socio-economic instabilities of society impact negatively on the early development of children.

The WCED Basic Education started a new initiative at Ysterplaat and Silvertree called *Initiative 4 or Growth for Learning*. They allocated a therapist who first assess the children aged between 4 and 5 years, not only with special needs, but on the holistic growth of the child to explore vital areas of early childhood development.

We also have extra-mural classes such as computer lessons and soccer size ball skills.



"We have one common goal, it is the child"



For our June programmes we had pajama, character and disco days. We also had our end of year concerts and graduations at both schools. Fifteen children graduated at Ysterplaat and Eleven graduated at Silvertree.

Testing and Evaluation: Before sending a child on to formal education the teacher must decide whether the child will be able to actualize his unique potential adequately in the formal learning situation. The criterion to use when deciding to admit the child to formal learning should be his level of school readiness rather than his chronological age.

A sincere thanks to all the parents for their support and having faith in our Centres, and our teachers for their tender loving care, you are wonderful.

To our Executive Committee thank you so much for your continued support and management for putting the staff first irrespective of our financial situation, and a special thanks to Grant for always making magic – love you – from all the staff.

Jessica Willemse
Principal



Building my house



Morning after sleep over

MAJA EDUCARE REPORT

Over the years a lot has changed, especially in the workplace which has become a great challenge for us. Technology has taken over and some people's positions have become redundant, so retrenchments were inevitable.

For an established Educare Centre it is sad because that means numbers are dwindling and "mushrooms" are springing up.

Looking on the bright side, there are still parents who would rather enrol their child in an established facility such as ours. All thanks to our parents for entrusting their special gifts to our care and for trusting us to educate and groom them for their scholastic career.

Fifteen of our children graduated last year to start school and they are doing very well.

Our thanks go to the SBV Security Team for beautifying our grounds and gifting us with three computers and educational toys.

Our Mother's Day function was a social success! Thanks to our guest speaker, Dr Marius Falck, who encouraged the ladies to "find themselves". The fashion show with three different categories was a lively and enjoyable event.

My thanks go to my colleagues for their hard work and dedication.

We are looking forward to a bright and prosperous 2024.

Wilhelmina Martin
Principal



EDUCATION REPORT

When you hear the word education, what comes to mind? How do we define the word? Do we really know what it means? It seems to be a twisted connotation of what it means and what it entails.

Free Will: What is free will? Do we allow anything and everything? Do we make excuses and overlook a wrongdoing and say he/she is only a child?



A child's very first educators are its parents. Parents are responsible for the well-being, education and protection of their children. Being overly protective of a child can also be stifling. Allow your little one to think for himself/herself - your preschooler will enjoy selecting an outfit for the next day, so use your chance to draw their attention to the weather forecast on television - is it going to rain, be sunny, windy, cold, or hot? Make suggestions referring to the weather forecast when the child has selected the outfit. Praise him/her, choice is not always that easy.

Love and encouragement will do the trick, your little one can become a disciplined and independent little person, and with that our task at school will be a pleasure.

Your child will learn, absorb, and enjoy the activities at school. The child's social, emotional, intellect will not be under strain.

Parents, there is so much we can learn from our children's behaviour, and in so doing guide them into the person they were born to be.

Wilhelmina Martin

STAFF MEMBERS

Mrs G A McPherson – Manager

Mrs W Martin – Education

Maja Educare

Mrs W Martin (Principal)

Mr R De Vries

Miss A Hartnick

Mrs M Pamplin

Silvertree Crèche

Mrs J C Willemse (Principal)

Miss S Benjamin

Mrs Z Cloete

Mrs M Jaffer

Miss J Pieters

Miss C Scheepers

Ysterplaat Educare

Mrs J Willemse (Principal)

Miss D Atson

Mr A Bridger

Miss C Joubert

Mrs V Kirsten (deceased July 2024)

Miss L Meyer

Mrs I Robinson

Mrs A Papier

Miss A Thole (left June 2024)

DONORS

Admiral Halifax Shellhole

Miss M Basson

Mr W A Bean

Mr and Mrs K Brooke-Sumner

Mr A V Bean

Dawn Patrol Shellhole

Gray Trust

MGI Bass Gordon

Mrs E R Jeffery

Kurt & Joey Strauss Foundation

Mr I Mahali

Mrs J Matthee

Mathers Trust

Mrs W Martin

Mrs G A MacPherson

Montgomery Shellhole

Estate JDB Rigby

The Frances Betty Roscoe Will Trust

S A Legion (C T Branch)

S A Cape Corps (Athlone Branch)

Mr A P Taylor

Victoria League (Rondebosch Branch)

Mrs J Willemsse

Mrs J van Willingh

Estate H G Willmott Trust



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