



# NEWSLETTER

EDUCATING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

## NEW CEO

WELCOME TO DONAVAN FULLARD

## CELEBRATING 2020

HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPACT

## BEYOND 2020

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

## THANK YOU

TO FUNDERS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

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THUSO RELIEF FUND | ECD

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CHANGES IN THE TEAM



# Resilience and hope

This was a year that tested SAEP in ways that we could never anticipate or prepare for and which made us adapt every part of our programme to serve during the global pandemic. We have shown agility in supporting our beneficiaries and their communities, meeting needs that were not in our scope before the lockdown. This newsletter wraps up 2020, reflecting on the resilience of our organisation, and looks forward in hope to 2021, where we can apply the lessons. So we present highlights of 2020 and plans for 2021.

Staff members told us of their personal highlights of the year which we share with you. We welcome the incoming Chief Executive Officer of SAEP who will join us in February 2021 and take leave of Anne, the volunteer who has worked with us all year.



# Celebration!

Students in our Tertiary Support Programme (TSP) celebrated their year at an outdoor event in the Zandvlei Park. Staying safe and distant, they took up the **Jerusalema Challenge**, with Masi, our administrator strutting out in front. Click the icon to enjoy the video with us.



Hear **Sihle Jacobs'** story of TSP.



Nosisa Mhlathi, Post-secondary programme coordinator: 2020 was a very busy and productive year, despite Covid 19 pandemic; we had no student infection cases and we look forward to keeping it like that in 2021. Safety first! Sanitise, wear masks and keep social distance.



# Celebrating 2020

In spite of the prolonged lockdown and limited contact time with the children and young people in our programmes, we achieved significant impact and sustained contact with many. The table below shows the numbers of children and young people reached through our core programmes, during and after lockdown.



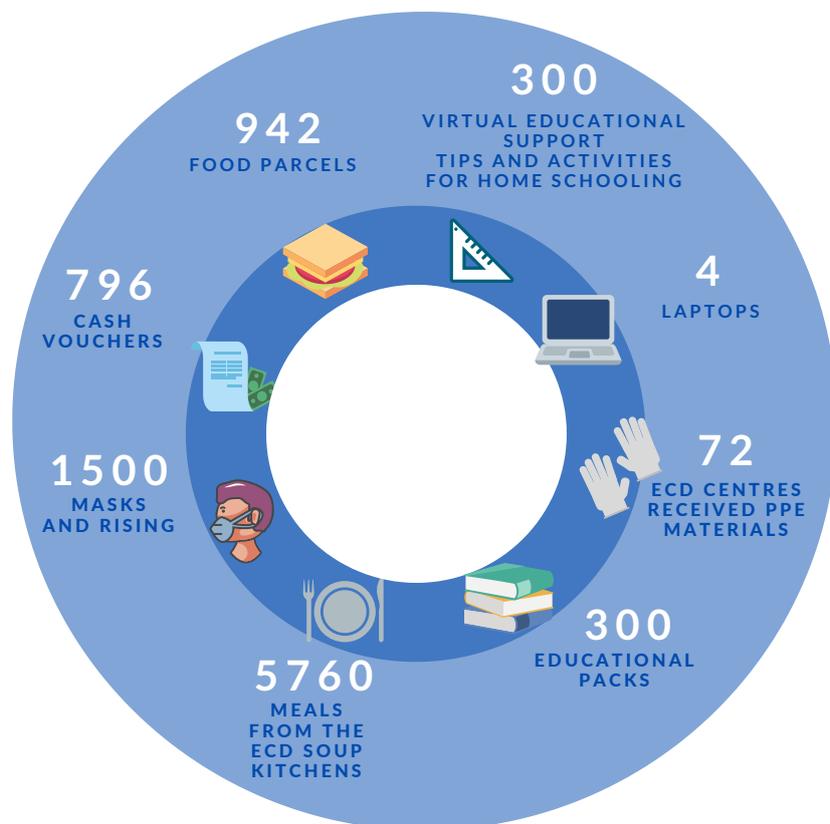
Tara Appalraju, Programme Manager: We launched our newest initiative, which was our way of supporting SAEP's beneficiaries to be a food secure community during COVID-19. We feel so proud to receive pictures like this one, of food bought with a voucher by a family.



# Programme highlights

Our Thuso Relief Fund reached more than 1,000 families, feeding children immediately after the declaration of disaster in April. Some families received more than one food parcel/voucher, depending on need. As the Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in our programme slowly reopen, we are supplying protective and sanitizing supplies and food to help keep everyone safe and well. We expect that more centres will reopen early in 2021 and we will support them with food and training in COVID-19 protocols.

To date, we have distributed:



Mumba Soko, Fundraising and Sustainability Officer: The year 2020 was full of surprises and uncertainties, especially with the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the end, I developed HOPE and perseverance to manage my wellbeing (and those around me). I am looking forward to 2021- the year of recovery!



SAEP Programme	No. of beneficiaries		No. of activities	
Early Childhood development	Centres	138	Distance Learning	167
			Training	69
			Mentoring Sessions	74
Siyakhathala Primary Programme	Grade 4	65	Distance Learning	80
	Grade 5-7	645	Classroom Support	68
Hope Scholars Programme	Grade 8-9	55	Distance Learning	14
			Excursions	1
Bridging year	Students	62	Distance Learning	30
			By Sessions	55
			Excursions	2
Tertiary Support Programme	Students	61	Orientation	2
	Advisors	45	Workshops	3
			Excursions	3

## Celebrating our funders, friends and partners

Without the phenomenal support of our friends and partners, we would not have achieved what we did. We acknowledge every one of you, individuals, corporations, trusts and foundations, for supporting our cause and making sure that our beneficiaries were fed and kept learning during lockdown. Special thanks go to the Angels and SAEP USA who make regular donations and respond so generously to our appeals for funds.

You may have noticed the bright fresh look of our newsletters this year: We thank Sedicka Johnson who has designed them voluntarily, for her designs and for making production really smooth.



[CLICK TO READ HIS  
BRIEF RESUME](#)

## New leadership: we welcome Donovan Fullard

The SAEP Board of Directors is delighted to announce the selection of Donovan Fullard as Chief Executive Officer of SAEP effective in February 2021 when Jane Keen will retire after 18 years of outstanding leadership and service. As shown in his brief resume, Donovan comes with a wealth of leadership and management experience in education, youth development, community development, and the environment and a genuine passion for the work we do.

He will join SAEP in February 2021 and receive Jane's full support to ensure a smooth transition. We hope you will join us in welcoming Donovan aboard early next and give him your support as he leads SAEP in this next challenging and exciting period of growth.

— Isabel Essen, Chair (26 November 2020)

Lerato quoted Haruki Murakami: 'And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure, in fact, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain; that when you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in.'





## Leaving us...

When Anne Witt joined us as a volunteer, in September 2019, we had no idea how much she would contribute to our programmes. She introduced new ideas to the Siyakhathala Primary Programme (SPP) and provided tremendous support at a time of transition. Under lockdown she campaigned in the Thuso Relief Programme, actively engaging in food distribution efforts, while working in soup kitchens in other parts of Cape Town. Anne publicized our work and her part in it through her networks, raising funds for relief measures and SPP.

It hardly seems possible that she could do so much in one year, and in such a year. We will miss you, Anne; go well.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT ANNE](#)



## In memoriam

In October, a number of staff members attended the unveiling of Eric Nduna's tombstone. Lerato Lehlabathe spoke these words to mourners: "My colleagues and I came because we want this family to know that their son, their brother, their father, Christine's husband was not alone in the war field. When all businesses and companies closed down because of lockdown, we never closed, we kept our vows to work for our community and serve them. So we came to encourage you today to have hope that he was never alone in the battle field, we were with him. He was a brother, a friend, a colleague and a father figure to many."

We mourn his loss.

# SAEP Strategic Vision 2021 - 2023

The staff is currently working hard to develop our strategic plan to guide the organisation's work for the next 3 years. We will publish the final version of the strategic plan in 2021.

**Academic catch-up** provides the skills that children need to learn more effectively and close the gaps of knowledge and skills that exist.

**Keeping children in school** focuses on supporting learners through challenges and gives access to new and unique opportunities that help them discover their interests, reach their potential and realise their goals.

These strategic focus areas respond directly to the existing barriers faced by those living and attending school in Philippi and the new obstacles created by COVID-19 and lockdown.

Tracey Appollis, M&E Coordinator: I'm proud of our resilience, how we (as an organisation) managed to keep working at such an incredible pace despite a global pandemic.



## Early Childhood Development in 2020

We celebrate our Early Childhood Development (ECD) team and the principals and practitioners who serve and nurture the children.

Mejry Mushanguri (ECD programme coordinator) reflects on the year:



2020 was a challenging but interesting year; it opened up our eyes and minds to re- imagine ECD. We quickly had to put on our responsiveness caps and meet needs presented by the pandemic - mainly loss of income for our ECD practitioners and hunger for our children who usually rely on getting at least one nutritious meal at the ECD centres. ECD community cohesion was strengthened by prevailing economic conditions. Parents and guardians had to step up and involve themselves actively in their children's learning and development. Practitioners had to find new ways of sending learning materials, encouraging messages to parents while at the same time exploring ways to continue feeding children, first through the organised food parcels. Later, eight centres opened soup kitchens to feed children in the community.

When COVID restrictions were eased and ECD centres started to reopen, SAEP made the official Standard Operating Procedures accessible to ECD principals and practitioners, through training and mentorships and developing materials to make compliance easier. No one had walked this road before and a lot of uncertainties and unknowns were dimming the practitioners' eyes – but we saw a lot of team work and peer learning which has made the transition into the new normal bearable.

We advocated for support for the centres and continue to assist them by providing food to unregistered centres and replenishing PPE consumables as they reopen and serve the children in the community.

We are very aware that we have lost a lot of learning time this year and we hope to catch up in 2021, hence a lot of focus will be on bringing practitioners up to speed with the learning programme, continuing to assist new classroom setups and use of equipment (which is usually not enough anyway) in a safe and hygienic way. Emphasis will be more on providing a “safe early learning environment” than ever before.



# Holiday appeal

There are many ways to support our work – choose those that suit you best:

Our exciting plans for 2021 need support and we appeal to all donors and friends to give a gift for our beneficiaries this holiday season. Your gift of R500 (\$34) would contribute to:

- Start-up kit for 1 ECD Centre, including sanitizing and protective materials, and food for nutritious meals for the children
- Data and stationery for 1 post-secondary student, or contribute to the cost of a laptop
- An outing for one learner in secondary school – Hope Scholars Programme

Donate now – send us notice of the payment and use Holiday as the reference. Thank you for making a difference.

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Local shoppers can support us every time they swipe their MySchool My Village My Planet cards – choose us as your charity.



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*Thank you!*

For all you have done to make our work successful in 2020 and for your support as we go into 2021. We wish you happy holidays and a good new year.

