

Singakwenza Education and Health NPC

ANNUAL REPORT DECEMBER 2014



Singakwenza, meaning "We can do it!", aims to provide low cost, high impact Early Education through empowerment programmes to economically disadvantaged communities.

Dear Friends of Singakwenza

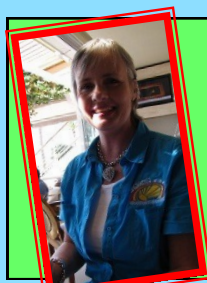
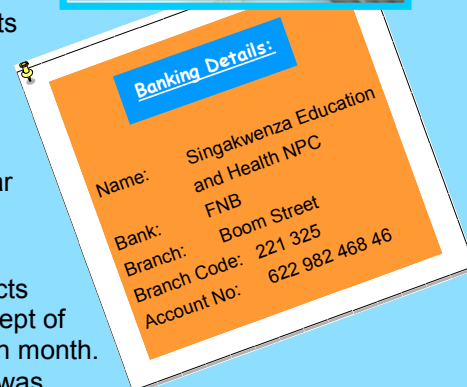
What a phenomenal year we have had! We would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of our funders and supporters for the role they have played in helping us to make such a difference to so many this year. We couldn't have done it without you!

Some of our **main achievements** this year are:

- ♦ Mentoring in 11 crèches reaching 31 caregivers and approximately 435 children. This includes weekly educational support for 10 crèches and monthly support for the crèche teacher who has "graduated" from our programme, ensuring that the 45 children in her care continue to receive a well structured ECD programme on a daily basis.
- ♦ Ran 50 Waste2Toys workshops teaching 707 delegates how to make toys and teaching materials from recycling, affecting the 20 502 children in their care (pg 4).
- ♦ Ran our first international Waste2Toys workshops in Malawi. During the 5 workshops, we trained 179 parents and teachers, affecting 7 838 children (pg 2).
- ♦ Provided 12 819 consultations for Primary Health Care at 27 sites. 536 people were counselled and tested for HIV, with 54 being tested positive.
- ♦ Became the first NGO in South Africa to be funded by the Emirates Airline Foundation, and were featured in their onboard magazine in October.
- ♦ Selected as one of only 5 organisations in the country to win a second year of sponsorship through the Vodacom Change the World programme which has allowed us to take our Waste2Toys workshops into Africa.
- ♦ Employed a Mobile Clinic coordinator and sponsored his training as a Peer Educator.
- ♦ Employed a Workshop Assistant to sort and manage all the donated waste and to assist with making toys for the crèche lessons.
- ♦ Our lead trainer, Sthembile Magwaza, graduated from Midlands Community College with her ECD NQF Level 4 qualification.
- ♦ Coordinated the donation of over 500 blankets and beanies to each of the children in our crèches (pg 3).
- ♦ Started a weekly "Meet 'n Make morning" at the office where people volunteer to help us make toys and teaching aids from recycling to use in our crèches (pg 4).
- ♦ Ran 3 "Talking Parenting" presentations, with a total of 310 attendees (pg 3).
- ♦ Coordinated the building of swings and other facilities at 5 of our crèches by 3 students from the University of Pretoria (pg 3).
- ♦ Assisted with packing of Food Parcels on Mandela Day.
- ♦ Collaborated with a number of organisations coordinate the improvement in ECD in Pietermaritzburg.
- ♦ Selected to be one of the 6 main charities to benefit from the 8 Mile club at the Midmar Mile in 2015 (pg 4).

Some of the **challenges** that we have faced are:

- ♦ Mobile Clinic staffing issues on one of our clinics, together with difficulties with contracts with some of our sites, resulted in us deciding to hand that Mobile Clinic over to the Dept of Health in July 2014. We still coordinate the second clinic, which services 17 sites each month.
- ♦ The large amount of recycling required to make educational materials for 11 crèches was causing a logistical nightmare. Fortunately we were able to secure the room next door to our office for a very reasonable rental, and all the recycling is cleaned, sorted and stored there.
- ♦ One of the crèches that we were working with in Mpophomeni had to close down as the parents weren't paying.
- ♦ Our website has been hacked a few times, so we will need to upgrade it to a more secure version in 2015.



Linda Hill, our Project Coordinator and Fundraiser, was selected to be the chairperson of the KZN branch of the South African Institute of Fundraisers (SAIF). We are delighted that others have recognised her excellent skills, and have given her a position where she can assist and encourage other fundraisers.

Our lead trainer, Sthembile, graduated from Midlands Community College, along with 3 of the teachers we are currently mentoring. It took a great deal of commitment for all these ladies to work full time and complete their studies, and we were very proud of them. Our ECD director, Julie Hay, was the guest speaker at the event.



WASTE2TOYS WORKSHOPS IN MALAWI

Singakwenza Education and Health had the most amazing trip to Malawi to run Waste2Toys Workshops. Linda Hill and Julie Hay spent a week in the Zomba area, where they met some incredible people, got to share their ideas with some very enthusiastic educators and parents, and were given a small glimpse into the lives of the Malawians. It was such a privilege to have this experience, and they are so grateful to the Vodacom Change the World programme for sponsoring this training. Singakwenza was able to teach 179 people, who have a direct influence on 7 838 children, how to turn their rubbish into educational toys!

The first workshop was held at a local primary school for the teachers and some local members of the community. Elias, one of the staff, coordinated this workshop and acted as the interpreter. The 350 children from the school were so excited to see visitors that they also initially came to the assembly hall, but unfortunately it was too hard to keep so many children quiet, so they were unable to stay for the whole workshop. One of the dads that was participating came to Linda at the end of the workshop and thanked her for teaching him so much about the way his children learn. He couldn't wait to go home and play with his children with the new toys!

Then the team headed into Zomba town and ran a workshop at Sir Harry Johnstone's International School. There they taught some of the teachers and teaching assistants from Sir Harry's, teachers from neighbouring schools, parents and grandparents, and children from the school's Eco Club. Shelley Pyman, the wonderful teacher who organised all the workshops on behalf of Singakwenza, will now coordinate the collection of recycling at Sir Harry's and distribute it to the different programmes that they worked with. This trip would never have been the success it was without Shelley, and Singakwenza owes her an enormous debt of gratitude!

The third workshop was held in a very rural village called Malua. A Dutch missionary couple took the team to where they are running their Foundations for Food programme. They first had to meet the main chief, who is the head of the 15 chiefs in charge of the 15 communities that are in this district. The ladies were required to wear skirts to this community as a sign of respect, and Singakwenza was honoured by having a goat slaughtered for their lunch. Isaac was both the cook and the interpreter for this workshop, and he did a superb job of both! The team was warmly welcomed by the Head Teacher of the school, and they taught all the members of staff as well as some local ladies. Linda found her happy place with a little baby in her arms, and then he slept in the Singakwenza suitcase when she was busy!

Kachoka Village, another very rural location, was the venue for the fourth workshop. Another missionary couple, this time from Romania, have helped this community to build two beautiful classrooms and a hand-pump borehole (which Linda got to try!). "Mac", the interpreter, managed incredibly well to translate the huge amount of information that Julie gave, and the staff from the school responded so well to the ideas. "Flick soccer" brought out the competitive nature in some of the teachers! Most schools are built without glass in the windows, as it gets broken very quickly and then is expensive to replace, so there are just window-shaped holes in the classrooms with burglar guards built into the walls.

The final workshop was held at the Zomba Baptist Church School. While the team was waiting for some of the delegates to arrive from a nearby pre-school, some of the children who were waiting for their lift home asked them what Singakwenza was doing there. Julie explained that they were going to teach the children's teachers how to make things from stuff that they normally threw away. The children looked at her with scepticism, so she took the rope made of plastic shopping bags out onto the veranda and let them skip. After that, the children decided they also wanted to stay for the workshop!

It was an incredible privilege to have been afforded this opportunity, and Singakwenza cannot thank Vodacom enough for enabling this training to happen. In a country where unemployment stands at 87%, education is extremely important, and being able to make teaching resources that cost nothing will assist the educators and parents in Malawi to provide their children with many learning opportunities.

Do you have a MySchool Card?

You can assist us with fundraising without donating a cent by simply swiping your MySchool card! Apply for a card or add us as one of your 3 beneficiaries at www.myschool.co.za.

WASTE2TOYS WORKSHOPS

Our Waste2Toys workshops have had a huge impact this year. We have travelled from Soweto to Khayelitsha, from Empangeni to Port Shepstone, and from Kokstad to Bethlehem, and run workshops in English, Zulu and Xhosa. We have run a total of 50 workshops this year for 707 delegates, who have a direct influence on 20 502 children.

These workshops are usually 3 hours long and we teach parents and educators how to make toys and teaching materials from recycling. We also focus on why it is so important to provide children with the opportunity to learn through play. Each delegate is given a pair of scissors and a marker so that they can continue to make toys after the workshop. We would like to thank all of our sponsors who have made it possible to reach so many people this year. A number of companies have paid for workshops in economically disadvantaged areas, and the delegates are extremely grateful for the opportunities they were given.



MEET 'N MAKE MORNINGS

As the number of crèches that we work with increases, the number of toys and teaching materials increases, and we were finding that we were struggling to keep up with the demand. We therefore started a weekly "Meet 'n Make" morning, where volunteers come and donate 2 hours a week of their time, to help us to make whatever toys are required for that week. We would love to have more volunteers so if you would like to help the dedicated ladies who have helped us so much this year, and can spare 2 hours on a Tuesday, even if it isn't every week, please send us an email on info@singakwenza.co.za. Tea, snacks and fun are provided!



SWIMMING FOR SINGAKWENZA

The Capital K Open Water Swim chose Singakwenza as it's charity, and Julie (director) and Sthembile (trainer) were delighted to swim this event in Singakwenza colours. Sthembile only learnt to swim in April 2013, and Kath Boast, her coach, was extremely proud to watch her complete her first open water event! In Feb 2015, 20 swimmers (including Julie) will be swimming all 8 miles at the Midmar Mile event to raise funds for Singakwenza.



WHAT TO COLLECT FOR US

bread bags and tags
plastic bottle tops (milk, coke, etc)
1 litre yoghurt containers with lids
cereal boxes
plastic milo, nesquik and hot chocolate containers
plastic formula/coffee tin lids
plastic margarine tubs
2 and 5 litre ice cream tubs with lids
cardboard paper towel inners

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL PLASTIC ITEMS ARE WASHED!

Fundraising has taken many forms this year! One of the fundraisers was a competition to win an amazing 2 night stay for 2 people at Ndaka Safari lodge in Nambiti valued at R6 000! The "treasure" was hidden in the Singakwenza rainbow, and people had to place their flag where they thought it was. This was won by a very excited Ashleigh Robertson.



Eight of our crèches were chosen by Santa's Shoebox Project to receive gifts this year. This smile was one of many that we saw as they opened their shoeboxes and saw all their goodies!

MOBILE CLINIC

Joseph Mohlokoana joined us as the new Mobile Clinic coordinator in January, and together with Linda Hill, has ensured that the Mobile Clinic service has been running much more smoothly this year. The Dept of Health took over our other Mobile Clinic in July and is servicing those sites themselves. Our new Mobile Clinic staff, Sister Masikane and Philani, have been wonderful and are really working well. However, the Mobile Clinic was supposed to support the HIV Peer Education programme at each of the sites, not just be a Primary Health Care service on its own, and most sites do not want to run the Peer Education programme. We are concerned that the Mobile Clinic service is merely putting a "Bandaid" on the symptoms, and we are not having the impact on the HIV education that this programme was designed for. Our mission is to **educate**, and while our staff are doing what they can in the short time that they are in consultations with the patients, we will have to look very carefully at whether we continue with this service going forward.

