

The
LifeMatters
Foundation

A black and white photograph of a young boy with short dark hair, wearing a dark school jacket with white stripes on the sleeves and a crest on the chest. He is sitting at a desk, looking down intently at his hands as he works on a project. The desk has various tools and materials, including a roll of paper and some wires. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a classroom or workshop setting. A diagonal white line cuts across the image from the top right towards the center.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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Disclaimer: Certain names and details have been changed in order to protect the identity and confidentiality of our beneficiaries.

Credit to photographers: Photos were taken by Tabitha Mee (Illuminate Photography) and Lauren Theunissen.



VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to see all children reach their full potential and become active citizens.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide holistic support in the form of academic and life skills intervention, so that all children are intellectually, emotionally, socially, physically and spiritually equipped to reach their full potential and become active citizens.

VALUES STATEMENT

We believe:

- That God has a plan and a purpose for each person's life
- That hope drives purpose
- That it is our responsibility to advocate for children's rights
- That active citizenship transforms communities
- That all people deserve respect
- That diversity should be celebrated
- That equity is the first step towards restoration
- That integrity and honesty is the foundation of all relationships



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS

What a whirlwind of a year!

The LifeMatters Foundation had a fantastic 2017. We set ourselves a goal to double our reach from 2016 to 2017 and we did it!

This was possible due to the commitment and dedication of our team of amazing volunteers, interns and staff; 222 volunteers, 13 interns and 11 staff to be precise. It has been a privilege to watch them tirelessly commit to doing whatever it takes to help children feel loved and supported in order for them to overcome daily challenges, reach their academic potential and personal goals.

Yet again the academic crisis in our country was highlighted after the 2016 PIRLS (Progress in International Reading and Literacy Study) were released last year, showing that 78% of our Grade 4 learners cannot read for meaning in any language. South Africa's literacy results were the worst, coming last out of 50 countries.

To add insult to injury it is reported that over 50% of learners drop out of school before they even reach matric. Enough to make us throw our hands up and start plotting our escape.

BUT, there is always hope, and our holistic approach to support has had a significant impact. The tremendous results our Grade 2 and 3 learners show in our Academic Programmes proves that with enough input and involvement from NPO's like ours and the perseverance of socially

active citizens, we can turn things around. Furthermore, our LifeSkills Programmes address the issues that young people face going into adolescence, giving them valuable tools to make them more resilient and prepared for the challenges of high school.

We know that the task is huge, some may say impossible, BUT there is no escaping the fact that every day there are children beating the odds. Every day there are dedicated volunteers who show up and make a difference. Every day there are teachers who teach in the face of extraordinary difficulties. Giving up is just not an option!

I cannot thank our donors enough. We have an incredible group of faithful individuals and socially aware organisations and companies who make it possible for us to continue to grow and impact vulnerable young people, giving them the best possible chance to reach their full potential.

2018 sees us even more committed to our goals and objectives! There is much work to be done but we are excited to be part of the solution of bringing hope to many young children and changing the course of their lives.

Thank you,
AIneré Turck

MEET THE TEAM



Back row (left to right) – Vanessa le Roux (Sullivan Literacy Centre Manager), Sharleen Haupt (Academic Portfolio Manager), Maureen Hardick (Lourier Literacy Centre Manager)

Middle row (left to right) – Claire O’Sullivan (Marketing Consultant), Nina Todd (Capricorn Literacy Centre Manager), Kayla-Tess Pattenden (LifeSkills Portfolio Manager), Shana Kreusch (Operations Manager)

Front row (left to right) – Jody Hardick (Lourier Numeracy Centre Manager), Penny van Schaik (Steenberg Literacy Centre Manager), Sandra van Wyk (Westlake Literacy Centre Manager), Alneré Turck (Executive Director)

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

25 712 hours of interaction with 2 037 beneficiaries by 225 volunteers.

These numbers are something that our organisation can be justifiably proud of given the size of our empowering team and budget within which we work. As the Chairman of LMF I am always impressed with our reach, all of which is dependent on the energy and enthusiasm of our volunteers. A huge "Thank You" must go to them for their contribution in the last year. I must add here that our annual volunteer thank you and celebration event is always a highlight of my year.

But no matter how many volunteers we have, without the structure that Alnere and her leadership team and the centre managers and project leaders we would not be able to achieve what we do. So an especially large "Thank You" must go to Alnere and her team as well.

Lastly, I would like to extend a thank you to our many funders who, through both small and large contributions, enable us to do our work. You are an integral part of our organisation and programmes.

If I look back on 2017 I would like to highlight a few aspects that have been especially gratifying for me. The ongoing development of our Numeracy Programme is exciting and I look forward to us making it more mainstream in 2018; the opportunity we had to build into the lives of some quality young South Africans through our iMatter Internship Programme; and the increase in the number of profitable Teenage Awareness Programmes run in well-resourced schools, which funded the running of the programme in our beneficiary schools.

Once again a thank you to all those who are a part of the LMF team in 2017 – may 2018 take us to new heights.

Peter Withey

Chairman of the Board of Directors



LITERACY REPORT

Sharleen Haupt
Academic Portfolio Manager

In December of 2017, the PIRLS (Progress in International Reading and Literacy Study) results shocked South Africa. The report stated that “Almost four in five Grade 4 pupils fall below the lowest internationally recognised level of reading literacy, and South Africa is last out of 50 countries”. (www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2017-12-05-80-of-grade-4s-cant-read-literacy-survey-reveals/).

While these results are disheartening, The LifeMatters Foundation has been helping children from underprivileged environments improve their literacy skills for the past 6 years. In fact, 2017 was a year of unprecedented growth for the Literacy Programme. The new Literacy Centre at Capricorn Primary School opened at the end of January with the very capable Nina Todd at the helm. Thirty-Four Grade 2 learners at Capricorn Primary School received 1374 hours of individualised literacy support and will continue to receive support in their Grade 3 year (2018).

The Literacy Centres at Lourier, Steenberg, Sullivan and Westlake Primary Schools also expanded and our amazing volunteers helped us to reach an extraordinary 11 401 hours of intervention across all 5 Centres in 2017. More hours of intervention mean that more children receive support and make greater strides toward age-appropriate literacy abilities.

A story from a little boy, Clever, at one of our schools illustrates the impact of the programme. When Clever started our programme in early 2017, he could not read, write or identify any letters. After just 6 months on The LifeMatters Foundation Literacy Programme, Clever could identify and write 22 letters of the alphabet and his score on a basic literacy assessment went from 0 to 50 points!

Another success story comes from our Westlake Literacy Centre where the progress of learners on our programme surpassed the progress of the stronger learners who did not need literacy support. The LMF learners scored up to 8 points more than their peers in the ‘word reading’ and ‘sentence writing’ sections of the assessment.

It goes without saying that our volunteers are the real heroes because they are the ones that do the work week after week. Abigel Sheridan, a long-time friend and supporter of The LifeMatters Foundation, summed it up perfectly at our Capricorn Grand Opening Celebration when she said, *“There is nothing more uplifting than to give from one’s heart. Many times, you go beyond your comfort zone and that is when the magic happens. You dedicate time and efforts to elevate a life!”*



NUMERACY REPORT

At the end of 2016, a team of experts built on our existing numeracy content and developed an early-intervention Numeracy Programme. The LifeMatters Foundation 'Fun with Numbers' Maths Programme is a comprehensive, curriculum-compliant, volunteer-driven programme which provides struggling learners with the support they need to build a solid mathematical foundation.

After months of collaboration with our graphic designers, the first edition of 'Fun with Numbers' manual was printed. A team of dedicated volunteers helped us to pilot the programme with Grade 2 learners, which helped us to tweak and edit the programme to be more effective. The data from the pilot has been translated into a list of modifications and improvements for the second edition of the manual.

The pilot phase was challenging and labour intensive but so worth while! We have been in consultation with educational experts and possible funders and everyone agrees that The LifeMatters Foundation Maths Programme is a unique programme which has the potential to have a significant impact on the mathematical achievements of learners from underprivileged environments.

Our goal for 2018 is to run the programme at the existing two sites and add at least two additional sites during the year. We have been speaking with potential funders and are investigating the Social Franchise Model so that we can (eventually) offer the programme to other organizations.

This report wouldn't be complete without a note of thanks to the Norton Ramsay Foundation for their support of this programme. We love working with people as passionate about education as the fine people from Norton

Ramsay. A note of appreciation must also go out to Nina Todd and Jody Hardick, our Numeracy Programme Centre Mangers in 2017. They rolled with the punches and went above and beyond the call last year. Finally, we welcome Nicola Bowley as the newest member of our team and wish her all the best as she takes Nina's place as the Capricorn Primary Numeracy Centre Manger in 2018.



FINANCIAL REPORT

This has been a financially tight year for the organisation. Although grant income has doubled, donations from companies, churches and individuals has dropped by 33%. As donations are a significant part of the income for the organisation, this has had a marked effect on available funds.

Where the money came from:

The organisation has raised R1.6 million this year, almost half of which comes from donations by individuals, churches and companies. The generous giving by our long-standing partners continues to be the foundation of our income. The Annual Auction Fundraiser and other fundraising events contribute 26% of total income. We have also received a grant from the National Lottery for the first time this year. Income from fees for Teenage Awareness Programmes and camps has increased, allowing us to offer more camps and events.

Where the money went:

The majority of funds were spent on the Literacy, Numeracy, LifeSkills and Counselling Programmes. The launch of the iMatter Internship Programme utilised 9% of the organisation's income, with the remaining balance spent on the management and operations of the organisation. Expenditure has increased by 60% from last year as result of starting a centre in Capricorn Primary School and developing materials for our Academic Portfolio.

What's the plan for the future:

2018 will be a year of consolidation and deepening of the programmes offered at the schools supported by the organisation. The budget shows an increase of 13% for expected income. The aim is to cover the budget through multi-year grants from foundations and other grant-making mechanisms. Donations from individuals, churches and companies are very variable and often uncertain, although very necessary for the continued impact of the organisation in the communities that we work.

REVENUE

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Grants | 18% | R304 400 |
| Donations | 41% | R676 893 |
| Donations in kind | 3% | R54 000 |
| Fundraising events | 26% | 430 349 |
| Fees | 11% | R182 596 |
| Interest received | 1% | R19 788 |
| | | R1 668 026 |

EXPENDITURE

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Fundraising Expenses | 14% | R246 580 |
| Management and Administration | 11% | R195 477 |
| Operating expenses | 9% | R153 030 |
| Academic Portfolio | 38% | R641 795 |
| Lifeskills Portfolio | 19% | R320 741 |
| iMatter Internship Programme | 9% | R145 841 |
| | | R1 703 464 |

TOTAL PROJECT AREAS

| | | |
|---------------|-------|-----------------|
| Steenberg Hub | 20,3% | R123 493 |
| Lourier Hub | 20,3% | R123 493 |
| Westlake Hub | 19,6% | R119 523 |
| Sullivan Hub | 19,6% | R119 523 |
| Capricorn Hub | 20,3% | R123 568 |
| | | R609 600 |



INCOME



DONATIONS
41%
R676 893



FUNDRAISING EVENTS
26%
R430 349



GRANTS
18%
R304 400



FEES
11%
R182 596



DONATIONS IN KIND
3%
R54 000

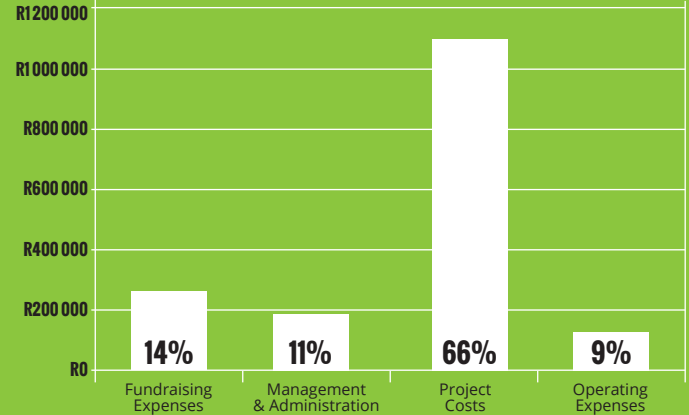


INTEREST RECEIVED
1%
R19 788

TOTAL INCOME: R1 668 026



EXPENDITURE



OUR PROJECTS:



TEENAGE AWARENESS



NUMERACY



LITERACY



COUNSELLING

TOTAL EXPENDITURE: R1 703 464

LIFESKILLS REPORT

COUNSELLING

Our Counselling Programme provided steady psycho-social support throughout 2017. The most common problems encountered in the counselling room included physical and sexual abuse, bereavement, suicide and self-harm. Here are a few of our success stories from the year. (Names have been changed to protect the identity of the learners)

Cindy was referred by her educator who found her self-harming in the school bathrooms. Her psychological assessment alerted us to depression, anxiety and suicidal tendencies. A suicide attempt was inevitable. Our counsellor immediately referred her to an outpatient facility for additional support. Cindy's counsellor visits her on a weekly basis and reports back steady improvements in her psychological and emotional wellbeing. Visits from the counsellor are a highlight for Cindy who thrives off the thoughts, prayers and encouragements she brings from her friends and educators. Cindy is now back at school where The LifeMatters Foundation will continue to support her.

Lauren was referred to us because of bed-wetting. Upon further investigation her counsellor identified that it was due to exposure to domestic violence in the home. Our counsellor successfully mediated the family conflict and equipped them with skills to better manage disagreements, and Lauren has since stopped wetting her bed. She also expressed a deep desire for more dedicated family time. With the help of the counsellor the family now has a games night once a week. Lauren finally feels safe at home and loved by her family.

Danni heard about how wonderful the school counsellor was through his friends, which lead him to bravely disclose to our counsellor that he had been sexually abused. Our counsellor helped him overcome the affects of the abuse through play therapy and supported him as he pressed charges against the perpetrator. Thanks to Danni and his counsellor, the perpetrator will not hurt any other children!

We are extremely proud of the way our counsellors managed these and other trauma cases. While we provide regular supervision and debriefing to emotionally support our counsellors and prevent burnout, we have realised the need for continuous training. In 2018 we will provide training on topics that our counsellors have requested, and will specifically focus on helping them to modify their counselling approach to more effectively intervene within an unfamiliar and under-resourced context.



SUPERVISION

Kayla-Tess Pattenden
LifeSkills Portfolio Manager

I spent much of 2017 supervising student counsellors, which has been a real privilege. They have provided professional counselling services to many of our beneficiaries and have remained teachable throughout their placement. Our International Students from the University of South Denmark also made monthly donations to the organisation, contributing towards our financial sustainability. We are excited to be developing the next generation of Social Service professionals and look forward to hosting more students in the new year.



MENTORING

Mickyle Du Preez
Mentoring Coordinator

In the last half of the year we employed Mickyle Du Preez on a contract basis to grow our Mentoring Programme. With over 20 mentors involved, over 90 learners reached, and 692 hours of focused mentoring, having Mickyle on board has proven incredibly beneficial.

Better communication systems between our office, volunteers, mentees and schools were improved, which strengthened our team bond, ensuring we were all walking with the same vision. We found the learners' attendance challenging, but were able to work with the incredible principals and teachers to ensure that learners did not miss out on any sessions.

We are looking forward to what the new year holds, and through recruiting even more voluntary mentors we hope to increase our reach through this programme significantly!



TEENAGE AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

Kayla-Tess Pattenden
LifeSkills Portfolio Manager

2017 was a year of incredible growth for The Teenage Awareness Programme. This growth tested our capacity and taught us a lot within a short space of time. Our biggest learning of 2017 was that effective LifeSkills Intervention requires small group facilitation and interaction. We have restructured our programme so that every group of learners has a small group leader who facilitates practical activities and conversations.

We also learnt that adolescent decisions are embedded in their identity. As such, we have incorporated an Identity Workshop into all of our programmes. Learners design an 'identity tattoo' as a visual representation of who they are, what they believe and what they stand for. This concrete reminder of who they are is their reference point for making difficult decisions. These changes have improved our beneficiaries' concentration during the programme and their ability to retain and apply their learnings.

We hosted 15 Teenage Awareness Programmes in 2017, 6 of which were profitable, which enabled us to fully fund the remaining 9 programmes. The growth in the Teenage Awareness Programme in 2017 has made us a referral source for many schools in need of relevant Life Skills Education. In light of this we expect many new bookings in 2018. We are excited and ready.



'THIS IS MY STORY' CAMPS

Kayla-Tess Pattenden
LifeSkills Portfolio Manager

Thanks to the generosity of our funders we were able to host 2 camps this year, catering to 150 learners! As usual, these camps were the highlight of the year. A highlight to note was when one of our guest speakers challenged the campers to look in the mirror and shower themselves with words of affirmation. The entire room was humming with words of upliftment and our campers left with a restored sense of self-worth.

Our Cross the Line activity also proved to be an opportunity for incredible healing as learners bravely disclosed their abuse, neglect, loneliness, depression and suicidal tendencies.

Our camps were not all seriousness, we had loads of fun too, as we learnt a dance routine taught by local superstars, The StreetStylers, and entered the 'battlefield' for 'Capture the Flag'.

We want to extend a big "thank you" to our leadership team who sought out genuine relationship with our campers, and our generous funders, Chic Mamas and Masalini Capital. Without you these camps would not be possible.

"This camp really did help my life. At first I thought I needed a father to make me happy. But my leader explained to me that that is not true and that one day I am going to be a good father."

"Cross the Line was fun and emotional. I am glad we got all of that out!"

"Cross the Line was the best workshop. It made me open up for the first time. When someone else crossed the line, I did too. I knew I wasn't the only one in that situation."



iMATTER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Sharleen Haupt
Academic Portfolio Manager

According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), unemployment is on the rise in South Africa, particularly amongst youth 25 years and younger and 67.4% of youth are unemployed. "Clearly, the rate of youth unemployed has become a national crisis, with significant social, economic and political implication". (Online: <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/youth-unemployment-in-sa-a-national-crisis-economists-20170807>).

Unemployment and inaccessibility to further education and work experience is a growing problem in the communities we serve. The iMatters Internship Programme was developed to provide opportunities for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, whilst contributing to a greater impact and reach for The LifeMatters Foundation.

In early 2017 The LifeMatters Foundation (LMF) formed a partnership with Action Volunteers Africa (AVA) to support the iMatters Internship Programme. AVA

handled all recruiting, vetting, life skills training and self-development courses as well as weekly support for the interns while, LMF provided practical work experience.

A total of 13 Interns worked 4 days a week in our Literacy, Numeracy and LifeSkills Programmes under the guidance of our Centre and Programme Managers. Throughout the year 4 interns resigned to pursue work and study opportunities and 9 completed the programme. AVA held a gala graduation celebration in December and the LMF interns received a myriad of awards for their exemplary achievements.

Talks are currently under way to determine the feasibility of repeating the iMatters Internship Programme in 2018. AVA has committed to help us find funders and we are hopeful that this programme will continue to benefit young people from the communities we serve for years to come.



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED



MAKE A DONATION



MAKE YOUR EVENT A PARTY WITH A PURPOSE



VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME



RACE FOR CHARITY

FOR MORE IDEAS VISIT OUR WEBSITE - WWW.LIFEMATTERSFUNDATION.ORG

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Chic Mamas Do Care

Christ Church Constantia

Clovelly Golf Club

Dingley Marshall Inc

Eco Impact Legal Consulting

Flook

Groot Constantia

H2O Constantia

Herschel Girls School

iSync Solutions

JDI

JH Richards Will Trust

Joanna Loveband

Julia Ing Interiors

Kiddiwinks

Kids of the Cape

Kirsten Goss

Kirstenhof Primary School

Kol Kol Mountain Lodge

Masalini Capital

MBC (Connect Church)

Melon Mousse

Minuteman Press

Mshini

MySchool

NB Media

Newlands Brewery

Pick n Pay

Polyoak Packaging

Renlaw Sharpening

Roses Handmade Confectionary

SA Five Engineering

Safcom Properties

SAMBA Tours

Scootours

Scuba Shack

Seattle Coffee Company

Shutterway Stylish Security

Silwood School of Cookery

Simola Golf & Country Estate

Smudge

Snapper Display Systems

Sound Out

Spotlight Drama Studio

St John the Evangelist

St Martins Church

Steenberg Golf Club

Studio Bolland

Sweet Valley Primary School

The Castle Property Group

The Lord Reigns

The Royal Portfolio

The Vineyard Hotel

Theme Creations

Top Table

TopCopy

Topline Book Distributors

Trinity Telecomms

Twin Coatings

uCook

Uitsig Bike Track

Venturescapes

Village Skincare & Medispa

Vondeling

Westcott Primary School


Westerford Highschool

Westlake Golf Club

Westlake Kitchen

Zevenwacht

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL OUR DONORS WHO GIVE REGULARLY TO OUR ORGANISATION IN THEIR PRIVATE CAPACITY.
YOUR SACRIFICE AND GENEROSITY CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF SO MANY OF OUR LEARNERS.

A photograph of a teacher and a young girl in a classroom. The teacher, on the left, is wearing glasses and a white shirt, looking at a book. The girl, on the right, is wearing a maroon school uniform with yellow accents and is smiling while looking at the book. The background shows a wooden desk and shelves.

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Banking details
The LifeMatters Foundation

Bank: Standard Bank • Branch: Blue Route • Branch Code: 025609 • Account Number: 072032405

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