

GOOD START TRUST REPORT

October 2021



PBO Ref no 930061524
NPO Ref no 263-354)



SUMMARY

1. **Supporting learners' education this past year has still been deeply affected by the global Covid 19 pandemic:** The first term was delayed; half sized classes have attended on alternate days; educators have had to adapt to stressful conditions including falling ill themselves; parents losing their own employment and as a result have not been able to pay school fees, which has substantially hampered the efficient functioning of the schools, in turn causing a real threat to the number of educators, including the temporary laying off staff employed by the School Governing Bodies. Despite all these challenges, we are proud to have continued to support learning in these difficult times.
2. All those individuals associated with both Breakfast and Smart Clubs have been **fully vaccinated**.
3. **NPO Registration** was successful. We thank our lawyer, Leslie Swart of Wealth Succession, for handling the process speedily and competently.
4. **The Breakfast Club** has continued to operate at two inner city schools: Good Hope Seminary Junior School and St Mary's Primary School. Due to learners attending school only alternate days, donations of e'Pap to take home during term time as well as before holidays were appreciated by parents.
5. The stipend paid helpers at Breakfast Club signed our **Memorandum of Agreement in May 2021**, clarifying the Employment Contract between us, and allowing UIF registration (still underway). We thank Mr Michael Bagraim (Labour Lawyer) for his able guidance.
6. **Adherence to Health and Safety protocols** governing the way in which food has been prepared, served, and dishes cleared away, have continued.
7. **The Smart Club** has blossomed this past year, due to very welcome, dedicated donations received late last year. We have been able to offer assessments and ongoing treatments in a range of pertinent therapies, to the benefit of about 180 learners at the two schools.
8. **Our accounts have again been audited pro bono by L Rubin and Company**, for which we are deeply grateful. Pascal Shaani and Mariette Vos again deserve special mention for their efficiency and helpful guidance.

A. FINANCES

Both the Breakfast Club and Smart Club bank balances were sufficiently healthy in January 2021, which allowed us to provide support in both Clubs to both schools through 2021. Generous donations from a variety of sources, including a charitable Foundation focusing on educational projects, and private individuals from within South Africa, from Switzerland and the UK, allowed us to approach the year with confidence. THANK YOU. We sincerely ask for funding to continue, as our Budgets for both Breakfast and Smart Clubs reflect some rises in estimated costs:

Breakfast Club Budget, 2022:

- South African food costs continue to rise, as do transport costs, affecting our estimated cost of ordering the 2 tons required by our children over the year. We receive a special rate as a charity from the manufacturers. E'Pap continues to be considered the most nutritious instant porridge with 29 added vitamins and minerals, quickly building up immune systems and providing focus in learning.
- We have found that generous donations of both milk and fruit through the year allow our finances go further. However, it is not wise to count on these donations in our budget.
- We have included an increase in our wages per hour for our employees. They receive an adequate living wage for the time they work (well above the legal National Minimum Wage).

- We now require one more helper who is included in the Budget. Supervisors and the few volunteers involved, work at no cost to the Trust.
- The Breakfast Club Budget is based on feeding 400 children daily over 38 school weeks in the year, and not on the present arrangement of half size class attendance on alternate days.

Smart Club Budget

- Due to a delay in the start of Term 1, caused by Covid, and having to find appropriately qualified therapists after a year of not functioning, our Smart Club has functioned fully only during Terms 2,3 and 4.
- The Smart Club Budget for 2022 is based on a 35 week school year, as there are school assessment weeks when therapists are not able to work with the children.
- Hearing tests and the provision of Ritalin are not reflected in the Budget, as the former are accessed free of charge at Mary Kihn School for the Hearing Impaired, and the latter is provided free from the School Doctor and Nurse at District Six Day Clinic.
- All our therapists provide their services at a discount, as we are a registered charity, and we thank them and the doctors for accommodating the Smart Club in this way. This allows more children to receive support for the same amount of money.
- It is anticipated that in 2022, up to 200 children will benefit from group and individual therapy and counselling sessions, as well as assessments by an Educational Psychologist, and Paediatric Neurologist and Psychiatrist.

Financial Record Keeping:

Paula Cohen continues to oversee our financial records monthly, and to give invaluable advice. We thank her. Aletta Ashmore continues to deal with banking, and to gather all financial records to send to Paula on a monthly basis. Adrienne Millner’s assistance with administration is highly valued, as is the wisdom she developed through years as a School Principal.

Annual Audit:

On 28 February 2021, Pascal Shaani of L Rubin and Co came to oversee Breakfast Club stock takes and petty cash counts at both schools. We thank them for this service to The Good Start Trust. The audit of our finances has been completed, and the Financial Accounts can be viewed in Addendum A.

Section 18A Certificates: Section 18A certificates for South African Income Tax relief for individuals are issued to donors of either cash or goods, to which a monetary value can be assigned.

B. ORGANISATION

THE BREAKFAST CLUB



Adherence to COVID 19 Protocol continues:

- Masks and aprons are worn all members of the teams at all times.
- Regular hand washing/sanitising is essential. Latex/vinyl gloves are used when working with food, then discarded, and washing up gloves.
- Social distancing is observed at all times
- All surfaces are sanitised and school maintenance staff sanitise all rooms before leaving the premises in the afternoon.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA):

The MOA, signed in May 2021, ensures greater clarity in that payment of and leave allowed to helpers solely working at The Breakfast Club is kept fully within the South African labour law. In the newly formulated MOA, rate of pay exceeds that laid down as the National Minimum Wage, and leave conditions are in agreement with those of Section 22 of the Basic Employment Conditions Act 1997.

Helpers employed by the schools but also, in agreement with the school, working for The Breakfast Club for 1 or 2 hours per day, continue to be paid by the Trust at the same rate of pay as those employees working solely for the Breakfast Club, but are otherwise seen as being in contract with the school itself.

Employees working solely for The Good Start Trust t/a The Breakfast Club, are in the process of being registered with the Labour Department for UIF.

Supervision:

Petra Sieblist, in South Africa on a 3 year visitor's visa for charity work, has supervised the Breakfast Club at Good Hope Seminary Junior School this year, due to Patsy Bagraim's severe ankle injury and recuperation from resulting surgery. Gaby Menegaldo assists Aletta Ashmore in supervising at St Mary's. These 4 women have met regularly to hold minuted meetings, to ensure a united approach to any issues that may have arisen.

Volunteers:

The number of volunteers has been restricted due to Covid health and safety protocol, but we are very grateful to a small number of dedicated volunteers whose cheerful weekly services help a great deal.

Free e'Pap sent home:

The average number of children eating at school on alternate days was about 100 at Good Hope, and 75 at St Mary's. This meant that a minimum of 175 children would go without breakfast if they were not at school. Numbers attending school did drop over the time of the pandemic, but we do not have school records on these numbers.

Up till September, close on 900 sachets of e'pap were sent home with those children who requested this, to cover their breakfasts on the alternate days when they would not be in school, and to cover school holidays. In this way we tried to ensure that we were providing nutritious breakfasts despite Covid related attendance measures. Further e'pap will be sent home to cover both October and December holidays.

Two occasions arose when the trustees agreed unanimously to provide e'Pap food parcels in July and August for 8 staff members at Good Hope Seminary Junior School, whose salaries had not been paid due to lack of funding received from unpaid school fees. The purpose of The Good Start Trust is to support the education of primary school learners, and our concern was that without these educators having salaries to feed themselves adequately, their learners' education would be severely and detrimentally affected. These staff were deeply grateful. We received a dedicated donation partially covering these handouts of e'Pap food parcels.

Donations:

Milk has been donated by private individuals, schools (eg St Cyprian's Lenten donation) as well as by churches (eg St Vincent de Paul Society, St Mary's Cathedral).

Fruit has been donated regularly by an apple farmer, and by individuals.

Other donations of eg washing up liquid or of wax wrap have been welcomed

Special mention should be made of a Gr 9 learner from Cape Town Torah High School, who donated well over 100 litres of long life milk and 18 bags of oranges as his service to the community. Thank you to Jarred Zolty.

THE SMART CLUB



What has helped us identify learners requiring the support of Smart club quickly this year, is the fact that Amy Haworth (Trustee) is now Learning Support Educator employed by the Western cape Education Department at both schools. Her recommendations have come through the Schools Based Support Team (SBST). An additional help has been Esmeralda Philipps' much needed advice regarding support of children on the Autistic Spectrum. Her years of work at Alpha School for the Autistic have been invaluable.

It has been a great pleasure to welcome a largely new and very skilful team of therapists to The Smart Club's work at both schools:

Counselling:

Grace Immelman, registered Counsellor (HPCSA practice no 0032 492) and qualified Foundation Phase Educator, has counselled up to 12 learners regularly since Term 2 began at Good Hope Seminary Junior School. St Mary's Primary has employed their own counsellor for some years, with whom we have been able to liaise.

Gross Motor Co-ordination Skills Sessions:

Helmién Jonker has continued to work weekly with the 2 Gr R classes at GHSJS, as well as Gr R, 1 and 2 at St Mary's. She has skilfully incorporated phonics and handwriting skills in her sessions. This means that over the year she has helped about 150 of the youngest learners with vital skills, increasing their confidence and performance in class.

Occupational Therapy:

Kris-Ann Hey (Reg: OT0082589) has worked one--one with learners 2 mornings a week at both schools since Term 2, from Gr 1-4. She carried out full assessments, wrote comprehensive reports and provided exercise schedules for use at home for each learner. She has noted improvement in pencil grip, in legibility of handwriting, and in confidence and ability to work independently in class in the children she works with. She has worked intensively with 8 learners.

Hearing Screening:

3 learners have been screened by the audiologist at Mary Kihn School for the Hearing Impaired. Two grade 1 learners were not speaking at the beginning of the year, and one Grade 2 boy seemed not to hear well. It was very helpful to learn that although the one grade 1 boy had a severe build up of wax hampering his hearing, he does not suffer from hearing loss. No hearing loss was detected in either of the other learners, and we have been able to explore other reasons for their lack of response to speech.

Speech Therapy:

Tracey Nell (Reg: ST 0007625) has worked for 2 mornings a week at both schools. She has been able to assist a Portuguese speaking learner at St Mary's. as she is TEFL trained. She has also been able to assess and work intensively one-to-one with learners who have a range of speech difficulties, from enunciation problems to attention deficit to autism. She has been delighted with the development of sound acquisition and response in the young learner who has autistic related speech difficulties.

Educational Psychologist's Assessments:

5 learners have been for full Educational Psychology assessments by Anel Annandale since June. Her comprehensive reports have enabled the schools to develop informed learning support strategies for these learners, some of whom will go for further assessments by either a Paediatric Neurologist or Psychiatrist.

Parental Consent, Contributions and Feedback: Parents are asked to attend a feedback session where they are explained the results of the assessments. They are also asked to make small financial contributions to both assessments and treatments, if they are able.

C. Child Protection Policy, Police Clearance and Volunteers' Agreements

Our **Child Protection Policy** was reviewed by the Trustees in June 2021

D. Media and Publicity

www.goodstart.org.za

FB: @goodstarttrust

Our website, has been revamped and is, when necessary, updated by **Social Happiness**. We thank Tamsin Kolbe and Michaela Marcus, her website designer.

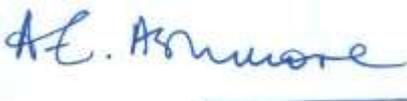
Facebook: Other than personal emails, Facebook has been our chief means of communicating the celebration of good news, making appeals for specific needs, and thanking those kind and generous donors who time and again meet those needs.

Parental Permission for Photographs: We only photograph children's faces provided we have signed permission to do so from parents/guardians. The lists of children who may have photographs taken, are securely kept and consulted whenever we do wish to take photographs.

E. Funding for 2022

It is clear that all funds donated are put to extremely good use, for the essential benefit of young children's education and futures. These children are the future of South Africa. Neither our Breakfast nor our Smart Club can continue without ongoing funding, provided by our generous donors.

As we look towards 2022, we will again be reliant on our donors to provide the means to support our efforts.

Signed: 

On behalf of the Trustees, **THE GOOD START TRUST**
Date: 30 September 2020

TRUSTEES, The Good Start Trust
Aletta Ashmore
Amy Haworth
Adrienne Millner
Esmerelda Phillips

ADDENDA:

- **Addendum A** Annual Financial Statements for the Financial Year 28 February 2021, L Rubin and Company Inc.
- **Addendum B1** Proposed Budget, 2022:
 - Breakfast Clubs at St Mary's Primary School and Good Hope Seminary Junior School
- **Addendum B2** Proposed Budget 2022:
 - Smart Club at St Mary's Primary School and Good Hope Seminary Junior School
- **Addendum D** Banking details for donations