

# chairperson's report

The end of 2013 saw the giant of African politics and leadership finally taking his well deserved rest. Bab' Madiba taught us so many things! We were very privileged to be in the country during the 10 days of National mourning, to bear witness to the telling of episodes and anecdotes of this great leaders life. The one story that still resonates with me is his deep love for children and how the Prison Warden chose to break the prison rules to allow Madiba to touch the child that Mama Madikizela-Mandela brought with her to Robben Island for a visit.

After his release, Madiba made it his business to spend time with and raise awareness to the plight of children in Africa and around the globe. He worked hard to ensure that the system that denied him and other parent's quality time with children was removed under his guard. This opened up opportunities for all of us never again to be isolated and taken away from our most precious gift, our children. As we celebrate his legacy and contribution to this country we are aware that many parents still face circumstances that deny them the opportunity to be good parents to their children.

Domestic conflict and violence, addiction, migrant labour, illness and death continues to over burden caregivers struggling to make ends meet. This impacts on their ability to create a better place for their children.

If we take anything from Madiba's legacy and life, we should ensure that we as parents make time to be with our children and be committed to remove any circumstances that could potentially keep us from being with them.



The Board would like to thank Dlanathi for making it easy for us to be with children and for teaching us how to play and learn together with them. Thank you .

Simanga Sithebe

# ceo's report

Our vision to use play to strengthen relationships, deal with loss and have an impact on the psycho social fabric of the communities in which we work has seen us achieve some great work in and with the communities in Swayimane in 2013 as we continue to develop a strong network of trained carers to help us build a better and safer environment for children.



**Why play?**  
It is accessible to all and a key indicator of a child's mental health.

Life for many rural families in South Africa is very hard given the impact of loss of family members, poverty and illness. The safest and effective care for children is provided within their families and community. Working with groups of children, youth, families and community based organizations builds circles of mutual support. We train key community members to use play and provide psycho social support within the community.

Trauma attacks one's sense of safety and makes it harder to care for self and others. Healing and rebuilding a sense of safety sets an important base for care. Creative and respectful reflection on difficulty and coping helps the child and adult see each other's vulnerability and strength. This sensitive awareness of each other is vital for strengthening relationships. Using play gives adult and child control, a means to connect, it is fun and enlivens the participants.

Rachel Rozentals-Thresher

Our mission is to bring hope and healing to children, youth and families using play for communication in communities affected by HIV, poverty and loss. We do this by mobilising the community and working in partnership to strengthen adult - child relationships so that safe spaces and positive care are provided.



# how have we achieved our vision in Swayimane in 2013

## Children

**2 538 children** participated in play for hope and healing programs during 2013. These were either supporting children through loss, supporting children struggling in school or special holiday programs.

## Families

**356 families** participated in family support programs using play. They reported experiencing a stronger relationship with over 600 children. The majority of the caregivers were between 50 and 70 of age, thus the children cared for are often grand-children. Parents are absent either because they have died or because they live away from home for employment purposes. Play and support to bring grannies and children together is much needed.

## Youth

Our program aims to enliven youth (using play suited to youth) and encourage them to be more active in their own lives and in the life of the community. Actions by youth exceeded our expectation in 2013.

Overall **344 youth** actively participated in community based youth groups, 184 of these being Teen Loss Groups in school.

**Nine active youth groups** with **160 youth** out of school supported each other to stay motivated towards their own learning and career goals, sustain income generation in the community and make a contribution to Swayimane. The youth groups have achieved their goals. One group made money through raising and selling chickens. A second group sustained a music and dance group over the year. These 9 youth groups individually and together ran 6 community based events reaching 845 other youth.

The youth valued the opportunity to meet and work together (groups save, make music, do drama, explore income generating projects), so much so that they requested support to set up the Swayimane Youth Care Network. The Network seeks to increase the number of groups and youth active in positive personal and group development in the community in 2014.

In the Nkululeko area in Swayimane there is a youth group called "world light" formed in January 2013 after having participated in a youth consultation process. Currently there are 22 active youth members who are out of school. Their Vision is to unite their Community through Art and have three main programmes that they have initiated:

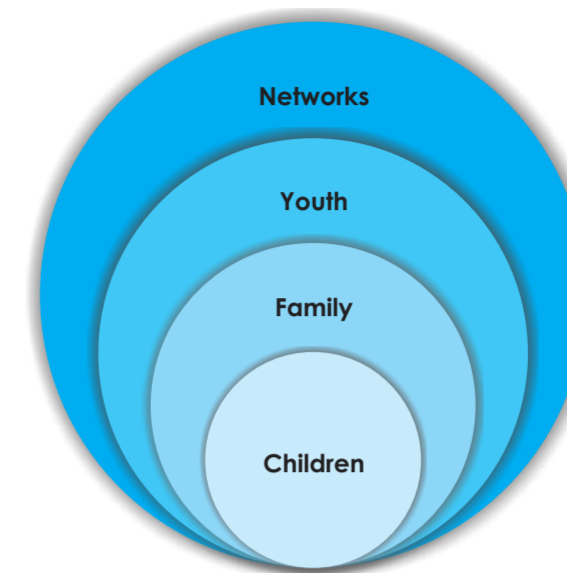
**Programme One** - Art Programmes: coordinate dance, singing and craft classes with youth in schools.

**Programme 2 and 3** - Child and Youth Support: they give motivational talks to youth in high schools and visit local community crèches where they assist with cleaning and playing with the children.

They identify disadvantaged families who cannot access help easily and offer ways of support.

The "world light" youth identified a household in their community where there was a parent and a child who were both disabled. The youth visited the family to introduce themselves and asked what they could do to assist the family. The family expressed the need for a better path from their home to the main road as they have to use a wheel chair . The youth agreed to participate and met over a number of days clearing and creating a pathway. Today, this family has direct safe access for the whole family to the main community road.

The youth sustained participation in their groups over the whole year. They ran 6 youth led, youth focused events (play days, sports events, talents show etc) in Swayimane serving a further 845 youth! We are incredibly proud of their commitment.



## Networks

Sustaining this work in the community long term requires Networks. This year two community led platforms have been established.

The first is with the **600 women** in Self Help groups in Swayimane. We have established a partner platform called 'Izethembiso (Promises in isiZulu) Support Group'. Their goal is to strengthen the Networking within the various self-help groups and the Zimele clusters to strengthen all families within and beyond the groups to improve care for children.

The second is with the Siyazama Support Group in Ward 12. Their goal is for 'Community members to hold hands together to assist children'. The group seeks to stand up for children's rights and act together for the protection of those rights. Rights to safety, education, family care and play are their focus. They want children to know they can do things for themselves and know that they have support from adults. A long term dream is to have a community based resource centre that supports families with learning, play, support groups, soup kitchen for families in great difficulty.

A number of women from the self -help groups (SHG's) were trained to run Holiday Programs and ran these programs for 505 children in the area surrounding the SHG over school holidays in July and December.

We also build the capacity of existing responsive structures within the community to respond to children's emotional needs through play. We have trained **134 adults** in Swayimane in 2013. Of those trained 65 have done more than 1 set of training which means that they have built upon the introductory training to develop more skill to care for and support children through play, either focused on bereavement support, or school support or family support.

Our highest achievement of the year is that **12 women** trained in Swayimane have already run 4 bereavement support groups serving 48 children independently. This means that they have completed training, been supervised through co-facilitating a group with us and been mentored in setting up and running a group independently. From the initial training to full independent completion of these groups requires 9 months of working together! These women have shown great commitment and have developed considerable skill in working with children.

We look forward to supporting them further in 2014 as they serve even more children.

**Two youth having participated in a teen loss groups reflected:**

- Before I used to think that I'm not good enough to participate with my peers because I'm poor and can't afford anything that some of my peers have but now I accept who I am and know that I have a lot to teach my peers - 15 year old boy.
- My relationships with other people were not good because everyone around me had parents and I didn't and that used to frustrate me a lot and therefore I didn't like other people because they had their parents there with them but now I realise that I cannot exist in isolation and have accepted that it is not other peoples fault that my parents died - 14 year old girl.



**A 12 year old girl from Engqayizivele school said after participating in a bereavement group:**

'I live a very difficult life and had a very heavy heart I used to hate my parents for leaving me and putting me in this difficult circumstance that I'm in now. After going to the group I feel a lot happier now, I know that it's not my parents fault or my fault they are gone, talking about my experience in the groups has been very helpful'



# financials 2013

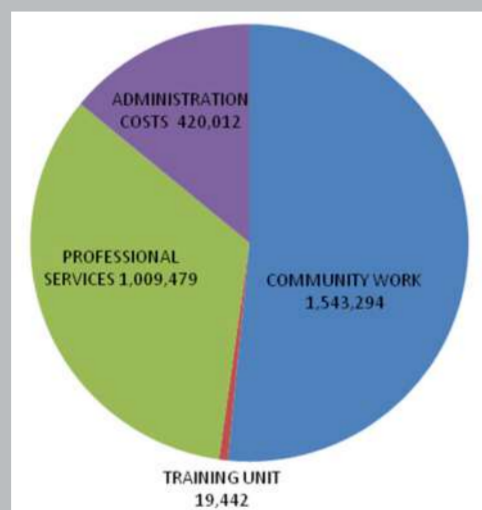
by Sven Jager

## Year ended 31 December 2013

In 2013 dlanathi has once again received tremendous financial support of our funders and donors. In turn we have carefully managed the financial affairs of the organization and are blessed to present this summary of our financials for the year ended 31 December 2013.

**Income and expenditure:** Funding income amounted to R3 014 365 (2012: R2 630 400); Donations R17 749 (2012: R10 120); Net finance income R46 190 (2012: R66 317); General Income R120 363 (2012: R76 635). Expenditure total R2 992 227 (2012: R2 808 350).

**Balance Sheet:** We purchased a motor vehicle for community staff travel, increasing efficiency and safety of the staff. Fixed assets amounted to R90 762 (2012: R287). Sustainability funds invested with Chest Consortium R200 000 (2012: R200 000). Return on this investment for 2012/2013 is 17% (2012/2013: 21%). Another R200 000 has been added to the investment after balance sheet date, invested in April 2014. We are grateful to funders that have contributed 1% of their funding for the year to the sustainability fund, amounting to R16 883 and these are included in the R200 000 invested for 2014. Cash holding at year end R931 370 (2012: R938 631). 75% of 2014 budget was committed at year end (2012: 54%).



## Financial Contributors

With gratitude we wish to thank all those who have invested in our work this year.

- Funders**  
Pietermaritzburg & District Community Chest  
Ken Collins Trust  
IQRAA Trust  
National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund  
DG Murray Trust  
HCI Foundation  
Hulamin  
Uthando Doll Project (Australia)  
Firelight Foundation (USA)  
Kindernothilfe (Germany)
- Terre Des Hommes Schweiz (Switzerland)**  
Stephen Lewis Foundation (Canada)  
TDH - Imagine Youth (Switzerland)  
Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project
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Uthando Doll Project : Books and dolls
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# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

**TOTAL REACH 2009-2013**

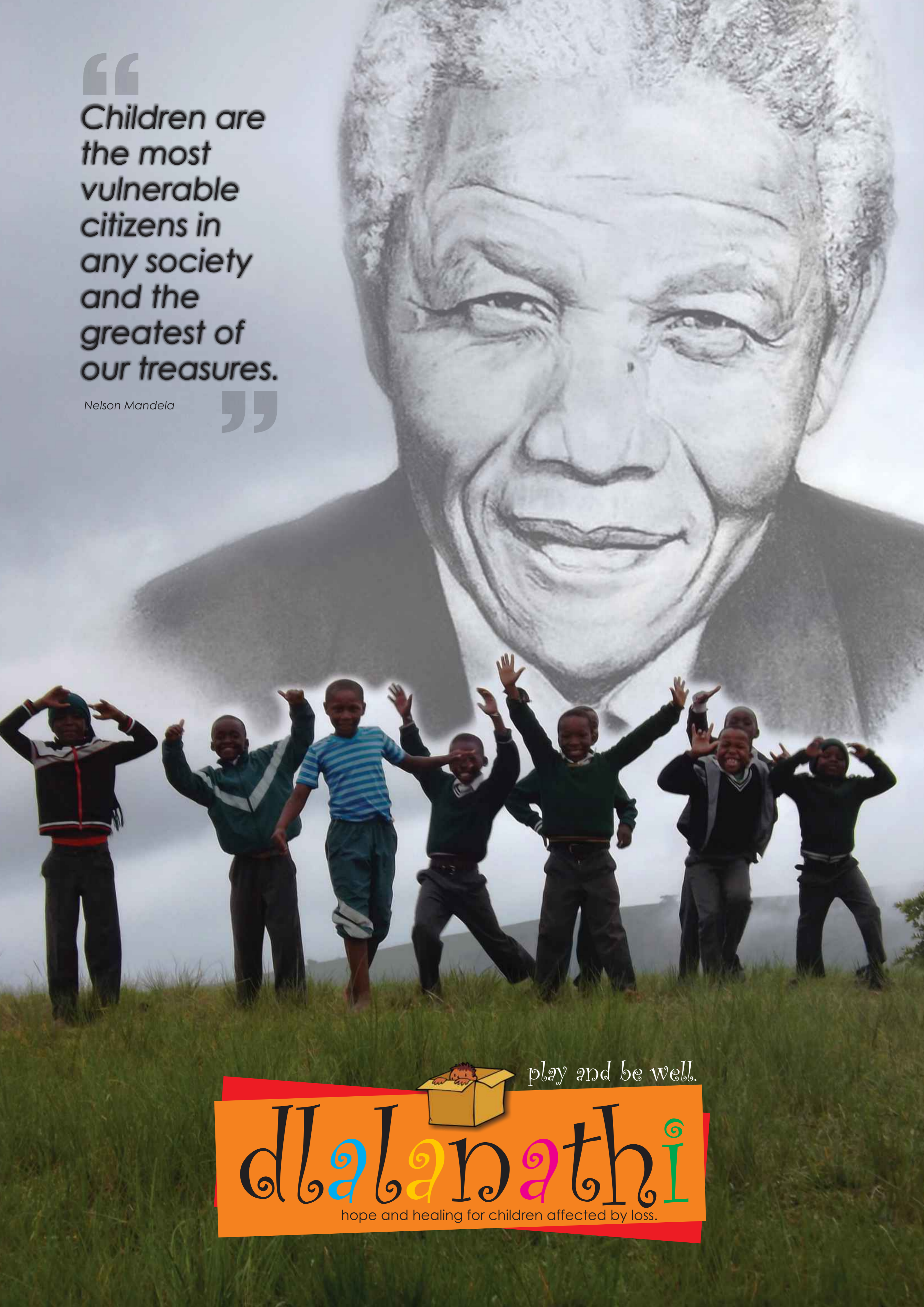
|          | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| ADULTS   | 692  | 1700 | 1210 | 894  | 611  |
| FAMILIES | 282  | 499  | 495  | 552  | 356  |
| YOUTH    |      | 1490 | 846  | 924  | 1189 |
| CHILDREN | 1211 | 3500 | 3950 | 2330 | 2328 |

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Children are  
the most  
vulnerable  
citizens in  
any society  
and the  
greatest of  
our treasures.

Nelson Mandela

”



play and be well.

dlaLanathi

hope and healing for children affected by loss.