



ANNUAL REPORT

01 APRIL 2016 – 31 MARCH 2017

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22 JULY 2017

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PBO: 130002948



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

It remains a privilege to continue helping with the challenging work of this Society and its committed volunteers and staff. The activities for the year have been detailed in reports by the Treasurer Ms. V Sewkuran, Executive Director, Mrs. Shamila Surjoo, The Rehabilitation Committee chaired by Mr S Qwabe, the Fund-Raising Committee chaired by Mr D Moodley and Administration Committee chaired by Mrs. S Naidoo. There are also reports of the Southern Light Social Club, The Academy of Learning chaired by Mr HB Singh, and of the Pietermaritzburg and Verulam Regional Committees chaired by Mr D Singh and Mrs. M Archary respectively. These detailed reports will be circulated at the Annual General Meeting, be available on the Society website and made available on request.

As has become the practice, although this report and the other reports presented are for the period 1 April last year to 31 March 2017, they will again narrate what happened until the end of June 2017. Of course, the financial report is limited to the period under review.

OBJECTIVES

Our objectives remain the provision of services aimed at ensuring that Blind and partially-sighted, Deaf and hard-of-hearing as well as Deafblind clients as far as possible, are able to lead productive, meaningful and happy lives side by side with all other members of society. The detailed reports again show that services include training, employment and social work services to all our adult clients and admission and placement of children at schools wherever possible. As was said last year, for Blind and partially-sighted clients, training in mobility and orientation and daily living skills remain crucial and have been intensified. Communication, with a special focus on sign language, remains the backbone of services to benefit our Deaf and hard-of-hearing clients. The importance of the objectives of prevention and early detection must also not be forgotten. This report will within context, highlight some important aspects of our work.

SENIOR STAFF CHANGES AND MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURING

Mr Nad Ramsarup, our Deputy Director and Mr Anand Naicker who managed the Pietermaritzburg Regional Committee had regrettably stopped serving the Society because they became too ill. We will miss them greatly and I would like to acknowledge the length and breadth of their contribution to our work.

Their medical boarding meant that we had to reconsider whether the structure of the Society was appropriate. The Management Committee and the Executive Committee came to the conclusion that it was no longer necessary to have a new deputy

director. Mrs. Surjoo remains the Director and there are 3 Managers who report to that office:

- The Manager : Rehabilitation and Development, occupied by Ms. Dinalise Swart, the previous Social Work Manager
- The Manager : Administration is Francois Naude who was the Administration Co-ordinator previously
- The Manager: Pietermaritzburg Regional Committee is still to be appointed.

WORK CENTRES

Some progress can be reported here. There are now 3 work centers in Verulam, Pietermaritzburg and Durban. The work centre in Durban concentrates on basketry, assembly work as well as beadwork which has been introduced very recently.

The Pietermaritzburg work centre boasts a hydroponic agricultural unit and traditional agriculture with a retail shop to be established soon.

The Verulam work centre is still in its infancy.

Our work centre clients, regardless of disability, continue to work together and help one another.

Our partnership with the Department of Labour continues. We are grateful for subsidies for work in Pietermaritzburg and in Durban which in this financial year amounted to about R1.7m. Other government agencies also provide employment funding in particular the Independent Development Trust which made available about R818 440.00 over a period of 3 years. The challenge reported on last year that the Centers are far from self-sufficient. We still seek a creative manager with marketing, costing and coordinating skills to make these projects viable.

PARTNERSHIPS

Our partnerships with other government departments also continue. We again mention the ongoing partnership with the Department of Health in relation to mobility and orientation and daily living skills, in Zululand. The Department has contributed R 848 720.00 towards this work. As from April this year this partnership has expanded to include the provision of independence living skills service to blind and partially sighted people in Vryheid, uNongoma, Czeza, eDumbe and uKukoo.

The tripartite partnership among ourselves, the Department of Public Service and Administration, and the Department of Health funded by international agency, Tirelo Bosha continues. This project which is the provision of sign language training to health workers and professionals in public hospitals and clinics in the eThekweni Region is well under way. South African sign language training to frontline hospital staff started in August 2016 and we have completed training 14 groups (208 staff) at a cost of R679,100.00

The Department of Social Development has again partially subsidised social work services with an amount of R1.44m. We emphasise again that the full salaries of social workers are not covered and that the Department continues to pay its own social workers more than those employed by the Society and other NGO welfare organisations which are unable to raise the amount needed. The problem of late subsidies continue. Rumours of subsidy and posts cuts abound. We together with other organisations continue to talk with the Department and, although on tenterhooks, are grateful that the cuts have not yet been made.

Our partnerships with private enterprise continue. The John and Esther Ellerman Memorial Trust Fund has contributed an amount of R 309 900.00 to mobility and orientation services.

The National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund contributed about R1.1m to various projects

We note the substantial bequest of Estate Late Bischofberger in the sum of R 232,801.75.

We also received R 86 736.00 from the Ubuntu Community Chest.

Finally we mention the generous support of the Moosa family of Pietermaritzburg for the work of the Pietermaritzburg Regional Committee.

Companies like Hesto Harnesses, Glenwood Spar and KFC provide employment opportunity for our Deaf and hard-of-hearing clients. We are pleased to mention the beginnings of a relationship with CCI who provide computer call-centre services and are keen to employ deaf and hard of hearing clients in their line of work.

We again emphasize the importance of this non-funding support.

We thank each donor and partner sincerely and look forward to their on-going support.

FINANCES

The total income for the last financial year was R14 183 263.00 against an expense of R12 317 695.00. The remaining surplus is earmarked for South African Sign Language and sport development.

PREVENTION

We continue to provide optometric and audiological services at the Society. We also continue to increase awareness of the causes of blindness and deafness and the importance of early detection and seek a funder so this work can be done more effectively.

In addition, we urgently seek a partner for a project which is as exciting as it will be fundamentally useful

concerning early detection. The idea is simple-we want to create a team of 2 or 3 people skilled in detection of hearing and vision difficulties and armed with necessary equipment to run a mobile service which ensures that every child in the first year of school is programmatically examined. We will start in Durban and environs and depending on funding move throughout Kwa-Zulu Natal. We truly hope that the importance of the project will be recognised and that it will become national one day.

ADVOCACY

Advocacy has been a vital part of our work. The talk-sign campaign is a continuous one with Talk-Sign Day being the second Friday of March each year. It is aimed at inculcating an understanding of how important sign language is for deaf and hard of hearing people to integrate in society. The White-Cane Day draws attention to Blind people's need and ability to be competent, mobile and independent. Awareness and information programmes are conducted at mainstream schools, clinics and government departments especially during Child-Protection Week and around Youth Day, were celebrated during this reporting period. There are a number of activities aimed at promoting Eye Care Awareness Month, Albinism Awareness Month, Deaf Awareness Month, World Retina Week and Deafblind Awareness Week, including presentations by Deafblind people.

GENERAL

The rest of the work of our Society continues in its usual way. Funding remains our biggest challenge. We must draw attention to our Debit Order programme which can help a long way if members of the public are persuaded to contribute relatively small monthly amounts. We must also draw attention to the fact that the period under review has seen the formation of the company, BonaUzwe (Pty) Ltd. Society is the sole shareholder and beneficiary and it is likely to be of considerable advantage as an empowerment company.

Unfortunately, as was mentioned in previous years, our volunteer base continues to become smaller. We need to work harder at attracting young, diverse volunteers. I would like to thank all volunteers for their priceless contribution especially those mentioned in the Fundraising report.

As usual our executive team and staff remain our backbone - they go beyond the call of duty under difficult working conditions. We are very grateful to them.



Justice Z. M. Yacoob
President

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

For the effective functioning of any organisation the admin staff plays a pivotal role. Their responsibility can be overwhelming as they are in direct contact with the public at large. The handling of queries and grievances need honesty, a working knowledge of the society at large and the services provided.

1. Staff News

During the period 1st April 2016 until 31st March 2017, the following staff changes were noted:

1.1 Resignations

Ms K Delamoney	Social Worker	March
Mr R Nthengwe	O & M Practitioner	May
Mr S Ngcobo	O & M Trainee	August
Mr N Naidoo	Admin Co-ordinator	October

1.2 Appointments

Ms Simangile Duma	Social Auxiliary Worker	April
Ms Yougendrie Moodley	Social Worker	May
Sifiso Makhathini	CBR Worker	February
Ms. Nonhlanhla Makhanya	Social Auxiliary Worker	March – May 2017
Mr Francois Naude	Admin Co-ordinator	December

Beadwork Training - May

Duduzile Mtolo - Trainer		
Bongiwe Cecilia Coka	Sylvia Siphindile Nzaba	
Busisiwe Nala	Mbali Pretty Mlambo	
Mbali Pretty Majikisela	Immaculate Nondumiso Khoza	
Fikisile Engenline Cele		
Thilendri Charlette Naidoo	Public SASL	June
Yaganaygie Pillay	Public SASL	June
Wilberforce T Ndlela	Music	June
Colin Zikode	Sport – Blind	June
Sbonelo Comfort	Sport - Deaf	June
Eunice Mthembu	Southern Light	June
Siyanda Mkhize	Sign Language Interpreter	June

1.3 Medical Boarding

Mr Nad Ramsarup	Deputy Director	March
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2. Independence Skills Training – Zululand

The Service level Agreement was signed with the Department of Health on 29th March 2017 for a three year period (2018 – 2020). The provision of Orientation and Mobility skills and Skills of Daily Living were extended to eDumbe, uPhongola, Nongoma, Czeza, Vryheid and uKukoo and also continues in Ulundi.

3. Buildings

Due to the age of the building, ongoing problems exist. Water seeping into the building through the roof top and entering into the electrical connections of the lift, resulted in the lift being out of service. The problem was given attention to. However, subsequent to this, it was found that cracks on the roof top front walls (road facing) caused water to seep through. Urgent building repair work was required on the roof top level leading to the Lift Shaft as water seepage interfered with the lift service. LDM consulted with the structural engineers, mechanical engineers, waterproofing company and building contractor to resolve the problem. An amount of R200 000 was allocated to this.

Fire and Emergency

Eagle Fire undertook servicing of all fire equipment.

Fire drills are conducted at regular intervals.

4. **Audiology and Optometric Centre**

Services in this area continues with Optometry every Tuesday and Ear and Audiology every alternate Tuesday. A range of sunglasses was introduced to the centre.

Funding opportunities are being explored for an ear and eye screening outreach programme at early childhood development centres in the eThekweni region.

5. **Salary Increments 2016/2017**

The Society values the staff in its employ and despite the tough economic period, an increase of 5.5% was awarded to all permanent staff in Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

6. **National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund**

Sports Sector – Goal Ball and indoor sport equipment were purchased. Other equipment and sports gear are on order.

2013 Arts Sector Project – funds still on hand are to be utilized for the printing of the SASL book and training in SASL.

Arts Sector – Final progress report was sent on the 21 February 2017.

No feedback to the 2 applications made in 2015 to the Arts Sector and the Charities Sector.

7. **Insurance**

Insurance cover for both Durban and Pietermaritzburg were renewed with AIG through Lapis Re Risk as the Brokers.

One Toyota Yaris was written off after a motor vehicle accident in December 2016.

The Switchboard was also replaced after a power surge.

The front lift electrical box had to be replaced after the initial water problem.

All claims were honored.

8. **Work Centre for the Blind and Deaf**

New budget for 2016/2017 financial year was submitted to the Department of Labour. DOL conducted a monitoring visit on the 2nd and 3rd June in Pietermaritzburg and Durban. The Work Plan for 2016/2017 was signed with the new approved budget – R1 741 279.00.

PRC Workshop – as from April 2015, all staff at the Workshop received a stipend of R500 per month and contribute to UIF.

Mr F Naude is also responsible for management in this area.

8.1 **Basketry Workshop**

The team continues with repair work and completion of orders.

8.2 **Assembly/Packaging**

Work from Colliers Tool & Die still continues with production being monitored on a daily basis.

8.3 **Beadwork**

Training in beadwork commenced in May 2016 with a group of Deaf persons.

9. **Independent Development Trust (IDT)**

The IDT once again approved 80 posts with the programme commencing as from 8th June 2016 to January 2017. Payment of R80 per day for 14 days from June to October and R85 per day from November to January 2017.

New tender call was made for the next 3 year funding (2018 – 2020) - submission was handed in January 2017. However, another call was made with the initial call being disregarded and all new tender documents were submitted on 19th April 2017. No further feedback received.

**MRS S SURJOO
DIRECTOR**

10. **Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Youth Build Programme**

National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and Catalyx Consulting offered 10 youth with disability the opportunity of joining the programme and as from July 2016 until February 2017, they were employed at the Society.

11. **Services SETA**

Following an application to the Services Seta for Internship funding, 11 candidates commenced their internship on 6th April 2016, each receiving a monthly stipend of R2 500.

Services Seta conducted an Induction on the 15th April 2016 and undertook a Monitoring Visit on 4th July 2016.

The LPO 4 Learnership posts were cancelled by Society as further clarity was sought for the future.

Call for applications for the next financial year opened in mid-August and closed on the 17th September – 20 posts were applied for in the LPO Level 5. Nine interns were engaged in April 2017.

12. **ETDP Seta**

Proposals were sent to the ETDP Seta for:

- Computer training for the Blind and Deaf
- SA Sign Language Facilitator training for the Deaf
- Moderator and Assessor Training for the Blind and Deaf.

An SLA and MOU was signed with training commencing from March 2017.

13. **Registration of PTY**

BonaUzwe Creative (Pty) Ltd was registered on 12th September 2016. New bank account was opened.

14. **Department of Health SA Sign Language Training to Frontline Staff**

The training of frontline hospital staff which commenced in August 2016 with 14 groups was completed to date.

The project is closely monitored by the Department of Health and the funder, Tirelo Bosha through regular progress reports and onsite visits.

CONDOLENCES

We express our condolences to all who lost dear ones in the period under review.

CONCLUSION

With the vast array of work undertaken the admin staff needs to be complemented. The staff put their shoulders to the wheels to ensure the operations run smoothly as their efforts assist our clients. This is our ultimate goal.

**MRS S NAIDOO
DEPUTY PRESIDENT: ADMINISTRATION**

Preamble

The purpose of fund raising is to build relationships. What this means for us at the KZN Blind and Deaf Society is to constantly appreciate how people come to our aid and how they can stay with us and more importantly how they can develop with us as an organisation. Even though fund raising is about building relationships, we measure our success in the amount of money we raise to meet and enhance the quality of our service delivery mandate for the benefit of our clients viz, Blind, Deaf, Deafblind and those who are multiply disabled.

The following report highlights the activities engaged in during the period:

Diaries 2016

Special Diaries were printed for Crow, Coastal Farmers and Transmed Shipping.

A High Tea was held on 20th April 2017 to acknowledge longstanding diary supporters and Certificates of Appreciation were handed out.

Business House Tin Placement

The above project continues with close monitoring from the Fund Raising Committee. However, the decline in income due to various factors may see this project being terminated shortly. The Society records its appreciation to the community for supporting the initiative and to the business houses for continuing to keep our collection tins at their stores.

Talk Sign Day – 10th March 2017

Alice Leah of The A List was engaged to manage the Talk Sign Campaign as from October 2016 to March 2017. The Launch was held at the Pavilion Hotel on 21st October 2016 with at least 70 persons from media and business in attendance.

Chateaux Gateaux held a Media Launch on the 1st March at their Durban North store and announced their stores in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng as points of sale. Extensive print, radio and television media coverage ensured that the Talk Sign brand reached a majority audience.

Trustees Banquet – 4th June 2016

The above Banquet was held at the KZN Sharks Board. Adv. T N Aboobaker was the Key Note Speaker. Dr. J Mthethwa, Chief Director: Public Health & Communicable Disease, Department of Health – KZN delivered an address re the partnership between the Society and DOH. Dukes Combo kept the dance enthusiasts on their feet.

Ms Feroza Fakir and the learners of V N Naik School for the Deaf provided entertainment during the formal programme.

Charity Golf Day – 25th May 2016

The Society held yet another successful Golf Day with a full field at the event. Once again, the following sponsors must be thanked:

- Eugene Naidoo – sponsorship of Green Fees
- Improchem – sponsorship of Prizes
- Rajen Rajpal of Kennedy Caterers – sponsorship of Meals.

Special thanks to the Golf Committee – Mr S Singh, Mr R Rajpal, Mrs A Hanooman, Mr E Naidoo and Mr P Parumaul, for their ongoing leadership and guidance.

Street Collection – 28th May

Volunteers collected at 28 shopping malls within the eThekweni Municipality.

Gold Cup – 30th July 2016

Adari's Caterers provided the meals for the day. Visually impaired artists provided the entertainment. An amount of R 31 395.00 was realized from the above event.

Casual Day - 2nd September 2016

A total of 10 523 stickers was sold with a profit of R 43 843.50 realised.

Dinner in the Dark – 10th September 2016

The above event was held at The Great Ilanga, Elangeni Hotel with tables sold at R5 000.

A Live Band, Crescendos performed. The Ding-a-Lings performed a comedy act in the dark.

Race Day 2016 – 18th November

The Society partnered with the PMB Community Chest on this event. SANCO sponsored the Race Day.

An amount of R181 678.52 was realized.

Valentines Ball – 11th February 2017

A sub-committee was set up to plan this event. Mrs S Singh and Mrs U Sewbuccas together with Mrs V Sewkuran, Mrs S Surjoo and Mr D Moodley provided additional support. The event was held at Elangeni Hotel with tickets at R500 per person.

White Cane Rally – 15th October 2016

A highly successful White Cane Rally was held in central Durban, in partnership with the eThekweni Municipality. The Rally commenced from Albert Park and ended at the Durban City Hall.

The Mayor, Councillor Zandile Gumede addressed the participants.

Public Relations

During the period under review, public awareness presentations were held at Schools, Shopping Malls, Police Stations, Government offices, corporate companies, various Clinics, Hospitals and other NGOs.

Feature on SABC 2 An Nur

The Society was profiled on the lifestyle programme, An Nur on SABC3 on the 22nd May 2016. The video was used at various events of the Society to promote its work. The link to the video was posted on the Society Facebook page.

80th Anniversary – KZNBDS

The KZNBDS 80th Anniversary was held at the Durban City Hall on Thursday, 20th October 2016 with about 240 guests in attendance. The City provided the venue, meals, sound and entertainment. Councillor Bridgette

MRS S SURJOO
DIRECTOR

D MOODLEY
DEPUTY PRESIDENT: FUNDRAISING

REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

The reporting period proved to be an exciting one for the Rehabilitation and Development department with its steadfast focus on the development of supplementary skills of the existing staff combined with the arrival of new staff with a variety of fresh skill sets to share. These skills were used by each team member in the voracious pursuit of providing quality and relevant services to our beneficiaries.

The active search to provide relevant services swiftly highlighted the ongoing stigma, myths and misperceptions that still clouded our beneficiaries and the continued challenges they faced in having their needs met. The Rehabilitation and Development department rallied and ensured that a substantial amount of time and effort was directed to advocacy and awareness initiatives, as is apparent from the achievements and reports for the department during the reporting period.

SOCIAL WORK REPORT

Statistics of Beneficiaries That Received Social Work Services per Area of Operation for the reporting period:

Area	Blind/Partially Blind Beneficiaries	Deaf/Partially Deaf Beneficiaries	Deafblind Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries with Multiple Disabilities:	Total
Chatsworth	19	14	-	1	34
Durban	74	75	-	9	158
Inanda	55	50	-	8	113
KwaMashu	92	76	3	5	176
Phoenix	27	27	1	3	58
Verulam	30	13	-	2	45
Tongaat	9	9	-	-	18
Stanger	21	25	-	-	46
Pinetown	57	51	3	8	119
Umlazi	22	140	8	-	170
Other Areas:	5	13	1	1	20
Total beneficiaries that received social work services					957

ACHIEVEMENTS

Awareness campaigns

- Numerous awareness campaigns were conducted by social workers in the reporting period with the aim of advocating for our beneficiaries to have access to basic services such as RDP housing and social grants.

- A variety of awareness and information programmes were conducted with learners at the schools that the Society services, as well as learners from mainstream schools throughout the reporting period. Special attention was given to these programmes during the commemoration of Child Protection week in May 2016 and Youth Day on 16 June 2016. Issues such as identifying

abuse, safety, the consequences of substance abuse, bullying, sexuality, teen pregnancy, as well as the sensitisation of learners on interacting with Deaf and Blind youth.

- The Rehabilitation and Development team participated in a variety of activities to promote Deafblind Awareness Week. This included awareness presentations and motivational talks by Deafblind persons from the Society at clinics and other establishments, as well as a radio interview with the Social Work Supervisor on East Coast Radio aimed at promoting employment opportunities for Deafblind persons.
- Women's Day Programs were held in August for the Stanger, Phoenix and Pinetown area clients. The programs focused on appreciation of women and creating a platform for women empowerment in the disability sector.
- Eye Care Awareness Month, Albinism Awareness Month, Deaf Awareness Month, and World Retina Week were celebrated during this reporting period. Social Workers engaged in numerous public education and awareness programs. 43 Employees at Hesto Harnesses benefitted from a presentation on Deaf awareness on 13 September 2016. 27 Employees at Celrose Clothing engaged in a similar program on 28 September 2016.
- Several hospitals and clinics were targeted for sensitisation programmes such as Dorothy Nyembe Clinic in Umlazi, Pinetown Clinic, RK Khan Hospital, Stanger hospital, as well as with Community Care Workers at Cato Manor Clinic to assist them in their work with Deaf and Blind persons that they care for.
- In commemoration of Albinism Awareness Month, a Social Worker did a very creative presentation at KwaGinga Primary School on 20 September 2016 with the use of drama entitled "The White Lion" to educate the learners about Albinism and reinforced that no matter what we look like on the outside we are all the same on the inside. Learners pledged to treat all people with respect and dignity irrespective of differences. 1098 Learners were reached. A Social Worker arranged for Pastor Mathew Dumakude to engage in a riveting interview in commemoration of Albinism Awareness Month. He was able to help create awareness about the condition and dispel some of the myths associated with it. The interview took place on 23 September 2016 and is available for viewing on the Society's Facebook page.
- The Society has engaged with ChildLine in a program launched with DeafKids International with the aim of creating better access for Deaf children to protection services. 14 Persons from different fields of child protection services were trained on 25th October by the Society Social Worker.
- 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children, World HIV/AIDS Day and International day for People with Disabilities were celebrated during this reporting period. Social Workers engaged

in numerous public education and awareness programs.

Client Development:

- One social worker motivated a Blind client who has never left his home since he became Blind, to come to our offices. The client suffers from depression and reported an improvement in his mood after the visit.
- Social workers assisted the Durban School for the Hearing Impaired with trauma counselling to over 50 learners that witnessed a fellow learner's tragic death in a vehicle accident.
- A Deafblind client needed a Braille watch for assistance, but had trouble affording one. A social worker facilitated a personal sponsorship for the client.
- A Job readiness group program was held with clients in KwaDukuza. Some of the sessions concentrated on conduct and work etiquette and mock interviews were role-played by participants.
- Numerous support services were provided to learners at some of the schools for the Deaf during this reporting period; schools included Fulton, V.N. Naik and Kwathintwa Schools. Support ranged from dealing with issues of child abuse, depression, suicide risk and rape. Social Workers engaged with specialist stakeholders to assist in these matters.
- The Parent Support group of the Multi-Disabled Programme has finally reached the point where participants are becoming more independent and would be in a position to continue their own program with limited input from the Social Worker; they will be able to identify and support other women in their communities who require the same support.
- A Life Skills Program with participants of the NYDA Program at the Society was conducted throughout October 2016 by two Social Workers and included 8 sessions covering topics such as self-knowledge, assertiveness, goal-setting, time-management and stress-management. The participation was very good and some participants reported that they felt they learned very valuable information and gained a great deal of knowledge.
- On 27 September 2016 a development session was held with staff from the work centre by a Social Worker on social work services and team work. Another session on Respect and Tolerance took place on 27 October 2016; the session included, "the importance of respecting one another despite differences", and "how to approach each other in respectful and appropriate ways, especially in the workplace."
- A social worker delivered a presentation on Behaviour and Ethics in a Class Situation on 15 November 2016, to students of the Academy of Learning as a follow up on a concern of a client that students did not treat one another with respect; 27 learners were reached and learners reported that it was a valuable presentation.

- Advocacy work was done in the case of a Deaf child who was a victim of rape whose case was thrown out of court due to lack of an SASL interpreter. Legal Resource Centre worked with the Society to assist in the case.

- The social work manager attended a workshop by DSD on Disability policy on 8 and 9 March 2017 with the aim of developing our knowledge around these important policies.

Staff Development:

- Social workers participated in a variety of internal training in the reporting period about topics such as the Autism Condition, understanding Albinism, types of disabilities, conflict resolution skills, counselling skills, conducting Community Work, Bereavement Counselling, as well as time-management and planning tools.
- To celebrate Employee Wellness Week, Social workers took part in a teambuilding exercise held on 24 June 2016 at the Botanical Gardens; it focused on building team cohesion and improving communication between them to ensure even better service delivery to clients.
- Meetings were held amongst the Job Placement Officer, Social Workers and the Orientation and Mobility team to ensure a good working process and the smooth flow of case referrals.
- The service points established at clinics in all areas of operation have created multiple opportunities for social workers to network with relevant stakeholders, which will help them when engaging in public awareness and advocating for client needs.
- On 18 November 2016, a social worker attended a workshop on Restorative Justice with the aim of having a better understanding of mediation interventions with families.

INDEPENDENCE SKILLS TRAINING

The Society employs a total of four Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Practitioners. They are based in eThekweni, Umgungundlovu and Zululand Districts of KwaZulu- Natal. In response to the lack of qualified O&M Practitioners to provide Blind and partially blind people with essential white cane navigation skills as well as training in skills of daily living, the Society started independence training with a strong focus on rehabilitation under its Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program in 2005. The Society is proud to announce that it now has eighteen CBR Workers providing independence skills training to the Blind and partially blind people in KwaZulu-Natal. The rehabilitation and development process undertaken by our O&M Practitioners and CBR Workers ensures greater independence which boosts our client's confidence, self-esteem, state of health and emotional well-being. Even today, the rehabilitation work done by the O&M practitioners is a very scarce skill in our country. One of the core functions of the Society is rehabilitating Blind or partially Blind people by teaching independence skills and so facilitating access to education, further healthcare, social security and employment. The rehabilitation services to the Blind in the Districts where we already have a presence have been highly beneficial. It has added great value to the quality of life of the clients.

Statistics in terms of Independence skills training for the reporting period:

Ethekweni	Umgungundlovu	Zululand	Newcastle	Total
Number of Clients identified for Training				
150	208	620	16	994
Number of Clients trained in Skills of Daily Living				
54	22	521	16	613
Number of Clients trained in terms of Orientation and Mobility				
131	55	44	16	246
Number of Clients on the Waiting List				
81	110	180	0	371

- A total of 994 blind and partially blind clients were identified and trained during this reporting period.
- 197 Family members of clients received blindness sensitization and sighted guide technique training.
- 90 Clients were referred to various government departments, schools, clinic, and old age homes for various services and to Sassa for grant applications.
- 80 Public awareness and Blindness sensitization campaigns were undertaken with more than 38000 people reached through the print media, school visits, clinics/hospitals and radio.

- The Eye Care Awareness campaign in Zululand continues and many people were referred to clinics and hospitals for primary health care services.
- Four educators were trained as CBR Workers at Newcastle and they are based at the Young Woman Christian Special School. They are currently training 16 new clients in CBR.
- The International White Cane Day celebration that took the form of the White Cane Rally on 15 October 2016 was a success. It was hosted in Durban central from Botha Park through West Street to the city hall. 120 persons participated in the event.

JOB PLACEMENT

ACTIVITY / PROJECT	DEAF	BLIND	TOTALS
Number of Placements in the Open Labour Market	36	06	42
Number of placements in the Society's Work Centre	26	04	30
Number placed in Learnerships	02	42	44
Number of Clients who benefited from Job Skills Workshops	96	02	98
Number of clients receiving one-on-one counselling/job preparation	154	26	180
Pre-Placement / Post Placement Support	73	12	85
TOTALS	387	92	479

Number of companies engaged with, to promote Employment of Blind and Deaf persons (number includes existing employers of Blind and Deaf persons)	97
Sensitization trainings conducted	08

	Blind	Deaf	Total
Number of Clients on the Job Search Database	204	426	630

SPORT DEVELOPMENT: ACTIVITIES:

- **Blind Sport**

Blind Cricket: Practice sessions with 15 players took place twice a month during this reporting period. Players made good progress in developing their cricket skills. Twelve players were selected as part of the KZN Blind Cricket team to represent KwaZulu-Natal.

Goalball: Training sessions were held twice a month with 12 participants.

- **Deaf Sport**

Mr. Sibonelo Buthelezi trained a group of 14 players in volleyball, 15 players in netball and 12 in soccer.

MRS D SWART
MANAGER: REHABILITATION & DEVELOPMENT

CONCLUSION

The Rehabilitation and Development Department looks forward to the continuous professional development of staff to ensure that services continue to be provided with an even higher level of commitment and passion to our beneficiaries than before. We hope to have beneficiaries initiating programs themselves and forming an integral part of the advocacy and awareness work that the department has in its course, to ensure that each and every beneficiary becomes the catalyst for change in their own lives and plays an active role in their self-empowerment an ultimate complete independence.

S QWABE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT: REHABILITATION & DEVELOPMENT

KZNBDS ACADEMY OF LEARNING

INTRODUCTION

Clay P. Bedford said "You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives."

During the reporting period the Academy of Learning strived for students to not only gain knowledge and skills from the courses offered in order to create opportunities for growth and future success, but it also focused on creating an environment where students enjoyed what

they learned and sparked a curiosity in them to pursue further learning activities. The goal was met and students regularly returned to the Academy after finishing a course, eager and enthusiastic to learn something new.

ACTIVITIES

- Tirelo Boshha SASL Training: The Society enjoyed great success with the ongoing training in South

African Sign Language with frontline staff at 18 hospitals in the Ethekwini district, funded by Tirelo Boshu. 141 Hospital staff have been trained in the reporting period.

- The 2016 Academy Student Graduation Ceremony took place on 30 November 2016 and was well-attended.
- ETDP SETA Short Skills Programmes: Sixty people that included Blind and Deaf clients as well as some staff members were to receive skills training funded by the ETDP SETA, provided that they were successfully registered on the SETA database. Training areas included Computer Literacy, SASL Train-the-Trainer, and Assessor and Moderator courses. The training of computer students started in March 2017.
- Public SASL: The 2017 Talk Sign Campaign generated a lot of interest in SASL literacy. Many people inquired about the Society's SASL course in the reporting period.
- NYDA Programme: Ten Deaf youth participated in a Life Skills Program as part of the of the NYDA Program at the Society, they have also been assigned to the Tirelo Boshu project to provide support to the facilitation team with the aim of honing skills and gaining experience.
- The Academy's SASL Literacy facilitators and the Society's SASL interpreters participated in the V.N. Naik Parents Programme where parents were introduced to basic SASL and given the opportunity to interact with a panel of successful Deaf people. This program is initiated and coordinated by Dr. Bianca Birdsey from THRIVE and Hi Hopes.

STATISTICS

Computing – Blind:

- KZNBDS Campus: Number of students completed – 22
 - PRC Campus: Number of students completed – 12
- ### Computing – Deaf:

- KZNBDS Campus: Number of students completed – 13
 - PRC Campus: Number of students completed – 7
- ### Telephony and Switchboard:
- KZNBDS Campus: Number of students completed – 6
 - PRC Campus: Number of students completed – 14
- ### ABET – Deaf:
- KZNBDS Campus: Number of students completed – 7

Braille:

- KZNBDS Campus: Number of students completed – 9
- PRC Campus: Number of students completed – 14
- Braille-Kha-Ri-Gude – Community Based - 414

SASL – Deaf:

- KZNBDS Campus: 9

Public SASL:

- Number of students completed – 45
 - Corporate SASL (eThekweni Municipality):
 - Number of students completed – 51
- ### SASL Hospital Training:
- Number of students completed – 141

Conclusion

We continue to strive to offer quality competitive courses that will empower and equip the students to reach their full potential. Opportunities are being explored for the implementation of a variety of new types of skills training which will widen the net of opportunities for the students in the labor market.

We would like to thank the facilitators for their commitment to reaching the goals of the Academy of Learning. We also thank the sponsors and donors that supported the Academy during the reporting period.

H B SINGH
CHAIRMAN

PIETERMARITZBURG REGIONAL COMMITTEE

The Pietermaritzburg Regional Committee celebrates 48 years of its operation in Pietermaritzburg providing Blind and Deaf people with services that improve the quality of their lives.

We present to you the 2016/2017 Regional Committee BGM report for the KZN Midlands Region.

1. MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS:

The membership comprises voluntary members who are responsible to offer operational support to the Pietermaritzburg Rehabilitation Centre. Dwindling membership is a reality every year and we continue to search for new members to join the committee.

Regional Committee meetings are held monthly and other meetings are held whenever the need arises.

We welcome the new members who have joined us.

1.1 CONDOLENCES:

We extend our condolences to the families of members, staff and clients who lost loved ones during this period. We will miss our staff member, Mr Y A Ngubane, who sadly, passed away in June 2017.

2. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE:

The Centre is managed by the Centre Director and his staff. We acknowledge this team of dedicated and passionate workers for their willingness to advance the Centre, despite their daily challenges.

3. STAFF: The staff of the Centre consist of:

Director Pietermaritzburg & Midlands Region	Mr A. Naicker
Finance/Admin Officer	Mrs M.Cattigan
Senior Admin.Clerk	Mrs A.Maharaj
Social Worker/Supervisor	Mrs S Mbhele
Social Auxiliary Worker	Mrs K.Mthuli
Social Auxiliary Worker	Miss S.Maharaj
Social Auxiliary Worker	Ms P.Monakali
Social Auxiliary Worker	Ms M.Mbense
Orientation & Mobility Trainer	Ms S.Ndlovu
Driver	Mr C.Padayachee
General Factotum	Mr R David
Orientation & Mobility CBR Worker	Miss P.Qoma
Social Auxiliary Worker for the Deaf	Vacant position
Switchboard Operator	Miss M.Egambaran
Computer Trainer	Mrs T.Pillay
Switchboard & Telephony Trainer	Mr N.Mvelase
Computer Trainer for the Deaf	Vacant
Gardener	Mr Mandla Nene
Housemother	Ms Winnie Matshoba
Hydroponic Staff	Ms Bongeka Gcumisa
Hydroponic Staff	Miss L.Mpahiwa
Hydroponic Staff	Mr J Mtshali
Hydroponic Staff	Mr A Dumakude
Workshop Assistant	Mr D.Phoswa

4. SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CENTRE DURING THE PAST YEAR:

4.1 Academy of Learning:

The Academy of Learning offers Blind and Deaf students the opportunity to upgrade their skills to secure employment. The table below illustrates the number of students that successfully completed the courses offered in Pietermaritzburg in 2016. The graduation ceremony was held on 1st December 2016.

NAME OF COURSE	NO.OF STUDENTS
Computer Training for the Blind	12
Computer Training for the Deaf	07
Telephony and Switchboard	14

4.2. Protective workshop:

The Protective Workshop offers a range of Contract Work to 37 clients whose disabilities range from blind, partially blind, deaf and hard of hearing. The Workshop follows all disciplines of a workplace.

The arrangement with Wildlands Conservation Trust was terminated. The Centre approached Belgotex Carpets directly with a view to finding a way forward and maintaining a relationship with Belgotex Carpets. Belgotex agreed that we continue with the project of cutting the carpets and marketing these products so that the Centre can benefit from the sales.

The Contracts with Stihl, and Divine Shoes are ongoing. The minimum allowance payable to the Clients of the Protective Workshop was increased to R500 as stipulated by the Department of Labour.

4.3 Hydroponic Farming Project:

The project performance showed a better performance from the previous years. We are currently trying to

secure a filtration system for the borehole water, which will then allow us to seriously look at bottling water. We acknowledge and applaud the unconditional support received from our sponsors past and present. Without such support our projects would not be sustainable.

The Hydroponic Project was further upgraded in 2016 with the following,

- Donation of R50 000 towards upgrading the irrigation system and tunnel plastics.

We acknowledge once again, Mr Farouk Moosa and the Willowton Group for their continued support and their generosity.

We also acknowledge Mondi for the donation of a used Tunnel.

4.3.1. Conventional Farming:

The idea of using the area around the tunnels for Conventional Farming has proven to be very successful.

The gardens have a range of vegetables that are in constant demand by the public. Currently these vegetables are marketed from the courtyard and this becomes challenging when functions are held in the hall. The introduction of a 'Fresh Produce Shop' operated from the premises would be a warm welcome for the regular customers who purchase vegetables daily from the Centre. The demands for the fresh produce continues to grow steadily.

The Social and Rehabilitation services are grouped into 9 broad areas viz. statutory services, capacity building, communication & literacy, rehabilitation, economic empowerment, arts & culture, orientation & mobility and prevention & awareness.

The vast area covered by the staff is very challenging with the current resources of the Centre. Decentralization of services to the communities must be considered but this is only possible if adequate funding is secured.

5. SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES:

5.1. The table below reflects the work done in the communities:

District /Area	Type of Disability						Number of Clients Per Area
	Blind		Deaf		Deaf-Blind/Multi-Disabled		
	Existing	New	Existing	New	Existing	New	
Imbali	37	1	45	0	0	0	83
Caluza	22	0	6	0	0	0	28
Greytown	3	0	1	0	0	0	4
Copesville	15	0	19	0	0	0	34
Taylors	9	0	11	0	0	0	20
Willowfountain/Pata	20	0	19	0	5	0	44
Mafakathini	21	0	11	0	1	0	33
Swayimani/Wartburg	7	0	7	0	0	0	14
Sweetwater	37	0	19	1	0	0	57
Tablemountain	5	1	6	0	0	0	12
Mpophomeni	7	0	19	1	3	0	30
Moorriver	6	3	19	1	0	0	29
Northdale	18	0	18	0	0	0	36
Indaleni School for the Deaf	0	0	18	0		0	18
Currently Students Academy of Learning.	15	0	2	0	0	0	17
Former Students Academy of Learning	45	0	8	0	1	0	54
Pietermaritzburg and Surroundings	23	2	15	0	0	0	40
Total Number of clients	290	7	243	3	10	0	553

5.2. DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF CLIENTS

	Ages	African		Coloured		Indian		White	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Children	0-16	45	34	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth	17-35	69	81	6	4	9	12	2	0
Adults	36-59	80	98	0	0	10	7	1	2
Other Adults	60 and older	34	49	0	0	5	4	0	1
Totals		228	262	6	4	24	23	3	3

6. FUNDING:

Funding continues to be a phenomenal challenge.

The Operational budget of the Centre continues to grow annually and currently stands at R220 000 per month which includes the full responsibility of the staff salaries in Pietermaritzburg.

An additional R44000.00 per month is required to meet the Centre's monthly commitments.

With the current status of the economy, sponsorships and donations have dwindled and with this in mind, the

Pietermaritzburg Regional Committee at its last meeting discussed the financial position of the Branch and unanimously agreed that a request be made to Head Office to revert to the earlier arrangement of paying 60% of Salaries.

7. FUND-RAISING PROJECTS:

The following fundraising events were held during the period under review. Most of these events were well supported by the Pietermaritzburg community.

The following table reflects comparatively the performances for the period under review:

Valentines Ball	R 10590
Race Day	R 45603.30
Charity Race Day	R 21850.00
Lucky Ticket Draw	R 28629.00
Tin Placement	R 20452.77
Mall Collection	R 38298.25
Dining in the Dark	R 36640.00

We acknowledge and congratulate the staff and members for hosting these events successfully.

8. GRANTS/SUBSIDY:

8.1 Community Chest :

Following a review by the Community Chest only 76 organisations were considered for funding for the 2016/2017 period. Although grants were reduced we were fortunate to be retained as a beneficiary of the Chest. The grant for 2015/2016 was R72 000 and for 2016/2017, was R60 000.

8.2 KZN Department of Social Development :

The Department of Social Development subsidizes the salary of the 3 Social Work posts at the Centre.

9. DONATIONS:

Various donations (cash or in-kind) were solicited over the year and we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all our donors.

10. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

The Buildings and grounds are maintained on a day-to-day basis. We extend our thanks to each person or organizations that assisted us with building, electrical and other repairs.

- Mr Anesh Chotkoo (Electrician) who continues to assist us with numerous electrical repairs at no cost to the Centre.
- Mr Y.Moodley – sponsorship of steel and roof sheeting for the carpet shelter
- Hulamin for the sponsorship of roof sheeting.

A Carport was constructed by the staff with the sheeting and poles donated to the Centre.

A water tank was set up near the hall to address the challenge of water interruptions.

A generator was also fitted to provide some lighting during power interruptions. Replacement of the marley tile flooring of the hall remains a priority.

The long term plans of the Centre includes the installation of Solar Heating Panels to ease the electricity bill, the expansion of the hostel facilities for students of the Academy of Learning, the extension of the hall to cater for more guests and construction of a storeroom and living quarters for the auxiliary staff residing on the premises.

11. SECURITY

Security Service provided by Capital Protection was renewed for a further two years. To date no major problems were experienced.

Completion of the last phase of the fencing remains a matter to be dealt with. This matter has to be addressed following a number of stray dogs entering the property.

12. HIRE OF HALL:

The Centre Hall used to be a primary income generator but this has since changed.

A total of 5 new venues have opened in the surrounding areas which has significantly impacted on the rate of hiring. The decline in the hiring of the Hall has impacted on the finances of the Centre. We have embarked on a better advertising strategy. We are grateful to Mrs Anashnee Maharaj who has sponsored an advertising board. This has been erected at the entrance of the Society.

13. MOTOR VEHICLES:

Vehicles continue to be a challenge. Repairs are more regular to our old vehicles. The vehicles require replacements and we will attempt once again to revisit our earlier applications to Dealerships.

We also extend our thanks to Mr Vinod Harry (Kwik-Fit) for his assistance during the year.

14. CONCLUSION:

We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to our generous donors and sponsors who have so tirelessly supported our Centre in Pietermaritzburg. We applaud those that are here today for their support and generosity.

**D SINGH
CHAIRMAN**

VERULAM REGIONAL COMMITTEE

The Verulam Regional Committee has 12 active members. Attendance at monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at the Verulam Day and Frail Care Centre and whenever the need arises is admirable.

Composition of Visually Impaired and Deaf client's cases: 65.

1. Workshop:

Our clients are very creative with beadwork and produce neck and hand chains. On the 22nd October 2016 items were sold at the Hari Om Temple in Everest heights, Verulam during the Diwali celebration. This was an extremely successful event. The chairperson, Mrs. M Archery, approached the municipality for premises to sell items. Unfortunately the sales were very poor. The Verulam Regional Committee acquired a stall at the Verulam Charity Fair to sell products made by our blind and deaf friends. The sales outcome was not as productive as projected, due to the unpredicted weather. The 7th of October 2016, marked the conclusion of the workshop for the summer recess.

2. Excursion:

The Verulam Regional Committee embarked on an excursion to Blue Lagoon on the 3rd September 2016. Transport was sponsored by Titos Bus Service, breakfast was sponsored by the members of the Verulam Regional Committee and lunch was sponsored by Amersan Moodley. Our clients had an enjoyable day.

3. Blind and Deaf Awareness:

The Chairperson visited schools in September and October 2016 to promote Deaf and Blind Awareness.

During the week of the Aged, The Chairperson created awareness at the Verulam Day and Frail Care Centre. The Chairperson addressed the audience and also handed out informative literature.

Annual Cheer:

Our Annual Cheer was held at the Mount View Civic Centre on the 27th November 2016.

Clients were transported by Titos Bus Service, at no cost. At this function the Good Samaritan Group catered breakfast and lunch for approximately 300 guests which included our Blind and Deaf friends and their supporting caregivers, the committee members and other invited

We congratulate our staff and members for their dedication, determination and commitment. We commend staff that go the extra mile even when times are really tough.

We also acknowledge officials and staff at Head Office for their support and guidance.

guests. In addition the Good Samaritan Group provided 65 Blind and Deaf friends with hampers valued at approximately R300.00 each.

The Verulam Regional Committee handed Pick 'n Pay Vouchers valued at R200.00 to each of the 65 Blind and Deaf friends.

Radio Hindvani provided an in-house DJ for entertainment. The highlight of the function was handing out certificates to members of the Verulam Regional Committee and other members of the public and business houses who assisted in whatever way possible.

4. 2017

At the opening of our office this year, the Chairperson congratulated the team on the success of 2016 events. The success was greatly attributed to the achievement of the objectives and visions set out by the team at the start of 2016. The Chairperson was grateful for the tremendous contributions made by all members and wished the committee an even more productive year for 2017.

4.1 Dinner in the Dark

On the 25 March 2017 the Verulam Regional Committee held a successful Dinner in the Dark at the Verulam Day and Frail Care Centre. The entire function was sponsored by Mr. Deena Padachi the director of Deena's Butchery. Shamila Surjoo from head office was the Programme Director. Mr. Tanjee Govender and Mystic Dance and Disco provided live entertainment for the event. The climax was the "Glow in the Dark" juggling act.

Mr. Sitaram, Executive Member, from the KZN Blind and Deaf Society was the keynote speaker. The reviews of the guests revealed a deeper insight into the challenges experienced by the Blind on a daily basis. The committee was satisfied that our core objective of the dinner in the dark was met.

4.2 Excursion

Planning for the proposed excursion to La Mercy beach will be discussed as time progresses.

5. Sponsors

We at the Verulam Regional Committee are very grateful to the following persons for their continued financial

support to. We hope that your generosity continues into the future.

- Mr. Deena Padaychi, Director of Deena's Butchery
- Good Samaritan Group
- Titos Bus Service
- Mr Asmall of Asmall's Hypersave
- Mr. Amarsan Moodley

- Mrs. Veni Govender of Mumbai Dreams
- Mrs. Saroj Reddy from Australia

**MRS M ARCHARY
CHAIRPERSON**

SOUTHERN LIGHT ASSOCIATION

The Southern Light Association members for the reporting period were as follows:

Chair: Eunice Mthembu, Committee Members: Ms. Gcwalisile Dlamini, Mr Mxolisi Zikode. Ms. Zinhle Mthsali.

ACTIVITIES

- Goalball: Practice with members took place on a monthly basis.
- Music: Choir training took place on a weekly basis.
- Fitness exercises: Deaf Sport Coordinator Mr. Sibonelo Buthelezi under the supervision of Southern Light Association Chairperson Ms. Eunice Mthembu engaged about 15 Deaf members in weekly fitness exercises.
- Annual Sport Day 2016: On 20 August 2016, the Southern Light Association hosted a Sport Day for people with disability. The event, held at the Curries Fountain Ground in Durban, demonstrated that people with disability are just as able to participate in sport and recreational activities like their able-bodied counterparts.

Deaf persons played netball and soccer. For the Blind there were many novelty items such as three-legged and egg-spoon races, a tug-of-war competition and blind cricket. Members most enjoyed the tug-of-war where Deaf members opposed Blind members. This fostered friendly but strong competition between the teams as both wanted to claim bragging rights.

**MRS D SWART
MANAGER I REHABILITATION &
DEVELOPMENT**

The Sports Day demonstrated the importance of sport in members' lives. Talented Deaf members provided entertainment with their spectacular dances while the choir comprising Blind members sang sweet melodies.

The Sport Day was a resounding success, and our thanks go to everybody that planned and executed this event. Special thanks to sponsors SANZAF, Wimpy Queen Street, Bolton Uniforms, Tele Radio, SEACO, Atlas Battery, Victoria Supermarket and Curries Fountain for the free use of their ground.

- A memorial service was held on 6 October 2016 for one of Society's clients Ms. Nomveliswa Mfunda who was studying at the Academy of Learning and also played an active role in the choir and other activities in the Southern Light Association.

CONCLUSION

The Southern Light Association hopes to attract members that have an active interest in uplifting the Association and come and share their talents and expertise. The aim of this is for a range of new activities to be undertaken to entice members with a variety of interests to participate, as well as ensuring the promotion of healthy social relationships with a diversity of people.

**MS E MTHEMBU
CHAIRPERSON**

