



Raphael News 2020-4 (3rd Quarter 2020)

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Funding: During the third term, the Raphael Centre had an income of 24,360 Rand. The **Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association** donated 10,500 Rand to the Khanya project in 2021, and we received a gift from **St Cuthbert's** of 3200 Rand (150 £). Also, we received monthly individual donations from our **anonymous donor**, **Mrs Clarke** and **Revd. Denise Herbert** of altogether 10,650 Rand during the reporting period.

Donations in kind: During the entire second term, Nomaxabiso was assisted by four Rhodes University student volunteers. They helped with facilitating the child and youth tutoring and life skills session for more than four hours each week! We would like to thank: **Akhanya Siyanda Fani**, **Usiphile Ndubula**, **Sinazo Mbekela**, and **Anathi Mgijima** for the extra-ordinary commitment and support! Also, special thanks must go to the **Bernie Dolley** and the **Ikhala Trust**. They donated snacks and drinks for the Mandela day celebration for the Siya Sonke children and youth.



Scottish Episcopal
Church Mission
Association

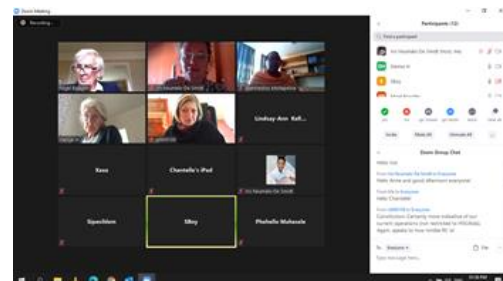


St Cuthbert's
Church

COVID-19, Lockdown and Operations - Update: During the third term of 2020, the epidemic grew dramatically in South Africa. Prevalence cases among testers were rising from 9,5 % to 16% in just one month (July). By August it started stabilising around 17% and then slightly dropping to 16% among all testers at the end of September. The National Lockdown moved from Level 3 to Level 1 by the end of this reporting period.

In July and August, our team continued with remote work from home and facilitated family engagement activities and entrepreneurial groups via phone and WhatsApp. Most Siya Sonke network engagement projects which include training workshops, community events but also Siya Sonke camps and Entrepreneurial training had to be still postponed until further notice. Since September, the Raphael Centre Office in 18 Bathurst Street (Makhanda) is partially open as a workplace for the team on Tuesdays and Thursdays regularly. The reopening of Raphael Centre's programmes has been based on the respective legal frameworks and we have gradually phased in face-to-face meetings and activities with our learning partners and started to work together from the office again. The weekly Child and Youth Development sessions (tutoring and life skills with Siya Sonke children) commenced in person at Makhana Pre-School in Joza. All have been guided by our COVID Policy and Procedure Manual which outlines strict protocols and health safety procedures.

Governance and Compliance: We have revised our **Constitution** which was launched in 2014. In particular, the Vision, Mission and Objectives needed to be amended which was then approved at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This year, we had our first virtual AGM which was held on the 30th of September. Two of our International partners, Nigel Bowden from The Emthonjeni Trust (ENG) and Revd Denise Herbert (SCT), attended the annual event. Also, Iris Nxumalo-De Smidt from the DG Murray Trust and Chantelle Pepper from the Department of Social Development (Western Cape) were among our special guests.



The new Management Committee 2020/2021 was selected, and I am pleased to welcome our new Board of Directors: Dr Tshidi Mohapelo (Chairperson), Phehello Mahasele (Vice-Chair), Sipesihle Mguga (Secretary), Steven Boy (Treasurer), and Ellen Bagshawe-Smith (nee du Plessis) (Governance and Fundraising). Please meet our new Management Board:

<https://raphaelcentre.co.za/our-team/>

Our Audited Financial Statements (AFS) 2019 as well as the Annual Report 2019 can be accessed on our webpage: <https://raphaelcentre.co.za/reports-media/>.

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Siya Sonke Family Engagement: Throughout the 3rd term, Nomaxabiso kept contact with all Siya Sonke families and entrepreneurial groups to hear how everyone is coping under current circumstances and to check-in on development plans. In many cases where people lost their stipends, they applied for COVID-19 UIF (COVID-19 TERS). Among them are mainly the Community Work Programme (CWP) workers and Early Childhood Development (ECD) teachers and assistants. Quite a few of them alternatively sold paraffin or home-produced appliances and food (e.g. detergents and sanitisers, making T-Shirts for sell, garden vegetables). In fact, we heard that the trading of small items was booming under Lockdown 4 and 3 because people could not pursue their usual work anymore. Most people who have not have a food garden yet started one (using the seedlings which were donated by the Ikhala Trust). Some of our partners made a little income through services such as assisting other community members with errands in town.

Siya Sonke Child and Youth Development:

Mandela Month - July: The children and youth red Madiba's life story, celebrated the wisdom through reciting their favourite quotes and did decorate posters and boards with messages with lessons learned from his life journey.

Women's Month - August: COVID-19 Lockdown has brought heavily into the open the serious matter of gender-based violence and discrimination in our communities. So Nomaxabiso adopted the public agenda and engaged the children and youth with discussions about gender-bias, gender-roles and stereotypes. Also, they were sensitised what gender-based discrimination means and how it impacts on young women and men growing up in a predominantly patriarchal society. For our adolescents, Nomaxabiso included a couple of sessions on gender equality into the life skills curriculum.

Heritage Month – September: We called it the month of 'Intsomi' at Raphael Centre. 'Intsomi' is isiXhosa and refers to stories which are hand down from generation to generation. These stories play a significant role in the upbringing of children and youth since they deliver life values, wisdom and knowledge about our roots. One other beautiful exercise which Nomaxabiso led was on family roots. The tool she used is called the 'family tree' whereby the children and youth re-created their family history on paper. And finally, there is to mention the Arbor Week, which is part of the Heritage Month and forms a National initiative to celebrate South Africa's trees and to raise awareness about their importance. The younger group of children assisted Makana pre-school with tree-planting during the first week of September.

Tutoring sessions during the third term were mainly meant for Mathematics, Science, Geography and English. Besides, the youth group was assisted in school project work: such as writing CV's and building musical instruments.



Siya Sonke Entrepreneurs: The Early Childhood Development Group started sharing information and practical ideas about COVID-19 health safety precautions for the re-opening their pre-schools. The traders of small snacks who usually do their sells at local schools had to find alternative sites for their business since due to the epidemic the schools could not allow any community members into the school premises but teachers and learners. The farmers' group went ahead with their association plans and officially formed a Co-op. They submitted all the necessary documents (constitution, foundation form, and letter of support from their Ward counsellor) with the Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD). They are awaiting the approval as well as registration certificate now. Once it is received, the group intends to enter a land lease (rent/own agreement) contract with Makana Municipality and have been in contact with the Housing Manager. The group identified a piece of land between extension 8 and 9 in Joza which they wish to use. The caterers would like to establish a fast-food outlet. Currently, they are selling food from their homes and save money for the building. Besides, they started gathering building material. And finally, the crafters managed to sell face masks to local schools.