

2012  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



play and be well.

dlalanathi

hope and healing for children affected by loss.

# intro

read a detailed report at  
[www.dlalanathi.org.za](http://www.dlalanathi.org.za)

## chairperson's report



...our youth  
programme  
has created  
a buzz...

This year we have selected some key highlights and moments that we know reflect the heart of what we do and why it is important?

Please enjoy the presentation of our results for 2012, warmly the dlalanathi team

**Why do we do what we do?** We know that emotional healing and parenting require real emotional strength, these are challenges all families face and understand. We also know that poverty, loss and hardship deplete families emotionally. This year through our partnerships in the community we have been able to provide emotional healing alongside ongoing economic empowerment. This means that the best possible conditions for children's development are created for families even in the most difficult circumstances and in hard to reach places. This is what we are achieving in the new community. This is exciting!

**Where does its start?** Healing takes its own time and can only take place within real caring relationships. Therefore entering a new community is about investing the time to build relationships in the community. We get to know people and become known in the community. This is what we have achieved in 2012.

**Who did we reach in 2012?** Together we served 2330 children affected by loss and needing play and joy! It is a privilege to serve each child and we extend our deepest thanks to all our supporters who make this possible.



## Beneficiaries 2012

Adults  
894

Families  
552

Youth  
924

Children  
2330

It has been 12 more months in the life of dlalanathi we the board would like to acknowledge the staff of dlalanathi led by our Executive Director for a wonderful year. The year was full of reflection and good programme decisions. Our entry into the greater community of Swayimane stands out this year. To sustain the work we do in support of children and families, partnerships and relationships with other like organisations are critical and our entry into Swayimane demonstrates just that. This was aided by dlalanathi's positive and mutually beneficial partnership with Zimele an organisation that focus' on economic and social empowerment of very poor women.

We also thank the staff for patiently making connections with both the traditional and political leadership in the community. We also thank this leadership for their invitation to us to engage with their community. Leadership is critical in our quest for a safe and enabling environment for child development. In the same way that we interact with families, we hope to continue interacting with leadership. This ensures that we learn from their knowledge as leaders and community parents and allows us to have relationship to alert the community of practices that are hazardous to children.

Our youth programme has finally found its feet and has created a buzz within the organization. The Board is happy to learn that this programme has gone from infancy into teenagehood during 2012. Youth development is a process and our work with this group is on track with great reports reaching the Board. Listening and seeing what is going on within the country currently we understand that this process will take some time to make the desired impact that we hope for youth and dlalanathi should prepare for a long haul.

The Board continues to discuss how we sustain our work and the organization. During the year under review we also received a long-term contribution in a form of a book from our longtime collaborator Uthando Dolls who makes doll with us. This book that tells the story of the gift and power of "the doll" continues to make a meaningful contribution to our financial sustainability.

We would like to thank all Board members for making time to attend our meetings, listen and make valuable contributions to the work our staff does already. We also thank all our donors for their committed partnership and believe that 2013 will deepen and strengthen our work in Swayimane.

Simanga Sithebe

# highlights 2012

## 1. Entry to Swayimane:

We came to be invited to work in this community by a partner organisation (NGO) called Zimele. Zimele has been in Swayimane for the past five years and over that time 600 women have come to participate in 60 self-help groups, and formed 5 clusters. As this is an area that has in the past suffered through much political violence Zimele identified a need for some emotional support for the women in the groups. In this way our work supports personal and family relationship healing in a context where the caregivers have some economic capacity to provide and care. There are also a few clusters who are reaching out to children in the community and Zimele requested that we build the self-help group's capacity to provide psycho social support to the children.



We end the year with:

- Good relationships in the community with key stakeholders;
- Many children and families who have benefited from our work;
- Leadership are conscious of who we are, and welcome our contribution; and,
- A good relationship with Zimele self-help groups and clusters.

This is what we need to begin our training and capacity building work with these strategic partners in the community, our goal is to support them to sustain emotional support and mental health activities for children and families such that we can exit the community within 2 years.

## 2. Expanding the power of play

This year we have run extended Kids Clubs and Holiday Programs. To illustrate what play can do all we need do is look at the Kids Club started this year and run at Nyanninga Primary School. After awareness at the school the Principal asked for help with 30 learners who seemed to be struggling at school. A kids club was set up, the purpose of the Club to provide a safe environment for the 30 learners to play, have fun and get support with homework. Run once a week on Tuesday after school, the club involved story-telling, poetry, art, drawing, games, songs and dance. The club also provided homework support particularly group reading and paired reading and writing.

After just 2 terms the school and the parents have given remarkable feedback as well and noted changes in reading ability, mathematics and general participation in class from over half of the group. Two children even received prizes in school for achievements in class. We are still exploring how to improve the access for the children and the school to

remedial teaching, however the kids club has generated much support and results that the school and the parents value.



## 3. Work continues in KwaPata and Mafakathini

The communities where our process was completed in 2011 have continued to work with bereaved children this year. They have served 143 families and 411 children during 2012. For us these are the kind of results we seek. It shows us what works and is valued by the community is sustained beyond our direct presence, this is our ultimate goal. Our commitment to these groups is to continue to provide debriefing and monthly supervision to sustain the emotional quality of the work, and support the direct costs of running such groups until they are able to obtain funding to do so. One group in KwaPata is now completely independent as they have separate donor funding to support their work.

## 4. Completion of Train the trainer

Five partner organizations completed the final phase of our train the trainer program in 2012. To see the commitment and the deep organizational and individual participant's contribution to this process is humbling and inspiring. This training enables the strategic partner organisations to train their own staff and communities where they serve to use 'play for healing' for children and families.

One of the partners 'Gift of the Givers' was enabled to respond to a specific request and established a special mission to support children and families in the Congo using play. They continue to run groups for children here in Pietermaritzburg and to train their counselors to do the same.

## 5. Our Youth Process comes of age

In KwaPata a group of high school based youth, with whom we have been working have been sponsored by a Youth 2 Youth program initiated in Switzerland run by a youth organization called 'Imagine'. The KwaPata youth have run events and activities over the year reaching 469 youth with a youth based message about anti-discrimination.

In Swayimane we are beginning this journey and have engaged 455 youth in schools and just out of school in the 5 wards where we are serving. Relationship building has taken time; however we ended 2012 with 7 youth groups committed to ongoing participation in 2013. Watch this space!!!!





# celebrating the team achievements



**Working as One team:** Given Swayimane's size and scope we decided to put our whole community team in one community this year. This has meant that we have appointed a Senior Community Manager Faith Shabangu. She is supported by the Capacity Building Manager Nonto Khoza, and Youth Manager Dumisa Zondi. This team together manages Community Facilitators, a Youth Worker, UNISA students and any other volunteers. The structure has built our capacity, improved our decision making, learning and increases the skill available to one area. It has also been fun and has built stronger relationships between us all.

**Co-presenting at the World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) World Congress** in Cape Town - A significant event for us all. We co-presented a paper with our Australian Partner Uthando Doll Project. For the event the Uthando Doll Project also prepared a magnificent doll exhibition which was donated to dalanathi after the congress. The doll exhibition contains all the 100 dolls featured in the book produced together. Two key outcomes from the congress:

- We have travelled to several events and conferences with the exhibition and book, raising awareness about the importance of play and relationship;
- We have developed a play program for mothers and very young children that we will test in the community during 2013.

Our annual report closes with a tribute to our beautiful office administrator Mary-Anne Frost; we loved you so much and miss you so much too. Thank you for the gift of your life.

Our thanks again, to donors, to our families who provide emotional support, to those who pray, to those who volunteer, to those who encourage us, challenge us and teach us. We receive your gifts so that we can give to those we serve. We are thankful for life and to the one in and through whom we have life and breathe. We look forward to what 2013 brings.

Rachel

## financials 2012

by Sven Jager

### Year ended 31 December 2012

We at dalanathi - the children, the youth, the families, the board and staff, have once again been tremendously blessed by all our partners who value children and families. We are humbled by your generous and faithful giving.

A summary of income and expenditure:

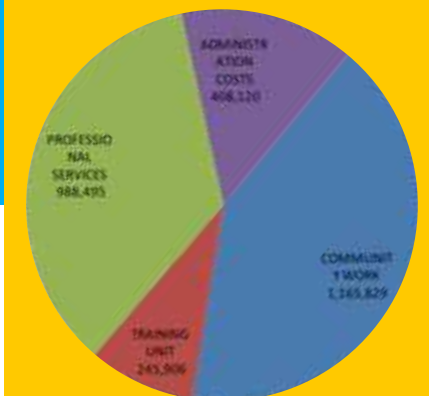
**Income 2012:** R2 769 313 (2011: R2 983 541); income from funders R2 245 209 (2011: R2 210 457); the National Lottery Distribution Fund income was R 369 618 down from the R 546 500 in 2011. General income R154 486 (2011: R136 584). General income includes interest, regular and random donations, and dalanathi-generated income. The interest received was up by R 23 456 to R 63 865 due to higher cash balances held at Investec during the year.

**Expenditure:** R2 803 350 (2011: R2 919 806). Cash holding at year end R938 631 (2011: R677 467).

Sustainability funds invested with PMB Community Chest's Beneficiary Investment Consortium, R200 000 (2011: R200 000). Return in 2012 was 21% (2011: 12%). No additional transfer to Sustainability Fund during this financial year.

Balance Sheet: The liquidity position and committed funding for current projects give us confidence that the work we are committed to in the ensuing financial year will be sustained for the foreseeable future.

54% of 2013 budget was committed at the end of 2012 (2011: 57%).



Breakdown of expenditure for 2012

## Financial Contributors

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

### Funders for 2012

Pietermaritzburg & District Community Chest  
Ken Collins Trust  
IQRAA Trust  
Department of Social Development : Umsunduzi  
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 (USA)  
TDH - Imagine Youth (Switzerland)

**Donors:**  
**Donations in kind**  
Uthando Doll Project - Books and Greeting cards  
Cowan House: Play materials  
Department of Sport & Recreation - Msunduzi

Laddsworth Primary School : Play materials  
Hilton Methodist Church - dolls  
Desdesigns for annual report

**Financial donations:**  
AD Wood  
C E Merrett  
AM Stephen  
NS Page  
D Ward  
DR Julie Stone

# tribute to mary-anne frost

Mary-Anne was one of the very first members of the dlalanathi team (formally known as the Rob Smetherham Bereavement Service for Children). She began when this baby organisation operated out of a downstairs bedroom and moved around in the back of a car. Mary-Anne over the years created for the staff of dlalanathi a safe supportive space, providing everything materially that was necessary to ensure that we could serve children and families well when we entered communities or partner trainings. If you ever visited our office or had Mary-Anne answer your call you will know of her warm open spirit and her desire to make you feel welcome. Mary-Anne became known as MA to all of us, embodying the very heart and being of a mother whose greatest desire was to provide for and care for her children. MA laughed with us, cried with us, challenged us and stayed committed out of a deep belief in our work and her unwavering value in relationship.



In 2011 Mary Anne found out that she had secondary cancer. After a long process of chemo in that year, a short breathing period where her hair grew back and she regained her strength her doctors diagnosed that her cancer was in her bones and liver and in the July of 2012 Mary Anne decided that she could not face another series of chemo and so began to sort out her affairs in order to leave Adam her son provided for and held in a way that would care for him for the rest of his life. Mary Anne died on the 30 November 2012.

One of the things that we have come to believe deeply, is that if we choose to be close to someone who is dying, their dying teaches us how we want to live. Mary-Anne's courage to fight, her vulnerability in this process, her commitment to care for each of us in dlalanathi despite her struggle and discomfort with cancer, and her grace to accept her dying at the end modelled to us how life is to be lived. Mary-Anne offered us the gift to caring, when caring was the only thing left that we could do. Our experience of loss has been enormous and her empty desk and space in the office has been felt by all of us. But the loss reminds us how much we loved and were loved and this journey has strengthened our own ability to show compassion and care in the bereavement work we do with children and families in the communities and organisations that we serve.



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“

*the fever of youth, keep the rest of the word at normal temperature*

”

anon

