

Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund

A Better South Africa, One Degree At A Time...

Summary Report For 2016

Income from donations was **UP** 12%

Tertiary Fund pass rate was **UP** to 98%

Internet Cafe completed and available to students at The Valley Trust, KwaNyuswa

New Advice Bureau Building completed and in use in Qadi, KwaNyuswa

Beneficiaries received 98% of donations. 2% spent in admin costs.

New Constitution in place in compliance with legal requirements

Admin Costs remain at **2%** of expenditure

Volunteers

We are indebted to our voluntary workforce without whom we would not exist. The 'front office' is generally 2 half days a month but the 'back office' is much more time consuming. It is said that the joy of giving is much greater than the joy of receiving; UK research shows that those involved in voluntary work are healthier and happier than those who are not.

We are looking for a volunteer to help with the Schools Fund, a job which involves visiting schools in rural areas to fit and supply uniforms. Each child becomes known and the excitement, joy and pride when they receive their new clothing is a blessing to behold.

We also need someone to help with some of the 'back office' duties such as payments via internet bank and preparation of the financial statements.

Governorship

In line with legal requirements the Constitution has been updated. We took advantage of this to review the whole constitution. Under the previous Constitution our governing body were called 'Trustees' which had the confusing effect of making it sound as if HABandBF were a Trust. We have now re-named our Governing Body as Management Committee to alleviate the mis-conception.

After 8 years as a Trustee the Reverend Gary Thompson tendered his resignation in June. We thank Gary for his service to our organisation and welcome Mr. Joe Mthembu as his replacement. Joe runs a life skills educational charity, iKhusasalethu, under the remit of the Hillside Church in Hillcrest.

Donations

In 2016 we were blessed with the addition of several new Donor groups which enabled us to increase the numbers of students we were able to help and to pay off arrears of previous students so that their results were released and they could take up job offers. New donors also enabled the design and construction of the new Advice Bureau Building and improvement of the surrounding environment. ABSA Hillcrest donated a huge amount of furniture which we placed in a High School in KwaNgcolosi.

Some of our loyal group of Donors have supported us for nearly 50 years, since Mary Grice and her Black Sash colleagues started the originally informal organisation.

Thanks

Our thanks are extended to our Donors, including financial, non financial and those who donate services or goods; to Holy Trinity Anglican Church for the use of their premises and facilities; to our group of dedicated volunteers for their professional approach and having the emotional strength to cope with the many stories of misery, hardship and abuse experienced by our Beneficiaries; to our Management Committee; to C & S Chartered Accountants for their pro bono preparation and audit of our Financial Statements and to companies which have partnered with us the support of InkyShops (www.inkyshops.co.za) who provide our printer ink and C Drive (www.cdrive.co.za) who clean, repair and set up donated computers and laptops is highly valued and goes towards helping us maintain such a low admin cost.. Please see the accompanying Donor List for details.

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Report of the Advice Bureau For 2016

2016 has been a year of great change for the Advice Bureau with the building and opening of the new office alongside the African Gospel Church in Qadi, KwaNyuswa. Huge thanks to the Comburs Foundation for funding and managing the design and build of this dedicated building which is used by the Advice Bureau as well as the Clinic and the Soup Kitchen. Having a dedicated space for client consultations allows the privacy suitable for sensitive conversations of a personal nature and enables Mrs. Mtakwende to understand the family circumstances of the client at a deeper level since clients are more open within this private setting.

The opening of the new Advice Bureau Building on the 11th October was a lovely event and we were blessed with a beautiful sunny day, the presence of one of the Founding Members of HABandBF, Mary Grice, about 30 guests and wonderful sung entertainment from both the African Gospel Church choir and the 20 creche children.

The Bureau continues to be funded by the Coker Family Trust for which we are all very grateful. Food parcels are funded by Solon Foundation and are provided for temporary relief for families in extreme hardship while awaiting the outcome of their grant application. Cases of extreme hardship deserving food parcels would be, for example, where the head of household or main income provider is involved in a road traffic accident and either dies or is unable to work with the result that the household income stops suddenly. The Advice Bureau would provide a food parcel in this instance until the result of the grant application is received. Food parcels are stopped if the grant is paid and the family can support itself on grants AND if the grant is refused.

Nokuthula Sokhela continues to assist on a voluntary basis and with her help we have been able to visit 2 orphanages to assist in obtaining ID for children where the social worker is having problems in obtaining co-operation from extended family members.

Making copies of the relevant documents is a challenge without a photocopier and clients do not have the money for transport to go to the post office to make their own copies. Some cases require the input of an attorney.

We would like to thank all those who support the Advice Bureau and the work that we do.

Report dated 1st March 2017 By Mrs. W. Mtakwende

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Problems resolved include the following:-

Problem	2016	R	2015	R	2014	2013	2012
Civil Pensions			2		0	0	3
Child Support Grants	6	2500	17		3	2	2
Motor Vehicle Accident			0		0	0	1
Foster Care Grants			10		3	1	1
Death Benefits			6	8000	2	0	3
Disability Grant	80	21000	73	26692	99	24	4
Workmen's Compensation					0	0	4
Identity Book	16		2		2	3	0
Dependent Benefits	2				0	0	5
Transfer of File to new area			0		0	0	1
Share Entitlement			0		0	0	4
Issupol Insurance			0		0	0	1
Maintenance			3	6200	1		
Miscellaneous	2	6000	2				
UIF	1	7500					
Old Age Pension	1	2100					
Total	108	38100	115	40892	110	32	29

Areas where clients live are: Qadi, KwaNyuswa Embo Emolweni

Example Advice Bureau Case - Disability Grant

Patrick Bokh Ndlovu is staying with his girlfriend and their child. Ndlovu is HIV and also asthmatic. His girlfriend is also HIV positive. They are both unemployed. They were all depending on child support for their daughter who is at school. We assisted Patrick to get disability grant. While we were waiting for the outcome of the application we gave the family one food parcel every month as they said it was difficult to take their medication without food. His girlfriend was not considered to be sick enough to get disability grant although we helped her with an application. When Patrick started to receive his grant we stopped providing the food parcels.

Example Advice Bureau Case - Unsuccessful Application for Disability Grant

Mr Maphanga stays with his daughter and grand daughter. He and his daughter are HIV positive and unemployed. The family survives on the child grant. While waiting for the Disability Grant application to be considered we provided one food parcel a month. Unfortunately the application was rejected and then rejected again after we made an appeal. At this point we stopped providing the food parcel as is our policy. We could not do more. For people like this I think we could find out from them what they could do to earn a living like cutting grass for neighbours, selling baked goods, sewing, beadwork, tuck shop etc.

Example Advice Bureau Case - Miscellaneous

One of the clients came with a problem of her 2 adult sons who were receiving Dependent Benefits (payable from an Occupation Pension where the retired person (Beneficiary) has passed away). The benefits are in the order of R800 each per month. One son has a child who was abandoned by the mother and has no birth certificate. Our Client is caring for the child (her grandchild) and asked us to help her obtain the birth certificate. She also wanted to apply for Disability Grant due to her HIV status but was refused disability grant as she was not considered to be sick enough.

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Schools Fund Report 2016

Once again we were overjoyed to receive funding from the Solon Foundation – R34 000.00 and from an anonymous donor – R10 000

2016 has definitely been the year for school shoes. It is ironic that we had an offer from a shoe company to provide us with shoes, which, very sadly never materialized. We bought 98 pairs of shoes during the year and were especially pleased to be able to help some of the Learners at the Molweni Zimele Centre for the Mentally and Physically Challenged children with shoes and uniform. We also paid R2 000 towards Thandeka Ngema's school fees and transport costs at this school. This same family, Ngema, asked for school uniform for Sphelele (Thandeka's brother) who is 15, in Grade 3 at Bazamile School Lower Molweni. When delivering the uniform we discovered that the boy had not been attending school for the past 2 months and was mixing with unsavoury friends and not living with his aunt who has been caring for the 4 Ngema children since their Mother died. This highlighted the need for remedial schooling for older children who have somehow missed out on education in the early school grades and who are completely out of place attending a Junior Primary School and mixing with 5-9 year olds. In a way Sphelele cannot be blamed for running away and one shudders to think of his future.

At the end of 2015 a disabled father visited the drop-in centre requesting school uniform for his son who would be attending Siyjabula High School in Grade 8 in 2016. Past experience had warned us not to accept this request as there is no guarantee that the boy would actually be accepted in the new school. However, there was something honourable about this Dad and I took down the necessary details and dutifully delivered the uniform in March this year. To my delight I found the lad at Siyjabula and all the uniform except the trousers fitted perfectly. A couple of days later I received a phone call from Simon Msomi (the father) thanking us for the uniform -----this makes it all worthwhile!!

Dudu Ndlovu, who is studying through our tertiary fund to be a Social Worker, asked if she could accompany me on school uniform deliveries as part of her outreach programme. What an amazing help she proved to be! The 5 to 8 year old children cannot dress themselves or decide whether the shoes/clothing fits. Having Dudu assist me helped hugely when we visited Vusumuzi but unfortunately I did not manage to call on her again but hope to do so during 2017.

Gwadu Zenex came up with an unusual request asking for 35 Track Suits in June. Mr Zaca and his staff selected 2 of the most needy learners from each class. Gloria Zulu from Imagxabhashe Productions efficiently supplied the required sizes at a cost of R170.00 each – the school badge was embroidered on the Track Suit top. The children looked so smart!

33 Food Parcels at a cost of up to R158.00 ea. have been purchased this year. Winnie still requires 3 each month and although the recipients have changed during the year, the need is still present.

This year we have provided items of school uniforms to about 180 learners from 11 schools.

Some of the dear little children are so grateful and proud of their brand new uniforms and this gives us such pleasure. Thank you again and again to the Solon Foundation and our anonymous donor for giving us the joy of serving the poor in our community.

Rosemary Dickinson

Administrator – School Programme, Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund

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Report of the Tertiary Fund For 2016

Highlights:

- **98% of our students passed** (54 out of 56)
- 4 2015 graduates successfully helped with job seeking
- 20 Students Graduated 11 of whom are already in employment
- 54 Students assisted towards the completion of their tertiary education
- 48 Distinctions achieved by our students in the November 2016 exams
- Internet cafe at The Valley Trust, KwaNyuswa
- Financial crisis averted thanks to continued support from previous entities and new Trusts choosing to support our work through donations.
- 2 of the 3 students who failed in 2015 self funded and passed their failed subjects, now on our books again

Past Students News

Bonga Bhengu (B.Ed. UNISA 2014) continues to be an example to all of our students. He had part time work during 2015 and used the money to achieve his Honours. He obtained a full time job with Laboure Primary in February 2016 and used that money to repay his family members who had originally paid for his first year registration, construct additional rooms so that his siblings have their own rooms, self fund his B.Com (he specialises in teaching accounting) and fund a wonderful celebration and thanksgiving to all those who helped him to achieve his degree. Throughout this he has continued to provide pro bono additional classes to matrics, motivational speaking to the youth to encourage them to study and to keep away from crime and drugs, and teaching community members how to use computers. He has been head of his family for many years and takes good care of his siblings especially his mentally and physically disabled sister. All this and he remains a truly humble young man! It is a real privilege to know him.

Siyabonga Ngubu (B.Tech. Retail Business Management, DUT, 2014) was offered full time employment following a year long learnership but needed his results certificate before they would accept him. He owed R26000 which we were able to pay and is now working.for ??

2016 Students News

2 students failed 2 or more modules in 2016 and we have told them we will only continue to help them once they pass those modules through self funding. It is always sad and disappointing when students fail after we have invested time and money into them but we try to focus on the 50 students who passed and the very many excellent results including 48 distinctions which they achieved.

2 students (who passed) were severely sick last year. One was involved in a car crash during which 2 of the other passengers died. She was in hospital for over 2 months in Johannesburg, where the accident occurred. She had her books and assignments sent to her in hospital and studied from her hospital bed. The other had a brain tumour and was hospitalised for 6 weeks. Happily the tumour is non malignant and is reducing. She will complete this June.

And 2 students who failed in 2015 managed to self fund the modules they had failed and to pass them. We were happy to receive their results and to include them on our list. They should both complete during 2017.

All of our students were 100% against the FeesMustFall violence and destruction although we all support the need for a significant improvement in NSFAS support provision and of government support for tertiary institutions. Many of our students contacted us in fear over the demonstrations asking for transport money to get home to safety. They set up study

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groups with peers and self studied while lectures were cancelled. These young people see education as their route out of poverty and are determined to achieve their qualification no matter what challenges life throws at them.

Challenges

Laptops

Universities are increasing the use of laptops and smart phone technology as a means of communicating with, teaching, assessing and examining students. UKZN now makes laptop ownership compulsory for all of its' students. Laptops are such a key requirement they can be likened to being as important, if not more important, as an essential textbook. Cellphones have a similar level of importance and our students will often choose to spend money on airtime or data rather than on food: data is an investment in their education and therefore in their future whereas food is just for their bodies. Unfortunately when students own nice cellphones (donated) and laptops (also donated) the perception can be that those students are not impoverished. This is far from the truth.

Provision of laptops and cellphones is a huge challenge for us - we rely on donations of second hand equipment which is then cleaned and repaired at cost by C Drive (www.cdrive.co.za), however the availability of second hand laptops which work is limited.

NSFAS

Distribution of Nsfas funds generally works where students have applied during their Matric year through the Central Applications Office (R250). The students who we work with cannot afford to pay R250 for an uncertain place at a tertiary institution. That is half the family's food bill for a month. So they wait until they get their Matric results and then apply (January). In January Nsfas has already allocated most of its funding so our students applications are considered as late applications with the decisions only made by the end of March.

Students who are successful with Nsfas in their first year continue to receive Nsfas as long as they pass for every year of their study. Students who don't receive Nsfas in their first year, no matter how deserving they are, very rarely get accepted in subsequent years. These students continue to be supported by HABandBF as long as we have the finance available although the costs per student is extremely high since we pay fees, residence, books and a stipend of R500 per month for transport.

Thanks

We are deeply grateful to the staff and members of the Holy Trinity Church for the space that we use to meet students and for their warmth and helpfulness to us and our students. We thank C Drive for the 'at cost' work they do for us and all the free extra cables etc. which somehow get thrown in! Our volunteer group is highly valued and their patience, kindness but firm and professional approach to each student must be applauded. And thank you to The Valley Trust for entering into a collaboration agreement with us so that a small internet cafe is available to our KwaNyuswa students.

Report dated by Tanya Harvey.....

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2016 STUDENTS, RECORD OF STUDIES

QUALIFICATIONS STUDYING FOR:

38 DEGREES IN:

B Com	2	B Soc Wk	1
B. Tech Retail Business Management	1	B. Business Science	1
B Law	6	BSc Biochemistry	1
B Ed	18	BA Youth Development	1
PGCE	1	Nursing Sister	3
B. Biological Science	1	B.Tech. Taxation	1
BA Psychology	1		

16 DIPLOMAS IN:

Pub Rel Man	2	Environmental Management	1
Records Management	1	Paralegal	1
Chem Eng	1	Office Management	1
Electrical Engineering	1	Human Resources	1
Youth Development	1	Marketing	2
Human Resource Management	1	Civil Engineering	1
Internal Auditing	2		

2 CERTIFICATES IN:

L4 Plumbing	1		
Mechanical Boiler Making		1	

INSTITUTIONS WHERE 56 STUDENTS ARE STUDYING:

Universities

UKZN	20
UNISA	17
Univ of Zul	2
DUT	7
MUT	3

FETs

Ethekwini	2
Qadi	1
Damelin (Paralegal only)	1
Mpumulanga Inst of Nursing	2
Nursing & Primary Health Care Institute	1

23 STUDENTS QUALIFIED DURING 2016:

14 DEGREES/DEGREE EQUIVALENTS

B.Ed.	5
PGCE	1
B.A. Law	2
B. Soc. Sc.	1
B.Com.	2
B.Tech. Retail Business Management	1
B. Tech. Taxation	1
Nursing Sister	1

7 DIPLOMAS

Enrolled Nurse	1
Dip. Internal Audit	1
Civil Engineering	1
Dip. Pub. Rel. Management	2
Dip. HR Management	2

2 CERTIFICATES

Mechanical Boiler Making	1
L4 Plumbing	1

