

DIRECTOR' S REPORT

Introduction: Bonfield believed that ...“the things we do now and doing them better, cheaper and faster will take us so far. But it will not take us far enough. We're going to have to do new things in new ways”, which was the motto with which SPD had driven its business during the past year.

Service Achievements:

-Childcare services were innovated with involving an expert from the field of autism and expanding services to communities for direct guidance to families in rehabilitation of their children.

-Housing & care at Nonyane Independent Living Centre had settled in a regular rhythm with quality supervision services, inclusion of residents in decision making and ensuring occupation of all units.

-Following extensive negotiations, rehabilitation services were secured with outreach of therapists from the Alma School along with regular placement of physiotherapist interns from Europe. Besides being able to offer in-house services, SPD was able to reach out to local facilities with supplying of physical therapies.

-Sponsorship schools were assisted with funding to support poor learners, contributions to class room equipment and sponsoring of capacity building events for educators. Members from these five schools have increased noticeably, strengthening the hands of the organisation in its advocacy role.

-Training had moved into a new dimension with establishment of no less than three training programs, qualifying no less than 40 candidates in sewing, computer literacy and crafting. Employment objectives had realized by waylaying of the traditional concept of a protective workshop by developing a workshop where five persons with disabilities were trained and became full-blown employees contributing to SARS, and cancelling their state grants.

-Human rights issues were constantly addressed with comments on the monthly website newsletter and appeals to authorities where needed. Assistive devices were distributed and in partnership with Reskgone Solutions, a disability toolkit had been widely distributed to guide employers on appointing and accommodating persons with disabilities in their firms. SPD successfully tendered for an accessibility audit at a UNISA campus utilizing an opportunity to market disability and establish SPD as an accessibility auditor in the region.

-Social development services were expanded with addition of two new social auxiliary workers posts and

a volunteer social worker. Group sessions took place with planning of community projects but was hindered by high case loads and vast volume of statutory work which took precedence. Social work students from Pretoria University took placement within the organisation and an exchange program for final year social work students from European universities in collaboration with a local university.

-In the course of the year maintenance of buildings were regularly done including building a new bathroom and erecting a workshop in a dilapidated vehicle garage. These achievements came about on account of skilled and innovative maintenance staff in SPD's employment and the goodwill of a donor.

-The staff component had increased considerable, increasing demands on management but expediting achievement of service objectives.

Service Barriers:

-Funding for provision of vehicles were not available resulting in high cost on maintenance.

-Whilst very good working relationships with state officials were maintained, poor administrative functions remained a hassle. Duplication of mislaid documents, short notice of meetings and required information caused unnecessary disruption of work flow.

Finances: Allocations from the NLDTF was indeed an outcome, whilst regular state subsidies ensured continuation of services. Fundraising entered a new era with prominent businesses adopting SPD as beneficiary. Opportunities to market the organisation, its services and abilities of persons with disabilities were ample and fully patronized. It is thus with gratitude that a profit for 2010-2011 could be reflected.

Appreciation: Without the guidance and support of the Governance Board, none of the above would have been possible. But it was a dedicated staff who realized the objectives and it was beneficiaries that showed the way.

I thank you to all persons committed to SPD, for State Departments subsidizing the social development services as well as regular donors and funders who ensured 70 years of achievements!

Dr Laetitia Botha : Director

Involved since 1978

