



2013 ANNUAL REVIEW

MARCH 2012 -
FEBRUARY 2013



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Connect Network together builds safe communities for children, develops opportunities for improved education and builds resilient mothers of vulnerable children.

It is nine years since the formation of Connect Network. Probably the most motivating and inspiring words a friend ever gave me were these words of Prince Nicolo Machiavelli in 1513:

"It ought to be remembered that there is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things. Because the innovator has for enemies all those who have done well under the old conditions, and lukewarm defenders in those who may do well under the new. This coolness arises partly from fear of the opponents, who have the laws on their side, and partly from the incredulity of men, who do not readily believe in new things until they have had a long experience of them."

Back in 2003-4, Connect Network was just an idea of a few people, a dream imagined of how the lives of children could be impacted if we all worked together. The first 10 organisations formed Connect Network in October 2004 and appointed a steering group to lead the

beginning stages of the network. These were the innovators, those who stepped into the unknown to co-create a network that would have the potential to allow organisations and churches to do more together than they could alone. By 2008-10 the network had grown to over 60 organisations and churches. We piloted the Quality Improvement System which has since become the network's flagship programme, strengthening members so that they could give a better quality of care to children. We started documenting our procedures and practices. New innovations in 2012-2013 saw the network develop an integrated plan of three main collaborative goals, which members are now focusing on together, that are aligned with the National Development Plan for South Africa. The funding environment has been tough, but thanks be to God, not one member has had to shut its doors to women and children at risk.

Following the biblical mandate to work together in unity, Connect members are showing that networking is the new order of addressing issues and creating solutions that work for mothers and their children.

Connect Network has had a busy year finalising the three year Strategic Plan in collaboration with our 115 member organisations and churches. Through these members over 40, 000 women and 260,000 children at risk are being served. All members are following a collective strategy, working towards the same vision of seeing "Thriving Families, Transformed Communities."

In November last year Connect Network were heavily involved in changes that would have potentially affected the NPO sector in South Africa. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) put forward a proposal to revise the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Codes of Good Practice. This would have meant that funding to the Sector would have dramatically changed for the negative. Connect Network wrote a submission to the DTI and we lobbied

nearly 60 members and partners of the Network to endorse this submission. As a result, the DTI withdrew the proposal and the changes.

This past year I have had the pleasure of watching Connect Network raise the bar for ourselves and for our members. While the environment for non-profit organisations remains challenging, I have seen our community come together and show resilience, determination and a shared sense of purpose, working effectively as a unified voice for change in the plight of women and children. Our staff has worked tirelessly and conscientiously with our member organisations to implement the goals of providing education opportunities for children, keeping children safe and empowering and supporting women.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



NETWORKING FOR CHILDREN



Developing nurturing and protective environments for children

Connect Network member organisations work with communities across Cape Town to improve the environments in which children live and play, ensuring that their rights are upheld. Some of the activities include running SuperClubs to keep children safe during school holidays, holding focus groups to collectively discuss and find solutions for issues related to abandoned children, carrying out periodic campaigns to promote awareness of child protection issues, and training volunteers to better be able to serve the children with whom they work.

IN 2012-13,
CONNECT NETWORK
MEMBERS RAN
FIVE SUPER
CLUBS, PROVIDING
A SAFE SPACE
FOR 667 CHILDREN
TO GO DURING
THEIR DECEMBER
HOLIDAYS.

2012-13 Achievements

This year, Connect Network members improved the safety of the environments that children live in, throughout the Western Cape. Some specific achievements included:

- 10 member organisations took part in the abandoned children focus group, working to document their best practice models starting with the intake process for children into places of safety.
- SuperClubs were run in five sites with 667 kids in total and 55 volunteers from many churches and organisations over the December school holidays.

2012-13 Achievements (con't)

- During Child Protection month, churches and member organisations showed their commitment to strengthen the response to child protection. Seven churches held services to pray for children at risk, 45 people attended the Children's Act Legislation training day, and around 10 member organisations were involved in raising awareness to the public through 'going green' and handing out green ribbons.
- 76 people from 34 member organisations were trained in First Aid; over 5000 children now have access to trained first aiders and first aid kits.
- Let Your Light Shine training taught 12 member organisation leaders how to use training materials on HIV management in grassroots communities.




Shafick's Story

Shafick is an extremely shy 17 year old who lives in an informal settlement in Lansdowne. He dropped out of school two years ago because he was battling with reading and the much younger pupils in his class made fun of him. Shafick has very low self esteem and started attending the Homework Clubs run by the Lansdowne Ecumenical Group of churches, just to hang out. We soon realised that he was good with numbers and a great artist and we were able to harness his skills in assisting the smaller learners.

He started reading classes at the library once a week but soon found reading English as a challenge when his home language is Afrikaans. The Homework Club facilitators are now trying to find someone to assist him with Afrikaans reading. He has grown so much over the past year that he was appointed a leadership role at the December SuperClub. The children attending respect him and Shafick is showing great potential. One afternoon the SuperClub leaders forgot to collect the name tags from the children. The next morning Shafick arrived with all the name tags. Showing great initiative, he had gone from shack to shack collecting the tags as he knew the children would forget to bring them the next day. Asked how he felt about being a leader at a debrief, he said, "I never thought that anyone would ever listen to me when I spoke, but they do! I'm very proud!"

NETWORKING FOR EDUCATION

Developing opportunities for improved education for children



IN 2012-13, CONNECT NETWORK MEMBERS RAN 22 HOMEWORK CLUBS ACROSS THE CITY, WITH TUTORS VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME AND SKILLS TO HELP CHILDREN LEARN BASIC LITERACY AND NUMERACY AND DO THEIR HOMEWORK IN A QUIET AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT.

The South African schooling system is in crisis, and those that suffer the most from the lack of educational opportunities are those living in poverty. Connect Network members are committed to providing learners with opportunities for additional educational support, helping children to get the assistance they need to stay in school, excel at their studies and progress to secondary and tertiary institutions. As a network, members provide tutoring and training to children in Homework Clubs, and support member Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres to register their programmes and run them more effectively.



I really need this chance to improve my marks because I have to get to university so that I can be the first person in my family to do that."

— Incline intern



I am enjoying working in a proper work place, it is very exciting and new. It is a lot of work, but we are having fun, too. The people at Incline are very helpful and I still get help with Maths and Science on Tuesdays. I even teach some of the other grades."

— Incline intern



I like working in the building, it is easy to get things done when I can work with others."

— Grade 12 learner



2012-13 Achievements

This year, Connect Network members significantly improved the educational opportunities for children throughout the Western Cape. Some specific achievements included:

- Connect Network members ran 22 Homework Clubs across the city, with tutors volunteering their time and skills as they help children learn basic literacy and numeracy and do their homework in a quiet and safe environment.
- To improve the impact of the support that these 800 children receive, we facilitated two Open Schools Worldwide trainings to equip 45 tutor facilitators with improved literacy and numeracy teaching tools.
- Connect Network partnered with other organisations to mobilise resources for 34 member organisations, including 19 computers from the University of Cape Town and 16 sets of study aids from The Answer Series.
- Ernst and Young provided lapdesks and the Reichardtts, who visited in February 2013, provided small grants to some organisations and an age-appropriate copy of The Long Walk to Freedom to each Homework Club in the network.
- Incline Marketing Solutions, in consultation with Connect Network, launched Incline Academy, with the aim of assisting learners who did not meet university entrance requirements due to low mathematics marks, improve their grades and increase their chances of acceptance into a tertiary institution.
- Research was conducted on the state of Early Childhood Development centres in the network that showed evidence of 10,616 children being served by 154 ECD centres clustered and represented by 13 ECD members. This research enabled the network to actively engage with the Department of Social Development on the current issues that these ECD centres are facing.
- Two network staff joined the co-ordination to focus specifically on working with the network to achieve the education goals.

NETWORKING FOR WOMEN



Empowering mothers of vulnerable children to develop resourceful and resilient women

Mothers who are at risk of crime, abuse, sexual exploitation, crisis pregnancy, substance abuse, HIV or poverty also have children at risk. Connect Network works to empower these mothers with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to better take care of themselves and their children. Specifically, our members focus on supporting teen mothers, running

crisis pregnancy centres, preventing and supporting survivors of violence against women, amongst other initiatives. Connect Network also focuses on equipping the caregivers themselves with training and support to be able to help other women in their communities through their Equipped to Serve training.



IN 2012-13, 37 STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FROM SIX CONNECT NETWORK MEMBER ORGANISATIONS WERE TRAINED IN THE EQUIPPED TO SERVE VOLUNTEER COUNSELLING PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE **CRISIS COUNSELLING**, WHICH STRENGTHENED THE NETWORK'S BASE OF CRISIS COUNSELLORS FOR WOMEN.

2012-13 Achievements

Connect Network members spent 2012-13 building relationships and strengthening their programming for mothers of vulnerable children. Specific achievements included:

- Site visits to key members by community networkers to assess needs, support and build relationships with and between members to engage them in active networking to benefit women.
- A DVD version of the Equipped to Serve training course was provided for 18 volunteers, hosted by Living Hope.
- Focus Groups were held with five Crisis Pregnancy Centres to jointly develop locally relevant brochures on adoption and other pregnancy-related issues.
- A women-focused meeting was held with 21 participants from 11 member organisations to share ideas, learn from each other, to pray and support one another. Together they built an asset map of all women-focused organisations and agreed on joint plans and goals.
- 37 staff and volunteers from six member organisations were trained in crisis counselling, using the Equipped to Serve training programme, which strengthened the Network's base of crisis counsellors for women.



Equipped to Serve

Long-standing member organisation, Village Care Centre (VCC), have seen the Equipped To Serve (ETS) course their staff attended have a dramatic effect on the way they counsel their school-going clients. Mary Lotriet, Director of the Centre, said that previously VCC was ill equipped to counsel and advise the young girls visiting the centre. Then two things happened to change that scenario. Mary's teenage daughter fell pregnant, and Mary attended an ETS crisis counselling course. According to Mary, that course equipped her to support her daughter while addressing her home situation and also to introduce the ETS counselling method at the Centre. The course has yielded positive results and many young people have been assisted in making wise decisions regarding their situations.

NETWORKING FOR CAPACITY

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Quality Improvement System (QIS)

To strengthen the systems, structures and processes of Connect Network members, we use the Quality Improvement System (QIS) organisational capacity building tool. QIS provides biblical principles and international best practice standards in six module areas: Project Planning & Design, Governance, Financial Accountability, People Care, Child Protection and Child Wellbeing. By strengthening our members' systems, structures and processes, they can ultimately improve the quality of care they provide to children.

IN 2012-13, SIX CONNECT NETWORK MEMBER ORGANISATIONS COMPLETED THE QIS TRAINING CYCLE.

“After completing the ‘Project Planning and Design’ QIS module, the Arise team undertook a review all of our plans and activities to ensure that we have clear, measurable, and objective goals for each programme we run. We recently ran our very first Personal Development Workshop for adults in Heideveld as a result of planning according to stakeholder input (another lesson from QIS!). Our workshop was planned in line with the tools we received at QIS and measured according to our new Monitoring and Evaluation strategy. As a result, 100% of the attendees reported reaching the personal development goals that we had set out to achieve! Thank you to Connect Network and the QIS team for the impact you’ve had here in Heideveld!”

— Arise Children’s Ministry -
Project Planning and Design Module





We have written a new Child Protection Policy and appointed Child Protection Officers, who have begun networking in the community in which they work, introducing themselves to social workers and the police.”

– The Sozo Foundation – Child Protection Module



2012-13 Achievements

In 2012-13, six Connect Network members completed the QIS cycle, with Arise Children’s Ministry, The Tereo Project, and The Sozo Foundation receiving accreditation at foundation level; Village CC and Valcare Trust receiving a commitment to improvement certificate; and Connect Network receiving accreditation at quality level for doing their verification for a second time. Members completed the following modules as part of the training:

- QIS Project Planning and Design
- QIS Governance
- QIS Financial Accountability
- Organisational Development Workshop
- QIS Verification



We have updated our staff job descriptions and produced an organogram to clarify roles and reporting lines. By knowing what is expected of them and seeing where everyone fits into the organisation, staff can work more effectively with the children they serve.”

– Arise Children’s Ministry - People Care Module



BY THE NUMBERS

256,154

children served

37

volunteers trained in
crisis counselling

61

staff and volunteers
from 22 organisations
trained in QIS modules

115

member
organisations

667

children took part
in SuperClubs over
December holidays



76

people trained in
first aid

5000

children have access to
trained first aiders and
first aid kits

18

organisations
received educational
resources

39,940

women served

800

children took part
in Homework Clubs

CONNECT NETWORK DONORS

The work that Connect Network does to support its member organisations would not be possible without the generous support of our donors.

Ben & Ruth Prior

Bill & Sabra Reichardt

CBS Manufacturing Pty Ltd

Cebano Consultants

Children's Campaign Trust

Ciolli Ready Mix Pty Ltd

Community Chest

Ernst & Young

Garnet & Virginia De la Hunt

GP Koning

Greenwood Chartered Accountants
(Accredited BEE Solutions (Pty)Ltd)

HT Gormley Trust

Ivan Moskoff Financials

Jennifer Lopes

Wendy Burgers – Education Gift

Vanheste-Ruysschaert (Belguim)

Super Camps UK

St. Michaels Church, Paris

Simon & Penny Hood

Live Fish Tanks (Pty) Ltd

Marais Muller Bestuurstrust

The Meinesz family

P Abrahamson

Rudolfo Bruno


Nightingale Associates

Various Individuals



Being a part of Connect Network has not only helped our organisation to get on its feet, but has made us aware of services in the greater Cape Town area with whom we can network, giving our clients the best possible assistance. The workshops are informative and very helpful. It also makes us so aware that we are not alone in the work we do, but that there is support and understanding out there.

— Ruach Counselling Centre



A number of generous donors contributed directly to the publication of Connect Network's annual calendar:

Cape Agricultural Products

Camp Africa

Claytile

Children's Campaign Trust

GEOSS – Geohydrological & Spatial Solutions International (Pty) Ltd

H2O Somerset West

Home Life Construction

Ivan Moskoff Financials

Incline Marketing Solutions

Mantelle Marketing t/a Robosol

Purple Line Plastics Pty Ltd

Spinnaker IMS

Connect Network is privileged to be sponsored by the following businesses and individuals:

Incline Marketing Solutions - office space

Ivan Moskoff Financials - laptop

Mrs Honeybun - wheelchairs

Pretoria Portland Cement Company Ltd (PPC) - cement to member Immanuel's Haven

ON BEHALF OF ALL OUR MEMBERS,
CONNECT NETWORK THANKS
ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR PERSONAL
AND CORPORATE COMMITMENT
WHICH HELPED US TO ACHIEVE
OUR 2012-13 GOALS.

CONNECT NETWORK MEMBERS

"[Being a member of Connect Network] will help my organisation because we learn new stuff as we share with others. It is a great way of evaluating our organisation."

— Member organisation

In 2012-13, membership in the Connect Network grew from 109 to 115 organisations. Members are largely becoming more engaged in Network activities, demonstrating that they feel there is a benefit to membership.

360 Transformation
ACVV Bright Lights
ACVV Somerset West
Adaliah Care
Aids Resource Centre
Arise Children's Ministry
Anointed Ministries
Baby Safe
Beautiful Gate Ministries International
Beautiful Gate South Africa
Beauty for Ashes
Bell Valley Initiative
Bridges of Hope SA
Carehaven Salvation Army
Choices Centre
Common Good Foundation
Community in Action
Eagles Nest Ministries

Emyezwani
Ethel's Place Youth Care Centre
Family Outreach Ministries
Fikelela Aids Project
Friends of Child Protection
Hand of Hope (Joyce Meyer)
Hope and Light Community Welfare
Heatherdale Children's Homes
Helderberg Development Centre
Home from Home Trust
Home of Compassion Ministries
Hope Prison Ministries
Immanuel's Haven
Izandla Zethemba
Jabulani Africa Ministries
Joya Homes and Educare Company
Jubilee Health Centre
Justice Acts

Khulanathi Educare Centre
Kibwe Kids
Kohin
Kuyasa Horison Empowerment
L' Abrie de Dieu Safehouse
Legacy Community Development
Lerato's Hope
Life Matters Foundation
Lighthouse Ministries
Little Angels
Living Hope Community Centre
Mascassar Kids Craft Club
Mater Domini Home
Matla-A-Bana
MENUCHAH - Place of Rest
Mercy Aids
Metro Kids Africa
Missing Children SA
Mould Empower Serve

Ncedeluntu Sanctuary Trust
NewDay
Nthando Home of Safety
Open Schools Worldwide
Options Care Centre
Percy Bartley House
Phambili Community Development
Philippi Children's Centre
Philippi Trust SA
Philisa Abafazi Bethu
Place of Hope
Procure
Prochorus Community Development
Proud2B Me Foundation
Rainbow of Hope
Rape Crisis Helderberg
Rock Crisis Centre
Ruach Counselling Centre
SA Cares for Life
Safeline Child Abuse Prevention

& Treatment Centre
Saints in Christ Family Church
Sarfat Community Projects
Scripture Union
SCAS
Seasons Crisis Pregnancy Centre
Senecio Support
SHARE Adult Education Centre
Sibusisiwe Community Care
Sikhula Sonke
Sir Lowry's Pass Community Empowerment Project
Sisters Incorporated
Somerset West United Church
Soul Action South Africa
SouthEnd Community Centre
Sport Implementation Foundation
St. Anne's Home
St. Peter's Church Mowbray
Straatlig
Straatwerk
Tereo Project

Thando Trust
The King's Smile
The Pearl Community Development Project
The Phoebe Care Centre
The Salvation Army
The Sozo Foundation
The Warehouse
Thembalitsha Foundation
Think Twice
Touch Community Network
Trinity Children's Centre
Umnqophiso Primary School
United Christian Student Association
uThando leNkosi
Valcare Trust
Village Care Centre
Vision Afrika
Walk with a purpose
Whale Coast Media
Women of Destiny

Our experience of Connect Network has always been that they add value to our organisation; by the services they offer, and their friendly, resourceful and professional staff. They have helped us to network more effectively with other organisations who serve women and children, which facilitates growth and the development of positive relationships within the sector, ultimately improving service levels all round. Thank you Connect Network for your commitment to women and children at risk, the organisations which serve them, and your faithfulness to Gospel values!

- Amy Servais on behalf of Mater Domini

CONNECT NETWORK PARTNERS

Connect Network works closely with a number of institutional partners, without whom our work would not be possible:



Alternative Prosperity - B-BBEE Consultancy Support



Open Schools Worldwide - Homework Club Tutor Support

Christelijke Hogeschool EDE - Supervision of Dutch Social Work Students



Equipped to Serve - Crisis Counselling Training



Ernst and Young- Homework Clubs and First Aid Training



Thando Trust - SuperClubs

Viva - International Partnership



Children's Campaign Trust



WHY BELONG TO CONNECT NETWORK?



Why belong to Connect? These sort of questions always cause a lot of thought and sometimes panic, but for me, being asked that question has been easy to answer!

Anyone who is working in an NPO and especially in a Christian organisation will have felt a range of emotions in their day to day work. Many of these emotions are difficult to express because "we are supposed to be strong, have all the answers, be able to take anything thrown at us, but the truth is, we all need somewhere to unload and share.

This has been the most valuable partnership that I have struck up, where I have met a group of people who care and understand.

At the time I was introduced to Connect Network,

...I desperately needed somewhere that I could be vulnerable without being judged or dismissed - I found that in Connect

... I needed somewhere to recharge my emotions, mind and also body - meeting with Connect people did this!

...I needed a platform to land with my ideas and problems - I have landed at Connect, safely and without crashing!

I will always need somewhere to go for ideas, resources, contacts and expertise and I know I can "Connect" and find those places.

God has called me to serve Him with excellence and joining the QIS programme has created the opportunity to do this and to know where and how I can improve that service - an awesome programme I would recommend to anyone who cares about what they are doing!

Apart from all this, Connect staff are a bunch of amazing and also very inspired, experienced and informed people who I have grown to respect in a very short period of belonging to Connect - just over one year. The team know how to make someone feel special and appreciated. I don't think I will be cancelling my membership for many years, if ever!

THANK YOU CONNECT! from the bottom of my heart.

With my love and appreciation,

— Celia Goddard - Eagle's Nest Ministries (Eagle's Nest Christian Primary School)

BOARD

Connect Network has a dedicated Board of Directors who oversee our work:



Erica Pippert
Chairperson



David Nefdt
Member
Organisation



Joseph Jacobs
Member Organisation



Jurie Serfontein
Human Resources



Peter Williams
Financial Advisor

STAFF

Connect Network
is staffed by a small
core of dedicated
individuals who
are committed to
improving the lives of
children and women
in the Western Cape.



Dee Moskoff
Network Director



Heidi Segal
Educational Manager



Kay Lorentz
Children's Network
Coordinator



Laura Singh
Education Network
Coordinator



Linda Walters
Community
Networker



Lorien Walters
Child Protection
Coordinator



Michelle Mienesz
QIS Programme
Manager



Norma Theron
ETS Coordinator



Priscilla Muller
Office Administrator



Sophie Olivier
Marketing &
Communications



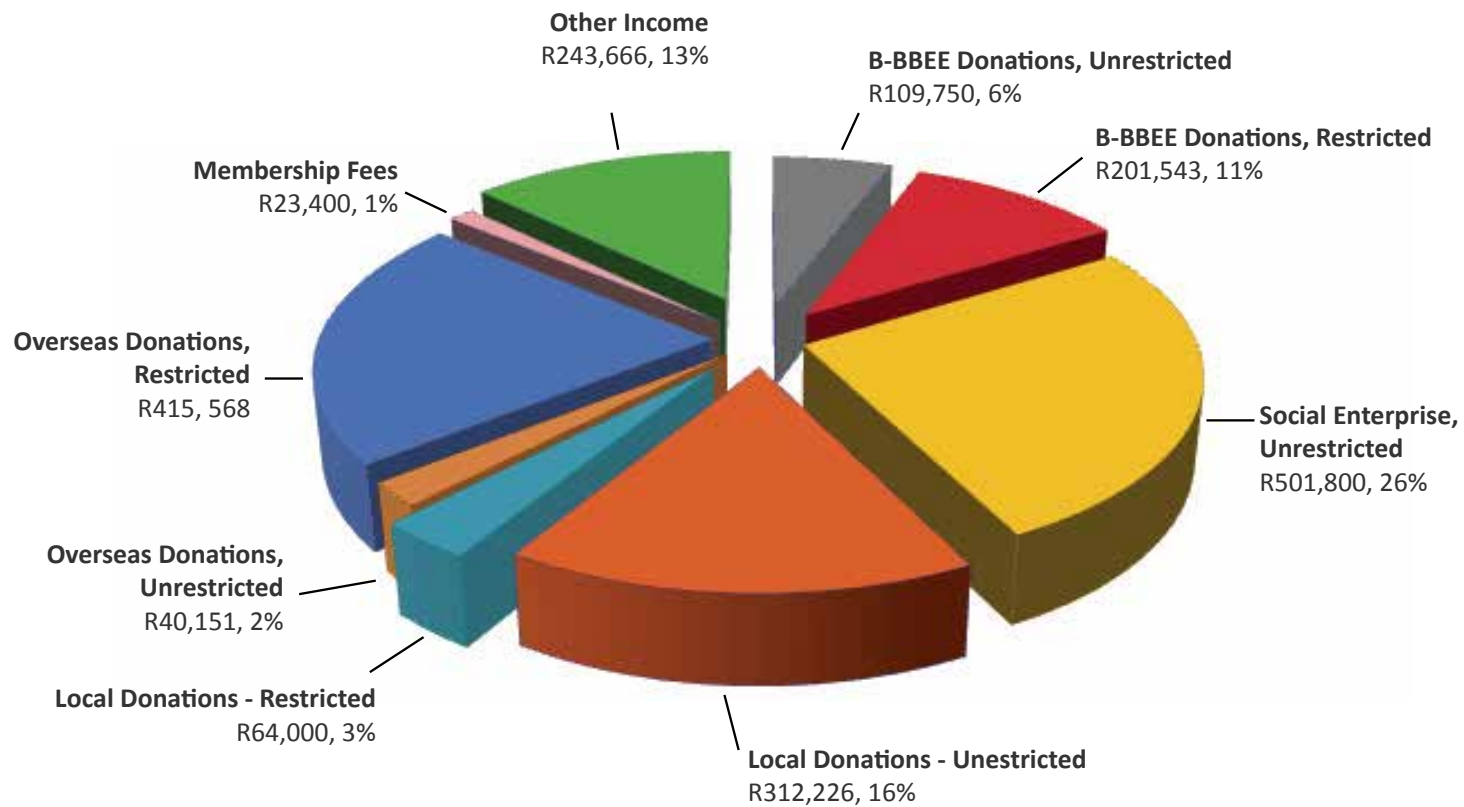
Beverley Stoffberg
Finance Manager

2012-13 FINANCIALS

INCOME

TOTAL 2012/13: R1,912,104

2011/12: R1,364,193

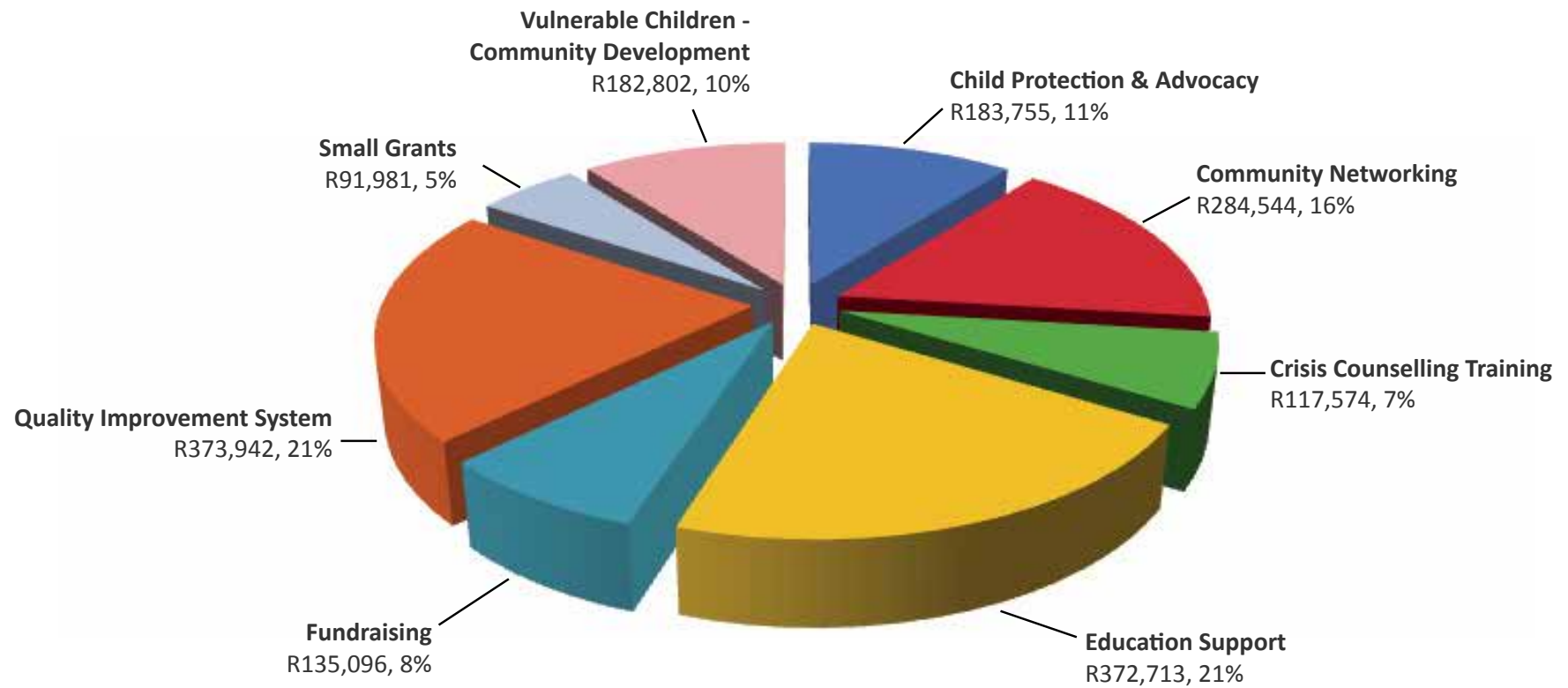


2012-13 FINANCIALS

EXPENDITURE

TOTAL 2012/13: R1,742,417

2011/2012: R1,265,370





Connect Network is a collaborative network of NPOs and Churches working together with women and children at risk, to see communities transformed in South Africa.

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pbo: 930031187 (Section 18A Status)