



CONNECT
NETWORK

together for women and children at risk

ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 2010 - FEBRUARY 2011

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Connect Network has done outstanding work over the last few years for women and children at risk. It is really encouraging to notice how the network has grown and established itself as a solid organisation. Connect Network prides itself as an organisation that puts people before projects. No wonder we are blessed with gifted and vibrant staff members that are prepared to go the extra mile. Three new staff members have been added due to expansion at Connect. The Connect Board members displayed courage, faith and outstanding leadership throughout this last term in the face of many daunting challenges. Funding was one of the biggest challenges the last year. Whenever there was a shortfall, the Board would come together and pray. Every time God would come through and meet our needs. We give God all the glory and honour for His faithfulness and blessings to the network. Administratively, Connect has always set high standards. Procedure and processes are duly followed. Planning and board meetings are always fruitful and the Board members never hesitated to make and implement tough decisions. The finances of Connect are very sound, with proper regular auditing. Our financial officer has ensured best practices are always followed. Connect Network continues to exist for its members and constantly seeks creative ways to benefit and encourage the network members. We also wish to express sincere appreciation to all our members for the sterling work they have been doing in their respective communities.

Connect Network is still committed to serve and make a difference in the lives of women and children. We are ready to face the challenges that the next year may bring. God has been faithful and His promises are true.

Yours in His service

Colin van Wyk



DIRECTORS REPORT

Vuvuzelas, flag socks on wing mirrors, fan Zones, and a fever pitch atmosphere set the scene for one of the world's greatest sports tournaments which happened here in South Africa in 2010.

Connect Network members embarked on two of the most ambitious networking initiatives ever done in the network; firstly they kept thousands of children safe during the long school holidays over the World Cup period and secondly they initiated a city - wide media and awareness campaign to **prevent human trafficking of women and children into sexual exploitation to "entertain" the soccer fans. This could not have** been done without years of building intentional and strategic relationships, the determination of organisations and churches working together, the leadership skills of working group co-ordinators, sponsors and donors who all believed in the vision and gave of their resources, generous volunteers and communities who offered their skill and time. All of these factors ensured sustainable community ownership and commitment.

Connect Network is all about building bridges of relationships - the glue that holds society together. It is out of these relationship bridges that **solutions can be made for our city's women and children at risk.**

In order for us to help change one woman or child's life, our members seek to change the environment that they exist in. More and more Connect Network members are realising that in order for us to make a collective difference on a macro scale in our city, we need to gear up the standard and quality of the services that we as individuals, organisations and churches offer women and children at risk. Our Quality Improvement System helps organisations and churches to gear up for quality delivery. After a five year pilot period in the past year, more than 15 organisations committed to the Quality Improvement journey and Connect has welcomed a programme manager on staff to make it happen.

As we look back over the past year, we see that, despite challenges and tragedy facing the Connect staff, 2010 proved to be an effective year in terms of child protection around the World Cup and Quality Improvement System growth.

Connect Network is proving that willing people + combined skills, talents and resources = a force that can change a city.

Dee Moskoff



Connect Equip programmes are designed to strengthen organisations and people that form the safety net. Strengthening capacity requires not only new skills and changes in individual behaviour, but also changes in organisational behaviour that address critical organisational development issues such as systems, structures and processes.

Equipped to Serve (ETS)



Every day that a woman or child is at risk they are in a crisis. Organisations and churches are responding to them, but often the people working there, lack the skills to support them out of the crisis. Equipped to Serve training helps address this challenge faced by those working with women and children at risk, by developing their knowledge, attitude and listening skills to ensure the women and children get the best care possible.

During 2010 Connect Network hosted two ETS training courses for nine organisations, including churches and two new NPO's, training 31 people in total. Plans were put in place to equip more trainers in 2011 and to strengthen the structure of this recourse to enhance the benefit to all Connect Network members .



"We were travelling back from the ETS course when I noticed a young girl walking along the road, crying and looking distraught. We talked to the young girl who was prostituting herself to get some money as she was unemployed and needed to buy food and we were able to start putting into practice what we had learnt. The new skills enabled us to help her through her crisis and reconnect her with her family." Gill, Live the Life Church Hermanus

Quality Improvement System (QIS)

A capacity building programme for Connect members that helps them to improve their **organisation's** performance. They are introduced to biblical principles and international non-profit organization standards in six module areas over two years. These are Financial Accountability, Governance, Project Planning & Design, Child Protection, People Care and Child Wellbeing. This financial year we ran three modules, namely Governance, Child Protection and Financial Accountability, for a total of 50 participants from 30 organisations (including 5 churches) serving approximately 35 000 women, children and families at risk. Ten of those organisations are fully committed to the two year QIS cycle; eight will be ready for accreditation at the end of 2011.

Walk with a Purpose, a community based organisation in Khayelitsha, attended the Governance module. As a result of the training the Board that was "in name only" has been transformed with new recruits. There are now five members who actively assist in decision-making and keeping staff accountable. After meeting a number of organisations in the training they learnt about legal entities and registrations and decided to register with the Non Profit Directorate as a non-profit organisation.

The *Every Nation Church* in Somerset West attended the Child Protection module. They have subsequently decided to develop a child protection policy for each Every Nation church in South Africa. They are modeling a fundamental commitment to the welfare of children, by being aware of, taking a stand on and taking measures to ensure the protection of the children under their care or supported by their ministries in the church.

L'Abrie de Dieu Safehouse attended the Financial Accountability module. They were very excited to learn more about managing restricted and unrestricted funds. As a result of the training they decided to ask their group of supporters who regularly do fundraising drives for the Safehouse, to raise funds *specifically* for skills training. They raised triple the amount of funds they usually bring in and the Safehouse now has a beautifully kitted out Skills Training Room and a storage facility.



Focus groups build social capital around specific topical issues and work together towards solutions.

Early Childhood Development

“Education in South Africa is in Crisis, 70% of our schools are not functioning according to acceptable education standards. During the past two years the South African Education system as ejected 535 000 children from school without any passing certificate and with a very uncertain future” Finweek 3.2.2008



Connect Network’s Early Childhood Development Focus Group believes that learning starts before school does and that children start learning the day they are born. The focus group also believes that many parents and caregivers do not know how to support early learning. The focus group was established by three forums working in the area of ECD, in three different townships, namely *Prochorus, Sikuhla Sonke and Emyezweni Pre-School*, with the purpose to address the issues of ECD by building links, sharing resources and learning exchanges. Together they represent 85 Crèches, many of which are not yet registered and are run by women with very little education themselves. Each forum attempts to help them register and improve their quality of care for children. Children attending these crèches are from low income homes, often affected **by poverty and HIV. Through the focus group’s support informal crèches have managed to apply for registration** by the Department of Social Development. The high level of regulations for registration is almost impossible to implement in communities with less resources. These crèches were nevertheless assisted in the process and had major breakthroughs – the department is now prepared to accommodate them in achieving the conditions. Social Workers from the Department of Social Development are giving them all the assistance possible - it is very reassuring for us to know that these crèches are receiving assistance from the Government.

In 2010 the focus group hosted a conference for 105 women running crèches in Khayelitsha, Kayamandi, Bloekombos and Lwandle. Let Your Light Shine, a video-based training, was presented to the participants. The programme is designed to help day care educators to care for children affected and /or infected by HIV/AIDS and gain awareness of how best to help orphans and sick children and how to keep healthy children living healthy lives.



“We teachers need more times like this to learn and share. I enjoyed meeting teachers from other areas in Cape Town and hearing about their struggles and successes.”

“It was lovely to have a whole day to think about our response to the orphan crisis. To share with other people in the same situation helped me think about what I can do to help more.”

Let Your Light Shine Participants

Women’s Shelter Focus Group

Leading an organisation that serves women in crisis can be stressful as directors grapple with organisational challenges, lack of funding and the desperate situation those women face, who are in their care. For this purpose the women’s shelter focus group was formed in 2009 to encourage networking, learning exchanges, sharing of resources and identification of common issues that can be worked on together. In 2010 a family law practitioner trained the group on legal matters regarding domestic disputes, custody and maintenance grants. All members of this group are part of the national governments plan for women in shelters, which include providing affordable housing for these women and especially for the single moms.

Shelters represented in this focus group include: St Anne’s Home, Place of Hope, Sisters Incorporated, Living Hope, Village care centre, Mater Domini.

The church is known to be the largest movement working with children at risk in terms of workers on the ground and children reached. Connect Engages with Churches at various levels.

Engaging globally at the Lausanne Convention



Cape Town was host to the biggest Christian Evangelical world conference – the Lausanne convention in October 2010, 4500 church leaders from all over the globe attended and children were on the agenda! The **Global Children’s Forum**, a **partnering network of Christian children’s agencies who work globally or in a major region**, brought together a team to advocate for children within the ‘global conversation’ about major issues facing children today. Known as the ‘**Children’s Team**’, this voluntary coalition also drew members from other significant partnerships including Viva (children at risk), the ‘**4 to 14 Window Movement**’ (broad transformational advocacy for children) and others. **Connect Network’s child ambassador from Emyezweni preschool in Lwandle Township was the only child participant representing children of the world at the convention where she bravely did the opening prayer of the session on children. Connect was also represented at the World Evangelical Alliance workshop on the church’s response to Human Trafficking. Ten Connect members had the opportunity to share their models of orphan care and adoptions in the form of a resource DVD at the exhibition and information table for all delegates. This has put Cape Town on the global map for good practice with orphans.**

30 overseas delegates had the opportunity to site visit Connect members in the Kayamandi Township to see what the church is doing for children at risk there. Many of them had never seen such poverty for themselves.

“It was very valuable meeting the children , hearing from the staff, understanding the ministry, I wish we could have a little more time in the community to interact with them, God spoke to me about the ‘missing fathers” Dr Ravi Jaykaran MAP USA

Engaging locally in Child Friendly Churches

Churches are key places where children are coming for entertainment, love and nurturing. Hence it is important as a network to focus on training churches to build their capacity to help children at risk and to understand the heart of God for all children. Church leaders and child practitioners seldom have the opportunity to be assisted in making practical change in their churches. The Child Friendly Church initiative comes alongside churches to give them simple tools so that they can make modest but significant changes in the way they plan for and engage children and provides follow up support to help the churches make the change necessary. During 2010 Connect Network facilitated a Child Friendly Church Programme with ten Helderberg Churches who came together to address the needs of children in their community.

They realised the importance of networking with resources and other churches in the community. In this way they were able to utilise their **strengths to support others in need, and draw on other strengths and resources to respond to children’s needs. Many of the churches have responded to the programme and initiated changes within the structuring of their programmes as well as the safety of their facilities. One of the churches has written their child protection policy and is taking steps to implement this by gathering police checks for all who are involved in working with children. Another church has made efforts to improve the safety of their facilities by putting up a security gate which remains closed after certain hours so that the children are kept safe within the facility and do not have access to the road.**

Prior to the programme attendees were meeting sporadically with children’s workers from other churches. As a result of the programme they have been encouraged to make this a regular event in which they support each other, share ideas and resources, and learn from each other’s experiences. Relationships are being built with the Lansdowne Ecumenical group for a 2011 Child Friendly Church Initiative.

HELDERBERG STATISTICS:

- Population size 150 000, of which 43% under the age of 19
- 266 places of worship
- 67 different church groups
- 92.6% places of worship are Christian.
- 5.7% are traditional African belief.
- More churches per capita in areas of low socio economic status.

“Speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves”. Historically Connect has participated in the abortion hearings in parliament. In 2010 the spotlight was on abandoned babies.

Child Protection Month



The National Child Protection week in South Africa is an annual campaign of the Government, of which the goal is to promote a culture of respect for children rights, thus ensuring that all children grow up in an environment that is free from neglect, abuse and exploitation. Connect Network has adopted the whole month of May for this cause and we call this the Green Ribbon Campaign. As part of the advocacy campaign Connect raises awareness by tying green ribbons around trees, on aerials of cars and wearing them on lapels.

2010 saw the launch of the amended **Children’s Act** (Act no 38 of 2005) in South Africa, and **44 Connect members have been through Connect’s Child Protection training as a part of the quality improvement journey.** In 2010 we hosted a Child Protection training as well as a **Children’s Act Information day in collaboration with the SA Police force, to give the network and civil society an opportunity to become familiar with the Act so that they can implement necessary changes in their organisations.**

The month ended with more than 20 churches across Cape Town, and some nationally, hosting a Service of Hope and Blessing to pray for children at risk, the perpetrators of abuse, and for those caring for and serving the well being of children.



Abandoned Babies



During 2010 more than 500 babies were found abandoned in the Western Cape.

In November, the MEC of the Western Cape, Patricia De Lille realised the extent of the issue when she **stated that “for every one abandoned baby the media reports on, there are 50 more. She called an emergency summit on the issue of abandoned babies in the Western Cape.** Connect Network was **represented at the summit and contributed to the city’s strategy for the issue of child abandonment.** Although this plan is not currently being taken forward by the city, none the less the network is responding to the challenge, and are planning a networking event in 2011 to discuss solutions to these issues of crisis pregnancies and how we can best support new mothers in our communities.

“The time has come for all of us to work together to understand the challenge of crisis pregnancies in our communities better and to put together a practical plan of action that can speedily implement solutions.”

Patricia De Lille, Mayor of Cape Town



Abandoned babies are an increasingly common South African phenomenon, with Child Welfare South Africa saying latest annual figures are pointing to an ten percent increase on the over 2500 babies abandoned last year, with the Cape Town figures having more than doubled over the past year. While some babies are left at hospitals or safe houses, many are dumped on rubbish sites and left to die of starvation or suffocation. Cape Town appears to worst place to risk being born.

West Cape News - Online Post
published: 27 August 2010

NETWORK STEERING GROUP



Pastor Colin van Wyk
Chairman
Member Representative



Jenny Patchett
Accountant



Peter Williams
Fundraising Director



Erica Pippert
Member Representative



Jurie Serfontein
HR Director

NETWORK STAFF



Dee Moskoff
Network Director



Linda Walters
Network Coordinator



Nadia Rinquest
Youth at Risk Coordinator



Ricci Marshall
Children at Risk Coordinator



Lorién Parker
Child Protection Advocate



Michelle Meinesz
QIS Programme Manager



Yvette Rodgers
Equipped to Serve Administrator



Norma Theron
Equipped to Serve Coordinator



Ruth Droomer
Office Administrator



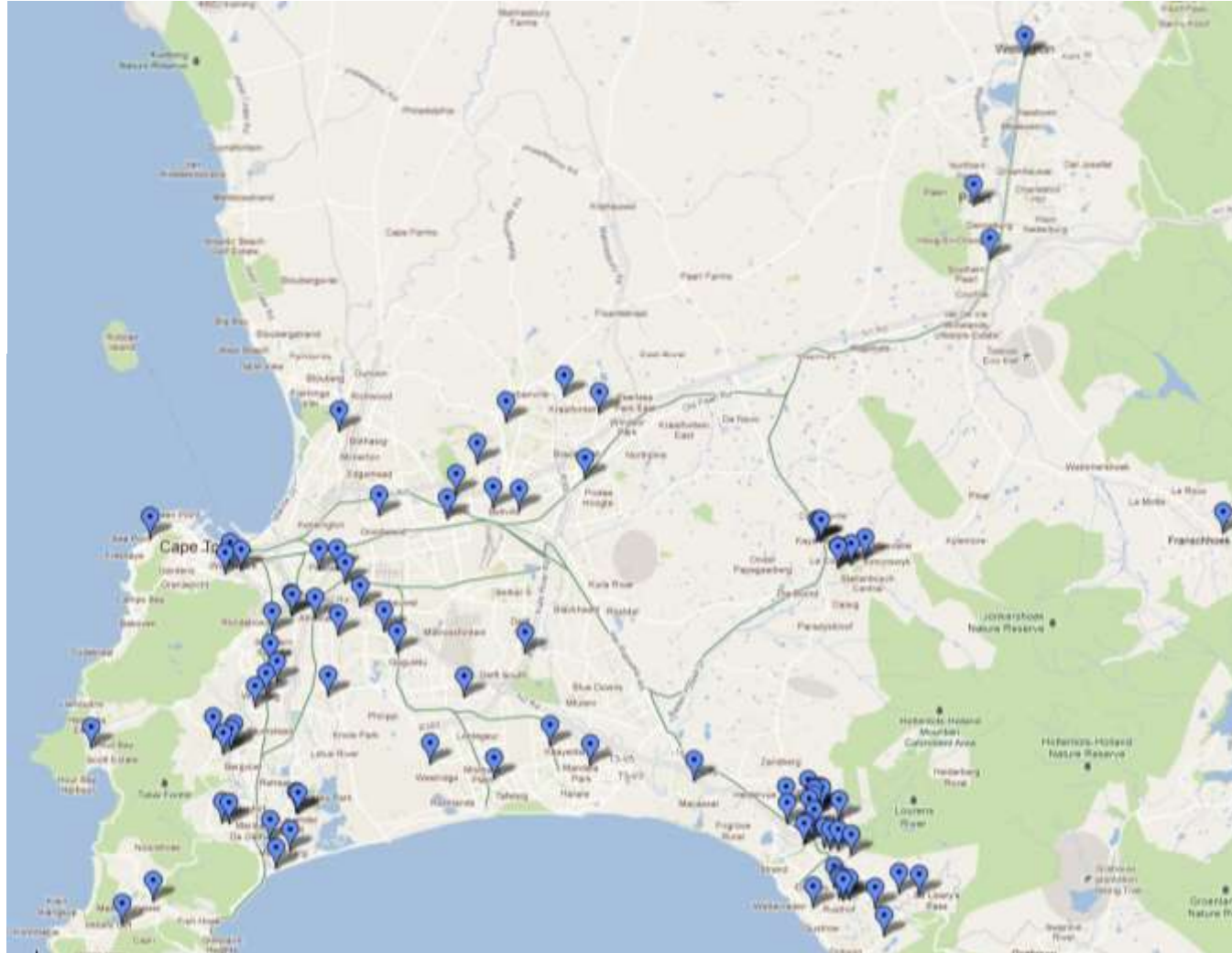
Sophie Olivier
Programme Administrator



Maryanne Sangster
Finance Administrator

CONNECT NETWORK COMMUNITY

New members for March 2009 - February 2010



- ACVV Bright Lights
- ACVV Somerset West
- Adaliah Care
- Anointed Ministries
- Baby Safe
- Beautiful Gate International
- Beauty for Ashes
- Bell Valley Initiative
- Bridges of Hope
- Care for Kids
- Carehaven Salvation Army
- Choices
- Common Good
- Community in Action
- Emyenzweni
- Ethel's Place
- Family Outreach Ministries
- Fikelela Aids Project
- Friends of Child Protection
- Gemeenskaps Ontwikkeling
- Heatherdale Children's Homes
- Helderberg Development
- Hands of Hope (Joyce Meyer)
- Home from Home Trust
- Hope Prison Ministries
- Inter Outreach Ministries
- Izandla Zethemba
- Jabulani
- Justice Acts
- Kuyasa Horison Empowerment
- Legacy Community Development
- Lerato's Hope
- Life Matters Foundation
- Lighthouse Ministries
- Little Angels
- Mascassar Kids Craft Club
- Mater Domini
- Matla-A-Bana
- Missing Children SA

- Mould Empower Serve
- Ncedeluntu
- New Day
- Options
- Percy Bartley House
- Philippi Trust
- Philisa Abafazi
- Place of Hope
- Procare
- Prochorus
- Rainbow of Hope
- Rape Crisis
- Rock Crisis Centre
- Ruach Counselling Centre
- Saints in Christ Church
- SCAS
- Scripture Union
- Seasons PHC
- Senecio
- SHARE
- Sikhula Sonke
- Sisters Inc
- SLP Community Empowerment Project
- Soul Action South Africa
- SouthEnd Comm. Centre
- St. Anne's Home
- Straatwerk
- The King's Smile
- Thembalitsha Foundation
- The Child Witness Centre
- The Godparents Project
- Think Twice
- Touch Community Network
- UCSA
- Umnqophiso
- Watoto Child Care
- Women of Destiny
- Whale Coast Media
- 360 Transformation

Connect Members on the Quality Improvement Journey

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arise Children's Ministry Beautiful Gate South Africa Immanuels Haven Kohin L'Abrie de Dieu Living Hope Community Centre Metro Kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phambili Community Development SA Cares for Life Sarfat Tereo Village Care Centre Valcare Trust Walk with a Purpose
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Together serving more than 85,000 women and children at risk

FRIENDS OF CONNECT NETWORK

Sponsors

Coca Cola
Lindt Chocolate
First Garment
Imibala
Ivan Moskoff Financials
Joyce Meyer Ministries
Mrs Honeybun - Wheelchairs
Pick and Pay - Shout CDs
Rebecca Groves Photography
Revlon
Strand Signs
The Warehouse

Donors

Boston Laundry
Children's Campaign Trust
Cebano
Fieldsted
Garnet and Virginia De La Hunt
GP Koning (Pty) Ltd
Greenwood Chartered Accounts
Helderberg Rotary Arms
HT Gormley Trust
Jennifer Lopes
St Amands College
SuperCamps UK

Calendar Donors

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Children's Campaign Trust
Cebano
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Homelife Construction
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Mustard Seed Foundation
Purple Line Plastics (Pty) Ltd
Spinnaker IMS
SuperCamps

Special thanks to Rebecca Groves for the photographs for the Calendar

THANK-YOU for your generous contribution in growing Connect Network



CONNECT NETWORK CONTACT DETAILS

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

First Floor
Alexandra Building
147 Main Road
Somerset West
7130

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 1005
Somerset West
7130
South Africa

REGISTRATION NUMBERS:

NPO 040-987
PBO 9300174250
SECTION 21: 2006/012058/08
SECTION 18A COMPANY

EMAIL: info@connect-sa.net

TELEPHONE: +27 (0)21 852 9900

FAX: 086 600 7568

WEBSITE: www.connectnetwork.org.za

OPERATIONAL BANK ACCOUNT:

Account Name: Connect
Account Number: 1060 191 113
Nedbank, Somerset West
Branch Code: 106012
Swift Code: Nedszajj

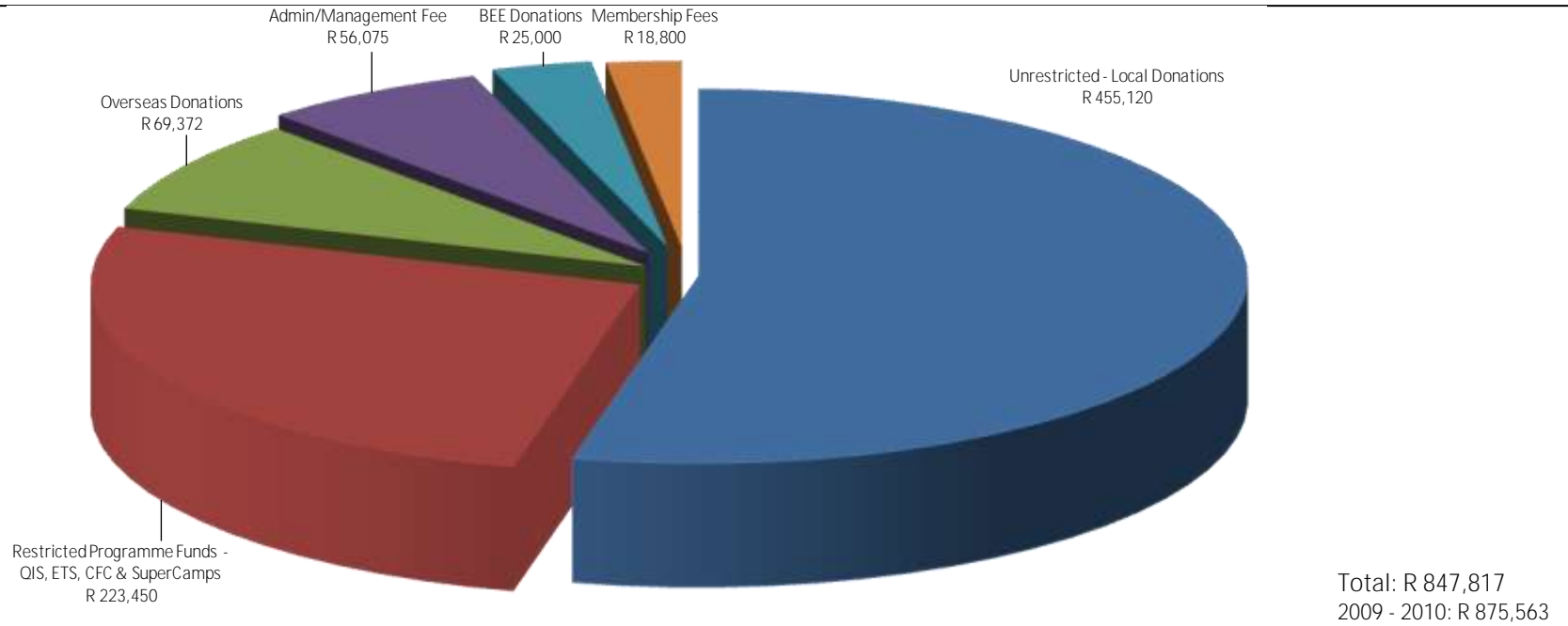
FUND BANK ACCOUNT:

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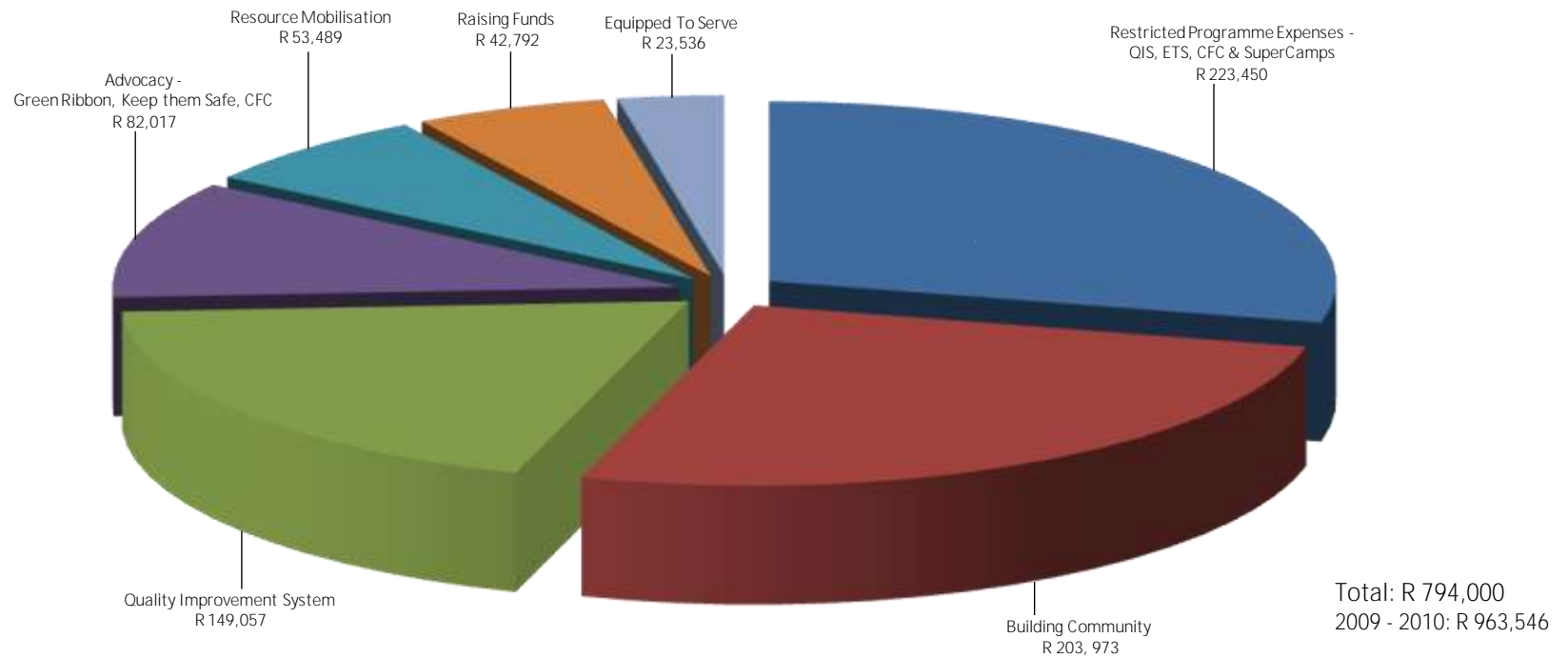
FINANCIAL REVIEW

March 2009 - February 2010

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



Children are suffering. We all know that.
Thousands of people are working to help them. We all know that too.
Yet the problem persists. Children are still suffering.
In cities all over the world there are projects doing great work, but a lack of money, people and time means there is a limit to what they can achieve alone.
We need to work together
Imagine what would happen if the people caring for children joined forces.
If childcare workers, local churches, governments and international charities came together to tackle the issues faced by children.
Whole cities would be transformed
Together we would have the power to bring about real change for children not just chipping away at the surface of the problems but fighting them right at the root.
At Viva we are doing just that.
Through our 44 city-wide networks we are increasing the unity, quality and impact of work for children at risk, our joint action changing the lives of over 1 million children around the world.

Patrick Mc Donald CEO Viva
Connect Network is a Viva partner

