



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Giving Childhood Back to Children



*108 Years of
Child & Family
Services to the Community*

Giving Childhood Back to Children



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PBO REF No. 18/11/13/1145
A Community Chest Member
www.cwdd.org.za



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Durban,
4001
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4023

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Durban and District
Bank: Standard Bank
Branch: Windermere Road,
Durban
Branch code: 042726
Account no.: 251139042

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Our VISION

As a non-profit organization, Child Welfare Durban & District commits to working for justice and ensuring the well-being of children by protecting their rights and promoting their quality of life, as well as that of their families and communities.

Our MISSION

To protect, investigate and provide care for children in need, including neglect, abuse, abandonment, orphan hood, children affected/infected by HIV and AIDS, and children who have been living on the streets;

To establish, maintain and conduct places of care, incorporating therapeutic programmes;

To promote early childhood development;

To promote wider community participation in child and family welfare services.

INTERIM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ringo Naidoo



It has been a privilege to serve as Interim President, albeit for a brief period. Guided by the dedication of our Board and staff, we have remained steadfast in our mission to protect and care for the most vulnerable children in our community.

CHALLENGES

Like many Child Welfare Societies, we face widespread poverty, inadequate funding, high staff turnover, and systemic issues that disproportionately affect children in foster care.

Rising operational costs, old infrastructure, and limited donor support further strain our resources. Delays caused by bureaucratic processes also consume valuable time and slow service delivery.

FINANCES

Funding remains our greatest challenge. While the KZN Department of Social Development subsidises salaries of social workers, managers, and admin staff, this covers only a part of our total costs.

Our Finance Committee has ensured prudent cash management, enabling us to meet our obligations, including staff salaries.

We currently employ 131 staff, including 46 social workers.

EDITH BENSON BABIES HOME (EBBH)

A major milestone was the completion of the R15.8 million rebuild of EBBH, officially handed over in December 2023. While construction is complete, contributions are still required for solar power, furnishings, cutlery, clothing, astro turf, and parking. Final property transfer is pending the surveyor's diagrams.

OPPORTUNITIES

Child Welfare offers opportunities for direct service through social workers, caseworkers, and child and youth care workers, as well as in advocacy, community outreach, foster care, governance and policy development.

Our flagship Adoption Services programme is accredited locally and internationally, with partnerships in the UK, Canada, and the Netherlands.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend heartfelt thanks to our donors, partners, and community supporters.

To our Board, thank you for your commitment and guidance.

To our staff, your resilience and compassion in difficult times continue to inspire.

Thanks to Mr Desmond Msomi, who served CWDD as President until 22 August 2025.

"Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together they make this world a beautiful garden."

Ringo Naidoo



TRIBUTE TO ANNE JANSSENS
(18 / 04 / 1933 - 18 / 05 / 2024)

We record with deep appreciation the service of the late Anne Janssens, who served as Vice President until 2020. Anne's leadership, integrity, and commitment were invaluable to the growth and stability of our organization.

GOVERNORS



Desmond Msomi
President (22.08.2025)



Ringo Naidoo
Interim President



Vincent Naidoo
Honorary Treasurer



John Murray
Board Member



Devan Shukla
Board Member



Pravin Ram
Board Member



Dr Heleen Grobbelaar
Vice President



Huzaifah Elias
Board Member



Prof Dasarath Chetty
Board Member



Dr Nokuthula Vilakazi
Board Member

Chairpersons of Sub Committees

Huzaifah Elias - Finance and Asset Management Standing Committee
Ringo Naidoo - Residential Services Committee - Lakehaven Child and Youth Care Centre
Dr Heleen Grobbelaar - Residential Services Committee - William Clark Gardens
Pravin Ram - Human Resources



Naushina Rasool
Interim Director



Vincent Chitray
Adoption Manager
Acting Senior Operations
Manager - North Cluster



Phumele Mhlambi
North Team Manager
Acting Senior Operations
Manager - South Cluster



Dhenasha Singh
Wentworth Manager



Hlengiwe Mkhazibe
Central Team Manager



Samkelisiwa Langa
William Clarke Manager



Bulelwa Nomaqiza
West Team Manager



Nokukhanya Mkhize-Zungu
Umlazi Team Manager



Lorraine Pillay
Lakehaven Manager



OUR STAFF COMPOSITION

COMPLIANCE

The Child Welfare Durban and District Human Resources Department is compliant with the Department of Labour regulations, as confirmed by our Letter of Good Standing. We adhere to established policies and procedures when making decisions. An audit of our documentation by the Department of Labour confirmed that all our human resources matters are in order.

RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

The Human Resources Department ensured that all required documentation is submitted when shortlisting and employing candidates. The vetting process is conducted for all candidates, including volunteers, to ensure their names do not appear on the sexual offender's register.

RELATIONSHIPS

The Human Resources Department maintained good relationships with staff and our stakeholders, including our accountants Accensis, the Department of Social Development, Fairsure Administrators, Hollard and the Department of Labour.

STAFF TURNOVER

Child Welfare Durban and District faces challenges with a high staff turnover rate, as many employees leave for better opportunities. Employing Child and Youth Care Workers is particularly difficult because many Child and Youth Care Workers are still awaiting their certificates from the Social Council and other candidates owe restoration fees. Our Organization is unable to function to full capacity due to lack of funding of posts through financial constraints.

TRAININGS

External and in-house training is conducted on a regular basis. Students from University of KwaZulu Natal and Durban University of Technology were placed at our facilities for practical work.

PENSION AND PROVIDENT FUND

Child Welfare Durban and District faces difficulties with the Pension Fund Administrators where some payments to exited employees were not processed. The Organization is looking at the appointment of another Administrator.

Director	01
Senior Manager	01
Social Work Managers	07
Social Workers	46
Occupational Health & Safety Officer	01
Community House Mothers	02
Senior Child & Youth Care Workers	08
Child & Youth Care Workers	42
Domestic Workers	11
Drivers	02
Admin Team	10
TOTAL STAFF	131

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

M Naidu
Honorary Treasurer



FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 - OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Dear Members, Staff and Supporters of CWDD,

Below is the financial report for the period ending March 2025.

The 2024/2025 financial year has been one that was filled with strained financial resources which required intense focus on cashflow management to meet operational commitments.

At our previous AGM, I mentioned that the Edith Benson Babies Home rebuild had commenced with an almost 50% funding commitment from Sibaya Community Trust and CWDD had to invest a significant amount of our cash resources to ensure the project reached completion. We are still engaging with the Ethekewini Municipality and the relevant role players to ensure an occupation certificate can be issued in due course. In tandem, the process to ensure the facility is adequately equipped to cater for the babies is well under way. A baby play area, a fully equipped and functional kitchen, landscaping of gardens around the new building and paving are some key focus areas. In addition, we will be trying to secure funding for solar power implementation, installation of a borehole and rainwater harvesting.

We want to ensure that EBBH becomes operational as soon as possible through the generosity of other donors.

The challenge of attracting additional funding sources to meet our operational commitments, has proven to be extremely difficult.

Government funding in the form of subsidies has remained stagnant over the recent couple years with no inflationary increase.

The board has commenced work on an Income Development strategy with planned rollout in the coming months. A major task will be to fill key posts in the Income Development Team, with appropriately skilled individuals that can drive this strategy.

We are grateful to the many donors for their continued support over the year without whose contribution we would be in a far worse situation.

Revenue for 2025 showed a 20% decline to R24.5m from prior year of R30.5m. Normalised revenue (excluding abnormal items) decreased by 2% to R22.9m from 2024. Expenditure was well controlled and reflects an increase of 2% at R26.7m from prior year R26.3m. CWDD had an operating deficit of R2.2m compared to a prior year surplus of R4.2m. Excluding abnormal revenue items (project funding), current year deficit is (R3.8m) compared to prior year deficit of (R2.4m).

Our Operational Management team have done extremely well and must be complemented for their efforts in containing costs whilst delivering on our mandate.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to The FinCom team, Chaired by Mr Huzaifah Elias. Also, I want to express my thanks and appreciation to our Accountants, Accensis and PKF our auditors for their excellent service, guidance, and expertise.

It is most appreciated.

I, together with FinCom and Board would like to acknowledge the efforts of the management team, staff, and our service providers.

M Naidu

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

M Naidu
Honorary Treasurer



CHILD WELFARE DURBAN AND DISTRICT

Financial Report as at 31 March 2024

	2025 R	2024 R
Income Statement		
TOTAL INCOME	24 477 495	30 477 265
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Auditors remuneration	62 726	62 275
Depreciation	567 551	342 799
General expenses	361 347	340 662
Promotions		
Subsidised administration and public relations	4 944 654	5 045 336
Subsidised residential services	4 686 275	5 052 087
Subsidised social work services	16 097 351	15 425 709
Unsubsidised community programme	-	-
Unsubsidised day care services	-	-
	26 719 904	26 268 867
LOSS FOR THE YEAR	-2 242 409	4 208 398
Other comprehensive income		
Surplus /(loss) before non recurring items		
Surplus on sale of non current assets	-	-
Total comprehensive income	-2 242 409	4 208 398
Balance sheet		
ASSETS		
Non-current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	20 156 487	20 485 180
Investments	19 466	19 466
	20 175 953	20 504 646
Current Assets		
Trade and other receivables	1 426 428	2 229 916
Cash and cash equivalents	589 665	1 171 580
	2 016 093	3 401 496
TOTAL ASSETS	22 192 046	23 906 142
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Capital funds	8 671 543	8 671 543
Special trust funds	9 125 778	9 191 963
Accumulated loss	2 732 863	4 975 272
	20 530 184	22 838 778
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	724 919	724 919
Provisions	342 445	342 445
	1 067 364	1 067 364
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	21 597 548	23 906 142

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Naushina Rasool



On Thursday, 29 May 2025, Judge Nathan Erasmus handed down a life sentence to a mother and her two accomplices for human trafficking, along with a 10-year sentence for kidnapping in the case of 6-year-old Joshlin Smith.

On 2 September 2025, Phetho Simiao, aged 25, was sentenced to two life terms for the kidnapping, rape, and murder of 6-year-old Amantle Samane from Soweto in 2024.

Just last month, more than 70 children from 56 households in Eldorado Park had to be rescued from homes marked by abuse and neglect.

These cases have dominated news headlines and social media feeds. Yet, one must ask: what about the cases that never reach the public eye?

In the year 2024/2025, Child Welfare Durban and District assisted 4,307 families through intake services, where social workers interviewed, investigated, and assessed risks faced by families seeking help for the first time.

From these investigations, 196 children were removed from unsafe environments in line with Section 150 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005. This number has increased since last year whereby we removed 132 children.

Child Welfare Durban and District's mission to safeguard children, families, and communities by investigating and providing care to those in need of care and protection. At the heart of this mission is our unwavering commitment to serve the most vulnerable — our children.

Through 8 service offices and 2 Child and Youth Care Centres, we facilitate Child Protection programmes year-round. These efforts reached 21,004 children and 16,948 community members across schools, hospitals, clinics, police stations, and partner NPOs. The impact of these programmes is evident.

In October 2024, a new-born baby was abandoned at our Stormhaven offices. The mother phoned reception to alert us. Staff immediately began searching the premises — bins, sewers, plastic bags.

Fifteen tense minutes later, the baby was found inside a bag, left at a locked gate. Relief washed over everyone when the bag was opened, and the baby cried.

The infant was promptly assessed by paramedics, referred to a district surgeon, and placed in the loving care of a crisis parent.

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Naushina Rasool



Beyond abandonment and abuse, communities in greater Durban have faced repeated fires in informal settlements, leaving devastation in their wake — lives lost, families displaced, and livelihoods destroyed.

Our social workers partnered with the Department of Social Development, the Municipality, and other NPOs to provide material aid, trauma counselling, and therapeutic interventions. We also worked with schools to replace lost uniforms, books, and stationery for affected children.

Our Residential facilities currently house 83 children aged from new-born to 18 years. Our Child and Youth Care Centres provide safe and supportive environments where children receive developmental, therapeutic, and recreational care to prepare them for reunification with their families or integration into their communities.

Like many NGOs nationwide, we face financial challenges and resource shortages. This has necessitated the need for ongoing fundraising programmes. We continue to host fundraising initiatives, such as successful Golf Day in November 2024 amongst other drives. We are deeply grateful to our donors and volunteers for their ongoing support.

We also acknowledge the Board of Child Welfare Durban and District for their steadfast commitment to ensuring our financial stability and compliance with statutory requirements under the Children's Act. Above all, we recognize the dedication of our staff, whose tireless efforts embody our mission of protecting and caring for children in need.

In conclusion, every child deserves to grow up in safety — surrounded by love, care, and opportunities. In South Africa, child protection is not only about preventing harm; it is about empowering children to dream, learn, and thrive. Many children still face poverty, abuse, neglect, and abandonment, but protecting them is not only the duty of government and social workers alone. It is a shared responsibility of families, neighbours, schools, and communities.

When we unite in standing up for children, we create a society where every child is valued, every voice is heard, and every future is filled with hope.

Together, we can make a difference by "Giving Childhood Back to Children."

Naushina Rasool



Child Welfare Durban and District's mission is to safeguard children, families and communities by investigating and providing care for children in need of protection and care. This year marks 108 years of service by Child Welfare Durban and District in protecting the most vulnerable, children. We honour this mission not only during Child Protection week but every day.

Community Services is the pulse of Child Welfare Durban and District whose core service is the protection of children in the communities we serve. Our team of 45 social workers strives every day to achieve the objectives of Preventative Services, Early Intervention Services, Statutory Supervision and Continuum of Care.

We achieve these objectives in the following way.

Child protection services are rendered by the seven service offices in the jurisdiction of eThekweni and extending from Malukazi and Umlazi in the South to Umhlanga in the North. Preventative services were facilitated by means of reaching out to 175 community organisations such as schools, clinics, libraries, hospitals, churches, shopping centres, Child and Youth Care Centres, other non-governmental organisations and Community Based organisations. Therefore, we were able to reach 7446 beneficiaries who benefitted from programmes on Teenage Pregnancy, Child Abuse, Bullying, Gender Based Violence and others. The social workers undertook programmes to enhance and promote community awareness on the rights and needs of children and families in an HIV Society. Approximately 165 programmes were rendered to children, parents, foster children and parents and prospective adoptive parents to empower both the youth and adults to cope with the demands of family life.

In the last year, Child Welfare Durban and District provided early intervention services to communities by investigating orphans, children begging with adults, allegations of abuse and neglect and abandoned children. Our services focused on crisis intervention and the provision of supportive counselling to clients coming to our offices for the first time. Our organisation reached out to approximately 4307 children and their families. The Child Welfare Durban and District information-line has been successful in that community members contacted us via our Facebook page, reporting allegations of abuse hence our social workers were able to respond and investigate 136 allegations of children at risk.

This Organisation shoulders the responsibility of statutory intervention by providing protection to children through investigations, which includes crisis intervention 60% of the time. Referrals are received from Childline, SAPS, hospitals, clinics, other community-based organisations and schools. Social workers respond promptly, even outside regular office hours, on weekends, and during holidays as needed to safeguard children. Investigations into reported risks to children led to 216 minors being identified as requiring care and protection by the Children's Court. These children were placed in alternative care, which involved relocating them from their homes to reside with another family members, a crisis parent, or within a Child and Youth Care Centre, all under the authority of a court order.



Statutory supervision and supportive services were also facilitated by providing supervision to 865 children in foster care and 346 children in Child and Youth Care centres. In conjunction with LIV Thokomala, a non-profit organisation, Child Welfare Durban and District provides statutory services to 27 children who are placed in homes in the community. There are six such homes, each staffed by a housemother who lives on-site and ensures that the children's holistic needs are met. The children participate in everyday community life, attending school, recreational activities, church, and more. This programme effectively maintains groups of six children of varying ages, including sibling groups, allowing them to remain in a social and cultural environment similar to their community of origin.

Reunification services are provided with the aim to reintegrate children in foster care or Child and Youth Care Centers back with their families of origin. This is a structured process that includes facilitating host placements, supervising holiday visits, and conducting regular review meetings involving the child and their family. These services also support the reunification of other family members with their families of origin through ongoing support. Over the past year, 38 children were successfully reunited with their families, and 31 family members received assistance and were also reunited with their families.

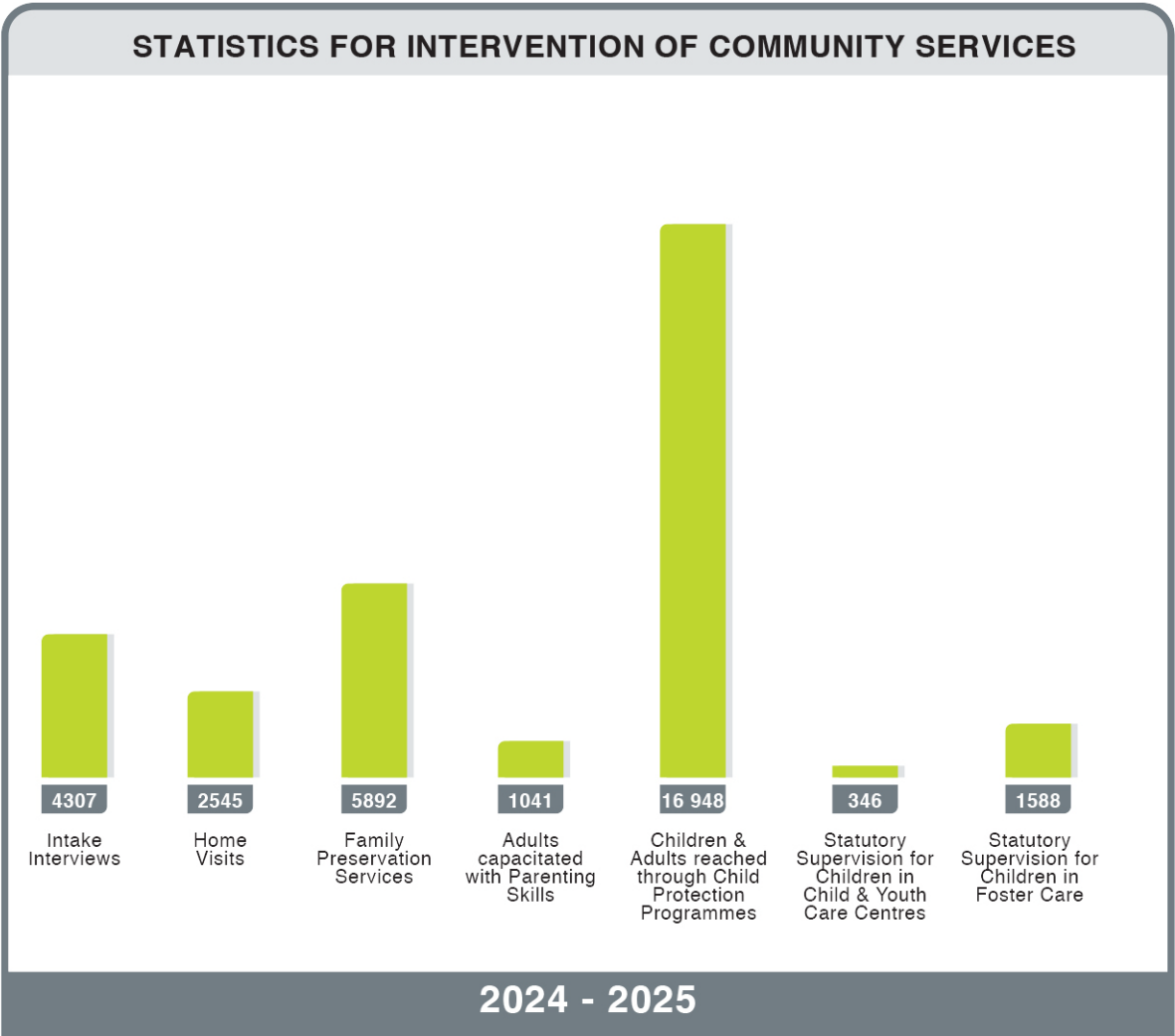
Child Welfare Durban and District remains committed to fostering ongoing professional growth through continuous development opportunities for its staff.

The following are some of the training sessions attended by our professional team:

- Effective supervision, management and Leadership in practice.
- Solution focused Brief therapy
- Training on the implementation of Comprehensive Electronic Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Understanding the intersection of HIV Neurocognitive Disorders and Psychosis.
- Family Preservation- Let's talk Parenting.
- Amendments to the Children's Act.
- ISS Training on Repatriation.
- Child trafficking and Migration.

As we continue to deliver services to support and protect children, we rely on the support of our Board of Governors, General Manager, Managers, Social Workers, support staff, community members, donors, partners, and the government to help us fulfill our mission of "Giving Childhood Back to Children."





COMMUNITY SERVICES



Awareness Programme on Bullying & Cyberbullying
at Centenary Secondary School
(June 2024)



Crisis Parents Recruitment by Lamontville Team
in collaboration with SASSA & DHA
(October 2024)



Child Protection Programme
at Wentworth Primary School
(March 2024)



Child Protection Programme
at Zimisele Primary School at Umlazi
(July 2024)



Teenage Pregnancy Programme
at Cato Manor Community Home
(March 2024)



Child Protection Programme
at Isipingo Community Home



Fire disaster at
Kennedy Road Informal Settlement,
CWDD social worker for psychosocial services.
(June 2024)



Disaster at Kenville informal settlement
(June 2024)





LAKEHAVEN (SEPT 2025)



NORTH TEAM (SEPT 2025)



WEST TEAM (SEPT 2025)



EDITH BENSON HOMES - SEPT 2025



CENTRAL TEAM (SEPT 2025)



UMLAZI/LAMONTVILLE/ISIPINGO TEAM (SEPT 2025)



ADOPTION TEAM (SEPT 2025)

- **Central Team** : 20 Clarence Road, Greyville 031 312 9313
- **Adoption Team** : 20 Clarence Road, Greyville 031 312 9313
- **North Team**: 9 Centre Road, Sea Cow Lake : 031 577 00 66 / 5778918
- **William Clark Gardens Child & Youth Care Centre** : 9 Centre Road, Sea Cow Lake 031 577 00 66 / 577 8918
- **Wentworth Child & Youth Care Centre** : 9 Centre Road, Sea Cow Lake 031 577 00 66 / 577 8918
- **Isipingo Team** : 1169 Gwala Road, Lamontville 031 065 0965
- **Umlazi Team 1 & 2**: 1169 Gwala Road, Lamontville 031 065 0965



on Team : 20 Clarence Road, Greyville 031 312 9313 West Team : 23 Garbutt Road, Sherwood 031 207 1366
 78918 • William Clark Gardens Child & Youth Care Centre : 23 Garbutt Road, Sherwood 031 207 1366
 031 577 00 66 / 577 8918 • Wentworth Team : 109 David Bear Centre, Austerville Drive : 031 468 1421
 031 065 0965 • Umlazi Team 1 & 2: 1169 Gwala Road, Lamontville 031 065 09 65

ADOPTION TEAM

Vincent Chitray
Manager



Adoption is a legal process to build families and provide loving homes for children where an individual or couple becomes the permanent legal parents of a child who is not biologically their own.

Adoption is a process of transferring parental rights and responsibilities to adoptive parents who can provide a child with a permanent, loving family. It is regarded as the most effective means of providing a safe and healthy family environment that is intended to last for a lifetime.

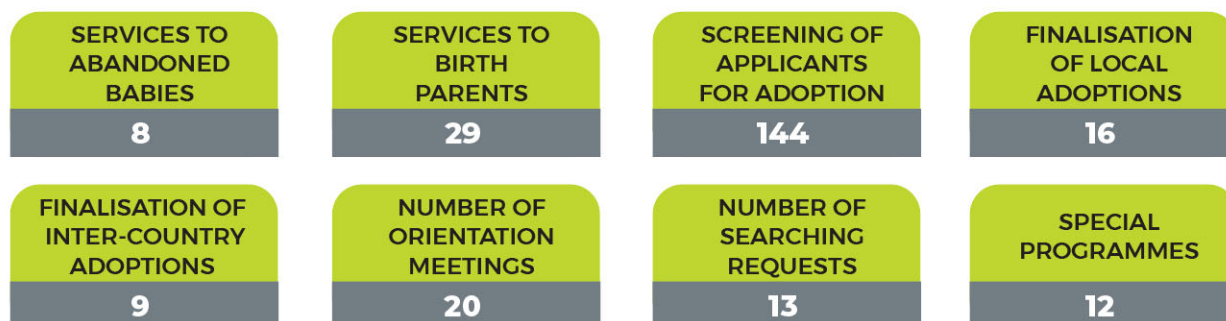
Child Welfare Durban & District has been providing specialised adoption services since inception and has been instrumental in improving adoption services by networking with various government departments, NGO's and community members. Child Welfare is accredited by the Department of Social Development to facilitate local, national and inter-country adoptions.

BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF ADOPTION

Adoption provides a loving home. It builds families and supports children's needs. Adoption also brings emotional adjustments, legal complexities and cultural and ethical considerations.

ADOPTION PROCESS

The adoption process includes an initial application, adoption screening, matching and placement as well as ongoing post placement support.



CATEGORY	2023	2024	2025
Abandoned Babies	9	17	8
Birth Mothers	16	26	29
Searching	44	32	13
Inter Country Adoptions Finalised	3	4	9
Local & National Adoptions Finalised	12	17	16

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The adoption team constantly engages in community education and awareness programmes throughout the year. The adoption successfully undertook 18 special programmes for this period. These programmes have proved to be highly successful in that the number of applicants screened for adoption has increased tremendously. Our special programmes at hospitals ensured that the option of adoption is provided as a viable option for birthmothers.

ADOPTION TEAM

Vincent Chitray
Manager



Programmes were successfully done at:

- Lancers Clinic • Highway Radio and Izwi Lomzansi Radio • Prince Mshiyeni and Wentworth Hospitals
- Game City Mall • Umgeni Road Home Affairs • Umlazi Court

NATIONAL AND INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTIONS

The adoption team was engaged in screening and providing background and medical reports for 9 inter-country adoptions which were all successfully finalised. We have seen an increase in inter-country applications for adoptions.

CRISIS PARENTS

Once a child is found in need of care and protection by the Children's Court, the child is placed in temporary safe care with a successfully screened crisis parent. Crisis parents are members of the community who open their hearts and homes to the care of our children while we investigate and finalise cases. We are ever grateful to our crisis parents.

SEARCHING

The organization received 13 searching requests from adoptees or adoptive parents. Searching requests are generally made because the adoptee requires information about their birthparents, background and circumstances surrounding the adoption..

SUCCESS STORIES

All adoptions become eventual success stories as adoption provides our children with the opportunity to live and lead a normal family life. We have had several success stories in which our children, especially those with special needs, have been successfully matched with caring families and their lives positively changed. The increase in the number of local and inter-country adoptions indicates that more people are looking to adoption as an alternative to complete their families. For many employees based at the main office our lives changed dramatically on one fateful day in October 2024 when we received a distressed call from a young mother indicating that she had left her new-born baby on CWDD premises. The staff quickly responded by an area wide search and the new-born was eventually found and all services were provided, including medical and SAPS. Family reunification services were not successful and the child concerned was found suitable for adoption and eventually matched with loving and stable applicants. The opportunity to adopt changed this child's life in a way that one cannot imagine. A desperate mother's plea for help was answered by Child Welfare Durban and District and the child's life has changed through a wonderful family.

APPRECIATION

Our sincere appreciation to the adoption team social workers, senior management, network organizations and Board for their dedication, commitment and perseverance in ensuring that children are provided with a safe and secure environment in which to grow, develop and succeed.

Vincent Chitray

ADOPTION TEAM



Vuma FM Adoption Awareness Programme
(January 2025)



Child Protection Programme Greyville Primary School
(July 2024)



Prince Mshiyeni Hospital Child Protection Programme
(May 2024)

RESIDENTIAL FACILITY LAKEHAVEN CHILD & YOUTH CARE CENTRE

Lorraine Pillay
Facility Manager



Lakehaven Child and Youth Care Centre, located in Sea Cow Lake, is a residential therapeutic care facility dedicated to providing vulnerable children with safety, care, and nurturing in a supportive environment.

Since its establishment in 1958, the Centre has stood as a beacon of hope for countless children under 21 years of age who have endured trauma stemming from abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

Formally registered with the Department of Social Development, Lakehaven ensures full compliance with regulated standards of care. Every child is placed at the Centre through a Children's Court Order, based on their individual circumstances and need for protection.

Holistic Child Development

At Lakehaven, our mission is to address the holistic needs of every child entrusted to us. Upon admission, each child receives an Individual Development Plan (IDP), carefully designed to meet their unique needs. Our multidisciplinary team of professionals works to nurture core developmental attributes—belonging, mastery, generosity, and independence—which empower children to thrive.

Our therapeutic programme includes:

- Individual counselling and group therapy
- Referrals to specialised organisations
- Awareness and life skills programmes
- Educational support initiatives

These structured interventions provide children with the tools they need to overcome challenges and move towards self-sufficiency.

Academic Support and Achievement

Education is a cornerstone of our work. Children attend local schools and follow a structured routine that incorporates homework and study. A dedicated social worker maintains close contact with schools, attends parent meetings, and supports the children's educational journey. In addition, a tutor provides homework assistance to ensure academic progress.

As a result, all our children have achieved excellent academic outcomes, successfully advancing to higher grades. This year, one learner is completing matric, while others have earned awards for both academic excellence and sporting achievements. For children requiring additional support, educational psychologists conduct assessments to ensure appropriate school placements that best support their development and motivation.



Spiritual, Cultural, and Personal Development

Spiritual and cultural growth are integral aspects of our programme. We encourage children to embrace their cultural identity, participate in religious observances, and celebrate traditions. The Centre fosters an environment where children can explore their interests, build meaningful relationships, and cultivate a sense of belonging.

Family Reunification

Family reunification remains central to our mission. Our residential social worker collaborates closely with reunification social workers to address the therapeutic needs of both children and their families. Through this coordinated effort, we work progressively towards safely reintegrating children with their families whenever possible.

Commitment to Quality Care

Lakehaven is committed to maintaining the highest standards of care in line with the Norms and Standards prescribed by the Department of Social Development. Compliance is ensured through regular internal audits by senior management, as well as external audits conducted by departmental officials.

Partnerships and Support

Our success is strengthened by strong partnerships with key stakeholders, including:

- Department of Social Development • Children's Court • Department of Home Affairs • Department of Health
- Department of Education • Generous donors and community supporters

We extend our sincere gratitude to our General Manager, Management Team, Board of Directors, and the Lakehaven Residential Committee for their leadership and commitment. Our deepest appreciation also goes to our donors, whose generosity enables us to sustain and enhance the wellbeing of our children.

At Lakehaven, the care, support, and development of our children remain our ultimate priority. Our unwavering goal is to nurture strong, independent, and resilient young individuals who are empowered to face the future with confidence and hope.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE STATISTICS	TOTAL
Number of Case Reviews	80
Number of Pre Admission Meetings	30
Number of Admissions	28
Number of Counselling Sessions	165
Referrals for Specialised Services Including Medicals	40
Number of IDP's	48
Number of Care Plans	48

PROGRAMMES HELD DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW	CHILD PARTICIPANTS
Adolescent Stages	12
Teenage Pregnancy	12
Bullying	28
Child Protection	28
Sexual Awareness and Responsibility	11
Behaviour Modification	11
Drug Awareness	11
Disengagement	17

TRAINING PROGRAMMES HELD	PARTICIPANTS	
	CYCW'S	CHILDREN
Training of Child and Youth Care Workers on Norms and Standards	20	
Orientation on Rule and Expectations of the Facility	44	44
Nutrition, Food Preparations, Safety and Healthy Eating Guidelines	20	
Hygiene		40
World Aids Day		40
Freedom Day		44
Heritage Day		41
Supervision of CYCW	4 Senior CYCW	
Daily Routines	20	
Independent Living	1 Social Worker	
Compiling Individual Development Plans	1 Social Worker	



RESIDENTIAL FACILITY LAKEHAVEN CHILD & YOUTH CARE CENTRE



PROGRAMMES HELD DURING YEAR UNDER REVIEW	CHILDREN PARTICIPANTS
Adolescent Stages	10
Teenage Pregnancy	10
Bullying	34
Child Protection	12
Sexual Awareness & Responsibility	10
Behaviour Modification	10
Drug Awareness	10
Disengagement Groupwork	15

TRAINING PROGRAMMES HELD	PARTICIPANTS
Training of Child & Youth Care Workers on Norms & Standards	20
Orientation of Rules & Expectations of the Facility with Children	42
Orientation of Security Guards	5
Behaviour Management Training with Child & Youth Care Workers	20
Education on Chronic Illnesses with Children	46
Water Safety & CPR with Children	46
World Aids Day	50
Freedom Day	50
Women's Day	46
Heritage Day Braai	46



Diwali at Lakehaven

Our staff celebrating Diwali (October 2024)



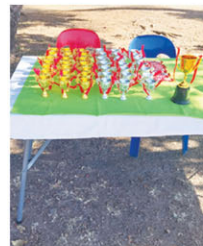
Heritage Day at Lakehaven

Children celebrating (September 2024)



Heritage Day at Lakehaven

Talent Show (September 2024)



Sports Day at Lakehaven : Children Training and Participating for Sports Day (July 2024)



Gifts at Lakehaven

Children receiving gifts from Donors (July 2024)



Life Skills at Lakehaven : Children cooking delicious Lunch (July 2024)



The 2024/2025 year was marked by growth and achievement, as children in need of care and protection were provided with a safe, nurturing, and healthy environment to support their development and improve their quality of life.

William Clark Gardens/Othandweni Child and Youth Care Centre, situated at 23 Garbutt Road, Sherwood, provides residential care for 54 children, ranging from birth to 18 years of age. The Centre is registered with the Department of Social Development and admits children from across KwaZulu-Natal who have been abused, orphaned, abandoned, neglected, or affected/infected by HIV/AIDS.

In alignment with the vision of Child Welfare Durban and District, the Centre is committed to promoting justice, safeguarding the rights of children, and enhancing their well-being, as well as that of their families and communities. We offer a healing, inclusive environment that prioritizes the holistic care of vulnerable children and youth.

Over the past year, we successfully implemented a range of interventions and activities designed to achieve our objectives through individualized development planning. Key initiatives included play therapy, targeted intervention programmes therapeutic group work, counseling, and life skills activities—all of which contributed positively to the children's recovery and rehabilitation. A total of 51 Individual Development Plans were completed during this period, with children showing notable progress, reflected in their increased confidence and positive outlook.

Education remains a central focus of our program. All children in our care received educational support tailored to their needs. Toddlers were enrolled in early childhood development programs within the local community, leading to marked improvements in speech, literacy, and social skills. Older children benefited from structured homework programs and tutoring sessions provided by volunteers on Saturdays. For children experiencing learning difficulties, psycho-educational assessments were facilitated to ensure appropriate school placements, suited to their developmental and educational needs.

Healthcare and mental well-being were prioritized through partnerships with local hospitals and clinics. These collaborations ensured that children—particularly babies and toddlers—received specialized medical and developmental care.

In addition, spiritual development formed part of our holistic approach, with weekly programs facilitated by Child and Youth Care Workers and faith-based organizations.

Recreational activities played an important role in children's development. They participated in both indoor and outdoor activities, enjoyed outings during school holidays, and celebrated significant calendar events.

Sporting participation was also encouraged, with three boys selected for inter-school soccer and two girls excelling in athletics — helping children to channel their energy and emotions in positive ways.

Family reunification continues to be a vital component of our work, supporting the reintegration of children into their families and communities. Our sibling programme further strengthened familial bonds through special activities. During the reporting period, seventeen children were successfully reunified with their families, with continued after-care services provided to support their smooth transition and adjustment.

William Clark Gardens/Othandweni Child and Youth Care Centre continues to comply with the requirements of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005, adhering to the prescribed norms and standards. Both internal and external audits, conducted by management and the Department of Social Development, ensured effective monitoring and accountability for our service delivery.

As we reflect on this past year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our General Manager, Management Team, and Board of Governors for their guidance and unwavering commitment to the children in our care. We also deeply acknowledge the dedication of our staff; whose compassion and hard work make our mission possible. Finally, we are sincerely grateful to our loyal donors and volunteers, whose generous contributions have been instrumental in supporting the work and vision of William Clark Gardens/Othandweni Child and Youth Care Centre.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE STATISTICS

Young people admitted to the centre	15
Pre-admission meetings were held	10
Counseling sessions were held	34
Children's representative council meetings	21
Cottage meetings	96
Case review meetings held	35
Court orders were extended	45
Young people reunified and integrated back into the community	17

WILLIAM CLARK GARDENS OTHANDWENI CHILD & YOUTH CARE CENTRE



HOLIDAY OUTINGS

When the heat of summer made the outdoors more bearable. The children played different games and enjoyed nature. they played games and took in nature in the outdoors. We aspire to include more of these visits. The children enjoyed a picnic at Botanical Gardens in April, played games and took in nature in the relative coolness of summer. The gardens offered a veritable learning experience given that the flora here are a unique collection of trees from throughout the world.



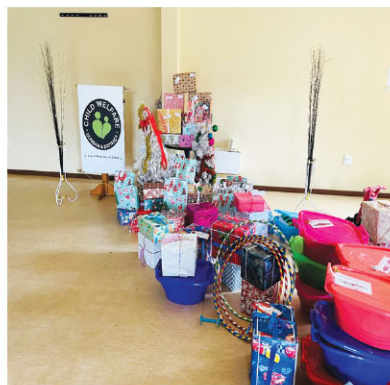
16 Days of Activism

A global campaign from November 25 to December 10 that seeks to raise awareness and mobilize action to end all forms of violence against women and girls. The children were educated on Gender Based Violence and sexual abuse by the officials from Sydenham Police Station.



HERITAGE DAY

Heritage Day recognizes and celebrates the nation's rich cultural diversity and heritage. It encourages South Africans to reflect on their history, traditions, and the diverse cultural practices that make up their national identity, fostering a sense of unity and social cohesion within the "Rainbow Nation". The children enjoyed a day filled with cultural activities and dance.



CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most. The children received gifts on Christmas Day which included new clothing and toys. They enjoyed singing Christmas carols taking pictures with their friends under the Christmas tree.



My Success Story

Story for Tammy (Real Name not used)

Tammy, aged 10, was admitted at the facility on the 20.12.2022 due to neglect, her parents were homeless.

Upon Admission, the child was not schooling and had to be enrolled in Grade 2 due to her age.

She struggled academically and repeated Grade 2. She was then registered in extra classes programme and received assistance from the Child and Youth Care Workers and also received therapeutic services from the residential social worker and also benefitted from the various programs rendered by the Child and Youth Care Workers.

This resulted in her tremendously improving academically. In December 2024 the child was awarded certificate of merit for outstanding achievement in her class (Grade 2).

The award was presented at a ceremony held at the Sherwood Primary School, the residential social worker attended the ceremony with Tammy.

The 2024/2025 financial year was one of significant progress and renewed partnerships for Child Welfare Durban and District (CWDD). The Income Development Department played a vital role in driving fundraising initiatives, cultivating donor relationships, and securing the resources needed to sustain our mission of protecting and caring for vulnerable children.

A major highlight was the resounding success of the 2024 Golf Day, held on the 28 November 2024. This flagship event not only raised substantial funds but also strengthened relationships with loyal supporters and created opportunities for new sponsorships. We are deeply grateful to all sponsors, players, and partners who contributed to its success.

While we celebrate these achievements, we also recognize the recurring challenges that shape our fundraising landscape. Economic pressures have affected donor capacity, especially among small businesses and individual contributors. Competition for funding in the non-profit sector remains intense, making donor retention and securing headline sponsors for large scale events an ongoing priority.

In response, our strategy for 2025/2026 focuses on expanding signature events and introducing new initiatives such as a charity gala dinner and community fun run. Digital fundraising will be a key growth area, with increased use of online platforms and social media to reach broader and younger audiences. We will also enhance corporate partnerships through tailored sponsorship packages aligned with corporate social investment priorities, while pursuing multi-year funding agreements from trusts and foundations.

Strengthening donor relationships will remain at the heart of our work. We will prioritize regular communication through impact updates and financial transparency, host donor appreciation events and create opportunities for donors to see the direct impact of their contributions through site visits and program launches. Feedback channels will also be enhanced to ensure donor voices inform future initiatives.

We extend heartfelt thanks to all our donors, partners, and volunteers for their unwavering support. Our achievements are also a testament to the dedication of our staff, social workers, and caregivers whose compassion forms the backbone of CWDD. We also acknowledge Zamani Security for their ongoing role in safeguarding our Children across all residential facilities.

To every individual, business, trust, and community partner, thank you for walking alongside us. Together we are changing lives and building a brighter, safer future for every Child in our care.



GOLF DAY 2024

Held at the Royal Durban Golf Club on 28 November 2024



EDITH BENSON BABIES HOME FIRE & REBUILD (2018 - 2024)





social development
Department:
Social Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



Acknowledgements

Sibaya Community Trust
Community Chest
Victor Daitz Foundation
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Harry Brunksill Charitable Trust
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The Rayner Trust
Fuchs Foundation
Beare Foundation
Iqraa Foundation
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