



Masigcine Children's Home ANNUAL REPORT 2013



Postal Address:

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Kuilsriver
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Physical Address:

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Mfuleni

Contact Person:

Sydene Cloete – Manager

Social worker:

Gamuchirai Bere

Telephone Numbers (Office Hours):

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E/Mail Address:

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Website Address:

www.masiqcine.org.za

Registration Numbers:***Legal***

NPO (Non-Profit Organisation) Registration Number 003-483 NPO

Tax Exemption

Registered in terms of Section 18A

PBO (Public Benefit Organization) Reference Number: 930 032 265

Auditors:

SDK Chartered Accountants
Telephone Number: 021 970 4600
Fax. Number: 021 975 6780

Fund raiser:

Lorraine Shelly

Names of Trustees:**Bookkeeper:**

Hilda De Beer

**Chairman of the Board:
Vice Chairman**

Pastor Lucas Plaatjie
Mr. Boyce Williams
Mrs. Margaret Ndala
Mr. Kgobe Mahlaba
Ms. Nora Kewana



(Please be advised that our board is currently in a process of restructuring)

BACKGROUND, VISION, AND MISSION

Masigcine (which means "let us protect") is a registered children's home in Cape Town, Mfuleni where up to 28 children between the ages of 1 week and 10 years of age find a safe and loving home. Our children have been placed in our care by the children's court after they have been found to be 'in need of care and protection'. In most cases they have been abandoned, neglected, or orphaned, or have been found to live in circumstances which expose them to severe danger or harm.

Masigcine Children's Home was started in 1989 when a social worker from the community saw the need of the destitute children in the area and with the help of Rev. Eddie Schaeffler, the Chairman of the Church Council of the Dutch Reformed Church in Kuilsriver, Masigcine was born. Masigcine is now under the protection of the United Reformed Church of Southern Africa – Mfuleni Congregation.



In September 2007, Masigcine Children's Home received a dynamic home make over with the help of hundreds of volunteers from the community and sponsors from willing companies under the leadership of another non-profit organisation called 'NEWKIDZ on the block' (www.newkidz.org.za). Masigcine was transformed into a beautiful home and since then, it is being well maintained and effectively managed. In April 2012 NEWKIDZ on the block awarded Masigcine Children's Home with another mini-make over because it were kept so neat and tidy and well managed by the staff. During this weekend, children were placed with host parents and NEWKIDZ organized a lovely working weekend away for the staff where they received training on stress management. NEWKIDZ used this weekend to do the makeover. We want to sincerely thank NEWKIDZ and all the volunteers involved for this very special gift.



At Masigcine it is **our Mission** to ensure that each child, while in our care, receives the best quality of:

- ✚ Child care and nurture
- ✚ Understanding of their vulnerable situation and according support
- ✚ Nutrition and medical as well as therapeutic care
- ✚ Daily age appropriate stimulation, education, and transfer of life skills
- ✚ Community integration

while we work on **our Vision**. The reintegration of each child into a loving family environments, ideally with their own birth families or, if this is not in the best interest of the child, into loving foster or adoptive families.

A WARM THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR!

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

On behalf of the children, the board, and the staff of Masigcine Children's Home we would like to convey our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the mission of our organisation over the last year!

An eventful and exiting year has passed in the whole South African Child & Youth Care Sector in general. It was a watershed moment for the field when the National Minister announced at the 18th Biennial conference in Port Elizabeth that by the end of 2011 the Professional Board Child and Youth care workers will be in place. The Minister also announced that by September Child and Youth care workers will start to register. This is something that the field has been waiting on for years. We are glad to announce that this board is now in place.

In the following we would like to report on the progress we were able to achieve on different levels over the past year as well as on the challenges that we experience.

CHILDREN

We are a children's home and we accommodate up to 28 children. We now have 19 boys and girls and we cater for ages 0-10. They are placed here by different welfare organizations such as, DSD, Child welfare, by registered social workers and also the children's court. Depending on the need a child can be placed temporary for 3 months. After this period the family are monitored and if the circumstances are favourable the child will be reunified with their family.

However if the family conditions did not improve, the child's placement can be extended for another 3 months or 2 years.

New policies were put in place for admission of children, release of children and volunteering.

- *Family reintegration: Reunification and Foster Care*

The reintegration of our children into family environments is our main objective. Since our new social worker, Ms. Gamu Bere was appointed in November; cases are moving forward much quicker. She makes sure that the cases are handled effectively and do her best to assist the external social worker to reunify children with extended families within a few months after their admission. We encourage families to visit to ensure family reunification and secure family ties. Some of our children are being visited by their families.

- *Community Integration*

This children's home are also a place of safety for the children in our care. We have encouraged our children to take part in different activities outside of the gates of Masigcine and to spend time with the children of the community. One main success in this regard is that our older girls and boys have become more and more integrated in the Women for Peace Dancing School which is right around the corner of Masigcine. After they felt very shy in the beginning they are now really enjoying their dancing and their skills have improved immensely. In March 2013, one of our boys travelled with the group to a competition with the other kids for the first time and he brought home a trophy and certificates! We are very proud and happy that they have become so much more integrated and active in this regard. Our children are also involved in the community through the following activities:

- Attending schools in the community
- Going to the community clinic
- Activities at Powerchild
- Playing in the community parks under supervision of our staff
- Going to church with our staff.
- Excursions outside Mfuleni area

With regards to the excursions: Our children are very fortunate to go on outings. Sometimes these are paid for by volunteers or outside entities.

- *Schooling*

Our school aged children have been attending Mfuleni Primary School or Blue Downs Primary school in Malibu community. The majority of our school aged children struggle at school and some has been pushed to the next grade in consideration of their age rather than their performance. Poor school performance is a common problem for children in children's homes as these children have to deal with their emotional deficits. We are addressing this problem by facilitating individualized support for the children's school work as well as their general wellbeing. However, we are very proud of 2 girls (twins age 7) who are doing exceptionally well in school.

One of our older boys who need special schooling as he have special learning needs are schooling at Alta du Toit school for children with special needs and one of our girls who also need special schooling attends Bet El Special School in Kuilsriver. Both of them are blooming!

Pre schoolers – Noncedo chreche in the community - 4

Primary school – Xhosa speaking children: Mfuleni Primary - 5

-English speaking children: Bluedowns Primary - 1

-Children with special needs: Alta Du Toit/ - 1

Bet-El (Both situated in Kuilsriver) - 1

STAFF

- *Child&Youth Care Workers and NACCW training*

First of all, a warm and sincere thanks goes to all our hard working and loyal staff ladies at Masigcine Children's Home, our child care workers, our kitchen staff, and our housekeeping ladies. Their faithfulness to Masigcine creates stability for our often traumatised little children.

Our staff has been on numerous training this past year to up their skills. Six of our staff has already been trained in Modules 1,2,3,4 and 13 of Childcare. This training was presented by the NACCW but paid for by the Department of Social Development. We hope to soon get the necessary funds for the training of the rest of the modules as well as training for the rest of the staff.

- We currently have 15 permanent staff and 2 part-time staff members.
- Earlier this year Monica Magada retired and move back to the Eastern Cape to be with her mother and two children
- Selina retired in March 2013 after loyal service of 19 years.
- After being without a residential social worker for so long we appointed a new social worker Ms. Gamuchirai in November 2012. She is a real asset to the home and cases are moving forward.
- Sydene is already in her 3rd year of employment as the manager of the home.



From the financial side

- In the beginning of last year, our home was in a difficult position and financial constrains, but through the love and the grace of God we managed to get through.

Hilda de Beer, (former treasurer and board member) agreed to still stay on as the bookkeeper of Masigcine. SDK chartered accountants will be doing Masigcine's audit again this year. Hilda applied for a text clearance certificate together with SDK; we are still waiting for this.

It has been quite a bumpy start off for Masigcine as we had cash flow problems at the beginning of 2012 and as a result of that struggled to pay salaries. As you know, our Home is registered with the Department of Social Development and we receive the monthly Government Grant, like all Children's Homes but this is unfortunately insufficient to cover our monthly overheads despite the fact that we work according to a strict budget. However we are please to announce that we received financial support from quite a few institutions and we are very thankful for each donation, big or small, in kind or adding personal value to our

home. The donations we receive makes Masigcine a vibrant home and the standard of the home had improve drastically given that there are people who cares for the Home.

- ***Fundraising / Soccer tournament.***

It is a pleasure to report that in the last financial year Masigcine hosted two successful soccer tournaments. We managed to raise an amount of R12,000 from the first soccer tournament and R 16, 000 from our second tournament. A big thank you to everyone who contributed towards these tournaments. We hope to host another tournament this year.

We also want to thank Lorraine Shelly, our fundraiser and Hilda de beer our bookkeeper for the great work they do and just in general for their moral support to the staff and to the home. We have to report that great funds have been coming towards our home and because we made provision in 2012, the financial start off for 2013 was rather smooth.

Challenges:

- We had two break-ins Dec/ Jan. The staff now feels unsafe even with our armed response. We currently have a night guard on duty but this is not in our proposed budget
- In the February 2013 our telephone cables were stolen. Telkom reported that this is reckoned a high risk area and therefor cables will not be restored. We now face the following challenges because of this decision: Internet usage at times, sending faxes and scanning.

A dream come true:

It has been a dream of the Masigcine family for so long to have a car we can drive staff and children around to dr. appointments, court hearings, screenings, school etc. M-net together with First car rentals made this dream a reality when they donated a Nissan Tida to Masigcine on the 23rd of January 2013. We once again want to say thank you for this generous donation.





- *Local and International volunteers*

We have been privileged to receive help from a number of volunteers from different parts of the world via the organisation AVIVA throughout the year. These volunteers are a tremendous help to Masigcine as they help with all kinds of tasks at the home and give the children special attention and love. A huge THANK YOU to all AVIVA volunteers from all over the world as well as to all our local volunteers who sacrifice their time, energy, and resources to provide support and love to the children at Masigcine.



May you all be richly blessed!

Our sincere thanks go to all members of the public who supported Masigcine during the year - from the regular R50 - R100 donors to the large corporates. We appreciate the Government Grant that we receive every month from the Department of Social Development and also the funds from trusts and the national lottery - without this we would not be able to provide the excellent care for our young children.

Sydene Cloete

Manager