



ANNUAL REPORT





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# The Starfish Parable



An old man had a habit of early morning walks on the beach. One day, as he looked along the shore, he saw a human figure moving like a dancer. As he came closer he saw that it was a young woman and she was not dancing but was reaching down to the sand, picking up starfish and very gently throwing them into the ocean.

"Young lady," he asked, "Why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"

"The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them in they will die."

"But young lady, do you not realise that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it? You cannot possibly make a difference." The young woman listened politely, paused and then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves, saying: "It made a big difference to that one."

### Adapted from the story "The Star Thrower" by Loren Eiseley

Starfish focuses on giving quality care to each child, working from the ground up and ensuring support is sustainable and communities are empowered to tackle the pandemic head on.

Support Starfish and help make a difference one child at a time.



# Chairperson's report

The space occupied by the NGOs is becoming extremely difficult as the roles between the work done by these organisations and what societies' expect from governments collide.

The age of our democracy is also making this location less attractive to funders and the perception that South Africa is better off than others and no longer referred to as a third world country. There are wars raging endlessly that attract more attention due to the plight of children who are affected every day. Whilst our war is different, it needs to be won.

Our team at Starfish are working relentlessly under these tough conditions to continue to make life better and to provide a chance for our societies to bring up children that will contribute to a better life for all.

This is a moving target as whilst doing our work, we must also contribute towards policy and the implementation of such to keep the hopes up. The role of NGOs has never been this crucial in the lives of our children. We need to play a leadership role in providing insight and data that informs policy making.



Sbu Mangele

Starfish and all its friends remain resolute that by giving a chance to our most vulnerable, our children, we stand a better chance of achieving a balanced society of healthy individuals.

I would like to thank the board for contributing tirelessly to this course and for providing guidance during some of the most challenging times. Our partners in America, the United Kingdom and Canada continue to be our support and strength. Together we stand a better chance to achieve our goals.

This, in the face of very difficult and complex political environments currently prevailing in the world.

We are looking forward to engaging more with interested parties and governments to ensure our work continues to make a difference in the lives of those that need us daily.



### A letter from the Starfish Team

### Is this possible?

The journey to contribute to a South Africa where girls and boys, especially those orphaned and vulnerable are valued, protected and empowered to realise their full potential is a long and difficult one.

In the face of overwhelming socio-economic ills, Starfish continues to be hopeful for a better future for all children. This hope come from the tireless dedication and perseverance of Greathearts, partners and community-based organisations that consistently give of themselves to this mission.

It comes from the grit and determination of children who are absolutely insistent on taking their childhoods and lives back every day to reach their full potential and it comes from YOUR passionate desire to create a better world for children expressed through your belief, action and generosity.

"We are wired for generosity, we are to serve and only in service can we be happy" Jay Shetty

Thank you for becoming a Greatheart and turning the impossible into reality, day after day, year after year. We are so grateful to be on this journey with you.

"One Starfish at a Time"



# **Meet the Greathearts**



Melissa Chetty Operations Manager



**Nqobile Shabalala** Programme Manager



**Mpiliso Skosana** Media Officer



Annah Shonhiwa Bookkeeper



**Primrose Chamboko** Finance Manager



**Mongezi Soxujwa** Communication and Development Officer



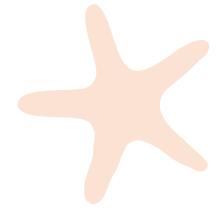
Queen Mokgokong Administrator



**Bongiwe Duma**Programme Co-ordinator



Riaan Visser Fundraiser



# Vision, mission and values

# Our vision of success

Children in South Africa are valued, protected and empowered to realise their full potential.

### **Mission**

Starfish supports children orphaned or vulnerable in South Africa by working in partnership with community-based organisations.

### Our values

#### Life

We believe in improving the lives of children

#### Hope

We have hope for a future where children are valued

#### **Opportunity**

We strive for equitable opportunities for all children



# The current reality



 $\mathbf{13.5}\%$ 

OF THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION ARE INFECTED BY HIV



More than ever
South Africa's children
need care and support
to ensure that they reach
their full potential.

20%
OF CHILDREN LIVE
FAR FROM ANY
HEALTH FACILITY

OVER
2 million
CHILDREN LEFT
ORPHANED

13%
OF CHILDREN
LIVE FAR FROM
PRIMARY SCHOOL

64%
CHILDREN LIVE
IN POVERTY





AVERAGE MONTHLY
PER CAPITA INCOME
IS LESS THAN

R1 138

# Area of focus

The Starfish Greathearts
Foundation works with
partner community-based
organisations throughout
South Africa to ensure all
children, especially those
orphaned and most vulnerable,
are increasingly valued,
protected and empowered
to realise their full potential.

In a systematic approach, Starfish places the child at the centre: the child in a household; the household in a community; a community with the social capital, the resources, and the competencies to ensure every child in that community is:

- a. Fully valued
- Protected from that which would cause him/her harm
- C. Afforded every reasonable opportunity to thrive.

Always at the centre of our focus, we work to ensure every child's systemic environment addresses the five core domains for healthy development:

- 1. Health ~ helping communities effectively interrupt health risks at all times.
- Nutrition ~ ensuring communities have no children stunted in their development due to poor nutrition.
- 3. Responsive Care ~ helping communities create interactive environments with healthy attachments and stimulation for their children.
- Safety & Security ~ helping communities eliminate children's exposure to adverse childhood experiences.
- Learning and Stimulation ~ empowering the community to promote interactive communication and play between children and caregivers, develops competencies and model continual learning.



## Circles of support Children orphaned or vulnerable (OVC) Community based organisations (CBO) Challenges faced by community based organisations include: poverty, inadequate health, educatonal and child Limited access to financial and material resources protection services Skills shortage SOCIAL VALUES SOBD WEITH SOCIAL SOCIAL SIBLINGS PARSICAL PARTIES EXTENDED FAMILY SERVICES NEIGHBOURS DONORS STARFISH

The Wellness Wagon "on the Road to health" What we do DISBURSE FUNDS & RESOURCES

## Our work and footprint

April 2018 to March 2019



- Wellness Programme
- Capacity Building Programme
- HIV Adherence Programme

CBO = Community Based Organisations

Children attending early childhood developmemnt centres

1 607

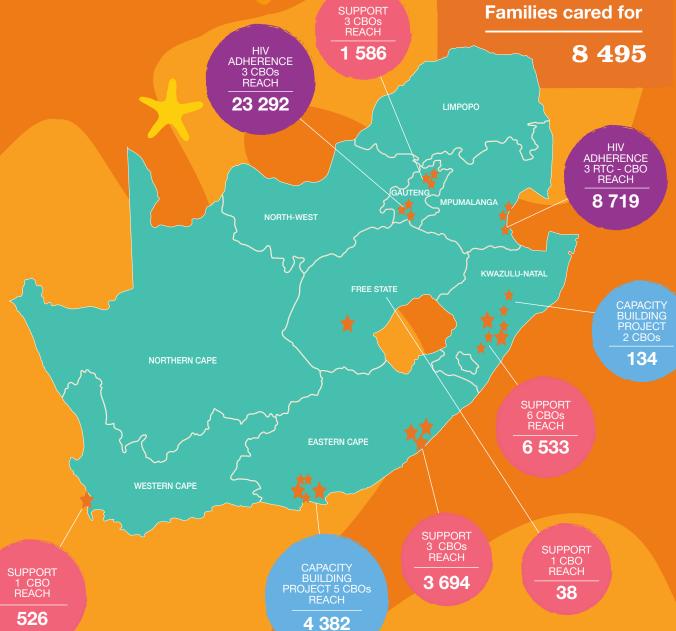
Children attending drop-in centres

2 472

**Home visits** 

2018

Families cared for



# Highlights this year



This year Starfish continued to bring Life, Hope and Opportunity to over 13 000 children by working in partnership with 18 community-based organisations across 6 provinces. This is achieved through three key programmes:

#### 1. The Starfish Wellness Programme

The Wellness Programme is aimed at ensuring the physical, mental and social wellbeing of children to maximise their learning potential.

#### The two major components of the programme are namely:

- 1. The Wellness Wagons (mobile clinics)
- 2. Care services provided by trained community care workers.

7072 children benefited from primary health care services through the Wellness Wagon (mobile clinics) in 2019.

#### Case Study:

\*Names have been changed to protect the identity of the individuals concerned.

10 miles. That was the distance that Zandi walked to get to her nearest clinic. The trip would start at 5:00 and she would get home long after dark, famished and exhausted.

The clinic presented addional challenges - the prying questions of her mother's "friends", the preaching of Sr. Zondo, the indiscretion of the pharmacist when telling her how to use the creams he gave her.



That was until the Starfish Wellness Wagon started visiting her village. Here she was with her peers, she got information about sexual and re-productive health issues, contraceptives, STI & HIV information - and they linked her to resources and support much wider than mere health. There was access to psycho-social and socio-economic support, and the vehicle was funky and real and equipped to deal with her private health issues.

#### 2. Capacity Building Programme

The aim of the programme is to help strengthen the institutional capacity of community-based organisations through a combination of training, mentoring and on-site coaching services. During September 2016 to August 2019 Starfish partnered with Friends in Ireland to roll out an intensive organisational capacity building programme with seven grassroot community-based organisations.

#### Milestones achieved include:

- CBOs now have bank accounts and can bank on-line
- Staff are registered for UIF benefits
- Systems and processes in place (Finance, M&E and HR)

#### 3. HIV Adherence Program

With the introduction of anti-retrovirals, HIV positive people are living longer and need increased support in ensuring they remain adherent to their treatment. Starfish was proud to partner with Right to Care under the Global Fund Grant to establish adherence clubs and support groups in 37 health facilities across Gert Sibande district, Mpumalanga and Sedibeng district in Gauteng. In the three-year period (April 2016 to March 2019) Starfish provided adherence support to **54 176** patients.

## Financial review

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
At 31 March 2019	2019	2018
	R	R
ASSETS		
Noncurrent assets	707 408	302 790
Property, plant and equipment	101 401	302 190
Current assets	5 203 280	6 447 946
Inventories	30 104	126 556
Trade and other receivables	71 201	41 802
Cash and cash equivalents	5 101 975	6 279 588
Total assets	5 910 688	6 750 736
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity	5 735 988	5 145 223
Retained earnings	5 735 988	5 145 223
Current liabilities	174 700	1 605 513
Trade and other payables	369 685	272 068
Deferred income	(214 061)	1 320 561
Bank overdraft	19 076	12 884
Total equity and liabilities	5 910 688	6 750 736

#### **Corporate donors**

Investec Leo Shipping Lloyds My School Card National Lotteries Commission Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon SA Underwriters Starlight Media Discovery 947 Ride Joburg The IQ Business Group The Steyn Family Trust Lewis Foundation Liquid Telecom

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## Get involved...



Dinner of Hope Host a dinner of hope



Greatheart

Become a sporting

Greatheart



Secure my Future

- Individual Giving
- Corporate Payroll
- Global Giving



Corporate
Social Investment
(BBB-EE)

#### To find out more:

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NPO Registration No. Section 21 Company No. 2003/002865/08 Non-Profit Organisation No. 039-447-NPO VAT Registration No. 4490217140



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