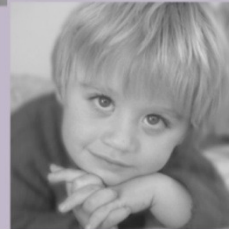
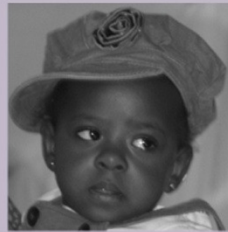


Tshwane Place of Safety Association

Annual Report

March 2009 - February 2010



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From the desk of:

Jeanette Birrell

Managing Director



When a child dies, it usually has a devastating effect on all around. But when this baby is premature or abandoned, the question I ask is WHY was this child born at all. Why cause all this pain to so many people who cared for this child. Myself, colleagues and a few place of safety families were faced with this dilemma 3 times this year (all three babies died in two months). Our faith was pushed to the limit and you wonder why are you doing this kind of work. Karen and I were faced with the question do we carry on or do we just give up!

But reflecting back on the past 7 years of babies and children coming and going, all 789 of them, you realise that we have made a substantial difference in these children's lives! Some of these kids came in beaten to the edge of their lives, some so sick from a disease inherited from their parents, some weighing only a few grams and left to fend for themselves in this world, and we were there to make the difference. We provided them with a warm bed, we gave them unconditional love and care, we spend nights next to their beds in hospital comforting them. IT IS ALL WORTH IT!

The challenges faced during this year have been tough due to the economic meltdown. Tshwane Place of Safety had a very hard year. Many people cancelled their debit orders and this had a huge impact on our organisation. We also admitted fewer kids (28 less than the previous year) because we did not have enough place of safety parents to take in more children. We also admitted a lot more white children than ever before.

Thank you to the staff, **Marguerite, Elmarie, Martha, Carina, Lindiwe and Jane**, who have worked very

hard to make a difference in the lives of our kids and their support when things got really rough. I would like to thank **Karen** (the Haven Manager and TPOSA Health Care manager) for her strength and support during the rough times and giving so much of herself for our gorgeous kids. I would also like to thank **Almie** who stepped in this year, she has always been a Board Member of TPOSA and a POS mother, but decided to give of her time to become my right hand this year. She revamped our organisation and organised the re-launch that was a great success.

Thank you to our board members, the survival of TPOSA depends on their assistance. A special thank you goes to **Dr. Willie van Aardt** and his family (they have now adopted 5 of our TPOSA babies), for their undying support and their passion for our crisis children.

To our Donors/Sponsors and the people who have signed Debit Orders, we would like to thank sincerely for their contribution. Without your support we would not be able to put smiles back on the faces of our crisis children.

A special thanks go to following sponsors for supporting us all through the year:

- **Finbond**
- **Court Classique Boutique Hotel (Izelle Behr)**
- **Green Rhino Travel Club**
- **Nedbank**

Jeanette Birrell

Tshwane Place of Safety Association sources and screens private Place of Safety families within the community. These families are volunteers who are willing to open their hearts and homes for our children in need. Our Place of Safety families are from the Tshwane Metropolitan area.

Our role is to provide emotional and material support to these families.

In this financial year, we registered 149 new Place of Safety families. We have 65 black families, 1 coloured family and 83 white families.

All adoptive parents are given a brief training session specific to the child they are adopting and then only is the child handed over by the Place of Safety families.

PLACE OF SAFETY CHILDREN

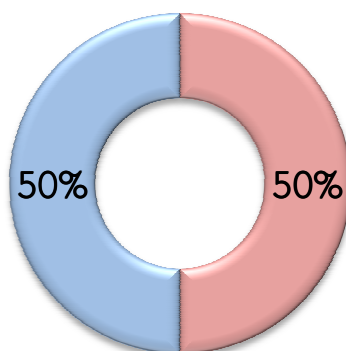
Tshwane Place of Safety admits abandoned, abused, neglected and sick children, under the age of 6 years, in need of care until their future has been determined by the social worker and children's court.

Out of the 70 admitted :

- 22 where adopted
- 6 went into foster care and
- 8 went back to their biological family

Gender

■ Girls (35) ■ Boys (35)



PLACE OF SAFETY FAMILIES



TYPICAL FAMILY, INDIAN, BLACK AND "BLACKANESE" CHILDREN IN ONE PLACE OF SAFETY FAMILY'S HOME

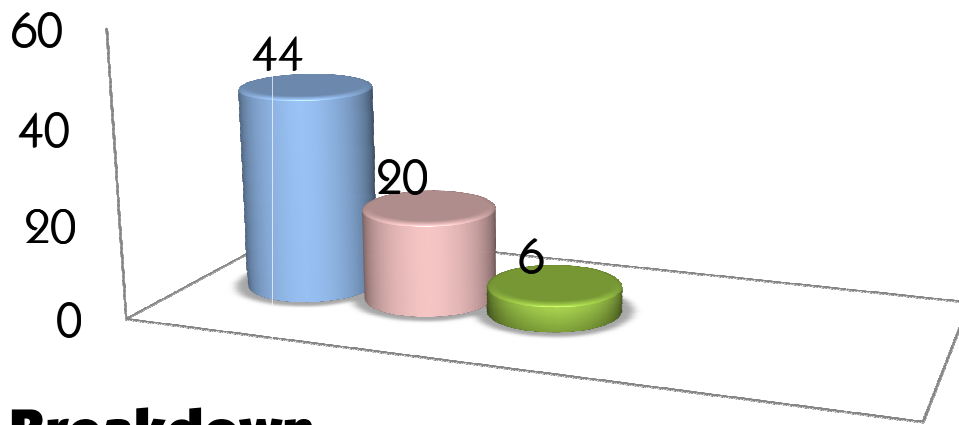
ADMISSION SUMMARY

OCTOBER 2003 - FEBRUARY 2010

October 2003 – February 2004	: 19 children
March 2004 – February 2005	: 89 children
March 2005 – February 2006	: 132 children
March 2006 – February 2007	: 131 children
March 2007 – February 2008	: 139 children
March 2008 – February 2009	: 98 children
March 2009 – February 2010	: 70 children

TOTAL NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS

: 678 CHILDREN



Race Breakdown

■ African
 ■ Caucasian
 ■ Coloured

In this financial year we admitted 3 sets of siblings

In 2004 we admitted 4 refugee children into Place of Safety. As they have no legal papers in this country they are still Place of Safety. Many organizations have been contacted to help but to no avail.

Referrals

We receive babies from the following institutions:

- Hospitals
- Welfare Organizations
- Police

The reality of premature babies

8 of the 70 babies were premature

Premature babies are born before 36 weeks. They can weigh anything from 700g to 1.7kg. As looking after preemies is a specialised field we only have 3 Place of Safety moms taking care of them.



This baby was born 3 months premature and has since been adopted



The little boy was abandoned and estimated to be 9 weeks premature and the little girl was found at the Pretoria Zoo weighing 1.8kg. They have both since been adopted

NGO'S using our service

We have fruitful relationships with 8 welfare organizations in Pretoria.

REFERRED ADMISSIONS: March 2009 - February 2010

- CMR 55
- CHILD WELFARE 2
- Mental Health 2
- Ondersteuningsraad 2
- Catholic Woman's League 3
- PCM 3
- SAVF 2
- Department Social Dev 1

Our directors attend a monthly matching meeting at CMR where babies for adoption are discussed and matched with adoptive parents.



Three special angels !

DEATHS

It is still a reality! **Three** of the children admitted this year passed away. Support remains vital to the Place of Safety Parents.

Faith died from Cot death (left)

Melissa died from Cot death (middle)

Owen died from unnatural causes

Age estimations

Many of our children have no identity.

A child **cannot be registered** with the Department of Internal affairs **without a date of birth.**

An **age estimation** is done on a Form 9, which has to be completed by a district surgeon.

MEDICAL SUPPORT TO OUR CHILDREN



Sexual Abuse

Burn Victim



It is compulsory for all children to visit the monthly clinic at our offices. Here immunizations, developmental delays and other health issues are picked up.

GP's and Paediatricians

The management of Tshwane Place of Safety Association has been able to obtain the services of certain doctors free of charge for our crisis children. We manage all appointments and follow-ups. The doctors are: Intercare Medical Centre, Dr Toni Jay-du Preez, Dr Kobus Venter and Dr Frieda French to name but a few.

Services at public hospitals

We have built credible relationships with various doctors and specialists in the government hospitals. We work closely with Pretoria Academic, Tshwane District, Kalafog and, Dr George Mukhari.

Private hospitals get involved

We have the privilege of the assistance of various private hospitals in the Tshwane district. These hospitals are willing to stabilise a child, admit the child and care for the child until discharge or stable enough for transfer to a public hospital. The hospitals are: **Wilgmed 24, Zuid-Afrikaans and Akasia Hospitals**. We also have an arrangement with the **Pretoria Eye Institute** who look after the sight of our children.

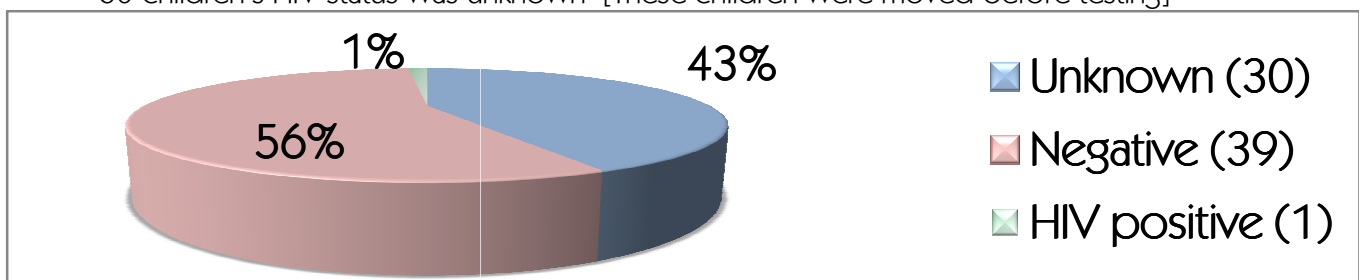
Our Association appreciates this amazing support and we feel truly blessed to know that there are so many people who are willing to get involved and make a positive difference in the lives of our crisis children.

The past year has seen an increase in abused children, both physically and emotionally.

HIV

We admit newborn babies irrespective of their HIV status.

- 7 newborn babies were confirmed to be HIV Elisa positive upon admittance but none remained positive.
- 1 child admitted was HIV positive.
- 30 children's HIV status was unknown [These children were moved before testing]



In total, we presently take care of 18 HIV positive children

Children admitted are tested at between 2 and 3 months. If the child is positive they are referred to an ARV Clinic where they are closely monitored.

Families taking care of HIV positive children

Only a few families are willing to care for children with full blown AIDS or HIV positive. This results in families being loaded to capacity with HIV children!

At present we have 12 families looking after HIV positive children.

Visits between biological parents and their children

It is the right of biological parents to visit their children while they are in place of safety and foster care. They need to maintain a meaningful relationship with their children. It is during these visits that a bond is formed between the biological and Place of Safety Parents.

We facilitate these visits with biological parents on behalf of the social worker.

After the visit, all the relevant information about the visit is written down in a "VISITATION" book. This book serves as an excellent reference to recall visits and also the frequency of visits.

ADMINISTRATION OF TSHWANE PLACE OF SAFETY ASSOCIATION

Board meetings and management Tshwane Place of Safety Association is a registered Section 21 company as well as a Non-Profit organization. In order to comply with the regulations of Section 21, our organization should have at least 7 board members.

Testing through Vermaak and Associates

Tshwane Place of Safety association has been blessed with a huge sponsorship from Vermaak and Associates. They are willing to sponsor a certain number of blood tests – specifically HIV blood tests - every month free of charge.

We want to thank VERMAAK & ASSOCIATES for their excellent service.



From March 2009 to February 2010 our office facilitated 149 visits between biological parents and their children.

The following people are board members of Tshwane Place of Safety Association:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Dr Willie van Aardt | - | Chairman |
| Mrs Linda van Aardt | - | Member |
| Mr Paul Goosen | - | Vice-Chairman |
| Mrs Almie Goosen | - | Member |
| Mrs Jeanette Birrell | - | Member |
| Me Maynette Heyns | - | Member (HIV Expert) |
| Dr Heidi Prinsloo | - | Member (HIV Specialist) |

The Directors are responsible for the general management of the association.

Staff

Jeanette Birrell	- Managing Director
Almie Goosen	- Director
Karen Bruyere	- Health Care Manager
Carina van Heerden	- Accountant
Elmarie Smith	- Office Administrator
Marguerite Linde	- Social Worker
Jane Phago	- Social Worker
Martha Mtsweni	- Donations Coordinator
Lindiwe Mahlangu	- Housekeeper

Meetings

It is important to have structure and good communication in an organization.

Fortnightly childcare meetings:

Every 2nd Wednesday a childcare meeting takes place. This is an extremely important meeting. At this meeting we discuss every child, the progress that has been made with every case, problems and possible solutions, new admissions, children who need age estimations, children who are matched and due for adoption as well as those that have to be tested for HIV.

Staff meetings:

If anything is to be discussed, this is done prior to our childcare meetings.

Running the office

Our office IS THE HEARTBEAT of our organization.

Dusty Moon Investments pays the bond on our offices while Tshwane Place of Safety Association is responsible for the day to day running expenses. This includes Rates & Taxes, Water & Lights, General Maintenance, Security, Stationery and Salaries. We also subsidise formula milk for the babies.

The ladies running the office



Store room for CONSUMABLE ITEMS

The consumable store is very popular amongst our safety mothers. They can buy formula milk and get other donated items for their use.

Formula milk: subsidised by Tshwane Place of Safety Association

Disposable nappies: if nappies are donated

Clothing store: donated clothing distributed to all parents.

Equipment: distributed when available



A typical training session in our attic at our offices.

Training parents is an absolute priority

During the first couple of months of the financial year we had group training for all our parents. This was to revise the following issues:

- Statutory issues
- Basic Baby and Child Care
- Medical issues

FUNDRAISING

Tshwane Place of Safety Association has found that fundraising has become increasingly challenging. We successfully held the following fundraising events:

Green Rhino:

We were chosen as the preferred charity for Green Rhino Travel Club, who caters for the diplomatic community in South Africa. This is held monthly at various guest houses and Embassies. We sell raffle tickets for travel prizes and all proceeds are donated to us. During this financial year we received **R 116 820.00**

Baba Indaba:

We were once again sponsored to exhibit at the Baba Indaba. We exhibited in Pretoria [a 1st for us] and Sandton [3rd]. At the Sandton show we asked for R20 donation towards a present for a needy child. We received a lot of exposure, received donations and made **R 8 350.00**

DONATIONS

Loads of donations from one of our talks to a group of woman on Women's Day



Tshwane Place of Safety Association is blessed to receive material and financial donations on an ongoing basis.

It is an amazing experience to witness how involved the community of Tshwane is in children in crisis and how much they care to change the circumstances of these children. Throughout the year we were blessed with amazing donations, which we put to excellent use.

Mobile thrift shop a huge advantage:

Maynette Heyns still runs the thrift shop and brought in much needed and highly appreciated cash to the amount of R 2 650.00

MARKETING

Tshwane Place of Safety Association appeared in numerous articles in printed and electronic media.

Sunday Times	:	Front page on the state of abandoned children
Rekord	:	Relaunch
Mail & Guardian	:	Regarding abandoned children
Finesse Magazine	:	Article
Vrouekeur	:	With our Patrons
Baba & Kleuter	:	Relaunch
SABC News	:	Baba Indaba
BBC Radio & TV	:	Abandoned Children
TV Aljazeera	:	Why children are abandoned in South Africa
Radio Rippel	:	Abandoned Children
SABC Radio	:	Abandoned children

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tshwane Place of Safety Association has undergone a number of changes over the past 6 years. In June 2009 we decided to launch our new corporate image to the media, donors and welfare organizations. It was held at Court Classique Boutique Hotel and it is also here that we introduced our Patrons, Pierre van Pletzen [Oubaas from 7de Laan, SABC and Sandra Vaughn [Anke in Getroud met Rugby, KykNet]

From left: Jeanette Birrell [Managing Director of TPOSA]; Sandra Vaughn; Pierre van Pletzen & Almie Goosen [Director of TPOSA]



Annual TPOSA family Picnic

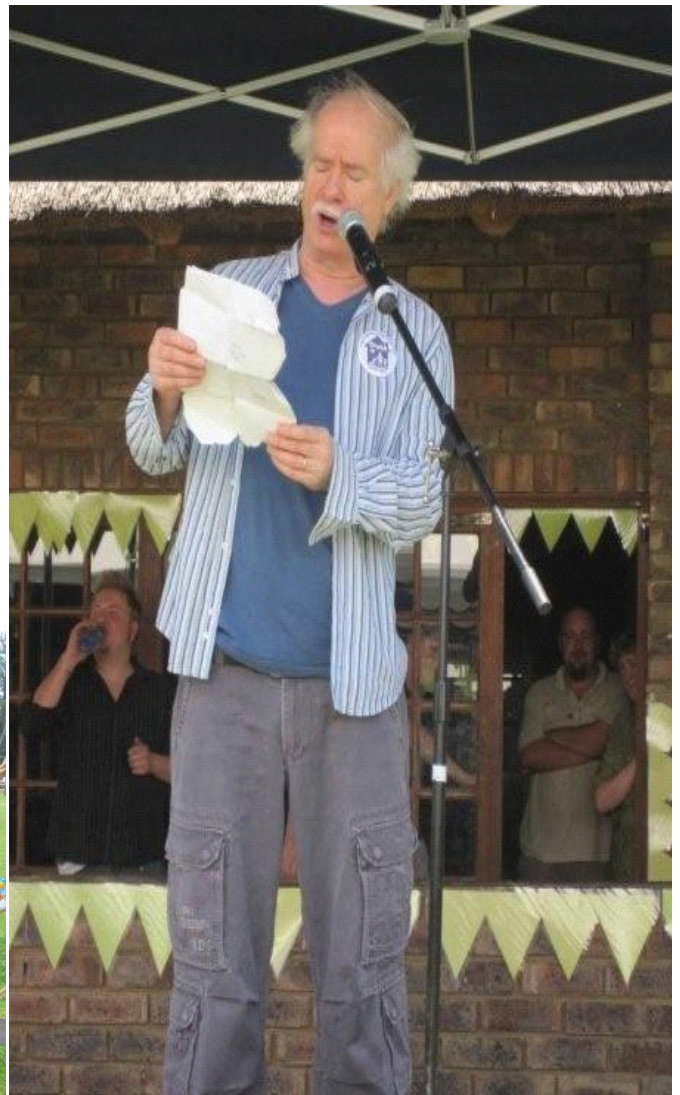
A picnic was held for all our Place of Safety and Foster families at Magnolia Dell. This was well attended and a good opportunity to swap stories.



Annual TPOSA Christmas Party

Our Annual Christmas party was a huge success with each child receiving **NEW** clothes and toys and toiletries. Our entertainers were Rian Swanepoel and "Oubaas".

From Left clockwise: **Rian** entertaining the crowd and the kids dancing to the beat. **Oubaas** says "n paar gevleulde woorde" Arrival of Father Christmas with excited kids following. Child sitting on Father Christmas' lap



The End

TPoSA

