



ANANDA KUTIR EDUCATION TRUST

SERVE LOVE FOCUS LEARN *Be Good. Do Good*

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Annual Report for Ananda Kutir Ashrama AGM

Period 01/03/2017 to 28/02/2018

26 May 2018

The Ananda Kutir Education Trust is registered as a non-profit organisation and sustains itself on donor funding and volunteer support. The Children of Light School is a project of AKET which offers free quality education to children from Hadji Ebrahim Informal settlement in Cape Town, South Africa.

Risks of working with children from informal settlements, is relocation of the family, which leads to the child not returning to the school, as well as the children being admitted to mainstream schools.

Activities for the Year: 1 March 2017-28 February 2018

1. In July, the Trust was offered a house in Rondebosch East at no cost to be utilised for the school. Hadji Ebrahim Informal settlement is situated in close proximity to the school and therefore was selected. Children were selected by the community leaders based on commitment of parents and those not being able to attend school.
2. As an initial phase of the school, we have commenced with six children aged 4 to 6 years. The aim is to create a safe space for them to 'be', to play and explore, thereby enabling them to learn and live out their true and highest potential. School officially commenced on 17th October 2017.
3. In August as part of Mother Yogeshwari's 50 year service celebration, we served this community with soup, bread and fruit and have committed to doing this annually.
4. The following staff training was conducted during the period under review:
 - Ayurvedic cooking training with Damyanti Gajjar
 - Body Talk Cortices Technique with Kamala Wennrowe
 - Swami Vidyananda conducts weekly yoga philosophy sessions

5. The children

Upon commencement of the program, we discovered that the children were extremely traumatised and developmentally delayed as they live in an environment where they are exposed to abuse, neglect and constant change. This led to intensive research and networking to explore suitable child centred approach philosophies in dealing with these children. The Waldorf and Montessori Education Philosophy is currently being implemented which is proving to be fruitful as the children are beginning to feel secure, to play and explore.

6. Opening of the Children of Light School

We held an Open day on the 30 September 2017 where Mark Kleinschmidt, councillor for Lansdowne was our guest speaker and expressed his support for the school.

7. Swami Padmanabhananda's visit to the Children of Light School

On 3rd October 2017, Swamiji visited the school and conducted a prayer for the wellbeing and success of the children and the school.

Life is Yoga Program

The Life is Yoga Program (LIYP) continued at Village Tods Educare with the weekly classes for children and teachers until the end of the third term in 2017. In consultation with Principal, Carol Booyesen and Erica Adams (teacher/administrator) it was decided to train Erica to continue with the children's yoga classes because Devi Harker has offered seva to help with the Children of Light School start up in the fourth term.

Finances

1. Balance as at December 2017, R35 182,97
2. Process of applying for PBO and Section 18A started last year September 2017, status to date from SARS is that we cannot proceed with this until we have registered as a school and Trust Deed to be amended accordingly

Fundraising

- Marketing Material has been developed for presentations to the corporate sector;
- E-Newsletters are distributed on a Quarterly basis.
- Parents held concert, raised R2090

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any small or big way towards the school this past year. Every bit helps and is greatly appreciated

Prem Namaskar

Maitri Makan

Managing Trustee