



## **Kids Haven Progress Report FY 2016 2017 – April 2016 to January 2017**

**Written by:** Susan Daly  
[sued@kidshaven.co.za](mailto:sued@kidshaven.co.za)

---

Kids Haven is a registered Child and Youth Care centre based in Benoni in Ekurhuleni. The Centre opened in October 1992 with a special focus on supporting street children. The children asked then—and have done so ever since—for three things:

- Food and clothing
- To go back to school
- Someone to contact their families and tell them that they are OK

Today, Kids Haven continues to provide for these fundamental needs, as requested by the children, and has extended its services to incorporate more activities to serve children with multiple problems.

### **The Kids Haven Vision**

To rehabilitate and reintegrate children with street connections and other vulnerable children - to give children the opportunity to be the best they can be—for themselves, for their families, in their communities and in the country.



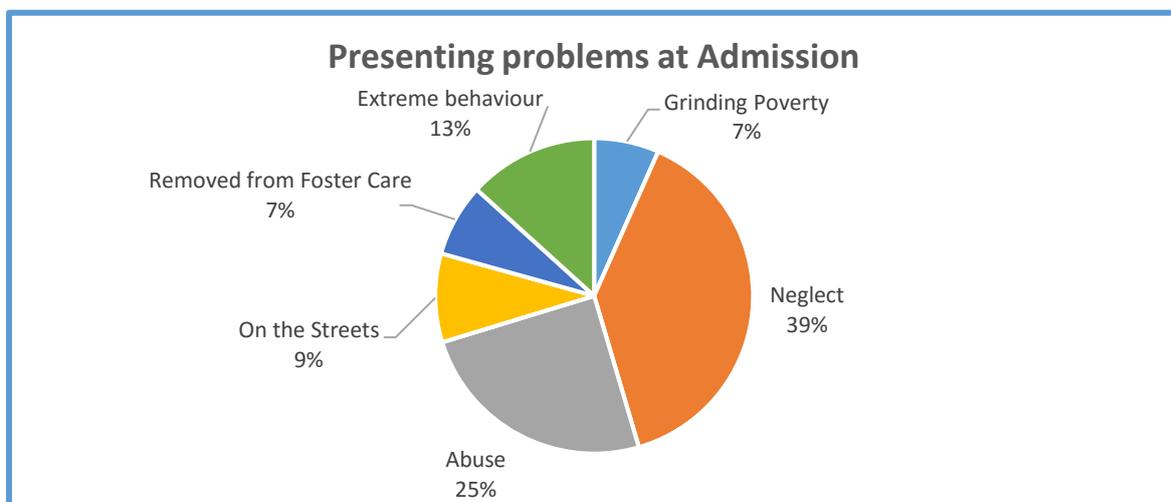
## How we work

Pre Care	In Care	After Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Streetwork - Diversion away from the streets</li><li>•Outreach</li><li>•Drop In help</li><li>•ECD centre (the Kids Haven Preschool)</li><li>•Prevention - aimed at keeping families together</li><li>•Early intervention</li><li>•Community support</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Residential care</li><li>•Social Worker support</li><li>•Legal framework</li><li>•Care Workers</li><li>•Therapy</li><li>•Education</li><li>•Sport</li><li>•Life Skills</li><li>•Family Services</li><li>•Re-unification</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Ongoing support following return to the community</li><li>•Regular support for one year post-exit, or longer if required</li><li>•Occasional support, ongoing, whenever required</li></ul>

## Who we work with

Kids Haven works with children who have 'street connections' and other children at risk, all of whom need care and protection. Children who have street connections are more connected to life on the street and their peers, and spend less and less time at home. Usually such children have experienced many 'push' factors (i.e. issues that have pushed them away from their homes), such as poverty, abuse and neglect.

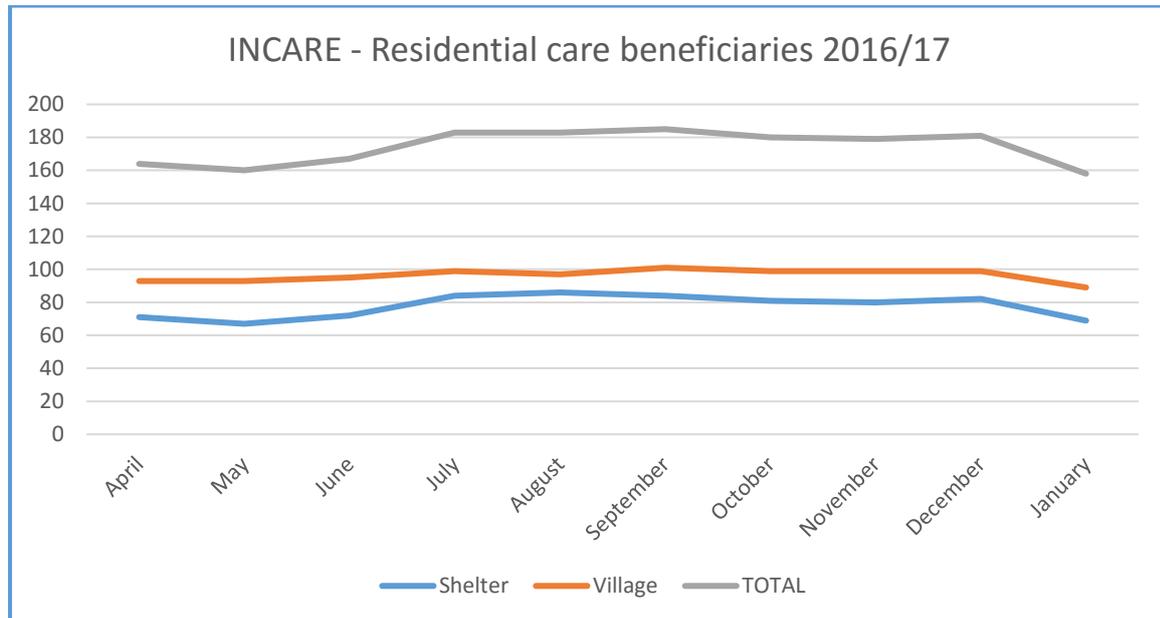
## Problems identified on admission



This chart shows the typical problems identified in children placed at Kids Haven, from April 2016 to date. This information provides the baseline or starting point of our work with children who come to Kids Haven.

Children come to Kids Haven through outreach work or via the external system of social work and placement. The Children's Act requires a legal process to be followed for admissions ("paperwork!").

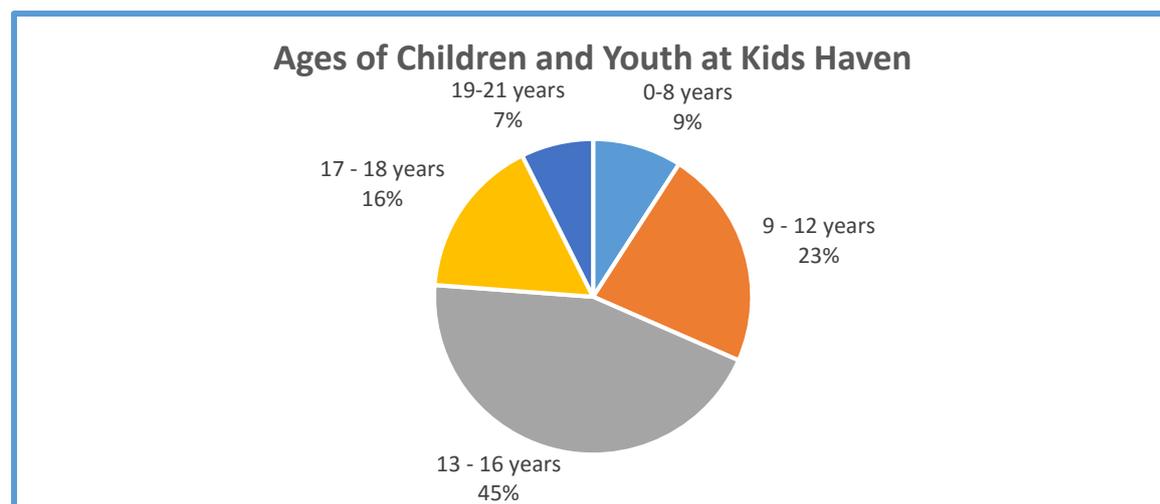
**Numbers of Children living at Kids Haven through the Year 2016/2017:  
Two sites: The Shelter (Cranbourne Avenue) and The Village (six group homes in Mackenzie Park)**



Kids Haven is registered to care for 181 beneficiaries. The numbers fluctuate in terms of overnight stays/places of safety/absconding and permanent exits.

Since April 2016, **54 children have permanently exited Kids Haven**. They have been placed with family, extended family, into more suitable alternative care (e.g. a well-managed mental health facility) or are living independently.

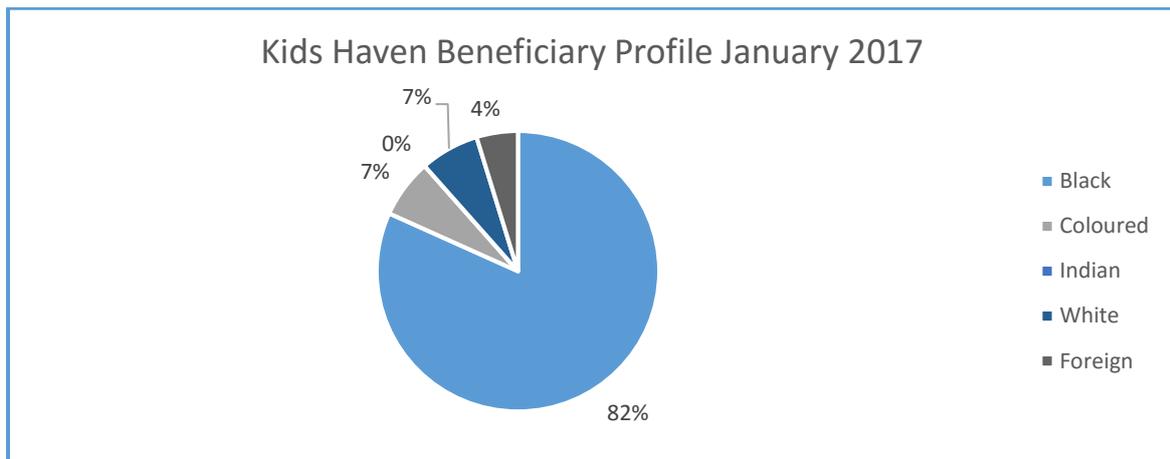
**Ages of the Children**



Currently, (as at February 2017), there are equal numbers of boys and girls. Throughout the year this has varied by 1–2% maximum, in favour of boys.

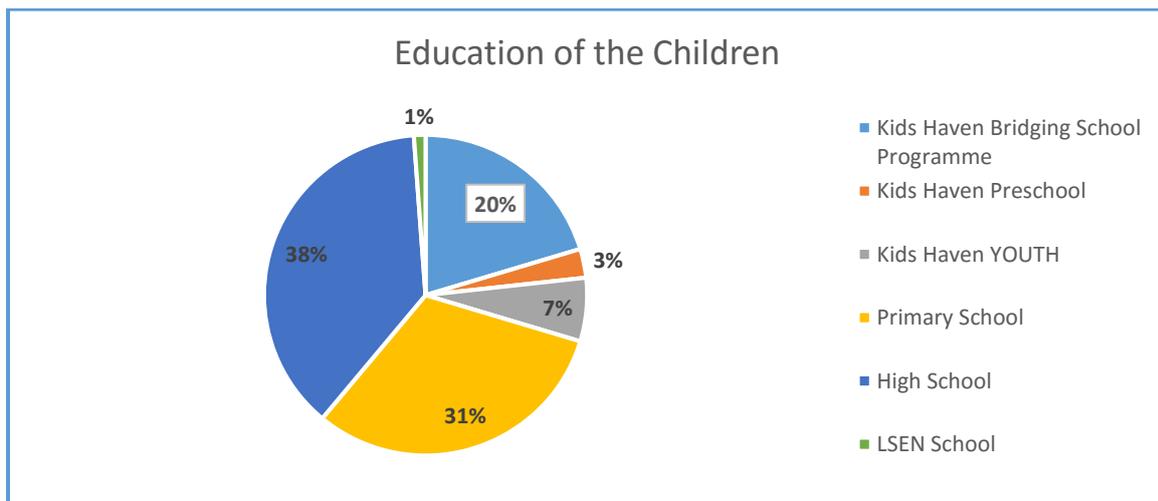
Kids Haven also works with youth over the age of 18 who remain committed to the programmes run by the Centre. In other words, these young people are still attending a formal school, and/or are included in the Youth Skills Development Programme.

## Racial Profile of Children at Kids Haven



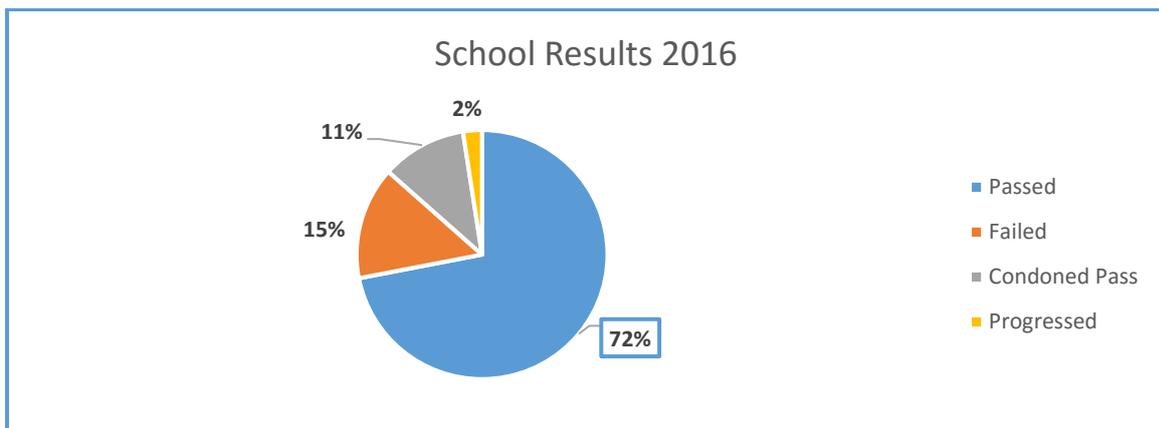
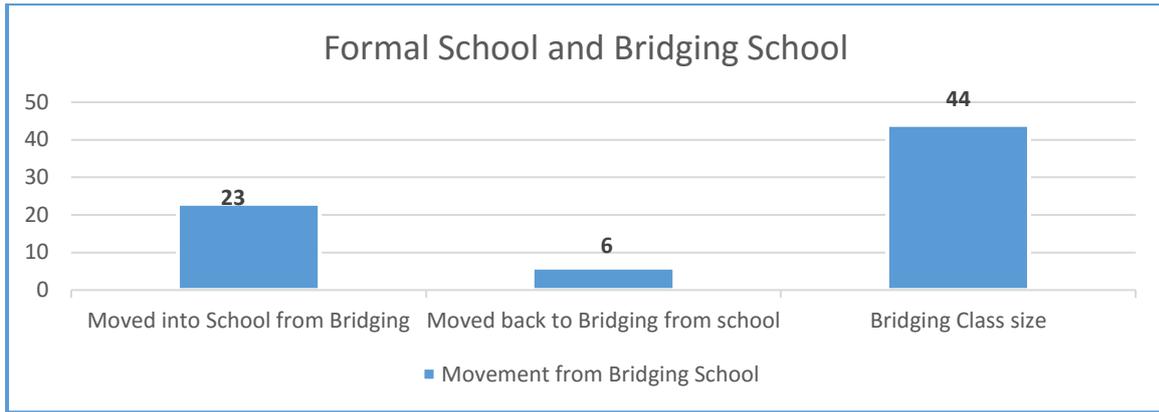
These figures have remained relatively consistent throughout the year. For instance, in April 2016 there were 84% Black beneficiaries and 5% foreign beneficiaries. In December 2016, Kids Haven re-united 17 children with their families, with a consequent adjustment to the beneficiary profile.

## Education of the Children



The Bridging School Programme is a behaviour-stabilisation programme with an emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy. Here, the children learn how to manage their behaviour, listen in class and increase their concentration span. Once a child's behaviour is stable, it becomes possible for Kids Haven to enrol her/him at a formal school. Children who do not cope at formal school may return to the Bridging programme.





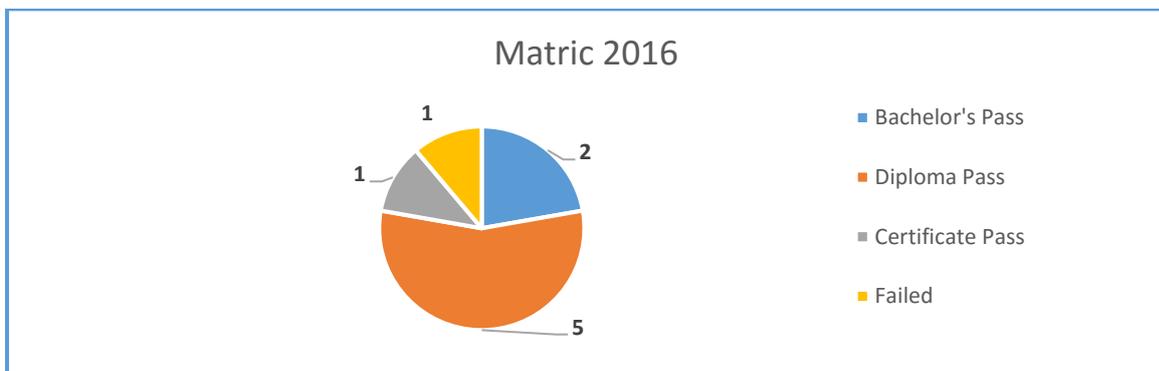
All of the children who come to Kids Haven are facing challenges at school – trauma directly negatively influences school attendance and concentration. Yet School is a major part of a child’s life. That is why Kids Haven focuses on getting the child back into formal school and supporting them to make progress through the grades.

**Note:** Most of the children who fail or who are condoned to pass into the next grade even though they don’t reach the acceptable academic level are in Grade 8 and Grade 9. This is often because of their age. They may have missed years of primary school education but due to age, they need to be placed into high school.

Progressed learners attend special needs schools where there is no academic level to ‘pass’ or ‘fail’.

#### Matric 2016 and 2017

Nine of the Kids Haven children wrote the NSC matric exams at the end of 2016, one of whom received a Distinction for History.



These children came to Kids Haven between 2008 and 2015. Four of them are orphans, who lived with various family members prior to coming to Kids Haven; two of them were refugees, including one who became homeless during the xenophobic violence; and three of them had suffered abuse.

In 2017 Kids Haven has four children in Matric, at four different local high schools. There are also three youths who are busy with ABET Level 4, which is the equivalent of Matric.

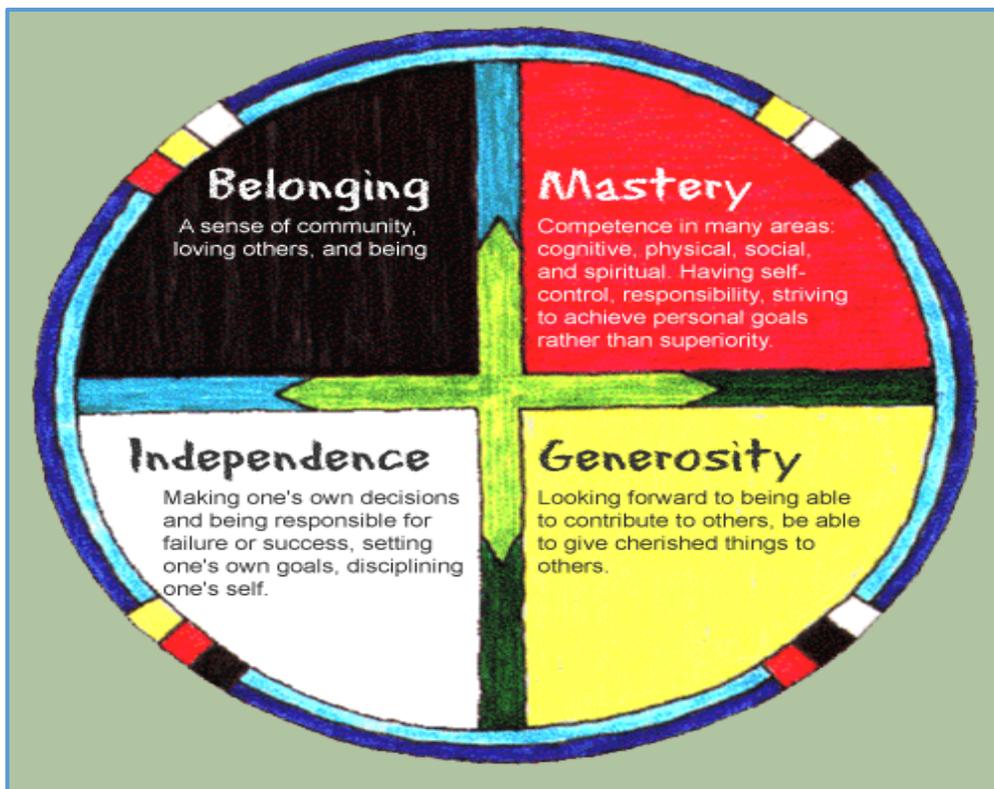
Three youth have started their first year in University. Two siblings have started at UJ – the sister is studying Radiography and her brother has enrolled for a Diploma in IT. Jeanette is enrolled at Rhodes University and is studying social sciences. Itumeleng is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of her teaching degree while on an internship in a local school.

### Behaviour Change

The goal of every programme at Kids Haven *and* its supportive environment is to bring about behaviour change in the children. On admission, children’s behaviour is considered ‘uncontrollable’ or they are frightened and silent—no child shows age-appropriate ‘normal’ behaviour.

Each child has an Individual Development Plan (IDP) that maps out the best possible programmes for that child, to address her/his behaviour needs. Kids Haven is now implementing a Behaviour Assessment for all children, which is conducted prior to the IDP. This is a questionnaire designed around the principles of the Circle of Courage Model, which is recognised as an excellent developmental model for children’s behaviour. Older children will self-assess using this questionnaire while younger children are assisted to complete a more age-appropriate assessment. Other key staff (e.g. social worker, key childcare worker, and therapist) will also complete the questionnaire, following which the results are tabulated and analysed.

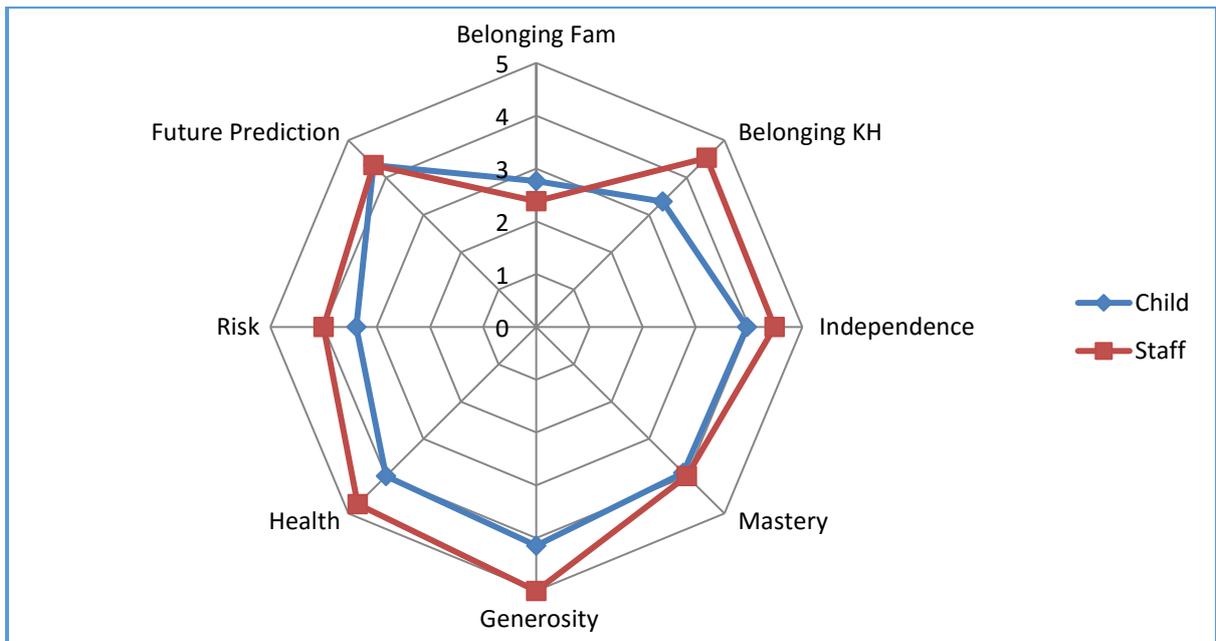
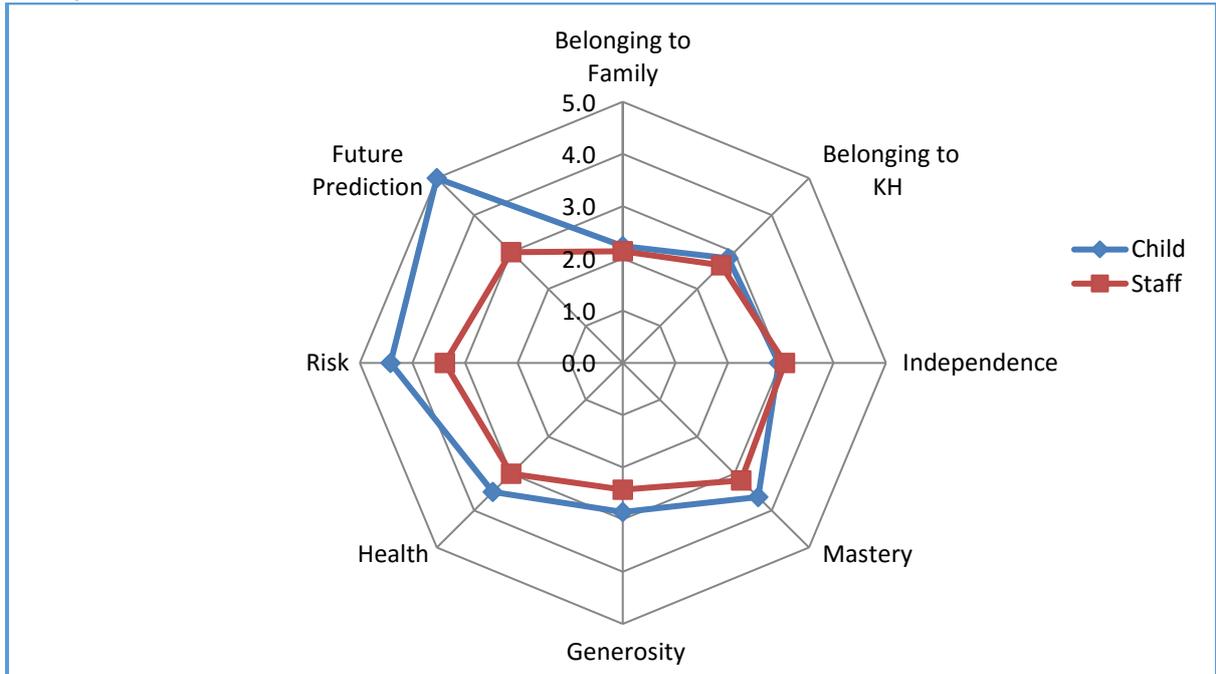
### The Circle of Courage



An Assessment and IDP/IDP Review takes place annually, at least, but preferably twice in 12 months. Since April 2016 social workers at Kids Haven have completed 187 IDPs, which include panel discussions with the child, the child’s family, key care workers and the social worker.

Analysis of each assessment produces a ‘spider diagram’ depicting average rating results. The more ‘normal’ the child, the wider the circle. The more challenges a child is experiencing, the tighter the circle. This provides an easy-to-see picture of the areas in which children continue to be challenged.

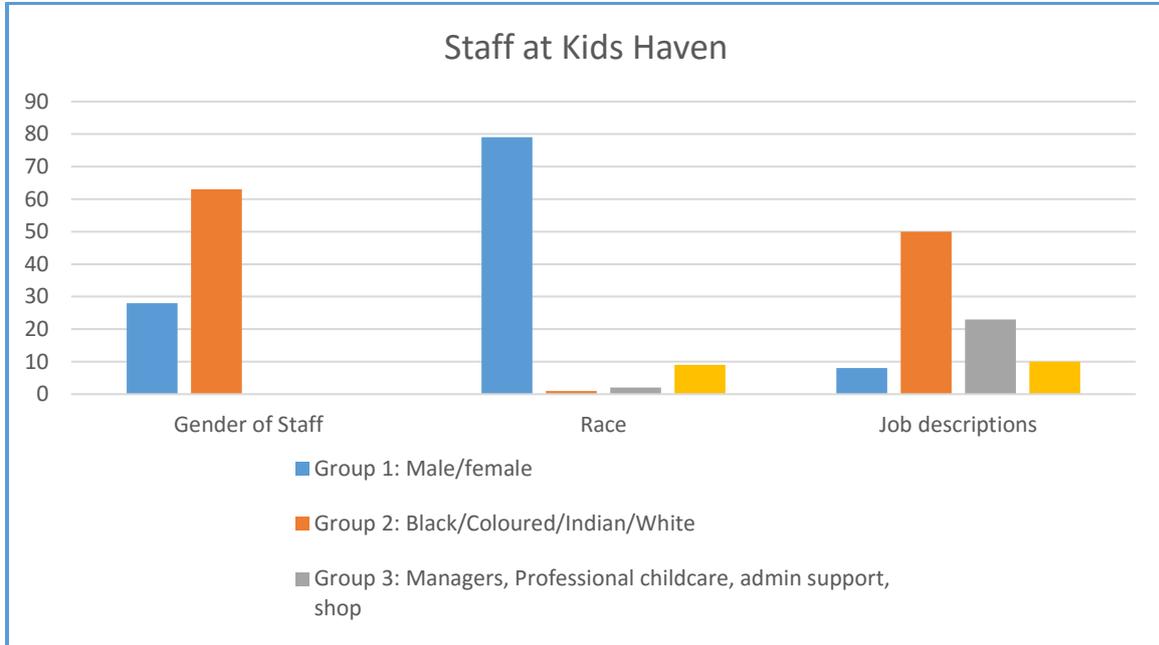
**Example: Child A**



**Example: Child B**

Kids Haven also applies a Risk Assessment, which addresses the state of a child’s home circumstances and whether these will be supportive, if or when the child is re-unified.

**Staff Profile at Kids Haven**



**Notes to Table:** GROUP 3, Column 3 (grey): “Admin support” refers to Staff providing transport, security, domestic work, finance, reception, data capture, HR and reception. Staff costs incurred in staffing the charity shops are fully covered by the gross profit from the sale of excess second hand goods, with the net profit being paid over to Kids Haven for programme funding.

## Financial report 2016/2017:

As a registered Child and Youth Care centre, Kids Haven qualifies for a grant from the Department of Social Development. The grant provides foundation funding for residential beneficiaries with a top-up payment for two junior social workers and one outreach worker. It does *not* provide funding for education, since Kids Haven is expected to access state schools and the state school uniform project. It is not always possible to enrol every child in a State school due to paperwork constraints and our experience with the school uniform initiative has been very disheartening.

Consequently, Kids Haven relies on donor funding to meet the *real* costs of caring for children and providing everything that they need.

- The state pays R 2,570 per child per month. This is capped for the next three years, until March 2019.
- The current (2017) cost to Kids Haven is R 5,423 per child per month.
- The funding gap, therefore, is R 2,853 per child per month.

Grant income is necessary to address the INCARE funding gap, and enables Kids Haven to achieve the following standards:

- A ratio of 1:30 children to a social worker, vs the 1:90 ratio as funded by the Department;
- Social workers are able to counsel children, rather than attend to paperwork only; they are able, also, to do family work in preparation for the re-unification of children;
- Kids Haven can run the in-house Bridging School programme to stabilise children, which facilitates their placement in the formal school system;
- Kids Haven can enrol children into the most suitable formal school, cover transport to and from school, and provide uniforms and resources for school; and
- A ratio of 1:12 children to a childcare worker, vs the ratio of 1:24 children per childcare worker (as per the Department) on a 24-hour shift at any time. Given that children, particularly those in the Shelter, have serious behaviour challenges, it is far more appropriate to have a lower number of children per adult.

Kids Haven is sincerely grateful to DONORS for enabling us to ensure that appropriate standards are maintained.



**Case Study: Eunice N** (not her real name), admitted to Kids Haven on 1 August 2016

Eunice N (age 15) came to Kids Haven on 1 August 2016, because of her uncontrollable behaviour at home. She was abandoned as a baby and brought up as the foster child of a family. She appears to believe that her foster parents are her real parents, although she has queried once whether she was adopted (according to her foster father). Her foster mother died in February 2016. Eunice's behaviour had been deteriorating before her foster mother's death and worsened after her death, until she began disappearing for days, as many as five days on one occasion. It seems that she had multiple boyfriends and had started smoking cigarettes in 2015 and dagga in 2016. Eunice was in Grade 7 at the local school but admitted that she stopped attending school from June 2016. Her foster father calls Eunice "a slow learner" although she had been attending a normal school.

Eunice was placed into the Bridging School programme at Kids Haven. Her behaviour is recorded as 'acceptable' although her academic ability is weak.

Eunice has not been involved in any serious incidents since intake, although she does still 'like' boys and KH is concerned that she has a boyfriend, despite this being firmly discouraged. She has not used drugs while at Kids Haven.

Eunice participated in the 'Kids Haven has Talent' show held on 28 October 2016, which was attended by her foster father. On arrival at Kids Haven in August, Eunice described herself as shy and unconfident, but was comfortable enough to participate in the talent show at the end of October.

With structure and boundaries, Kids Haven feels that Eunice has done well and is making good progress. Although still keen on boys, she has not absconded since being at Kids Haven, nor has she taken any substances. Her academic level is weak but in 2017 she was placed in the Lesabe Primary School (Grade 7).

Eunice has indicated during counselling that she would prefer to stay at Kids Haven until she is 18 years old. She feels that she is now far from negative influences, such as alcohol, and has said she is committed to attending the Kids Haven programmes.

Note: Kids Haven is currently providing bereavement counselling for Eunice.

Additional case studies are available on request.

**Ends**