



Kids Haven Progress Report for Financial Year 2017 2018—Quick Update

Written by: Susan Daly

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. Children asked then—and have done ever since—for three things:

- Food and clothing
- To return to school
- For someone to contact their families and tell them that they are OK

Kids Haven will celebrate 25 years of working with children on 13 October 2017

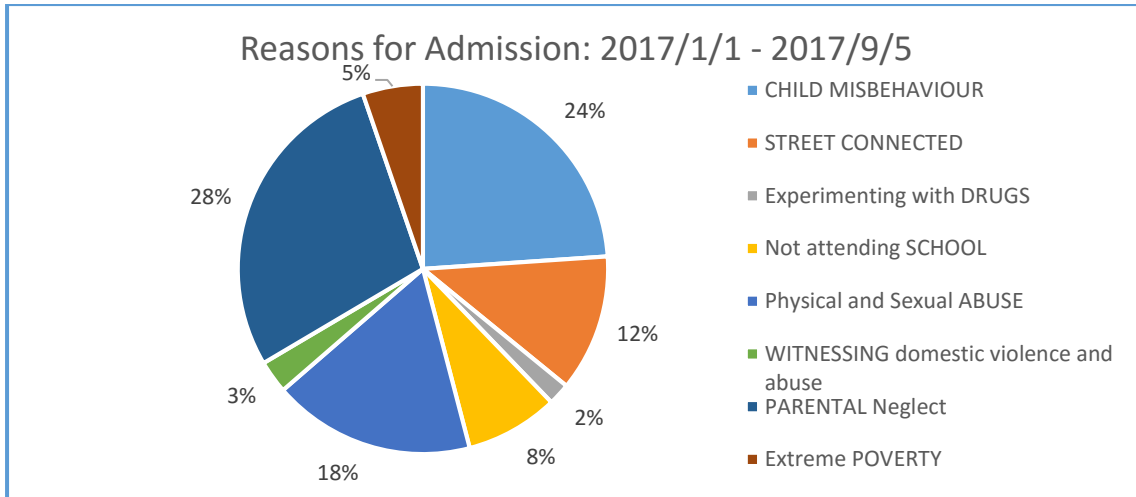
We are very proud to be celebrating this important anniversary and are looking ahead to many more years of improving the lives of children in distress.

Who do we work with?

Kids Haven works with children who have street connections, or who are so-called 'difficult children' who come from dysfunctional families and who have many behavioural challenges. Unpacking these challenges frequently reveals a history of neglect, abuse and trauma, which have caused the child to rebel and to look for acceptance and inclusion outside their own family, usually from peers on the streets. Living on the streets impacts on their safety, their personal development, their behaviour and their attendance at school.

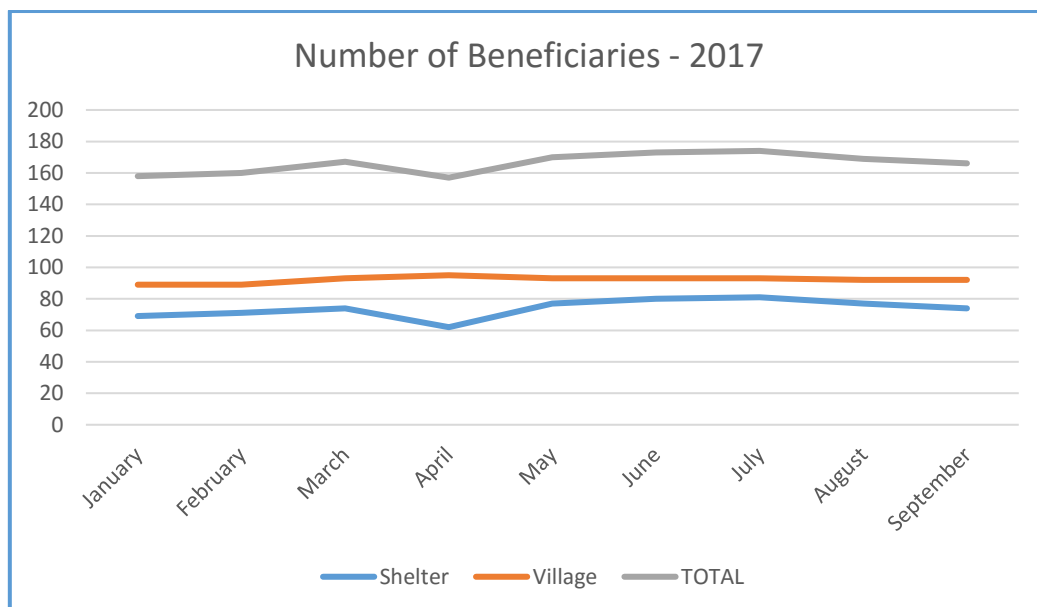
Kids Haven refuses to accept the idea of a LOST generation—every child matters and is worthy of care and attention.

Please read the Case Study which appears on pages 12 and 13 of this Report, which provides a detailed explanation of the work of Kids Haven.



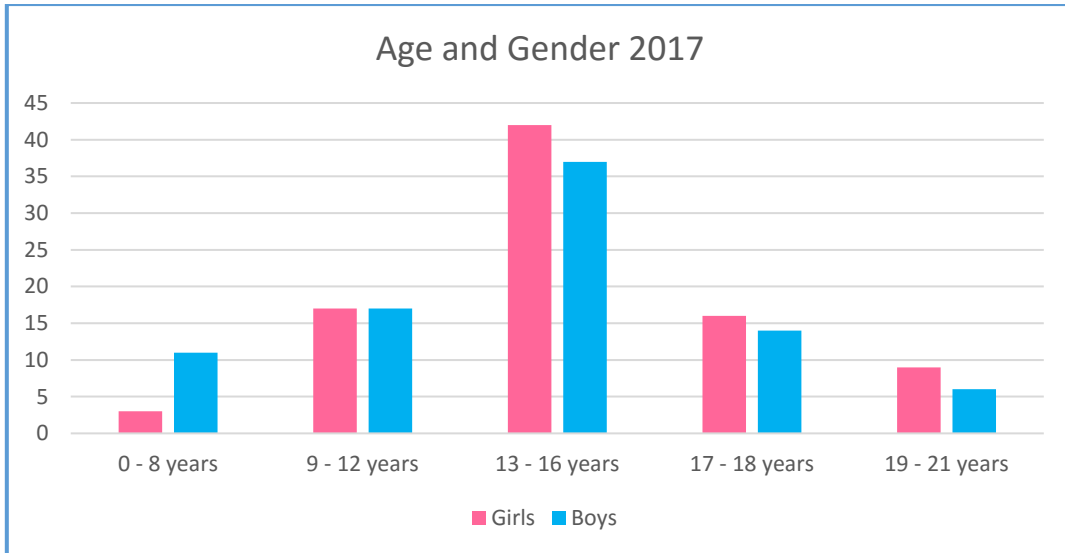
This chart depicts the various reasons for children to be admitted to Kids Haven; the associated percentages indicate the size of the problem

On average, 172–175 children, ranging in age from 4 to 21, live at Kids Haven. Every child is included in education, has an allocated social worker and a key childcare worker who takes a special interest in him or her. All children participate in sport and recreational activities and specialised therapy is provided to children with significant trauma and/or emotional needs.

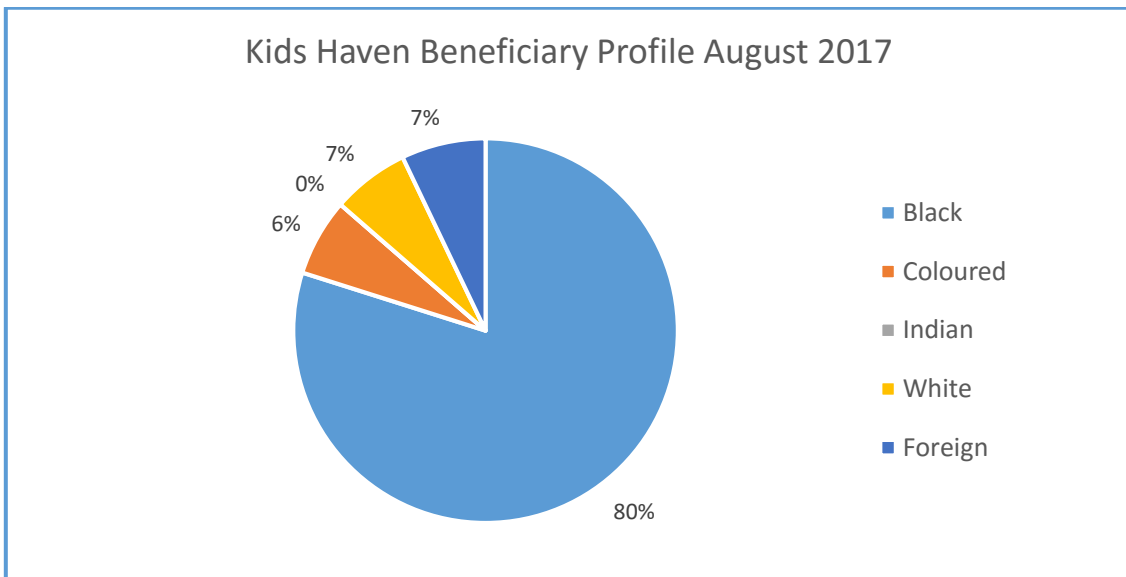


**Numbers of Children living at Kids Haven in 2017, in two sites—
The Shelter (Cranbourne Avenue) and The Village (six group homes in Mackenzie Park)**

Kids Haven is registered to provide care for 181 beneficiaries. The numbers of residents may fluctuate during a month due to overnight stays, placement in places of safety, or abscondments and permanent exits. On average, Kids Haven has cared for 173 children every month during 2017.



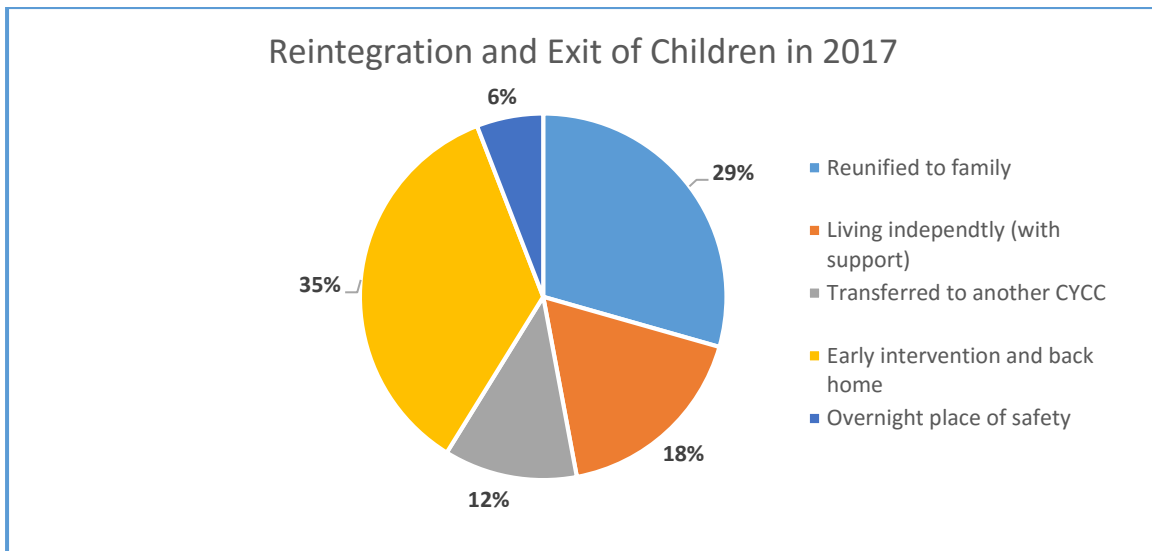
The above chart depicts the ages and genders of children living at Kids Haven in 2017



The above diagram provides the racial profiles of children living at Kids Haven in 2017

What does Kids Haven hope to achieve through the delivery of services to these children and their families?

The vision of Kids Haven is to rehabilitate children with street connections and challenging behaviours, and to facilitate re-unification and re-integration into the community. We want children to become the best that they can be, in themselves, in their families, in their communities and in the country.



This diagram indicates the number of children who exited from Kids Haven in 2017, and shows the placement results.

Kids Haven is not a secure care facility but we make every effort to prevent children from running away or absconding. Eight children (4.6%) have absconded and have not returned to Kids Haven in 2017. Kids Haven will re-admit these children if or when they return, and in the mean-time will make enquiries (when conducting street work) to try to ascertain their whereabouts.

How does Kids Haven measure the outcomes and impact of its activities?

Kids Haven believes in the power of LIFE SPACE work. In other words, every moment is a teachable moment and every child has the capacity to become attached, to feel as if they belong and are able to learn skills that foster resilience. These children need to be STRONG and RESILIENT to cope with their histories and look forward to a different future.

Kids Haven records data on positive and negative incidents and assesses every child using a customised assessment tool twice a year. These assessments enable Kids Haven to create an individual development plan for each child in its care. Individual plans prescribe the best possible activities and programmes, that will best suit the needs of each child, and encourage a focus on the goal of reintegration.

Kids Haven bases its assessment tool on the developmental model known as The Circle of Courage.

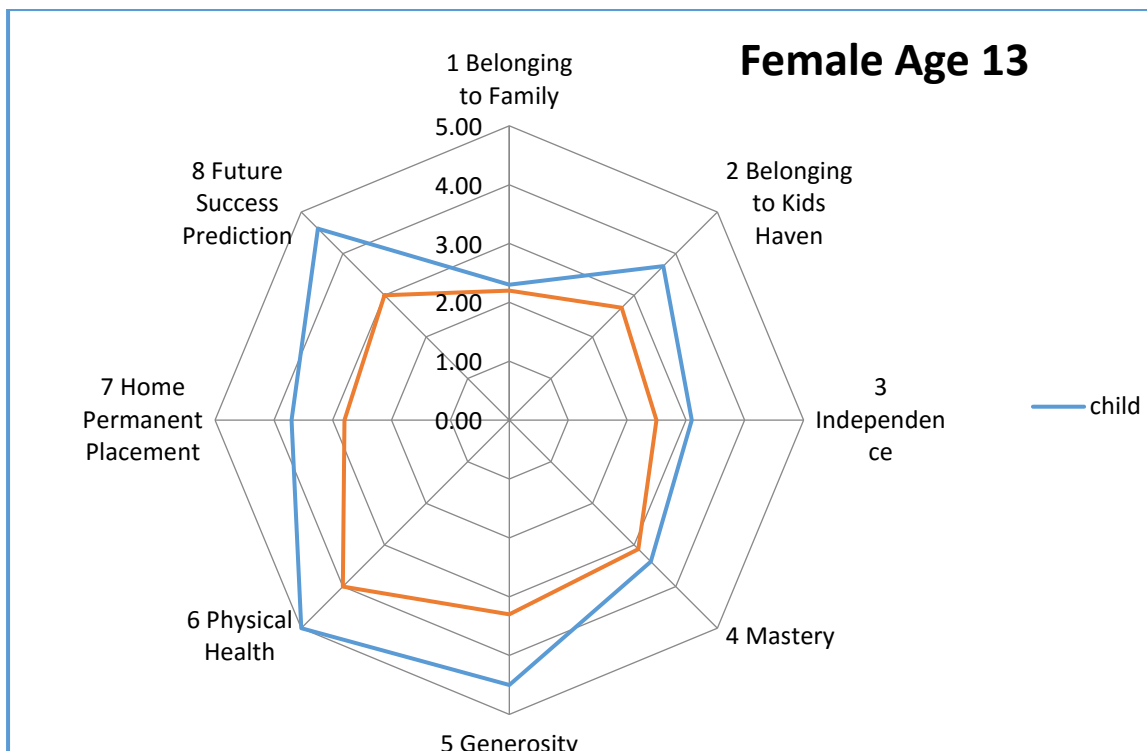


The Circle of Courage

The assessment is completed by the child with those staff members who work closely with the child. Children under 10 and those with intellectual difficulties are helped to complete their assessments.

A combination of the Circle of Courage tool and personal details is aggregated, to show how children are progressing—whether they are progressing WELL or whether they are showing little progress. This information helps in decision making to provide the most effective programmes to meet the needs of each child.

An individual assessment of a 13-year-old girl follows on page 6.

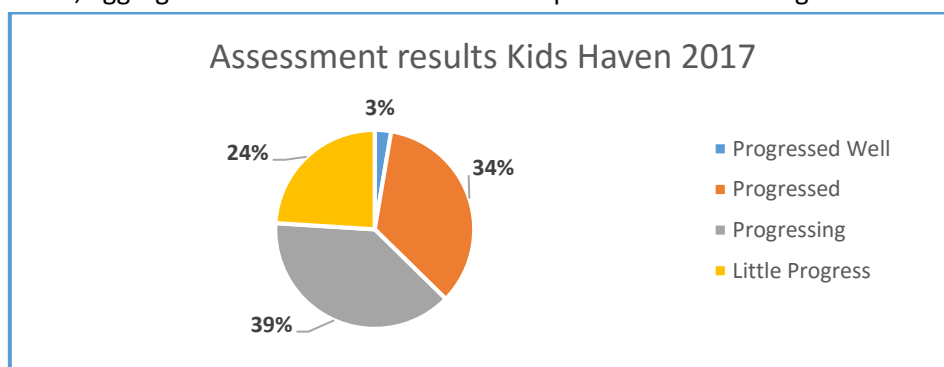


This chart provides a visual representation of the individual assessment of girl aged 13 years

This girl is 13 years old and was placed at Kids Haven in March 2017. She lived with her grandparents, who were extremely abusive, until she was rescued by a neighbour and placed at Kids Haven. She lives at The Shelter and attends the Kids Haven Bridging School Programme. She plays netball and is in the Kids Haven team. She attends specialised therapy. Her assessment was conducted in July, four months after her arrival.

This diagram reflects the typical profile of a child who is new to Kids Haven and who is adjusting to its programmes while dealing with the trauma that caused her arrival at Kids Haven. The 'Future Success Prediction' will change as she progresses through the programmes. At this stage, her assessment indicates many areas that still require improvement; consequently, the possibility of her reunification is low. She is currently considered to be 'making little progress' after a short period of time at Kids Haven, but given her past circumstances this is to be expected. Her next assessment will take place in January or February 2018.

To date, in 2017, aggregated assessments at Kids Haven present the following overall results:



Children considered to have ‘progressed’, or ‘progressed well’, will become candidates for reunification—on condition that risk factors for home placement are low.

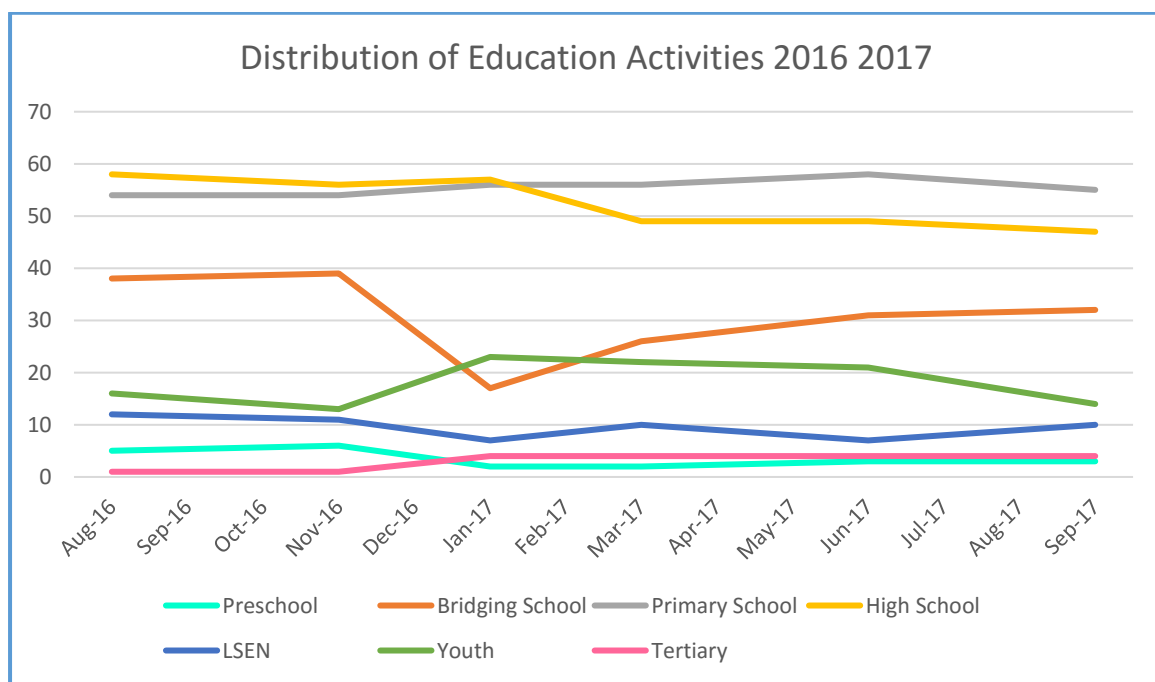
Sixty per cent of the children making ‘little progress’ have been at Kids Haven for less than one year. Past results and years of experience show that it takes 18 months to two years for behaviours to stabilise before children can make real progress.

The Outcomes and Impact of Education at Kids Haven

Education and schooling plays a very important role in stabilising a child’s behaviour which contributes to their successful reintegration and future success predictors. The StatsSA research report on Vulnerable Groups in 2016, dated 19 March 2016, provides detailed national information about the state of education in South Africa (see Table below).

14.7% of children aged 15 have not completed Grade 7	Top reasons for dropping out: 22.1% poor academic performance 12% disability 11% cannot afford fees
21.2% of children aged 17 have not completed Grade 9	
54% of Youth between 15 and 24 years are unemployed and 37.3% are not in education, employment or training	

Kids Haven admits children who have left schooling, attend school sporadically or have never attended school. EVERY child at Kids Haven is included in an education programme with the main focus being on inclusion in formal schooling. Poor academic performance and chaotic home circumstances contribute significantly to the unstable attendance of children who are admitted to Kids Haven.



Distribution of Education Activities 2016–2017

The Bridging School Programme is a behaviour-stabilisation programme with an emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy. It enables children to 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.

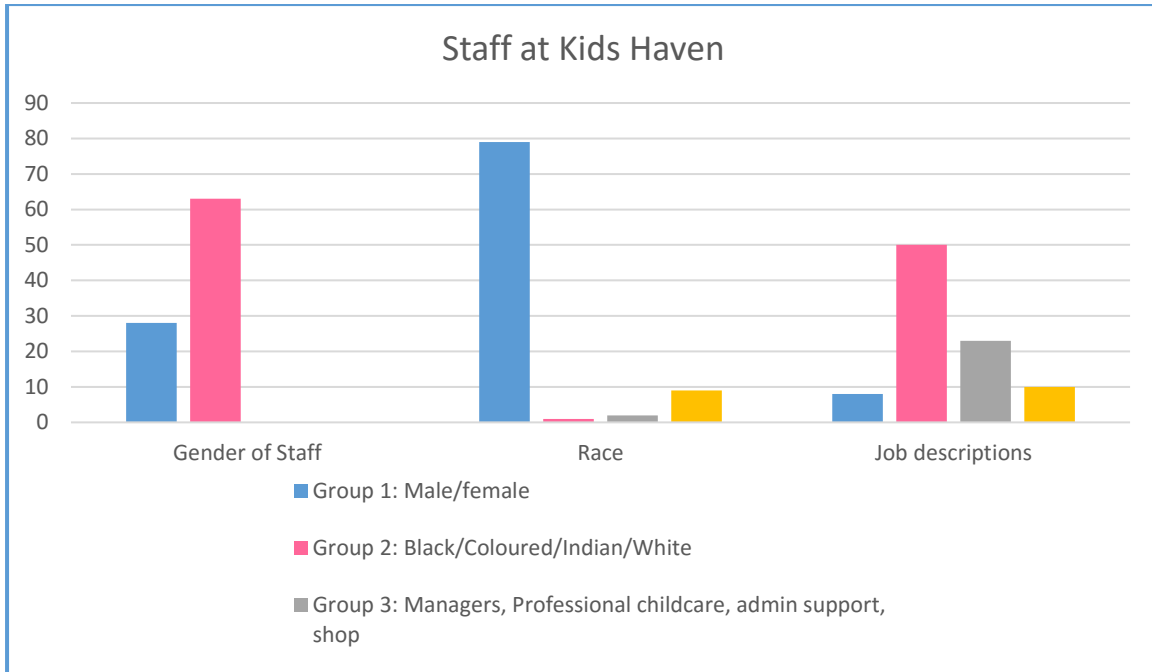
- ✿ January 2017 (term 1): 18 children started formal school after completing the Bridging School Programme.
- ✿ May 2017 (term 2): 11 children started formal school after completing the Bridging School Programme.
- ✿ 26 of 29 children remain in formal school. This is an average of 89.6% for academic inclusion. Three children have returned to the Bridging School Programme because they struggled to cope with formal school.

Kids Haven is home to four youths attending university. One young person is in her final year and the other three are in their first year. Three of these students passed all their mid-year exams (2017) while one student failed one module.

Kids Haven cares for seven children in their final Matric year in 2017:

- ✿ 4 children are in formal high school
- ✿ 2 children are completing Matric through an Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) College
- ✿ 1 child attends an LSEN school

Kids Haven recommends that all children who complete Matric transfer to the Kids Haven Youth Skills Development programme in 2018. Local and international research into care-leaving is widely supportive of the notion that youth in care need extra time, where possible, between school, further studies and exiting from the Care Home.



Staff Profile at Kids Haven

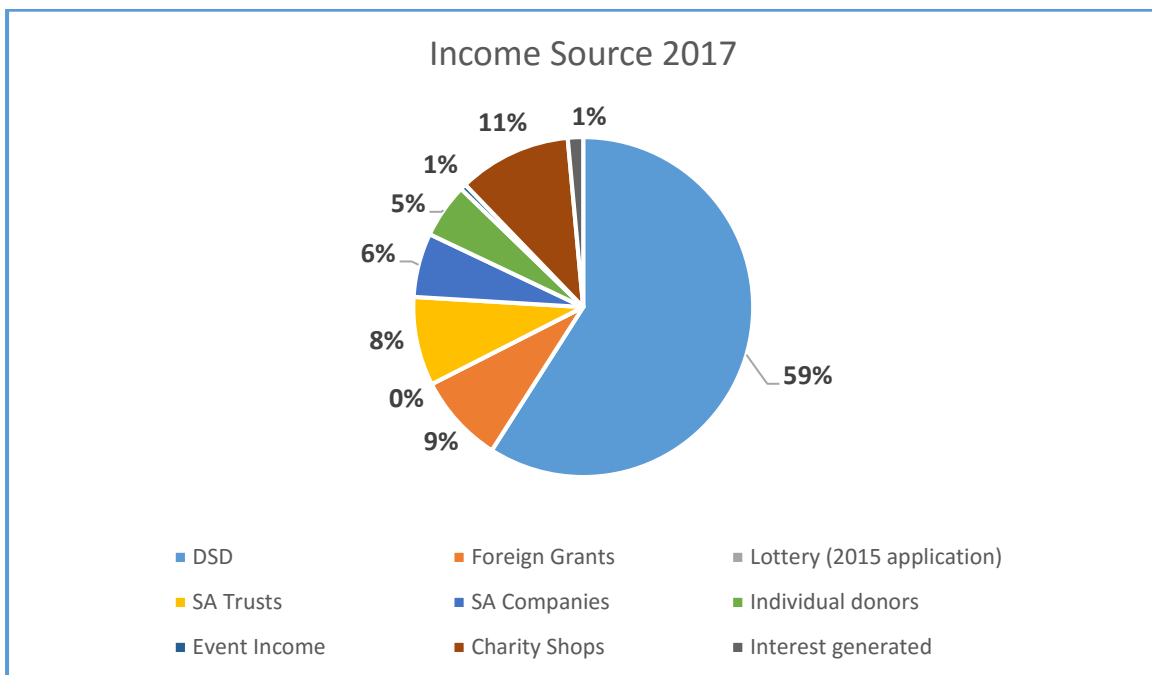
Notes to the above diagram:

GROUP 3:

Admin support. This refers to staff who provide transport, security, domestic work, finance, reception, data capture and Human Resources services.

Shop. Staff costs incurred by serving in the charity shops are fully covered by the gross profit from the sale of excess second-hand goods. The net profit is paid to Kids Haven for programme funding.

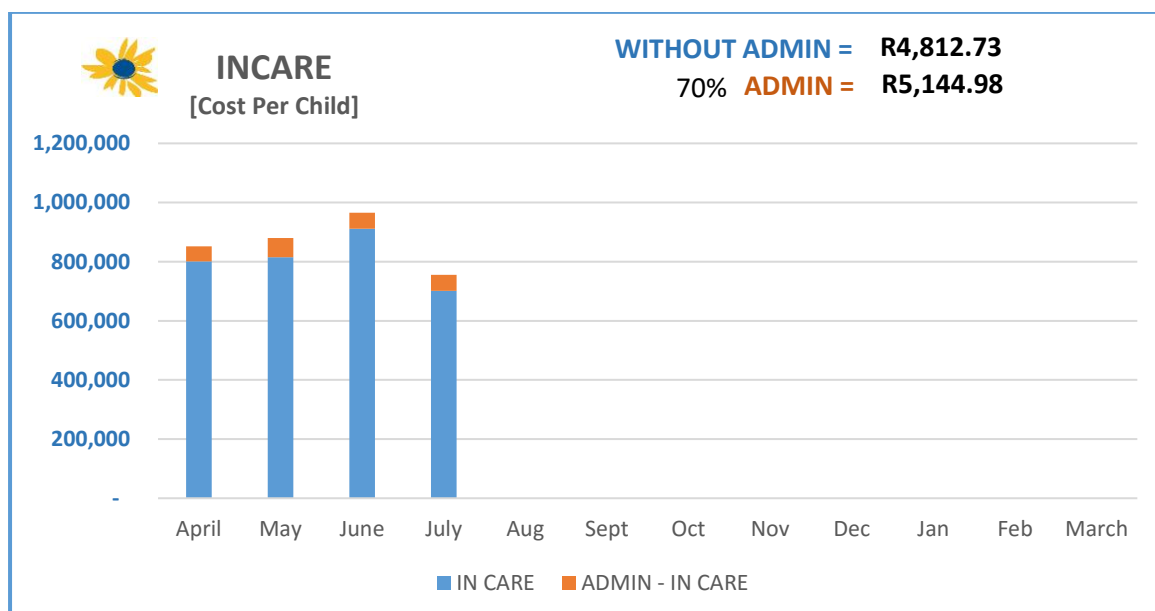
Financial report 2016/2017



Income sourced by Kids Haven in 2017

As a registered Child and Youth Care Centre, Kids Haven qualifies for a grant from the Department of Social Development (DSD). The grant provides foundation funding for residential beneficiaries, and a top-up payment for two junior social workers and one outreach worker. Consequently, Kids Haven relies on donor funding to meet the *real* costs of caring for children and providing everything they need.

- Kids Haven is registered for 181 children but the State funds only 152 children. On average, 172 children live at Kids Haven, leaving 20 children who are not funded, at all.
- The state pays R2,725 per child per month. The current (2017) cost to Kids Haven is R5,145 per child per month. This includes 70% of the administration costs to run Kids Haven.
- The funding gap, therefore, is R 2,420 per child per month.



Grant and donor 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 DSD;
- Social workers are able to counsel children, rather than attend only to paperwork. They also 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 DSD) on a 24-hour shift at any time. Given that the 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 all our donors for enabling us to ensure that appropriate standards are maintained.

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Case Study: Earnest (not his real name), admitted to Kids Haven in August 2015

Earnest (10) was brought to Kids Haven by the police in August 2015 after a concerned community member found him alone at the train station.

Upon arrival at Kids Haven, Earnest gave his name as ‘John’ and claimed that he was lost and that both his parents had died. He said he had two older siblings who lived in Pretoria. He also claimed never to have been to school yet chose to write down his story for the social worker. His story seemed particularly incoherent and the social worker tried to get more information, which made sense, but ‘John’ could not provide it. He also stated that he came from Lesotho but could give no details about Lesotho at all. He said his father had been kicked to death by a horse so he jumped on a train and ran away.

Kids Haven immediately included ‘John’ in the Shelter programmes. He was assigned a social worker and a key case worker and included in the Kids Haven Bridging School programme. ‘John’ did not offer, or know, how old he was and the Bridging School Programme seemed the most suitable way to include him in education, at that stage. Kids Haven arranged for him to see the District Surgeon for an age assessment. In 2016, ‘John’ was enrolled into Kgotholang Primary School in Grade 4. He

appeared happy and settled at Kids Haven and commented that he liked being at Kids Haven. “I like the food, especially the salad!”

The concerned community member who had informed the police visited ‘John’ early in 2016 and he enjoyed seeing her but she didn’t visit again. In September 2016, ‘John’ asked his social worker if he could see his ‘host mother’. This appeared to be the community member who had alerted the police but who had not visited since the beginning of 2016. The social worker contacted this lady to invite her to Family Day at the end of September 2016. She agreed to come but did not attend on the day. ‘John’ was very disappointed and wept.

Exploring this incident, with sensitivity, ‘John’s’ social worker began encouraging him to talk more about his family and explain why he was so sad. ‘John’ began to open up and revealed that his name was not ‘John’ after all but that he was in fact called Earnest J. His parents were both alive and he had two younger sisters. They all lived in an area near Vereeniging. He also gave the name of the school that he had attended. Unfortunately, Earnest still changed some details which compromised the follow-up of this information. But Kids Haven persevered and used a few of the given names until the school identified that they had had a learner called Earnest M, who appeared to be this child. All this information was passed onto the DSD’s external social worker, who is responsible for tracing families while a child is in the care of a children’s home, like Kids Haven.

In the interim, Kids Haven had contacted the concerned community member—Violet—and she had been visiting Earnest. She also visited him at Christmas time and was considering hosting him during the school holidays in 2017.

In December 2016, the Kids Haven social worker asked the external social worker if progress had been made with identifying Earnest’s family. Unfortunately not, and the external social worker gave Kids Haven permission to follow up. On 16 February 2017, Earnest, his social worker and two more staff members from the Centre left Kids Haven to try to find his home. The group drove to Vereeniging and began their search in the area around the school. Recognising the area, Earnest began to get excited. He directed the car to a particular house. Sadly, the house was locked. The social worker asked the neighbours if they knew this boy and his family. They knew that the family had left suddenly and had not told anyone where they were going. Earnest recalled a ‘grandfather’ who lived nearby. The team drove to see the old man. There they met with a woman who recognised Earnest and who was happy to see him. She explained that Earnest had been sniffing glue and running with bad friends. His father had been concerned about him although his mother was not. It seems that Earnest’s father had contacted the police after he went missing. This woman was not complimentary about Earnest’s mother. The team was directed to the home of an elderly lady who was a ‘grandmother’. After a long negotiation with another elderly neighbour, the team was directed to another household. This was HOME! Earnest enjoyed a joyful reunion with his siblings. His mum was on her way home from work at the time.

As soon as mum saw Earnest she smiled and confirmed that he was her son. But, worryingly, conversation revealed that she believed many children of Earnest’s age to be ‘naughty’ and she seemed resigned to the fact that children of Earnest’s age (now 12) didn’t always come home. When

Earnest's father (actually his stepfather) came home, his response was more appropriate. He confirmed that he had spent many days searching for his son including liaising with the police.

Earnest has remained at Kids Haven since then, while we work with the DSD to arrange family counselling and manage the legal transfer of Earnest back to his family. Kids Haven has ensured that Earnest's family can visit him at The Shelter and he has been able to make a home holiday visit. The child remains at Kids Haven to date, because the external social worker responsible for the court procedures to return the child home has not yet completed the required processes.

Ends