

Kids Haven Progress Report FY 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. The children asked then—and have done so ever since—for three things:

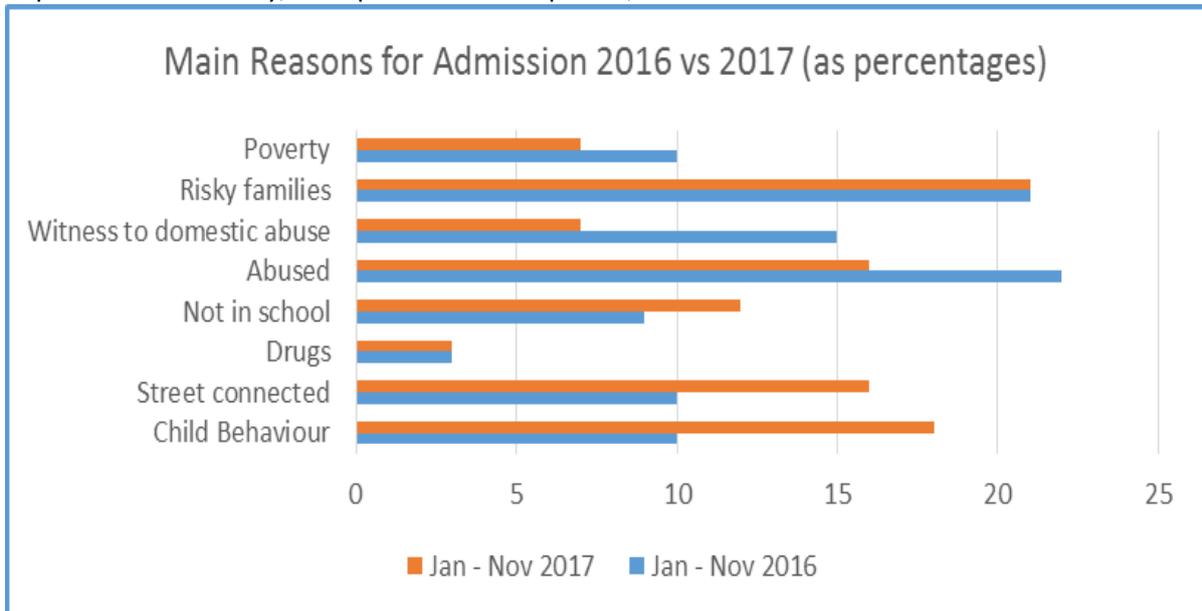
- Food and clothing
- To go back to school
- Someone to contact their families and tell them that they are OK
-

Kids Haven celebrated 25 years of working with children on 13 October 2017.

We are very proud to have celebrated this important anniversary and are looking ahead to many more years changing the lives of children.

Who do we work with?

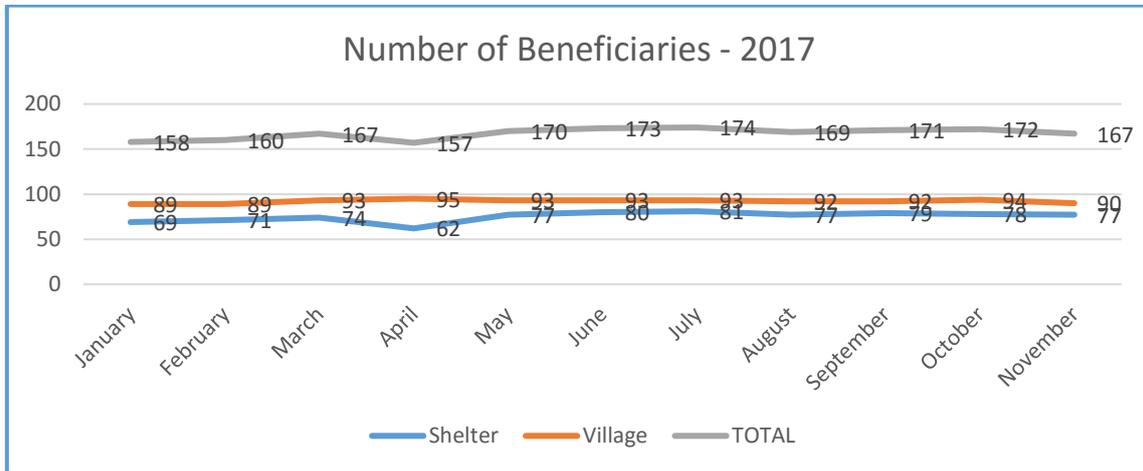
Kids Haven works with children who have street connections or so called “difficult children” who come from dysfunctional families and who have many behaviour challenges. Unpacking these challenges frequently reveals neglect, abuse and trauma which has caused the child to rebel and look for acceptance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



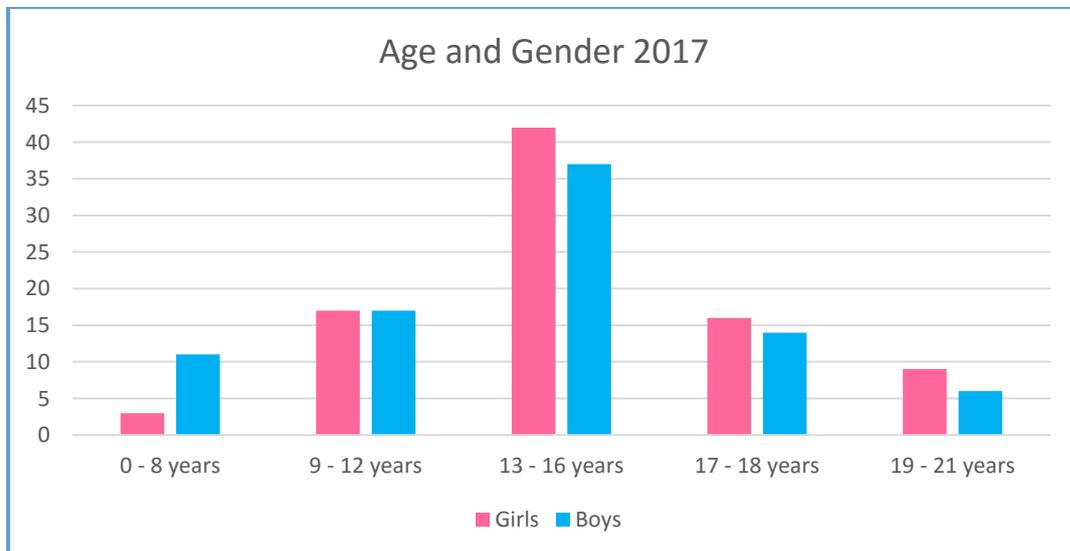
On average there are 166 - 175 children ranging in age from 4 to 21 living at Kids Haven. Every child is included in education and every child has an allocated social worker and key childcare worker who takes a special interest in him/her. Children participate in sport and recreational activities and specialized therapy is provided to children with significant trauma and emotional needs.

Numbers of Children living at Kids Haven through 2017:

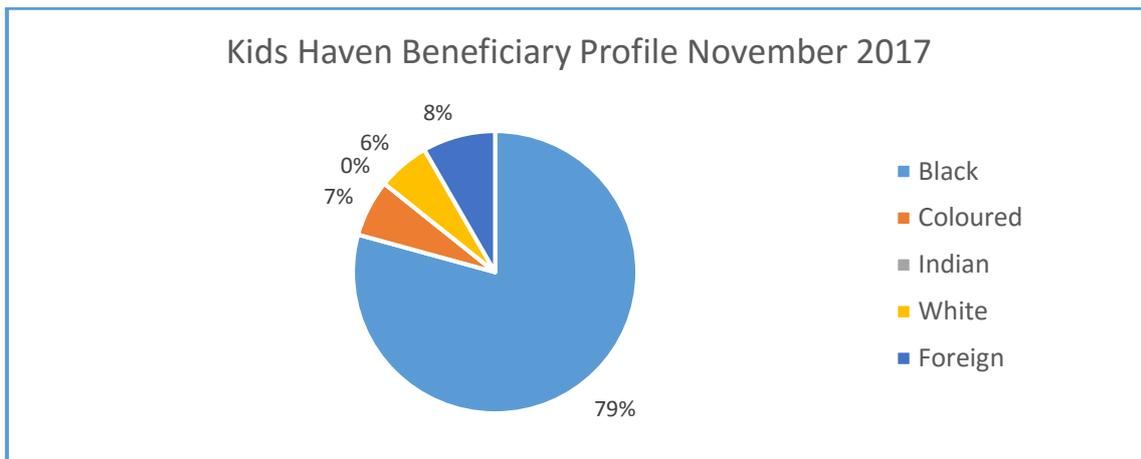
Two sites: The Shelter (Cranbourne Avenue) and The Village (six group homes in Mackenzie Park)



Kids Haven is registered to care for 181 beneficiaries. The numbers fluctuate during a month to accommodate overnight stays/places of safety placements or absconding and permanent exits. On average, Kids Haven cared for 167 children in 2017.



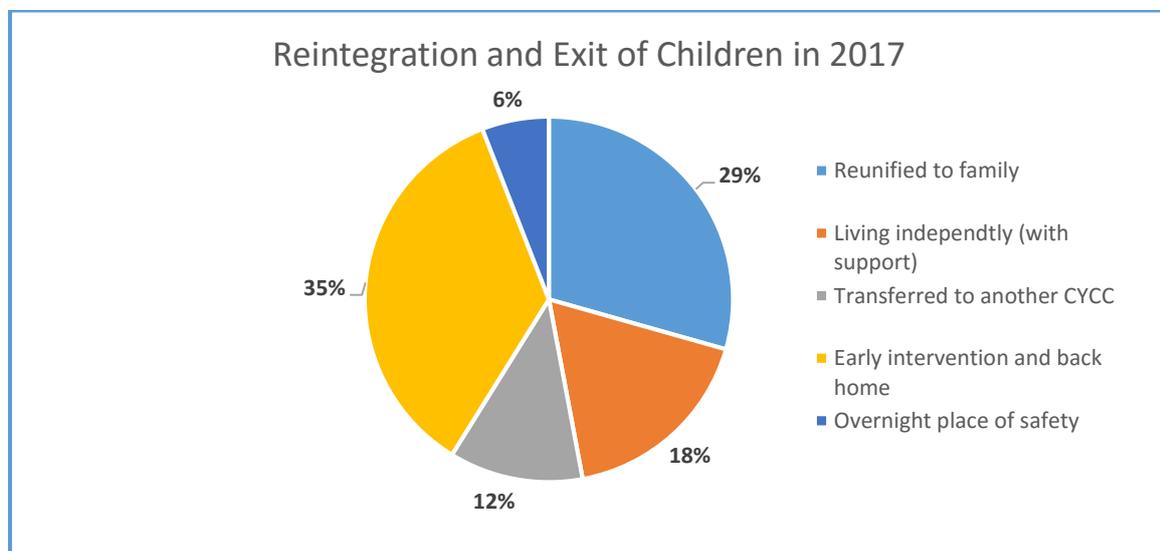
Racial Profile of Children at Kids Haven



What does Kids Haven hope to achieve through delivering services to these children and their families?

The vision of Kids Haven is to rehabilitate children with street connections and other challenging behaviour and facilitate reunification and reintegration 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.



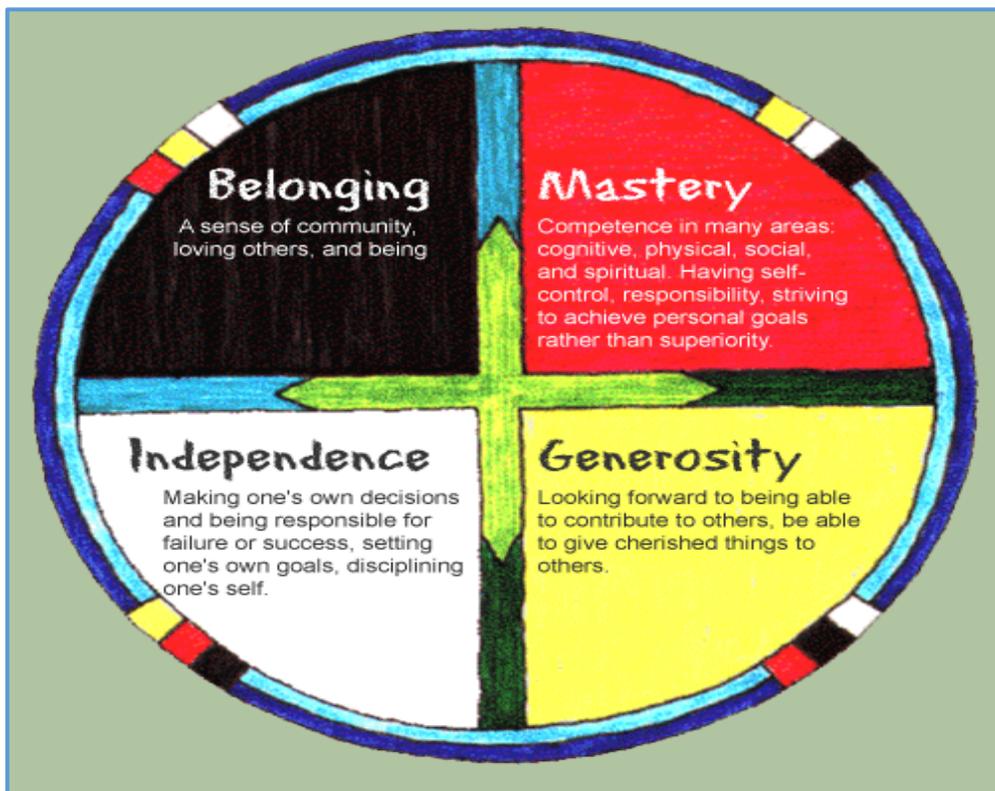
Kids Haven is not a secure care facility but we make every effort to prevent children from running away or absconding. 8 children (4.6%) have absconded and not returned to Kids Haven in 2017. Kids Haven will re-admit these children when they return and will make inquiries when conducting street work to follow up on their whereabouts.

How does Kids Haven measure the outcomes and impact of the 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 be attached, feel as if they belong and able to learn skills that foster resilience. 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 against a customized assessment tool twice a year. From the assessment, Kids Haven creates an individual development plan that prescribes the best possible activities and programmes that will best suit the child's needs and work towards the goal of reintegration.

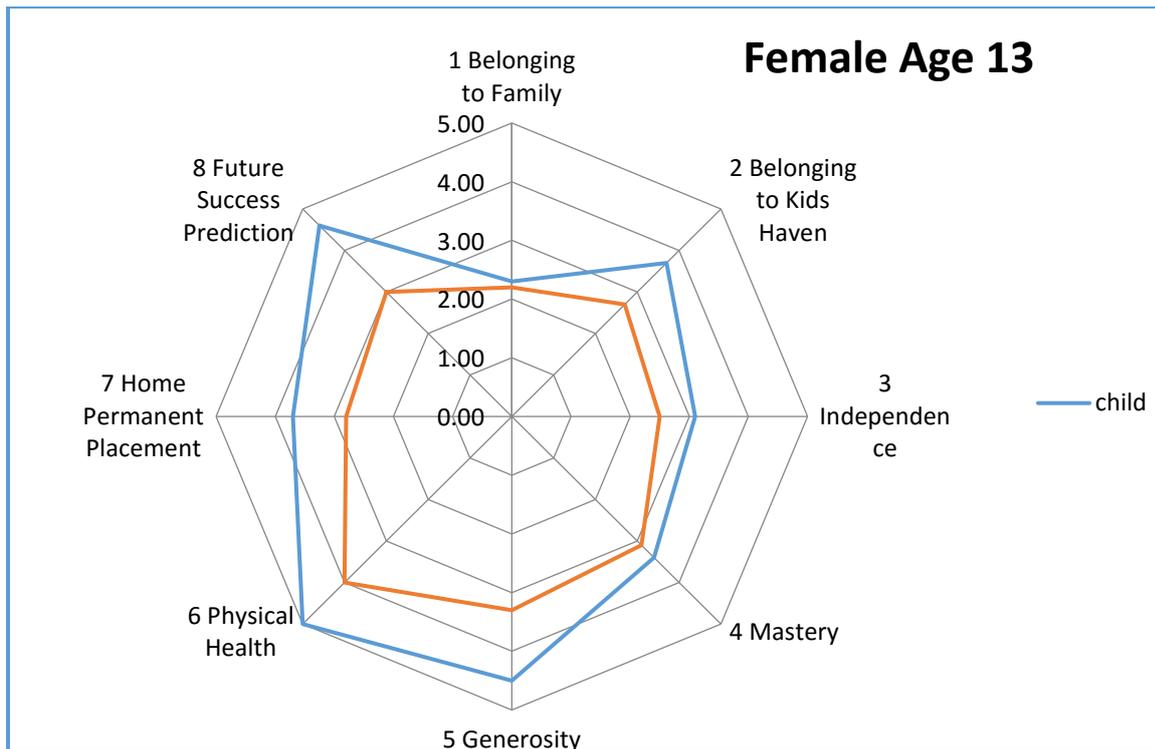
Kids Haven bases the assessment tool on the developmental model known as The Circle of Courage:



The assessment is completed by the child and by Staff who work closely with the child. Children under 10 and those with intellectual difficulties are facilitated 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.

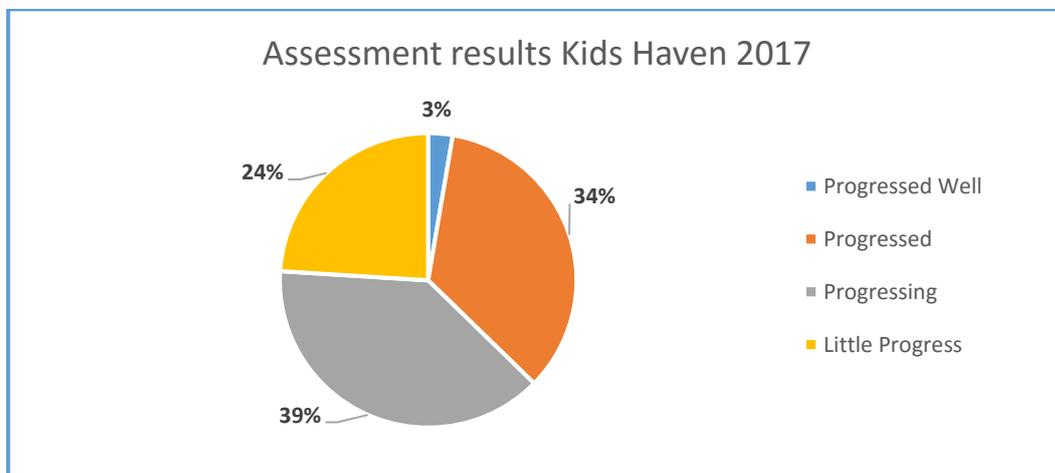
An individual assessment of a 13 year old girl follows on page 5:



This girl is 13 years old. She was placed at Kids Haven early in 2017 and lives at the Shelter. She attends the Kids Haven Bridging School programme. She plays Netball and plays matches. She attends specialized therapy. She was living with extended family who were extremely abusive until she was rescued by a community member and placed at Kids Haven. Her assessment was conducted in July – within 6 months of her arrival.

This diagram reflects a typical child’s profile who is new to Kids Haven and adjusting to the programmes here while dealing with the trauma that brought her to Kids Haven. The “Future Success Prediction” will change as she makes progress through the programmes. At this stage, she has many areas still requiring improvement and her possibility for reunification is low. She is currently considered to be “making little progress” after only a short period of time here but this is to be expected given her past circumstances. Her next assessment will take place in January or February 2018.

The aggregated assessments to date in 2017 look like this:



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

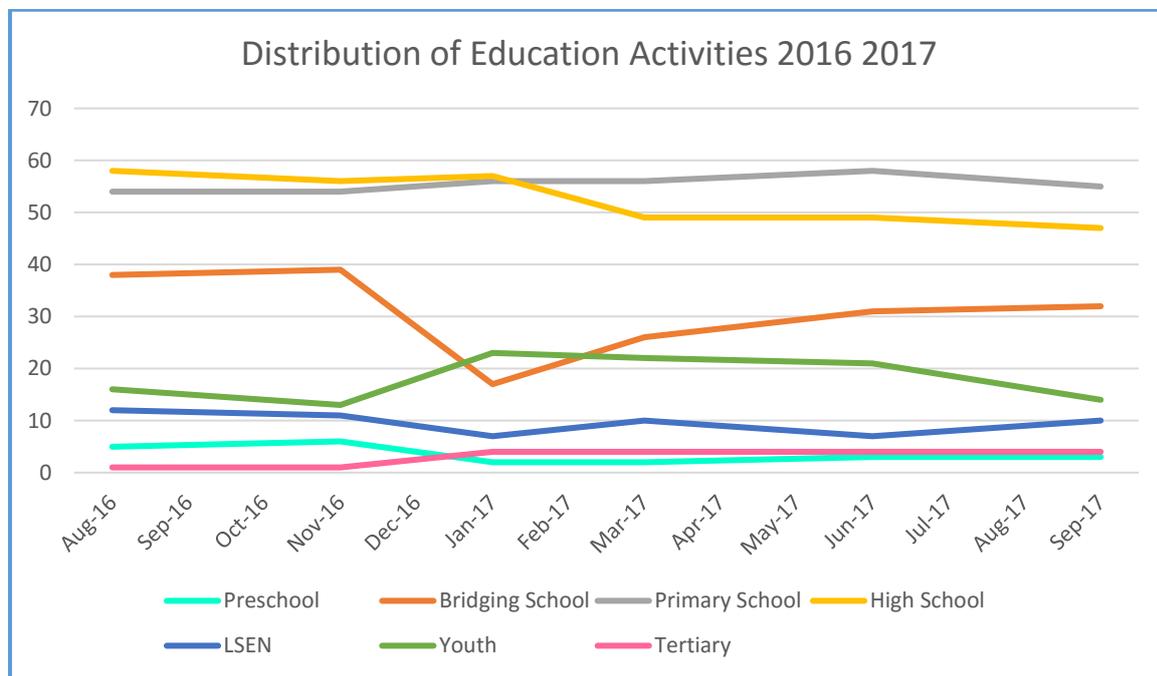
60% of the children making little progress have been at Kids Haven for less than 1 year. Tracking past results and our experience show that most children take 18 months – 2 years to stabilize behaviour before progressing.

The Outcomes and Impact of Education at Kids Haven:

Education and schooling plays a very important role in stabilizing a child’s behaviour and contributing to their successful reintegration and future success predictor. The StatsSA research report 03-19-2016 on Vulnerable Groups in 2016 gives detailed national information about the state of education in SA.

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 – 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.



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.

- ☀ January 2017 (term 1) – 18 children started formal school after completing the Bridging School Programme.
- ☀ May 2017 (term 2) – 11 children started formal school from the Bridging School Programme.
- ☀ 26 of 29 children remain in formal school. This is an average of 89.6% for academic inclusion. 3 children have returned to the Bridging School Programme as they struggled to cope with formal school.

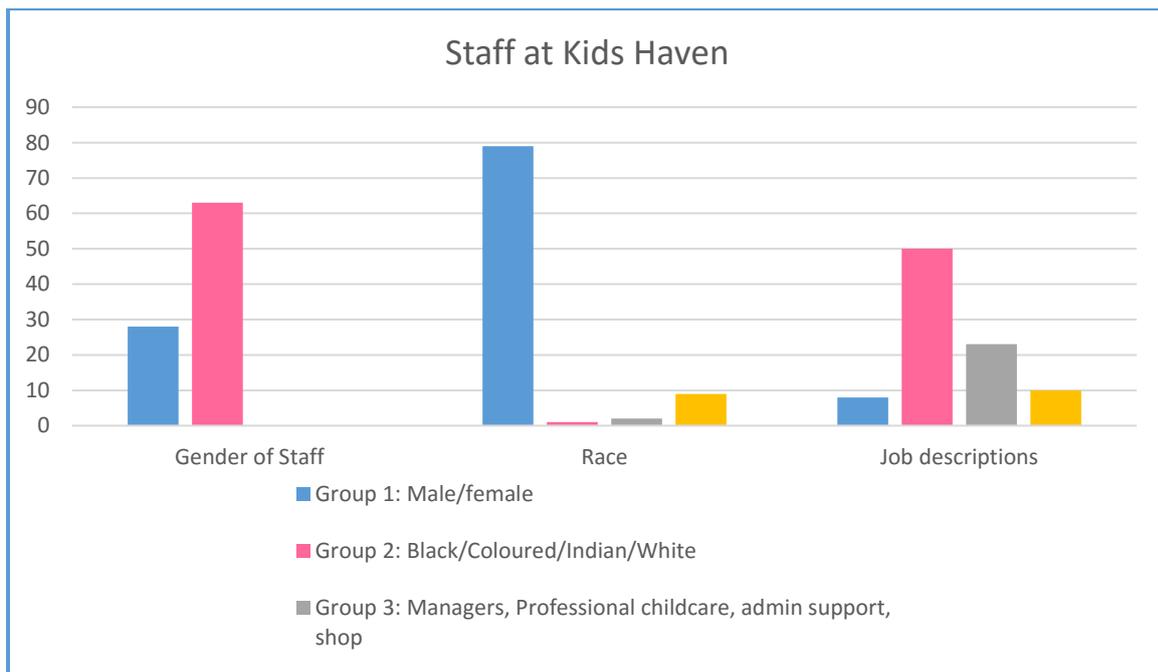
Kids Haven has 4 youth attending university. 1 young person is in her final year and 3 youth are in their 1st year. 3 youth passed all of their mid-year exams (2017) and 1 young person failed 1 module.

There are 7 children in their final Matric year in 2017:

- ☀ 4 children in formal High school
- ☀ 2 children completing Matric through Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) College
- ☀ 1 child attending an LSEN school

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

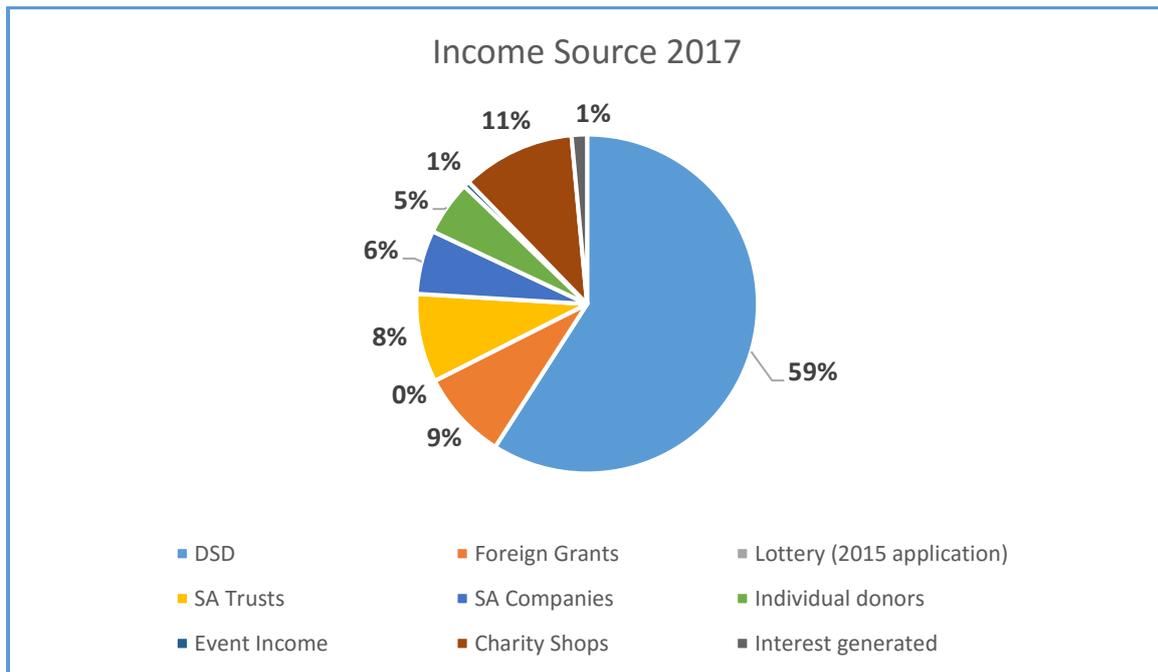
Staff Profile at Kids Haven



Notes to Table: GROUP 3 of Type of work: “Admin support” refers to Staff providing transport, security, domestic work, finance, reception, data capture, HR and reception.

SHOP = 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.

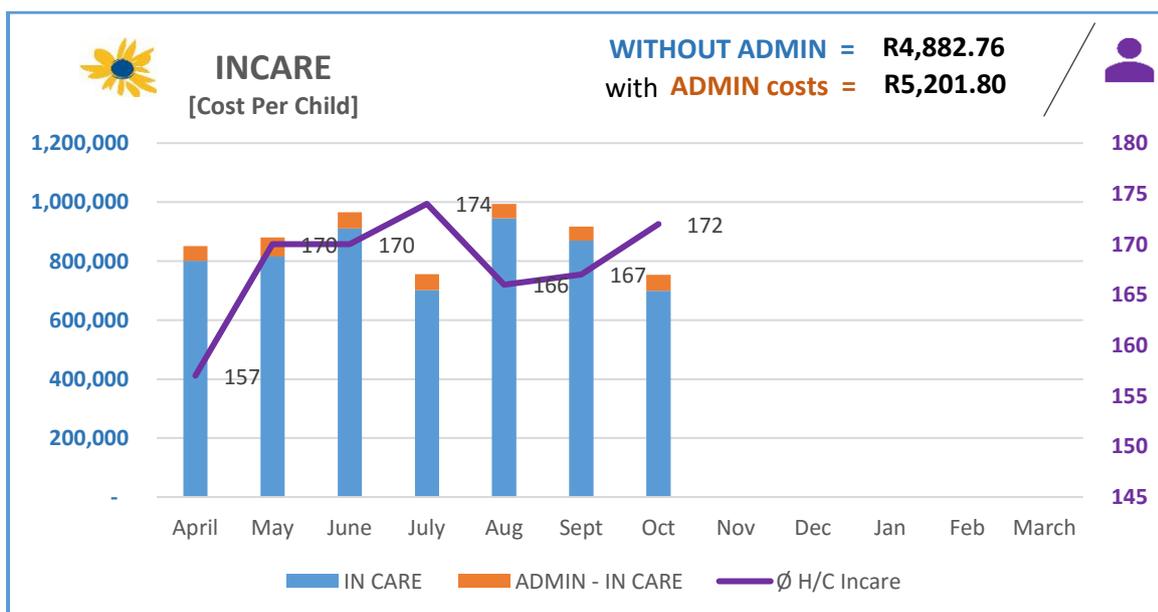
Financial report 2016/2017:



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.

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

- Kids Haven is registered for 181 children but the State is only funding 152 children and there are on average 166 children living here. That leaves 14 children who are fully un-funded.
- The state pays R 2,725 per child per month. The current (2017) cost to Kids Haven is R 5 201 per child per month including 70% of the administration costs to run Kids Haven.
- The funding gap, therefore, is R 2 476 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 Department;
- Social workers are able to counsel children, rather than attend to paperwork only; 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 Department) 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 DONORS for enabling us to ensure that appropriate standards are maintained.

