



FROM THE BOARD

PAGE 1

FROM THE GM

PAGE 2

ABOUT BIBLIONEF SOUTH AFRICA

PAGE 3 - 10

OUR WORK & ITS IMPACT

PAGE 11

PAY IT FORWARD

Lorem ipsum

OUR DONORS

Lorem ipsum

BEHIND THE SCENES

Lorem ipsum

HOW TO SUPPORT- OUR WORK

Lorem ipsum

FROM THE BOARD

With the weakening economic situation in our country, many voluntary organisations, like Biblioneef and others in various other fields, are finding it harder to get funding for the important work they are doing. Biblioneef has been very fortunate for more than twenty years to have built up long-standing partnerships with loyal and supportive donors and sponsors; private as well as corporate. The Biblioneef Board and staff are most appreciative of the support over many years which has sustained our work and enabled us to bring books to the children of our country, to open the world of books and reading for enjoyment to them and to support their learning, language development and critical thinking skills through the exposure to reading and books.

Biblioneef was able to donate a total of 66 191 new books to 680 schools and children's organisations throughout the country. This was made possible with the financial support of our donors. With the aid of the Beit Trust, one of our long-standing supporters, Biblioneef was also able to assist in providing appropriate books in two of our neighbouring countries through a donation of 3 645 books to 8 high schools in Malawi and Zambia.

The year 2019 brought unique challenges and interesting new developments. On the retirement of the previous director after having been part of Biblioneef since its inception, the Board gave careful consideration to restructuring of the organisational structure under severe financial constraints and with new opportunities unfolding. Staff had to work hard to identify and utilise opportunities arising, to strengthen the fundraising activities and to fully implement programmes developed and initiated in the previous year. The new approach towards some existing activities and broadening of the scope of the work, have provided staff with opportunities for personal growth.

Under the guidance and leadership of the new general manager, Sunitha Amod, the staff again showed their loyalty and dedication to adapt so well and spontaneously to the new staff structure and took on new tasks and responsibilities with energy and enthusiasm. The support of the Board was crucial in determining the new strategic approach and to ensure financial sustainability under difficult economic circumstances. Board members from diverse backgrounds and with years of expertise and knowledge among them, and above all, dedication and commitment to the work of Biblioneef, made for robust, meaningful and open discussions based on strong arguments, different opinions and viewpoints. The well-considered advice resulted in consensus on the new business model and the way forward. Board members continued to avail themselves for advice and support during the implementation of the new organisational structure, ensuring smooth transition.

One of the means to ensure financial sustainability led to the official launch in July 2019 of the Social Enterprise initiative. The sale of books and rendering of services to individuals, companies and organisations, within the limits set by tax legislation, have supplemented Biblioneef's funding, making it possible to carry a portion of the administrative costs and making even more funding available for our main activity and raison d'être, namely book distribution.

A proud Biblioneef project is the training to support the book donations made to schools. This followed the successful completion of the investigation into the impact which story books have in schools. This was the first full year in which book donations to schools were supplemented with training to teachers in the optimal use of the books in classrooms. It is an exciting extension of our work and we strongly believe that children who are guided in their reading of the books stand to benefit much more in developing their reading, understanding and language skills. The financial support of our donors to develop the training programme is highly appreciated.

Early childhood education has always been one of Biblioneef's important focus areas. In the year under review, Biblioneef was able to provide 100 Early Childhood Development Centres and Family Community Motivator (FCM) Programmes with story books and educational toys, with funding from the Jim Joel Fund.

To the Biblioneef staff, Brian, Cindy, Darcell, Eric, Sunitha, Nokuthula, Marlene and Valery, on behalf of the unknown children of South Africa that you reach through the books Biblioneef donates to them – we salute you!

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

I am delighted to give my first message in the Biblionef 2019 Annual Report.

From financial progress to community progress, this past year has been one of commitment, engagement, and forward movement. I am grateful to the Biblionef staff, and our Board for all that we have accomplished this year. Together we have established an incredibly strong foundation for progress and growth.

My strategy for 2019 was to focus on staff development; improvement on our donation programme and for Biblionef to become more self-sustainable.

The strategy to improve our donation programme has been guided by national and international research that has found that merely providing teachers with books (or other resources) does not guarantee that books will make a difference to children's literacy development. Also, following the astonishing results of our own impact study, we have now introduced teacher mentoring and literacy workshops alongside our book donations to ensure that the books we donate are optimally used. This is carried out through partnerships with organisations or professionals who are skilled in this field.

The need to become self-sustainable has become more imperative than ever before and as a result, we have launched our Social Enterprise. This has been in the making for a few years; albeit on a much smaller scale. I am extremely excited about how this has been implemented thus far and am pleased to share our results with you in this report.

2019 has been a year of change and growth for Biblionef. The staff of Biblionef has been supportive and has embraced this change wholeheartedly. A lot of 2019 was spent on staff engagements and performance and a greater effort was placed on further upskilling the staff to prepare them for the new strategies that were being implemented. I am delighted to be leading the team into this new era of the organisation and cannot wait to see what else is in store for Biblionef.

ABOUT BIBLIONEF SOUTH AFRICA

Biblioneef donates new books to schools and in support of literacy programmes in disadvantaged communities throughout South Africa, focusing on getting the right book to the right programme and child. To this end, we donate new children's books in all 11 of South Africa's official languages so that children can enjoy books in their mother tongue. When funding allows, we also provide training to teachers on how the donation of books can be incorporated into their daily lesson plans to enhance the children's enjoyment of colourful books.

Biblioneef operates according to UNESCO's Book Donation Charter that stipulates that book donation programmes *"must be adapted to the needs and sensitivity of the beneficiaries and must contribute to the strengthening of all elements of the book sector in the country in question, by helping not only libraries but also bookshops, publishers and authors."*

We source books for our donation programme from local publishers and look for stories and content that depict African and local culture and contain stories that South African children can relate to. Commissioning the translation, publishing and reprinting of existing stories into local languages helps broaden the base of stories available to children in the country.

By donating new and relatable storybooks to children's organisations throughout the country for distribution to children, we believe it will encourage children to get excited about reading. These books will be the gateway to developing children's imaginations and stimulating their curiosity.