JUST THE FACTS

The official newsletter of Biblionef South Africa

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

As we reflect on 2020, I think we can all agree that it was tough! Although we were unable to complete several projects, we are privileged to be one of the non-profit organisations that were able to make it through, albeit slightly battered and bruised. That being said, we are extremely thrilled to have reached 180 organisations with 18 550 new storybooks.

The Covid-19 pandemic forced our organisation to fast track many changes that we had in the pipeline to remain sustainable. Harnessing technology has been a key factor in trying to remain sustainable during this time. Having improved technology has also assisted in increasing our digital presence and will greatly assist in correcting our service delivery to our beneficiaries. Although the advancement of technology within the organisation has been monumental, we are still working on ways of reaching our beneficiaries who are situated in rural areas with a lack of internet and telephone connection.

With the lockdown easing and schools slowly starting to reopen, our staff are working hard to complete the projects that we were unable to attend to in 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 regulations. I am thankful to my staff, Board members and donors for their support, Biblionef could not have gotten through this time without your unending support and commitment. I look forward to all that the second quarter of 2021 has in store and cannot wait to get more of our books out to schools and children's organisations throughout the country.

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PARTNERING TO SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

Providing Resources to 150 ECD Centres

We started off the year with an exciting project! We partnered with Zero2Five Trust and Impande SA to provide educational toys and puzzles to 150 informal Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres in Bizana, Eastern Cape. The two organisations we have partnered with will ensure that the ECD centres receive the necessary support after we have delivered the resources.

The Jim Joel Fund's support to 103 ECD Centres

With funding from our committed donor, the Jim Joel Fund, we can support ECD Centres in the Western Cape, Gauteng and Limpopo.

The Jim Joel Fund selected 5 Training Centres to be part of this project, their names are Enlighten Trust, ELRU, Grassroots, Curriculum Development Project for the Changemakers project and Golang Kulani. 103 ECD Centres affiliated with these Training Centres will each receive a donation of books in their mother tongue storybooks as well as a selection of high-quality educational toys, puzzles and posters.

We were so pleased to personally hand over the donation of resources to the ECD Centres affiliated to ELRU in Vredenburg, Western Cape. The response was extremely positive with many practitioners being grateful for having new, quality resources for their Centres. Our Project Manager carried out a workshop with the ECD Facilitators to demonstrate how the resources can be used to their fullest to benefit the children.

Our staff are currently finalizing the packing and couriering of the donation of resources to the remaining ECD Centres. Thank you once again to the Jim Joel Fund for making this wonderful project possible.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Biblionef, like many other NGOs, are under immense pressure to have alternative sources of income to ensure sustainability. This has become even more imperative since the Covid-19 pandemic.

In July 2019 we officially launched our Social Enterprise and have since been successful in selling some of our books to individuals, companies and organisations who have funding. We also render services to other literacy organisations and Social Responsibility Programmes such as the covering of books, setting up of libraries and selecting and sourcing appropriate books for their projects. We provide these services to over 40 organisations and are currently looking at ways to improve and extend our services to even more literacy organisations throughout the country.

Since January 2021, we have rendered our services to Rhodes University by providing their Centre for Social Development arm with 105 roller boxes containing quality home language storybooks and educational toys, puzzles and posters. These resources will be used by 105 of their ECD Centres.

We have also supported Breadline's literacy project by providing them with 4000 Sepedi books that will be distributed to 40 schools.

It is important to note that all funds raised through our Social Enterprise is redirected back into our organisation and goes toward our operational cost. In this way, all donations received from individuals and funding bodies can be used solely for our programmes and to put more books into the hands of more children.

BECOME PART OF OUR NETWORK OF GIVERS

Biblionef relies on the generous donations and support of Corporate, Institutional and Individual donors to reach children in need with quality storybooks in their local language. With your support, we can provide even more children in South Africa with quality mother tongue storybooks. All the funding raised through donations are redirected back into our organisation so that we can continue fulfilling our mission.