



2025
ANNUAL
REPORT



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ABOUT US

COACH is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a safe, stable, and loving home for children who have experienced neglect, abuse, or abandonment.

Our mission is to nurture the physical, emotional, and intellectual well-being of every child, empowering them to heal, grow, and reach their full potential.

We believe that every child deserves a childhood filled with joy, security, and opportunity, regardless of their past circumstances.

Our approach is holistic and child-centered, focusing on individualized care plans that address the unique needs of each resident.

We provide a comprehensive range of services, including: **Safe and Nurturing Environment:** A warm, family-like atmosphere where children feel secure and loved. **Education and Academic Support:** Tutoring, homework assistance, and access to quality educational resources to ensure academic success. **Therapeutic and Counseling Services:** Professional psychological support to help children process trauma, develop coping mechanisms, and build emotional resilience. **Health and Wellness Programs:** Regular medical check-ups, nutritious meals, and opportunities for physical activity and healthy living. **Life Skills Development:** Practical training in areas such as personal hygiene, financial literacy, communication, and problem-solving to prepare them for independent living. **Recreational and Extracurricular Activities:** Opportunities for children to explore their interests, develop talents, and engage in positive social interactions through sports, arts, and other enriching activities.

Our dedicated team of caregivers, social workers, educators, and volunteers works tirelessly to create an environment where children can thrive. We are committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of our residents, ensuring they receive the care, support, and opportunities they need to build brighter futures.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

The past year has once again been eventful but rewarding at COACH. While we continue to experience many challenges, we have once again experienced many successes and our programmes are in most cases producing the desired results. Overall, we have managed to maintain the stability of the homes and made some significant gains.

As the Board of Coach, we continue to work towards improving the facilities at the St. Georges and St. Nicolas Homes to ensure that we provide our children with a conducive environment for their care, development, security and education. We have implemented a programme to identify any areas of need and have already done some improvements and will continue with this programme during the current financial year. These improvement programmes are designed to ensure that we remain compliant with all municipal and Department of Social Developments legislation and statutory requirements.

We have also managed to engage positively with the Diocese of Johannesburg on matters relating to finances and the status of the Bishop Bavin property. We are happy to report that we have now finalized all these outstanding matters and settled all financial concerns.

We will continue to interact with the Diocese to build our relationship and ensure the Diocese involvement in ensuring the stability and long-term sustainability of the Homes.

While the Department of Social Development (DSD) are trying to improve their performance, they have not succeeded and continue to provide challenges to the NPO sector that threatens the sustainability of the sector. Challenges with the finalization and signing of service level agreements and the payment of grants have not been fully resolved and late payments and in some cases non-payment of grants continues.

The constant changing of systems and additional requirements is also putting a lot of strain on NPO's. COACH has managed to maintain a stable financial position. At the time of writing this report we have not received our final audit report, but expect to once again receive a positive and clean audit report. Thanks to our Management team, our Board treasurer and our bookkeeper for ensuring full compliance and attention to detail on all our financial transactions.

We can assure our partners, friends, donors and sponsors that we will continue to be compliant and careful with our financial management and that every cent we receive will be used for the benefit of our children in a responsible manner.

A special thanks to Grace Village Management and the management and residence of the St. Georges Retirement Village for your generous support and commitment to COACH and especially to the children in our care.

COACH is privileged to have a Board that are a very diverse group of people with different skills that compliment each other. I am aware that all Board members have their own responsibilities which keeps you very busy, but express my thanks and appreciation for the significant contributions to the management and progress of COACH. I express my thanks and appreciation for the good work done, your professional conduct and your commitment to the care and security of the children in our care. We have a very good working relationship and I look forward to another successful year as a Board.

A very big thank you to the management and staff of COACH. While we do have our ongoing challenges, the BOARD wishes to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for your dedication, commitment and hard work. Without you we would not be able to report as positively as we do, nor would we feel confident about the future of our homes.

The recent graduation ceremony for the children of St. Georges Home is a clear demonstration of the hard work and dedication of our staff. The outstanding results in both the academic and skills fields serves as a motivation and we look forward to a continuation of this performance.

It is very pleasing to report that all our younger children at St. Nicolas Home excelled at school for the past year. The management and staff at STN have created a stable and caring environment for the children and this has resulted in these achievements.

The Board is currently working very hard on the possible relocation of STN to provide for better accommodation and recreation facilities for the children.

Finally allow me to express my personal thanks to all those who I have worked with and all those who I came into contact with during the past year. I personally enjoyed the past year and have grown personally during this time. It was a pleasure and a wonderful experience.

Thank You All and may God Bless you abundantly.

Kenneth Fick
Chairperson

TREASURER'S REPORT

The past year has been as challenging as previous years and I doubt this coming year will be any different! It is a pleasure working with the various COACH staff and Board Members and it is comforting to know that this organization is being well run.

Once again the "donations in kind" have grown and have been most welcome, giving relief to expenditure. Maintenance has been ongoing and both homes have had some major work completed. Staff are settling and we have had less turnover this past year although these expenses are still high. The Psychologists retained by COACH are showing to be most worthwhile for children consulting with them as well as staff.

Towards the end of 2023 financial year, we received a major donation to purchase a vehicle to move the children around. This seven seater vehicle has since been purchased and is a great help with movement of both children and staff. Thank you to the generous donor of this vehicle.

2024 began with uncertainty with regard to the funding allocation from the Department and we have been blessed to receive notification of continued funding whilst so many NPO's have struggled and failed to obtain their funding.

As we continue to all work together for the betterment of the children in our care, I would like to thank the Board, the Director and the staff for their dedicated work. Also a thank you to the Accounting company for their monthly dedication and to our Auditors for their annual assessment.

Penelope Anne Lucas

Treasurer

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It was once stated by former U.S. President Barack Obama that, "We have an obligation to care for every child as if they are our own." These words resonate deeply within the South African context, where many children face daily challenges that threaten their safety, well-being, and development. Persistent economic hardships continue to place immense strain on families, often rendering parents unable to provide consistent care, supervision, and emotional support to their children, even with the aid of external assistance. These pressures are further compounded by the ongoing challenges of violence and substance abuse, which remain deeply entrenched in many communities despite efforts to address them. The result is a growing number of children exposed to instability, neglect, and abuse-circumstances that frequently necessitate protective interventions, including placement in alternative care settings.

The residential care programmes offered by St. Nicolas Home and St. George's Home play a crucial role in providing sanctuary to children who have experienced abuse, neglect, abandonment, and unimaginable trauma. These structured programmes are designed to create a safe and nurturing environment where children can begin to heal, rebuild their lives, and develop to their full potential. At the heart of our approach is a steadfast commitment to protecting and nurturing the rights, dignity, and unique potential of every child in our care.

The St. Nicolas Home for Children:

In keeping with our commitment to providing holistic care, we are pleased to report several positive developments at the St. Nicolas Home during the past year. All the children in our care successfully passed their November 2024 examinations and were promoted to the next grade. We are especially proud to share that one boy received an award for outstanding overall achievement in his grade, while one girl was recognised with distinction awards in Natural Science and Life Orientation.

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Beyond academics, our children have actively participated in various school-based extracurricular programmes. Two children joined their school's rugby and cricket teams, one was enrolled in the Scouts programme, and one girl was selected to represent her school on the provincial Under-12 netball team. Currently, the Home accommodates 15 children who attend three different schools in the surrounding area. Their improved academic performance and enthusiastic engagement in school life are a direct result of the consistent support and encouragement provided by our dedicated therapeutic team, which consists of six child and youth care workers and one social worker.

A key factor in this success has been the strong collaboration between our staff and the educators at the respective schools. Regular communication ensures that the children receive consistent support both at school and within the Home, reinforcing a shared commitment to their development.

The emotional and psychological well-being of the children was also prioritised during this period. Those experiencing serious emotional, behavioural, or psychological challenges were referred for specialised therapy with external professionals, including psychologists, psychiatrists, occupational therapists, and speech and hearing therapists. This comprehensive therapeutic approach has significantly enhanced the quality of care and contributed to visible improvements in many of the children's personal growth and emotional resilience.

We also continued to nurture strong relationships with key stakeholders, including Childline, SAPS, Sophia Town, the Johannesburg Department of Correctional Services, the Department of Health, and SANCA. These partnerships were instrumental in providing valuable awareness and developmental programmes for the children throughout the year, covering critical topics such as human trafficking, child protection, and substance abuse prevention.

In summary, we are proud to report that the children at St. Nicolas Home have shown remarkable academic progress, personal growth, and increased confidence over the past year which is a testament to the collective efforts of our dedicated staff, professional partners, and the wider community of support. As a result, 2 children were reunified with their families at the end of 2024.

The St. George's Home:

During the reporting period, St. George's Home supported a total of 18 young people, comprising 14 residential students and 4-day scholars-through its specialised education and life-skills programme. This programme is designed to offer a second chance to youth who have disengaged from mainstream schooling by providing access to Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET), skills development, and structured therapeutic support tailored to their needs.

A key focus of the programme is to help young people learn to read, write, communicate effectively, and develop entrepreneurial skills that can enable them to enter the formal employment sector and become self-sufficient. In the past year, the curriculum was strengthened by the introduction of basic computer skills training, further empowering participants for modern workplace readiness.

We are proud to report that several young people made meaningful academic and personal progress over the year. Those who passed their November 2024 examinations were awarded IEB-accredited certificates during a graduation ceremony hosted by the Home. Among them, two young women were given opportunities to attend external vocational training. One successfully completed a data capturing course through Quest Training and has since attended three job interviews. Another was awarded a Level 2 learnership in specialist hygiene and cleaning through TL Consulting, which led to part-time employment with the House group. She has since also been enrolled in a baking learnership, demonstrating the success of our integrated skills development approach. Furthermore, in partnership with the Department of Labour, a career guidance workshop was held in 2024, providing valuable insights into the world of work and career planning.

As part of the Life Campus programme, young people were offered the opportunity to develop essential life and independence skills. Four residents participated in the Independent Flat Programme, where they learned budgeting, household management, problem-solving, and time management. While one participant successfully completed the programme and was reunified with family, the remaining three were also reunified with family due to behavioural challenges. Despite this, the experience provided valuable life lessons and personal growth for all involved.

On the therapeutic front, the programme continued to implement a strengths-based approach to assist youth in addressing emotional barriers, grief, bereavement, and low self-esteem. This support was offered through the combined efforts of our in-house social worker, psychologist, and team of child and youth care workers. Our ongoing partnership with Camp Sizanani played a pivotal role in delivering impactful life-skills sessions that supported emotional and behavioural development. We are encouraged to report a noticeable decrease in violent outbursts among the youth this past year, a clear indication of the programme's positive influence.

Recreational development also saw meaningful improvement. Young people participated in several enriching outings, including visits to Dries Niemand Park, Vilakazi Street in Soweto, and a performance at the Johannesburg Theatre. Additionally, yoga was introduced, and youth participated in netball and soccer tournaments within the community. These recreational activities not only provided enjoyment and stress relief but also promoted healthy peer interaction and a sense of belonging.

In summary, the past year at St. George's Home has been marked by growth, resilience, and renewed hope. Through academic support, vocational training, therapeutic care, and meaningful engagement with the broader community, young people have been given the tools to reclaim their futures and build lives marked by confidence, purpose, and dignity.

Resource management:

The 2024/2025 financial year began under pressure due to delayed funding from the Department of Social Development (DSD). Although a meeting with the Premier was held in May to address this, Service Level Agreements for the Homes and Coach Training Programme were only signed at the end of May. As a result, the first tranche for the Homes was received in June, and funding for the Coach Training ,covering both Quarter 1 and 2, was only disbursed in July, suspending training activities during that time.

Despite these challenges, Coach delivered all contracted services and met operational expenses, thanks in large part to support from Grace Village Management, whose rental contributions and in-kind support were invaluable. We also thank St. Margaret's Church for use of their venue for training.

Although staff turnover occurred at the residential Homes, we are pleased to report current staffing stability. Our gratitude to the Finance Committee and Board of Directors for ensuring strong financial oversight, with all major decisions carefully reviewed. We are also deeply grateful to our outsourced bookkeeper who played a key role in maintaining accurate and compliant records. As a result , all quarterly DSD submissions were completed on time, and Coach was rated a low-risk organisation throughout the year.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to strengthening our financial and human resources to ensure continued high-quality care for vulnerable children and youth. On this note , I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to all staff for their dedication and resilience during this challenging but rewarding year. Your efforts and hard work continue to make a difference in the lives of the children we serve.

Conclusion:

In conclusion , I would like to quote our beloved Madiba (Nelson Mandela) who stated that "Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation."

(Speech at the launch of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, 1995)

Nagapushnum Reddy
Managing Director

St. Nicolas Home

St. Nicolas Home experienced a year of significant growth, dedication, and triumph in 2025, marked by the resilience of its young people and the commitment of its staff. The report highlights numerous achievements across educational, sporting, life skills, and cultural programmes, all aimed at fostering a supportive and empowering environment for the children.

Key Achievements and Programme Highlights:

Educational Journey:

- **Extensive Educational Programs:** Delivered a remarkable 182 educational programmes designed to foster learning and curiosity.
- **School Visits and Support:** Conducted 90 school visits to build relationships with teachers and understand each child's academic journey.
- **100% Grade Advancement:** Every single young person at St. Nicolas Home advanced to the next grade, a testament to their hard work and support.
- **Academic Excellence:** Celebrated two outstanding academic achievements: one student achieved a perfect 100% in natural science, and another scored 80% or higher in four subjects.
- **Community Support:** Received sponsorship from the Park Town Golf Ladies for brand new uniforms and school shoes, significantly boosting children's confidence.
- **Consistent Homework Support:** Dedicated child and youth care workers provided consistent support and guidance during daily homework sessions, ensuring academic success.

Sporting Triumphs:

- **Pivotal Soccer Players:** Several young people emerged as pivotal players on their school soccer teams, demonstrating passion and strong performances in inter-school tournaments.
- **Cricket Medalist:** One young person received a medal for an outstanding performance in cricket after rigorous practice and unwavering commitment.
- **Netball Team Members:** Two girls successfully joined their school's netball team, quickly becoming invaluable team members due to their passion and determination.

Expanding Horizons: First Visits and Community Connections:

- **First Host Family Visits:** Two young people experienced their very first visit to a host family, broadening their understanding of the world and providing new experiences.
- **Community Engagement:** Hosted representatives from Sophiatown SAPS for crucial conversations about the consequences of crime and drug abuse, and forged a partnership with Sanca (South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence) to provide deeper insights into substance abuse risks.
- **Accountability and Positive Change:** Implemented practical, supportive methods for teaching accountability, focusing on structured consequences and behavioral programmes to foster responsible and empathetic individuals, leading to positive change.
- **Building Resilience: Life Skills and Crucial Conversations:**
- **Extensive Life Skills Programs:** Successfully accomplished 196 life skills programmes, equipping young people with essential tools for navigating life's complexities.
- **Real-World Insights:** A parolee from the Department of Correctional Services shared a powerful personal journey about crime and substance abuse, offering a stark reminder of paths to avoid.
- **Child Protection Week:** Celebrated Child Protection Week with ChildLine and Sophiatown SAPS, engaging young people in vital discussions about child abuse and the consequences of crime, fostering a safe learning environment.
- **Behavioral Improvement:** Young people showed gradual, yet significant, improvement in behavior and adherence to routines after returning from holidays, demonstrating resilience and willingness to grow.

Unlocking Creativity: Arts and Culture:

- **Vibrant Arts and Culture Programmes:** Facilitated 47 arts and culture programmes, introducing children to diverse artistic expressions and cultural traditions, fostering tolerance and understanding.
- **Enhanced Skills and Self-Esteem:** Arts and crafts activities for younger children enhanced their hand-eye coordination and significantly boosted their self-esteem through creative expression and learning from mistakes.
- **Innovative Puppet Project:** A creative young person conceived the idea of designing puppets from socks, which became the heart of group storytelling sessions, igniting enthusiasm, fostering teamwork, and encouraging imaginative play.

Hands-On Learning: Practical Skills and Financial Wisdom:

- **Diverse Practical Skills:** Young people enthusiastically embraced a diverse array of practical activities, including gardening, hair plaiting, sewing, crocheting, cooking, and baking, transforming everyday tasks into valuable learning experiences.
- **Successful Vegetable Harvest:** Achieved a successful harvest of homegrown vegetables (spinach and tomatoes), which were incorporated into meals, providing a tangible outcome of their gardening efforts and teaching patience and hard work.
- **Financial Literacy:** Introduced children to the crucial world of budgeting, empowering them to manage pocket money effectively, save diligently, and make responsible financial decisions, laying a solid groundwork for future independence.

Navigating Challenges:

- **Teacher Impact Incident:** The Social Worker swiftly addressed a concerning incident at Dowling Primary School where children were physically impacted by teachers, leading to a crucial meeting and the agreement for all teachers to attend the STEP program to improve behavioral management skills, reinforcing the commitment to a safe educational experience.



St George's Home

St George's Home has demonstrated unwavering commitment to nurturing a safe and loving environment for young people, focusing on healing, growth, and thriving. The past year has been marked by significant efforts across various programs, addressing the multifaceted needs of the children under their care.

Key Achievements and Programme Highlights:

Child and Youth Care Programmes:

• **Therapeutic Life Space Interventions:** We conducted a remarkable 1,423 activities focused on therapeutic life space interventions. These activities were crucial in guiding young people through behavioral and social challenges, including sensitive topics like dating, sexual misconduct, dishonesty, bullying, and suicidal thoughts. The interventions also addressed overt expressions of distress and managed conflicts with consistent, loving boundaries. A significant achievement was the reduction of physical fights and conflict situations within the home due to focused interventions on conflict resolution and anger management.

Health, Safety, and Behaviour Management:

• **Health and Safety Programmes:** We diligently conducted 100 hospital and clinic visits, ensuring comprehensive medical attention for every child, including routine check-ups, chronic medication management, specialized care, and support for personal needs.

• **Behaviour Management:** We facilitated a total of 440 activities focused on behavior management, implementing individualized reward systems and tailor-made programs. This included addressing drug positive instances (7 warnings issued), sexual misconduct and possession of sharp objects (10 warnings issued), and refusal to do chores or possession of contraband (200 consequences administered), all aimed at fostering responsibility and self-discipline.

Enriching Lives: Sports, Recreation, Arts, and Culture:

• **Sports and Recreation:** Proudly reported 415 activities dedicated to sports and recreation, providing opportunities for vital socialization, exposure to new experiences, and holistic development. These activities, ranging from soccer tournaments to yoga sessions, significantly contributed to emotional, social, and cognitive development, strengthening life skills and promoting a sense of belonging.

• **Arts and Culture:** Facilitated 92 activities dedicated to Arts and Culture, exploring profound themes like ubuntu, leadership roles, cultural identity, and moral habits. These initiatives were instrumental in helping young people understand expectations, unlearn negative behaviors, and embrace positive belief systems.

Empowering Futures: Education and Spiritual Growth:

• **Educational Programmes:** Facilitated a remarkable 444 activities dedicated to nurturing academic growth, including exam preparation, reading programs, debates, public speaking, and assistance with School-Based Assessments (SBAs). A significant achievement is the boost in self-esteem and improved communication, decisionmaking, and social relationships as young people gained mastery in reading, writing, and problem-solving.

• **Spiritual Upliftment Programme:** Facilitated a beautiful 643 activities dedicated to spiritual upliftment, including Sunday worship, prayer, meditation, Bible studies, and gospel music, fostering inner peace and purpose.

Building Independence: Life Skills and Practical Wisdom:

- Skills For Life: Facilitated an incredible 851 activities promoting self-reliance and personal responsibility, covering life skills training, personal hygiene, cooking, decision making, and household responsibilities. This programme is key to equipping young people with the tools to thrive independently.
- Life Skills Programme: Facilitated a remarkable 640 activities covering conflict resolution, problem-solving, teamwork, stress coping, and understanding complex issues like HIV/AIDS. The program significantly reduced physical fights and conflict situations within the home and included comprehensive HIV/AIDS awareness and puberty education campaigns.

Healing Hearts and Minds: Social Work and Psychological Support:

- Individual Therapy: Provided 255 individual therapy sessions, with 65 being dedicated therapeutic sessions, offering a sanctuary for young people to address deeply personal issues like grief, bereavement, and bullying.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

COACH is committed to financial transparency and responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our donors, partners, and community members, whose contributions enable us to provide vital services to the children in our care.

This section provides a summary of our financial activities for the fiscal year 2025. Sources of Funding: Our operations are primarily funded through a diverse range of sources, ensuring sustainability and broad community support: * Individual Donations: Contributions from compassionate individuals who believe in our mission. * Grants: Funding from foundations, corporations, and government agencies for specific programs and general operations. * Corporate Partnerships: Support from businesses through sponsorships, employee giving programs, and in-kind donations. * Fundraising Events: Revenue generated from various events organized throughout the year, engaging the community and raising awareness. * In-Kind Donations: Nonmonetary contributions such as food, clothing, educational supplies, and volunteer services, which significantly reduce our operational costs.

Allocation of Funds: We ensure that the vast majority of our resources are directed towards programs and services that directly benefit the children. Our income breakdown for the end 2025 is as follows:

