

13 December 2022

## FEEDBACK REPORT

### 1. OVERVIEW

With the generous support of the Johanniter Foundation, the Baby Therapy Center was able to continue offering our early intervention (ECI) for our little patients with developmental delays and disabilities. The therapy we offer our patients has a significant impact on their ability to learn new skills and overcome their various challenges.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an immensely negative effect on the poorest communities in South Africa. Parents have lost their incomes or have had to accept substantial cuts in their salaries. Unfortunately, this affects the children as well. As a relief measure for these families, BTC launched the Godfather Project in 2021 where we were able to provide free therapy services to children who have been removed from their homes and are struggling with developmental delays for several reasons such as neglect, malnourishment, and abuse. Through external organisations such as the Ministry of Social Development, these children have been placed with Tshwane Haven, Rock of Hope, and the Tshwane Place of Safety, which specialises in fostering children with medical needs. The caregivers take care of the babies and toddlers until they are once again healthy enough to be placed into permanent homes. BTC partnered with these organisations to provide these babies with Early Childhood Intervention so that they will be able to develop to their full potential.

During the duration of the Godfather Project thus far BTC has provided 69 Physiotherapy sessions, 275 Speech-Language and Feeding therapy sessions and 191 Occupational Therapy sessions to the poorest of the poor families who were not able to afford the cost of the therapy their children desperately needed.

The first evaluation entails the evaluation of the child's level of development to determine the best treatment plan. This is done by our multi-disciplinary team of therapists to ensure that all the child's developmental delays are identified and to determine what type of therapies the child would need and what the end goals would be. After the conclusion of the evaluation, the therapy team provides a full feedback report to the parent/caretaker on the child.

Through Physiotherapy, we aim to promote the child's physical development so that they may gain more independence. Care is taken to address factors such as muscle strength, length, tone, range of movement, biomechanical alignment as well as patterns of movement during therapy sessions.

Speech-Language therapy assists in the promotion of typical development of communication and feeding milestones. Furthermore, Speech-Language therapy aids in the identification, prevention, treatment, and management of different developmental or acquired speech, language, and oral disorders.

Occupational Therapy uses participation in purposeful, age-appropriate activities that enable children to develop their sensory, motor, and perceptual abilities. We aim to facilitate improved participation in a child's areas of occupation (including sleeping, dressing, feeding, eating, and bathroom activities) as well as play participation. Occupational Therapy uses a child- and family-based approach and collaborates with other therapists to provide the child with the skills to function as optimally and independently as possible at home, school, and other social environments.

Our therapy team is as follows:



Daniella Abraham  
Speech-Language  
Therapist



Carla du Plessis  
Physiotherapist



Janine van Niekerk  
Dietician



Kimberley Blunden  
Occupational Therapist

## 2. PROGRESS OF THE CHILDREN

Early Childhood Intervention has many benefits for children and their development. We have so many success stories to share, but below are the progress stories of only five of our children.

#### **Eunice (Annie) (7 years old)**

Annie is a young girl with Down's Syndrome. She has been attending regular Speech-Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy to promote her independence. Annie has made great strides in therapy and can now talk her caregiver's ears off!

#### **Simangele (6 years old)**

Simon is a young boy with dysmorphic features. He attends regular Speech-Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy. Since starting therapy, Simon has been potty trained and is now in the process of being placed in a Special Needs School.

#### **Amber (2 years old)**

Amber is a little girl who had a traumatic start to life and subsequently presented with developmental delays. She has, however, now caught up on all her milestones and has even been adopted by a loving couple!

#### **Mohau (2 years old)**

Mohau is a little boy with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. He receives regular Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Therapy. Mohau has recently started imitating the therapists.

#### **Junior (2 years old)**

Junior is a young boy with Cerebral Palsy who attends regular Speech-Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy. His head control has made significant progress and it has been established that he has a bilateral hearing loss.

### **3. THE WAY FORWARD**

During the past financial year and going forward, the Board of Governors engaged in a series of strategic planning sessions to analytically review the strategy and operational dynamics, including the funding model of the Centre to make it less dependent on donations and to increase its self-generated income. Certainly, times have changed, and the strategy employed over the past 25 years has had to change materially to adapt to changes in our environment and worldwide economic developments. This strategic planning and refocusing will continue to dominate the agenda of future Board Meetings.

However, during the past financial year, BTC has been able to increase its self-generated income from 29% to 41%, the target being to achieve 70% self-generated income by July 2024. This will, however, still leave a gap of 30% for which donations and other support will have to be sourced.

It has become evident that many of our regular donors, who had in the past graciously supported BTC, have all had to cut their budgets to make up for lost income during the pandemic and

nationwide lockdown for two (2) years. As such, it is with deep gratitude that we would like to thank the Johanniter-Stiftung for supporting the Baby Therapy Centre with such a generous donation, which has enabled us to strategically implement a restructuring process that will ensure our long-term viability.

With warmest regards



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Maryke Allers  
FUNDRAISING- & MARKETING COORDINATOR



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Scheán Babst  
HEAD OF CENTRE















