“Many abused, neglected and abandoned children land up in children’s homes. Statistics on children in institutional care are not complete, but it is known that there are 345 registered children’s homes in South Africa, looking after some 21,000 children. There is no support system for children once they reach the age of 18 and leave formal care and there is a scarcity of alternative care programmes suitable for older adolescents.”

UNICEF

“Young people leaving state out-of-home care are arguably one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in society. Compared with most young people, they face particular difficulties in accessing educational, employment, housing and other developmental and transitional opportunities.”

Philip Mendes

**SA-YES Vision**

A society in which children and young people are given the opportunity to reach their full potential socially, emotionally and physically, and where they will contribute to society as independent, self-sustaining adults.

**SA-YES Mission**

Aiding the empowerment of marginalised children and young people in South Africa.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
Michelle Potter

During the last year we have seen a great deal of growth at SA-YES. By the end of 2012 the three year pilot programme will be completed and we will be ready to extend our youth mentoring programme to many more young people throughout South Africa.

The potential of mentoring within the context of youth development is widely recognised, however research with high-risk young people in, and leaving, children’s homes is only beginning to emerge. Presently, we know that young people transitioning from children’s homes are highly vulnerable to social exclusion and are often ill-equipped to deal with the increasingly competitive labour and housing markets. Additionally, there are personal challenges associated with the instability and complexity of changing social relations and the need for self-identities reconstructed for independent living. Within South Africa high levels of poverty, violence and disease compound these challenges. While there is clearly a demand for interventions with this group, in South Africa there is very little work being done for them.

We are proud to be doing intervention and research in this area. We hope we can rely on your support while we continue to provide access to opportunities and the crucial guidance every young person deserves.
Dear supporters of SA-YES. We’ve had a great year with some wonderful successes to report. While most of our programme participants from last year are still in school, some have moved out of the children’s homes and are in full-time employment. One young woman completed and passed her high school exams only one month before giving birth to a baby girl, and a young man is completing his police service training.

The programme is growing and we are becoming more aware of the need to prepare young people for their transition from children’s home to independent living. Organisations working with youth throughout South Africa are contacting our offices in Cape Town wanting to use our mentoring programme. We have therefore decided to create a generic version of the programme so that we can extend it to reach more young people in need. We will continue to focus on youth in children’s homes but we are looking forward to franchising our programme to youth nationwide.

We all know the global economy is struggling so we are trying to get creative about how to access funds. We are looking at setting up a Social Enterprise in South Africa which many organisations in the non-profit sector are doing. We have to become sustainable in order for our programme to survive and we have a great product that is very much in demand and which will be completed by the end of 2012. So watch this space!
MESSAGE FROM THE UK CHAIR

Marit Mohn

2011 saw the continued success of SA-YES when we entered the second year of the Transition to Independent Living programme (TIL).

We expanded the programme to work with 25 mentees from six residential care homes in Cape Town and in 2012 we expanded even further: 38 mentees from seven homes!

Michelle drives the work forward with endless enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication.

Our success is due in a very large part to the commitment and enthusiasm of our volunteers, mentors and trustees who all give up some of their time to help the young people.

But without the support of our funders, we would not be able to operate.

We have been fortunate in securing funding from individuals and trusts in the UK who see the importance in supporting this very marginalised group of young people.

We hope that you will continue to support us in this valuable work. We thank you all for your belief in SA-YES.
SA-YES PROGRAMME
Transition to Independent Living (TIL)

Our one-to-one, person-centred, strengths based, youth mentoring programme provides guidance and support for young people as they prepare to make the transition from children’s homes to independent living. I am honoured to be a part of an organisation that is concerned with the wellbeing of South Africa’s youth. It amazes me to see how the young people in our programme grow and develop with their mentors walking by their sides. I am happy to be a part of this process and to be a contributor to the SA-YES success stories. We are nearing the end of our three year pilot and we are working on how to extend the programme to more young people living in more children’s homes throughout South Africa. 2013 is on our doorstep and I am excited for a bigger and more developed programme, which could only meet more success stories.

Wendy Dennis, Programme Co-ordinator
SA-YES TIL
Programme Model

Phase A
1. CYCC/Mentee Recruitment
2. Programme Training

Phase B
3. Matching
4. Teambuilding
5. Monitoring and support
6. Closure

Phase C
7. Graduation
8. Post Programme Support
### SA-YES Financial Review: Year End February 2012

Combined UK & SA operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GBP</th>
<th>ZAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations &amp; other income</td>
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<td>Fundraising income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
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<td>Gift Aid &amp; tax claimed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trusts &amp; Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>£ 104,948</td>
<td>R 1,259,379</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

|                      |       |        |
| **Expenditure**      |       |        |
| Cost of generating voluntary income | £ 6,181  | R 74,173 |
| Charitable activities | £ 47,032 | R 564,380 |
| Governance of the charity | £ 6,286  | R 75,433 |
| **Total**            | £ 59,499  | R 713,986 |

|                      |       |        |
| **Net income for the period** | £ 45,449  | R 545,393 |

|                      |       |        |
| **Total funds carried forward as at 29.02.2012** | £ 52,464  | R 629,569 |

**Notes**

% Rounded in graphs

GBP1 = ZAR12 for purposes of report
MESSAGES

...from a mentor

I have been involved with the SA-YES program as a mentor for the past year - an experience that has greatly enriched my life. It has not always been easy (far from it!) but growing the relationship between a vulnerable young girl on the brink of adult responsibilities and myself has softened my soul. These delicate relationships are facilitated and matched by the SA-YES team and backed with love and commitment from Michelle! She is totally contagious and fuels me personally to give more to life and take less.

I would encourage anyone who has ever felt that they have some love to give, to get involved in this project as a mentor! Tania Hass

... from a volunteer

Since 2010, I have been inspired by Michelle and her team! They encouraged me to apply for a mentorship in a German organisation, and from afar I support their initiatives by fundraising. To date I have raised funds through the 10km Run in London in July, a half marathon in Cologne in September, and a walk across the Camino de Santiago in Spain this year in June. I walked over 500 km on this special path and met people who helped each other no matter where they came from so that no one was left alone when they were in need of help, which – in my mind – is exactly what SA-YES stands for. As an icing on the cake I joined “Team SA-YES” on the Run To The Beat half marathon in London in October. It was wonderful to meet other friends of SA-YES some of whom I have been in email contact with before! I will definitely continue to support SA-YES with monthly donations and further fundraising, because it is an absolutely worthy cause to support. It definitely makes my life more fulfilling! Sabine Schmidt
...from a mentee

The SA-YES programme has helped me a lot and has broadened my social networking. I’ve had three mentors and I learnt a few things from each, up to being independent to being smart and confident to having to appreciate the things and people we have in our lives.

The SA-YES programme has helped a staggering amount of kids in SA being that everyone in SA or every kid in SA needs someone to talk to, needs someone to guide them or someone who will give them the attention that they need.

My experience with SA-YES is a memorable one, being that my mentors have helped me to grow and experience life as a whole. They have contributed so much to who I am and to who I shall become.

What I have learnt from my mentors, that I will always treasure:

• No matter where you go
• No matter who you meet
• Always remember who you are and where you come from. And remember, even if you don’t have family of your own, the people you meet today or the people you meet tomorrow, will always be your family.
• Never let your circumstances determine your future. Never live for the past, but live for the present and the future because you might just end up staying in the past.

Highlights of my time with my mentor, Leanne:

• When I was welcomed into her family, getting to know her daughter Skye
• When I was invited to spend the day to finish my application forms for university
• When I had my last lesson in Maths at UWC, we kind of kept missing each other, but then we found each other and I spent the rest of the day at her house and Skye and I had pizzas, watched a movie and ate frozen yoghurt

The Low:
When the plans we made clashed with the plans of the home so I had to compromise the day
SA-YES is an awesome programme it has influenced my life in a huge way just having a mentor and the project be part of my life has helped me a lot, unlocking new doors. I feel very prestigious to have been part of the programme. Not once have I regretted being part of it and “saying yes”.

Nicole, mentee
We are proud to have celebrated the official launch of SA-YES in South Africa in September 2011. We screened our documentary for the first time to an audience of over 300 people, including graduates of our programme, current mentees and mentors, board members, directors of our partner organisations and many of our supporters. During the launch, one of our mentees gave a very moving speech, sharing her story with us and reminding us why we do what we do. We were also fortunate to have a local band: Black South Easter providing entertainment for the evening and many sponsored prizes for the lucky draw.
Having walked this earth for so long sometimes it’s hard to believe that I haven’t seen everything.

You always wonder why you are one of those children who are cursed with a broken life and you never fully understand why you’ll never have that perfect family that all those other kids have. You are one of many kids who have to walk into an empty room every day to no one but a bed and a couple of blankets, you never had that chance to come home to parents who ask you how your day was. Always having to deal with the fact that the woman who gave birth to you will never be there to watch you grow, whilst some are lucky enough to have an old picture...some have nothing...not even a memory.

You cry most nights asking GOD why you have to be on earth with no one to love you, you ask why do I have to be that child with nothing. Then one day you learn to accept that I am that girl who walks the streets with painful scars visible to the world and those that still hurt in your heart. You look in the mirror and instead of seeing YOU, you see a girl that has been broken down and destroyed by people who saw nothing in you.

The names they used to call you stay in your head and heart in your heart...US... we are these children whose hope, faith and ability to love and to trust and to be happy have been taken away. We spend most of our lives wondering why it had happen to us? But I remember looking at the stars one night and I realised that US, the children who sit with pain and the longing for love, we are the fighters.

You and me...we take life as it comes because we had to learn to fight and to harden our hearts from the day we could walk and I believe that because of our pasts and our scars we can look back on them and remember that we are survivors and not failures. These scars are not the reasons we are dead, they are the reasons we are here today, to tell the world our stories. Every day there are others like us who fight and feel like giving up but I know that if you believe that you deserve more than what life’s thrown at you. You have your first key to success, you could never fail. Kim-Lynn Bowers
THANK YOU
Acknowledgements

We cannot possibly list everybody here who has supported SA-YES, we couldn’t fit everybody on the page. To you all, we extend our sincerest thanks for all that you have done and hope you will continue to offer your generous support, allowing us to continue our work with young people in need. If you fit into more than one category, we will only list your name once.

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Trevor Jacobs and Rowan Gordon at The Nimble Group
The Ackerman Foundation
Helene Planting
Alison Groves, Kelly Eagan and Sarah Peters
Andy and Julie Baron
Suzanne Drohan
Sandi Hicks
Sabine Schmidt
Keith Shone
Damian Crook
Be a Blessing
Independent Newspapers
Francesca and Jenny Cooke
Keith Shone
Kim Charles
Anri de Klerk
Paul Wilson at L Rubin and Co

Jonathan Benfield
Kyle Lenhardt
Ali Jacobs
Tracy Lee Anderson
John and Karen Harding
Fizzie Barclay
Black South Easter
Mia Goldblatt
Soapbox PR
Kathryn Torres at The Shine Centre
Malcolm Charles
Patricia Moran
Anastia Uys
Bronwyn Robertson
Michael Quiggle
Catherine O’Donnell
Jorn Nutzinger
Orna Mullen
Lindsay Mitchell

OUR PARTNERS
Marsh Memorial Homes
Heatherdale Children’s Home
Beth Uriel
Girls and Boys Town
Fountain of Hope
St Michael’s Home for Girls
St George’s Children’s Home
University of Cape Town
And to all the truly wonderful mentors who have dedicated their time, passion and energy to support the young people in the SA-YES programme – thank you!
Michelle Potter, co-founder and Executive Director of SA-YES, graduated from Roehampton University with a BA (Hons) in Education in 2007. In 2008 Michelle received the Froebel Guild Award for her dissertation on children in care in SA and the UK. Since 2008 she has lived and worked in Cape Town, developing the SA-YES TIL programme.

Andrew Planting, chair of the SA board and trustee of the UK board, is co-founder and executive director of Market Makers, a specialist venture capital company. A university graduate, Andrew has worked internationally for various management consultancy companies, and was appointed managing director of two companies. Andrew’s recent work has been in investments with 1TapCapital and Market Makers.

Malcolm Charles, treasurer of the SA board, is a Rhodes University Commerce graduate with many years’ experience in finance and investing. He has worked as a financial manager, currency and bond dealer and portfolio manager for UTI and Old Mutual. For the past ten years Malcolm has held the position of portfolio manager at Investec Asset Management.

Marit Mohn, chair of the UK board and trustee of the SA board, is a qualified chartered engineer and solicitor (specialising in civil litigation and employment law). She has worked in Canada, the UK and the USA. Marit is a founding member of a UK charity supporting disadvantaged youth and was previously chair of Women’s Pioneer Housing Ltd.

Mfundo Kevin Galada, has a National Diploma in Sport Management. Previously he worked as the Youth Programme/Projects Coordinator for the Desmond Tutu HIV Research Foundation. He is an enthusiastic rugby player and played the part of a rugby player in Invictus, the Mandela Movie Project.

Iain Low, a professor of architecture at the University of Cape Town, was a Fulbright scholar in the USA and visiting scholar in Rome. His work has been published in numerous architectural journals and books. Iain is currently the editor of the Digest of SA Architecture and the Digest of African Architecture.

Rahla Xenopoulos, a published author, studied drama in education at the Market Theatre Laboratory and has facilitated workshops in Soweto, Johannesburg and Khayelitsha. She has extensive experience in education and counselling, specialising in marginalised children.

Leanne Gordon studied marketing and accounting, after which she attended Leith’s School of Food and Wine in London. She has worked as the assistant fashion director of British Vogue and fashion director of British Tatler. After fifteen years in London she now lives with her family in Cape Town, and supports a number of charitable causes.
Gillian Anderson, a co-founder of SA-YES, is an actress and writer. She has starred in numerous films and is best-known for her role in The X-Files. Gillian supports numerous charities, including Artists for a New South Africa, Treatment Action Campaign, Buskaid and Neurofibromatosis, Inc.

Marit Mohn, chair of the UK board and trustee of the SA board, is a qualified chartered engineer and solicitor (specialising in civil litigation and employment law). She has worked in Canada, the UK and the USA. Marit is a founding member of a UK charity supporting disadvantaged youth and was previously chair of Women’s Pioneer Housing Ltd.

John Pinkerton, Professor of Child and Family Social Work at Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, is a founder member of INTRAC, an international network of researchers on youth transitions from state care. His research and writing in this area is widely published. John is a member of the board of the Children’s Institute, University of Cape Town and is a regular visitor to South Africa.

Diana Gerald, a specialist in organisational change, has twenty years’ experience as a consultant in a range of business, public sector and not-for-profit settings. Diana is a trustee of Women’s Pioneer Housing Limited and the chair of the finance committee for a large maintained sector primary school in North London.

Lisa Bryer, co-founder of Cowboy Films, has produced numerous commercials, music videos and award-winning feature films. She is a trustee of Action on Addiction, a charity involved in the research and treatment of addiction. Lisa is also a trustee of a school in London for teenagers disengaged from mainstream education and who are at risk of exclusion.

Dr David McCoy is a medical doctor and senior clinical associate at the Centre for International Health and Development at University College London. He has worked in the UK and in SA, where he spent six years working for the Health Systems Trust (a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in South Africa) to develop a research and evidence base to inform the transformation of the apartheid health care system.

Reza Beyad left India in 1977 to study for a postgraduate degree in business management in the UK. He has many business interests in the UK, including bulk tea and manufacture. In addition to his many roles for charities and the community, Reza is chair of the Harroidian School in Barnes, and is on the development committee of the London-based charity, Kids Company.
I certainly believe that since SA-YES has become involved with the life of our children they are being afforded the opportunity to find direction, set achievable goals and know how to get where they want to be. The Home and SA-YES can only do so much and the rest is up to the child, but the child now has the opportunity to be more focused and set his/her career compass. The involvement by SA-YES is also an opportunity for the child to engage other people from the ‘real world’ and this gives them confidence to engage, to begin to trust, to help establish relationships with others that could assist them in restoring their own broken relationships in their respective families. SA-YES also affords them the opportunity to see the world and see opportunities through a different lens that gives them hope.

Eddie Cyster, Director, Heatherdale Children’s Home, Veld Road, Belgravia Estate, Athlone, Cape Town

"There is a cliché saying that asks ‘who learns more – the teacher or the pupil?’ The SA-YES mentor programme is a sure fire example of this principle. I signed up wanting to impact into the malleable heart and mind of a young person on the brink of adulthood and independence, however through my interaction with my mentee I have learnt more about life than I think she has! Not only have I seen her realise that she is more capable than she thinks, I’ve been able to transfer valuable skills and hopefully inspire her along the way! I would recommend the programme to anyone wanting to give of themselves on a personal relational level."

Lindsay Gibson, Media & Marketing professional, Cape Town, Mentor

Being involved in the programme and having a mentor by my side makes me feel that there are so many opportunities for me. Having that support, the coaching, the friendship, a sense of family, being able to spend time with someone who I can talk to and who can help me, it’s a great advantage. I appreciate that there is someone I can call up and say ‘Hey, I’ve got this thing going on, can we meet up and talk about it.’

Masakhane Mndende, Cape Town, Mentee
I have been a mentor in the SA-YES programme for almost 2 years now. It has been both a challenging and a rewarding journey with my mentee. I initially heard that commitment and honesty are 2 areas where the children have been let down many times before in their lives. This is something that I wanted to give. I have modelled this well but realise the need for extending grace as the very qualities that they want exhibited in their lives they themselves fail to give to you. In this regard, the resolve of the mentor is important as they get to know the mentee better.

I see a need for practical guidance on the progress of the mentees and to this effect the ITP form has been helpful to detail an action plan for meetings and forward planning.

I see mentoring as an opportunity to grow and challenge my heart in the issues of social justice particularly towards youths with few/no role models. The benefits to the mentees are many as they tap into the encouragement and skill-sets of the mentors.

I hope that more people gain a heart for being mentors. They are needed and in my opinion, SA-YES facilitates and gives good guidance to the mentor-mentee relationship within the programme.

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SWIFT: NEDSZAJJ
Universal branch code: 19-87-65

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United Kingdom bank details
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Sort code: 56-00-33
SWIFT: NWBKG2L
IBAN: GB53 NWBK 5600 3327 1113 50