Many children come to school with social and emotional "baggage" which are caused by individual, family and community circumstances. This "baggage" hampers their ability to optimally utilise the educational opportunities being offered at schools.

Community Keepers offers psychological and social services at schools to assist children, teachers and parents to unpack and deal with their "baggage". Now, children are in a better position to utilise the educational opportunities being offered at schools.
For the purpose of this report, the word "CHILD" is used for all children and youth attending schools where Community Keepers are based.

2015 IN STATS

8 SCHOOL OFFICES
(4 EXISTING & 4 NEW)

896 CHILDREN BENEFITTED

4,438 ASSESSMENT, COUNSELLING & THERAPY SESSIONS HELD WITH CHILDREN

73% INCREASE IN REVENUE: R4,534,388

5.2 AVERAGE AMOUNT OF SESSIONS PER CHILD

856 INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS HELD WITH TEACHERS & PARENTS IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN

2,181 PARENTS ATTENDED 38 PARENTING EVENTS
LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I cannot help but feel disheartened when I review statistics on the current state of affairs in our country, particularly with regard to the impact that is making on children and the quality of the education they receive. Children matter more than that to us South African children who are alive at end of the fourth quarter 4 cannot understand and interpret what they have read. Having gone into about 70% of learners are three to four years behind the school curriculum. It is also common knowledge that at least 50% of children who start school will not finish high school. Therefore, more than 100,000 of the one million children who start school each year, drop out before matriculating. In relation to these figures, one could easily resort to pontificating flippant or asides, because the change you want to see...

I decided to opt for the latter and this is partly why I got involved in the establishment of Community Keypers in 2009. Even if we could help only a few children, I figured we would be making a difference. And nine years later, we are supporting a few hundred children and making a difference in many children’s lives. This is the reason why I advocate for those who are in a position to help to get involved themselves. It does matter how small the contribution, because eventually these little efforts accumulate to make a big difference and to build a better South Africa for all.

COMMUNITY KEYPERS had a good year in 2015 in terms of growth and expansion. Highlights include the opening of four new school offices, delivering counseling and therapy services to 966 children, a 72% increase in the number of children who attended therapy in 2014, and presenting 38 parent events that were attended by 2,314 parents. This is significant progress, especially when one considers it to be 20% below the previous year’s goal. We are working towards our goal of extending our footprint to additional schools and could very well get 50 parents to attend our four parent events.

I am grateful that you share the same vision and that you are paying as this leave the lines are being changed, reflected in these outcomes.

Our dream is to reach as many schools as our country. If you are still wondering where to get involved, why not join us to this space?

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In last year’s letter, Chief Executive Officer I mentioned how children benefit when they are supported at school beyond our footprint of Stellenbosch. I am pleased to report that we are at it in Bela Bela to help our children gain an edge in the areas of thrombolipid and interpersonal near, where we have an average of 75 children who are working towards our dream of extending our footprint to children in rural areas.

We are satisfied with our operational performance in 2015. By opening four new school offices and getting involved on a local level, we also supported our capacity to serve more children. Where we took in seven localities (2014-2015) to open our doors to schools, today we are reaching close to four schools in a context of seven months. This is because the community has been successful with opening our doors to schools that are part of the larger community and organizations. It is also because our model has been tested and has proven itself in a number of places where we can be replicated with little or no scope.

In 2015, we took in excess of 74,700 clients in 2014 to 96,000 in 2015 in the amount of children we served counseling services to. We are very happy about that as 48% of these children received counseling services from us. This becomes even more impressive when we see the schools principals and teachers who are involved in the process of improving their school’s education landscape. 63% of high school learners we served provided parent letters to their schools for feedback regarding the outcome of the services provided, 83% of parents associated increased an increase in their wellbeing and supported the relationship we have with their children.

I would also like to thank indivisuals and businesses that make a difference by supporting us financially. We would like to be able to do what we do without your support.

Congratulations to our staff of Community Keypers on the positive outcomes that have been achieved and to you all present at the event that you are seeing, reflected in these outcomes.

Our dream is to reach as many schools as our country. If you are still wondering where to get involved, why not join us to this space?
“Thank you for all you have done. We have our daughter back.”

Mother of Jasmine, Benjamin (5 years old), and a teacher at the same Primary School.

89% of teachers surveyed* agreed or strongly agreed that there is a positive change with children receiving support from Community Keepers.

* 407 teachers participated in the survey.
SUPPORT SERVICES
Assessments, counselling and therapy by clinical and educational psychologists, social workers and counsellors

896 children benefited from assessments, counselling and therapy

4,438 assessment, counselling and therapy sessions held with children

992 cases were held with parents, parents and children, and children only, in support of children

A total of 4,438 individual and group sessions were delivered to 896 children – this is a 76% increase on sessions delivered in 2014. This increase in sessions translates into 387 more children supported in 2015 compared to 2014. The major reason for this increase in sessions is due to the four new school offices we opened this year. Through these 4,438 sessions, our psychologists, social workers and counsellors were able to spend an average of 2.23 hours with the children they assisted. On average, we had 3.2 sessions per child which is an improvement on the average of 4.8 sessions per child during the previous two years (group sessions included). Although this is a small increase, we are happy with our progress as we are moving closer to our ideal of an average of six sessions per child.

We are also satisfied with the 992 sessions that were delivered to parents (441 sessions), teachers (209 sessions) and other service providers (346 sessions). We are pleased with these outputs as it demonstrates our primary commitment to children and our secondary commitment to the most important new players in their lives.

In terms of gender, 41% makes (445-451) and 445 females (445-445) were served. We are comfortable with this balance and it is in line with the 53% male and 47% female distribution we had in 2014. This statistic again challenges the incorrect perception that males are not interested in receiving social and emotional support.

A total 46% of all children were supported in 2015 refer themselves to our offices. While this is the same rate as in 2014, closer inspection reveals that self-referent made up 83% of all high school referrals. We are extremely happy about this as it can be difficult to win teenagers’ trust, however, it is clear that this is not a problem at our offices. We are also pleased with the 47% referrals made by teachers at primary school as it demonstrates the high level of trust we have built-up with them. Overall, the referrals made by teachers (37%) and parents (52%) were within the range of referrals for 2014.

Our statistics indicate that 49% of all the children we supported in 2015 reported themselves to our offices. While this is the same rate as in 2014, closer inspection reveals that self-referent made up 83% of all high school referrals. We are extremely happy about this as it can be difficult to win teenagers’ trust, however, it is clear that this is not a problem at our offices. We are also pleased with the 47% referrals made by teachers at primary school as it demonstrates the high level of trust we have built-up with them. Overall, the referrals made by teachers (37%) and parents (52%) were within the range of referrals for 2014.

* According to 387 children older than 12 years who completed a pre-and post-assessment.
** According to 214 teachers who completed an evaluation regarding the impact of our services on a child they referred.
*** According to 128 parents who completed an evaluation regarding the impact of our services on their child.
The primary reasons for referrals consisted of a range of concerns which are comparable to our 2014 statistics. The highest referral group remained the same as in 2014 with 26% (267) of all primary reasons for referrals being for behavioral related concerns. This includes misconduct at school and home, bullying others, and substance abuse. Family concerns were the second highest. 22% (238) children primary reason for referrals. This statistic is similar to 2014, when 20% of referrals related to stressed relationships between parents (including divorce), abuse that happens between family members (including physical, verbal and sexual), neglect, and fidelity. We actively involve parents or other family members in most of these cases to ensure that the root of the problem is also addressed in some way or another. In cases that have a statutory nature the legal route is followed to make sure that the children are safe and cared for. The category with the third highest referral reason was the category which included children related to Community Keepers because of emotional / psychological concerns. This group had a total of 172 (19%) referrals concerning issues such as trauma, grief/loss, abuse, stress, anxiety and social withdrawal. These concerns are usually closely linked to other concerns that fall within the behavioral and family category. However, what distinguishes it from these two categories is that the initial focus is on the effect of these incidents and not the incidents per se. The next two categories were peer group (137 or 15%) and scholastic concerns (122 or 14%). Peer group referrals include friendship issues and being bullied. On the other hand, scholastic referrals include scholastic assessments, assistance with study methods, career guidance, and grade takings. Fifty-seven children (63%) fall under the categories related to referrals because of emotional, clinical issues, and other general concerns.
LIFE SKILLS

Personal development and awareness through small group discussions, events, campaigns and programmes

2,344 children
250 small group discussions
47 events
7 programmes

We are satisfied with the 2,344 children we reached through all our life skills related sessions. This is an increase of 15% or 386 more children who benefited from our services than in 2014. At the end of 2014 we concluded our weekly involvement in life orientation classes as this was starting to take up too much of our time and the funds of these classes were low general. In its place we introduced small group discussions for all children in Grades 6-9. In these discussions we handled daily life questions and challenges they face. This worked very well as it gave us an opportunity to build more individual relationships with children and continually market our counselling services to them. Our annual Career Expo was once again a great success with more than 40 stallholders and over 1,000 children inspired to pursue their dreams.
98% of teachers surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that the Community Keepers sessions met the expected outcomes as outlined by the organization.

* 140 teachers participated in the survey.

"I was bullied at school... Community Keepers taught me to stand up and believe in myself and I am now enjoying school and doing better."

- Mario, 11 years old, Grade 5, Harper High School
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT
Professional development and support of teachers

We had 38 teachers who served on the Community Keepers’ management committees at all of our schools. These committees are in place to provide support for all teachers and staff at each school.

The members on the 2015 committees were: Vasco Valley Primary: Ms. Kloet, Ms. Engelbrecht, Ms. May, Ms. Kolver, Mr. Snyman; Kabeljouwsdorp Primary: Ms. Deetlefs, Ms. Du Toit, Mr. Snyman; Beverley Primary: Ms. Van Wyk; and, Beverley High School: Mr. Swart, Mr. De Kock, Mr. Swanepoel, Mr. Geldenhuys, Ms. Pretorius.

Sixty teachers attended 6 of our professional development workshops in 2015. This is 63 fewer teachers (51%) than we reached through this service in 2014, in spite of serving more schools. This is a rather disappointing statistic and something we would like to improve on in the next year. However, the number of events we organise is dependent on the management of such school as they are responsible for requesting the presentation of workshops focused on specific topics related to social and emotional wellbeing.

“Community Keepers is a great help to our learners. Community Keepers gives me courage to work with children with learning barriers. It makes a teacher’s work so much easier.”

“To be a single parent is very difficult... I felt like I needed someone to help me stay sane... It is this (Community Keepers support) which made me a strong parent, for their support has and always will be my guide.”

PARENT NETWORK
Support network for parents

We are satisfied with the figure of 2,181 parents that attended 38 parenting events in 2015. This is an increase of 219 (17%) parents from 2014 and is mainly due to the four new school sites/locations, however when comparing the average attendance of 18 parents per event in 2015 is to the average of 47 parents per event in 2014. There is an improvement of 33% or 11 parents per event. The parenting topics had positive addresses at these events include the following: holistic development, future planning, bullying, effective discipline, study methods and more.

Twenty-five parents served on our parenting committees. These committees assist in the planning and execution of parenting events that we offer to the rest of the parent community at each school.
“I had a lot of problems and at a stage everything just became too much for me... through the support of Community Keepers I became a stronger and better person. I passed Grade 12 and am now continuing my studies.”

Kay Jacobs (13 years old, Primary and Catering student at Belize College)
OUR PEOPLE

Board, staff, donors and partners

Our Board
In 2005 our board had the meetings during which a range of management and strategic decisions were made. For 2015 Board members included: André du Plessis (Community Advisor Chairman and Financial Director of Execlis Bank); Leandra Bonani-Brook (Associate/Hallower of Iteractive Learning Solutions); Philip Golembus (Chief Executive Officer of Community Keepers); Ernst Harting (Board/Member of Action from Venture); Annamarie Lauremat (Clinical Psychiatrist in private practice); Annette Louw (Principal of Bereen High School); and Fionna van Nien (Project Manager of the Words Read Worldwide program).

Our Staff
We had 11 full-time and three part-time staff members in 2015. Our staff was Joannes Marke Blaak (Executive Officer Manager), Monica Biemann (Administrative Manager), Timothy Cormac (Clinical Psychologist), Christa Burt (Clinical Psychologist), Leticia Farama (Social Worker) / Office Manager, Philip Golembus (Chief Executive Officer), Joannes Marke Blaak (Execlis Bank); Leandra Bonani-Brook (Associate/Hallower of Iteractive Learning Solutions); Philip Golembus (Chief Executive Officer of Community Keepers); Ernst Harting (Board/Member of Action from Venture); Annamarie Lauremat (Clinical Psychiatrist in private practice); Annette Louw (Principal of Bereen High School); and Fionna van Nien (Project Manager of the Words Read Worldwide program).

Donors
In 2015 we received donations from 46 individuals and 18 institutional entities. 55 of those donations were single donations for 2015 and 10 were monthly donations. Compared to 2014, this is a similar amount of donors however average once-off and monthly donations have increased. The biggest portion of our donations came from individual donors who have supported us over the last few years. They remain our backbone in terms of funding. In terms of corporate and institutional donors, we specifically would like to mention the following entities who supported us in 2015: ABSA Structure Engineering; Aurum Schools (Lobue Auditorium); Collegiate Library; Douglas and Suzanne Roberts Trust; The Cape Wire Autism Trust; Gifte Group; Palomposi; Santam Insurances; Solms De Compaines; Stellenbosch Building Supplies; Stellenbosch Municipality, and SA Kalk and Gape.

We also held a fundraising event: The Most Opulent Burger in Town, which was completely sold out. The event was a collaboration between Stellenbosch businesses and helped us raise nearly R200,000 through ticket sales and an auction. Our main partners, who contributed by means of their time and resources, included businesses like The Pony Bar, Boris Piets, Schoor De Campagne, Dobra and Landscape.

We will report this event in 2016 and also replicate it at least one other town.

Community Keepers is a registered public benefit organisation and therefore after processed receipts to our donors in terms of section 18A of the Income Tax Act, 1962 (Act No. 58 of 1962) as amended. Donations from corporate donors also count towards the B-BBEE scorecard under the Socio-Economic Development section of B-BBEE legislation in South Africa.

Partner organisations
We collaborated with the following partners in 2015: ANSA, ACV Matliden, Child Welfare Stellenbosch, Good Hope Psychological Services, Klik Development Group, the South African Police Service’s Family Violence, Child Protection and Social Offences Unit; Stellenbosch University’s Educational Psychology Department, Stellenbosch Provincial Hospital; Uitsig, the Western Cape Education Department; and the Western Cape Department of Social Development.

A big THANK YOU to all our donors for investing in Community Keepers in 2015. Everything we go is made possible by your generosity and dedicated support.
97% of teachers surveyed* agreed or strongly agreed that Community Keepers makes a positive difference in their school.

* 170 teachers participated in the survey.

"I had a challenging situation at home and I needed someone to give me advice to handle certain situations and stay away from others. Community Keepers helped me make informed choices and I cannot imagine where I would have been today if it wasn’t for their help."

Keith Almendral (18 years old) Management Accounting student at Wyndham University
FINANCES

R 4,534,388
in operating revenue

R 2,325,340
in operating expenses

In 2015 we generated R4,534,388 in operating revenue and had R2,325,340 in operating expenses. Excess funds were held in a fixed deposit account on agreement with the banks who donated these funds to ensure that interest is being received before the funds are invested in our work with children. Acumen Schmidt Lubezski Chartered Accountants have been our auditors for the past six years. They have again given us an unqualified audit in 2015, meaning that we comply with accounting principles and that our financial statements present a fair and accurate picture of the organization.

Below is an excerpt from the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 (a complete version of the statements is available on request):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other receivables</td>
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<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
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<td>R 3,416</td>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Total assets</td>
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<td>R 624,615</td>
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<tr>
<td>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
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<td>R 5,531,455</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIABILITIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
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<td>Total liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total equity and liabilities</td>
<td>R 6,105,252</td>
<td>R 5,686,425</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME 2015 | 2014

| Description                               | R 8,935,769 | R 2,601,329 |
| Operating income                         | R 198,619 | R 12,001 |
| Operating surplus                        | R 2,325,340 | R 1,038,475 |
| NON-OPERATING INCOME                     | R 2,200,566 | R 1,074,854 |
| Investment income                        | R 315,657 | R 124,469 |
| Surplus for the year                     | R 2,524,416 | R 1,202,426 |

FUNDRAISE

SPONSOR
Sponsor a child’s therapy session (R900 - 1 session)
Sponsor a child’s therapy package (R1,725 – 2 assessments and 6 counseling sessions)
Sponsor a school kit for a year (R320,000)

SPONSOR
Volunteer your time and expertise

TWEET
Post or tweet about us and get involved in our activities

DONATE
Make any-size donation in aid of a child in need, including “The Most Expensive Biscuit in Town”

Everyone has the power to create change.
Here’s how you can help the next generation Step Up, today.