THE PROBLEM

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.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THERE’S A SOLUTION

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.

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12 school offices: 8 existing and 4 new

1,392 individual sessions held with teachers and parents in support of their children

1,295 children benefitted from our mental health and social services

3,396 parents attended 48 parent enrichment gatherings

7,938 counselling sessions provided to children

6.5 = Average amount of sessions per child

RS 864,909 = total revenue
OUR SERVICES

We remained true to our long-term commitment to support children and schools by opening four new permanent school offices and continuing to offer our services at our eight already established ones. We now have 12 offices in Stellenbosch and Cape Town.

These developments have seen our offices multiply by 50% in 2016, taking us from a local to a regional organisation. We are now more motivated than ever to reach our goal of establishing 100 school offices across South Africa by 2025.
In 2016, we supported 1,295 children by delivering 7,938 counselling sessions to them. We also held 1,392 meetings with parents and teachers to assist them to further support their children.

On average, 40% of all the children we supported referred themselves to our offices, yet again demonstrating the high level of trust they have in our staff and our services. Even more impressive, is that closer investigation of this figure revealed that 62% of all high school children we supported this year had reported to our offices themselves.
Simangaliso’s story is a good example of the outcome of our 2016 services:

“At 13 I joined a gang - I would drink, use drugs and in one incident I nearly got killed in a fight. At 14, Community Keepers helped me figure out my goals and that I don’t need to be in a gang to be accepted. I am going to be the first person in my family to get my matric. If it were not for Community Keepers, who knows where I would be today?”

On average, 77% of the children supported experienced a positive improvement in the problems they initially presented with and their general functioning.

(According to 491 children, 416 teachers and/or 261 parents who completed a pre- and/or post-assessment.)
And Caitlin’s story filled our hearts with joy:

“I am the girl who grew up with an alcoholic mother, the girl who has never known the love of my biological parents. If I think that I can remember my life on the streets as a tiny child, it makes me realize where I have come from and how strong I am. I am so grateful for Community Keepers; they have given my heart peace.”

On average, we had 6.5 sessions per child which is an improvement on the average of 5.2 sessions per child during 2015 and 4.4 in 2014. We are extremely happy about this improvement as it is the first time ever we reached our target of having an average of six sessions per child.
Hughen Rodericks (our counsellor at Rietenbosch Primary School) delivered about 705 counselling sessions – the most by a single staff member in 2016. That’s more than 350 hours of individual contact time with children, parents and teachers.
We were very happy to have about 3,896 parents at our 48 parenting events over the course of the year. During these events we offer support and insight into the great task parents have in raising their children.

It was also encouraging to have 27 development sessions with 248 teachers to support and equip them to be more effective in their role as educators.

91% of teachers surveyed in 2014 agreed or strongly agreed that there is a positive change with children receiving support from Community Keepers (1219 teachers participated in the survey).

This is a slight improvement on the 2013 outcome of 91% of teachers who agreed or strongly agreed on this outcome (1265 teachers participated in 2013).
Our staff fought on the front lines and also grew in numbers—from 14 to 23 staff members. This includes eight social workers, seven counsellors, two clinical psychologists, one educational psychologist, three intern educational psychologists, a teacher and a marketer.

And all along, our Board was there to cheer us on and help us stay on course.

Our 2016 Board members: André du Plessis (Community Keepers’ Chairman and Financial Director of Capitec Bank); Leandro Boemather (Co-founder/Co-owner of Interactive Learning Solutions); Philip Geldenhuys (Chief Executive Officer of Community Keepers); Ernst Mentz (Founder/Owner of Action Here Ventures); Annemarie Louwennik (Clinical Psychologist in private practice); Annetjie Lous (Principal at Bueno High School); Fiona van Kerwel (Project Manager of the Words Open Worlds (WOW) project).
OUR SUPPORTERS

With amazing support we raised R5 346 418 for children in need of mental health and social services in 2016.
Celebrity chef Bertus Basson booked out Overture, his award-winning restaurant, to make wagyu beef burgers for 120 guests at The Most Expensive Burger in Town event in Stellenbosch.

We also held The Most Expensive Burger in Town in Cape Town with chef Johnny Hämmer and his team from Slippery Spoon Kitchen and The Most Meaningful Tea in Town at Lanzerac Wine Estate in Stellenbosch. These are all Community Keepers fundraising initiatives which together raised a whopping R67,700.
Individual donors remained the mainstay of our organisation whilst also receiving support from local, national and international businesses. Skilled volunteers gave their time and talents and thereby contributed to our services, social media and events.

It was also the first year that some of the schools we serve made a financial contribution towards our services to their children, teachers and parents.

These are the corporate and institutional donors who made financial contributions in 2016.
OUR FINANCIALS

In 2016, our overall revenue was R5 864 909 and our operating expenses R4 437 862.

One of our special individual donors continued to cover all our head office costs to ensure that 100% of all other donations received were used for our work at schools.

We have continued to manage Community Keepers in a responsible and sustainable manner by sticking to our commitment to develop a budget that caters for 18-24 months ahead of time. This ensures we are able to weather any unexpected storms.

For a complete version of the 2016 audited financial statements, go to www.communitykeepers.org or send us an email at info@communitykeepers.org.
All in all, more than 15,000 children have now benefitted from our mental health and social services provided at schools, placing them in a better position, as they learn and build a positive future for themselves. None of this would have been possible without the loyal support we received from all of you, our generous supporters!

We thank God for your kindess towards Community Keepers and pray that He will "bless you and keep you; make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26).
Everyone has the power to create change. Here’s how you can help the next generation Step Up, today.

- Sponsor a child’s therapy package (R800 = 2 assessment & 6 counselling sessions)
- Make any once-off monthly donation
- Sponsor a child’s therapy session (R100 = 1 session)
- Volunteer your time and expertise
- Buy a ticket to one of our events, including The Most Expensive Burger in Town and The Most Meaningful Tea in Town
- Launch a fundraising campaign, e.g. host a dinner, run a marathon or give up your birthday by asking family and friends to rather sponsor a therapy session or package instead of buying gifts
- Post or tweet about us and get friends and family to also Step Up

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community keepers

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