



RivLife

Community Centre
Reach • Resource • Reform

Section 21 Company, Reg. No.: 2005/001016/08 - (NPO. 039/961)



RIVLIFE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE DONOR REPORT JULY– SEPTEMBER 2020



www.rivlifecc.org.za



@rivlifecommunity



Rivlife International Community Centre

Letter from Assistant Director,

Dear Valued Partner,

We trust that you and your family remain in favourable health. As we step into the first month of Spring and begin to embrace the vibrancy that this season presents, it is important to reflect and seriously evaluate our journey through a very long and harsh Winter .

RivLife Community Centre has seen the need for immediate and effective interventions in marginalized communities in the last 3 months during our national lockdown. Families are still challenged with having to overcome the social, psychological and economic impact on our nation has faced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. While our society has made great strides in attempting to adapt to this new reality, we are by no means “out of the woods”. It will take a joint effort from individuals to demonstrate greater levels of responsibility, consideration and compassion not only for the sake of themselves but for the wellbeing and livelihoods of communities at large.

In the past three months, we have focused much of our efforts towards identifying and servicing the large disparities created through income gaps, gender inequalities and poor service delivery in certain communities. While all South Africans bear the brunt of recent economic instability, we must acknowledge that some, more than others, have had a great deal more to lose.

In celebrating Mandela Day and Women's Month, the team at RivLife rallied behind initiatives that focused on empowering women and children , as well as those living without suitable shelter and protection. We also commemorate Heritage Month and celebrate the diversity which our country boasts. And while the last few months have certainly been shrouded with an uncertain stillness, I believe that the first sounds of life have returned to the air as we cling to the hope that far greater times lie ahead of us together.

Thanking you for your continued support,

Ms Serusha Pillay

RECENT PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES

1. CELEBRATING MANDELA DAY

In celebrating the legacy of Nelson Mandela, RivLife hosted a clothing drive which ran throughout the year. Each year, RivLife collects clothing for men, women and children which is packaged along with linen and toys before being sent to a worthy beneficiary. This year the Abrina Esther house was chosen as the beneficiary of the drive. The Abrina Esther House serves as a safe-haven and shelter for all members of the community in Pietermaritzburg. They provide relief for the homeless and offer quality care and support to those who live there.



2. SIYAKHULA CARE DRIVE

The Siyakhula Girls Project is a programme which is specifically created to provide care and support towards the development of young girls in low-income communities. The programme looks at several approaches in uplifting the standard of living of young girls in underprivileged homes where their basic needs cannot be met. The Care Drive was an initiative under the

Siyakhula Project which called on donors to partner with RivLife in providing free hygiene and sanitary products to these girls. To date, RivLife has distributed more than 260 'care packs' to girls at Sobantu High and Eastwood Secondary School in Pietermaritzburg.

3. RIVLIFE CRECHE REOPENS

The RivLife crèche reopened on Monday, 31 August 2020. All measures have been taken to ensure the safety of the children who attend our crèche as they commence learning. Each day they are screened, and learn about important Covid-19 safety practices before continuing with the prescribed curriculum. They receive a hot breakfast upon arrival and their lunch is catered for.



RECENT PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES

4. DROP-IN CENTRE NUTRITION PROGRAMME



Our decision to continue with our programme at the Drop-In Centre (DIC) despite Covid-19 restrictions was largely due to the mammoth need for nutrition and safety presented by children in our local community. While RivLife had to take several precautionary measures, meals continue to be served every week as our social workers endeavor to work with children from distressed homes. On occasion, our DIC prepares a meal sponsored by a donor on their birthday or to commemorate a special day.

NEW UPCOMING PROGRAMMES 2020/ 2021

1. Thamboville Sports Centre

Thamboville is identified as Ward 38 of the Msunduzi Municipality. The area is characterized by low-income earners, grantees and unemployed persons. Nearly 42% of the estimated 7 000 who live there are of school-going age which classifies Thamboville as a generally young community. The residents are faced with high levels of substance abuse, violence, crime and poor service delivery. One of the chief projects the community have struggled with is developing a safe and well maintained sports facility for their youth. Due to delays from local municipality and other forms of government, the grounds have been left derelict for several years now. In the coming months, RivLife will partner with Area Based Management in Thamboville to begin developing a sports centre that is suitable for the young people from this community. This will include improving security, developing the existing infrastructure and promoting a healthy and safe environment for the majority of the population to call their own.

2. RivLife Sustainable Gardens

RivLife has in the past made great strides in securing fresh produce for consumption by the community. A healthy, balanced diet is critical to childhood development and has been incorporated into our meal plans for our crèche and afterschool Safe Park. Over the years, RivLife has maintained a small-scale vegetable garden from which we have managed to harvest a variety of crops which went towards the cooking of meals for children in our

community. Now, as residents of surrounding communities face a more pressing need for food-aid, RivLife is confident that empowering families to become more self-sufficient will enable them to become less reliant on hand outs. In the coming months RivLife will begin developing nearly 3 acres of land for a food garden which is specifically committed to training and uplifting unemployed members of our community. The gardens will resource families in our community, as well as community partners such as schools and welfare organisations. A portion of the produce will serve as an incentive for those participating in the project while the remainder of the produce will be sold for sustaining the programme. This initiative will commence in 2021 and reach more than 30 families a year.

3. Drop-In Centre Tree of Hope

The Drop-In Centre is a safe park for children of all ages to complete homework, participate in activities and receive a hot lunch after school. At present, we cater for more than 400 children every week. A new project launching this September is the Tree of Hope Green Club. This eco-friendly club aims to create awareness on the importance of environmental health and to educate children on how to care for their environment. Some of the main functions of the group include gardening and recycling projects. This is the first step towards a more environmentally-conscious generation and the significance of these kinds of programmes cannot be over-emphasised.

4. Drop-In Centre and Crèche Renovations

The Drop-In Centre (DIC) is a RivLife flagship programme that aims at offering a safe and well resourced environment for children of a school-going age to visit each day. The programme at the DIC is run by Child and Youth Careworkers from the Department of Social Development who form part of the award-winning Isibindi Model. The model implemented at the DIC ensures that children from adverse backgrounds receive a meal each day, are involved in safe play activities and life skills lessons as well as have homework supervision. Over the years, RivLife has received minimal funding to maintain the site and the centre now requires some renovation and upgrades to be completed in order to ensure that we continue to offer the best care to the children who need it most. The work that must be completed includes refurbishing the kitchen and abolition facilities as well as upgrading the existing play areas and classrooms.

THANK YOU

IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS RIVLIFE HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR HELP:

- Offered quality nutrition through the distribution of 4 800 meals
- Provided clothing and protection to more than 100 homeless members of the community
- Supplied 260 girls with proper hygiene care
- Supported the education and development of children under the age of 6 years in impoverished communities

Should you be interested in more information regarding our programmes

[click here.](#)

As a result of escalating costs attached to managing our programmes, we encourage you to review your monthly contributions.

Contact RivLife today on 033 397 1430 or

send an email to info@rivlife.org.za

