



PROJECT  
PLAYGROUND

# Small Steps Significant Change

Project Playground Annual Report 2016-17



# A Word From the Founders

*The year 2016-17 has been significant for Project Playground. We have taken a great leap to increase quality, to measure our programs and impact, and to make sure our interventions for those in need remain unique, creative and limitless.*

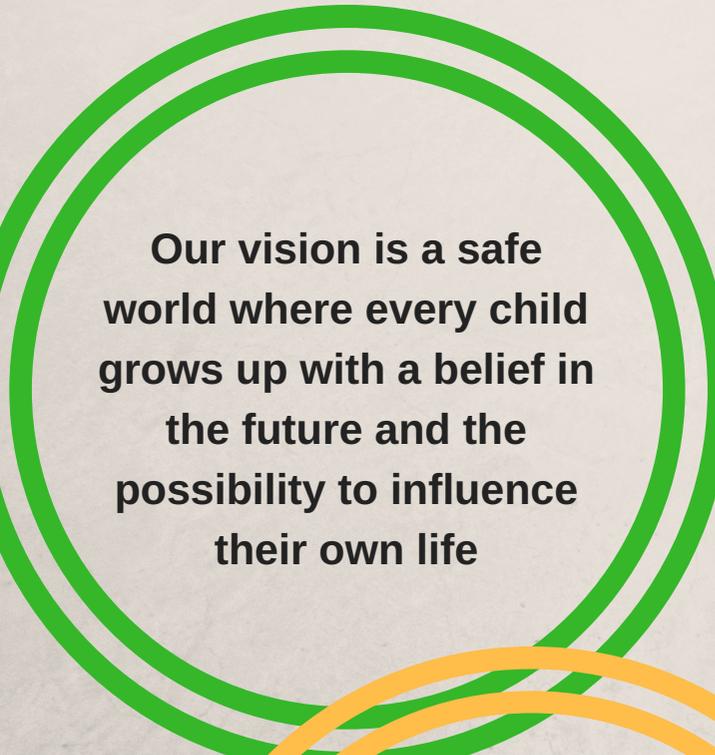
*After seven years in existence, we have begun to embark on a journey to become a global operation. Our successful method and mission should not be limited to a region or country; the relentless work for every child's right to development and opportunities has to be present globally, hence our expansion into Sweden.*

*The work that our teams is doing is truly heroic, the responsibility they carry is great but heavy. Our duty to build strong individuals is crucial as we contribute to setting the standards for what the future world is to become. And it is therefore that we wish to thank everyone who gets their hands dirty and sacrifice so much in the spirit of Project Playground.*

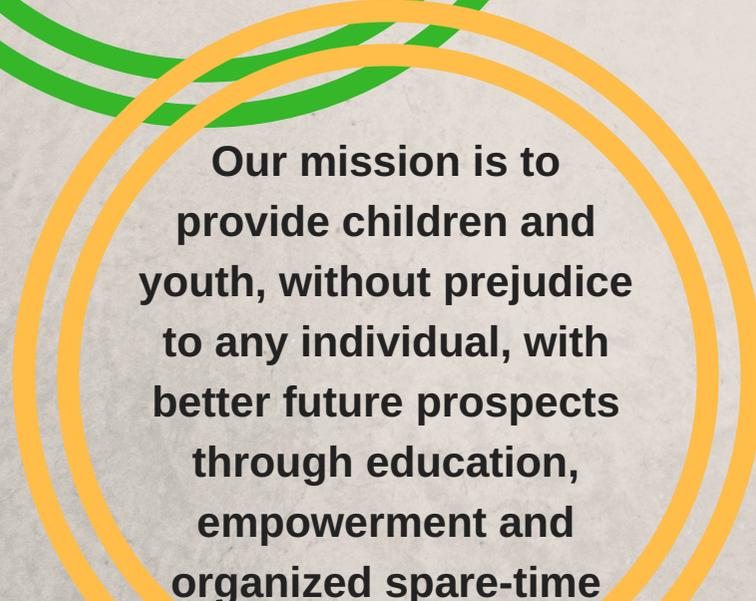
*Thank you to all who make our work possible, we honor your commitment and stand humble in your generous contributions, whatever form they may have.*

Frida Vesterberg & Sofia Bernadotte  
Founders

# Our Strategic Objectives



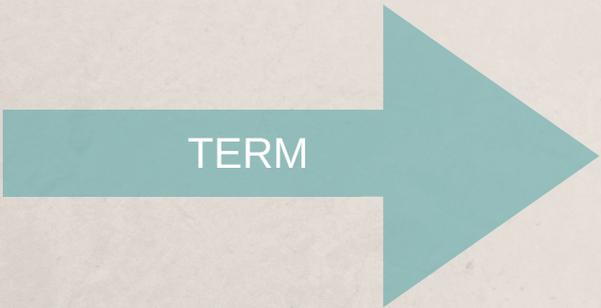
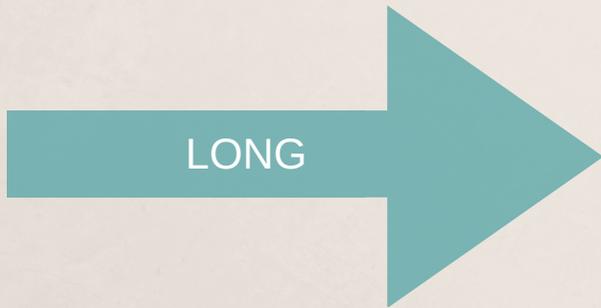
**Our vision is a safe world where every child grows up with a belief in the future and the possibility to influence their own life**



**Our mission is to provide children and youth, without prejudice to any individual, with better future prospects through education, empowerment and organized spare-time**

are to:

- Build recreational and social skills through structured programs where children and youth are acknowledged
- Improve child and youth development by engaging in school, home and community well-being through a holistic approach
- Increase opportunities for employment, further education and entrepreneurship by facilitating programs that equip the children with appropriate skills
- Create role models internal to PPG that encourage, support and inspire participating children to lead healthy and productive lives
- Create awareness around social ills affecting children and youth and promote tolerance to those with disabilities



## LONG TERM RESULTS

### Description

### Short to Medium Term Results

**1** Improved self-confidence, optimism, and ability to take initiative among children and youth

Children in targeted areas have low levels of self-esteem and self-confidence. Playground (PPG) provides programs and spaces where children can be exposed to creative pursuits aimed at developing life-skills and at providing opportunities for positive experiences and interpersonal engagement.

Increased recognition for improved social and recreational skills among children and youth

Social and recreational skills among children and youth are improved



**2** Increased number of youth from PPG communities who are enrolled in tertiary institutions

By providing support to children and youth through programming throughout their school careers (4-18 years), as well as indirectly through better-equipping parents to support their learning, PPG addresses barriers to academic progress and success at all levels (from school readiness to support with Matric exams).

Improved learner retention and pass rates among children and youth

Increased literacy and numeracy among children and youth attending PPG programs

Increased school-readiness amongst children aged 5 and 6

Increased competency and creativity of children

Older children are better-prepared for examinations

Parents are more supportive of their children's education

Parents are able to create a structured home environment conducive to their children's learning



**3** Increased long-term employment of youth

Youth in these communities have limited exposure and chances to be employed. Coupled with this, the youth have limited confidence, low self-esteem, poor education, and also they do not have the right type of skills and work experience. PPG provides youth with economically relevant skills, work experience and the skills, confidence and support to pursue entrepreneurial endeavours

Increased youth involvement in sustainable start-ups

Increased access to the formal labour market for youth

Improved entrepreneurial knowledge and skills

Improved knowledge about the labour market and the job-seeking process

Work experience amongst youth is increased



**4** The psychosocial status of children and youth is improved

There is a severe shortage of social workers and high levels of child abuse and neglect within targeted communities. As a result of screening and referrals, children who experience abuse have greater access to social services that improve their safety, health and wellbeing. These outcomes will be supported by community engagement and awareness activities.

Children and youth with poor psychosocial status, are identified, they seeking help, referred and receiving psychosocial support

Community has greater awareness of children's rights and child protection issues and how to prevent and report abuse



**5** Reduction in social problems affecting children and youth in their communities

Through PPG's programming, youth and children will have increased knowledge about key risky behaviours and consequences associated with crime, drug and alcohol abuse and risky sexual behaviour (social problems). This will reduce the likelihood of youth participating in risky or negative activities

Children and youth have increased knowledge of institutions that offer support

Parents advocating for safer communities

Increased awareness of social ills within communities

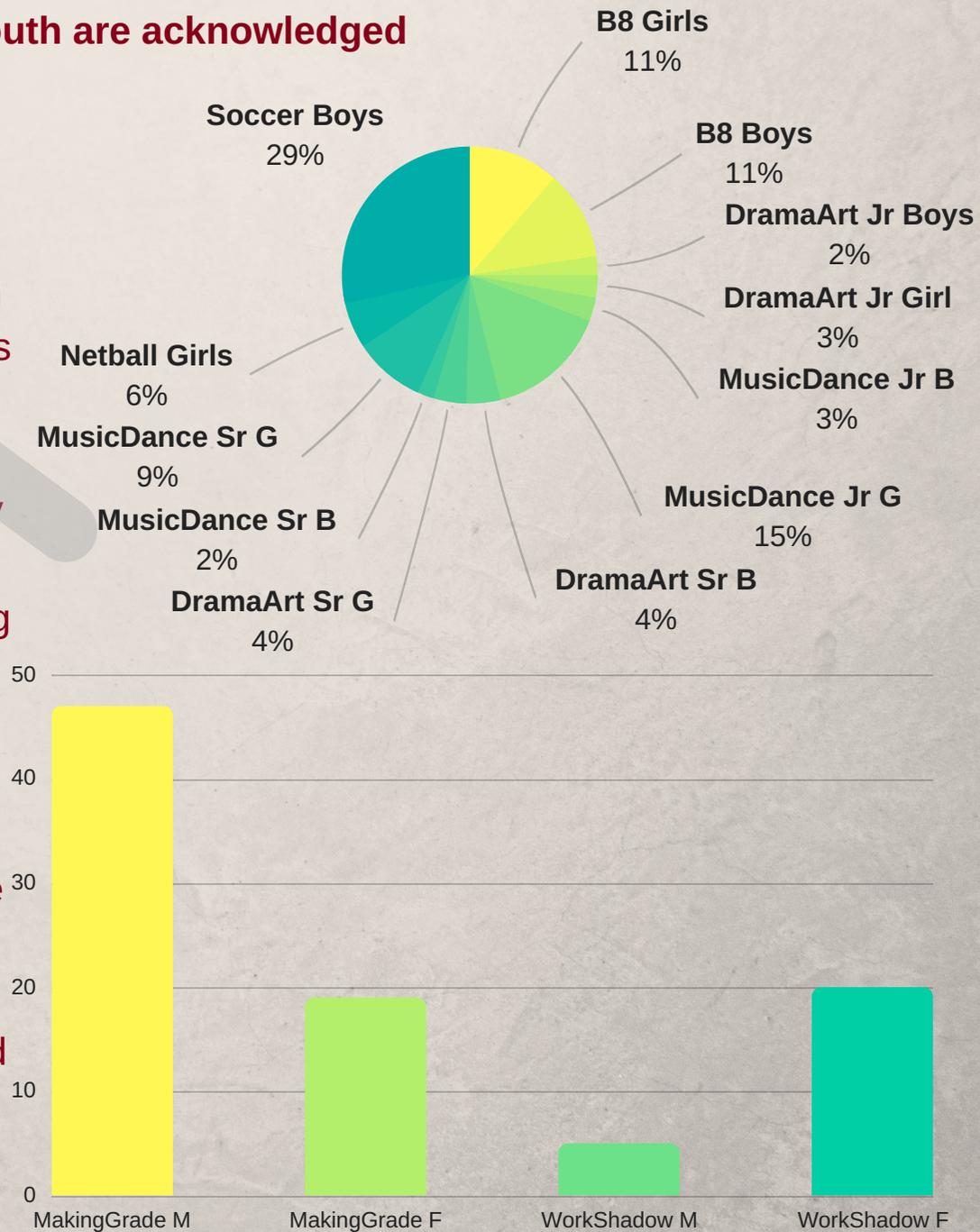
Youth develop the coping skills and confidence to resist peer pressure



## Build recreational and social skills through structured programs where children and youth are acknowledged

Approximately 750 children and youth attend our programs in South Africa today at any of our three township centres. Langa and Gugulethu are two fully equipped centres offering services as Play on Wheels and Play and Learn, whereas our premises in Samora runs a soccer division only.

Project Playground's vision is to go beyond the conventional ECD centres and to promote a totally new approach to child and youth development services in deprived communities and to be serving as a long-term model of innovative development and care of children and youth. Our concept is based on the holistic idea to implement a comprehensive support system around the child throughout their whole childhood and adolescence by providing school readiness classes for children 4-7 years, education of life skills, study support, sports- and recreational activities for pre-teens and teenagers, and work readiness programs to 17-18 year old's, while all of them receive social support.





**Improve child and youth development  
by engaging in school, home and  
community well-being through a  
holistic approach**

**319**

**CHILDREN RECEIVED  
PSYCHOSOCIAL  
SUPPORT**

Our psychosocial support structure is created based on unique needs and therefore we apply unique interventions. No child's circumstances and needs are the same, and therefore they must be met individually. Our team of in-house social workers work on a triangular approach where they support and work with the child at home, in school and at Project Playground.

Our unique Home Visit procedure, done twice per year, helps us get an understanding of the child's home environment which will form the basis of our intervention plan.

**85**

**SCHOOL  
INTERVENTIONS**

**TO PREVENT  
DROP OUT**

*To the teachers and and social  
workers of PPG, I thank you from the  
bottom of my heart for what you are  
doing for my kids, it means a lot to  
me. Continue on to the next  
generation*

*- Below 8 mother*

100%

OF INTERNS  
RECEIVED  
EMPLOYMENT  
AT THE END OF  
WORKSHADOW  
PROGRAM

Increase opportunities for employment,  
further education and entrepreneurship by  
facilitating programs that equip the children  
with appropriate skills

*WorkShadow was the best thing that  
happened to me. It was a blessing  
because I didn't know the things of a  
work place. WorkShadow has taught  
me to be responsible. Im still hungry  
to learn more.*

- Luyanda WS participant

80%

PASS RATE OF  
MATRICULANTS

One of the main challenges in South Africa, is the high prevalence of unemployment, and its chain of negative effects such as crime, violence and poverty.

Project Playground has teamed up with a number of corporates in order to offer, not only theoretical knowledge of working life, but also practical training.

Project Playground is further recognising the value and importance of pass rates and good school reports and therefor offers tutoring in English and Maths.

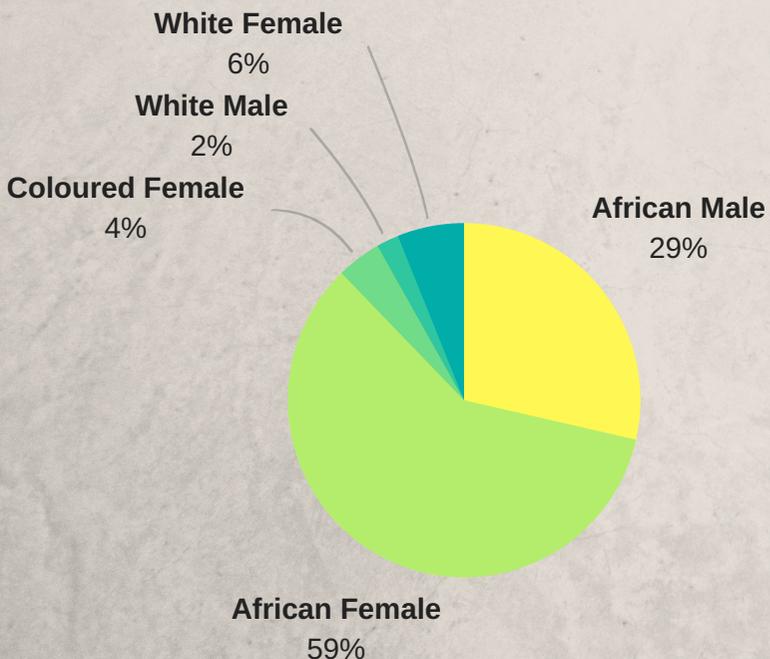
98

TRAININGS WERE PROVIDED, FREE OF CHARGE. TO STAFF

Create role models internal to PPG that encourage, support and inspire participating children to lead healthy and productive lives

Sonwabo, also known as Sofire, started as a volunteer in our dance class in 2012. When we employed him in 2013 he had never held a permanent job, but made a living through house break ins, robberies and selling drugs. He spent half his life in jail, but was seeking a change. Sofire became a dance teacher, and later, through his passion for children, assistant at Play on Wheels. His energy, positive outlook on life, and hunger for knowledge made him a key member of our staff. He left us in 2017 to pursue his passion in dance. He started his own company and is now a zumba instructor.

Employment Equity



*Project Playground takes pride in the vast diversity of staff and the tolerance to all human beings. At Project Playground we do not discriminate based on color, gender, religion, culture or sexuality and we have representation of all amongst our staff. At project Playground we practice Ubuntu; I am because you are*

**Create awareness around social ills affecting children and youth and promote tolerance to those with disabilities**

*Thanks to you, our kids are not in the streets. They are being protected from a lot of bad things that are happening outside. Without you guys at PPG, what can we do? We thank you sincerely.  
- Art & Drama Mother*

Xolile has been a part of Play on Wheels since inception 2012. He is diagnosed with Global Development Delay and was suffering from anxiety, was non-verbal, and his face showed no expressions. Through intensive speech therapy, horse therapy and interventions with Doris the dog, we have seen a complete shift of character. Today, Xolile smiles and can speak when being asked questions, he is responsive and finds inartistic value in play. He can now feed and dress himself.

**25**

WALKS IN THE COMMUNITY TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND TOLERANCE OF DISABILITIES

**7 6 1 5 3**

FOOD SECURITY IS A MAJOR CONCERN IN THE TOWNSHIPS

**PLATES OF FOOD WERE SERVED**



# A Word From Our Social Worker



The focus of the Social Work Department has always been to enhance the social wellbeing of participants and their families. This past year has been no different. During our 2016 home visits, we found that the majority of cases needing urgent attention were centred on issues related to participants living in dire poverty circumstances, parents/guardians not being involved in their children's lives, children not doing well at school due to various reasons, participants involved in gangsterism, substance abuse in families, overcrowding within the home environment as well as inadequate supervision of children after hours and during weekends. Many interventions took place to assist each participant and each family in order to stabilise their situation. Our participants come from backgrounds where a child is believed to be better seen than heard and in each situation; each intervention was geared to make the child's voice heard and in so doing, help to transform the family in a positive way. The Social Work and Occupational Therapy Departments developed a harmonious synchrony of services, where Social Work is more involved in Play on Wheels participants and their families. We also established great working relationships with other local stakeholders such as statutory organisations and schools where our participants attend. We believe in a holistic approach intervention style where the participant, the family, the school as well as the PPG facilitator are part of the helping strategy. This method has proven to be quite effective as all the significant others of the child are not only involved but on the same page in terms of the way forward. For 2016 continuing into 2017, the focus has been on intervention strategies to address current issues as well as putting administration protocol in place to align the Social Work Department to the standards and requirements of the South African New Children's Act of 2005. For 2018 going forward, the focus will steadily move from intervention to prevention of social ills affecting our participants and their families. In South Africa, it is quite rare for an organisation to have a holistic interest in a child where all the child's needs are not only assessed but are met under one roof through quality intervention. We will continue to ensure that we preserve this unique characteristic of Project Playground.

- Nyameka Mzamo

# Examples of Intervention Outcomes



A 9 year old who was struggling with anger issues and could not cope with her school work was helped by dealing with issues that affected her – which centred around her relationship with her parents. She was also referred to the Western Education Department for assessment for learning difficulties.



A Music and Dance participant who was exhibiting challenging behaviour, through the support of the Facilitators, the Occupational Therapist, the Social Worker and her mother; the participant managed to improve her behaviour and there have not been any complaints from school, her mother or the facilitators.



A participant who benefitted from the training of the Workshadow Programme was employed before he even finished the programme. Before this, his family of 10 would at times go without food. We are still providing support and guidance for him.



A participant who had been gang raped three years ago had never received therapy. He was acting out at home, at school and at PPG. He was always fighting. His father is not very involved in his life and his mother is present but seemed to lack ways to parent him appropriately. The participant improved greatly in the few months we worked with him, as well as his mother. Needing some male influence in his life, he was referred to a male Social Work Intern who is still having check in sessions with him.

# A Word From Our Finance Manager



At the start of every financial year we look to the previous year for inspiration on how to improve the quality and effectiveness of our financial management including internal controls and finance processes. The 2017 Financial year is a continuation of this trend. Due to the nature of the sector that Project Playground operates in, we rely heavily on cash transactions as a means to facilitate business within the community. We decided to completely overhaul our petty cash system in 2017.

These changes not only eliminated human error, but brought about real-time reporting and updating. Each cent is tracked in real-time! This year also saw the expansion of our Financial Manual to include topics like conflict of interest, equal pay for equal work and procurement processes. This manual serves to provide guidance to everyone at Project Playground regarding effective controls and processes to ensure separation of duties and transparency. In 2015, we implemented an added layer to the monthly processing by way of monthly mini audits to ensure that problem areas in governance and management of effective internal controls are picked up immediately rather than at the end of the financial year. This also ensures that our Audit report is produced in a timeous manner. This added layer has contributed to a very successful audit for the 2017 Financial Year with Project Playground managing to achieve our lowest audit misstatement yet; a mere R35.92! This misstatement is due to the discontinuation of the 5c coin where shops still charge with 1c, 2c and 5c but PPG is only able to pay with 10c. In conclusion, I would like to thank each person involved for working together to make Project Playground more efficient and transparent. We look forward to the continued support of all our staff, friends and sponsors and will continue to work on improving during 2018.

- Shaun Van Wyk Webb

Prepared by: Project Playground Trust  
BALANCE SHEET as at 28/02/17 - Last Year

**ASSETS**

<u>Non-current Assets</u>		R 6 904 021,26
Fixed Assets	R 140 322,46	
Investments	R 6 763 698,80	
<u>Current Assets</u>	R 277 426,41	R 277 426,41
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>R 7 181 447,67</b>

**EQUITY AND LIABILITIES**

<u>Capital and Reserves</u>		
Retained Income	R 3 266 927,99	R 3 266 927,99
<u>Minority Interest</u>	R -	
<u>Non-current Liabilities</u>	R -	
<u>Current Liabilities</u>	R 3 914 519,68	R 3 914 519,68
<b>Total Equity and Liabilities</b>		<b>R 7 181 447,67</b>



**PROJECT  
PLAYGROUND**

Survives solely on donated funds. To contribute to our work,  
please make your donation to

**NEDBANK: Project Playground Trust**

**Account: 1008036218**

**Branch: Constancia, 198765**

**We are a Level 1 B-BEE  
PBO and Section 18A Approved**



**PROJECT PLAYGROUND SOUTH AFRICA**



**PROJPLAYGROUNDSA**



“There can be no keener  
revelation of a society’s  
soul than the way in which  
it treats its children.”  
– Nelson Mandela