

DISTANCE FOR DIFFERENCE



ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021



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DISTANCE FOR DIFFERENCE



Dear friend,
You are reading our latest report about the challenges, uplifting moments, inspiring stories and miracles that we, at Distance For Difference (D4D), experienced during the last year and a half.

We hope that you will share in our joy as you read about the men and women who devoted their time, passion and energy

to uplift children in need and to give them hope for a better future. When you are done, our prayer is that you will consider, if you have not done so before, joining and supporting D4D to make a difference with us!

"I cannot do all the good that the world needs. But the world needs all the good that I can do." - Jana Stanfield

VISION & MISSION



Vision

Integrity, honesty, trust, excellence and honouring God in everything we do.

Children in need is our passion in deed!

Distance For Difference is committed to fighting for the children of South Africa, so that they may grow up in stable family environments, get a good education, and live without fearing abuse or abandonment while being surrounded by love. These children need to become adults who can positively contribute to the future of South Africa and its people.

With this mission in mind, we use sport as a platform to create awareness and raise funds for various children's charities. Above all, we trust in the Lord our God and pray that we might shine His light and share the heart He has for the youth and children in need.

Mission



A word from our Chairman

Dear friend of Distance For Difference (D4D)

It is a cool afternoon, on Saturday 23 April 2022, as I am writing yet another chairman's report. It has been about 19 months since I last shared a few thoughts about the work of D4D, via this platform.

Looking back over the last year and a half, I am filled with a sense of deep gratitude for what I, my fellow D4D Directors, and all those who gave of their time, energy, and passion towards our cause, were privileged to experience and witness.

My last report started in the midst of planning The Real Gratitude Run, a somewhat disappointing virtual version of The Gratitude Run. By October 2020, virtual runs had lost their novelty and appeal. Consequently, even though we pulled out all the stops on the marketing side of things, D4D struggled to get people involved. We did manage to raise a total of R30,000, but it was a long way off from our R250,000 target.

Yes, we were disappointed, but little did we know what dear D4D friends like Howard Warrington and Buks and Maulise Kotzé were planning for 2021 and that a mind-blowing miracle was around the corner, just under a year later! A miracle at an airfield...

Early in 2021, Buks and Maulise decided to do the Pilgrimage of Hope - a walk of 310 kilometers over 16 days and raised just shy of R24,000. Read all about their wonderful experience later in this report.

It was during this time that planning for the 5th edition of our bi-annual, major fundraiser, THE500, started in all earnest.

To say that this was a step in faith, is a significant understatement! The odds were truly stacked against us:

We were still in the grips of Covid and all its associated restrictions on movement and get togethers.

Subsequently there was a huge reluctance from cyclists and spinners to sign up and train for an event amid the many unknowns.



We were also still without a venue after the unfortunate closure of The Lord Charles Hotel in the previous year, where we had been privileged to host the previous four, very successful editions, between 2013 and 2019.

Without repeating the full “Miracle at the Airfield” story which follows later in this document, allow me to share that at the start of October 2021, less than 30 days before the event, our fundraising total was just over R100,000, still R400,000 shy from our usual target, and we had a mere handful of entries for the cycling and spinning events...only ± 40 days later we reached a record amount of R700,000!

We still stand in awe and continue to give all glory to our Lord Jesus Christ for this miracle. Nothing is impossible for Him. It made me think of the words of Job from the Bible - after enduring so many hardships, the Lord restored him, and Job said: “I know you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.” (Job 42:2)



Early in October 2021, Howard Warrington informed us of his plans to swim across False Bay in 2022 to raise funds for charities, including D4D. He used a training swim and run, dubbed “The 10k Double”, to raise R14,000, of which R5,000 was donated to us. Don’t miss more details of this remarkable man elsewhere in the report.

Following this, at the start of 2022, the young Ntethelelo Zikalala, whom I had met when he was a student in 2019, decided to run for D4D in 2022 - his aim is to raise R12,000 for us during the year. Read his story in this report and please support him in his quest. His campaign is taking me back, right to the start of D4D in 2005, when I decided to raise funds by running 1,000 km that year. Seventeen years and almost R11 Million later, I can just imagine how Ntethelelo’s campaign can also blossom into something that can make a wonderful difference in years to come.

DISTANCE FOR DIFFERENCE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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STÉPHAN PIETERSE

Chief People Officer (Pragma)
D4D Founder & Chairman
Director since 2006

Most importantly, I have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. I have a wonderful wife, Yolanda, to whom I have been married for 23 years. We were blessed with three daughters (read more about them in Yolanda's section following) and we've been living in the same house, in Somerset West, for the last 20 years.

I like to call myself a Human Potential Locksmith, using creativity, passion, and initiative to help create a working environment fit for human beings, where employees can operate in their areas of strength and really thrive.

After hours I love to run, read, create videos, braai of course and spend time with my family.

I had the privilege to start Distance For Difference in 2005. The last 17 years of making a difference in children's lives has inevitably made a huge difference to mine.



SHAWN ROETS

Regional Manager Western Cape (Voltex)
D4D Director since 2008

I have been working in various leadership roles in the retail and wholesale distribution industry for 25 years, specialising in turnarounds, strategy and marketing. I have a background in finance and that has taught me the value of systems and processes. I love being involved in growing people and developing strong teams that can take on the unexpected challenges life brings.

Our work at D4D is very rewarding through the impact we have on the leaders of tomorrow.



YOLANDA PIETERSE

Homeschool Mom
D4D Director since 2008

D4D has been part of my life since 2005, when my husband, Stéphan, founded the organisation. We have been married for almost 24 years. Our eldest daughter will be 21 in May of this year and two days before her, our middle daughter turns 18. We have also been blessed with a 'laatlammetjie', Simoné. She is 5 years old and a real blessing. She keeps us young!

I have been home educating our daughters for the past 10 years. It has brought me an enormous amount of joy and it has been truly rewarding.

Having D4D as part of our lives has been both a challenge and a privilege. Being able to help children in need is one of the biggest privileges. I am forever thankful to our Lord for enabling us to do so. My prayer is that we will be able to continue blessing others for many years to come.



JACQUES VAN NIEKERK

Attorney (Van Niekerk Uys Attorneys)
D4D Director since 2008

I am 50 years old and have been married to Therine for 23 years. We are blessed with 2 boys aged 19 and 13. I am involved in the legal industry where I witness the hardships of families and specifically children on a regular basis. This motivates my involvement with D4D, as I am less involved with sport and fitness than I care to admit. For me, a great day is defined as a day in nature, far away from social media, and close to family. I am inspired by the D4D donors and the people managing the projects supported by D4D.



WILLEM COETZEE

Chief Executive Officer (Dutoit Agri)
D4D Director since 2014

My life purpose is to make a positive impact in the lives of people I meet along the way, whether at work or play.

I am married to Elsmarie, an amazing partner, supporter and love of my life. We have three kids, Karli, Johann and Willan. We love sports and adventure and follow God wherever He may lead us. I grew up on a farm and love agriculture; one of the reasons I currently work in the industry at Dutoit Agri in Ceres. Agriculture keeps one humble and dependent on the Lord on a daily basis.

I've known Stéphan since varsity days and it remains a privilege and pleasure to serve with him and the rest of D4D in such a humbling calling.



TACIA ROUX

D4D Administrator and Fundraiser
Employee at D4D since 2015

I'm married to Paul and we have two children. Talia is 18 and in matric this year and Paul will be 15 in October 2022. They are the 2nd most important people in my life, with God placed 1st. My favourite colour is red, and I love the summer! Sometimes I like to get creative and renovate some old furniture with Tjhoko Paint or create handmade birthday presents!

I worked in the fruit industry for almost 21 years, before I was employed by D4D in 2015 as their Administration Manager and Fundraiser. To raise funds for charity is a difficult task, especially during the last two years since Covid changed the entire world. Although my responsibilities come with many challenges, the joy and satisfaction I get when I am able to bless others, overshadow all these challenges.



EMILE KOTZÉ

Superintendent (City of Cape Town)
D4D Director since 2008

I am married to Ilse, and I have a 12-year-old son, Daniël. I really enjoy doing sporting events, camping, and any outdoor activities with my family.

I made the decision to follow Jesus when I was 16 years old, during a very difficult time of my life and since then I have been learning daily to submit my will to the Lord's will, trying to focus on things that have everlasting value.

Sport or activity and children are very close to my heart. So, serving with Distance For Difference, trying to bring a smile on a face of a child is one of my greatest rewards.

My moto is: If you cannot say something good about someone, then rather do not say anything.



DISTANCE FOR DIFFERENCE



MAKING A DIFFERENCE OUR BENEFICIARIES



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Sylvia's House has been a safe haven to a multitude of children over the past twenty-one years. D4D is thankful to have been part of their story for the last twelve years. Sylvia Frank provides a family orientated home of healing for either abandoned or abused children of all ages. Her main goal will always remain a loving environment, a shelter where there is hope for a better future, provision and education for children in need.

Over eighty children have walked through the door of Sylvia's House. Some remained for longer periods of time than others, waiting till their parents are rehabilitated or adoptive parents were found. It is wonderful to be able to report that most have moved on to new, loving families or restored homes once they have healed. While Sylvia is a safety parent, she is first and foremost a mom to the children who are permanently in her care. As is the heartbreaking reality for far too many of today's youth, four of the children were abandoned at birth and three removed from abusive circumstances.

She has adopted two of the children and the other seven are in her legal foster care. Three of the children have recently moved out to live on their own. Currently, Sylvia has 6 children in her care.



Sylvia is passionate about uplifting the children in her care to fulfill their potential, whilst providing a place to call home, therapy and support in whichever way the child may require. Her main aim remains to provide a family environment with the same morals, emotional and physical stability, educational prospects and opportunities with which most other children are blessed. Her mission aligns with that of D4D, in that we hope that these children will grow into adults and members of society who can positively contribute and in return better the lives of others. Sylvia's dream is not to only clothe and feed the children placed in her care, but to love them and encourage every chance of growth, just as she would for her own children.

D4D presently supports Sylvia's House with a monthly donation of R4,500. These funds are specifically allocated towards educational purposes and operational costs. In addition to the monthly donation, D4D also made a contribution of R5,000 in December 2021 for extra necessities over the holiday season.

Sylvia's House was identified as one of THE500's beneficiaries. A donation of R45,000 was allocated to them in February 2022. This donation was not paid out as a once-off donation, but will be used to fulfill D4D's monthly donation to Sylvia's House for an extended period.



D4D has had the privilege of being involved with Tzadokah Foster Home since 2005. They were the very first foster home that D4D supported and to this day, still supports. When we reflect on the last seventeen years that D4D has been involved with Tzadokah Home, we are extremely grateful for heaps of blessings! We were able to have witnessed the growth of the children and the many challenges that they have had to overcome, including the incredible progress the children have made throughout their school careers. Tina Burger has been Tzadokah's foster mom since 2009. It is with a deep gratitude that we acknowledge the unconditional love Tina and her husband, Schalk Burger, have for the children. Selflessly devoting all their energy, time and more to those in their care, who ranges in ages of eight to twenty. Despite the age difference between the children, they all get along well. They have the utmost respect for Tina and Schalk and they honor the way in which they are raising them. There is no doubt that the children love and adore their "parents".



Tzadokah was recently contacted by social workers to find a place of safety for three girls aged respectively 17, 9 and 7. Tina agreed to take them in for an indefinite period until their court cases are settled.

D4D's continued monthly donation of R4,500 mainly contributes towards educational expenses, a cause that will always remain a central part of D4D's mission. D4D will commit to a further R4,500 per month for the period over which the new children will stay at Tzadokah. In addition to these monthly donations, D4D also made an additional contribution of R3,000 in December 2021 for extra necessities over the holiday season.

Tzadokah was also chosen as one of THE500's beneficiaries. A donation of R50,000 was allocated to them in February 2022. This donation was not paid out as a once-off donation, but will be used to fulfill D4D's monthly commitment to Tzadokah, for an extended period.



Another foster mom, whom D4D has been supporting since 2017 and who is exceptionally close to our hearts, is Esther van Zyl. Her home is a registered place of safety. At the time of writing this report, she has two children under her care. The eldest, a boy aged 11, was found in an informal settlement in Langa, at the fragile age of 1. He was diagnosed as being HIV positive, while also suffering from separation anxiety, which is a direct result of his early childhood trauma. The youngest of the house, a pure bundle of joy, is aged 6. She was a mere 24 hours old when Esther was contacted by the police, looking for a place of safety for the new-born baby they found in a park close to Esther's house. Four days later she was home, safe and sound, with her new mom and brother. This little girl is thriving from the attention she is receiving from her mom and her big brother. These two little ones have found the only mom they have ever known in Esther, and she has given them a home filled with love and devotion.

Both Sanele and Zoey have adapted very well to their school and are excelling in their schoolwork. Esther has more than enough reason to be incredibly proud of them. They are a close-knit family who love and adore one another.



Esther has been running a catering business from her home for some time, to support them financially. The name of her business is Pretty Tasty, and she can be contacted at 072-216-3111 for orders (from cupcakes to cakes for special occasions, platters for functions, etc.). Her treats will most definitely tickle your tastebuds.

D4D continues to support Esther van Zyl with a monthly donation of R3,000. This money goes a long way in ensuring that she can provide the children with a healthy diet, meet their school supply needs and cover their medical expenses. It is an honor to serve the Lord alongside such an inspiring family. In addition to the monthly donation, D4D also made an additional contribution of R10,000 in December 2021 for stationary, school clothes and extra necessities.

Esther van Zyl was also identified as one of THE500's beneficiaries. A donation of R50,000 was allocated to them in February 2022. This donation was not paid out as a once-off donation, but will be used to fulfill D4D's monthly donation to Esther van Zyl, for an extended period.

Message from Esther

Good evening to all the marvellous folks at D4D.

I just want to start by saying a heartfelt thank you for all you do for us. Thank you are two such small words for the enormous difference you make in our lives. I feel so embarrassed to ask for more, because you have blessed us with so much over the last couple of months already.

As mentioned before, I am somewhat concerned about Sanele's emotional and mental well-being. He is turning 11 this year and I don't see an improvement in his insecurities. I am concerned that he will have an even harder time as the doctors prepare for full disclosure of his HIV status this year. I have been reading up a lot on his behaviour or why he reacts the way he does in threatening situations. I have been trying to help him, but I'm still concerned that this is not enough. On the one hand I worry that if I pick the wrong counsellor, he will end up going through life using his circumstances as an excuse not to reach his full potential. I have seen that so many times. My prayer is that I can help him learn from it and let it go, to be an inspiration to others.

I have often wondered what the difference is between the ones who rise up and those who get stuck in the pain. My only conclusion is God. Jesus is the only One that can fill that void, show them that they matter, no matter where they come from or who rejected them and show them that they are loved. For this reason, my request for him in this instance is not financial, but spiritual. Please earnestly remember him in your prayers and make a request to our Lord to fill his little heart and soul with the love of a true Father.

This year I also have a desire to buy beds for them and Sanele would like to move to his own room. We live in a three-bedroom home, but we all sleep in the same room by choice. I have never decorated a room for them or bought bedding which was something that they specifically liked or chose, and it is a desire of my heart to be able to do that for them this year. Because of your generous donations during December and January I have bought everything they needed for school and even have some money spare, should anything else come up.

On a lighter note, I'd just like to paint a little picture of who they are as humans. Sanele is always very concerned for my welfare and Zoey's (when no one is looking). He always makes sure that she behaves herself and that she does not get herself into trouble.

He is still adamant about becoming the president (or a you-tuber). He hates going to school and does not like homework, but does it diligently, because he has an incredible sense of duty and believes that everyone must always do the right thing. He hates injustice and his biggest complaint is the children who do not listen in class and disrupt the proceedings. He is very good at public speaking and loves cracking jokes. He will however choose with whom to engage and will easily remove himself from the situation if he feels uncomfortable. He will rather be on his own than face situations that make him feel uneasy. He sings beautifully and has an incredible love for music.

Zoey will try anything once (at least, depending on the outcome). She is very outspoken, and I often have to hold my breath or make my eyes very large in order to stop her from saying something incredibly embarrassing. We spotted a lady at the pharmacy the other day who was covered in dark freckles. When Zoey looked at the lady and started off with "Mamma?" I already felt my stomach turning. I bent down and whispered that she should rather ask me in my ear. She proceeded to say that she thinks that lady likes to jump in muddy puddles like Peppa Pig.

I know the bedding and such, that I would like for them, is not a real need, more of a desire and I know there are most probably other families with more pressing matters, but I just figured I'd mention it.

I pray that God will bless your organisation and not just D4D, but your families and households and keep you safe, healthy and loved in the palm of His hand.

May all His dreams for our lives come true.

Much love and blessings
Esther, Sanele and Zoey



The Kingdom Kids Crèche, situated in Sir Lowry's Pass Village, has been one of D4D's beneficiaries since 2016. Kingdom Kids opened its doors in 2009 with only two children; currently the school is bursting at its seams with over 60 children attending daily. They cater for a variety of ages, ranging from babies to the young kids, aged 5, in Grade RR.

There are six volunteer teachers, giving their time, dedication and affection, which stems from a deep passion for the children, their well-being and their futures. This group of women makes a tangible difference in their community. The school can not rely on school fees, since numerous parents fail to fulfill this obligation. Therefore, they have several fundraisers throughout the year to generate extra income and keep the doors of Kingdom Kids open.

Kingdom Kids is one of the organizations receiving waste food from a local grocery store. D4D supports this project by donating R1,000 monthly, which covers the transporting cost of collecting the food from the store. They collect waste/ "expired" food four times a week, thereafter, recycling that which is still usable. With the assistance of this food, they are able to cook healthy meals for the kids of Kingdom Kids and the community. Much too often this is the only meal a child would receive for the entire day. Subsequently this project has been a major blessing to Kingdom Kids.



During Covid, Zelna and her daughters (the founders of Kingdom Kids), started a soup kitchen for the less fortunate in their community. They mostly rely on donations to buy ingredients for the soup, and they make use of some of the vegetables they receive from the "waste program". Many days there is not even food on their own table, yet they open their hearts to the rest of the community.





They remain an inspiration to D4D and remind us regularly to be grateful for what we have.

The school needed a microwave oven to heat the children's food and bottles. In October 2020, D4D handed them a brand-new microwave oven. They were overwhelmed with joy and deeply grateful.



In December of 2021, D4D surprised the little ones with cake, sweets and cooldrink for their end of year party. The joy and excitement on their beaming, smiling faces was unequivocally priceless. With healthy, nutritious meals being a scarcity outside the school, these treats are all the more so. We are so thankful to share in their delight and have these kids remind us to find joy in the smallest, simplest things.

Kingdom Kids was chosen as one of THE500's beneficiaries. A donation of R45,000 was allocated to them in February 2022. This donation was not paid out as a once-off donation, but will be used to fulfill D4D's monthly donation to Kingdom Kids, for an extended period.





Gabriella Centre is a residential and day care facility for children and young adults with profound physical and intellectual disabilities such as Cerebral Palsy. They provide 24-hour care in a home from home environment, along with unlimited patience and unconditional love.

The Day Care Centre remains open over school holidays, closing for only three weeks over the Christmas season and on public holidays. The Residential section remains open throughout the year.

To maintain a comfortable environment, a maximum of 24 children/young adults are enrolled in Day Care, of which 12 are also in Residential Care. To ensure they receive all the care and love they deserve, a maximum child/caregiver ratio of 4/1 is provided. Individual programmes are designed by their in-house Physiotherapist and Program Implementer, to ensure that each child/young adult receives the correct physiotherapy & intellectual stimulation they require. Their staff have been trained to follow these individual programmes and understand the importance of correct positioning, exercise and educational stimulation. The weekly programme includes physiotherapy, occupational therapy, music & movement, creative activities, outdoor play, horse riding and outings. They provide a place to learn and grow, to feel safe and accepted and to be loved unconditionally.



Their vision has always been "To Inspire Respect and Accomplish Equality for Persons with Special Needs". The goal at Gabriella Centre remains unchanged; they strive to do everything they possibly can to assist these courageous individuals in their challenging climb in life. They want able bodied people to know that not one day in their life should be taken for granted, that in a second your life could change, and you could find yourself or a family member in the exact position as those with special needs.

When D4D started back in 2005, Gabriella Centre, was one of our first beneficiaries. At the end of 2005, D4D hosted a Christmas party for the centre. Seventeen years later, they were once again identified as one of D4D's beneficiaries, this time around for THE500 event. In February 2022, a donation of R30,000 was allocated to them.

Our recent visit to them reminded us to take the time to get to know someone who is physically and/or intellectually challenged and give them the respect and kindness they deserve.



Heaven's Gate was founded in 2010 by Warren and Lehanie Elliott. They have since provided a loving and safe environment for nearly 30 abandoned, neglected and abused children. Ages have varied from newborn to 18 years old and include all ethnic groups. Their ultimate goal is to provide a home where children can enjoy life as a child should - but also, more importantly, to learn the role of both a father and a mother. It started as a Safe House where children stayed for a period of 3 months, but some ended up staying much longer before they were returned to their homes. Sadly, some had nowhere to return to.

Heaven's Gate became their home and a part of their story.

Even though Heaven's Gate has faced many financial challenges since the beginning, Warren and Lehanie remained committed to their ministry and by faith and sacrifice have crossed the mountains they encountered along this very difficult road. Six of the children are now in school.

Heaven's Gate was identified as one of THE500's beneficiaries. A once-off donation of R20,000 was awarded to them in February 2022.





Hagar's Choice

A Place of Safety for babies and children

Hagar means: "Stranger".

Hagar's story consists of repeated rejection by her own people in addition to the ones who took her in. Every time she faced certain death; God sent his angels to assist her.

Every baby who gets rejected experiences similar feelings and emotions as Hagar. She didn't feel that she belonged anywhere.

God is always in control and sent an angel to help Hagar, and she chose to be obedient to God and to listen. She decided, even with her "pregnant body", to return and face Sarah, even though Sarah didn't appreciate her presence. Just for a moment, consider the emotions she must have experienced and had to deal with.



A woman in those times was seen as the property of the owner. Hagar in a sense had no "rights" and no owner/husband to fend for her. But God fended for her.

Babies cannot fend for themselves, they don't have "a voice", and they are dependent on others for help. God sends angels and people on their path to help them.

Similarly, to Hagar, Hagar's Choice chooses to take the difficult path, the path less traveled, because helping premature and rejected babies is no easy task.

The Campher-family knows what it feels like to have nothing, nowhere to call home (they have lost all – house, accommodation, car, furniture, etc., but God took care of them). They are thus equipped to help children who have no refuge and provide a temporary place of security and provision, until they get adopted by their forever parents.

D4D first donation towards Hagar's Choice was made in 2017. Ever since, they have inspired us by their selflessness and unconditional love for abandoned babies and children in need.

Hagar's Choice was identified as one of THE500's beneficiaries. A once-off donation of R35,000 was awarded to them in February 2022.



PATCH provides a holistic set of services to the survivors of child sexual abuse. Their response includes an initial assessment, therapeutic interventions, court preparation, and a 24-hour crisis line. All services are provided by a skilled team of registered Social Workers and Social Auxiliary workers.

The first step for all children referred to PATCH, on account of suspected child sexual abuse, is a socio-emotional assessment. If the referral is within 72-hours of an incident, a medico-legal assessment is carried out.

The PATCH crisis worker accompanies the child to the hospital and tenderly offers emotional support during the medico-legal examination, while the doctor collects forensic evidence that may be used in the court case. Crisis workers provide the child with a comfort toy (teddy bear) to help put them at ease and following the examination, the child may take a bath and get a clean set of clothes, underwear and toiletries, all included in the provided comfort pack. A range of professional and therapeutic services for child survivors are offered by qualified social workers and psychological counsellors, based at their centres throughout the Helderberg basin.



Therapy is provided on either an individual or group basis, that is tailored to the specific needs of the child survivor. The experienced, expert staff at PATCH make use of a wide range of therapies, including narrative therapy, play therapy, and cognitive-behavioural therapy. They work according to the individual child's needs, be it working on feelings of guilt and shame and/or court preparation should the child's case be taken to court.

PATCH was the co-host and main beneficiary of THE500 event at its inception in 2013, till the 4th installment in 2019. Due to the negative effects that Covid-19 had on D4D's fundraising efforts and the subsequent financial position of several other charities, we decided that more children's charities should benefit from the 5th installment of THE500. After this decision in the beginning of 2021, we identified ten children's charities along with D4D, to benefit from the funds raised through THE500. Patch was amongst these ten children's charities and a donation of R55,000 was granted to them in February 2022.

The statistics of child sexual abuse are rising daily - it's both a tragic and disturbing fact. D4D will continuously support the work of Patch and has great appreciation for the enormous difference they make in the community. We thank them for everything they do and the incredibly important role they play in the lives of the children.





Little Angels Home, situated in Somerset West, is a full-time, community-based care facility for children with special needs. Little Angels is a non-profit organisation that provides a home for children that require special care and nurturing, as a result of their mental and/or physical disabilities. Little Angels aims to provide a safe haven for these children and ensure that they receive the correct and proper medication, treatment, and special care that their parents can seldom afford to provide. They are currently the permanent home of 14 children who are extremely special and dear to the people who devote their time, and often their lives, to care for them.

All the children at Little Angels require 24-hour, highly specialized care and support as a result of their severe disabilities. Most of the children suffer from multiple medical conditions such as Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Microcephaly, Hydrocephaly and thus require assistive devices namely wheelchairs, buggies, ventriculoperitoneal shunts to relieve brain pressure, and/or feeding pegs.

They run daily educational programs that provide intellectual stimulation for the children, as well as physical therapy programs to ensure maximum mobility and flexibility. They also do daily fun activities that include music, art and storytelling. These programmes are endorsed by CSPID (Children with Severe and Profound Intellectual Disability), a governing body managed by the Department of Basic Education.



LITTLE ANGELS



The children's immunity is more vulnerable due to their medical conditions, and this is also the reason why every child has a specific nutritional & medicinal plan (formulated by the Department of Health), to ensure each child maintains his/her optimal health level. All the children go for bi-annual hospital visits, ensuring that their assistive devices, i.e., wheelchairs or buggies still meet their growing needs.

They are driven by the overwhelming need for similar residential care facilities in their community, breaking down stigmas and stereotypes regarding disabilities, and increasing awareness for those living with disabilities. Little Angels would like to continue thriving, by sticking to their core values; compassion, dignity, competence and dedication and so being an example for their fellow NPO's.

The first donation from D4D to Little Angels was made in March 2016. Shortly thereafter, D4D and Little Angels decided to collaborate and host D4D's first running event and from there the Gratitude Run originated. In October 2016, the first Gratitude Run was hosted in tandem with Little Angels. Since this collaboration, more donations to Little Angels followed.

The staff and residents at Little Angels are all angels with big hearts. To this day, they continue to inspire us with their positive attitude and their joy and zeal for life. "For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways." (Psalm 91:11)

A donation of R35,000 was awarded to Little Angels in February 2022, as they were also one of THE500's beneficiaries.

He♥rtlands Baby SanctuAry

it's every child's birthright to belong

Heartlands Baby Sanctuary was established on the 4th of May 2015 in response to the request of the Western Cape Department of Social Development to offer temporary residential safe care and support for children in need of urgent care and protection. Heartlands is located in Somerset West in the Western Cape and is a registered Child and Youth Care Centre as well as a Community Mental Health Facility, caring for 25 children at any given time. The centre provides holistic care for orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) from birth to six years of age.

Following a court order, children are 'temporarily' placed at Heartlands. After the finalization of Children's Court proceedings, they are either reunited with their parents/family members, placed in foster care, transferred to other long-term facilities or adopted. Heartlands Baby Sanctuary strives to develop the family bond by either the parents visiting their children or being accommodated in the mother's room. Parents are also educated to be better equipped in caring for their children, once the child is reunited and back at home.



Their objective is to create a secure, caring environment in which the children learn to trust, bond and maintain relationships. Their aim is to return clinically healthy children back to the community, through reunification, an alternative community, long-term institutional placements or adoption.

D4D and Heartlands' objectives, values and vision align which made our decision to nominate them as one of THE500's beneficiaries, incontestable. A donation of R35,000 was given to them in February 2022.



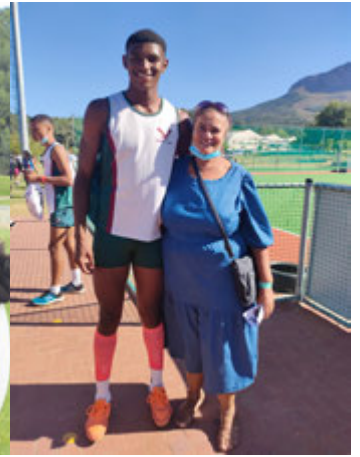


D4D is proud to share the heart-warming story of Gino Cupido (16) and Jodeci Davids (16). These two young men received a wonderful opportunity to further their High School Career at Strand High, since the beginning of 2021. Friends from the age of 6, Gino and Jodeci, better known as Jodas, started their Grade 10 year at their new school on 15 February 2021. As the popular saying goes...“the rest is history”!

We would like to extend a massive thank you to Mr. Danie Malan, Principal of Strand High, who played a critical role in making their dreams become a reality.



Since its establishment, several individuals, families, D4D and anonymous sponsors have contributed to the Class of 2023 Fund. The fund was launched to assist these two young men in successfully finishing their education, graduating at the end of 2023, and to ensure that they make a success of their academic and sports careers at Strand High.



They are avid rugby players and at 1.90 meters, it did not take long for the coaches and selectors to notice Gino's talent. He quickly proved that he was a pillar of strength to be reckoned with at outside centre (13). Meanwhile, Jodas' fast legs would leave many in his dust at right wing (14). Thus, it came as no surprise when they were both selected for their school's 0/16A rugby team in 2021. Unfortunately, due to Covid, they did not get a fair chance to participate in rugby matches, as they hoped for. However, not deterred by this interruption, they continued to practice every single day.

Another highlight was Gino being selected as Captain for his school's interhouse athletics event in February 2022. Both Gino and Jodas participated and came first and second, respectively, in various items. Gino even broke a few records!

More often than not, we take the basic things our children require to learn and study for granted... for example having a proper table, good lighting, a computer, data access and even a power plug point in the room. Upon a visit to Gino's house, it was noticed that he did not have access to any of the above. We reached out to our supporters on Facebook, asking for assistance. Soon thereafter, we were able to bless him with a study desk, a bedside lamp and a laptop. The laptop was sponsored by Pragma, an asset management engineering company.

Gino was selected for his school 0/19A rugby team recently and went on his first ever rugby tour in March 2022, scoring 5 tries for his school during the tournament. Jodas was selected for the 0/19B team this year. We encourage you to watch this space....

If you would like to be part of these two young men's journey and help them to finish their school career on a high, please click on the following link to [donate to the Class of 2023 fund.](#)



RUDI KEYSER

Rudi Keyser is a 13-year-old boy, from Kuils River (Cape Town – South Africa), who was diagnosed with Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH) in 2021.

Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH) is a rare cancer that begins in LCH cells. LCH cells are a type of dendritic cell which fights infection. Sometimes there are mutations (changes) in LCH cells as they form. These include mutations of the BRAF, MAP2K1, RAS and ARAF genes. These changes may make the LCH cells grow and multiply quickly. Subsequently, LCH cells start to build up in certain parts of the body, potentially damaging tissue or forming lesions.

Friends of the Keyser family approached Distance For Difference for a donation towards a fund that was set up for Rudi. The purpose of the fund was to provide some peace of mind to the family and friends, with regards to the very costly treatment and to ensure that Rudi can have quality of life - same as every other healthy 13-year-old.

D4D's board of directors agreed to a once-off donation of R5,000 towards the fund.



We recently received feedback from Rudi's mom, and we are thankful to hear that he is doing well under the circumstances. He's still receiving blood tests, at Tygerberg Hospital, every 3 months. Currently, he is not receiving chemotherapy, but has scans, x-rays and many blood tests scheduled for April 2022, which will give them a good and clear indication of the way forward.

Our prayer for Rudi is that he will be courageous and strong. May God guide the Keyser family and strengthen them. May His healing hand protect Rudi and His peace overwhelm him on this road forward.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)



DISTANCE FOR DIFFERENCE



FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES



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THE REAL GRATITUDE RUN | 2020



Distance For Difference hosted the virtual edition of The Gratitude Run, named The Real Gratitude Run, on 24 October 2020. Although the event was virtual, the effort was still real and we wanted to create an opportunity for as many people as possible, no matter where they found themselves in the world to take part.

It was truly heart-warming to see people joining in and giving of themselves for the sake of others. Every participant was encouraged to wear something red, as a sign of camaraderie with all who took part in this virtual run, and many linked their efforts to a personal challenge, motivation or to simply show their gratitude for the good they had experienced in 2020. It was an act of thanking the Lord for every blessing, big and small, bestowed upon us, despite a challenging year, that will be talked about for decades to come. We even had an old friend and difference maker, Andrew Patterson, running in Manhattan, New York, creating a heart shape with the letters "D4D" in the centre through his route.

We were also touched by the stories of Elmarie Langeveldt and Kristi Spencer. Elmarie ran 68 km in the 12-hour Distance Challenge, in memory of her best friend, Jennifer Rorke, who lost her battle with cancer a few months before the event. Kristi ran 10 km with two of her friends, simply to say thank you to D4D for a small contribution we made towards the chemo costs for her little daughter, Zoe, earlier in 2020.



Many others joined in, like Buks Kotzé and his friends who entered three teams, The Coyotes, The Roadrunners and the Tortoises, in the 6-hour Team Distance Challenge. They came together and had fun for a good cause.

THE REAL GRATITUDE RUN | 2020

Others, like Attie Nieuwoudt, ran his very first half marathon with six of his friends.

Although we did not nearly reach our usual The Gratitude Run fundraising target of R250,000, we are still extremely grateful for the R30,000 that was raised.

D4D would like to thank each of the walkers, runners, donors, and supporters who made an impact with us by their participation. In the words of a well-known song: "We can't go on, pretending day-by-day, that someone, somewhere soon make a change, we're all part of God's great big family." Be the change.



PELGRIMSTOG VAN HOOP (2021)



Long-time friends of D4D, Buks and Maulise Kotzé, set out on the Pilgrimage of Hope, from Stellenbosch to Cape Agulhas. They started this crazy adventure on the 1st of May, 2021 and finished 15 days later. The walk covered a total distance of 310 km over a period of 16 days.

The route started at the Rhenish Church in Stellenbosch and meandered through the Cape Winelands to towns like Pniel, Franschhoek and Villiersdorp. They then ascended the Riviersonderend mountains and descended to Genadendal, the oldest mission station in South Africa. From there they entered the rolling hills of the Overberg, past the popular farm stall Dassiesfontein and eventually across the Babilonstoring mountains, to Volmoed in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley. From there they walked to Hermanus, Gansbaai and the interesting hamlet Baardskeerdersbos. The route stretched through the Sandberg Fynbos Reserve to Elim, and then to the farm Springfield Estate in the Agulhas National Park. The final stretch was along the coast from Brandfontein to the southernmost point and lighthouse at Cape Agulhas.

Before the start of their journey, they decided that they wanted to walk the Pilgrimage in support of a good cause, and Distance For Difference was honoured to be their chosen charity. Their goal was a fundraising total of R10,000. One of the most famous quotes of the late Nelson Mandela is about education: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." And this couple's objective was exactly this, to raise funds for the education of vulnerable children and other children charities supported by Distance For Difference, so that it might be used as the most powerful weapon to change the world.

This initiative exceeded all their expectations, raising far more than they had hoped for! D4D received a grand total of R23,798 from generous givers, for children in need.

Buks and Maulise had many hours of personal reflection during their journey. This pilgrimage was something very special to them, a journey which they will treasure for years to come. They would like to thank everyone for joining them, supporting them and encouraging them! D4D extends our most heartfelt appreciation towards Buks and Maulise for choosing D4D as their beneficiary.

The funds raised was used to further support Esther van Zyl, one of D4D's beneficiaries. (Read more about Esther van Zyl under "Making a Difference - Our Beneficiaries").

THE 10K DOUBLE & SWIM 4 HOPE



Endurance athlete, Howard Warrington is aiming to complete his 100th Robben Island Crossing (a 7.4 km swim) in May 2022. Next, he will swim the Strait of Gibraltar, a 16 km crossing from Punta de Tarifa, Spain to Cires Point, Morocco and then on to the big one: Howard aims to swim across False Bay, from Simon's Town to Rooi-Elis in 2022, raising funds for disadvantaged children.

The strong and unpredictable currents and winds, icy and often inconsistent water temperatures and the fact that False Bay has one of the highest populations of Great White sharks in the world, makes this 34 km swim from Miller's Point to Rooi-Elis treacherous. It could take up to 11 hours to complete on a clear day. It is very similar in length to the famous "English Crossing", which Howard also successfully completed in July 2018.

The first successful solo False Bay crossing was completed by Annemie Landmeters in 1989 and to date only 9 swimmers have completed this swim which is described as "the Everest of Cape Swims". Howard decided to name this specific challenge Swim 4 Hope, because he aspires to use his strength to give hope to disadvantaged children. Associated with Distance For Difference and Swim 4 Hope, Howard hopes to raise R250,00 for a group of children's charities.



During 2021 Howard decided to let his training for the above-mentioned event count. He wanted to train for a cause! On 2 October 2021, he swam a 10 km coastal swim from Gordon's Bay to Steenbras River Mouth and back, followed by a 10 km run, which ended at the Pitstop Lodge. This challenge was named, The 10K Double. Gordon's Bay Tourism and Pitstop Lodge were the two sponsoring partners who assisted with the promotion of "The 10K Double" to locals and patrons. The funds raised through this event, R14,000 in total, were split between Gordon's Bay Outreach (70 %) and D4D (30 %).

THE 10K DOUBLE & SWIM 4 HOPE



Follow D4D on social media, where we will most definitely inform everyone when the date for Swim 4 Hope is finalised. In the meantime, supporters can already start donating towards this cause. Simply click on the following link: <https://short.surf/SP1pbL> or scan the QR Code:

D4D



Swim 4 Hope Howard Warrington

THE500 2021



Avid cyclists looking to do their bit for D4D and ten other children's charities, pedalled their way to raising more than R700 000 during the bi-annual, THE500 24-Hr Cycling & Spinning Challenge on the 30th and 31st of October 2021, hosted at the Stellenbosch Flying Club (SFC).

The event aimed to raise funds for the purpose of ensuring that D4D and the chosen children's charities could continue performing their crucial work in the community.

We are intensely grateful to report that this event was the most successful installment of THE500 to date.



THE500 2021



When the proceedings were concluded on Sunday, 31 October with a prayer, we had a fundraising total of R661587. But the Lord was not done yet, and as all the admin was wrapped up, post event, we broke the R700 000 mark for the first time ever!

This is especially remarkable, as a year ago it was extremely doubtful whether THE500 would take place at all! D4D was without a venue for THE500, and the Covid-19 pandemic had people gripped in concern, fear and a seemingly unwillingness to get involved in anything. Planning and hosting an event of this sort, with all these uncertainties and challenges present, seemed near impossible, a mere product of wishful thinking. Many miracles were going to be needed and innumerable prayers were imminent. During the year we surfed the waves of doubt (and the pandemic), and our faith took several knocks, but we stood strong! Eventually, the question of where was answered, with the THE500 finding a home and new venue at the Stellenbosch Flying Club (SFC).

When October arrived, the necessary planning was going strong, and the third wave of Covid was weakening and heading to a low point. D4D had less than R80 000 of our R500 000 target in raised funds and only a handful of entries. Admittedly, the committee questioned whether all the effort was worth it. Yet we continued in faith and persevered, trusting God alone for the outcome. Do not be mistaken, our faith was to be tested till the very end.

Just four days before the event, we were informed that we will only have access to the venue on the morning of the event. A small army of about 20 very willing D4D friends and SFC personnel met at the airfield at 05:00 on Saturday and just two hours later all had been set up for the event – “a miracle in deed!”

The next curve ball was flung when we were informed that the crucial Wi-Fi access was problematic. A friend of D4D, Pietie Nel, stepped forward and offered access to Omnicom’s mobile router for the duration of the event - another miracle.

THE500 2021

Many more miracles led to the success of the fifth THE500, for example: the free use of Downing's' marquee, Virgin Active offering 30 spinning bikes at no cost, the Capitec and Seven Seas collaboration which led to donating 42 % of the eventual funds raised, 90 % of the spinning slots booked, free medical support from ER24, free vehicle branding, a donation to cover the costs of the Traffic Services and Hyundai's provision of a support vehicle.



Support and sponsorships from various organisations coincided with the best weather ever and even a break in load shedding, and all this accumulated into one the most blessed and special installments of THE500. We were starkly aware of God's presence and Hand over the entire event. Our hearts sing out in praise for all He has done.



THE500 2021

In the past funds raised via THE500, were distributed with a 50/50 split, between Patch Helderberg and D4D. Due to the negative effects of Covid-19 on our fundraising efforts and the subsequent financial position of several different charities, we decided that more children's charities should benefit from the 5th installment of THE500. After this resolution was made, in the beginning of 2021, we identified ten children's charities, of whom you might've read in this report, along with D4D, to benefit from the funds raised through THE500.

With a fundraising total of R700,000, came the incredibly important responsibility of distributing the funds. After careful consideration, we were able to declare an allotment of R400,000 (57.1 %) of these funds, divided amongst the following 10 children's charities:

- Patch Helderberg (R55,000)
- Gabriella Centre (R30,000)
- Heartlands Baby Sanctuary (R35,000)
- Little Angels (R35,000)
- Hagar's Choice (R35,000)
- Heaven's Gate (R20,000)
- Tzadokah Foster Home (R50,000)
- Sylvia Frank (R45,000)
- Kingdom Kids (R45,000)
- Esther van Zyl (R50,000)



D4D's Board of Directors meticulously deliberated, with various factors being considered, to decide about the best and most responsible manner in which to distribute these funds. These factors included: the financial position of each charity, the length and nature of D4D's relationship with each organisation, as well as the most urgent and immediate needs of each organisation.

D4D will utilise the remaining R300,000 for distribution to other children's charities, be that via current commitments or future applications for support.

(Read more about each beneficiary under "Making a Difference - Our Beneficiaries").

THE500 2021



As we close the chapter on THE500 2021, we want to profusely thank each and every one for their incredible contribution towards the event and the immense success thereof. The outcome would not have been possible without your loyal support! We were indeed blessed with your blessings, in order to, in return, bless others. We praise the Lord with thankfulness for His faithfulness and provision, always using those willing to be His hands and feet, to His glory. Children in need will always remain our passion in deed!



NTETHELELO ZIKALALA

Ntethelelo Zikalala is running 1200 km in 2022 to make a difference in collaboration with D4D.

He will be attempting to run a total distance of 1200 km this year, already having started his journey towards reaching his goal. At the time of writing this report, he has completed 388 km, with only 812 km to go.

The challenge will involve running both indoors and outdoors. Last year he ran a total distance of 1000 km, which he claims is by far the greatest achievement of his life. In 2022, he wants to challenge himself even further, while making a difference in the lives of children, through his running.



He has decided to support a charity which is close to his heart, namely Distance For Difference (D4D).

He would love to have your support in the form of donations or sponsorships, which will go towards his mission of raising funds while running. His aim is to raise at least R12,000 - (on average, R10 per kilometre.) His fundraising total currently stands on R6,440.

Please support his fundraising initiative and help him to raise funds through Distance For Difference for children in need.

Click on the following link to make your pledge:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Zikalala>.

Scan the QR codes below to donate:

netcash[®]

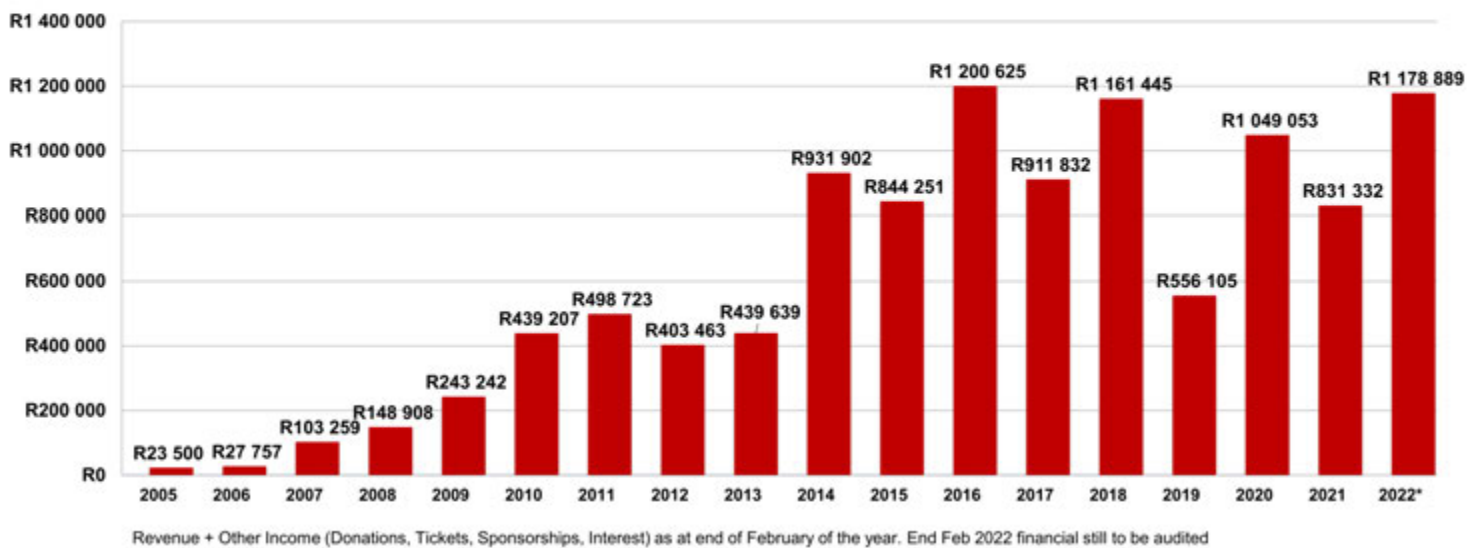


FINANCIAL FACTS

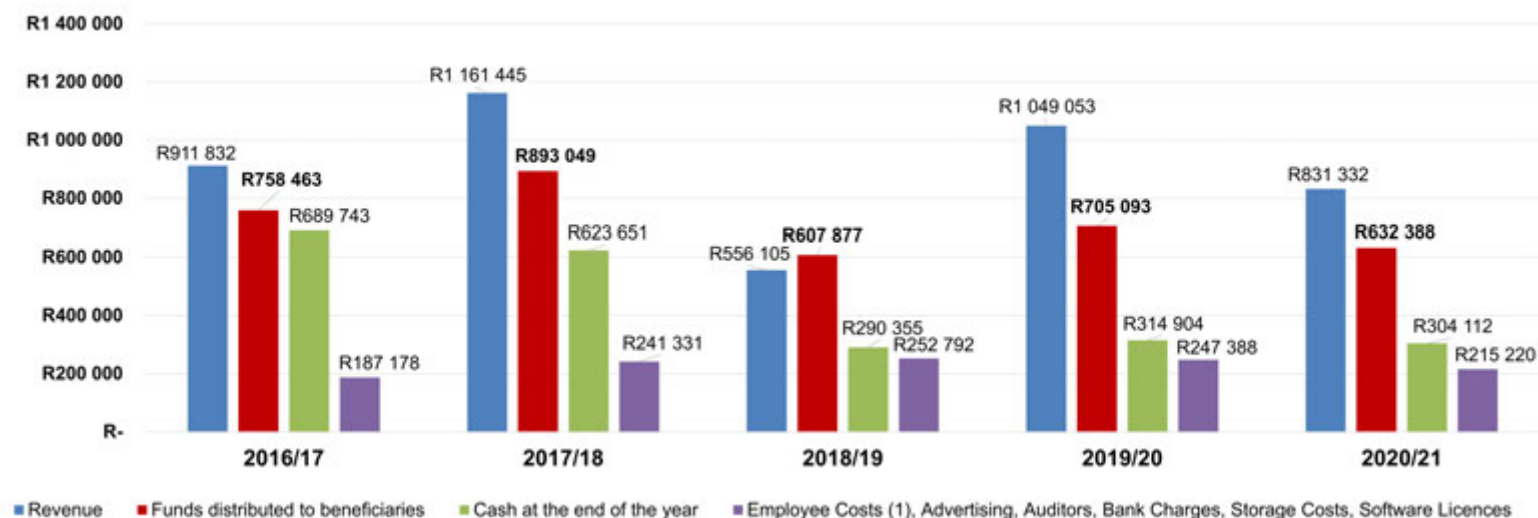
Distance for Difference is audited by FinHub Chartered Accountants Inc. Our full set of annual financial reports is available upon request.

Below you will find a summary of our fundraising history. There is also a chart comparing our income, costs and fund distributions for the last several financial years.

Revenue History | Total: R10,993,132



Revenue | Funds Distributed (on avg. 80% of Revenue) | Cash Reserves | Major Operational Costs



Please take note: Our financial year runs from March 1st to February 28th of every year. Our audited results are normally released in September of each year.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED



We would undoubtedly love to keep on doing what we do, making a measurable difference in the lives of children, but we cannot do that without your support. Hopefully by now, after reading through this report, you share our desire to make a difference, which would leave us with little to none convincing left to do. Your question might now be this: "How can I get involved?" Fear not, there are many options:



Arrange for a debit order at your bank and support D4D on a monthly basis

Please refer to our website to find information on the different payment methods to make a donation: Netcash, SnapScan or EFT (electronic funds transfer). Take note, this is not a one-sided deal; we will provide a Section 18A Tax Certificate for tax purposes. But besides that, you will know that you form an instrumental part in helping D4D to continue in the work we do.



Personalised Sponsorship Campaign

Another way to get involved is the idea on which D4D was originally founded; use your love for running, walking, cycling or swimming to raise funds and make every kilometre count! Distance For Difference can assist you by creating personalised sponsorship pages for individual athletes. You then set a goal for both the number of kilometres you'd like to complete over a given period and the fundraising goal that you'd like to raise for D4D over the same period of time. The next step would then be you approaching family, friends, colleagues, strangers etc. to sponsor you for every kilometre completed. This includes every kilometre completed, either in your personal training during the year or at a specific event.



Participate in our events

Keep your eyes on our Facebook page, Instagram and Website to get the latest details on our annual events and how you can get involved. There is always something for everyone. We hope to see you there.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED



Woolworths - MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet

The Woolworths MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet programme is South Africa's leading community loyalty programme, enabling supporters to raise funds for over 8000 different causes and organizations. Hence, you can imagine our excitement when we were approved to become one of the 8000 beneficiaries of this remarkable programme.

We earnestly encourage all of our supporters, who are not yet registered for this programme, to apply for a card today. Be sure to choose and list Distance For Difference as your preferred, personal beneficiary.

If you are already a member, please confirm that Distance For Difference is selected as your beneficiary. Members may choose to support up to three varied beneficiaries. Visit their website (<https://www.myschool.co.za/>) and update your beneficiary section.

Though we trust in your pure motivation to make a difference in the lives of children, you do not walk away from this deal empty-handed. Herewith a few benefits:

- You can raise funds for your favourite charity (D4D) by simply buying groceries etc., without it costing you an extra cent.
- You can use one card at a variety of stores.
- You'll receive exclusive discounts and special offers.
- You will receive a monthly statement, by email, outlining exactly how much you spent during the month, and raised for your beneficiary/beneficiaries.

And all you have to do is sign up and "Please have your Woolworths and MySchool Card ready" to swipe. Please support us in this initiative by downloading an application form on D4D's website.



RAISE FUNDS FOR
WHAT MATTERS
MOST TO YOU



Thank you



Were it not for the love, encouragement and support we receive from all our friends, family, loyal supporters, donors and members of D4D, these success stories could not and would not be told. From the bottom of our heart, we want to thank everyone for supporting our cause and for making a difference with us, be it for the past 17 years or starting today. May the cry of our heart always remain that children in need is our passion in deed. And may the fruits of our labour continue to make a difference in the lives of children, solely for the glory of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Banking Details

- Bank: ABSA
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- Swift code (for overseas payments): ABSAZAJJ



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