

BOOST AFRICA FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2021



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A word from the Directors

"If you want to change the world, go home and love your family." -MT

At Boost our ultimate goal is to engage the family unit. We host Family Strengthening Saturdays where families get together around a meal and spend quality time together playing math games, reading books, and doing art.

Our Boost family is growing. We grew with two new babies: Kai and William, two new Aftacool moms, and a few volunteers.

Since the family unit is extremely important to us, we're proud of hosting four Family Strengthening Saturdays. We were amazed by the turnout. The workshop gets families together around a meal and facilitates specific practical communication and parenting tools for the parents and children.

We are also very excited about our Aftacool club in the Eastern Cape. It started up this year and we can't wait to start more clubs all over South Africa. Aftacool is not just an after-school program but a chance for children to be part of a loving community. An Aftacool mom intentionally builds a relationship with the children in her group. This relationship goes beyond just teaching content. They spend time getting to know individual children and reaching out to the parents. In doing so they meet the children where they're at and encourage them individually.

Individual attention is very important in our context, and we are excited about the one-on-one online reading programme that we started this year. Six online volunteers have signed up and spent time with struggling readers once a week.

We do a reading assessment with our learners who attend the Aftacool programme. When we identify them as struggling readers they are invited to the Reading Club at our centre. We expose them to shared book reading (online and in-person), tablet learning, and if necessary, phonics. The negative effects of early illiteracy adversely affect the development of cognitive skills and later, education. When identified, it's a crucial need to address.

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge, and a better understanding of other cultures. In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

We are encouraged to see that families are spending quality time together by engaging in educational activities like reading, math games and crafts. This is how we unlock potential in individuals - one family at a time, one book at a time.

Elbie Postma Botha & Christine Fyvie

VALUES

We hope to instill the values of our Aftacool programme in our staff, children and their families.

ADVENTUROUS
AUTHENTICITY
COMMITMENT
COMPASSION
CONCERN FOR OTHERS
CONSISTENCY
COURAGE
DEPENDABILITY
ENTHUSIASM
FEARLESSNESS
FRIENDLINESS^o
GOOD HUMOR
HONESTY
HONOR
INDEPENDENCE
INTEGRITY
KINDNESS
LOYALTY
OPEN-MINDEDNESS
OPTIMISM
PERSEVERANCE
PRAGMATISM
POSITIVITY
RELIABILITY
RESPECT

Board Members



YASHVIR MAHARAJ - CHAIRPERSON

Yashvir is the founder and owner of Insight Survey which was established in 2006. He has more than 20 years of global market research & marketing strategy experience and has worked in the USA, Europe, UK, and Japan. In 2012, he met Mary Mytting and was inspired by the vision of Boost Africa Foundation to create future South African leaders through education. Yashvir volunteered on a part-time basis for 6 months in 2012 and was appointed to the board in 2015.



KWANELE JEZILE - VICE CHAIRPERSON

Kwanele completed his electrical engineering degree at CPUT in 2010. In 2011 he enrolled in the graduate program at Transnet (SOE) and has been working for the company ever since as an engineering technician. In 2017 he completed a degree in Project Management at CPUT. Kwanele grew up in the area and understands the community. He believes Boost Africa can bring some of the solutions to the challenges the community faces.



BABALWA NYANGENI - SECRETARY

Babalwa has a finance background and a Postgraduate Diploma in Management Practice: Innovative Leadership Specialisation, University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business. She is currently working at Direct Axis in Brand Performance Optimisation. We are very excited to have her on our board this coming year to assist with our administration.



JOHANNES POSTMA - TREASURER

Jo is a qualified Chartered Accountant who has run his own accounting practice for the last 10 years. He is a very valuable board member to have, an expert in his field and always willing to provide advice and recommendations when needed.



LUCKY MAYAPHI - BOARD MEMBER

Lucky has more than 20 years experience in the petroleum industry. He has worked both in local and international markets, with an emphasis on sales and marketing. He is currently a General Manager at the Strategic Fuel Fund. Lucky has a heart for development and became involved with Boost Africa in 2012.



MARY MYTTING - FOUNDER & VICE-SECRETARY

A Canadian citizen, Mary has lived and worked as a volunteer in South Africa for over 10 years. She started Boost Africa in 2007 after realising that many children are kept from school because their parents or guardian simply cannot afford a uniform. She returned to Canada in 2016 to find employment and save for her retirement. She is also the Director of Boost Africa Canada, and manages donations from a few individual donors for the benefit of Boost Africa South Africa.

The team



Elbie Botha
Director



Christine Fyvie
Director



Thuso Malinga
Programme Manager



Sinazo Songqaba
After School Practitioner



Suzanne Smit
Programme Manager



Okhule Dyonase
After School
Practitioner



Malekhooa Mofoka
After School Practitioner
& Receptionist



Phiwe Plaatjies
After School
Practitioner



Noluthando Meyi
After School
Practitioner



Ngeniswa Macinctwane
After School
Practitioner



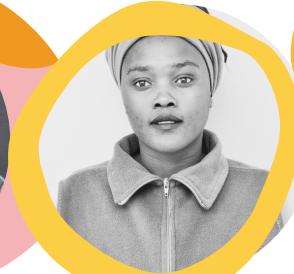
Colile Vilakati
Sewing



Nontiskelelo Mzolisa
Sewing



Mavis Gxothani
Sewing



Nonkonzo Mzolisa
Sewing



Miranda Tshaya
Sewing



Elizabeth Arendse
Case worker



Bukiwe Nocanda
Cleaner



Grace Gciniwe
After School Practitioner



Sinethemba Bioza Nomveliso Nwebani
After School Practitioner



Grace Gciniwe
Volunteer



Max Arnold
Volunteer Sewing



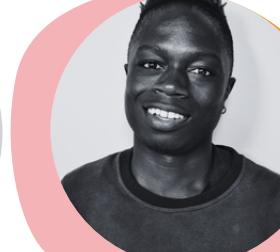
Rebekka Bekker
Volunteer After School



Silvia Arnold
Volunteer



Ena De Villiers
Volunteer



Tawanda Chipunza
Volunteer

Programme Impact

Here at Boost, we unlock the potential of South African communities by offering support and learning opportunities to those who most need it.

We do this in three ways:

Learning, Resources, and Networking.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

People that are constantly learning are constantly unlocking their potential. That's why we're currently running **ten programmes that inspire learning** in toddlers to adults.

1. LIBROMAT

We started with this programme in January focusing on unemployed mothers with toddlers aged 2-5 who are not attending creche. Many children are not exposed to early learning and research has shown that the most impact can be achieved in those early years of learning. The mom and tots groups meet once a week for 2/3 hours for about 12 weeks and work through a curriculum based on book sharing and early learning. Once the moms and toddlers graduate from the programme they are invited to attend our open Friday group where we focus on arts and craft, reading, singing, and puzzles.

Three of our staff members attended a 5-day book sharing training with the **Mikhulu Trust** in Paarl. Book sharing is a special kind of interaction between an adult and a young child using a picture book. It is not simply 'reading' to a child who listens passively – instead, it is an active exchange, led by the child, and supported by an adult who is attentive to their interests and communication. This enjoyable and simple activity has been proven to improve children's language and cognitive development, and help children understand and get along with others.

18 moms and 19 toddlers successfully completed the programme in 2021 while another 5 are still busy with the training and will complete it in the new year. We also partnered with **The Breteau Foundation** who sponsored our first Libromat graduates with tablets for home learning. The Breteau Foundation aims to get technology directly into the hands of disadvantaged children to reduce the digital divide and education inequalities. They will return the tablets after 6 months and we will distribute it to the next group who graduate from our programme.

We have also been approved as a distribution partner for **Bookdash** and we are so excited to join in their vision of "**Every child should own a hundred books by the age of five**". Research shows that owning books is a key factor in holistic early development and lifelong academic and economic success: the effect of owning books outweighs a child's socio-economic status and is equaled only by the parents' level of education. By working together to increase book ownership among young children, we can effectively disrupt the cycle of inequality for good.

It's very challenging to find and encourage unemployed mothers who want to commit to the programme. They are disengaged from opportunity or the learning of new skills, making them vulnerable. We have started an incentive programme whereby our staff receive *commission* when they bring a mom and toddler to the group, and encourage them to attend weekly.

We believe in this programme and its deep impact once the mother is committed and complete the 10-12 week course. The programme Boosts the future of learning for both mother and child.



2. AFTACOOL

Since its inception in 2018, we've seen many children find new, healthy friendships, learn vital skills and discover real hope through this programme. By focusing on our 5 pillars of critical thinking, emotional intelligence, creativity, literacy and numeracy, we've seen some of these children blossom into rounded, emotionally mature human beings ready to take their place in the world.

We are currently running **8 clubs** - including one in the Eastern Cape. Our aim is to have 25 clubs running by 2025, add seven clubs in 2022, and then five new clubs for each of the following two years. In 2021 we reached **170** learners, hosted **3 family strengthening** workshops and saw an increase in most learners' emotional awareness, literacy levels and numeracy levels. We have also seen lots of creativity, storytelling, and critical thinking that in turn inspires learners to attend regularly because they have fun while learning.

AftaCool is not just an after-school project. It offers a chance for children to be part of a loving community. An AftaCool mom intentionally builds relationships with the children in her group that go beyond purely teaching content. They spend time getting to know the individual children and reach out to the parents, meeting the children where they're at, and offering encouragement and guidance. I



We do a literacy assessment with every child and this year we identified almost 20 learners who cannot read English which is why we started two reading group for struggling readers. We also monitor the children's school reports to identify learners who fail maths or English.

We make contact with the parents, the class teacher, and if necessary refer the child for learning problem assessment or counselling.

It is very important to us that our Aftacool moms receive continuous training. We are proud of our Aftacool moms who attended 8 days of training in Art Therapy with Butterfly Art Project. Aftacool moms are also trained on each term's specific curriculum. This also gives us the opportunity to check in with our moms and discuss different emotional awareness topics and incidences that occurred during the term.

Our 4 year curriculum and 3 year strategy has now been designed and finalised and we are excited to make this dream a reality.

3 Year Strategy

Aftacool

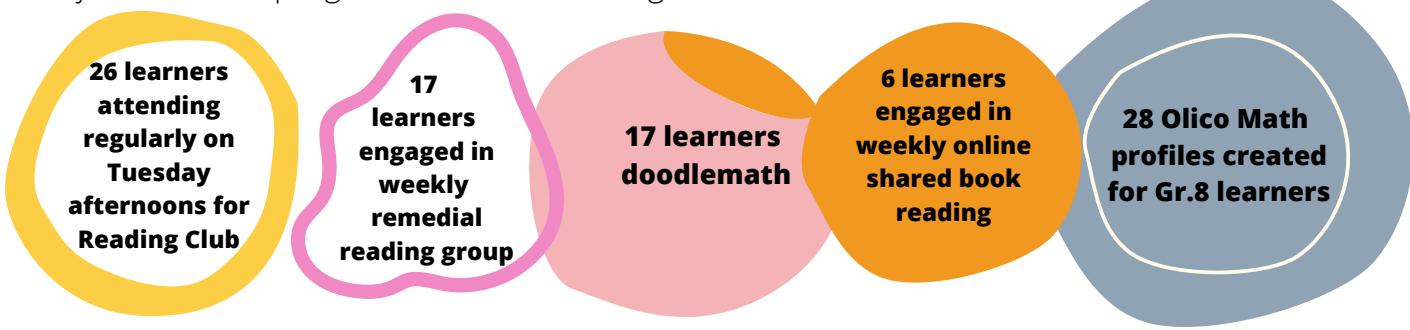


3. Reading & Math

Reading is a big focus at Boost and we want to encourage children to find a love for reading. Storytime at Boost is a safe and relaxing space where children spend time together on the carpet and engage with interesting stories. We encourage children to take books home as well as earn points for books read and understood. They can spend their points at the stationery swap shop.

Children who are exposed to great and well-told stories in languages they understand are motivated to learn to read and write for themselves. Children who regularly read for pleasure perform better in the classroom. We have also launched online reading this year and have volunteers that read to children online. Both the children and adult volunteers really enjoy this interaction.

The children play Math Games to increase their number skills and foster a love for math. We are also encouraging them to make use of Doodlemath, an educational math programme that they can play on a phone or on a computer at our centre. We also encourage our Grade 7 learners to register for Olico Maths, and hope that some of them will join the Olico programme at the local High School in Gr.8.



4. Computer Explorers

In 2021, the computer explorer club worked through the code.org curriculum on Thursday afternoons.

After 8 months we identified 10 learners who showed progress and interest in coding. The rest of the learners were not engaged and did not make any progress so we decided to start a creative arts programme with them while continuing a more advance coding and robotics programme with the identified 10 learners.

The advanced coding and robotics programme works with a small group of learners teaching them the basics of electronics and problem solving. They will also be assisted with extra math tutoring and will also follow the unplugged coding curriculum provided by Tanks.

We will also be taking in a new group of learners who are interested in coding to work through our basics of coding curriculum in 2022. We will then once again identify 10-15 learners who can progress to the advanced curriculum.



5. World Explorers

This is our Friday fun club where we explore different countries each week. 46 children have been registered and engaged in the club that runs at Boost Centre. We already visited Egypt, Ethiopia, and Tanzania. This week we are visiting Rwanda - and you're welcome to join us! We always end the term with a food tasting of a food from the country the children 'visited'. Sinazo and Elizabeth, our after-school practitioners on this programme, did a really good job at preparing and setting up.

6. Computer Literacy

Our computer literacy training is very popular. 105 individuals attended our 2-week basic computer programme. 105 individuals completed the Basic Computer Literacy course.

7. Job Readiness

This is a 4-week journey to finding meaningful opportunity. 16 individuals attended the Job Readiness course that we run. They graduated on the 19th of March, 2022. The course started on 1 June with 12 participants. We are very inspired by the impact of the previous course - 8 of the 15 graduates are currently employed! We are grateful to volunteers from Common Ground Church who have signed up to mentor graduates in their journey to finding meaningful employment. 37 individuals have also completed the 12-week Job Readiness journey.



8.Sewing

57 individuals graduated from the 10-week sewing course. They start off with a starter course of two weeks. The starter course shows participants their skills and ignites a joy for sewing. The starter course also makes it clear whether attendees have a passion for sewing and are able to progress to the next course.

Here they learn all the sewing machine parts and functions, as well as sew a pin cushion and a patchwork scatter cushion. During the 8-week sewing course, participants make a shoe bag, an apron, a tracksuit, and a skirt. The sewing course is also a safe space where many women find hope and purpose in their lives. We are working on running the sewing, job readiness, computer, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy courses once every six months.

9.Financial literacy

30 individuals attended the financial literacy and entrepreneurship workshops.

10.Family Strengthening

We held 4 family strengthen workshops and were amazed by the turnout This workshop gets families together around a meal on a Saturday and facilitates specific practical communication and parenting tools for parents and children.



RESOURCES

We believe in **empowering people** to change their own lives, instead of simply giving handouts and further reinforcing a negative power dynamic. Currently, we host four resource programmes:

1. 'BOOST' YOUR LIFE

At the beginning of 2021 we had a debriefing session with the Poverty Stoplight Team to analyse the interviews we did in 2020. This tool is designed to be a self assessment tool. It asks families to assess their lives according to the 50 indicators of poverty, encouraging them to come up with practical solutions to address their needs. Each question has an option for: doing ok, struggling, or stuck. A total possible score of 150 is possible if a family scored 'doing ok' (3) for all 50 questions. In total 107 families used the tool, 82 of which are families with children in our Aftacool clubs. The table below shows the distribution of the total scores for the interviews we did.

Table 1. Distribution of Total scores for 116 Poverty Stoplight Interviews			
Greater than 40	5	Greater than 15	1
Greater than 35	14	Greater than 10	20
Greater than 25	57	Greater than 7	42
		Greater than 4	78

In our debrief session it was clear that Dunoon could be classified as a severely impoverished community. During one of our discussions with The Poverty Stoplight team, it became clear that there's evidence of a large amount of trauma present in the community. Many people indicated 'being stuck' in the area of *Security* as well as *An unpolluted environment*. The Poverty Stoplight team mentioned that in their experience of working across South Africa, poverty was particularly bad.

Surprisingly, the scores for self-awareness and motivation were unusually high and did not correlate to other sections. The team suggested that these high scores were most likely an indicator of suppressed trauma, indicating a feeling of apathy and hopelessness for their situation. People are most likely in survival mode and struggle to confront the effect the reality they live in may have on their psyche.

According to these results, it was suggested that 'entrepreneurship or self-employment programmes were unlikely to succeed. Safety and stability are key to self-actualization and the reality of Dunoon is that any entrepreneur would be fighting an uphill battle. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that Boost will ever be able to address the systemic problems in Dunoon. However, the programmes they suggested could actually make a difference in this sort of environment where we can provide a safe space, a place where people can process trauma and find real motivation.

This lines up with our core strategy, to offer a safe place for individuals to process and find ways to unlock their own potential. Over the last year, we have put referral pathways in place for counselling, assigned a case manager and trained our staff to identify trauma. Whilst entrepreneurship programmes are tempting, we sensed these may not be as effective as one would think. Although these surveys remind us of the tough environment we work in, it is encouraging to know that we are on the right track to making a difference. We used the tool again with 55 families from our Aftacool clubs in 2021 and with the ladies taking part in our recycling programme. Some of these families did it for a second time so we will track their progress in our next debriefing session.



2. RECYCLE SWOP SHOP

Whilst food assistance is necessary up to a point, it can create an unsustainable dependency that can have long term negative effects. For this reason, we designed the Recycle Swop Shop as an alternative to traditional food relief. We also invested in supporting and setting up a food garden. Our measured impact:

- 45 000 kg of recycled material collected
- R70 000.00 of food stock and stationery distributed
- 48 families engaged in the Waste Not Swop Shop

We are also committed to facilitating the families who are involved in the swop shop into initiatives at Boost for example job readiness, sewing, language classes, and our after-school programmes. We have started doing Poverty Stoplight with the ladies, and plan to involve their families as well.

3. FOOD GARDEN

We have harvested beetroot, turnips, spinach, radishes and green beans. We have also had to deal with pests and lost a few of our cabbages... but that's how you learn.

We have also assisted Silverleaf Primary School to apply for funding to establish a food garden at the school. The school now have a big food garden and the vegetables are used in the school feeding programme.

4. COMPUTER LAB

Since quality online learning is available to anyone with a computer and a good connection, we're glad to have had 2 893 visits to our computer lab in 2021, with a further 724 individuals visiting.

5. STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

This year we supported four students. Sinazo completed her third year teaching with excellent results. Slnethemba and Phiwe joined a Gr12 support group to prepare to re-write their Grade 12 in 2022. We also supported Okuhle in completing her electrical engineering qualification. We are always encouraging learning and unlocking potential in our staff members.

6. WALK IN CENTRE

Our learning centre in Dunoon was open from 13 January 2021 to 10 December 2021.

During this time:

- 84 learners were assisted with placements at school
- 17 children with learning difficulties were identified and referred to partner organisations
- 74 individuals were referred for counselling or social work assistance with transport provided

We have a good referral system in place and we have been able to follow up and assist cases where children would have been forgotten and left to fight for themselves. One such case is a girl whom we looked up and found in one of the poorest areas of Dunoon without water or electricity services. The mother was very ill and the little girl was left to look after her mother. She has also never attended school and was already 10 years old.

One of the schools that we work with was willing to take her and she started her schooling when the schools opened in May. Her mother sadly passed away during the holidays and we had to notify social services of her situation. Social services met with her at the Boost centre and it was decided to place her in a safe house. We are so grateful that she had a safe place to come to and that we could assist. A safe space is so important in a very violent and traumatised community like Dunoon.

NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIPS

More often than not, whom you know is more important than what you know. Relationships and connections are at the heart of unlocking potential, which is why we've spent huge amounts of resources, time, and energy on building connections with people in our context of Dunoon.

It's also why our center is a walk-in centre helping people from the community with school placements, learning problems, cases of neglect, abuse, and other social issues.

We know that it takes a village to raise a child, which is why we have strong partnerships with other NGOs already filling the gaps in social work, child care, abuse, and more. Linking hands with these partners and organizations, we've seen the value of our center becoming a safe space and central hub here in Dunoon, contrasted with the very violent and traumatised community outside our doors.

We currently have partnerships with:

Jelly Beans - who offer trauma counselling for vulnerable children and their families

Goldilocks & Bear Foundation - screening of children with learning difficulties

Hope House - counselling service and training centre

Greenlight Movement - poverty stoplight tool and analysis of data

The Zanokhanyo Network - providing work readiness training

The Clothing Bank - providing entrepreneurship as well as me and my money training

Breteau Foundation - tablet donation for our Libromat toddlers.

Mikhulu Trust - shared book reading programme, training and mentoring on book sharing for toddlers.

Learning Trust - capacity building of organisations in the after-school space

Olico - We make use of their math games in our Aftacool clubs

Tanks - Offline coding game resource provided to use in our computer explorers club

Bookdash - donation of south african childrens books so that children can own their own books



INCOME AND EXPENSES REPORT

Profit and Loss Report	1 Jan 2021-31 Dec 2021
Income	
Monetary Income	R1,757,940.00
Non Monetary Income	R413,760.00
Retained Income	R500,000.00
Total for Income	R2,671,700.00
Expenses	
Accounting & Audit Fees	R3,500.00
Advertising & Marketing	R16,584.00
AftaCool	R74,323.00
Bank Charges	R11,906.00
Learning Centre Resources	R4,750.00
Learning Centre Sundries	R24,679.00
Computer Expenses	R4,296.00
COVID 19 response expense	R3,378.00
Electricity & Water	R59,484.00
Insurance	R11,016.00
Job Readiness Programme	R4,221.00
Libromat	R46,682.00
Motor Vehicle - Petrol	R30,221.00
Motor Vehicle repairs and maintenance	R18,737.00
myDunoon	R14,093.00
PAYE TAX	R63,994.00
Postage	R650.00
Printing & Stationery	R7,779.00
Learning Centre Repairs & Maintenance	R2,149.00
Rental Learning Centre	R300,000.00
Salaries & Wages	R1,083,164.00
Savings Investment	R500,000.00
Sewing Centre Supplies	R1,204.00
Siyafunda Afterschool Club	R3,109.00
Staff Training	R12,230.00
Staff Wellness	R4,746.00
Swop Shop	R18,050.00
Telephone & Internet	R12,403.00
Waste Not Swop Shop	R45,845.00
Total for Expenses	R2,383,193.00
Surplus	R288,507.00