



# Philadelphia

Foundation for Orphans in Distress

*“....See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut....”  
(Rev. 3:7-8)*

## ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021



The Philadelphia Foundation for Orphans was established in 2004 and is working with orphans and vulnerable children. Our main aim is to improve the quality of life of orphans and vulnerable children within their communities. The aim and objectives are practically implemented by providing material support as well as training and income-generating projects through which capacity is increased and poverty reduced. Through child evangelism clubs the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ is shared with the children, as to offer them an eternal future.

Several projects are running to implement the objectives that were set to reach this aim. This report will highlight the main activities. Due to the outbreak of corona in the beginning of 2020 we had to make some adjustments in our program.

## Education support

### School uniforms

Namibian children need to wear a school uniform when they are at school. In the beginning of the year 2021, we encountered two boys that did not register for the new school year yet, for different reasons. But both of them could not afford the necessary school uniform. Philadelphia could help them with that and also supported one of them with the payment of his school fees.

## We care

### Blankets

At the start of winter, when Philadelphia always has the annual blanket action, the schools and youth groups were closed and the country was in lockdown. So, to hand out blankets to a group was a bit more complicated than usual. In cooperation with one of the preschool teachers we work with, we were able to track children down that we could give blankets to. We handed them out in a new part of Blikkiesdorp (the squatter camp), called "Kap en Bou" (Afrikaans for chop and build). It's a large area where people themselves decided to take pieces of land and then built their homes on it. There is no water, no electricity and because it was done without planning, the erven cannot all be reached by car. But with some effort we managed to hand out the blankets.



### Soup kitchens

This year we started with three soup kitchens at preschools, but as corona hit and schools were closed and we were in lockdown we had to stop. Not long afterward we arranged for one of them, located in Blikkiesdorp, to start up again. Children could not come and eat there, but had to pick up their meal as take away. In that way we were adhering to the rules and regulations stipulated by the government. Later in the year, when schools were opened again, we could also start the second soup kitchen again. The third one did not start again, as the teacher who ran that school moved out of the region.

## Food parcels

Many people in Namibia are dependent of their daily income to survive, they do not have saving accounts or anything to fall back on. During the lock down many businesses were not allowed to open, including the ones who sell tomatoes and onions at the side of the road. Knowing that many people would suffer, Philadelphia decided to distribute food parcels to support families. A lady living in



Blikkiesdorp made a list for us of all the families who were struggling due to the regulations. In cooperation with a local supermarket, who made the parcels for us, we were able to distribute 200 food parcels over the length of a couple of weeks.

## Milk

We were privileged to receive milk from a local farm for the second half of the year. In general it was about 60L twice a week, but sometimes it was more than 100L. We used it for soup kitchens and could hand it out to many families and the boys we work with.





## Family support

During wintertime we asked several people we work with to make lists of children that are struggling, so that we could support them with clothes. In the end we were able to give clothes to about 100 children.



## Skills development

### Preschools

Due to corona much of the face-to-face classes were canceled, leaving teachers with new challenges. First of all a loss of income, as many children dropped out of preschool in the course of the year. Second of all, they had to think of new ways of teaching and reaching the children that were still in school. The curriculum we work with cooperated with the national news papers and produced workbooks that schools could use to let the children work at home. There were also workbooks for the preschools, so Philadelphia delivered those to the teachers and the teachers made sure the parents would come and pick them up. We still came together for our meetings when it was possible. During these meetings we recorded lessons on our cellphone, so that they could transfer it to the cellphones of the parents. We also prayed together, to find our peace in God and to put our trust in Him. As one teacher said: before the corona crisis she

always stressed a lot and had a feeling she had to do everything herself. Now it's just so big, she is not even going to try to do it herself, she just surrendered everything to Him.

In January 2021 we helped with a training for preschool teachers from Bushmanland. It was with a smaller group than usual, as only the ones who were selected as leaders for their area came. So the training was not only about preschool related subjects, but there were also lessons about leadership.

### Street kids

With the group of boys that roam the streets, we could continue almost through all of the year, because it is a small group. We continued with the same boys as last year on Tuesdays and Thursdays and started with a new group on Tuesdays. With the new boys we started with games and fun activities, so that they can get used to coming to and being in the group. With the old group we continued with reading and sewing. The goal was to learn how to make tote bags, that people can use as shopping bags. But when it became compulsory to wear masks in public places we started to make masks first. Some boys were really quite good at needlework. With one boy we tried to let him join a lady who has a sewing shop in town, so that he could learn from her. Unfortunately that did not work out. Nearing the end of the year the old group was finished, and most of them found work at a farm. By then the new group was ready to also start with learning how to read and do needlework. With one of the boys we made a garden at his place. We hope the others will follow soon!





## Evangelism

### Youth club

At the beginning of the year we decided to add new teenagers to the youth club. Resulting in over 50 teenagers coming every week. But not long afterward, we had to close the youth group, as due to corona we were not allowed to have meetings. Many lessons were canceled because of this throughout the year, making it challenging to stay in touch with the youth and to keep them coming in the times that it was allowed. In the times it was allowed to come together, it still was not the same, as we had to sit far from each other, wear masks, sanitize and register. But it was at least something. The last lessons of the year we spoke about the armor of God. Which is so important for us all, especially in times like these.



Camp was cancelled this year and our Christmas celebration was also a bit different, as there was no time to prepare anything and there was no way of knowing that we would be allowed to have guests to come and see a play or anything. So we just celebrated it with our group only, watching the movie “the Shepherd” of The Chosen, and having some nice snacks and they all received a gift bag.

### Hostel

One of the secondary schools in Grootfontein has a hostel for boys and one for girls. For a couple of years now we would go to the girls hostel to have bible study with them every Wednesday afternoon. However, due to corona we were not allowed to go into the hostel for a large part of the year, as they were keeping outsiders out in fear of contamination. Only later in the year we could go back and we spoke with them about topics like worship and identity in Christ. It was wonderful to see them again and to spend time with them.

### Permaculture

One of the boys in our group (street kids) was interested in gardening. He read several books about it and wanted to make a vegetable garden in his yard. We helped him with compost and seeds for tomatoes, beans, spinach and cabbage.

