Our vision and mission

We contribute to the community and society through:

- Socially responsible childcare facilities, programmes, services and initiatives.
- A dedicated focus on providing opportunities for our youth to SHINE™ where others have given up hope.
- Innovative, effective programmes and services that build strengths and meet youth, family and community needs.

To investors and donors we offer:

- Programmes that serve youth, families and communities.
- Our knowledge, skills and experience in the field of childcare.
- Transparency and accountability.

Creating opportunities for youth to grow into responsible citizens who are able to contribute positively to their communities

- Hard-working and focused staff
- Beautiful residences
- Home environment
- Strong administrative processes

Reserves maintained at a sustainable level
- Staff who care and go the extra mile
- Youth who succeed, grow wings and SHINE™
- Sustainable debit order base that covers 33% of operational expenditure

Delivering value

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List of abbreviations and their definitions

- ABET: Adult Basic Education and Training
- ADHD: Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder
- ERS: Evaluation and Research Services
- FS: Family Services
- GBT: Girls and Boys Town
- NACCW: National Association of Child Care Workers
- NPO: Non-Profit Organisation
- PART: Professional Assault Response Training
- PGS: Peer Group System
- RAP: Regional Assessment Panels
- RS: Residential Services
- TES: Training and Education Services
- WMC: Well-Managed Classroom
Our values and principles

Our history

The story of the then Boys Town, and since 2004 Girls and Boys Town, is one of the most heart-warming tales of human endeavour of the 20th century.

The Girls and Boys Town journey has been a tale of everyday life in most societies of the world – the tragedy of fear, loss, despair, abuse, neglect and the triumph of faith, courage and hope that changes the way we care for children. Its legacy is about fulfilling dreams and bettering lives.

In 1958, Magaliesburg saw the first, then Boys Town, residential home established – borne out of the compassion, altruism and social consciousness of its founders, initially providing a home for nine youngsters from a local children’s home who had been destined for a so-called trade school.

These boys were soon joined by 17 others from children’s homes throughout the country and since then, the organisation has continued to expand exponentially over the following 58 years – including focusing on work with girls.

Six things a child needs to hear

I love you
You make me proud
You are one in a million
Great job! Well done
I believe in you
You are very special

Our commitments

- Belief in the uniqueness and potential of every child to mature and grow to responsible adulthood.
- Promotion of spiritual growth and development in our work with youth, families and communities.
- A firm belief in the preservation of the family and the value of family life for the well-being of the child.
- Commitment to the provision of services based on recognised and legislated conventions on children’s rights.
- Adherence to the principle of non-discrimination in all that we do.
- The maintenance of responsible standards in child and youth-care practice.
- Service delivery that is responsive to social conditions and the needs of youth.
- The sharing of Girls and Boys Town’s knowledge and skills.
- Sound corporate governance.
- Transparency and accountability to donors and stakeholders.
- Ethical fundraising and investing.
Our timeline

1958
The first Boys Town opens in Magaliesburg. The facility opened in a vacant mission school run by Dominican Sisters.

1968
First liaison office launched in Johannesburg. Represents new approach to financial sustainability and sets apart Boys Town’s fundraising approach from other charities.

1970
Camp Caroline, a holiday camp, established at Murden, on the south coast of KwaZulu-Natal, for youth unable to go home for the holidays.

1974
First Boys Town Family Home opens in Rondelbosch, Cape Town. Move to Family Homes opened throughout the country during the late 1970s and 1980s.

1975
Boys Town Magaliesburg burnt down by an old boy who was later institutionalised.

1978
Boys Town Genazzano-Tonga opened in KwaZulu-Natal.

1979
Boys Town Duin-en-Dal Crossroads, Western Cape, established. Relocated in 1985 due to unrest.

1988
Boys Town merges with Proscess – an organisation that caters for street children – and assumes responsibility for two facilities that provide care for 50 homeless children.

1989
Boys Town Macassar, Western Cape (formerly Duin-en-Dal), opens.

1992
Proscess boys move to new premises in the old Chamber of Mines Training College in Randfontein. Property bought in 1994 and renamed Boys Town Kagiso.

2007
Lee Loynes appointed Chief Executive Officer – the first woman to lead the organisation. Lee was formerly Director Youth Services and has served Girls and Boys Town since 1993.

2008
Girls and Boys Town turns 40. Name changed to Girls and Boys Town South Africa.

2009
Established Research Ethics Committees and engaged in formal research activities.

2010
Achieved direct community outreach services to beneficiaries in all nine provinces.

2011

2012
Served 63 242 beneficiaries. West Rand Chamber of Business and Tourism awarded:

1. GBT for NPO Large Business: Education, Training and Development
2. Lee Loynes as Finalist Woman Achiever.
First girls screened and accepted to enter Venium Family Home for girls, KwaZulu-Natal.

2013
First family home for boys opened on the Kagiso campus, Gauteng.

2014
First girls admitted to the Kagiso Youth Development Centre campus and Family Home for Girls, Gauteng. GBT CEO, Vicent Bones wins SACCE.

2015
GBT training programmes re-endorsed by SACE.
The GBT/ U research partnerships take the Youth Ecological Research scale (YERS) named and validated.

2018
Girls and Boys Town
The SHINE™ Campaign


Significance. Home. Independence. Nurture. Education. The things we focus on to empower the young entrusted to us to overcome their difficulties and SHINE™ again.

Of the youth currently served by Gauteng Girls & Boy Town programmes and services:

- 42% have been abandoned by a parent or by both parents.
- 38% are orphaned.
- 27% would be out on the streets.

The Girls & Boys Town purpose:
To reignite the light in vulnerable youth

The Girls & Boys Town SHINE™ goals:

S-significance
Develop a sense of self-worth and unique value.

H-ome
Provide the safety of home and family and the ability to function in these environments.

I-independence
Acquire the courage and skills to fare in the world.

N-urture
Harness the sensitivity to care for self and others.

E-ducation
Cultivate the knowledge and practical skills to compete.

Restoring the light

■ The SHINE™ concept becomes central to GBT’s approach and service delivery.
■ GBT Gauteng rolls out the six Legacy Projects of The 702 Sun International CEO SleepOut™ 2015.
■ The first “State of the South African Child” Report is launched through partnership between GBT, the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund and Deloitte.

GBT Legacy Projects

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Enter your email address to receive our newsletter.

Your email address will be kept confidential.

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Please check your inbox for our welcome email.

Thanks for subscribing!

The 702 Sun International CEO SleepOut™

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GBT Gauteng rolls out the six Legacy Projects of The 702 Sun International CEO SleepOut™ 2015.

The first “State of the South African Child” Report is launched through partnership between GBT, the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund and Deloitte.
Meet our Trustees

DAVID JULIE BERGMAN

David Bergman was Senior Manager Investments for General Mining Urban Corporation and managing director of General Investments Limited. He is a Global Land Bank Insurance and Group Financial Director for the Alexander Financial Services Group, and has held numerous board appointments of listed and non-listed companies of which currently he is a non-executive director of Dits Global Land Bank Insurance and Land Bank Life insurance companies of which companies he chairs the Audit and Performance Committees.

He is a Chartered Accountant (Witwatersrand Unviersity) as well as a Chartered Management Accountant and holds a Higher Diploma in Tax Law (University of the Witwatersrand).

SISTER ELIZABETH JANINE COLEMAN

Sister Elizabeth Coleman has been involved in youth care work for over two decades. After completing her studies, Sister Elizabeth gained extensive experience as a high school teacher at Missionary Sisters of Assumption Schools where she served as school principal for 22 years. She was assigned the role of Boarders’ Mother at Assumption Convent boarding school. She started and managed the Johannesburg Catholic School Council for eight years. Sister Elizabeth holds BSc and BEd degrees from Rhodes University and has a diploma from the Institute of St. Anselm in Mill Hill, London. She also completed a semester programme with the Maryknoll Institute of African Studies at St Mary’s University of Minnesota and Tangaza College in Nairobi.

DAVID DANIELS

As a board member for more than 36 years and having held several terms as a Chairperson, David Daniels formed an integral part of the growth, development and transformation journey of Girls and Boys Town. Some of his key functions include ensuring the overall success of Girls and Boys Town, extension of service offerings, commencement of admission of girls, establishment of new projects at Learner Support Centres in Macassar (Western Cape) and Kigali (Kigali) and introducing measures to promote financial sustainability. His qualifications include a Master’s degree in City Planning University of Cape Town; Master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA; and BA degree from the University of the Western Cape.

MICHAEL JOSEPH DE KLERK

Michael de Klerk is an experienced educationalist who has a long history of serving various schools and institutions across southern Africa. He is a member of the boards at SARP Christian Brothers Association Catholic Education Trust, Northern Free State Institute for Community Development and the newly established Catholic Board of Education in South Africa. He is also Province Leader for the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Michael qualified as a teacher in St Anselm’s College in London and later spent some years in the USA.

LEE LOYNES

Lee Loynes joined GBT in 1999 and has been at the helm of GBT organisation since 2007. Prior to that her career has focused on education and counseling. She trained as a clinical therapist and is working towards completing her PhD. Ms Loynes was nominated to be a role player in the youth-care field where her goals is to find solutions that help challenged youth get a better chance at life. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Social Work from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and a Master of Science in Child and Youth Care Administration from Nova University in the USA.

PAT PILLAY

Pat Pillay has served GBT for over two decades and in that time he has been part of the process to ensure that optimal management of KwaZulu-Natal homes in Glenwood and Vomron homes. In his capacity as principal of the Youth Development Centre, Tongaat, Mr Pillay warmly welcomes youth into their new homes and endeavours to secure them placement in appropriate local schools. The retired school principal holds several qualifications, most of which are in the education field including a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees from University of Durban Westville.

GERALD PIETERSE (BROTHER JUDE)

Gerald Pieterse also known as Brother Jude serves as a Provincial Councilor at the Marist Brothers. Province of southern Africa. This most profound moments in his career were his roles as Marist Brother; School Principal; Director; Catholic Institute of Education 1986-87; and Secretary General; Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference 1988-92. His academic achievements include a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a Masters in Religious Education from the University of Stellenbosch.

SISTER LETHIWE MAZIBUKO

For Sister Lethhwa Mazibuko, several positions have been most influential in shaping her career and her contribution to GBT Administration of Crisis Home for abused and pregnant women. Coordinator for Dominican Sisters in Africa (DSDA) Southern Zone; Vocational promotion and mentoring in the Congregation; Congregational Councilor and later Provincial General of the Dominican Sisters of Montebello. Her academic achievements include a diploma in Communication and Office Administration from KwaZulu-Natal Technical College, Bachelor of Arts, Health Science and Social Services and Bachelor of Arts Honours degrees from the University of South Africa. She is a registered Health professional in Trauma Counseling with the Health Professions Council of South Africa and was confirmed the Doctor of Human Letters degree by the Dominican College in New York.

PATRICK DILLON

Patrick Dillon previously worked as a manager at Impala Platinum. He is a shareholder at Nimag Limited and member of Lions International. He holds a BSc Chemical Engineering degree from the University of Cape Town.

ROBERT GORE

Father Robert Gore’s rich background in the education field as a teacher and principal has equipped him for his contribution to GBT. Father Gore’s experience includes being the director of a Cape Town-based child care programme and the Boco Youth Centre in Gauteng. He holds an Honours degree from Maynooth University in Ireland and Bachelor of Arts and education qualifications from University of South Africa.

ROS HALKETT

Ros Halkett is a Social Science Honours graduate from the University of South Africa and has a wealth of expertise in the world of business, who has fulfilled previous positions as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and member of the Finance Committee. She is a retired social worker with career highlights that include working at Child Welfare South Africa and National Programme Manager HIV/AIDS, followed by an impressive list of private contract work in the diverse areas of policy development and organisational development.

DONALD KAU

Currently the Chairperson of Girls and Boys Town Board, Shem Donald Kau has a long history of serving young children lacking home support. A scholarship from the Offsite Child Programme instilled in him the values of mentorship and stewardship of young children lacking basic home support. Donald previously worked as a Communications Officer in Transnet’s Corporate Social Investment division and was an Executive Director at Maropa Communications. He holds a national diploma in Public Relations Management from the University of Johannesburg.

JABULILE SIBANYONI

Jabulile Sibanyoni currently works as a Human Resources Director at Hatch and Goba, having also served as a senior HR advisor at the same company. She was previously a project manager and training consultant for youth development at First National Bank’s Industrial Psychology Division. Her educational background includes a Masters in Human Resources Industrial Psychology (Wits University) and BEds in Industrial Psychology, University of the Western Cape.
Margaret Balazi is the Head of External Training Services at GBT. She previously worked as an educator for nine years. She has held numerous positions at GBT, having started out as a Trainer and then her dedication and commitment enabled her to take on the role of first Regional and then National Training Coordinator. Margaret’s career highlight was setting up suitable resources for GBT Learning Support Centres. She obtained numerous qualifications from the University of Johannesburg including an Honours degree in Education, EBEd, ABET diploma and Education Training and Development Practices as well as a Bachelor’s degree in Ministry from CFG Bible College.

Chantelle du Toit is the Head of Residential Services and Internal Training at GBT. After spending time as a social worker in the Family Homes, she headed up the Internal Training division in the Western Cape. She finds gratitude in seeing GBT alumni making a success of their lives. She takes seriously the need to promote a safe environment in which youth can flourish and be a role model to her staff. Chantelle has a BA Honours degree in Social Work from the University of Stellenbosch.

KAREN FARKED
Karen Farked is the Head of Family Services at GBT and she has 20 years of experience as a social worker. She specialises in therapeutic work with emotionally and behaviourally challenged children and youth in different settings, including clinical settings; shelters for street children and children’s homes. Karen assisted the Director of Youth Services in policy development which was done in consultation with senior residential care staff. Prior to joining GBT, she worked at the Child and Family Unit at Lentegeur Psychiatric Hospital where she served as the Unit Manager, and was the Manager of Clarentom Children’s Shelter, a project of Child Welfare. She conducted research in the treatment of Conduct Disorder and the findings of her research were presented at the National Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Conference. Karen has a Degree in BA Social Work from the University of the Western Cape.

TEBONO NKONDE
Telbho started his career in direct sales, marketing and door-to-door selling campaigns. His passion for the arts has led him to a Performance Art organisation where he studied Dramatic Arts and ended up facilitating, writing and producing playlets as well as marketing productions to schools, companies and government departments. He has also worked as a part-time radio presenter and producer at an in-house radio station. He joined IMM Group as a temporary telemarketer and soon got promoted to student consultant promoting undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. He has worked for Joburg Ballet theatre as a Stakeholder Relationship Manager responsible for the fundraising strategy, implementation as well as special projects management. He joined GBT in 2013 to lead a national team of well-seasoned fundraising managers. His journey has been that of great learning and challenges, but the hard work and resilience has been paying off. He holds BA degree in Communication Science (UNISA), International Navigator Certificate in Leadership: Common Purpose Global and has embarked on several short courses in sales, marketing events, customer relationship management and stakeholder relationship management.

DERRICK LLYWELLEN JOSEPH GROEP
Making a difference, adding value and being of service to colleagues and youth are Derrick Groep’s sources of daily motivation for fulfilling his role as Head of Residential Services at GBT. Derrick draws on his career highlight: Observation and Training visit to the original Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska, USA in 1999. He completed two decades of service with GBT in 1999 and in 2010 he was appointed Head Residential Services. He holds a BA Social Work Honours degree from the University of the Western Cape and a BSc Honours degree in Social Planning and Social Administration from the University of Cape Town. A range of roles and responsibilities have shaped his professional career. As a Social Worker, Probation Officer with the Department of Social Development, he received valuable in-service training on the Children’s Act. During his time at the Cadet Training Centre for unemployed youth, he equipped them with essential skills for adulthood and good decision making. He worked at De Novo Rehabilitation Centre for Alcoholics where he supervised a team of these social workers and realised the importance of preventative work after working with adults who were affected by long-term alcohol abuse.

LESLEY LE ROUX
Building healthy relationships with his colleagues and playing a crucial role in implementing an Employee Wellness Programme have been some of the highlights of human resources consultant Lesley le Roux’s tenure at GBT. Her educational background includes a diploma in labour law from Global Business Solutions and the Wits Business School’s Management Advancement Programme (MPA). Lesley’s position affords her the opportunity to contribute to the amazing work that GBT does in the child and youth care field.

PETER MARX
Peter Marx has been in service at GBT for over 20 years. Prior to his appointment as the Head of Evaluation and Research, he held numerous positions including Child and Youth Care Worker at St. John’s Hostel where he was involved in direct youth care work and Vice-Principal of GBT Macassar campus where he combined youth care work with the supervision of staff and overall campus management. He considers the development of life-changing resources for the organisation that result in the upliftment of communities as the most important aspect of his work. His educational achievements include a BA with Majors in Psychology and Human Movement Studies and Honours in Clinical Psychology from Rhodes University. He is currently studying towards a Master’s degree in Research Psychology.

TOMMIE VELDMAN
Tommie Veldman has over two decades of experience in financial management. He has worked for Telkom SA for 15 years as a Regional Finance Manager. He also served as the Financial Manager for Basil Radford Homes (Pty) Ltd. He was appointed the Head of Inspections for the South African Revenue Service, and is an articled clerk with Ernst & Young. Since taking up his position at GBT, he has been devoted to the pursuit of the organisation’s financial goals in order to safeguard employees and ensure the availability of resources that serve the youth entrusted to its care in the short and long term. With a BComm Accounting degree from Rand Afrikaans University, Tommie has also completed a Senior Management Programme at the University of Pretoria, the qualification of Associate General Accountant with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants SA and has completed Articles of Clerkship with the Institute of Chartered Accountants.
It is nearly 60 years since GBT started in South Africa. During this period, we have seen dramatic social, political and economic changes in our country, which have impacted on our organisation and the 16 000 to 18 000 beneficiaries that we serve annually. Within this environment, what sustains GBT is the core belief that every boy and girl is unique and with love and care, has the potential to mature and grow into responsible adults. This principle applies to all our projects and programmes as we help vulnerable youth tackle their life challenges and SHINE™.

Therapeutic residential campuses
Our new boy and girl admissions to the four Youth Development and six Family Home therapeutic residential campuses have definitely seen our staff across South Africa working with more challenging and vulnerable young people. Despite this, all services and programmes are on track and staff are continuously trained and supported to manage different situations.

Against this demanding, but positive and strength-based backdrop, it is our pleasure and privilege to report on progress over the past period.

Services and programmes
Youth achievements
We have been exceptionally proud of many of our young people during this period, as we have watched them face and overcome their challenges to achieve. For some, advancement happens in small steady steps and for others in leaps. The most publicly noted success was by Vincent Bones, who prior to coming to GBT, lived on a street, but worked hard, took advantage of his talents and opportunities – and then went on to win Idols in 2014. For our vulnerable young people and challenged families, positive shift and healthy change requires perseverance and great courage.

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A key strategic development with regard to our therapeutic residential environments is the decision to move away from dormitory-style living and adapt our centres to accommodate young people placed into care in smaller family-style living facilities. The process to achieve this has been initiated in Magaliesburg and Tongaat and the next reporting period should see this strategic goal fully in place by 2018.

Longitudinal research study
The local and international impact of our “Growth Beyond the Town” GBT/University of Johannesburg (UJ) partnership longitudinal research study, which began in 2009, continues to achieve the strategic outcomes. It is impacting positively on the success of young people as they transit into independence, the ongoing

“Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgement that something else is more important than fear”

Ambrose Redmoon
development of increasingly effective evidence-based responsive practice, and growing contributions towards the professional knowledge-base within the field, both locally and internationally. The depth and breadth of these strategic goals will be maintained over the next period, as we strive to improve practice and outcomes for vulnerable young people and families.

**Community outreach: Family Services**

Our community-based Family Services outreach programmes have GBT “out-of-office” Family Workers support and strengthen vulnerable and at-risk youth and families in their own homes and communities, to develop sustainable family independence and prevent family disintegration. Community members are able to access short-term counselling and referral services via our national hotline service.

This service offering has seen strategic growth, having reached more families in more communities, more effectively – the evidence of which is best demonstrated via heartfelt family feedback, such as:

“As an extended family, we were really at a point where we didn’t think there was hope for our child and this miracle happened, and she now has an opportunity to make a difference in her own and others’ lives.”

“Before GBT, my life was hell. My relationship with my kids was not good. I knew I was heading for problems. I thank the people in GBT for their help and teaching. We still have a long way to go but I can see light at the end of the tunnel. I am learning to handle and discipline my kids and just that helps me as a parent. Their support means so much to me, at least I know that my kids are getting the help they need and I am getting the help I need to be a better parent. The bad is over and the good is starting.”

Part of this strategic focus was to establish meaningful partnerships as we reach and serve needy and disadvantaged families, children and youth. The launch of the GBT/Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund/Deloitte “State of the South African Child” Report in 2016 followed a thorough research process, and is developing into a valuable, ongoing partnership. It is also the foundation for a novel GBT service offering, working to create circles of protection and safety for vulnerable young people living in at-risk circumstances and communities. The intention is to follow through with this partnership to identify and build sound and sustainable solutions to safety and protection factors for children.

Our young people have also been actively engaged in reaching out and assisting and supporting others more vulnerable and less fortunate than themselves. These generous and nurturing activities form part of the therapeutic and development programme with our youth.

**Community outreach: Training**

The GBT “Common Sense Parenting” and “Well-Managed Classroom” training workshops and programmes are important components of our holistic and comprehensive approach to child care, since many of our youth are placed into our care as a result of their educational challenges and lags. Since the beginning of this service in 2014, we have trained 881 schools, 11,772 educators and 1,266 parents and impacted positively on the learning and educational experience of 466,208 learners nationally – a total impact of 480,127.

Further growing this service will remain a strategic goal for the next period. A very real challenge remains adequate funding for these programmes as we reach out and support disadvantaged and vulnerable schools via this initiative.
Education
We understand the reluctance of schools to accept youth who may be significantly older than the normal age for a grade, who exhibit challenging behaviour and whose school results are poor. However, education is the passport to their futures and we engage with the schools to secure a good education for our youth. The four GBT Learning Resource Centres, which are now established on all Youth Development Centre campuses, are helping our girls and boys to make up the deficits in their education, facilitating reintegration into mainstream schools and access to skills training opportunities in the community.

Property maintenance and management
In serving our growing population of beneficiaries, we have grown extensively since our humble beginnings in 1958. All of our services are housed in buildings that are relatively old, yet some of those buildings are really old, dating back to the early 1800s. While there are many benefits to owning our own infrastructure, such old buildings also come with a heavy maintenance burden. We recently identified significant structural defects in several of the buildings on the Tongaat campus in KwaZulu-Natal. The safety and viability issues of this latest challenge will be considered and addressed as a matter of urgency in the next period.

Finance and fundraising
This has been a key focus area over the past period because of the steep escalation in the prices of essentials. Factors that affect our budget in particular are the costs of fuel, electricity and food; the requirement to pay competitive salaries in order to retain good and experienced staff; and the desire to effectively meet the deteriorating circumstances of our beneficiaries. The Board has welcomed the discipline displayed by staff in managing budgets. It is clear, however, that drastic action will have to be taken to ensure the long-term financial viability of GBT. The prospects of additional funding from government appear limited, and the risks of budget deficits are high. To address such situations, GBT has sought and received approval for the establishment of a dedicated Corporate Service Investment (CSI) Division, which will have the mandate to review and reinvigorate its fundraising strategies. New plans include the optimisation of fundraising opportunities and the establishment of a dedicated Corporate Service Investment (CSI) Division with targets set for the substantial growth of this new function; extended performance targets set for each fundraiser and all fundraising offices; implementation of zero-based budgeting; close monitoring of the income and expenditure of projects by the regional committees; and building capacity in the organisation’s marketing function.

Goverance
We are most fortunate to have a Board made up of individuals who voluntarily offer their wide range of skills and expertise in the areas of religion, social work, business and finance. All the governance structures function well and contribute significantly to the effective running of the organisation. The regional committees in the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng continue to provide valuable advice and oversight to the campuses, divisions and projects in those areas. The recruitment of more skilled volunteers to serve on these committees remains a challenge and a strategic objective.

Conclusion
Our work is based on faith and we thank God for his grace, mercy and love for GBT.

We express our thanks to:
The Directors, Trustees and members for their unselfish volunteering of their time and talents.
The members of the Finance and Investment Sub-committee and the Property Committee.
The CEO of GBT and all her staff for their dedication and commitment.
The various government departments for their support.
All our sponsors, donors and partners, without whose ongoing generosity and support this work would not be possible.

David Daniels
Chairman: Board of Governors

Lee Loynes
Chief Executive Officer
Sustainability is key

The environment where non-profit organisations (NPOs) and public benefit organisations (PBOs) find themselves, remains challenging. Sustainability is the keyword for organisations such as ours in the daily struggle to obtain and retain funding, particularly with inflation escalating the costs.

The “crocodile jaws”
The fundraising income and total expenses can be illustrated as the open jaws of a crocodile. The trend graph on the next page shows how the expenses have been increasing as the income remains steady. What is a priority for the immediate future is to close the crocodile’s jaws by lowering costs and increasing funding, in order to return to short-term sustainability. This is the task for all of us – management, employees, youth in our care, families we serve and our existing and future donors.

Black economic empowerment
We are firm believers that we should not turn away any youth in need of care and GBT is proud to be contributing to the national transformation agenda. Hence, as was the case during the previous reporting period, most of the beneficiaries have come from previously disadvantaged communities – understandable as they are in greatest need of assistance and services.

Tommie Veldman
Chief Financial Officer

Income
Our sources of funding are depicted in the graph on the next page.

We have become more reliant on the government subsidy, with 18.4% of income from this source, while 74.6% is sourced from the private sector and the South African public.

Donors who contributed through monthly debit orders make up 50% of sponsorship income, and remain core to the sustainability of the organisation. Although the number of monthly debit orders fell significantly, we have managed to sustain the Rand value. The retention and growth of the number of debit orders are a strategic driver for the organisational sustainability.

Expenditure
The organisation managed to contain the year-on-year increase in expenditure to 6%, which is purely inflationary. Salaries and salary increases are the biggest cost driver, accounting for 65% of the costs. Competent, appropriately trained social, child and youth care workers are in limited supply at present and this adds pressure on our cost structures.
Restoring the light


Before he came to Girls and Boys Town, Vincent Bones had lived on the streets of Sunnyside, Pretoria, for two years.

In 2014, he was the SA Idols winner!

His talent and powerful, soulful singing kept viewers voting for him week after week, but what clinched the hearts of South Africans was his amazing story, who he is, where he has come from, the valuable life lessons he gained, and how this gave him the perseverance and strength to deal with life’s challenges.

“Sleeping on the streets is scary at first. It is a challenge you get used to,” he said. Fortunately, he was taken off the streets and put into our care. Here, he did not have to worry about surviving or where his next meal would come from. Instead, he was able to finish school, develop his musical talents and fully turn his life around. “I believe what I went through in my life is enough to carry my character,” he said recently while entering Idols.

Having a good and secure home at GBT instilled in Vincent the appreciation for what so many take for granted. He said: “The first thing I need is a house. That is one of the only things on my mind at the moment, so that I can get a stable place for my family.”

Vincent says he will not forget where he comes from. “I have people around me that constantly remind me who I am and where I come from. So for me, I feel safe because I have those people that will always be there for me.”

He won a great monetary prize and a coveted recording contract to further spur his musical career on.

Vincent selected GBT to be his chosen charity and he began inspiring our current youth to seize opportunities given to them – and never lose hope.

Our children attended all of his live shows throughout the 2014 season of Idols. It is part of our commitment to continue to support our youth after they leave GBT.

Vincent, you truly are our idol, and we – and our donors and supporters – are proud of your well-earned success!
Our children enjoyed being treated to face painting and other fun activities during our birthday anniversary.

Once we began to introduce girls into our Alpha Family Home in the Western Cape in 2004 we identified a national strategic focus to establish residences for girls in both KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.

SIGNIFICANCE
We help young people develop a sense of self-worth and unique value, helping our youth SHINE™.

HOME
We provide the safety of a home and family and the ability to function as one – skills to SHINE™ at home.

INDEPENDENCE
We help young people develop the courage and skills to be fair in the world – understand and perceive the world as a place worth shining in.

NURTURE
We help young people develop the sensitivity to care about themselves and others – helping others SHINE™ too.

EDUCATION
We give young people the knowledge and practical skills they need to compete – SHINE™ through achievement.

Our kids were thrilled in exploring some of the tricks that the comic entertainer was sharing with them.
Removing the barriers

The Evaluation and Research Division is dedicated to ascertaining how successful GBT is in achieving its mission – to remove the barriers that challenge youth at risk. The information that is provided by the division affects most other organisational strategies and implementation of divisional programmes.

Research

Growth Beyond the Town: A longitudinal study on youth leaving care

In an effort to continually improve GBT’s work and provide our youth with the best possible care, we strive to critically evaluate our performance and ascertain how successful we are in preparing youth for their post-care futures.

For this reason, GBT partnered with the University of Johannesburg (UJ) to conceptualise and launch the Growth Beyond the Town longitudinal research project. Our partnership began in 2009 and the formal research study in 2012. The study is designed to capture the care-leavers’ experiences, including the challenges and successes they face on their journeys. We also measure how they do in different areas, such as their accommodation, work, education, relationships and general well-being. We try to understand what factors, while they are with us in care, are most likely to facilitate positive outcomes after leaving care, so that we can do everything possible to improve their chances of success in later life.

We have been invited to present our findings at 15 local and international conferences; have written a chapter for an international book on best practices regarding youth leaving care; published our work in seven journal articles; and written eight research reports which are sent to GBT staff and other local and international role-players interested in care-leavers. Generous funding from the Anglo-American Chairman’s Fund was received in support of our research.

Making it count: Putting our research into practice

We constantly endeavour to bring our findings to practice in creative ways, so we can improve the way we work with our youth and strengthen their chances for success. We do this with the internal GBT staff, as well as externally within the broader child and youth care field.

• At GBT, we run workshops with GBT staff to discuss the research findings and to identify ways to integrate the results into work with youth. We include the youth...
in these workshops, so the staff can hear directly from them about their experiences.

• Beyond GBT, we have established a working group in Gauteng with other Child and Youth Care Centres (CYCCs) to discuss practice issues for care-leavers and share resources.

• GBT hosted a seminar on international practice for Gauteng CYCC, focused on youth leaving care. The seminar, held at GBT’s head office in Auckland Park, was facilitated by Professor John Pinkerton and his colleague, Steve Mack from Northern Ireland. Professor Pinkerton is one of the global leaders on the subject of youth leaving care.

**Youth Academic Outcomes Research**

Education is essential for fostering healthy connections and a sense of belonging with peers, adults, school and community. Education is essential to good citizenship and is associated with positive life outcomes, such as employment, accommodation, stable relationships, and mental, physical and social well-being. It has also been extensively reported that youth in residential care experience academic and behavioural challenges that make them vulnerable to poor educational outcomes.

In order to help GBT youth receive the schooling they deserve and to improve educational outcomes, GBT tracks the academic progress of youth. This enables us to identify areas that need attention, and provide learners with the support they need to do well.

**Plans for the future**

As we look to the future of our research, we intend to continue to collect information from care-leavers around the country to understand their journeys after leaving GBT.

A number of other exciting developments that expand the project beyond our borders and collect other types of information from our youth are under way:

• In 2016, the study will move to the next phase to measure youth resilience when they first enter and then leave care at GBT. The results of these measures will show us where they have strengths and where they need development in their resilience. These results will be shared with the GBT clinical teams, who will use that information in the youth’s treatment plans to strengthen interventions and to better prepare youth for sustainable, independent life.

• We will implement peer research, where the care-leavers themselves complete interviews with youth leaving care. We will invest in training the peer researchers so that they are able to complete these interviews with the quality and depth that we get from current fieldworkers.

• As there has been considerable interest in our research locally and in Africa, we will begin to replicate this study in other African countries, including Ghana, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe. This will give us very important comparative information which we can use to see how GBT care-leavers are doing compared to youth from other developing countries, including the challenges they face and strategies used to mitigate them.

**Future plans**

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**Staff workshops are used to track and reflect on the youth’s progress and results:**

• The different type of academic challenges the youth deal with

• The staff’s experiences in trying to address these challenges

• Factors that need to change for academic progress to occur

• The gaps or limitations in the intervention that are affecting positive academic outcomes

• Practical options for staff to follow.

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Family Services Research
As an organisation serving the most vulnerable members of society, where decisions about their safety, well-being and future are made for them every day, evaluating the quality and effectiveness of services provided to these children and families is essential.

The research team is in the early stages of developing a new tool that determines the quality and impact of the services that GBT Family Services provide to the family and communities of the youth in their care. More extensive and accurate information will inform further strategic decisions about this service.

The peer group system (PGS): This system of youth empowerment to lead themselves and take real responsibility has been a hallmark of GBT’s approach for many years. We will be designing an evaluation tool that more specifically measures the standards required to provide an effective PGS.

Consultation evaluation: The consultants are critical pillars of support for staff who work directly with the youth and families and help them deal with emotive issues and experiences. By further developing the evaluation of their consultation roles, we will stimulate a focus and be able to prioritise the crucial aspect of their contribution to GBT staff and the work of GBT.

Evaluation
At GBT we truly believe that “feedback is our friend, the cereal of champions”.

Evaluations conducted at least annually at all GBT residential facilities assess three broad areas:
- Each young person is interviewed to assess their safety and satisfaction with the care they receive while at GBT.
- Other significant role-players, like parents and educators are surveyed to gather their opinions on the work being done.
- A professional evaluation by trained evaluators is conducted, where the care being provided for youth at each campus is assessed and measured against specific standards.

Reports and procedures are in place to follow up on the outcomes of these evaluations.

These procedures provide opportunities for campus staff and management to reflect on the quality of the care being provided at a particular campus and enable us to develop action plans to further enhance the care. Management is thus regularly made aware of the excellent work that is happening in order to reinforce good practice, but is also informed of areas of concern to facilitate prompt intervention.

Our evaluation goals for the period ahead will focus on developing specific evaluation tools to improve the support for key areas of our work, namely:
- The peer group system (PGS): This system of youth empowerment to lead themselves and take real responsibility has been a hallmark of GBT’s approach for many years. We will be designing an evaluation tool that more specifically measures the standards required to provide an effective PGS.
- Consultation evaluation: The consultants are critical pillars of support for staff who work directly with the youth and families and help them deal with emotive issues and experiences. By further developing the evaluation of their consultation roles, we will stimulate a focus and be able to prioritise the crucial aspect of their contribution to GBT staff and the work of GBT.

Peter Marks
Head: Evaluation and Research

Community families’ satisfaction with our family workers’ assistance
On an annual basis, the Evaluation Division surveys all the families that are enrolled in the specialised ‘Building skills in high-risk families’ methodology, provided by the Family Services Division.

It has been inspiring to see how satisfied these families have been with the effectiveness of family workers assisting them over the last two years (2014/15). With over 70 families being involved in this intensive programme and with a response rate of 80%, their belief in the effectiveness of the intervention is very impressive.

65% indicated complete satisfaction with the effectiveness of the services.
29% indicated their satisfaction with the services.
4% indicated some dissatisfaction with services.
2% indicated any dissatisfaction.

The Verulam Home for Girls - the epitome of family-style living
Girls and Boys Town residential facilities for youth seek to resemble the warmth and care of typical family-style living. This refers to an environment that is well maintained and clean, but also has the “lived-in” atmosphere of homeliness and good relationships between staff and youth, and the youth themselves. We give great importance to developing family-style living environments, believing that these are in themselves therapeutic and role model the kinds of homes the youth will hopefully create for their families one day.

During this period, the evaluations that have been conducted at the Verulam Family Home for Girls have shown that they have not only consistently achieved high standards of family-style living, but achieved the highest-ever rating for this important factor of family life.

While we have become accustomed to seeing that the home is clean, well decorated and has the “lived-in” atmosphere of a good family home, what has been most impressive has been the engagement and interaction between the members of this “family”. This showed tolerance and acceptance of their varied circumstances and cultures, as well as an appreciation and caring for each other. Understanding the extent of the life challenges that the youth coming into our care face, it has been both heart-warming and inspiring to be a visitor in the Verulam Home. We will done to the girls and staff of the Verulam Family Home for reaching exceptional standards in family-style living.
The best interests

The Residential Services provide care, protection and treatment to youth, and are devoted to the goal of creating a safe, caring home environment that supports personal and emotional growth, development and independence.

The best interest of the child is the focus of all we do. Youth are assisted in their efforts to live more responsibly and to develop necessary social and independent living skills to be reintegrated back into the community as contributing members of families and communities. The GBT programme offers the benefit of working with the parents in order to equip them with effective parenting skills.

Three strategic priorities were pursued by Residential Services during the period under review: consolidation of service excellence and how it impacts beneficiaries; taking steps to ensure financial sustainability; and retaining human resources to support key objectives of GBT.

Youth Development Centres

Services to girls at the Kagiso Youth Development Centre

The Kagiso campus is unique to GBT as it is the only YDC for girls nationally and also the only campus where the peer-group system (PGS) model and the Family Home Model run on the same premises. The development of this has posed some interesting challenges over the past two years, but has also provided some important learning opportunities for the team.

The first girls were admitted in January 2014 and the numbers have steadily grown to 28. More girls could not be admitted because of structural changes that had to be made to make provision for family-style living. The funding has now been secured, plans to renovate the cottages have been drawn up and construction will start in 2017.

Working with adolescent youth is testing at the best of times, and it requires a special type of person who is able to rise up to the task, especially in our current social environment where children are exposed to domestic violence, abuse and neglect. Staff need to be resourceful and creative to manage these circumstances.

Long-term residential programme

We are in the business of protecting and nurturing children and of creating small miracles. It is through the application of evidence-based interventions and in the context of positive relationships and a welcoming environment that we help young people to develop competencies to overcome behavioural and life-skills deficits that impact on their lives.

All staff are trained in the long-term residential programme and implement it under the guidance of trained consultants. The impact of this work is evaluated annually by the Evaluation and Research Division. The service delivery was in some areas affected by staff turnover and the delay in finding and training new staff. However, where we have stable staff teams, we have witnessed remarkable
The peer leaders are taken on leadership camps twice a year where their skills are honed and teamwork is fostered.

**Therapeutic services**

Social workers, child youth care workers, final year social work students and community partners provide therapeutic interventions and support to youth in our care. This includes individual counselling, group work sessions, recreational activities, art, music, gardening and equine therapy. External providers offer psychological and psychiatric consultations, treatment for substance abuse, admission to rehabilitation centres and after-care support. We are thankful for the partnerships with many community resources that assisted our youth. These include the Teddy Bear Clinic, Baragwanath and Tara psychiatric units, Patch, Lentegeur Adolescent Unit, Newlands and other local clinics, general hospitals and numerous doctors and dentists who provide pro bono services.

Pre-admission conditions include use of substances, highly sexualised behaviours among girls, many of whom have been sexually abused, and school-related challenges such as difficulty in placing youth in mainstream and special school settings, and providing remedial support for learners with cognitive deficiency. We intend to approach the Department of Social Development to seek funding and sustainability of resources.

**Ensuring financial sustainability**

All staff and youth have been made aware of the challenge to our financial sustainability and have been asked to engage in a process of EAGLE (enhanced ability to generate lower expenditure) without sacrificing the quality of care.

Campuses have had to reduce non-essential staff, engage youth in developmentally appropriate activities such as cooking, washing and ironing of clothes, and pursue cost-effective recreational activities.

The peer group system of self-government is a key pillar of the GBT programme. It is a unique empowerment system that involves youth in decision-making about their own affairs and daily management of their programme. Twice a year, youth elect their mayor and councillors. With the help of an alumnus, the principles of this method have been documented, and form the foundation for training that will now be rolled out to all campuses to ensure effective functioning of the system.

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The Department of Social Development required that all previously registered child and youth care centres, including GBT, be re-registered in terms of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005 (section 197). This requirement drew heavily on financial resources and entailed compliance with unexpected and more stringent guidelines.

Retaining and sustaining human capital to support organisational objectives

Although we have experienced relatively high staff turnover at the youth development centres, much has been done to ensure staff happiness and productivity through annual wellness days, access to a 24-hour wellness programme, offering a wide range of services free of charge to staff and their families, structured supervision, regional team-building workshops and ongoing staff development and training.

All staff are trained in the GBT long-term residential programme, and managers through the “Staff Development through Consultation” workshops. Staff have participated in internal advanced training and external development sessions to enhance their skills and knowledge in order to perform optimally and to break the barriers that challenge the youth in our care.

Achievements, activities, adventure and community involvement

The majority of youth come into care with considerable academic challenges, but despite this they have demonstrated an ability and willingness to achieve. Although it takes time for youth to develop a culture of education, the outcome of efforts resulted in a 100% metric pass rate over the period – an amazing achievement to be recognised and celebrated.

A number of youth participated in the President’s Award Programme and received a variety of awards. This leadership empowerment programme teaches youth to take responsibility and engage in activities that demonstrate care and generosity.

GBT offer youth various activities throughout the year. Each youth is encouraged to participate in at least one sport, all campuses have swimming pools and youth are encouraged to use the pool for relaxation and physical development.

The youth also receive weekly sport coaching sessions and, wherever possible, are integrated into community clubs. Games are often arranged against other teams and church youth groups.

Hikes, outings to botanical gardens, use of gyms, hair styling and sewing sessions are also on offer. Other activities include teaching basic cooking skills where youth are encouraged to make breakfast and cook meals over weekends. The potjiekos events are a big hit among the youth.

Some of the youth have amazing talent in writing and performing drama, reciting poetry, ballroom dancing and rapping. This is encouraged and interested youth are connected with the performing arts in the community to develop their skills and increase their confidence. These initiatives bring alive our maxim: “helping youth to SHINE™.”

During this reporting period, youth have participated in a number of wilderness leadership courses. They enjoyed the experience and benefitted immensely from it. “No matter how heavy your pack is, you need to keep moving forward so you can reach your destination. I learnt a lot – not to always look at the negative side but look at the positive side. We learnt to work as a team, knowing that many other people’s lives were in my hands, needed to take responsibility.”

Goals for the two years ahead

For the upcoming two-year period, we have identified the following goals and desired outcomes:

- Ensure that the Social Skills Model is implemented optimally through focused consultation.
- Increase youth occupancy to serve as many vulnerable youth as possible.
- Empower staff teams to deal more effectively with the more challenging behaviours presented by youth.

Residential Services Division

continued
Family Homes and Internal Training Division

The Family Homes and Internal Training Division participated in the pursuit of the overall organisational mission to consolidate and maximise service excellence to ensure happy and successful youth and staff.

We are proud to share some notable achievements with our friends and stakeholders:
- We provided safe, caring and therapeutic environments for youth by continually improving family-style living facilities, completing necessary renovations, maintaining homes and working with youth to empower them to participate in looking after the homes.
- We created and developed an internal training team in each of the regions. The aim is to train new child and youth care staff within two weeks of their appointment, although the average time for preservice training has for this reporting period been reduced to the first two months upon appointment.
- The division has approached the upskilling of campus consultants with vigour and focus, to ensure their on-the-job training, support and regular planned consultations. During this time, new staff were appointed and capacitated to take the place of two experienced consultants who retired. All consultants are now confident in their roles, as we turn to ensuring that all established and new staff have the necessary resources and support to work with the youth in our care.

In order to manage escalation in challenging behaviours of young people, our staff teams are having to be upskilled. This is being done through a number of mutually supporting strategies:
- Each clinical staff member has a developmental plan in place. We have introduced regular reflection time in daily practice and have integrated team-building outings and advanced training for clinical staff.
- In 2015, the Department of Social Development directed that all child and youth care workers need to have specific qualifications and be registered within the Social Services Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSA). Staff who were previously appointed without this formal qualification are attending training with approved service providers.
- Systems have been put in place to enhance communication and alignment between teams working with youth.

At the same time, we have worked across the division to contribute to GBT’s goal of achieving financial sustainability. The Family Homes are collaborating with the fundraising teams to optimise all funding and fundraising opportunities. The homes have instituted monthly budgeting meetings with staff and residing youth in order to curtail running costs – and build youth’s skills to manage their own budgets one day when they leave GBT.

In order to retain and sustain human capital to support organisational goals:
- Staff retention remains a key objective and focus point and is consistently reviewed at management level.
- There have been numerous examples of good child care practice and some of the staff have gone the extra mile to ensure that youth’s needs are addressed.
- These staff often work long hours, are always available and volunteer where needed. GBT has responded to these staff by acknowledging their hard work and commitment. It is exciting that iShine, the GBT performance management and staff recognition system, will further recognise best practices and help to establish positive, new work norms.

Words of appreciation

We are deeply grateful to our donors whose generosity and involvement have contributed to changing the lives of youth in our care.

We thank our youth and staff at the Family Homes who embrace a generous spirit towards others in need.

In the Western Cape, the Dingle Family Home for boys has a beautiful recreation area, whose addition was made possible through the generosity of a donor. Part of the recreation room has been made into a fabulous "cosy room" where the boys can read, chat and listen to music.

In KwaZulu-Natal, the family teacher of both Family Homes received certification for achieving a high standard of child and youth care.

In Gauteng, the youth development centre and family homes were piloted on the same campus. Although very difficult for staff to monitor and manage, they raised to the challenge and youth have benefited from sharing a campus. This has been a wonderful opportunity to learn how to engage in a healthy relationship with the opposite sex.

Chantelle du Toit
Head: Residential Services – Family Homes

Vital statistics

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**Reported incidents during the period April 2014 – March 2016**

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**In Gauteng, the Youth Development Centre and Family Homes were piloted on the same campus.**

**Although very difficult for staff to monitor and manage, they raised to the challenge and youth have benefited from sharing a campus.**

This has been a wonderful opportunity to learn how to engage in a healthy relationship with the opposite sex.
Quality interventions

The division aims to help families and youth quickly and appropriately, and does so by strengthening the access to, and the quality of, services provided to families. Its service elements are the Hotline, Assessment and Screening, and Family Strengthening Services.

Despite limitations, it has been an exciting time as the organisation continued to extend and expand its services to beneficiaries – and the Family Service team responded to their changing needs and demands. We note that services were affected by planned and unplanned staff changes, increasing expenditure and budget constraints, resulting in some frozen posts.

Applications and assessments

The Family Service Division received and processed 657 applications, conducted 205 psycho-social assessments and accepted 98 youth for placement in residential care centres. The adjoining graphs depict regional statistics.

Beneficiaries of services

The national team rendered direct services to 1,011 individual children, youth and their families as part of assessments, and family strengthening services. The direct services to these individuals impacted the siblings and other family members who, although were not recipients of direct services, nevertheless benefited.

Assessments per region

Applications per region

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
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<td>KwaZulu-Natal</td>
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Youth accepted per placement option

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<td>Macassar YDC</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape FH</td>
<td>13</td>
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“May God bless you for what you are doing for us and our children.”

“Thank you for a mind refresher, please have those types of workshops more often.”

Vincent Banes addressing the family and youth.
It is estimated that a further 7,329 individuals were such secondary beneficiaries. For example, a parent who was taught skills to manage one of her children was able to apply the skills to the management of all her children. Or a parent who was receiving services from the Family Service team in relation to one child, is assisted to obtain child support grants for all her children.

**Family strengthening services**

The Family Service teams have continued to extend their reach to families by staying flexible towards their needs, such as meeting families where and when they are available. The majority of people served by Family Service teams are economically deprived, subsist on one or more forms of social grant, and live in a household that is headed by a single adult female.

**Hotline**

The Hotline service impacts many beneficiaries, as the services are accessible and the Hotline methodology assists callers from problem identification to crafting a plan to resolve the problem in the course of a phone call. During the period under review, 3,711 individuals accessed the Hotline counsellors in different ways.

The division managed several challenges in this period, which included:

- **Staff changes:** seven staff members left the team due to retirement, being promoted within the organisation and accepting employment in other organisations.
- **Frozen posts:** as the staff movements coincided with an increasing budget deficit, two posts were frozen, for a Senior Family Worker in Gauteng and a Family Worker in the Western Cape.
- **Impact on services:** losing more than half the staff in the team initially impacted on services, but fortunately staff were replaced quickly and four of the vacant positions were filled by internal staff from other divisions. Another post was filled by a social worker who had completed her practical placements within the Family Services division.
- **Occupancy:** despite the division’s efforts to assist the residential teams by assessing as many youth as possible, the acceptance rate of youth assessed by the Family Service team is below 50%. The acceptance of youth into Girls and Boys Town Youth Development Centres and Family Homes is affected by both internal and external factors, such as staff turnover, school placement options and, availability of specialised skills required to manage complex youth issues.

**Achievements**

The regional teams hosted several successful events as part of their community outreach activities.

On 26 July 2014, a family day was held in the Gauteng region, facilitated and organised by two fourth-year social work students who were placed with the Family Service team for the year. The parents of the youth were invited to a parenting workshop which was attended by about 25 parents, where a variety of topics relevant to parenthood were discussed. The day closed off with a picnic on a scenic mountain side for the youth and their families, with each family enjoying a basket of food and drinks. The comments from parents were positive and encouraging.

Another inspiring family day was held in Gauteng on 10 October 2015, under the theme “promoting acceptance and a caring relationship within families”. About 130 people attended the event, where we were proud to have Vincent Bones as the guest speaker. He inspired the crowd by sharing his life story from how he grew up homeless to becoming a successful musician who won the Idols competition in 2014. A parent of one of the youth was the “mistress” of ceremonies for the day.
Women’s Day was celebrated on 22 August 2015 with the Western Cape Family Service team hosting about 30 mothers and female caregivers of GBT youth. The event had a specific focus on the importance of self-care.

Another wonderful family day was held on 7 June 2016 by the KZN Family Service team for youth and families in this region. A guest commented:

“It was such a special day – well attended by parents, positive interaction between youth and their families, and overall good behaviour of youth.”

Networking with colleagues from the field is crucial for our type of social services and on 20 October 2015, the Western Cape Family Service team hosted the National Association of Child and Youth Care Workers (NACCW) Social Work forum. Guest speaker Catarina Andrade presented a talk on stress and burn-out as well as a fun session on laughter yoga. This event was enjoyable and valuable for strengthening the Family Service team’s relationship with colleagues in the region.

The division’s work also takes note of these significant factors:

- **Consumer evaluations:** The division’s clients and consumers have expressed high levels of satisfaction with the services they received. In the two years under review, all Family Workers met the satisfaction criteria.

- **Staff development:** Staff are supported by trained consultants who, through implementation of the GBT Consultation Model, help staff improve their application of skills. Staff take responsibility for their professional development. Three staff members, who are currently qualified as social auxiliary workers, are undertaking undergraduate studies in Social Work, and one Social Worker is completing a Master’s degree in Social Work.

- **Resources:** In 2014, the organisation replaced a 22-year-old vehicle used by the Western Cape Family Service with a new one. The availability of a reliable and fuel-efficient vehicle has allowed the team to venture further afield with confidence. In February 2016, the organisation purchased a second vehicle for the Family Service Gauteng team. This is GBT’s biggest team and serves four different campuses. The availability of the additional vehicle allows greater access to the team from across the region.

For the period 2016 – 2018, the Family Service team aims to:

- Present evidence of the efficacy of its programme in order to secure funding for services from the provincial Department of Social Development.

- Introduce professional evaluation for all staff with the assistance of the GBT Evaluation and Research team.

- Assist families to respond to the ever-growing economic and psycho-social challenges by creating and building networks in communities. We aim to initiate community-based projects that improve the safety of children and other vulnerable persons.

- Strengthen prevention and early intervention services by working with child welfare agencies to identify families at risk and offer family strengthening services while the children are still in the family home.

- Retain and develop the current staff.

Karen Farred
Head, Family Services Division
Training and Education Services Division

Quality education

The division leads and coordinates the work of four regional Learning Support Centres and GBT regional training teams as it works with all campuses, homes and communities that benefit from GBT assistance.

One of our learning support aides shared a profound story - but one that we meet on a continuous basis:

“
A boy started at GBT with eyes that were ‘black’ with emotion. He never smiled or asked for anything. I had to sit with him all the time to gain his trust. It took me three long months to get him to do Grade 8 work and to see him happy and smiling. I felt physically drained at the end of each day but to see him smile made up for all of that.”

Our National Academic Awards are held annually to recognise learners who have worked hard throughout the year. We have various categories like top ten, most improved, most behaved, regular school attendance as well as the best learner in mathematics and languages. Competition among learners was very tough as they wanted to maintain their status in the top ten. As a result, one learner in Gauteng was awarded an Academic Excellence Award for three consecutive years.

Educational excursions are undertaken during the year. Learning Support Centres have taken this opportunity to expose children to different learning situations, such as the botanical gardens, zoos, beachfront, and historical or business sites including Maropeng, Lesedi Cultural Village, Lilies Leaf and Van Galen Cheese. Some learners had an opportunity to go camping at Rivierplaas. These experiences show that learning is fun and can indeed take place outside the classroom.

Home schooling

An introduction of home education in the Learning Support Centres has made a significant difference to the learners who could not cope well at school. We have witnessed remarkable changes and growth in learning from the youngsters who disliked and mistrusted school, or those who struggled to read and write.

It is our pleasure to present this biennial report for the period April 2014 – March 2016. Our mission to provide quality education and training to our beneficiaries has kept us going during this period. We have been privileged to attain a 100% pass rate for our matriculants in these two consecutive years. It is a highlight of our work that we were able to use education to remove barriers that impact youth development.

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Training

Between 2002 and the end of February 2016, Girls and Boys Town had trained 881 schools, institutions and crèches. In this time, 11,772 educators, 1,266 parents and over 466,000 learners benefitted through training in the Well-Managed Classroom and Common Sense Parenting programmes. For this reporting period specifically, 970 educators from 152 schools were trained, impacting 127,913 learners, while 316 parents were empowered through the Common Sense Parenting programme.

Key partnerships have been established during this period, including those with Boland College, False Bay and District South in the Western Cape, where we participated in their anti-bullying awareness efforts and received an award for this campaign. In Gauteng, student talks and camps have been held in Ekurhuleni schools, where learners were taught about substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, self-esteem and other related skills.

We are very grateful to our sponsors who made our work stronger and in many ways easier. We are looking forward to new achievements and experiences ahead for us.

Margaret Balazi

Head: Training and Education Services Division
Where to find our services

Residential centres accommodate youth from all around the country.

Contact information

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<td>Family Services Division Head</td>
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<td>Gauteng</td>
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<td>Neuren Mangale</td>
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