



**COPESSA**

Creating safe & caring communities for children

# Annual Report

## 2011

# Director's report



*Dr Nobs Mwanda*

## Background – profile

COPESSA is a social profit organisation (commonly referred to as a non-profit organisation) whose raison d'être is to prevent child abuse from happening. Where we cannot, we ameliorate its effect by providing intense counselling services for the abuse victim and their family.

Our **vision** is to create safe, caring, and secure communities for children.

Our **mission** is to protect children through the following interventions:

- Creation of sustainable community development programmes and projects
- Counselling and medical assessment of abuse survivors
- Training or capacity building and research

COPESSA renders the following services:

1. Clinical services
  - i. Counselling of abuse survivors
  - ii. Medical assessment of child abuse victims
  - iii. Support groups for Abuse survivors, HIV affected and infected
2. Sustainable community development programmes and projects. These can be classified into income generating and non-income generating (community value-add).
  - i. Non-income generating projects
    - a. Building of safe play parks for children – this is our flagship programme we will use in future as an entry point into other communities.
    - b. Craft projects – these will be housed within these play parks so that they have a multi role – capacity development for the community, income-generation, and provision of safety for the children while playing.
    - c. Food parcels
    - d. Food gardens for the orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs)
    - e. Reading programmes
    - f. Homework supervision
    - g. Art and music
  - ii. Income generating projects
    - a. Embroidery project – promotional items branding
    - b. Beading and other crafts
    - c. Food gardens
    - d. Brickmaking
  - iii. Training and research – communities and professionals
    - a. Parenting skills
    - b. Life skills
    - c. Child abuse and neglect
    - d. Community vegetable gardens
    - e. Cooking nutritional meals, etc.

COPESSA is registered as a Section 21 Company (2000/025755/08), Non-Profit Organisation (041-733-NPO) and a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO 930 012 177). All the beneficiaries of our services are previously disadvantaged and are black.

## Board of directors

Dr Nobs Mwanda (Executive Director)  
Ms Ina Opperman (Chairperson) ( resigned)  
Ms Shirley Mabusela  
Ms Diane Terblanche ( resigned)  
Dr Trevor Motjuwadi  
Mr Paul Qacha  
Ms Nkuli Mkhize  
Rev Jake Mabasa  
Ms Rashida Issel

## Staff

Dr Nobs Mwanda – Medical Doctor & CEO  
Ms Pfarelo Netshimbupfe – Social Worker & Programmes Manager  
Ms Nthabiseng Mabena – Part-time Psychologist  
Ms Lunga Nene – Part-time Psychologist

## Volunteers

Mrs Fikile Mabasa – Volunteer Co-ordinator  
Ms Busi Radebe – Lay-counsellor  
Ms Dieketseng Tshabalala – Lay counsellor  
Ms Felicity Ngoepe –Psychologist graduate and counsellor  
Ms Buhle Mgibe – Youth volunteer  
Mr Simphiwe Dhlamini – Youth volunteer  
Mr Sizwe Mdokwe – Youth volunteer  
Mr Siyabonga Zwane – Youth volunteer  
Mr Andries Moloto – General  
Ms Sylvia Manyama - General

This report will cover the period between March 2010 and February 2011, and will be referred to as the 2011 financial year.

The 2011 Financial year was very eventful for COPESSA. In June 2010, we hit our financial nadir and we were convinced that this was our funeral. Down to our last chips, with only the money for stipends for the youth volunteers, which was donated by the Infant Trust, we had to make the hard decisions of paying the full stipends to the youth volunteers and no one else or sharing the bit of what we had equitably among most of the staff. The staff collectively decided on the latter and to all of us quitting was not an option.

Now, to put this in its proper perspective: each youth developer gets a monthly stipend of R850. Imagine having to divide R850 between two people! Technically, this is misappropriation of funds and one can only hope that one never finds oneself in this invidious position. This was certainly one of the lowest points for me personally here at COPESSA. A darkest hour before dawn?

The real effects of the 2009 global financial crisis, which saw our income decrease by about 38% from the previous year, were hard-felt in 2010. This is just as the world economies were feeling slightly optimistic about recovery. Perhaps one can draw an analogy with the snow: severe cold is felt when the snow melts and not as it falls.

Thankfully, a few funders came to our rescue and new partnerships were formed. EOH injected about R100 000 and we were able to sigh relief. The Gauteng Department of Social Development funded the annual salaries of the Social worker, psychologists, some of the volunteers, and this made a huge difference. The ordinary man on the street, through donations of varying monthly nominal amounts as 'small' as R200, came through for us, thus the Friends of COPESSA were born. This lightened the burden of fundraising and freed some of this time for creative community development work.

In spite of all this negativity, 2011 was not all doom and gloom. There were some highlights, which kept us encouraged and hopeful, and which made us believe that we would recover. On the 12 March 2010, COPESSA received an award from Joburg City Parks, as a "Youth-based Greening Organisation in Joburg, for the children's Play Park we were instrumental in creating, with the help of many organisations, viz.: Johannesburg City Parks, Table of Peace and Unity, EOH, Infant trust and last, but certainly not least The Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, Pangaea Project – Mike Horn and Caroline Rupert for her personal commitment to making this happen.

Caroline helped with the necessary funding from the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation and Pangaea Project and coordinated the hundreds of youth who physically transformed the park overnight. It should be remembered that this park was created from a vermin-infested illegal dumpsite.



*The award-winning Park built from an illegal dumpsite*

In September we for the first time received two German volunteers, Janina Metzler and Johanna Lahr, who were to spend a year with us, from the South African German Network (SAGE Net).



*Ms Janina Metzler and Johanna Lahr (L-R)*

Johanna and Janina, both Nutritional Science & Home Economics graduates, assisted COPESSA to transform our two community gardens into profitable enterprises. Through their involvement SAGE Net donated the first three Veggie tunnels, (to-date we have 17 tunnels between two communities).



The spinach harvested is sold to a local Pick and Pay and the profits generated go directly to the previously unemployed community members who work in this venture.



*Community garden in Waterworks Informal Settlement*



*Construction of a veggie tunnel*



*Veggie tunnel with spinach*

In October we received a customised container from Tracker Network, which is used as a mini-library. This addition to our park is to make reading of books a fun-filled activity, not just something confined to schools. We also assist children with homework after school. During the school holidays and weekends, we also have board games and other mini-sport. This all is to engage children and the youth in meaningful activities and thus keep them off the streets.



*Customised container donated by Tracker Network (Pty) Ltd*



*Mini-library inside*

Also, during the time of our financial inactivity, we also got time to do a lot of 'weeding and gardening' in our organisation. We overhauled all our systems thanks to many funders and individuals. Our computers were dinosaurs that broke up very frequently. We got new computers thanks to Cape Garnett, upgraded our PABX system, thanks to the Table of Peace and Unity, and acquired a new database software package for our clients, thanks to Synovate. This set up the stage for smarter and efficient working.

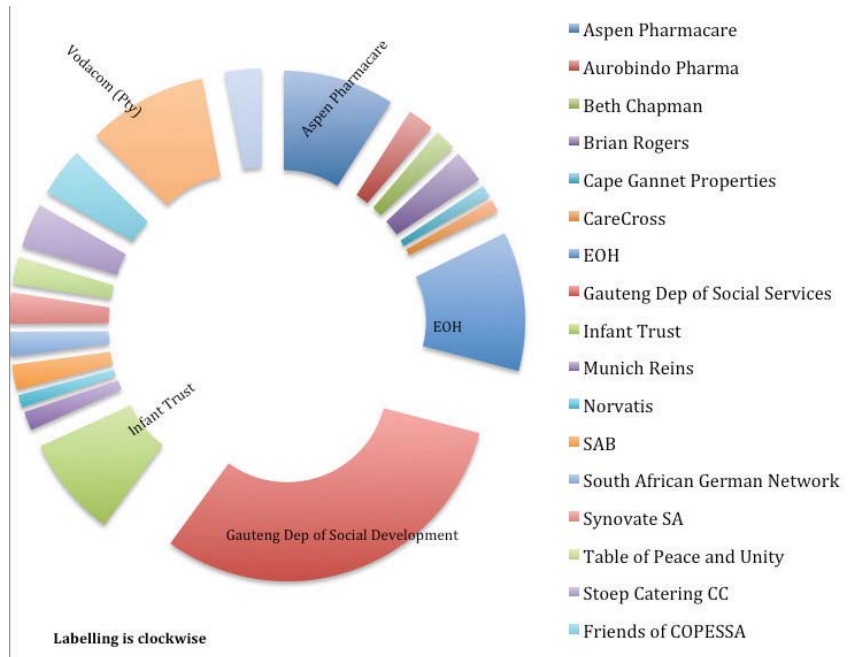
They say, "tough times do not last, but tough people do," and as we survived the drought period we can truly echo these words.



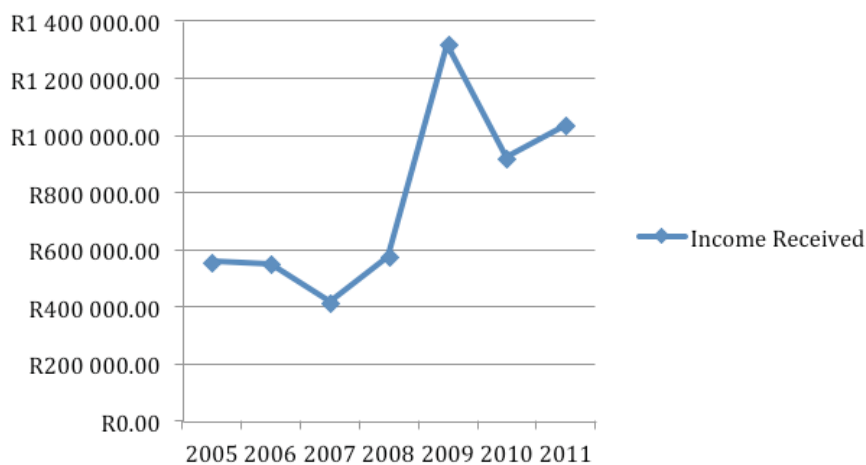
## Overview of finances

In 2010 we received R1 036 446 and this was made up largely of donations, mainly from the Gauteng Department of Social Development for mental health staff (29%), and to a lesser extent (10%), generated income through fundraising activities. There was a 12% increase of donations received from the previous year, see figure 2. For more break down on the income see figure 1:

**Figure 1: Breakdown of donations received in 2011**

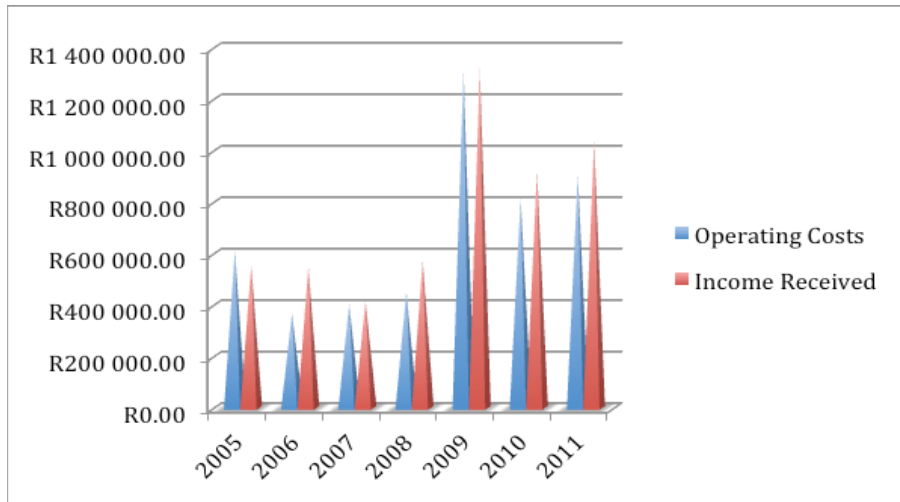


**Fig-2: Donations received from 2005 - to-date**



Our operating costs are largely directed by the income received, see fig 3. The more donations we get the more community development projects and outreach we can do, as we do not charge professional fees to all the clients we service.

**Figure 3: Operating costs against Income received**



## Human capital changes

### a. STAFF:

Ms Pfarelo Netshimbupfe, who was our full-time social worker, left at the end of the 2011 financial year. We truly thank her for her contribution and her patience with us. We also take this opportunity to wish her everything of the best in her future endeavours.



*Ms Pfarelo Netshimbupfe (Right)*

Two full-time social workers, Ogopoleng Maremela and Galeboe Lebotse; and a full-time administrator, Dimakatso Mnguni, thanks to the Gauteng Social Development funding, joined us. This will improve the quality of our services and also give us more reach into the community.



*Ms Gopi Maremela*



*Ms Gale Lebotse*



*Ms Dimakatso Mnguni - Administrator*

#### b. DIRECTORS

Ms Ina Opperman and Ms Diane Terblanche resigned from our Board, citing personal reasons. There were no further appointments to the Board during this period, and we had the requisite minimum of seven directors serving on the Board.

## Services rendered

### a. FOOD PARCELS

In September 2009, The National Department of Social Development approved funding for food parcels and ongoing support for 34 very destitute families, for one year. Although these were very modest food parcels (R250 per household), they were often the only cushion against starvation.

There were 207 direct beneficiaries who benefitted from these monthly food parcels. We also gave 259 counselling sessions, some of them through home visits, during this period. Although the food parcels were supposed to have been terminated in October, we collectively decided to skip November, save for the three families who simply could not afford to skip, so that the families could have some food during the Christmas season.

The food parcel programme ran concurrently with the establishment of backyard gardens with and for the families. Only eight families successfully maintained their backyard gardens. Two of these beneficiary families have become part of the Veggie Tunnels enterprise in Waterworks Informal Settlement.

Sadly, the National Department of Social Development could not renew the contract and the food parcel programme was terminated in December and we did exit interviews for all the families.

### b. CLINICAL and SUPPORT SERVICES

There were 931 new beneficiaries of our services in 2011 financial year, with 409 receiving support with homework, reading and other after-school care services and 309 receiving counselling for a varied number of social ills.

## Christmas parties

The year is never finished for us till we have Christmas parties for all the children we have supported during the year. This is not only to encourage to stay involved in our programmes, but also to give a bit of treat for those who are less fortunate. For a lot of children Christmas is just another day, there is nothing festive about it.

The Lenmed Private Hospital sponsored a Christmas party for 300 children from Waterworks Informal Settlement. Dr Manning and his staff had their hands full, trying to control the queues to the waterslide and jumping castle.

Some of the children who did not have underwear on or bathing costumes decided that they were not going to miss out on the fun. With complete abandon, they took off their clothes and dived for the water. What joy, what exhilaration!





In these sweltering temperatures we experienced in the past few weeks, and as you dive in your pool tomorrow, just spare a little thought for the scores of children and communities who live in informal settlements, whose only source of water are communal taps, who wash from a small basin and have never seen a shower. Do not feel guilty as most are wont, but just thank God for your blessings, and when there is an opportunity bless somebody else.

Not to be outdone, Frank Bredenoord from Status Hotels and many of his friends hosted another Christmas Party at the COPESSA Protea Glen Play Park, for about 400 children. Lorraine Hurdus organised the jumping castles for the children, Bryan Fenton from Nestle donated ice creams, sixteen 25kg mealie meal, Tamela Dodson from Ceres Juice donated juices, and Nicole from Thornbirds Wedding Lodge, Eikenhof, party packs. We also received 225 bags of 10kg maize meal from Mrs Ramaboea of Hands of Prayer Church, which were shared between these two communities.



## Conclusion

COPESSA is about empowerment and not just only about reaction to abuse that occur in families and communities. We empower the community through the various community development programmes that we have tailor-made with and for the various age groups in the communities.

This can only be possible through generous investment of the wider public and business into our programmes. We are truly grateful for the continued trust and confidence donors have in our organisation. We are excited by the financial input of government in our programmes, this can only further bolster the confidence.

## Contact details

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## Bank details

Name of Account: COPESSA

Institution: Nedbank

Branch: Business Central, Gauteng

Branch Code: 128405

Account Number: 284 039501

## Registration

Company registration: 2000/025755/08

PBO: 930 012 177

NPO: 0471-733NPO