

# Quarterly Report

July to September 2020

## COVID-19: The Pandemic's Impact On Mental Health

While the primary threat posed by COVID-19 is to people's physical health, the pandemic is also taking its toll on economies, social and cultural activities, and people's mental health. Spotlight spoke to mental health experts in the public, private and NGO sectors to hear how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of people in South Africa.

### What people worry about

A recent [survey](#) conducted by the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) found that nearly half of the 1 214 respondents felt that financial stress and pressure were one of the main challenges during the lockdown.

Adding to this, over half of respondents cited anxiety and panic as a major challenge.

[https://www.spotlightnsp.co.za/2020/05/04/covid-19-the-pandemics-impact-on-mental-health/?fbclid=IwAR2w71179oU5HdaoJt9V0jDgadrnmZQgblI5WHfYpsCx\\_Bx2H20bT6DM8G8](https://www.spotlightnsp.co.za/2020/05/04/covid-19-the-pandemics-impact-on-mental-health/?fbclid=IwAR2w71179oU5HdaoJt9V0jDgadrnmZQgblI5WHfYpsCx_Bx2H20bT6DM8G8)

## 10 July – Food Donation from @CovidCare

Over the past few weeks we have received some very generous donations to cater to the nutritional needs of our beneficiaries and their families during these times. Thank you @Covid Care for the awesome food packages donated to the Boksburg Kidz Clinic.

*(Nгаа Murombedzi, with Violet Zwane of the Boksburg Kidz Clinic)*

1. Covid 19
4. Kidz Clinic Services
5. Kidz Clinic Stats
7. Cases
- 9 Criminal Cases
11. WMACA Outreach
15. WMACA Advocacy
26. Acknowledgements
29. How to Help



## Gender Based Violence Webinar

•Streamed live on Jul 1, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzKhPEUQTqQ>

WMACA's Miranda Jordan and Luke Lamprecht took part in a panel discussion hosted by Judge Sharise Weiner, focusing on the causes, effects and long term impact of GBV and childhood abuse.

Very insightful contributions were made by the entire panel and all the viewers felt more informed afterwards, although the general feeling was that the topics discussed were quite taxing.

**GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**  
Wednesday 1 July 20:00

HOST  
Judge Sharise Weiner

PANELISTS

- Prof Bonita Meyersfeld - Chair of Lawyers against Abuse
- Luke Lamprecht - Women and Men Against Child Abuse
- Miranda Jordan-Friedmann - Women and Men Against Child Abuse
- Lisa Vetten - Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research
- Leanne Stillerman Zabow - Clinical Psychologist
- Rozanne Sack - Director of Koleinu SA
- Sasha-Lee Olivier - Miss SA
- Seipati Nathane - Activist

Register now  
[www.excelacademyinc.com/sajr32](http://www.excelacademyinc.com/sajr32)

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**EXCEL ACADEMY** Jewish Report

**Sponsor a mask and a therapy session for an abused child**  
R 60

**Kidz Clinics**  
FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

We're fighting two pandemics - Covid-19 and abuse. Your contributions will protect children from Covid-19, and contribute to a therapy session for an abused child. We will give the mask to them on your behalf.

**SPONSORING DETAILS:**  
FNR: Randburg  
Branch: 254 005  
Acc: 62226645703  
(Section 18A)  
Acc Name: Women And Men Against Child Abuse  
Ref: Mask

www.wmaca.org.za Facebook: WMACAab

HELP US TO GIVE MASKS TO ABUSED CHILDREN.

The child victims we attend to at our Kidz Clinics are more often than not from impoverished areas. We would like to give them all masks, to keep them healthy, and to ensure that they can come for their sessions.

Your contribution will provide a mask for a vulnerable child, and also assist in the cost of play therapy sessions. Our services are FREE to victims, we've never charged a cent.

Some of these parents have to decide between protective gear and food... You know which one they'll choose. Help us make their lives a little easier.

We launched a "Sponsor A Mask" campaign, through which we got the public to contribute to providing a WMACA branded mask to underprivileged children.

Many people also bought some of these masks for themselves, as they are very unique.

## 27 July – Penny Stein on Cliff Central

Our marketing partner, Penny Stein, was on Cliff Central, speaking to Gareth about our Sponsor A Mask Campaign.

From 27:20

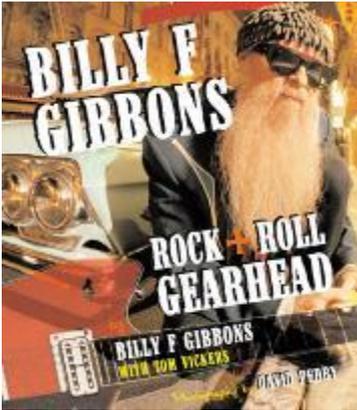
<http://cliffcentral.com/gcs/batman-en-die-bulle/>



## 19 Aug – Billy Gibbons Auction with Hot 91.9FM

Our marketing partner, Penny Stein, got a donation from her old friend Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top, for us to auction as a fundraising initiative.

Hot 91.9FM kindly came on board and hosted an online auction after a long telephonic interview with Billy.



The autographed copy of his autobiography Rock & Roll Gearhead shows his exquisite custom guitar collection and his passion for bespoke all-American hot Rods. The hamper also contained his latest CD Perfectamundo, also autographed.

Simon Parkinson spoke to Billy about his life and work, and about his support of the plight of abused children. Many thanks to Penny Stein, who made all this possible, as well as the team at Hot 91.9FM



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYZK62xxFIA>

## KIDZ CLINIC Services

Our intakes increased steadily after we resumed services in May – observing all prescribed health protocols - and we continued providing therapy to the children whose intakes happened before the lockdown. We are now starting to see children who report abuse that happened during the lockdown.

In Boksburg the social workers have continued to work on a rotational basis alternating two social workers a day to cater to the steady number of clients we have received since we resumed operations in May. They have exercised solutions around the use of masks – which often impede the building of rapport - and continue to engage with the head office how we can incorporate safety measures for children and staff members and still provide quality services.

## SERVICES PROVIDED - Jan to Sept 2020

<b>New Intakes</b>	Girls:	420	665
	Boys:	245	
Children: First Visit, Follow-up visits - Psycho-social & Forensic Assessments, Trauma Evaluation, Risk Factors, Play therapy, Counselling, Further Therapeutic Work			2144
Children: Pupils addressed through preventative talks at Schools			
Parents / Grandparents / Caregivers: First Interview/ Intervention			541
Parents / Grandparents / Caregivers: Follow-up interview and/or counselling			2004
Parents assisted through Family Preservation & Parenting Skills Groups			412
Educators addressed at School or Daycare talks			
Community members assisted with brief counselling and referrals to other Govt or NPO Service Providers			670
Number of Forensic or Psycho-Social Assessment Sessions provided			556
In-house Forensic Medical Examinations (J88) done			46

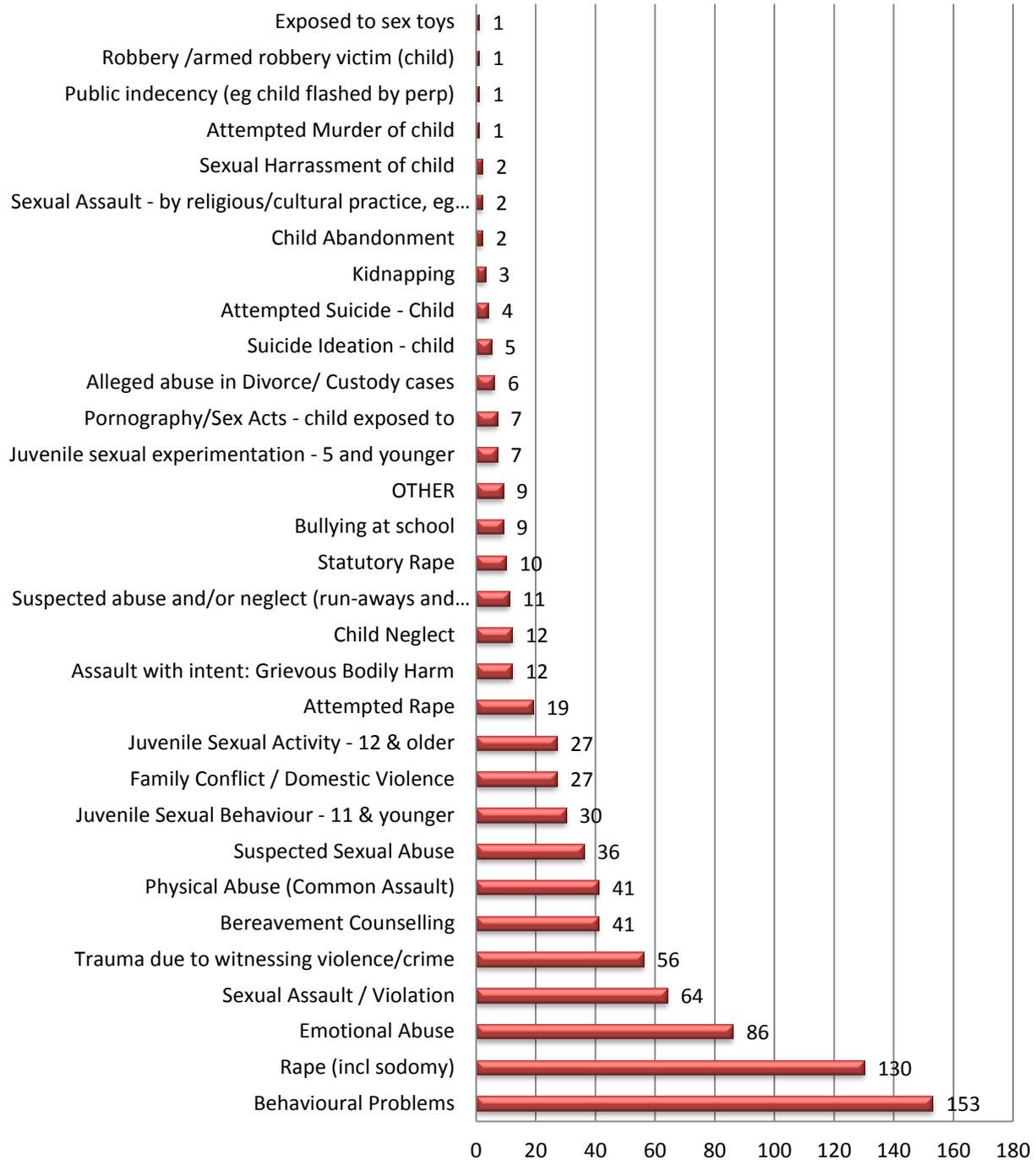
DEMOGRAPHIC		African		Coloured		Asian		White	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
44%	Children	531	971	31	82	16	17	194	302
56%	Adults (incl youth and older)	854	1358	22	54	11	13	100	262

Total Beneficiaries in Community		Male				Female			
		Adult		Child		Adult		Child	
3714	Total African	854	18%	531	11%	1358	28%	971	20%
189	Total Coloured	22	0%	31	1%	54	1%	82	2%
57	Total Asian/Indian	11	0%	16	0%	13	0%	17	0%
858	Total White	100	2%	194	4%	262	5%	302	6%
<b>4818</b>		987	20%	772	16%	1687	35%	1372	28%

**Male:** 37% **Female:** 63%

BBEEE SCORING							
82,2%	Total African	<b>77,1%</b>	Males:	1385	Females:	2329	<b>3714</b>
	Total Coloured	<b>3,9%</b>	Males:	53	Females:	136	<b>189</b>
	Total Asian/Indian	<b>1,2%</b>	Males:	27	Females:	30	<b>57</b>
	Total White	<b>17,8%</b>	Males:	294	Females:	564	<b>858</b>
			<b>Males:</b>	<b>1759</b>	<b>Females:</b>	<b>3059</b>	

## Type of Case presented at Intake



Social/Legal/Other Services - Referred to Govt or other NGO's	1132
Disputes Mediated by Kidz Clinic Staff	1068

\* **Behavioural Problems explained:**

*Children who have experienced abuse and neglect are therefore at increased risk for a number of problematic developmental, health, and mental health outcomes, including learning problems (e.g., problems with inattention and deficits in executive functions), problems relating to peers (e.g., peer rejection), internalizing symptoms (e.g., depression, anxiety), externalizing symptoms (e.g., oppositional defiant disorder, conduct disorder, aggression), and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). As adults, these children continue to show increased risk for psychiatric disorders, substance use, serious medical illnesses, and lower economic productivity.*

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK195987/>

## ALEXANDRA KIDZ CLINIC

### CASES TO NOTE

From July to September we saw 11 children for bereavement counselling. The contributing factors are not established yet.

August: Suicide Ideation: We're seeing a little girl of 7 for counselling, who is suffering from prolonged trauma due to witnessing domestic violence at home between her parents since 2019. She started talking about wanting to kill herself, which is why someone in her family intervened. She says she always feels scared and she sometimes wets herself.

In July – **a case that can be totally attributed to the lockdown** - an 11-year old girl was brought to us because she was raped by the grandmother's boyfriend. She was unfortunately left in his care while the schools were closed, and the grandmother had to go to work. Upon disclosure the grandmother took the child to Medico -Legal in Alexandra and the medical result was positive. The perpetrator was arrested the same day.

### FAMILY PRESEVATION PROGRAMME

**BACKGROUND:** The Family Preservation Programme (FPP) was designed to assist families preserve good relationships and to strengthen the family support system amongst individual families and community at large.

**PROCESS:** Themes discussed are as follows:

1. Communication
2. Relationship
3. Parenting styles
4. Family values
5. Family resources
6. Community resources

From July to September the FPP was presented to 31 males and 52 females

### PARENTING PROGRAMME

**BACKGROUND:** Parenting Programme (PP) was designed to equip parents with skills to manage and cope with challenges of raising their children in order to develop harmonious environment to raise their children.

**PROCESS:** Topics covered:

1. Communication

2. Relationship between parents and their children
3. Parenting styles
4. Children's rights and responsibilities
5. Positive discipline

Parents were actively involved in the project, they were helping each other to deal with the matters at hand and how to solve challenges they were facing.

The programme was attended by 47 Females and 30 Males

## **BOKSBURG CLINIC**

### **Child abuse horror: Case against Kempton Park parents postponed**

An ongoing Kidz Clinic case in the South Gauteng High Court has made the media. Two of our social workers – Teresa and Leilani - assessed siblings involved in a horrific child abuse and child murder case. The young girl (10) was sexually abused by the mother's boyfriend (then aged 21). The mother (32 at the time) was the first disclosure for the child and she failed to intervene. The child then wrote a letter to her teacher at school and the teacher raised the alarm.

Her brother, then 12 years old, was tortured. He has a learning disability and attends a school for children with special educational needs. Both children were subjected to physical abuse as well. A case was opened for sexual abuse against the stepfather of the children. While that case was ongoing the stepfather murdered a 5 month old sibling of the child.

These incidents took place between 2017 and 2018.

The children were assessed by the Boksburg social workers and they gave recommendations that the children could testify. The Judge relied on these recommendations and the testimony of the children was not disputed in court.

The parents were convicted on charges of child abuse, sexual abuse, and murder. Between the two accused they face 11 charges.

They will be sentenced on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. They remain out on bail and have since had another child, who is in the care of family members.

<https://www.thesouthafrican.com/news/child-abuse-case-kempton-park-parents-postponed-29-september/>

### **Children and pornography – and body boundaries**

An intake was done in February 2020 for a 12 year old girl to receive intervention due to behavioural problems; being caught watching pornography on her phone and taking photos of her private parts.

#### **PROCESS**

The therapy process began with creating a safe and conducive environment, providing uninterrupted attention to the child and addressing the issue of confidentiality and its limitations. Through engaging in this way, the girl was able to freely express herself.

*"The horrors in which children live have been exposed in this case where a man comes into the life of a mother of two children, one with a learning disability and he systematically sexually abuses, physically abuses, holds hostage and tortures his two step-children with NO protection from the mother," local organisation Women and Men Against Child Abuse said.*

The social worker engaged the child in the semi structured questionnaire, to understand the home circumstances and her relationships with her significant others. She portrayed a positive relationship with her mother and a negative one with her step-father. She shared her discontent in the way he raises his voice at her when she does something wrong and that he just changes the tv channel without asking them.

Child was educated on good social skills, she was empowered to go and communicate her feelings to his step-father.

The girl was also engaged in the body parts exercise with the aim of exploring if she was ever sexually abused. She verbalised that she was caught by her mother taking photos of her private parts. The use of questioning was employed to find out where the child learned that. She reported to have learnt the behaviour from her friends (peer pressure). The social worker encouraged her to be assertive and only copy good behaviour from her friends. She was educated on body boundaries.



Social worker engaged the child in the three houses exercise. The aim was to explore the child’s worries, strength, hopes and dreams.

The parents were given some parenting guidelines and verbal feedback was given. The mother also gave feedback that she is seeing positive change in the child’s behaviour.

## CRIMINAL CASE OUTCOMES – KIDZ CLINIC CASES

### 2020 CONVICTIONS - ALEXANDRA

No	Charge	Sentence	Perpetrators		Relationship	Victims	
			A	G		A	G
1	RAPE	5 Life Sentences	39	M	Mom’s boyfriend	17	F
2	RAPE	10 Years Imprisonment	30	M	Not related	14	F
3	RAPE	5 Years Imprisonment	17	M	Biological Brother	7	F

**Case 1 details:** In 2017 a 17 year old girl was raped by two unknown male adults.

The girl kept a diary where she wrote about her experience. One day her friend became curious and read it, after which she told their teacher about what she found. Police officers were called to the school, and a case of rape was opened.

When the initial rape occurred; she was on her way to the bathroom where she was snatched by two male adults who raped her near her home. No-one was arrested, as they could not be identified.

But during assessment at Kidz Clinic the client was not so much concerned about the specific incident. She wanted to talk about earlier incidents, when she was raped by her mother's boyfriend.

She disclosed that she was staying with her father but due to her behavior her father chased her away. She used to go to parties at night without the consent of her father. She moved to her mother's place, but they didn't have a good relationship. Her mother had a boyfriend whom she confided in.

Her mother worked night shift most of the time and asked her boyfriend to sleep in her house to be with the children while she was at work. One night this man asked the girl to join him in her mother's bed. She refused to do as instructed but he forced her and raped her. She did not disclose to her mother.

The rape continued until she got pregnant. When she was about 4 to 5 months pregnant her mother was suspicious and asked her about it. At first the girl said that it was a 17 year old boy who was her boyfriend. She did sleep with the boy but she knew that he was not the one who impregnated her. The boy's family was consulted and they promised to help with medical care and the well-being of the child when she was born.

When the diary was found, it was now known that it was her mother's boyfriend who impregnated her and he was arrested. He was released on bail after a while. After he was released the incident with the 2 males occurred, but no one was arrested. The girl thought that the perpetrators of the second rape were sent by her mother's boyfriend.

During the sessions the girl was living in a shelter for Abused Women with her child. She was also doing her grade 10 and the workload was too much for her. She mentioned that she started to resent the child and she wished that she was dead. The Kidz Clinic Social Worker called the grandmother of the child to check how she can help her with the baby. She came to the office and offered to take the baby with her so that her granddaughter would be able to focus on herself. A Social worker from DSD was also monitoring the client's well-being, and we communicated with him regarding the client's progress.

**Case proceedings:** The perpetrator got bail. DNA was to be collected when the child was born. He did not appear in court due to strike in KZN, where he was now living. His lawyer got tired of his delay tactics and resigned. He ended up not attending at all without any communication with the court and warrant of arrest was issued. He was then arrested in KZN.

The Social worker (Kidz Clinic) and other professionals who interacted with the child were called to testify

**Case outcome:** DNA results came back positive. The perpetrator was the father of the new born child. He was sentenced to 5 life terms in prison at the Alexandra Magistrate's court.

## **2020 CONVICTIONS - BOKSBURG**

No	Charge	Sentence	Perpetrators		Relationship	Victims	
			A	G		A	G
1	Attempted Rape	4 Years Imprisonment	18	M	Fellow pupil at school	15	F

**Background:**

The mother of the victim reported that they live in a shack and they use coal with a mixture of cow dung to make fire. On the 10th of June 2018, she reported that the girl went to fetch the dung accompanied by her friend. Upon arrival, they saw a boy who was in their school sitting on top of a concrete sewerage pipe or container. When they got close he threw a stone at the child's friend and he told the victim that "it is a perfect time for both of them" and tried to rape her. The friend ran to call for help.

No	Charge	Sentence	Perpetrators		Relationship	Victims	
			A	G		A	G
2	Rape	Life Sentence	32	M	Family Friend	12	F

After watching a tv show with some sexual activity, the girl concerned disclosed to her mother that she had been raped. When asking the girl why she looked distressed the mother learnt that in December of 2017 the child was playing with some friends in the street when a known male approached them. He started talking to the girls. He was not a stranger to them. Sometimes they would walk to school and see him on the streets. On the day in question the accused walked with the children and then sent the girl's friend to go and collect something for him. He took the child to a nearby abandoned space and raped her.

According to the child he started by kissing her and commenting on her breasts saying he liked that she was getting breasts. He also started fondling her before he raped her. He ran away afterwards and threatened the child to never talk about it.

Fortunately he was identified and arrested.

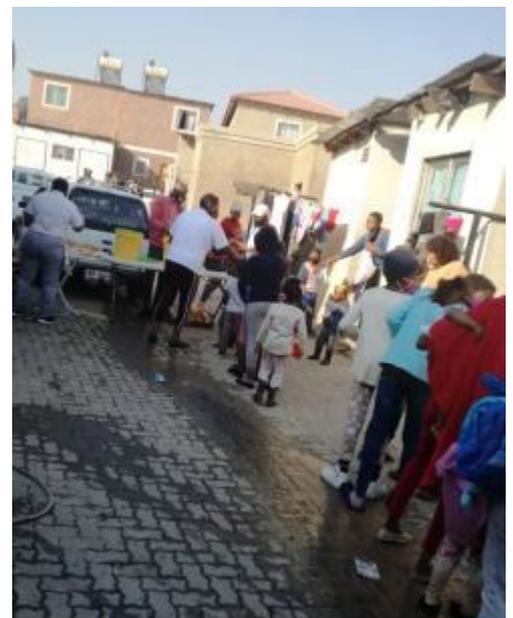
## WMACA Outreach

### ALEXANDRA

#### MANDELA DAY 18 And 19<sup>th</sup> JULY

On the second of July the Old Council Building caught fire and a large number of shacks were demolished. Around 500 families were left without clothes and furniture.

In Planning for the Mandela day celebrations, Vispol, Alexandra Kidz Clinic in conjunction with Global Faith Mission donated food parcels and blankets to families who lost their belongings



An extra consideration was ensuring social distancing and sanitizing people as they came in.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> we served lunch to the 500 victims of the fire and on the 19<sup>th</sup> we handed out food parcels and blankets to them, and also to a group of 150 widows.

## CHILD FEEDING PROGRAMME

Kidz Clinic Alexandra are feeding more than a 100 children every day, with the help of Chefs With Compassion. Clinic Manager Elizabeth Mokoena collects the food every Wednesday in Kew, Bramley.

As children are not going to school, food insecurity is a major challenge.

Some of them used to eat at school – often their only meal. Many parents are not working and they too are hungry. Every day the children bring their containers and they go home with enough lunch for the family.

We also received clothes from the Vhadzimu Foundation and more food parcels from Gift of the Givers. These are distributed once a month to 40 widows and their Families

On August 29, Gift of the Givers also donated Ice coffee

milkshakes for 2000 children

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of August we donated 30 comfort bags and clothes at Bombani shelter for women and children who were the victims of Domestic Violence

**A special Thank You to chef Arnold Tanzer and Chef Khumalo, and the CK Foundation Food Bank students who cook for the children.**

## BOKSBURG

Operations Director Vincentia and Social Auxiliary worker Shirley delivered masks to a primary school in the Eastrand area. The issue around children returning to school in the midst of the COVID19 pandemic has been heavily debated with the major concern being the safety of children. WMACA is happy give back to the community we serve! Children are faced with the pandemic of child abuse – a visible force, now they are fighting an invisible force and it's the duty of all that care for children to make sure they are protected.



**8 July – Two-Year-Old Sexually Assaulted In Hospital!**

The family of a two-year-old who was assaulted while in isolation for COVID-19 claims that police at the Ga-Rankuwa police station were unhelpful when they tried opening a case. The family says also they battled to get help from an officer at the Family Violence, Child Protection, and Sexual Offences Unit. According to Miranda Jordan, director of Women and Men against Child Abuse, the actions of the police are criminal and the family has sufficient grounds to lay charges.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1-wU5BXe1Y&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1E6u7CGUwMq1vwlACJp3szQ7zv-z1IQUeMgxoZFHKFRYZzD1hPg5S\\_-U8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1-wU5BXe1Y&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1E6u7CGUwMq1vwlACJp3szQ7zv-z1IQUeMgxoZFHKFRYZzD1hPg5S_-U8)

<https://www.facebook.com/newzroom405/videos/1171777123186531/?v=1171777123186531>



**23 July – Vodacom GBV Webinar**

WMACA Operations Director Vincentia Dlamini was the guest speaker of a Webinar, attended by more than a thousand Vodacom employees during a lunch and learning initiative, on the topic of Gender Based Violence.

Vincentia was joined by another guest speaker, Mbuyiselo Botha from the Commission on Gender Equality. The theme of the talk was “Why do men commit such gruesome acts of violence.” It was an interactive session where a Q&A session followed.

It is a big part of our Advocacy work, to collaborate with our Sponsors and networking partners, to bring awareness to and empower their employees to seek recourse, and then for the employer to facilitate and support the employees and their families.

**5 Aug – Women’s Month Interview on Gareth Cliff’s show: So What Now?**

Does South Africa have anything to celebrate this Women’s Month? Gareth Cliff is joined by Prof. Thuli Madonsela, Miranda Jordan-Friedmann, Prof. Elna McIntosh and Charley Pietersen.

<http://cliffcentral.com/so-what-now/5-august-prof-thuli-madonsela-miranda-jordan-friedmann-prof-elna-mcintosh-charley-pietersen/?fbclid=IwAR3HXpz5fdG76YvWUBKxfDMJQ8xNFwlA00icoLxP7yNCfwaSZBh3CVZV5H8>



**Aug -**

### **Prosecutors finally win justice for raped, pregnant 13-year old who burnt to death**

Nine months after she died in a shack fire, prosecutors finally won justice for a 13-year-old girl who was repeatedly raped and impregnated by her own father, and had to get an abortion. Her father, Sakhiwo Nondumo, 40, was sentenced to three 25-year sentences for his crime. Child protection organisations and social workers lauded the sentence, but said the child's ordeal once again highlighted how closed the criminal justice system is to victims who need it the most.

Luke Lamprecht from Women and Men against Child Abuse said the case was again an illustration of how the whole system was set up to discourage victims from reporting rape and abuse.

"The system is offender-centric. Firstly, how does a 13-year-old report a crime to the police? Often adults don't listen to children. The disincentives to disclose rape are stacked very high," he said. He added that once the crime has been disclosed, the system is also very hard on rape survivors.

"But having said that, an effective sentence of 25 years is a very good result," he said.

[https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-08-07-prosecutors-finally-win-justice-for-raped-pregnant-13-year-old-who-burnt-to-death/?fbclid=IwAR1-  
vdOmA2XLFQ50KJI1wyEmsCz8QN5CnBCdHX5xn8J4b7GbvjbQ9-PEdyY](https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-08-07-prosecutors-finally-win-justice-for-raped-pregnant-13-year-old-who-burnt-to-death/?fbclid=IwAR1-<br/>vdOmA2XLFQ50KJI1wyEmsCz8QN5CnBCdHX5xn8J4b7GbvjbQ9-PEdyY)

### **21 Aug - Gauteng Most Violent Province In SA: SAPS Crime Stats**

*Image: SABC News*

Gauteng remains the most violent province in the country, according to the provincial police's top management.

They say more than 4 500 people were murdered in the province between April 2019 and March 2020. Close to 11 000 sexual offences were reported to the police in the same period, the majority of them being rape incidents.



There's been outrage from all sectors of society about the high rate of violence against women and children. Ngaa Murombedzi, from the organisation Women and Men Against Child Abuse, says children are affected by crime reports.

"We are pleased to see that in attempted sexual offences there seem to be a decline from the previous year. However, we are concerned that the rape cases reported to police are still high. Children are ultimately affected by every crime reported in this report."

<https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/gauteng-most-violent-province-in-sa-saps/>

## 27 Aug – Miranda Features On Another Cliff Central Webinar

### [#StopToStart: Lasting Scars of COVID-19 Lockdown](#)

The Covid-19 lockdown has created many social and economic problems, and those affected by sexual and gender-based violence are at even more risk than normal in these abnormal circumstances. What are the potential lasting scars of the lockdown, in terms of the SGBV pandemic?



Gareth Cliff in conversation with Monica Adhiambo Onyango, Sophie Hobbs and Miranda Jordan-Friedmann.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=3&v=Lbncw8AUWSc&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=Lbncw8AUWSc&feature=emb_logo)

## BRYANSTON HIGH SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE

### 31 Aug - Bryanston High sexual assault case: 'There is now light and the end is near' - mother of victim

<https://citizen.co.za/news/south-africa/crime/2352374/bryanston-high-sexual-assault-case-there-is-now-light-and-the-end-is-near-mother-of-victim/>

## Slow pace of justice

WMACA, who have been attending the case throughout and supporting the family and the victim as they go through the justice process, decried the slow pace of justice in the matter. "How the justice system has handled this case is a deterrent for victims," the organisation said.

"Over the last year, each appearance has shown how the system on which victims rely to get justice lets them down by upholding the rights of an accused," the organisation said. It added that the accused had, throughout the process, "exercised his power and rights to avoid facing his day in court".

But the victim had been silenced, WMACA added. "As WMACA, we maintain the power of abuse lies in the silence. The justice system silences the victims and makes them invisible – it does not offer support to the victim, not even through the services they should be providing.

"If it was not for WMACA, this young lady would be going through this stressful process alone," it said.

## A Step-By-Step Guide On How To Get A Protection Order

With the continuing murders and assaults on woman in SA, the Western Cape department of community safety has launched a booklet to assist victims of domestic abuse on how to obtain a protection order.

The booklet assists in defining a domestic relationship and domestic violence, outlining the rights of a victim of domestic violence and the responsibilities of SAPS, defining a protection order and how to obtain it, and providing useful contact details on how to access domestic violence and gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) related services.

WMACA'S Ngaa Murombedzi said they have had many cases where protection orders taken out to protect families and children from violence were contravened more than they were adhered to.

**"The application of protection for children and victims of domestic violence within our country is sorely lacking and so dismal that often victims of domestic violence are discouraged in opening a case or reporting their ordeal. It is upon the victim to show they need protection — should a respondent not respond to the protection order by way of signing, that protection order is not implemented unless a magistrate sees the situation merits the court to act on behalf of the victim,"** she said.

<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2020-08-31-a-step-by-step-guide-on-how-to-get-a-protection-order/>

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## CARLETONVILLE CRÉCHE ABUSE CASE - FINALISED

### WMACA Advocacy Manager, Ngaa Murombedzi:

"It has been a long journey which has seen Women and Men Against Child Abuse, the Merafong Community and the parents of the three young victims apply constant pressure to the SAPS, investigating officers and the previous prosecutor Mr Manu Nemavola to get this case going. We appreciate the efforts of Adv Magwatha who took over this case earlier this



year.”

## 8 July – Carletonville Crèche Caregiver Found Guilty Of Assault

A Carletonville creche employee who was captured assaulting three toddlers has been found guilty on two counts of common assault and one count of assault with intention to do grievous bodily harm.

Neli Senwametsi was found guilty at the Oberholzer Regional Court on the charges. This was after she was captured assaulting the toddlers in three separate videos in April last year.

*“In light of the high levels of violence against women and children in South Africa, we want a very strong message to have been communicated by the judiciary to communities through the conviction of Senwametsi. We know from research children who experience this amount of violence experience lasting emotional trauma and that should be considered when dealing with perpetrators of violence against children,”* said Miranda Jordan, WMACA Director.

Sentencing proceedings are scheduled to take place on September 10 and 11.



## 9 Sept – Enews - Carletonville Crèche Caregiver Found Guilty

For more on this story, we spoke to WMACA's Nqaa Murombedzi.

<https://www.etv.co.za/news/carltonville-creche-caregiver-found-guilty>



## 9 Sept – Carletonville Creche Abuse – Start of Sentencing

WMACA is calling for a harsh sentence against a former Carletonville crèche employee convicted of abusing three children under the age of four, while in their care.

**After court proceedings in the morning, Miranda reported:** *“Sentencing has been delayed due to the Defence attorney having gone for COVID test and being in isolation. Prosecutor only being told now. These delays cause trauma and the Defence shows complete lack of regard for everyone at Court.*

*We are confident with the new Prosecutor Adv Magwathla, that she will represent the rights of these children well, she was ready to proceed with Sentencing having all the necessary reports but not informed by the Defence. The matter had been remanded until today for pre-sentence reports.*



*Nellie Senwametsi sitting in Court this morning waiting to be sentenced for beating 3 small children at Ninnies Neurons crèche*

The new date is the 16th and 17th of September.”



To talk more on the topic ENCA interviewed Luke Lamprecht, WMACA Child Protection Specialist.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0IDtMZDPSo&feature=youtu.be>

### 16 Sept - Carletonville Crèche Abuse – Another Postponement and Psychologist’s Testimony

WMACA’S @Miranda Jordan and @Nga Murombedzi were at the Oberholzer Court today, where the case was - AGAIN - postponed to next month, because the defence is allegedly not ready to continue with mitigation. He needs more time to study the report, he says.

Nelly Senwametsi was earlier convicted of two counts of common assault and one of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm to three children aged four.

Psychologist, Dr Muller testified today that the children will experience lifelong trauma and will have heightened anxiety and stress levels when dealing with stressful situations. Dr Muller has a PhD in physiology to understand the impact of early stress on the brain and the body particularly the stress hormones and the immune system.

The defence requested more time to research and prepare for cross-examination due to the evidence presented by the psychologist.

A video player showing a woman on the left and a man on the right. The video title is "CHILD ABUSE CALL FOR HARSH SENTENCE FOR CHILD ABUSER" and the ENCA logo is visible. The video content includes text about Nelly Senwametsi's case and a psychologist's testimony.

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that video, I was worried about the vomiting that could have been triggered by a head injury. Unfortunately, one will not find these damages on an X-ray because they occurred on the soft tissue.

“In the middle of the brain lies stress, fear and anger hormones. The neurons in that area grow and you’ll have an angry, paranoid and fearful child with lots of anxiety, which is a lifetime effect.”

Nelly’s lawyer, Anthony Fick, said he was not ready to cross examine the doctor as he needed to do his own research.

“We need more time to go over some reports I only got yesterday morning.

“I also need a chance to do a proper consultation with my client before sentencing can proceed,” he said.

Speaking for the Women and Men Against Child Abuse advocacy group, Nga Murombedzi said this was just a delay tactic by the defence. The matter will be back in court on 13 October.

<https://ewn.co.za/2020/09/10/ngo-calls-for-a-carletonville-creche-employee-to-get-10-years-for-child-abuse>

**WMACA's Ngaa Murombedzi spoke to eNCA:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=91&v=fQb5MRGsdnA&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=91&v=fQb5MRGsdnA&feature=emb_logo)

### **13 Oct – SABC NEWS - Carletonville Creche Abuser Sentenced To Five Years Imprisonment**

The former daycare teacher who was caught on camera assaulting toddlers, has been sentenced to five years behind bars.

Nellie Senwametsi was convicted of two counts of common assault and one of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Her sentence is unlikely to please local organisation Women and Men Against Child Abuse as it had been calling for a ten years prison term for the 42-year-old woman.

WMACA spokesperson Ngaa Murombedzi elaborates...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrTaS8y24vQ>

[http://fusion.ornico.co.za/Broadcast/2020/10/13/2020\\_10\\_13\\_Radio%20702\\_News\\_WACA\\_17h00.mp3](http://fusion.ornico.co.za/Broadcast/2020/10/13/2020_10_13_Radio%20702_News_WACA_17h00.mp3)



### **10 Sept - Florida Restaurant Goers Prevent Deranged Man's Attack On Young Girl**

<https://roodepoortrecord.co.za/2020/09/11/watch-florida-restaurant-goers-prevent-deranged-mans-attack-on-young-girl/>

The country reeled in shock when a video went viral, showing a crazed man making a lunge at a 4-year-old girl at an outdoor restaurant on the West Rand.





# 12 Sept - Fears That Amendments To Existing Sex Crime Legislation Could Lead To A Rise In Vigilantism

Rapists, child rapists and molesters are about to lose their anonymity. They might even lose their lives too – but it won't help turn the tide on the tsunami of sexual violence affecting South Africa's women and children.

That's the view of a range of local experts following President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement this week of the government's intention to amend the existing sex crime legislation in the country.

The Bill to amend the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) will create a new offence of sexual intimidation, widen the ambit for the offence of incest and increase the duty on people to report their suspicions when they suspect a child has been sexually assaulted.

Most importantly, the National Register for Sex Offenders will also be expanded to include the particulars of all sex offenders – and made public.



**Luke Lamprecht, Child Protection and Development Specialist and advocacy manager at Women & Men Against Child Abuse, said making the register public would allow parents to vet the people who work with their children, an important development in a country where many sex offenders have gone on to prey on children all over again with devastating consequences.**

“But the argument against it is that people could take it upon themselves to take the offender out. Historically that's how we work. When people don't get justice, they take justice into their own hands. Our system is so deeply flawed there is certainly that risk. The thinking around this is correct. The implementation will be a totally different thing. It's a worry.”

<https://www.iol.co.za/saturday-star/news/fears-that-amendments-to-existing-sex-crime-legislation-could-lead-to-a-rise-in-vigilantism--1c669963-922e-40a9-b93a-319f2df68daa>

## “SIPHO AND MBALI” - CHILD MURDER AND ASSAULT CASE

17 Sept - Parents In Court For Child Abuse That 'Killed One Child', Left Another Injured

The charges between the pair include murder, attempted murder, child abuse, and a failure to provide medical care.

A man and woman are on trial in the Gauteng High Court in Johannesburg where they are accused of abusing their minor children so severely that their son died and daughter suffered several injuries over a long period of time.

They cannot be named to protect the identities of their children.

<https://citizen.co.za/news/south-africa/courts/2359319/parents-in-court-for-child-abuse-that-killed-one-child-left-another-injured/>

### Update 18 Sept:

Day 4 of Child murder and assault GBH case in JHB High Court. After cross examination of both accused yesterday - mother and father - we are hoping for closing arguments this morning. We hope the defence aren't going to pull any delay tactics. These two small children were so badly abused and none of the injuries could have been accidental, as we heard in the forensic medical testimony. Update: The defence strategy is just nonsense. Denying everything and the line of "it wasn't me" + "I wasn't there" + "I don't know". The attorney for accused #2 even said: But WHY would he kill his own child?

The Judge said: the state is not obliged to address each and every improbability that the accused want to duck into. They only need to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

He has set the 6th of October for judgement and sentencing.



### Judgement

JUDGE MOKGOATHLENG EXPEDITES JUDGEMENT AND SENTENCING of a couple accused of murder of 5 year old son Siphos and Assault GBH of 8 year old daughter Mbali (not her real name) - this is 2nd child murder case we are currently supporting the victims and state . Our colleague Luke Lamprecht will be testifying in aggravation of sentence .

The case brought to our attention by Dr Barnes of the Charlotte Maxeke Jhb Hospital of a father who murdered his 5 year old son then tried to flee Gauteng . The mother, co accused in this case, failed to intervene or report the abuse. The accused was arrested while claiming the body for burial; the deceased had injuries that clearly showed the child had been murdered.

Over a period of time the accused systematically beat his child to death and terrorised his 8 year old half-sister. The excellence of a multidisciplinary child protection team is how the case came to the fore.

We expect, due to their exceptional work and evidence, a conviction of murder and maximum sentences for both



accused.

The court heard evidence from a variety of doctors and the surviving child. This evidence gave testimony to the horror of a childhood ended and another one interrupted. We heard from an emergency doctor who had to declare the 5 year old boy dead on arrival, as well as a doctor specialising in child abuse who saw the surviving 8 year old child.

The court also heard from the pathologist and radiologist who then told the story through the body of evidence of how a childhood full of potential was ended at the hands of those meant to protect it. Finally we heard from the surviving sibling herself who courageously stood up to challenge those who failed to care for her and her half-brother.

We trust that the voices of both victims will be heard through the surviving child and the deceased when the court passes judgement and sentencing.

*We thank Investigating Officer Sgt Ngobeni (far right) for her excellent work In this case*

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## 18 Sept - GBV Hotspots May Be Overlooked Due To Lack Of Resources And Reporting By Victims — Experts

*Stepping up* President Cyril Ramaphosa said based on the latest data, they have identified 30 hotspots around the country where gender-based violence and femicide are most rife.

*Image: Sandile Ndlovu*

**There are concerns that some areas in the country might be overlooked as hotspots for gender-based violence due to the lack of resources and reporting by victims.**



President Cyril Ramaphosa during his address on Wednesday announced a new plan that identifies 30 hotspots for gender-based violence that will get special attention.

Women & Men Against Child Abuse spokesperson Luke Lamprecht said the danger of focusing on hotspots was communities failing to report abuses, resulting in their areas not being identified as hotspots.

“These hotspots are identified based on the fact that there are people that children can report to. It’s a good starting point but it is not sufficient. Lamprecht said the crime statistics showed that gender-based violence in Gauteng remained very high but that there were resources and places to report in the areas.

“The problem with our stats now is that it was almost impossible for children to access the child protective system on their own during lockdown, so we actually don’t know what the number is under Covid. We are hoping that as children go back to schools, churches, mosques, and so on, they will now be asking for the help that they need, because while they were in lockdown our experience was that they had no access to the system at all.

<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2020-09-18-gbv-hotspots-may-be-overlooked-due-to-lack-of-resources-and-reporting-by-victims-experts/>

## **21 Sept – SAPS Members on Trial for Child Abuse**

We were at the Protea Magistrate's Court – Soweto - for the start of trial of the SAPS official accused of abusing children who he was supposed to assist. Children were victims of Johannes Molefe, accused in the AB Xuma School Abuse case.

### **BACKGROUND**

Johannes Molefe, a 58 year old scholar patrol was acquitted in 2018 in the Johannesburg High Court sitting at Palm Ridge, of charges of rape and sexual assault. He faced 3 charges of rape and 11 counts of sexual assault. Judge Peet Johnson called the case a comedy of errors.

In his ruling, the judge said that the learners where coached into making the allegations against Molefe by social workers, as well as one of the court prospectors who interviewed the learners at the clinic. He went on to tell the court that the learners witness statements and testimonies also had several discrepancies.

Judge Johnson then lashed out at the prosecution team saying that it's their duty to assist the court in coming to a just conclusion and it is not their duty to solicit dancing evidence from witnesses to secure a conviction.

Amidst this, new allegations of rape surfaced – this time against a SAPS Sgt who was appointed to compile forensic assessment reports for 2 girls.

The official was charged with rape of one of the victims in the Molefe case, and one charge of sexual assault of another child, also a victim in the school patroller case.

The incidents occurred on Monday, March 12, 2018, when the investigator visited the victims at the school to prepare for the Court appearance. It is alleged that the investigator sexually molested the two Grade Three learners aged seven (7) and eight (8) years old respectively.

The matter, which is being heard in the Protea Magistrates Court, was postponed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2019 until the 26<sup>th</sup> of October for purposes of appointment of an intermediary. The court processes have been delayed by the ongoing COVID19 pandemic. At level 1, the prosecutor is confident they will be able to appoint the outstanding services and the case may continue to trial.

## **KEMPTON PARK PARENTS – MURDER ASSAULT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE**

### **29 Sept - Child Abuse Horror: Case Against Kempton Park Parents Postponed**



The couple, who were released on bail, gave birth to another baby in June of 2020, which is currently being cared for by family

*Child Abuse Image Source: Flickr*

The case against the parents facing a litany of charges related to the [murder of their five-month-old infant and abuse of their other children](#), has been postponed to 4 November 2020.

In what is perhaps one of the most horrifying stories of child abuse, the couple, whose identities have been withheld for the sake of the children, appeared before the High Court in Johannesburg on Tuesday, 29 September 2020.

<https://www.thesouthafrican.com/news/child-abuse-case-kempton-park-parents-postponed-29-september/>

## Acknowledgements

### DONATIONS RECEIVED - BOKSBURG

The Boksburg Kidz Clinic has received fantastic donations over the course of July.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to the Angel Network for an extremely generous donation of 500 rape care packs that continue to allow us to provide comforting items to the children and their care givers.



*Victim Empowerment  
Comfort Pack*



Thank you again to **Penny Stein and friends** for beautiful and colourful brand new soft toys to decorate the therapy rooms. The donation received brought with it “kid friendly friends of the court” that children can identify with. Our court room now houses Minnie and Mickey Mouse and a beautiful Winnie the Pooh.



Thank you to a generous Germiston resident who came across the work that we do at the clinic and contacted us to offer a donation of 50 beautiful care hampers for Women’s day. Thank you Khetiwe!



Thank you VODACOM for a very generous donation of 1000 branded masks to hand out to our clients and 20 litres of hand-wash and sanitizer. We know that with the volatile economy we currently face every helping gesture goes a long way for our clients and families.



The Kidz Clinic Boksburg extends gratitude to Penny Stein and WARM the WORLD who donated some beautiful hand knitted blankets, kiddies scarves and beanies to the clinic to distribute to our beneficiaries.

Thank you Penny for your continued support of our organisation. All the gifts we receive are creatively repackaged and serve a lot of children and families who are beneficiaries of our service.

Thank you to Keith De Villiers for a FANTASTIC donation of a jungle gym which has been added to the grounds of our Boksburg Clinic. As it gets warmer children will be able to play as they wait for their therapy and assessment sessions.



Thank you to a generous community member who through Founding Director Miranda Jordan donated air purifiers for our clinic, AND Thank you Penny Stein for a donation of 12 heaters for the social workers and the reception area at the clinic.

## 10 July – Staff Care Packages from Investec

It is so wonderful when our staff are treated! Investec put together Thank You gifts for all of us, with the help of Portia's 1 Stop Events, Michelle Wohlberg of RAK Events, as well as Jason Bhebhe and Joe Sibanda on the logistics side.

*(Fltr: WMACA's Kevin Barbeau, Linsey Sherman of Investec, and Michelle Wohlberg of RAK Events)*



## 14 Aug – Toy Drive

Enormous thanks to Keith De Villiers for your unbelievable commitment in making a difference to the Kids in our clinics. With your passion, the toy collection at The Square Sunninghill was a winner.

Thanks to all who contributed, your donation is definitely going to make a whole lot of kids very happy.

## ALEXANDRA – basic necessities

The Kidz Clinic would like to thank Mr Robin from Mkhonto Friends of Alex, who donated R 6,000 to buy blankets for the widowed mothers of our clients as contribution to Mandela Day.

He also donated R1,000 towards food parcels.

**Thank you for your support!**

# Meaningful sponsorships change lives

## IT'S ALL ABOUT HOPE - HOW CAN YOU HELP WMACA?

It has been and hopefully will always be a policy of Women and Men Against Child Abuse that our services are provided for FREE. This, however, requires a huge amount of resources to achieve.

We work in an environment where there is NO assured source of income. Yet despite this, we have been able to provide a free, good quality, professional service to thousands of abused children, their families, adult survivors and juvenile offenders.

## LIKE THESE CHILDREN NEED US – WE REALLY NEED YOU.

For just one child, you can simply donate

R150 for a Court Preparation session

R250 for a psycho-social assessment, or

R400 for a medical examination, or

**...if your company/organisation would like to be a part of this incredible and passionate journey with us – and want to become a committed sponsor as part of your Corporate Social Investment Programme, please get in touch with us : Kevin Barbeau, at 011 789 8815 or [kevin@wmaca.org](mailto:kevin@wmaca.org)**

"It is an indescribable feeling to know how what you do changes these children's lives - forever."

With heartfelt and grateful thanks.

WMACA

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