



# Masigcine Children's Home ANNUAL REPORT 2010



# ORGANISATION INFORMATION

**Postal Address:**

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Kuilsriver  
7581

**Physical Address:**

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Mfuleni

**Contact Person:**

Ms Juliane Petersen – Manager

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**Website Address:**

[www.masigcine.org.za](http://www.masigcine.org.za)

**Registration Numbers:*****Legal***

NPO (Non-Profit Organisation) Registration Number 003-483 NPO

***Tax Exemption***

Registered in terms of Section 18A

PBO (Public Benefit Organization) Reference Number: 930 032 265

**Auditors:**

SDK Chartered Accountants

Telephone Number: 021 970 4600

Fax. Number: 021 975 6780

**Names of Trustees:****Chairman of the Board:**

Pastor Lucas Plaatjie

**Treasurer:**

Mrs. Hilda de Beer

**Further Board members:**

Mr. Boyce Williams

Mrs. Miriam Letsaba

Mrs. Margaret Ndala

Mr. Micheal de Beer

Mr. Kgobe Mahlaba

**(Please be advised that our board is currently in a process of restructuring)**



# BACKGROUND, VISION, AND MISSION

Masigcine (which means “let us protect”) is a registered children’s home in Cape Town, Mfuleni where up to 28 children between the ages of 1 week and 10 years of age find a safe and loving home. Our children have been placed in our care by the children’s court after they have been found to be ‘in need of care and protection’. In most cases they have been abandoned, neglected, or orphaned, or have been found to live in circumstances which expose them to severe danger or harm.

Masigcine Children’s Home was started in 1989 when a social worker from the community saw the need of the destitute children in the area and with the help of Rev. Eddie Schaeffler, the Chairman of the Church Council of the Dutch Reformed Church in Kuilsriver, Masigcine was born. Masigcine is now under the protection of the United Reformed Church of Southern Africa – Mfuleni Congregation.

In September 2007, Masigcine Children’s Home received a dynamic home make over with the help of hundreds of volunteers from the community and sponsors from willing companies under the leadership of another non-profit organisation called ‘*NEWKIDZ on the block*’ ([www.newkidz.org.za](http://www.newkidz.org.za)). Masigcine was transformed into a beautiful home and since then, it is being well maintained and effectively managed.

At Masigcine it is ***our Mission*** to ensure that each child, while in our care, receives the best quality of:

- ✚ Child care and nurture
- ✚ Understanding of their vulnerable situation and according support
- ✚ Nutrition and medical as well as therapeutic care
- ✚ Daily age appropriate stimulation, education, and transfer of life skills
- ✚ Community integration

while we work on ***our Vision***: The reintegration of each child into a loving family environments, ideally with their own birth families or, if this is not in the best interest of the child, into loving foster or adoptive families.



***There is no such thing as an unwanted child, just an unfound family.***

# A WARM THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR!

## **Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,**

on behalf of the children, the board, and the staff of Masigcine Children's Home we would like to convey our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the mission of our organisation over the last year!

An eventful and exiting year has passed at Masigcine and in the whole South African Child&Youth Care Sector in general. The year has been characterised by a lot of changes and 'new beginnings'. We have been delighted to finally see the new South African Children's Act come into effect in April of this year. This new Act means true and comprehensive improvements for the grounds on which services for 'children in need of care and protection' are based and we are very hopeful that this is a huge step for South Africa's children! We also want to thank the Department of Social Development and the NACCW (National Association of Child&Youth Care Workers) for the great new vibe that we have been experiencing in the Sector in line with the establishment of the new Children's Act. The new passion and focus to bring up the standards of Child&Youth Care in the Western Cape, the various meetings and workshops, and the support to strengthen and build the cooperation and teamwork between the different service providers has been motivating us immensely! We are committed to working closely with the Department of Social Development in order to make the provisions and regulations of the new Children's Act a reality at Masigcine as quickly as possible.

In the following we would like to report on the progress we were able to achieve on different levels over the past year as well as on the challenges that we experience.

## **CHILDREN**

### **- *Family reintegration: Reunification and Foster Care***

The reintegration of our children into family environments has become our main objective over the last year and we are very encouraged by the developments at Masigcine in this regard. Since we shifted our efforts towards this goal in 2009, fourteen children who had been in our care for several years have finally been reunified with their families or have found loving foster homes. Many new children have been admitted at Masigcine at the same time, but in most cases we were able to make sure that their cases could be handled effectively and that they could be reunified with their extended families within a few month after their admission. However, we need prayers for every child who has not had the privilege yet to find a loving family.

### **- *Cooperation with Arise and Christmas Hosting***

We are very happy to have established a very fruitful cooperation with the organisation ARISE. ARISE is assisting us in finding suitable host and foster parents for our children. A particular success in our cooperation with ARISE has been the Christmas Hosting Program in 2009. For the first time we were able to close the home over the Christmas week as all our children went out for the holidays, either to their own family or to a host family organised by ARISE. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to experience special holidays within the care of a loving family. This year 2010 we will again place our children in host families if they don't have a family to go home to. After we had learned a lot from our previous Christmas hosting experience we have just hosted a training workshop for our new prospective host parents, which was very well received.

- ***Community Integration***

Research stresses that the integration of children in children's homes into community life is fundamental for their development. We have strongly promoted the community integration of our children over the past year and have encouraged our children to take part in different activities outside of the gates of Masigcine and to spend time with the children of the community. One main success in this regard is that our older girls have become more and more integrated in the Women for Peace Dancing School which is right around the corner of Masigcine. After they felt very shy in the beginning they are now really enjoying their dancing and their skills have improved immensely. In September they travelled to a competition with the other kids for the first time and they all brought home trophies!! We are very proud and happy that they have become so much more integrated and active in this regard.

- ***Schooling***

Our school aged children have been attending Mfuleni Primary School or Tuscany Glen Primary School in Blue Downs. The majority of our school aged children struggle at school and are either repeating the year or have been pushed to the next grade in consideration of their age rather than their performance. Poor school performance is a common problem for children in children's homes as these children have to deal with their emotional deficits. The constantly experienced lack of individual stimulation, love, and care often leaves them with short concentration spans, slow understanding, disability to handle emotions of success, failure, and competition with others in a constructive way, and attention seeking and or rebellious behaviour. We are addressing this problem by facilitating individualized support for the children's school work as well as their general wellbeing. However, we are very proud of one little boy who is doing exceptionally well in school.

One of our school going boys as well as three other children in our care who have reached school aged need special schooling as they have special learning needs. I am busy organizing their transfer/enrolment to Bet El Special School in Kuilsrivier.

- ***Accessing Therapeutic Care***

The new Children's Act calls for therapeutic programs and the creation of a therapeutic environment in Children's homes. It is crucial to keep in mind that children living in children's homes do not only have a history of suffering emotional traumata, such as abandonment, neglect, loss, and/or abuse but also lack the fundamental structures of healthy childhood development, such as family relationships and attachments. They have often experienced a constant lack of appropriate stimulation, attachment, and love, as well as physical care and nurturance. In light of this reality it is of utmost urgency to address the wellbeing of these children beyond the provision of food, clothes, household equipment, and basic care as this can only provide a short term solution for the concerned children and society. We strive to promote the holistic and long-term wellbeing of our children as only this approach can eventually give them the foundation to grow up into happy, healthy, and productive members of society. The sufficient provision of appropriate therapeutic care which really needs the specific needs of the individual children has proven to be one of our biggest challenges at Masigcine. While we will keep trying our best to move forward in this regard we would highly appreciate any professional support.

- ***Our new 'Keyworking' System***

In line with modern standards of Child Care at Children's Homes, we have introduced a so called 'keyworking' system where all children are allocated to a particular staff member. It is then the task of the staff member to work on the development of a positive and motherly relationship to these children. This is modern practice to ensure opportunities for attachment and relationships for the children.

Research has found that a loving relationship to a care giver is the essence of a child's development and if the child does not experience such a relationship his or her social, emotional, psychological, and intellectual development is significantly compromised. The keyworking relationships are meant to substitute the child's need for a mother/child relationship as much as possible.

## **STAFF**

### ***- Child&Youth Care Workers and NACCW training***

First of all, a warm and sincere thanks goes to all our hard working and loyal staff ladies at Masigcine Children's Home, our child care workers, our kitchen staff, and our housekeeping ladies. Our 'mamas' have been doing an extraordinary job in providing a beautiful, safe, and loving home for our children on every single day, and many of our staff ladies have been working at Masigcine for more than a decade. Their faithfulness to Masigcine creates stability for our often traumatised little children. The role that these ladies have in the lives of our children is of paramount importance.

We understand that it is a challenge to keep up with the changing conditions and expectations in the Child&Youth Care field in line with the new Children's Act and we thank everyone for making an effort to move along with us as we all need to learn the new ways. One major provision of the new Children's Act is that all Child Care Workers are obliged to receive accredited training in Child&Youth Care Work, which is provided by the NACCW. This is an amazing opportunity for our staff ladies. We are in the process of making the necessary arrangements for conducting our "Workplace Skills Plan" for the Health & Welfare SETA and are hoping to be able to start the training for our staff members next year.

### ***- A full time Xhosa Speaking Social Worker***

For the first time in the history of Masigcine we have managed to employ a highly qualified and Xhosa speaking, full time residential social worker: Noma Mjwara has started to work for Masigcine in June 2010. This has been an urgently needed and fundamental step towards the implementation of the Children's Act and modern standards in children's homes. Noma is now offering all applicable social worker services to our children on a full time basis and has also proven to be a true asset to Masigcine on the level of staff training and management.

### ***- A male role model for Masigcine's boys***

We have introduced a new program which aims to particularly address the needs of our school aged boys who have been lacking the support of a male mentor and role model. A young gentlemen from Mfuleni with a passion for working towards the implementation of the new children's act and great people skills. Unathi September, has come on board of the Masigcine staff team. Besides his invaluable support in assisting and managing our staff in this phase of changes and new beginnings, Unathi is working with our older boys and has become a great father figure and male role model for them.

### ***- Local and International volunteers***

We have been privileged to receive help from a number of volunteers from different parts of the world via the organisation AVIVA throughout the year. These volunteers are a tremendous help to Masigcine as they help with all kinds of tasks at the home and give the children special attention and love. A huge THANK YOU to all AVIVA volunteers from all over the world as well as to all our local volunteers who sacrifice their time, energy, and resources to provide support and love to the children at Masigcine.

May you all be richly blessed!

The Management Team

# INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW MANAGERESS

It is with great pleasure that I would like to introduce myself as the new manageress at Masigcine Children's home.

In June of this year 2010 I took over the management from our previous manageress, Hilda de Beer, who has made invaluable differences to the home during her time at Masigcine. Since her involvement at Masigcine the home has blossomed, it has become a beautiful, warm, well kept, and effectively managed place of service for our children.

After I had been assisting Hilda with the management and social worker duties of Masigcine since October 2009, I am now committed to promote and enhance the high standards of management which have been established at Masigcine. At the same time I am committed to promote a strong team effort while we are striving to push Masigcine to comply with modern international standards of child care in children's homes as well as with the legal requirements of the new South African Children's Act. However, change is never easy and we have been experiencing challenges along the way. For the sake of the children who have been placed into our care I hope and plead that we will all work together in the months to come to tackle all obstacles and to make modern standards a reality at Masigcine.

Masigcine and its children have grown very dear to me ever since I got to know the organisation in 2005. My love for and involvement with Masigcine over the last five years has been a main driving factor of my extensive studies on 'best practice' and 'modern standards' of child care in children's homes. Now I am very happy to cover a position which allows me to implement what I have learned and to strive for the best possible service delivery to the children at Masigcine.

At the same time I have a vision of working on the improvement of services in the broader life space of our children, which goes far beyond our residential care at Masigcine, as well as all other children in the Mfuleni Community. In line with this I have started to cooperate with different other service providers in Mfuleni in forming a professional network of organizations providing services to the children and youth of Mfuleni. The main objective of the 'Mfuleni Network' is to provide comprehensive services for vulnerable children and youth in the community and to maximise our combined efforts in realising the modern paradigm of 'Prevention and Early Intervention'.

Over and above everything I want to say that I love my job at Masigcine and that I thank all my colleagues and friends for our great team work!



Juliane Petersen

## A WORD BY OUR NEW SOCIAL WORKER

Joining Masigcine Children's Home at the beginning of June 2010 has opened a new opportunity for me in the field of residential care. Thus far, working at Masigcine Children's Home has been quite an experience. We have had a few challenges in the past four months; however there have been great developments on all levels of social work.

Over these few months that I have been involved with Masigcine approximately six children have been reunified with their families and six new children have been admitted to the home. We are expecting more children to move back into families as well as more children to be admitted quite soon. The staff has been informed of the significance of following the correct admission procedure [when admitting children] and the consequences of not adhering to these procedures [as outlined in the new Children's Act].

We are happy to report that we have managed to find potential foster parents for almost all of the children that are up for Foster care. The potential foster parents have been informed of the procedure to obtain police clearances and most are awaiting their screening by Child Welfare, the Department of Social Development, and relevant case managers. The majority of the potential foster parents are from the community and are hosting/visiting their prospective foster parents regularly on weekends and positive change has been quite evident in those relationships.

There have been a few developments in terms of hosting. Juli, Danielle, Lucy [from Arise] and I have been meeting in order to develop strategies to structure the hosting program [especially during the festive season]. Arise is also assisting with the screening and training of potential host and foster parents.

There are a lot of changes, especially with the new Childrens' Act in place that we are all still getting used to. But we are trying to maintain a positive attitude. Our focus is currently on developing programmes that are in line with the Act, whilst trying to move towards modern standards and best practice.

Noma Mjwara

## A WORD BY OUR STAFF – MASIGCINE’S MAMMAS



“This was a very busy year here at Masigcine Children’s Home.

A lot has changed over the past few months so we had difficulties settling in and to adjust to the new changes. However, things are going well!

Working at Masigcine is very challenging and demands a lot of dedication to the job that we do. It is not easy at all because we look after children with challenging behavior, but the commitment of the board, management, and everyone else involved here makes our job a lot easier.

Our children get the best health care, love and affection from everyone.

A lot is happening. Recently we were introduced to a Children’s Act, soon we will be obtaining training and we will be recognized as professional Child & Youth Care Workers.

Working here is so rewarding because you change the disrupted lives of these children into assertive and loving little ones. Seeing the children smiling, laughing, crying, dancing all over the place is the most achieving good anyone can wish for.

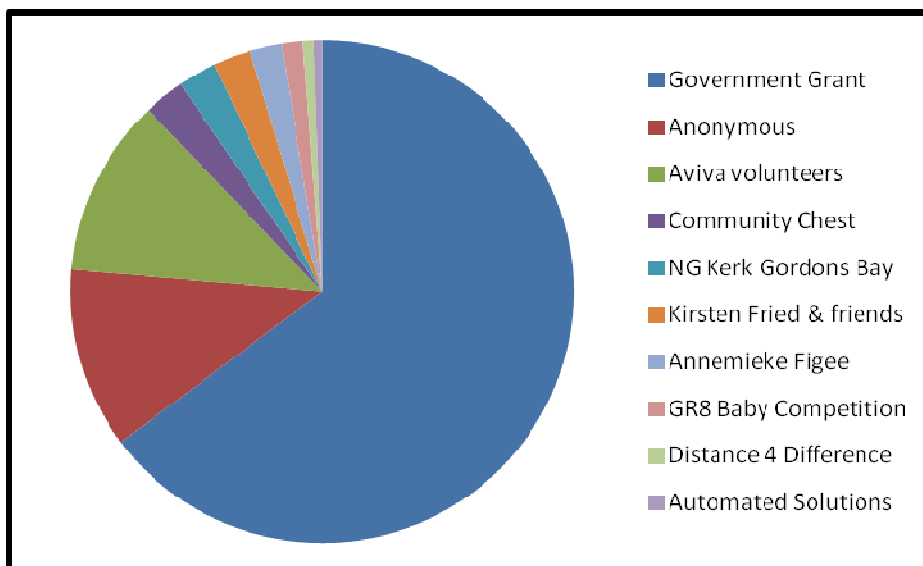
Let’s all work together to improve the children’s lives not only here but all over, putting a smile in a child is an overwhelming feeling – you would not want to wish to change it for anything! ”



## MASIGCINE CHILDREN'S HOME – FUNDING REPORT

Income (April 2009 - March 2010)

Source		Amount	Percentage
Government Grant	R	588,000	65
Anonymous	R	105,788	12
Aviva volunteers	R	103,950	11
Community Chest	R	24,000	3
NG Kerk Gordons Bay	R	22,460	2
Kirsten Fried & friends	R	22,000	2
Annemieke Figee	R	18,417	2
GR8 Baby Competition	R	12,501	1
Distance 4 Difference	R	6,000	1
Automated Solutions	R	5,000	1
Interest received	R	149	0
<b>R</b>		<b>908,265</b>	<b>100</b>



Our sincere thanks go to all members of the public who supported Masigcine during the year - from the regular R50 - R100 donors to the large corporates. We appreciate the Government Grant that we receive every month from the Department of Social Development - without this we would not be able to provide the excellent care for our young children.

A special word of thanks goes to SDK Chartered Accountants in Durbanville who audited the Masigcine Children's Home books pro-bona this year.

