

Annual Report

The Seven Passes Initiative 2015 – 2016



The Seven Passes Initiative

RURAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Contents

Message from the CEO	1
Message from the Director	3
Homework classes and youth development	6
• Primary school homework classes	6
• High school homework classes	7
Parenting programmes: big change starts small	9
• Monitoring and evaluating our impact	9
Financial statement	13



Message from the CEO

Community-based organisations (CBOs) play a vital role in service provision in South Africa. Were it not for non-governmental organisations like the Seven Passes Initiative, many of the services that are essential for a healthy, developing country would not be available to the people who need them most. It's a tough job to provide these services and ensure that they are available consistently in the communities they are most needed.



Chandré Gould

It is no secret that CBOs face a number of challenges: they are seldom recognised for the work they do; and securing sufficient funding to meet the many needs of the communities in which we work is a constant struggle. This affects our ability to recruit and retain high quality staff.

The refugee crisis in Europe has resulted in a significant reallocation of resources away from development activities in the southern hemisphere; and political instability in South Africa has placed the South African economy under pressure. All this makes an already difficult job even more difficult.

So it is with great pride that we bring you this Annual Report for the Seven Passes Initiative. What you will see here is an organisation that is growing from strength to strength, making a real difference in the lives of people in the communities of Hoekwil and Touwsrante, and making a contribution to knowledge about how we can bring about similar positive change throughout the country.

The Seven Passes Initiative's successes can be ascribed to several things:

- community trust and support, which is based on consistent provision of services over more than eight years
- a long term vision for change
- programmes that are strongly informed by the evidence for what works in reducing violence and promoting community development
- strategic partnerships with organisations and institutions locally, nationally and internationally, whose collaboration increases our reach, effectiveness and credibility; and most importantly,
- committed staff

Also, the Seven Passes Initiative is firmly rooted in the community in which we work; our staff and board members live in the community and have a vested interest in the success of the organisation.

Naizel Buys, chair of our board, and Shannen Buys, one of our parenting



Message from the CEO

continued

facilitators, enrolled in our after-school programme when the organisation first started, they then went on to obtain university degrees before returning to their community to give back. They are important role-models for the youth of Touwsrante and Hoekwil. Shannen is now one of the Seven Passes parenting facilitators, and Naizel is Chairperson of the Seven Passes Board.

Over the next few years this organisation will continue providing services that strengthen families and give children hope; it will also expand its reach beyond our own community to touch lives across the Southern Cape.

Chandré Gould
CEO
June 2016



The Seven Passes board and staff members (back, from left): Cedrick Buys (manager), Robert Draai, Chandré Gould, Jenny Foster, Melissa Mackay, Dr Ryan Soldin and Peter Leppan. Middle: Chantal Damons (facilitators coordinator), Naizel Buys (chairperson), Shannen Buys (parenting facilitator) and Maggie Adams. Front: Amelia King, Roslynn Damons (both parenting facilitators) and Wilmi Dippenaar (director).

Message from the Director

Over the past year the Seven Passes Initiative has expanded significantly: more children are attending our homework classes; we have increased our scope of work, and have a larger staff complement. This growth is good for our community and for the organisation. While careful management is critical to ensuring the sustainability and the stability of the organisation, with the strong support of the Board I am confident that the organisation is on a positive path forward.



Our local, national and international partnerships have been critical to our growth.

We currently have three strong, established programmes that are mutually reinforcing and together create the right conditions to address poverty, unemployment and local development. In short we believe there is a bright future for the communities of Touwsranten, Hoekwil and the greater Seven Passes district.

The Seven Passes Initiative has three key programmes: homework classes for primary and high school students; positive parenting programmes; and a youth development programme.

Homework classes and youth development

Our homework class programme for primary school learners has two elements. Our educational facilitators

provide support to classes at Touwsranten School during the school day, and facilitate the homework classes after school. Our strong relationship with the Touwsranten Primary School, and Principal Mr Robert Draai, ensures the success of this programme.

During class-time the educational facilitators help teachers manage large, often difficult to control, classes, and provide children with extra attention and support during school-time. After school, from 2pm to 4pm, the facilitators assist children with their homework. On Fridays they offer craft, sports and life-skills classes. Every day the children receive a balanced meal before they go home.

The homework classes for high-school learners are from three to five in the afternoon. High-school learners receive a wholesome meal and extra academic support from two competent matriculants and the Seven Passes manager, Mr Cedrick Buys. Students also have the use of the computer lab, printing facilities and the Internet.

We currently have 361 primary school and 47 high-school learners enrolled for the homework classes.

The VGK Church in Touwsranten and the Dutch Reformed church of Hoekwil are enormously supportive of our work. Both churches allow us to make use of their halls for training and a reading programme. We also now have 22 volunteers mainly from



Message from the Director continued



We have 22 volunteers mainly from the retirement village in Hoekwil to assist children with their reading. Two of these volunteers will also help us with extra mathematics classes and remedial teaching

the retirement village in Hoekwil to assist children with their reading. Two of these volunteers will also help us with extra mathematics classes and remedial teaching.

Our referral network is critical to our homework classes. A good relationship with local professionals, who volunteer their services and time, and a strong line of communication with George Child and Family Welfare ensures that we are able to source services and assistance for children in crisis.

Our homework classes are supported through donations, and a grant from the Department of Social Development.

Parenting programmes

We are working in partnership with the University of Cape Town and the Institute for Security Studies to offer four evidence-based parenting programmes to promote positive parenting.

These programmes play a significant role in helping parents and children form warm, loving bonds and to communicate well.

The four programmes are:

- **Thula Sana** ('mamma-baba' programme) is a home-visiting programme that runs from pregnancy until the baby is six months old. The programme is designed to help caregivers form a warm, loving bond with their baby and to understand the social nature of babies, even before birth.

- **The Book Sharing Programme** is designed to stimulate the cognitive development of infants, toddlers and young children. Through this programme caregivers and Early Childhood Development (ECD) teachers are taught how to share a book with a child so that cognitive, verbal and concentration development is promoted.

- **Sinovuyo Kids** (Gelukkige Familie Omgeeprogram) is a group-based positive parenting programme for parents of children aged 2 – 9. It is designed to help parents communicate better with their children, set boundaries and find pleasure and fulfillment in their relationship with their children.

- **Sinovuyo teens** is a group-based programme for parents and their teenage children. The programme is designed to reduce maltreatment, neglect and abuse of teenagers, through enabling positive relationships between teens and their parents.

The parenting programmes have been accompanied by a social activation process, guided by Dr Warren Parker. Through this process a group of community members have come together to work towards promoting positive parenting in the Touwsrante community.

We are already beginning to see positive changes in parents, and in their responses to their children.

This programme is generously supported by the World Childhood Foundation.

Youth development programme

Our Youth Development Programme is possible because of a strong partnership with the Department of Community Safety of the Western Cape Government. This partnership enables us to offer young people in our community an opportunity to gain work experience, while developing the hard and soft skills necessary for them to be attractive to future employers. These young people are contracted for a 12-month period as homework class facilitators.

During the year the Seven Passes team help teach the facilitators how to set goals, and achieve these goals. Facilitators undergo a great deal of training and personal development in the year. Training includes: conflict management skills development, positive discipline, how to manage children suffering with ADHD, accredited computer training, and mindfulness and leadership training (offered by the George Municipality and Youth café).

Facilitators have regular meetings with Seven Passes management, to establish their key performance indicators and assess their progress. In addition, we help facilitators find work, or to further their studies at the end of the 12 months. This year four facilitators were accepted

at South Cape College to complete ECD training.

Conclusion

A good, trusting relationship with the Touwsrante community is critical to the effective operation of the Seven Passes Initiative. Over the past year we have interacted with every household in Touwsrante, addressing concerns and establishing sound channels of communication. The social activation process has led to the

establishment of several committees of local leaders, who are determined to improve conditions for families in their community.

I would like to thank our donors, government partners, local farmers, our volunteers, and all the organisations who work with us for their support in helping us to grow and improve.

Wilmi Dippenaar
Director
June 2016



Our volunteers

- Weekly drumming classes are prepared and presented by Melanie Grooves who is supported by board member Jenny Foster. The children love the class and are making rapid progress.
- We are privileged to have a SA fencing champion, Susan Agrella, as a volunteer who teaches the children fencing.
- Children help out in our vegetable garden and have the opportunity to create their own garden. They are supported by volunteer, Helet Theron.
- Volunteer (psychologist) Bea Potgieter started with the Earthkeepers Programme to reconnect children with nature, and teach sustainability.
- Linda Tacke offers weaving classes on a Friday.
- Mila Gould started a choir in January. The choir already has 14 members.

Homework classes and youth development



Primary school homework classes

Since the start of the Seven Passes Initiative homework classes in 2008 the programme has grown exponentially. In 2008 nine children attended homework classes, a year ago we had 280 regular attendees, and now almost 400 (87% of children in Touwsrante) attend the homework classes regularly.

There are nine homework facilitators, each assigned to a grade. The facilitators assist teachers during the school day and get to know each child's specific needs and interests. This allows the facilitators to effectively target the children's needs during homework classes. From 2 – 4pm primary school learners in Touwsrante, and from Lancewood



Chantal Damons

farm school, are provided with a quiet and focussed space to complete the homework assigned by their teachers. They leave their homework books with the homework facilitators, who mark them, keep them safe overnight at the Seven Passes office, and then take the books to class for the children to collect the following morning.

According to Chantal Damons, homework class coordinator who has been with Seven Passes since 2009, "The homework classes greatly improve the overall performance of children at school. We provide learners with food and all the support they need to develop the skills necessary to thrive. If we did not provide homework classes, where would we find our children in the afternoon? At least now their parents can go to work with peace in their hearts knowing that their children will be safe,

Learning to read

Jeremy Tanta is eight years old. He had great difficulty reading and writing as he is intellectually challenged. When he first started school he failed grade one. Amber February, one of the homework class facilitators, realised that Jeremy needed extra help and started giving him extra time and attention.

Amber helped Jeremy memorise the alphabet, she taught him how to hold his pencil, and guided the movement of his hand until he was able to write without her help.

When she started working with him he could not read – now he can. Jeremy is now in grade two. He is still attending the homework classes and his overall performance and confidence has improved significantly.

mentally stimulated and will be given a wholesome plate of food to eat.”

The homework classes are creative and stimulating. They offer learners an opportunity to develop their full potential mentally, physically and emotionally.

Seven Passes is a place where children are made to feel loved and important, and where they are supported by facilitators who really care and go the extra mile to tend to each child’s needs in a unique way.

Bullying is a serious problem in most schools. Chantal speaks about one young boy who was called a ‘moffie’ by his peers. She spoke to the children about how hurtful it is to mock others, and she encouraged them to celebrate their differences. Since then this boy is no longer shy and withdrawn, and feels valued.

High school homework classes

Since starting the homework classes at Seven Passes in 2008, Cedrick Buys has welcomed the high school learners of Touwsranten to homework classes every afternoon between 3 and 5pm.

Here students receive the support, guidance, facilities and supervision they need to achieve their academic goals.

Students often seek help and guidance with mathematics, economics, assignments and future career plans. Grade 11 and 12 students have the freedom to research occupations that interest them and to



Cedrick Buys

print the relevant tertiary institution forms and additional funding information.

Seven Passes staff provides hands-on assistance with the completion and submission of application forms, and always go the extra mile to ensure adequate funding is available to these learners. In addition, frequent career expositions and job shadowing opportunities are arranged for learners to make them aware of the opportunities that often seem out of reach.

Furthermore, Seven Passes has partnered with York High School (YHS) and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) to provide additional academic support to learners that have the desire to improve their marks.

Cedrick Buys says, “If the learners have the will to improve, we provide

them with every opportunity and the support they need to excel and reach their full potential”.

It brings the Seven Passes team a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure when learners go on to study at tertiary institutions. Says Chantal, “Even if they never return to Touwsranten they will inspire others to go out into the world and make the most of every gift, talent and passion they have.”

Excelling

Sherolin Jumat has been attending homework classes consistently since primary school. She is now 15. In 2014 she was chosen as the headgirl of Touwsranten Primary School and has continued to stand out from the crowd of learners at Parkdene High School. She is the top student of 157 grade nine learners at the school. She recently obtained 99% in Biology, 93% in economics and 88% in mathematics. Sherolin says: “If it were not for the additional support from a young age at Seven Passes those results would not have been possible”.

Homework classes and youth development continued

Sheridan Kennedy is one of the Seven Passes Initiative's homework class facilitators. She shares her experience of working for Seven Passes and attending the Sinovuyo parenting programme.



Positive future

"Working for Seven Passes Initiative as a teacher's assistant and educational facilitator at the homework classes has been a transformative experience. I have had the opportunity to build trusting relationships and really connect with the children of our community.

The Seven Passes Initiative has opened many positive doors for me. I am now a role-model the children look up to. Their parents have great respect for me and therefore I live up to expectations. I have gained more self-confidence and a good sense of humour.

The training we received was extremely valuable to me. During REALSTART training we were taught the importance of a good work ethic, and I learned a lot about myself and my DISC profile. I received health and safety training and was appointed H&S representative of the organisation. This was a big achievement for me. I was the person responsible for the safety of the children in our community and felt proud that I was trusted to do this.

I was part of the mindfulness training course that has helped me find inner peace and significantly reduced the anxiety and daily frustrations I used to experience.

In my time at Seven Passes I have also been introduced to several professionals such as psychologists, scientists and doctors.

I received parent training focussed on reducing the risk of child maltreatment, as well as promoting the health and wellbeing of children. This is a skill that I will take with me for as long as I live. It has significantly improved my parenting skills and relationships with my two children and I continue to derive benefit from my involvement with the programme.

I also received book sharing training, which has taught me that I can start reading to my children from as young as ten months. I am currently receiving in-house computer training to improve my EXCEL skills. I really appreciate that I have been given the opportunity to be part of the Seven Passes Initiative for the past 11 months. The organisation has helped me change my life from good to better and I will continue striving for success."



Parenting programmes: big change starts small



The parenting programmes and social activation process are aimed at enabling a shift in Touwsrante towards warm, positive parenting

Monitoring and evaluating our impact

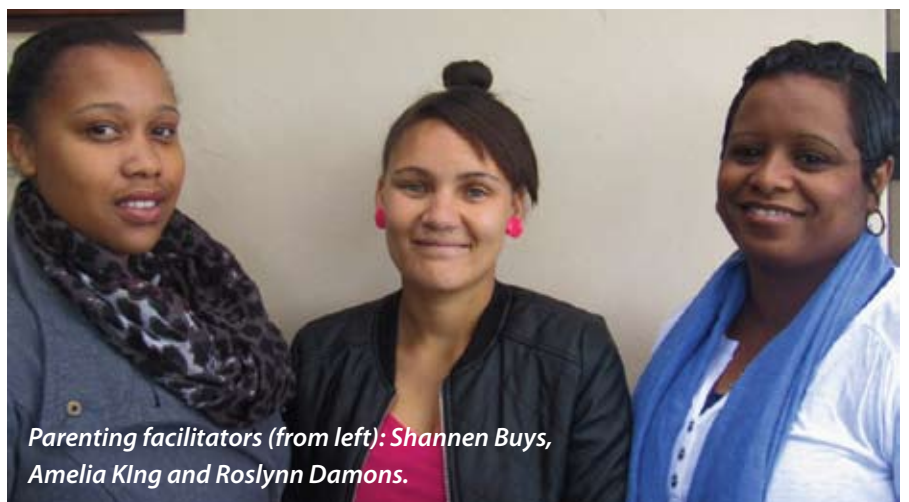
The parenting programmes and social activation process are aimed at enabling a shift in Touwsrante towards warm, positive parenting. In order to know whether the programmes have the intended effect it is necessary for us to carefully monitor and evaluate their impact. This research will make a contribution to the growing body of knowledge about the impact of parenting programmes in South Africa. This research is being conducted in partnership with the Psychology Department of the University of Cape Town (under the guidance of Associate Professor Catherine Ward) and the Governance, Crime and Justice Division of the Institute for Security Studies (under the guidance of Senior Research Fellow, Dr Chandré Gould). A research assistant, Lisa Kleyn, is supporting the research process. Lisa is also collecting social

network data that will allow us to see how parenting information is (or is not) shared through the relationships among caregivers in the community.

For the survey 670 erven were visited (762 households). Of these 481 were families with children. We identified 521 caregivers in Touwsrante. Of these a total of 494 were interviewed – 434 mothers and 60 fathers. Only 27 refused to be interviewed, a refusal rate of 5.9%.

We found that there are 836 children living in Touwsrante (22 children aged 4 – 7 months; 159 children aged 12 - 30 months; 324 children aged 31 months to 9 years; and 331 children over 10 years). Of the children who were the focus of the interview 251 (50.8%) were male and 243 (49.2%) were female.

During the survey caregivers of children were asked about their parenting practices (Alabama Parenting Questionnaire); children's



Parenting facilitators (from left): Shannen Buys, Amelia Kling and Roslynn Damons.

Parenting programmes: big change starts small continued



Patricia Solomon

behaviour (Child Behavior Checklist); their stress about parenting (Parenting Stress Index), intimate partner violence, and about alcohol use. We also interviewed children over the age of 10 years about their parent's practices. A total of 163 children (156 Afrikaans and 21 Xhosa) were interviewed, with their parents permission (a refusal rate of just 7.9%).

In addition, we observed and filmed 60 children interacting with their parents using a standard observational method designed by child psychologists.



Learning to lead: Patricia Solomon speaks out

When I was selected as one of the twenty people to attend the social activation process in February I was excited. I had no idea how it would transform my life and the lives of people I come into contact with. I feel strong, confident and ready to lead my community (starting with my street) in a positive direction. I always had leadership qualities, but I never had the confidence to help other people in need because I questioned what I had to offer - specifically as a mother in the community that experienced some difficulties raising my own children.

I was always held back by fear of what the other people may think about me. Being part of the social activation processes and the advisory board has allowed me to see my worth, and rekindle the self-confidence I need in

order to step out into the community and lead.

Now I have people knocking on my door all the time seeking support, guidance and care. They are curious about the positive parenting sticker I have on my door, and the shirt I wear with pride. I know people look up to me in the community and that is encouraging. I am truly grateful to Seven Passes for believing in me and supporting me.

I can already see the positive changes in my street - I have encouraged the children to pick up litter, and I go out of my way to be a mother to children whose parents are at work and need some care.

I have established a good relationship with the tavern owners and I can see

they are good people - I am trying my best to influence them positively.

A man in my street trusts me to keep his money safe. I buy his groceries, I help him save and I make sure he does not squander it on alcohol. I am very proud of the growth I have seen in this man and feel honoured that he trusts me to help him overcome his addiction.

I have also approached some of the boys that form gangs on the street corners, and I try to compliment them on their strengths and ask them to keep our children safe. But I do worry when there are large groups of boys getting up to mischief. I also become disheartened when I see the state of our field, and I know I do not have the resources to fix it. But I am hopeful that if the advisory board stand together as a team we will see the change we hope for.

Positive parent: Rotricia Phiri speaks about the change in her life

Attending the Sinovuyo Parenting Programme has meant so much to me and my family. Before starting this training I would get home after a long day of work and become frustrated if my children were unruly. But since the training I have started implementing the principles that were taught to me: e.g., five-minute cool down period, and spending special time with your children and praising them. As a result my relationship with my children has improved.

Applying the principles I have been taught is really working! It has not only alleviated the anxiety I felt in the past about parenting, but it has also improved my relationship with my daughter. I feel like a good and positive parent.

I was quiet during the first social activation process because I did not feel like I had anything of worth to contribute to the discussions. But when I attended the second social activation workshop, after receiving the parenting training, I felt so confident. I could stand up in front of that large group of people and share my knowledge on what it means to be a positive parent. I am truly grateful to the Seven Passes team. Without their support, and the opportunities



they made available to me, I would not have grown the way I have. I would like to attend all the courses they are offering at Seven Passes, and I have shared my success with people close to me. They are also excited to get involved with the programme. If it has worked for me it can work for anyone.



Parenting programmes: big change starts small continued

Naizel Buys is the Chair of the Seven Passes board, a Grade 5 teacher at Touwsranten Primary School, and mother of a two-year-old daughter. She was also one of the first high school learners to attend Seven Passes homework classes in 2008. She has been attending the Sinovuyo Parenting Programme. Here she speaks about her experience:



Teaching positively: Naizel Buys

Attending the Sinovuyo Parenting Programme has been extremely enriching. At the programme the parenting facilitators introduced the importance of spending special time with your child. As a result I made reading and doing other fun activities with my daughter a priority. This strengthened our relationship and brought us much closer together. It made me realise once again how important the mother-child relationship is.

What I have learned I didn't just apply to my relationship with my daughter, but I also shared it with the other teachers at Touwsranten Primary. I have been implementing the positive parenting techniques in my classrooms. I have seen a marked improvement in the children's behaviour. There is one boy that I have invested a lot of time in and his behaviour has changed drastically. In the beginning of the semester he was unruly, he would start fights with other children and he would take chances like trying to stab me with scissors. But since I have received this training I realised that I needed to change my approach with him. Instead of punishing him for his bad behaviour I would ignore negative behaviour or try to focus his attention on something more positive or constructive. I could see he

really appreciated that. I have made a consistent effort to praise him and give him special attention in class, and it has made him much more pleasant. He stays behind after all the children have left the classroom to find out if he can help me with anything, and I always make sure I give him something (e.g., a piece of bread or even just a hug) to thank him for his good behaviour. He is a new person.

I try to do as much of this as possible with my learners. The techniques have enhanced my relationship with my daughter, and with each child in the class – just by praising them, ignoring negative behaviour and by giving them more individual attention. I can see great improvement in my own daughter's behaviour. She would normally not play very nicely with other children, but since I have made more time to show my love for her, and asked her to play nicely with the other children, it has improved.

I would encourage any parent to attend the parent programme. After the Wednesday session I can't wait for the next Wednesday session - I haven't missed one. The programme has excited me, the group of parents inspire me by their feedback and support. By attending this programme I realised that I am not alone in any situation, there are other mothers in similar situations.



Financial statement

**Seven Passes Initiative
Consolidated Financial Statements
Years ended 31 December 2015 and 2014**

	2015	2014
	R	R
Revenues		
Grant: World Childhood Foundation	1 414 603	–
Grant: Dept. of Social Development (DSD)	331 936	193 248
Donations: farmers and general public	234 082	39 530
Golf Day income	133 431	166 639
Income from transportation	–	3 250
Interest received	54 464	–
Gains on disposal of assets/investments	–	13 500
	2 168 516	416 167
Expenses		
Grants pass through	536 816	193 248
Administration and development	502 774	389 865
	1 039 590	583 113
Revenues over expenses	1 128 926	(166 946)
Fair value adjustments – investment	–	(9 134)
Change in net assets	1 128 926	(176 080)
Net assets, 1 January 2015 and 2014 respectively	808 227	984 307
Net assets, 31 December 2015 and 2014 respectively	1 937 153	808 227

The complete, audited Seven Passes Initiative Financial Statement is available upon request.



Samewerking vir 'n beter gemeenskap

Ons glo...

- In verandering in Touwsrante
- In positiewe ouerskap
- Dat ons kinders ons eerste prioriteit is, en dat ons hulle altyd sal bemoedig
- Dat ons, ons kinders moet prys vir goeie gedrag
- Dat ons altyd liefde aan ons kinders sal betoon
- Dat ons 'n voorbeeld sal wees in Touwsrante
- Dat respek tussen almal verdien word – tussen volwassenes en kinders, tussen seuns en meisies, tussen mans en vroue, tussen jonk en oud, tussen ryk en arm, en tussen verskillende kulture
- Dat mense in ons gemeenskap omgee vir ander en dat die gemeenskap moet betrek word by alle projekte
- Dat verandering moed en deursettingsvermoë vat en dat ons nie sal opgee nie, al is dit moeilik

Manifes wat deur ouers van Touwsrante opgestel is.

CHILDHOOD

WORLD CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION

FOUNDED BY H.M. QUEEN SILVIA OF SWEDEN