



**OPERATION BOBBI BEAR
ANNUAL REPORT
March 2017 – February 2018**

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

It has been both an exciting and a difficult period for Bobbi Bear as an organization. The casework that has been completed by the organization and the difference made in the lives of abused children cannot be praised enough. The ethic of Bobbi Bear has been recognized by such diverse organizations. The tree clinic has been featured SABC TV as an example of a community response to HIV/AIDS.

The use of an anthropomorphic toy at point of rescue to determine the need for ARVs is revolutionary. The use of the same toy in assisting police officers obtain accurate information has never been piloted anywhere else in the world. The reason I am restating these issues in my report is because it is vital that we keep the organization going and that we roll out these services to other areas.

The recent recognition received has been fantastic and the director Jackie Branfield and Child Safety Officers have done exemplary work with very few resources.

This is where things have been difficult for the organization. It has been difficult to obtain a fundraiser who can focus on gaining financial assistance for the organization on a sustainable basis. Bobbi Bear must focus on a fundraising strategy for the next few years.

A big thank-you to all the individuals and organizations that have supported Operation Bobbi Bear, to the director, staff and board for all of their hard work and assistance.

Jo-Ann Downs
Chairman

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2017 /18 was a very challenging & exciting year for all at Operation Bobbi Bear! The Bobbi Bear House at 48 Seadoone Road is totally functional. We have opened satellites at the following Police stations namely, Umlazi, Isipingo, Amanzimtoti, Scottburgh, Folweni, Port Shepstone and Kwamakhutha.

The HIV/AIDS Prophylaxis (PEP) for rape victims is finally being administered in government hospitals. This is a big victory for Operation Bobbi Bear and for all rape victims in South Africa. Unfortunately the administration and roll out of this drug has brought up many other problems and shortfalls in the health department with regards to treatment literacy. We are finding that victims of rape are receiving the PEP treatment but with no guidance or education regarding the purpose or side effects of the medication. As a result, the Operation Bobbi Bear CSO's have now incorporated treatment literacy into the services that they offer child victims of sexual abuse

Operation Bobbi Bear has tried to adhere to our current mandate of rescuing and upholding the rights of sexually abused children. However, this past year our staff has also dealt with a huge numbers of non-mandated cases. These include, abandoned children, Murders, Hijackings, Domestic Violence, Alcohol and drug abuse amongst teenagers etc. The organization is also in the process of researching child pornography and child trafficking and is becoming increasingly involved in this area of child abuse too. This was kick started by Operation Bobbi Bear's involvement in the well-publicized Russian Case a few years ago.

One of the main highlights for myself personally, is the success of our Support Group on Saturday mornings for children who had completed their court cases, hence fulfilling our mandate of helping them towards wholeness.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our chairperson Jo-Anne Downs for her commitment & dedication to women & children's issues and rights. Her willingness to meet us at any hospital at 2.00am and then speak on the issue in parliament. On behalf of the children we serve, who can never thank you & myself, from the bottom of my heart, thanks Jo – You really put your money where your mouth is.

Lastly, to all our funders & supporters the children as I said before, will never be able to thank you personally, so we on their behalf can show you at anytime via our records, photo's or very famous & legendary tree on a Friday, the relief, gratitude and healing that you have made possible.

On behalf of the children that we serve – thank you!

Jackie Branfield

Brief overview of the status of Child Abuse & Children's Rights.

South African society and legislature have certainly come along way since the advent of our democracy in 1994. The abolition of cautionary rule regarding women has done much to empower and uplift our South African women. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said regarding our children. Child sexual abuse is still treated with suspicion and complacency by service providers and civil society. The very fact that children are still not being believed when they report rape or sexual abuse to authorities is proof that we still have a long way to go in the struggle for child justice and equality.

Like women and other previously disadvantaged groups, our children need to be made aware of their rights and need assistance in ensuring that these rights are upheld at a grass roots level.

The high prevalence of child abuse in South Africa is indicative of many other social problems currently plaguing our communities. Poverty, HIV/AIDS, alcohol & drug abuse and the general decay of family ethics and values are all problems that individuals and communities are battling against on a daily basis. Many of these social problems are interlinked and efforts to address them need to both holistic and practical.

Unfortunately, the incidence of child sexual abuse in South Africa is still grossly underreported allowing many people to underplay the scope and seriousness of the problem.

It is clear that while there are significant efforts being made to fight child sexual abuse in South Africa and to uphold child victims' rights, there is still a long road ahead of us.

Significant changes in NGO's and Legislature over the past year

In the past year, we have noticed a significant amount of FBO's (faith based organizations) joining the fight against HIV/AIDS and abuse on children. This has been welcomed and applauded by many organizations including Operation Bobbi Bear. To quote Keith Downs "The church is the biggest NGO on the planet, who better to address the moral issues surrounding the absolute destruction and chaos the HIV/AIDS and sexual abuse leaves in its wake"

In addition, many NGO's have re-evaluated their mandates/objectives and have shifted their focus to the pursuit of morals, ethics and the facilitation of personal integrity in their clients.

Over the past year, many NGO's as well as Government have put policies and programmes in place to deal with the tidal wave of AIDS orphans and children traumatized by sexual abuse. This is a victory for children and we applaud those involved in bringing these issues to the forefront. It is now time for civil society to pursue the same ideals and to take a more active role in fight against HIV/AIDS and child abuse.

In summary, many NGO's have made significant headway over the past year and we hope that these achievements will continue to occur in the future.

Future vision for Bobbi Bear

At present, Operation Bobbi Bear is primarily operating in the Amanzimtoti area on the KwaZulu- Natal South Coast. Our pioneering programmes and work are at last starting to be recognized on a national and international level.

It seems that the rights of children and sexual abuse victims are finally starting to get the attention they deserve. For example, it has recently been reported in the media that the first drop –in centre for child rape victims has been opened in London.

Our vision for the future is to expand our services on a provincial, national and international level. In the future we would like to have two Bobbi Bear child safety officers in every South African community.

We are currently able to offer a wider range of services to our child victims and their families, such as counseling facilities, housing for victims on an emergency/short-term basis and accommodation for international volunteers to mention a few. Furthermore, in the future Operation Bobbi Bear would also like to extend its services to victims of child trafficking and prostitution.

PROFILE ON OPERATION BOBBI BEAR

MISSION STATEMENT

"To rescue and uphold the rights of sexually-abused children, to minimize their risk of HIV/AIDS, and to reintegrate these same children by helping them towards wholeness."

OPERATION BOBBI BEAR ACHIEVES THIS BY:

- Collaborating with, and assisting the criminal justice system to ensure the rights and safety of the child victim of sexual abuse
- Assessing the HIV/AIDS risk of child victims of sexual abuse at point-of-rescue, to intervene and to counsel appropriately
- Applying therapeutic methods with the use of the "Bobbi Bear" ®, to obtain forensic evidence to assist the criminal justice process, within the best interests of the child
- Empowering and training local communities to collaborate with the criminal justice system, to ensure the rights and safety of child (Preventative Measures)
- Empowering and training Child Safety Officers locally, as prototypes for national expansion, and possible inclusion into the criminal justice system
- Equipping and mobilizing churches, religious and other communities to be trained in HIV/AIDS, Pre- and Post-Test Counselling and Positive Living / Wellness Management Programmes, in order to offer spiritual and emotional support to child victim of sexual abuse
- To increase awareness within local communities, with the aid of Bobbi Bear® as symbol against sexual abuse and HIV/AIDS

Founded: July 2000

Status: Non Profit Organisation: Reg. 015-208 NPO (29 October 2001)

Staff Members and Volunteers:

CURRENT INITIATIVES

Operation Bobbi Bear Rescue Centre

Drop-off and Information Referral Centre for child victim of sexual abuse.

Child Safety Officer Training & Mentorship Programme

Using counselling methods to obtain forensic evidence, the Child Safety Officer collaborates with the criminal justice system to ensure the rights of child victim of sexual abuse. The Child Safety Officer is trained in Pre- and Post Test HIV/AIDS counselling to assess risk of child at point-of-rescue, and will assist and be accountable to child throughout legal process.

HIV/AIDS Edu-Toy Training & Prevention Programme

Pre-School children are taught universal precautions, identification of body fluids and "if wet and from the body, do not touch it" by means of an educational toys training demonstration. The Programme focuses on educating children about HIV/AIDS and child sexual abuse.

Tree Clinic (Lower Illovo)

Meeting place to monitor vulnerable and orphaned children, to empower mother and child and to grow awareness of HIV/AIDS, Wellness Management and Positive Living in community.

Training Offered: Child Safety Officer Training & HIV Edu-Toy Training.

Child Safety Officer Training Curricula:

1. Introduction
2. Attitudes, Self Awareness & Problem Solving
3. Child Sexual Abuse
4. Prevention & Early Detection of Child Abuse
5. Interdisciplinary Approach to Child Abuse
6. Risk Assessment of HIV/AIDS
7. Interviewing Child Victims of Sexual Abuse
8. Medical Examination
9. Social Welfare
10. The Criminal Justice System
11. Ongoing Support
12. Evaluation

The HIV Edu-Toy Training Curricula:

1. Introduction
2. Objectives
3. Expected Outcomes
4. Methodology
5. How HIV Works in the Body
6. The HIV Edu-Toy Training Kit
7. Preparation
8. Structure & Purpose of Presentations
9. Presentation Guidelines
10. Evaluation of Presentations

Area's of Operation:

Amanzimtoti, North Coast, South Coast and inland within the Ethekweni Municipality & surrounding areas.

Objectives & Strategies to enable our work to have impact:

Operation Bobbi Bear has been able to provide better services to child victims of sexual abuse through the following:

- Collaborating with the Child Protection Unit, local District Surgeons and Criminal Justice System.
- Networking with other local and international organizations dealing with child victims of sexual abuse.
- Networking with local police stations and welfare departments.
- Trained and mentored Child Safety Officers to assist child victims of sexual abuse and protect their rights.
- Lobbying for child victims of sexual abuse and their rights.
- Educated local service providers on the needs of child victims of sexual abuse.

Achievements of Bobbi Bear & Staff to date:

Much has been happening in and around OPERATION BOBBI BEAR. Barbara Laubsher has joined Bobbi Bear to assist with fundraising.

She is an amazing young woman who has started a charity shop for Bobbi Bear and is currently writing proposals.

SUPPORT GROUPS

For child victim of sexual abuse and their parents/ caregivers

In conjunction with the Dept. of Psychology (University of Natal), OPERATION BOBBI BEAR does not charge for these services. Confidential interviews were held prior to first group meetings.

Highlights of 2017/18 have been:

- ☺ Successful multi-disciplinary and inter-sectorial collaboration evident in the case involving child pornography on the Bluff in September.
- ☺ Increased collaboration and networking with local NGOs, FBOs, CPU, SAPS, community groups, companies and funding organisation involved in children and women rights in South Africa
- ☺ Increased awareness of child sexual abuse within the local community, with the aid of Bobbi Bear as symbol against sexual abuse and HIV/AIDS

Next year, we would like to educate and equip volunteers in the community to become Child Safety Officers, to assist child victims of sexual abuse at point-of-rescue through to the court hearing. We would also like to provide a psychological/counselling service to child victims of sexual abuse and/or their caregivers, to better support them emotionally towards healing and wholeness. According to our strategic plan, we do not consider OPERATION BOBBI BEAR a local intervention, but would like to see communities throughout KwaZulu-Natal and ultimately nationwide equipped to assist the child victim of sexual abuse through the criminal justice system, within the best interests of the child.

Operation Bobbi Bear has participated in the following events during 2017/18:

- Trade Fair –
- Highland Gathering –
- Bobbi Bear took part in 2018 Grandparents day and won 2nd Prize for the best float driving through the streets of Amanzimtoti.
- Guest Speaker with Peter Pollock / Tehilla Business Network – Rob Roy Hotel
- Took part in Child Protection week
- March through streets for World Aids day – 01 December 2018
- Attended and was Guest Speaker at Business Woman's Forum Breakfast
- Was speaker at 27 different churches and youth groups throughout KZN
- Gave presentations at Woman's Institutes, Corporate Businesses, e.g. AECI, Nedbank, University of Natal, Damelin, Tiger Brands, Open Door Community HIV/Aids Support Centre, Amanzimtoti Round Table etc.
- Have awareness displays at all Ultra Video outlets, Pharmacy and Shoprite Centre
- Arranged for sponsorship of T-shirts for awareness campaign – Decorland
- Collect food from Woolworths every Tuesday night and distribute to families in need.
- Gave over 700 orphans, children affected/infected by HIV/AIDS a Christmas party

Operation Bobbi Bear Director, Jackie Branfield (English) and Eureka Olivier (Afrikaans) also presented over 60 talks on child sexual abuse, HIV/AIDS and the work of Operation Bobbi Bear during this period.

In Addition, Operation Bobbi Bear has headed the Foster Care programme and assisted many foster families throughout 2017/18 and still continues to offer help for any family wanting to foster.





Donors & those who donate in kind

- Amcup
- Woolworths
- TOTI YMCA
- Churches
- Unilever
- BB Bread
- Pick 'n Pay
- The Ark
- Aquarius Pharmacy
- Uks Pharmacy
- Warner Beach Prep
- Yellow Brick Road
- Kingsway High
- Moms & Tots
- The Coffee Fusion

Acknowledgements

On behalf of Operation Bobbi Bear we would like to thank all those individuals and companies that have assisted us during this past year. It is through this assistance that Operation Bobbi Bear has been able to continue providing much needed services for child victims of sexual abuse.

Conclusion

Operation Bobbi Bear has had a very challenging and successful year and we are looking forward to the year ahead and meeting future challenges.