





“Preparing young people for independence through mentoring.”

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Front cover photography: Propel Media

Top, left to right: Mentor Launch Event – Lauren Ramos; Graduation – Mutsawashe Chiwururwi and Christopher Chikochi; Mentor Launch Event – Sidonia Hanzen.  
Above centre: Graduation – Karin Turner and Gaynor Solomon

Opposite centre: Hout Bay Programme Launch  
Opposite bottom, left to right: Graduation – Imkbitlwa Marehwa and Satara Bögi; Mentor Launch Event – Bertin Kolombo; Mentor Launch Event – Carly Jacobs and Caroline Reddy.

Back cover: Left, top to bottom: Sports Day; Hout Bay Info Session; Graduation  
Right, top to bottom: Nabila Mukamurenzi; Mentor Launch Event – Kirsty Thompson and Tanya Hoekstra; Graduation – Mpumlelo Vinyi and Patrick Argall.

All Mentor Network Event photos in this annual report are ©Bronwen Trupp



## MICHELLE POTTER

A message from our Executive Director and Co-Founder

2019 was a year of diversification for SAYes. After ten years of running mentoring programmes in children's homes, we branched out to work with high schools and community-based organisations. Over the years we have received multiple requests to run our programme in communities but we were not ready. In 2019 we were ready. We ran a small programme reaching 22 mentees in Hout Bay and we were thrilled to receive sponsorship and mentors from local business Axis House, in addition to support from the D G Murray Trust and a long term supporter, the Rolf – Stephan Nussbaum Foundation. We learnt a great deal working in the communities, which means we can now expand our community programmes while we continue to serve care leavers, supported by the wonderful Ackerman Family Foundation, among others.

The Children's Institute at the University of Cape Town partnered with a team from Queen's University in Belfast to conduct research on the benefits of mentoring, using SAYes as a case study. The results will be published in June 2020, along with next steps, which will include involving a team of researchers from our alumni group. Throughout 2019 our alumni met monthly to discuss what the group's vision and goals should be, and we have some big and exciting plans coming up. We will share more as the year unfolds and we get clarity on how much will be possible while we are dealing with the pandemic.

To all of our beloved supporters, stay safe during this extraordinary time and thank you for continuing to support us so that we can continue to support the most marginalised of the future generation.

Warmest wishes,  
Michelle



## GILLIAN ANDERSON

A message from our Co-Founder

Since our launch in 2010, thanks to our supporters, 373 young people have graduated from our programme. At the end of each year, at our closure meetings, we invite mentors and mentees to sign up with us again, with a different mentor/mentee each time.

The reason we match them with somebody new is so that our mentees are given the opportunity to extend their networks, as well as plan for their futures with support from lots of different people with different jobs and different life experiences. Of those 373 who have graduated, some have had as many as six mentors!

I am so proud that we are offering this valuable in-person support to so many young people in South Africa, and that despite the difficulties in the global economy and despite most of us being quarantined or in isolation, we have miraculously been able to continue to function with online mentoring and even adding mentors from all over the world; again something we wouldn't be able to do without your incredible support.

Thank you for continuing to believe in us and the work we are doing at SAYes. Thank you for donating to my auctions and fundraisers. And thank you showing our mentors and mentees that you care. We are indebted to you.

To find out first hand from our mentees about how they have been impacted by our programme please read on.

Warm wishes and stay safe,  
Gillian



“ To all of our beloved supporters, stay safe during this extraordinary time and thank you for continuing to support us... ”

“ Thank you for continuing to believe in us and the work we are doing at SAYes... We are indebted to you. ”

# ANDREW DELLIS

## Operations Director

**2019 has been a year of small, but steady and resolute changes. Yet, when we stop to notice, it is small changes which in the size and shape of possibility are often inexorable.**

- We graduated 103 mentor mentee matches in 2019. This included 14 matches from two programmes piloted with High Schools and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in Hout Bay. These are our first programmes with young people outside of the child and youth care sector.
- VMLY&R and Axis House, fully supported and sponsoring their staff members to receive training and placement on SAYes programmes.
- We had more than 40% of mentors contributing towards the cost of their interview, mentorship training and transition support.
- We had residential partners support mentor recruitment by hosting information sessions at their sites and referring their networks to us.
- We had businesses partnering with us to support the growth of mentorships in their local communities.
- We partnered with non-profit organisations providing community support.

- Toward the end of the year we switched to part-time and remote transition support teams.

Each of these changes signals our determination to scale the reach of mentorship interventions to under-served groups throughout South Africa and beyond. Doing so involves supporting those that are objectively the most in the need; adjusting, customizing and testing programming for effectiveness; and strengthening partnerships to build sustainable and collaborative options for both financing and resourcing. We are very pleased to have made these accommodations in 2019.

Working directly in the community presented both new and familiar challenges. The effects of social poverty run deep and unevenly in our communities, revealing known challenges in perspective, social capital and social bonds. Outside of institutionalised care, we were reminded that these challenges are all too often compounded by material poverty in its most direct presentation – hunger and domestic violence. We have met these challenges previously, and are grateful to have worked this year to build on partnerships with organisations focused on education, empowerment, family interventions and food security. This has allowed us to extend support to matches in the community and provide a firm foothold for new mentorship programmes in new regions. We will

continue drawing on mentors to advocate for their mentees, strengthening and holding accountable public and private institutions that simply must do more and must do better.

In our schools programmes, mercifully, we discovered that there are teachers who, like us, are determined to inspire and inform. They know, as we do, just how directly social poverty translates to the classroom when role models are not there to stabilize the landscape of education and learning. They also reminded us that there are tremendous differences in cultures of education, and that these differences will require targeted and integrated programming.

We have taken these learnings into the next stage of SAYes mentorship interventions. Here, we will be far more deliberate in delivering intervention content aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Finally, it is both a relief and a delight to discover organisations that have aligned social priorities with their core business model. We encourage more companies to move toward credible social investment, and more NGOs to consider hybrid social enterprise partnerships.

While we could not have predicted 2020, these small but resolute changes have built an ‘anti-fragile’ DNA into SAYes Mentoring. We look forward to being accountable to the small changes that simply cannot fail to blossom.



## 2019 OUTCOMES

- 84% of matches graduated from the SAYes programme in 2019.
- 86% of care experienced mentees successfully completed an education grade/level in 2019.
- Of the 16% of care experienced mentees in their final year of school, 86% passed their final exams. 33% obtained a university pass.
- 50% of graduating matriculants are now studying at a university or at a vocational college.
- Of the 30% of mentees placed back in the community, 75% are still in formal education.
- 34% of mentees had a job-shadowing or work experience opportunity in 2019.
- 90% of mentees are not using drugs (including alcohol) in a harmful manner. 80% of mentees are not using cigarettes.
- 100% of graduating mentees have not been in conflict with the law.
- One mentee became a biological parent during the year.
- 70% of graduating mentees are still living in care in 2020. Of those who have returned to the community none are homeless.

## FEEDBACK

### From our partner residential homes:

We asked our partner homes to gauge mentor impact on independence and well-being with a measurement scale that ranged from “No positive Impact” to “Life-changing”.

We achieved a positive impact rating for independence of 94%.

Education & Learning had the highest positive impact rating at 90%, followed by Community & Citizenship (83% positive), Home & Family (78% positive), Work & Money (74% positive) and Sport & Recreation (65% positive).

The order of these rankings across domains has been consistent for several years, suggesting SAYes mentorship interventions are now stable and replicable across mentor cohorts. For both Home & Family, and Community & Citizenship domains, 12% of mentees were given the highest rating possible by our partner homes, ‘life-changing’.

The overall rating from our partner homes for well-being was 98%.

Social health had the highest positive impact rating at 96%, followed by Identity health (94%), Emotional health (82%), Cognitive health (78%) and Physical health (53%).

Again, these intervention rankings are consistent over time, with the highest positive rankings also growing proportionally in each domain. For example, 12% of mentees received a ‘life-changing’ ranking for Identity health compared to 1% with the same rating in 2018).

Achieving programming impact in one of the most underserved settings of social poverty is a credit to the value of formal mentorship interventions. We will continue to work to bring positive impact to the lives of young people in South Africa, expanding SAYes mentorship interventions to ensure that no young person, in any context of social poverty, has to face a significant life transition without the guidance, advocacy and support of a trusted and trained mentor.



Above: Asbley Bafjo - SA Children's Home



Above: Karolien Wesselink - Multiservice Center

“We will continue to work to bring positive impact to the lives of young people in South Africa.”

## FEEDBACK

### From our mentees:

We surveyed young people in our care programmes at the beginning of 2020, asking them to reflect back on the impact of their work with a mentor.

94% of mentees said having a mentor positively affected their life (31% ‘life-changing’, 48% ‘much positive impact’ and 15% ‘some positive impact’).

One common theme here was the impact of mentoring on the way the young person saw themselves and their future.

*“He taught me to take responsibilities for myself. Help me find myself and changed my ways of thinking.”*

*“I could see where I was going in life and it helped me in so many ways that I can't describe it.”*

*“I would not have come so far, without the help and support from my mentor. I learned and done a lot of things with her that changed my mind set completely.”*

*“Help me see life differently. Help me see I am worth it. Help me see giving up was not and isn't an option.”*

*“The mentor and the program helped me to become independent and understand myself and my well-being and how to build a relationship.”*

*“I became the person I am today because of my mentor.”*

*“Much positive impact: I say this because she supported me through every aspect of the mentorship program, she allowed me to grow and make mistakes. Her positive impact allowed me to feel less negativity and caring for myself as a young adult.”*

*“Having a mentor changed the way I saw situations. My mentor taught me to see things in a more positive light. I learnt how to deal with my emotions. My mentor taught me a lot about positive self-expression.”*

“He taught me to take responsibilities for myself. Help me find myself and changed my ways of thinking.”

We asked further questions concerning the practical impact on independence (choices) and well-being (practices).

96% of mentees thought that having a mentor positively improved their choices related to independence (29% ‘life-changing’, 51% “much positive”). 48% of mentees thought that the biggest impact area for independence was Education & Learning, followed by Work & Money (26%) and Home & Family (19%). Ratings of more than 85% positive impact were achieved across all independence domains, with especially high impact ratings occurring within Home and Family (33% ‘life-changing’) and Work & Money (23% ‘life-changing’).

93% of mentees thought that having a mentor positively improved their practices related to well-being (11% ‘life-changing’, 44% ‘much positive impact’). 33% of mentees thought that the biggest impact area on well-being was Emotional health, followed by Identity health (25%) and Social health (25%). Ratings of more than 85% positive impact were achieved across all well-being domains, with especially high impact ratings occurring within Identity health (39% ‘life-changing’) and Emotional health (38% ‘life-changing’).

The overwhelming positive reception to mentorship by SAYes mentees, along with the real sense of tangible impact it has made in their lives is deeply gratifying. We remain humbled by the courage and creativity of human connection, shaped by clear thinking, joyful enthusiasm and fearless compassion.

Amina Pululu, 25, is an accomplished young woman. She is a model, dancer, dance teacher and experienced au pair. Originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, at the age of four Amina found herself in the South African Child & Youth Care system. In 2011, she participated in the SAYes Transition to Independent Living (TIL) programme for the first time through the Child & Youth Care Centre she was then in the care of. Amina has had four SAYes mentors and has been active in the SAYes alumni programme for the past 3 years.

After her first year with a mentor in the SAYes TIL programme, Amina shares that she made the decision to continue because there were areas in her life that she felt she still needed to work on, and the programme to date had been of great benefit to her. Her mentors have supported her with making decisions in various areas of her life,

from cognitive and emotional well-being, to work, and for her, quite importantly, also around citizenship. Her first mentor has become a life-long friend and mentor and helped her find a studio where she was able to study dance. Another mentor taught her the importance of budgeting and always trying different options, another mentor taught

her about making informed choices. She has found that the more time she has chosen to spend in the programme, the more she has learnt about herself, and the more people she has been able to add to her network. "My participation as a mentee supports me in not only understanding myself better, but also in understanding others", says Amina.

For Amina, the SAYes alumni group serves not only as a testimony to the programme, but also that they are ambassadors that come together to think about the future of care leavers. The group discusses and considers the needs and challenges facing young people leaving care; and not only how the programme can support them, but how they can support one another. "It's always great to see old faces and find out where everyone is at in their lives. This is why I participate in the alumni group," says Amina, "It's my way

of giving back to the programme. No one knows our needs better than we do, so to be a part of the alumni group is to be a voice for other care leavers. I also want to assist by all means possible to get more mentors on board, as I know the impact they've had in my life."

"I think it's important to know that you'll never know the impact you'll make or how much something will benefit you unless you try. Be it being a mentee, mentor or being an alumni. It is also important to remember that, as a mentor, people often doubt that they can make much of an impact in someone's life, but as I have learnt through the programme and through speaking to my mentors, we are all teachers and we are all learners. We can always learn from each other".

## AMINA PULULU

### Alumni Story

“ I have learnt through the programme and through speaking to my mentors, we are all teachers and we are all learners. We can always learn from each other. ”



# ZIZIPHO QULUBA

## Alumni Story

Zizipho is an actress, she is 25 years old and she lives in Khayelitsha. She studied Physical Theatre Performance Art at Magnet Theatre, Cape Town. She is mother to a five-year-old son. Zizipho lived at St. Michael's Children's Home for five years, two years of which she was a SAYes mentee. She is now Chairperson of the SAYes Alumni Group.

### You were a mentee with SAYes for two years. How did your mentor impact you?

I remember that I told my mentor that, I see people on the television and that I like what they are doing. I did not know anything about theatre at that time and so my mentor took me to the theatre to see a show. I remember going out with her and I loved it. I knew then that that's what I want to do after my 12th grade. My mentor helped me by looking at schools that I can apply to. That's how we learned about Magnet Theatre. She also helped me practicing a monologue to pass the assessment. I went through at Magnet Theatre and was one of 20 people they selected out of 200 that came for auditions. I was part of that 20 people because of my mentor. She gave me hope that there is life in theatre for me. Now I can travel the world and go overseas performing in big theatres in China or in Germany. If it wasn't for her, I do not know where I would be.

### To keep former mentees connected and to build a community around them, SAYes founded the Alumni Group. What is their purpose?

It is a platform where anyone can share anything. We meet up once a month to talk for example about job opportunities. Because when you come out from the home, you are living on your own and need some guidance. The Alumni Group can help those who are out of the home to have a back up and people that they can relate to and talk to any time they need. We can give guidance with school, with jobs – we talk about anything depending on what's happening in the townships. We try to find solutions together to create a better environment to live in. Basically, the Alumni Group is a platform where we can make our future better.

### How big is the Alumni Group and how do you connect with each other?

We are currently about 10 to 12 people, so still a small group, who meet regularly, even though we are bigger in numbers on WhatsApp and Facebook. But some people can't come to our meetings because of transportation or because they don't have the data to even check their WhatsApp to see what's happening. We want to connect people so that they can

reach out to each other online. That's our future planning that we can be able to assist others by giving them data and also being able to connect on the phone. Even if we can't meet up, we still want to be able to communicate with the alumni.

### What did you offer to the community as part of the Alumni Group?

I wanted to help the kids find solutions by acting. I would go to my children's home, St. Michael's, once a week and I would teach them drama. Sometimes we would do a dance performance and after that a theatre performance where I would come up with a problem and they would find a solution through performance art. I wanted to make sure that the kids don't make mistakes while they are in the home. I wanted them to know that there is hope even after the home. So for me it is to give them a platform where they know that there are other opportunities that they need to prepare for when they get out. I tell the kids at St. Michael's, that I'm not there to shine myself, but that I want them to follow their path or even go beyond what I have achieved, by me helping them.

### Last year you became Chairperson of the Alumni Group. What are the group's plans for the future?

We want to have an active group and offer the different talents that we have to our communities. We can go to different homes and give back to that children's home by teaching them what we know and by guiding them. Also, we want to get in touch with care leavers overseas. We want to connect and visit them to build those connections. We want to share our own stories to the people outside South Africa and see how they are coping. There's also a broader thing that we want to do as Alumni Group: we want to address the government to make sure that they offer support to the kids that are leaving the homes. Right now, there's no government support for them. We want them all to be given mentors to help them with their lives after the children's home. They should be able to go to school up until they are stable to stand up on their own financially. As the Alumni Group, we are trying to make sure that it's happening to each and every home for the other kids.



“The Alumni Group can help those who are out of the home to have a back up and people that they can relate to and talk to any time they need.”

## EXPERIENCING JOB SHADOWING!

with VMLY&R

Top, left to right: Self-defence workshops Graduation – Alison Smith and Junior Louw.

Middle: Graduation – Rose Stylla and Inge Saunders.

Bottom, left to right: Graduation – Lucabiso James and Tracy Orione; Mentor Network Event – David Kabeya; Mentor Launch Event – Destino.

“Having a mentor changed the way I saw situations. My mentor taught me to see things in a more positive light. I learnt how to deal with my emotions.”

Through one-on-one mentoring relationships, SAYes supports mentor and mentee matches in vetting and exploring interests and opportunities. In 2019, a corporate partnership with VMLY&R provided the support of three of the local Cape Town VMLY&R team as mentors, and also offered the opportunity for a couple of mentees living in care, to experience the world of a brand and customer experience agency through job shadowing experiences.

We're excited to bring you a guest blog post from a 2019 SAYes mentee who continues to express an interest in writing and journalism. L. worked with her mentor Caroline to prepare for, interview, and develop the article below sharing about the two mentees' experiences job shadowing at VMLY&R.

“How does the outside world work? How do I know what I have to do and what to expect from a job? That is where job shadowing comes in. Not all young people in South Africa get the opportunity to experience job shadowing, but it can play a very important role in helping young people find out what it feels like to have a job in their field of interest, or to simply experience what it's like to be in an office for six hours. Other reasons why job shadowing is important is to start building experience and a network.

VMLY&R is a digital marketing and advertising company for consumer products. Working at VMLY&R entails a lot of writing, creativity and designing. Imagine job shadowing for such a big company. Two SAYes mentees whom I recently interviewed had the opportunity to do so, and they each had different opinions.

“I was very excited to start the first day and getting to meet new people was very interesting,” said S., one of the youngest mentees who was chosen to do the VMLY&R job shadowing for two days. During his time job shadowing, he got to do research on graphic novels, which are a personal interest of his. For S., it was exciting to learn about work opportunities where he can apply things he's passionate about.

I also had the opportunity to interview R., another mentee who job shadowed at VMLY&R. R. has a lot of knowledge about computer programming. She was able to learn how she can apply that to a career at a digital agency. During her time job shadowing, R. also had the opportunity to interview workers about their jobs and positions.

In terms of what she learned about job shadowing, R. said, “Whenever you go to different workplaces, there is always a different atmosphere. Being able to experience that is important.”

S. and R. are mentees of SAYes Mentoring, which helps young people in their transition to adulthood, including exploring what they want to do professionally. Young people get paired with a mentor and meet up once a week. It's an exciting challenge for mentees as well as for mentors. S. and R. shared that the relationship that they share with their mentors is extremely motivational and inspiring.

“...job shadowing... can play a very important role in helping young people find out what it feels like to have a job in their field of interest...”



*Rose Moga and Junior Louw – Hout Bay info Session*

## OUR PARTNERS

In 2019, in addition to our Care Programmes, we were delighted to launch our Hout Bay Programme in collaboration with Silikamva High School, the Harvest Youth Project and Sakhisizwe Youth Development. This School & Community pilot programme in Hout Bay has been a great success with lots of learning for us. We will expand this programme to include additional community-based partners and many more matches in 2020 and beyond.



*Above: Louise Kranbold – Silikamva High*



*Above: Silikamva High*



*Above: Mbinti Pato - Sakhisizwe Youth Development*



## MASHUDU MATSHILI

5-Year Mentor

Mashudu Matshili moved from Johannesburg to Cape Town in 2012. Once settled he started looking for a similar volunteer opportunity to one he'd had in Johannesburg, where he was focused on educational support for youth. He was introduced to SAYes by a colleague who had recently begun to go through the mentor recruitment process. Mashudu has been a mentor in the programme for 5 years and he sits on the SAYes board.

Mashudu continues to mentor each year because youth mentoring speaks to his values and has been a powerful way for him to make a difference. "It adds a lot of value to me, I learn so much working with my mentees," he shares. Like many mentors, Mashudu feels like he has grown, learned and benefited personally from each mentoring experience. He has experienced it as a journey of self-development, "It shapes my world view. I can see through their eyes, and that questions some of the things I believe," says Mashudu, "It can be very easy to lose perspective in our own lives. By interacting with and observing someone else's life and perspective, it broadens mine."

Two of Mashudu's biggest learnings from youth mentoring have been patience and letting go of control. Recognising that he had been very set in his ways and how he liked things to be done, he realised he had actually created an environment throughout his life that really supported that control. Working with young people has challenged that. Adolescents don't follow a script. Mashudu found this perspective radically different than his own, but through this experience has truly learned and understood just how okay it is to be different. In the beginning the differences would frustrate him, but now, different is just different. Different doesn't mean wrong. "Allowing others the space so they can learn as well does not happen in a space of judgment. We need acceptance in order to provide guidance," says Mashudu.

Still in contact with all of his mentees, he likes to periodically reach out to check in with them. "They are special young people and they occupy a special place in my heart," he says, "I want them to know I still think of them."

Mashudu is looking forward to his sixth year of mentoring. He finds that the structured nature of the SAYes Mentoring Programme has really helped him to continue to make the decision to mentor each year. "I think it would be very difficult to remain without that," he explains, "the support allows you to not get fatigued or feel you are in this all alone. It's very helpful and very useful."

**SAYes encourages mentors and mentees to continue with the programme each year. They will be matched with a different mentor or mentee, so that the mentees have the opportunity to build their networks.**

“For me, it is an important part of who I am as a person. I see it as a way to make some kind of difference in someone's life.”



*Left: In line with the children's act we do not show photographs of young people under the age of 18.*





## ELIJAH & EWAN

2019 Match



If you happened to cross paths with Elijah and Ewan on one of their mentoring outings, you might not guess they were mentor and mentee and might rather assume it was two buddies hanging out; as it turns out, both would be true. 2019 was Elijah's second year participating in SAYes' TIL Programme, and he had some idea what to expect. Though he was a bit nervous and worried about starting over and having to introduce himself and build a bond with a new person, he was really pleased with his match with Ewan, with whom he shared some similar interests, making it easy for this match to quite quickly fall into a comfortable rapport.

It was Ewan's first year mentoring and he and his wife had both decided to mentor in 2019. They expected to be challenged by the role, particularly in the sense of being in a position to offer support and guidance to a young person; someone of an age group they rarely encounter in their general daily and working lives, and they looked forward to the challenge.

Elijah acknowledged that he knew what to expect, so he could be more prepared with for planning with his mentor. In 2019, he selected two main areas of focus: Community & Citizenship and Education & Learning. In an ongoing process of pursuit of proper identification paperwork, problem-solving, persistence, resourcefulness and emotional support were critical. And Elijah had decided that he wanted to pursue his passion for photography and figure out how and where he could study further.

They faced some challenges throughout the year, learning about time management and expectations around goal achievement. They learned how to navigate obstacles and to share the emotional experiences of unmet expectations. They also explored, laughed and shared a lot of fun experiences together. Ewan, a wine-maker, introduced

Elijah to some interesting aspects of his work, visiting a farm together and learning how to wax the bottles were two highlights for Elijah.

Nurturing Elijah's passion for photography was a real highlight for Ewan. Ewan's wife being a professional photographer made for a beneficial resource. Elijah was able to job-shadow her in her work, and they were able to connect him to that professional community, as well as encourage and support him in his pursuit of further vocational education training. By the end of the year, Elijah was enrolled in a scholarship programme to study photography - both a high and a low for Elijah as the acceptance to the programme was a real success, but that it was for a shorter duration than hoped for was a bit of a disappointment.

But not a disappointment that is likely to slow Elijah down. He shared that through his work with his mentors he is learning how to go for what he wants. Having had the opportunity to work with mentors who have helped to show him the path he can take and how he can keep pursuing that path, he says, "I must not limit myself. If you really want it, you must go for it and ask for help."



“ I must not limit myself. If you really want it, you must go for it and ask for help. ”



Above, left to right: Nikita; Graduation 2012; Nikita and Leanne – Graduation 2012; Nikita on The Voice South Africa.

## NIKITA WILLIAMS

### Alumni Story

**Nikita Williams is 24 years old and she is from Cape Town. Living at St. George’s Home for Girls she was a mentee with SAYes for three years from 2011 to 2013. Nikita studied Musical Theatre and Dance at the Waterfront Theatre School. She is a professional singer and she has been working on cruise ships since 2018.**

#### How did your mentors impact you?

Leanne was my best mentor. She was nice; I was matched with her for a while. We don’t stay in contact as much as I would like, but we still talk now and then. Before I left the orphanage, I used to work for her as a personal assistant and au pair as well. I especially liked the emotional support and having someone to talk to.

I had many mentors; more mentors than other kids who were also part of the program. At the time I was living at the orphanage it was very difficult for me to be open. Because when you open up to one person and then they don’t see this person for months and then all of a sudden they appear again. This way I learnt to take responsibility for myself. With Leanne, it was different. She made me feel

like I was part of her family. And even now, with me being overseas and not being part of the program anymore, we still try to keep in touch. I think she understands me more than other people do. She knows that I am a very strong and independent person. But I know that I can always count on her help. She always says to me that whenever I need to I can come stay with her. I really appreciate that.

#### Are you involved with the SAYes Alumni Group?

I am not an active member of the SAYes Alumni Group, but of course if someone needed my help, I would help. There are many people who helped me, so why shouldn’t I help someone else?

#### You were part of The Voice South Africa last year. How was it?

Yes, I was, It was nice! It was a great experience and I met very nice people. It was very scary because I always think that I’m an okay singer but then when you get into these competitions and you listen to all these people and you just start thinking, what am I even doing here? I made it to the Battles, unfortunately I didn’t get as far as the live shows.

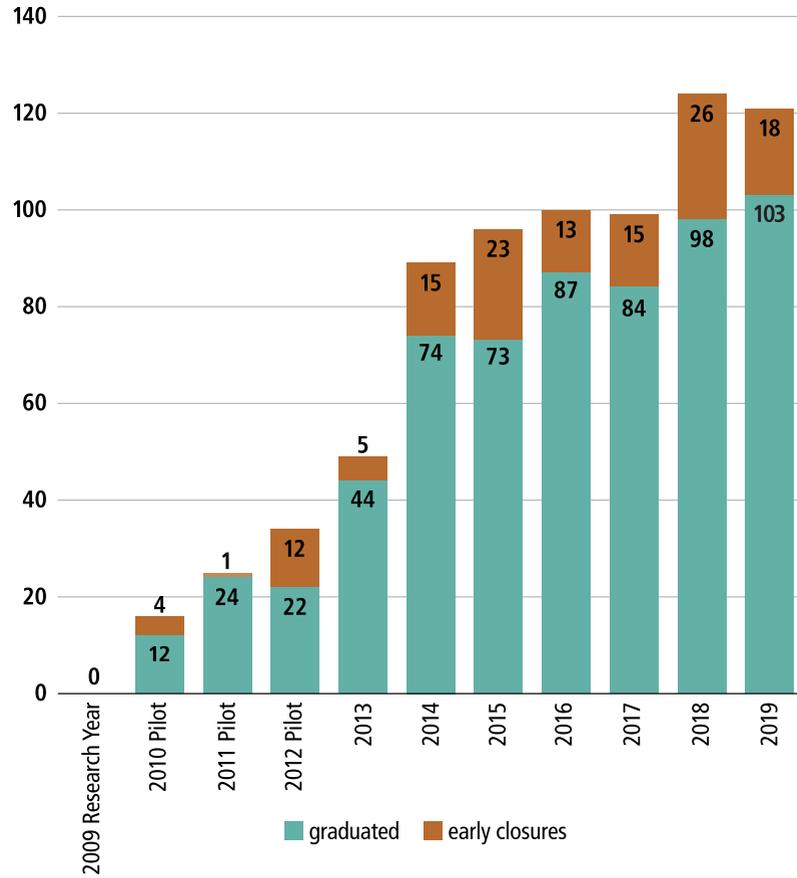
#### Did you always want to become a singer?

I’ve been singing for as long as I can remember. I am doing it now as my career and I really enjoy what I do. I always wanted to travel the world, but at the same time do what I love and that’s what I’m doing now. I wanted to be on the stage in the theatre because I come from studying musical theatre and dance. So I used my networking skills and found a company I wanted to work for. With the help of a friend who was already working for them, I applied and got the job. I still work for them now and I am on my second contract. Hopefully, I will be able to go back to work soon.

“ Leanne... made me feel like I was part of the family...she understands me more than other people do...I know that I can always count on her help. ”

# MATCH STATISTICS

## Graduated and Early Closures



# FINANCIAL REVIEW

## YEAR END 2019

### Income

Trusts and Foundations (40%)	ZAR	683,500
Other (Individual) Donations (22%)	ZAR	386,164
Overseas Donations (21%)	ZAR	359,857
Corporate (14%)	ZAR	239,581
Interest (2%)	ZAR	43,866
Events (1%)	ZAR	11,938
<b>Total</b>	<b>ZAR</b>	<b>1,724,906</b>

### Expenditure

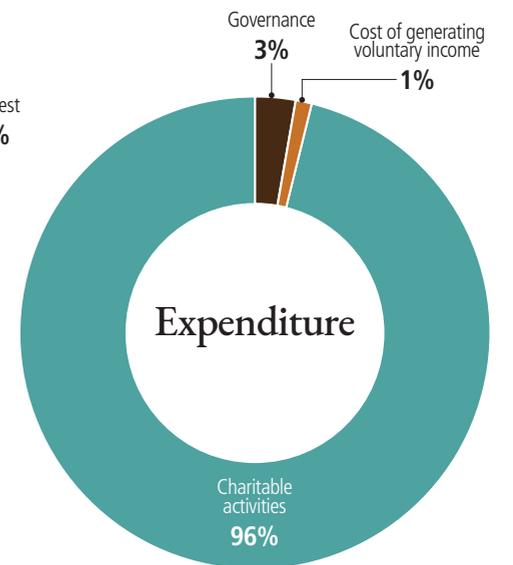
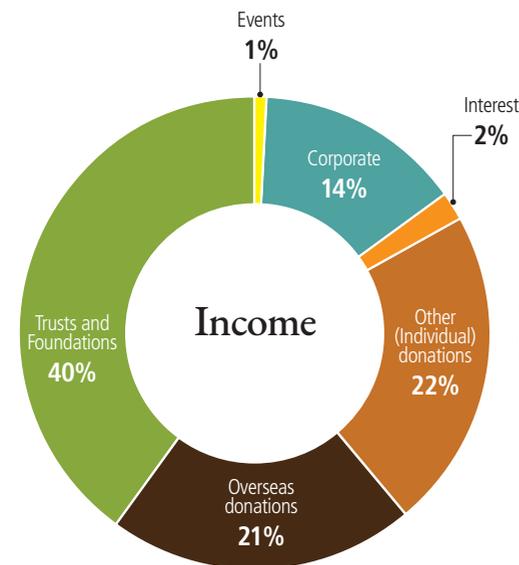
Cost of generating voluntary income (1%)	ZAR	27,302
Charitable activities (96%)	ZAR	1,962,569
Governance (3%)	ZAR	48,266
<b>Total</b>	<b>ZAR</b>	<b>2,038,137</b>
<b>Deficit for the year</b>	<b>- ZAR</b>	<b>313,231</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward as at 31/12/2019</b>	<b>ZAR</b>	<b>539,346</b>



Below: Hunt Bay Info Session



Below: Natasha van Schoor and Warda Shabodian



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our work would not be possible without the ongoing support SAYes receives. Please accept our gratitude, each and every one of you. Your help means the world to the young people who take part in the SAYes TIL Youth Mentoring Programme. We hope that you will continue to offer support where it's possible.



Above: Kauthar Stellenboan

### Major donors

- Gillian Anderson
- Rolf Stephan Nussbaum Foundation
- DG Murray Trust
- Friends of SAYes Germany
- Ackerman Family Foundation
- Grand Gaming Corporate Social Investment Company (Grandslots)
- The Valentine Charitable Trust
- St James's Foundation
- Axis House
- MMI Foundation
- Thomson Reuters
- Sutherland Engineers
- Esme Margaret Comer Hardridge Trust
- Queens University Belfast, Global Challenges Research Fund
- Alert Engine Parts

### Special thanks to

- Harriet Price
- Ian Beere - Netto Invest
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- Keith Shone
- Lena Whitaker at Oscar Rae
- Dr. Mandi MacDonald and her social work students at Queen's University, Belfast
- Rowan Gordon & Trevor Jacobs at Nimble Group

And to our mentors – the selfless volunteers who make such a difference simply by showing up for these young people – thank you!

A huge thank you goes to our boards of trustees in South Africa and in the UK.

- Sabine Schmidt
- Sandy Naude - Independent Newspapers
- Xavier Lablaude and Louise Pheiffer at Belmont Mount Nelson

### Our Partners

- Cape Town Multiservice Center
- Durbanville Children's Home
- Girls & Boys Town
- Harvest Youth Project
- Home from Home - Khayelitsha
- Home from Home - Goodwood
- Home from Home - Masiphumelele
- Lawrence House
- Ottery Youth Centre
- Percy Bartley House
- SA Children's Home
- Sakhisizwe Youth development programme
- Silikamva High School
- SOS Children's Villages
- St George's Home for Girls
- St. Michael's Home Child and Youth Care Center

## FUNDING PARTNERS



Above: Linge Sotyantya and John van Outten



Above: Michelle Potter and Andrew Dellis with Karolien Wessink



Lauren Ramos, Sharon Groenmeyer and Carly Jacobs – Mentor Launch Event

## SAYes MISSION

Aiding the empowerment of marginalised children and young people in South Africa.

## SAYes VISION

A society in which children and young people are given the opportunity to reach their full potential socially, emotionally and physically, and where they will contribute to society as independent, self-sustaining adults.

## SAYes

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### South African Youth Education for Sustainability (SAYes)

Trust Registration no. IT 2774/2010  
NPO no. 088-299-NPO  
PBO no. 930 035 691 & Section 18A  
Level One (135% B-BBEE  
procurement recognition)

