



Annual Report 2020/21



Conquest For Life
Improving the quality of life



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About Us

Conquest for Life (CFL) was established in 1995 in Westbury, a township located 8km west of Johannesburg in South Africa. It was an initiative of a group of young people who came together with the aim of finding innovative approaches to social pressing issues facing their community and, in so doing so, make a significant difference in their lives, that of their community and country at large.

The organization has expanded its facilities by opening four new additional operational branches in other disadvantaged communities i.e. the community of Soweto, Ennerdale and surrounding communities. These dynamic communities have been crippled by apartheid effects such as discrimination, high mortality rate as a result of HIV/AIDS, high level of illiteracy and poverty.

It is evident that although these young people of these varied communities represent different cultural backgrounds, the disparities are prevalent cross-culturally. And there is a need for an urgent response to the challenges facing them and fostering of productive and supportive role models.

Conquest for Life (CFL) seeks to inspire young people to make a difference and to expose them to chance. Due to abject poverty many fall prey to the life of crime and despondency, as a result, anger, frustration and anti-social tendencies are released through random acts of violence, gang affiliation, crime, drugs and alcohol abuse.

Conquest for Life (CFL) aims to empower the youth through myriads of programs specifically designed to produce a safe and structured environment in which the youth can realize and have access to the life skills needed to enrich their lives.

Conquest for Life started in a dynamic, predominantly colored community characterized by unemployment rate of 80%, with high rate of school dropouts, extreme poverty, inadequate recreational and/ or extra-curricular facilities and high substance abuse, but how Conquest for Life has grown to be an NPO serving the needs of five communities in South Africa.



Our Vision

To facilitate the holistic development of young people so that they can be meaningful citizens who can contribute to the development of their communities

Our Mission

"To be a self-sustaining youth organization, run by young people, empowered to become agents of change by developing their identity, self worth, and a sense of community."

Our Objectives

- **Developing a Sense of Self**

Young people in South Africa need time, space and a safe environment in which to pursue alternatives to their current lifestyles. Conquest For Life has created and established this environment through a number of projects which give young people a variety of opportunities to redefine themselves from a minus to a plus; a failure to success and from a nobody to somebody.

- **Strengthening Family Structures**

One of the main problems in the townships is the lack of family values and poor family structures and environments. Single parent families headed by the mother are common, leaving young men without positive male role models. For every project Conquest For Life has incorporated a family/parent component (e.g. workshops, computer courses, volunteering) as a way of addressing this problem.

- **Strengthening Community Structures**

Conquest For Life is attempting to open up and strengthen dialogue between the child/young person, parent, community institutions (e.g. schools, community centres) and the wider community to ensure a holistic and sustainable approach to addressing community concerns.

- **Youth Development & Empowerment**

The majority of staff came to Conquest For Life through participating in youth camps or after school activities and are therefore well placed to relate to other beneficiaries.



CEO's Report

We were going around doing our work and plan for the year with excitement and enthusiasm as we were waiting for our college to come and visit from Spain. He has become a family member and we have officially adopted him in the Steyn Family. Every year he makes it his duty to come and spent some time with us whilst working in the country in Pretoria and Cape Town. At the same time we were watching the television screens and following the developments in Asia and Europe with regards to Corvid 19. Our friend was a bit worried and decided to go for a Corvid test and the results came back negative. He had to leave South Africa as a matter of urgency as our President were about to declare a total lockdown.

Not too long after that the lockdown were declared and we found ourselves at home watching television and feeding on what is in the fridge and the cupboard but there was a far greater need in the community. Within two days the staff started communicating via WhatsApp and we made a decision to go back to the office and get our plans in order to distribute food to the most needy. We managed to secure some in kind donations in the form of food parcels and design a strategy to distribute the food parcels without any ques, stampedes or disorganization and adhere to the Corvid 19 protocols.

Our volunteers were remarkable and very creative. We design a plan where food parcels will be dropped at the volunteers preemies and they will than distribute it to their people that is on the database. This will take away all the confusion and it will cause a stampede. Our plan worked well and it was professionally executed. We managed to get coverage via our Funder E Media and the community saw the story on E News. In a flash the WhatsApp message went viral in the community. We were notify of it and the next morning over a 1 000 people were queuing at our office demanding food parcels and we only received 400 parcels. We had to think on our feet as the people were hungry. The only alternative was to add them to the data base and assist people to register for the R 250.00 SASSA grants. This was another challenge as people did not want to accept the conditions that SASSA has put down and we were asked many questions like we worked for SASSA.

During the lockdown we were able to assist thousands of people and make a difference in number of people's lives and homes. With the generous in kind donations from Food Forward South Africa, E Media, Solidarity Fund HCI Foundation, SunSpray, Willmart we were able to ensure that thousands of family members were able to have a plate of food for a few months. We only realize the need when there so many people asking for food parcels. During this period we approached Government (Province) and the Department of Social Services with no luck or feedback. We were referred from pillar to post. At one stage I went with some of the Partner organization the Warehouse (Foodbank of Social Services) in Selby. They refused to accommodate us even though collectively we had a database of 40 000 people with Names, surnames, id no, address and contact numbers. . To date we are still waiting for a response from The Province of Gauteng and SASSA.

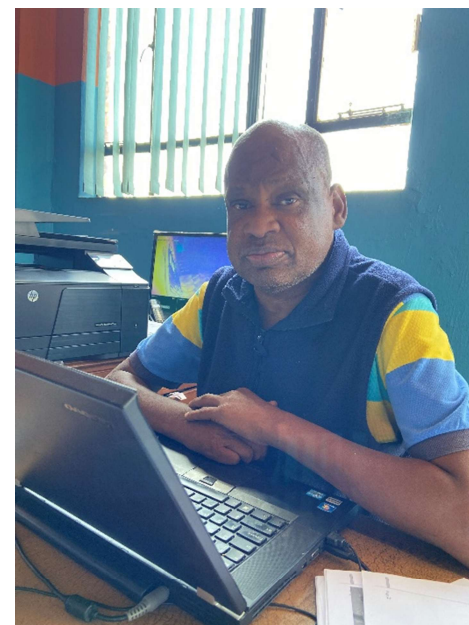
Though our in Kind donations we were able to start cooking and ensure that we feed about 500 people a week. The goal is to increase the numbers in order to feed more. Many bread winners or family members are sitting without a job and this really impact each person and the community at large. People are genuinely struggling and has no food. .One only realize the appreciation of people whey they relate their story and condition to you. Some are genuinely appreciative. I am reminded of this mother who made the last mealie meal in the morning to give porridge to the children, As

she dish she started crying and praying and telling God that she leaves everything in His hands. Ending the prayer one of our volunteers started knocking on the door to deliver a food parcel. This mother was so amaze that she just started crying and convey this story to the volunteer. Both of them started crying and thank God for the answers to Prayer. There is many stories that we can tell that our funders and donors generous donations turned people's lives around and ensure that people had a hot meal on Christmas Day. Again our staff and volunteers sacrificed their time and Christmas to ensure that the needy is fed. or had a cooked meal on Christmas.

There is always two sites of a coin. Dealing and working in the community oes not always have the same affect. When you hand out food, there is always the potential for things to go wrong. Community members are not always cooperative, there is fighting and swearing, people shouting and cursing and you have to use wisdom and understanding. We also learned that people are also not honest. Some were benefitting from various people and organizations distributing food in the community. A number of people were on various databases. The volunteers working with us designed a excel spreadsheet that helped us pick up and duplication through the id number. One volunteer gave us a list of 4 000 people and when we put it into our system. All the people on this list was already in our system and we have to discard the entire list.

We wanted to do much more but could not due to a challenge in resources and the economical condition in the country and the world. Many Non Profit Organizations and Community Based Organizations are struggling and fighting to keep their doors open and struggling for survival. Conquest For Life Is not spared from this challenge and we doing what we can with what we can.

Thank you to everybody that stood us and supporting us. I thank you.



Our Projects

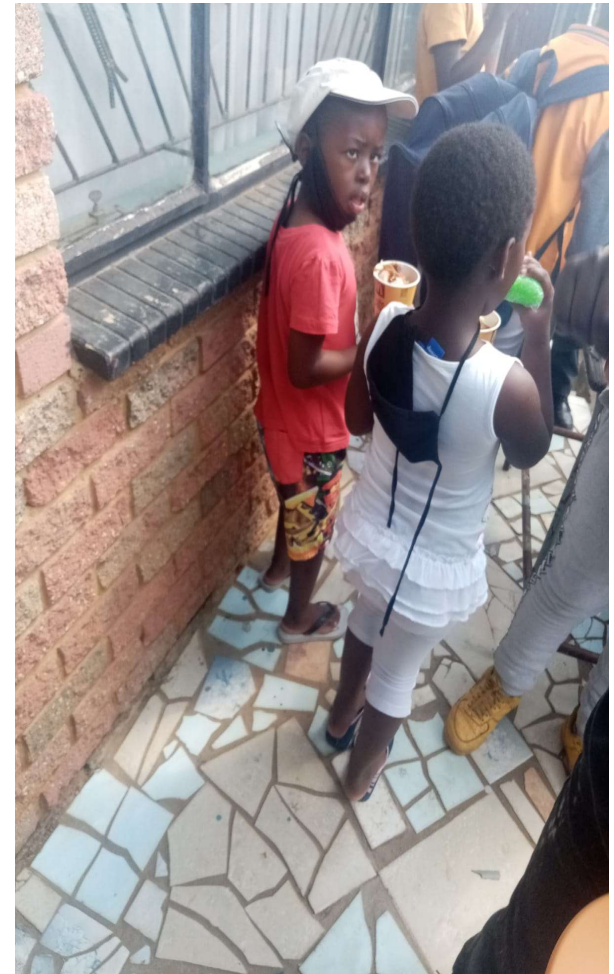
1. Youth Enrichment Project

1.1 Aftercare

The purpose of the Aftercare Program is to keep children of the street and away from negative influences. The program assist children Mondays to Fridays with homework, teach them differently life skills and provide a hot meal on a daily basis. Children from all walks of life participate in the program.

Corvid 19 and the lockdown became an obstacle for Conquest For Life to fully achieve its goals during 2020. The prolonged Lockdown with the various levels made it very difficult for the organization to carry out its program plans. Children were at home and could not attend the program. Parents were scared to send their children to aftercare for fear of the unknown. From the organizations side we also encouraged that as the risk was too high to take responsibility for the children's safety and security. The few that came to aftercare were send back home as a precautionary measure and also not to expose the children to the epidemic.

There could have been possibilities beyond our control that one of the staff or volunteers could have affected and thus putting the children at risk. Prevention is better than cure. We were very fortunate that none of our staff or volunteers had Corvid 19 or was exposed to the epidemic during the lockdown or while they were at Conquest For Life. None of the staff or volunteers lost any family members. We are forever grateful to God for keeping his hand over staff and Volunteers while we were trying to bring much needed relief to the communities and Townships that we serve. While the lockdown were in process Conquest For Life reached out to



other communities and townships in order to expand our reach but also to assist and share resources, experience and knowledge.



Whilst we were unable to assist and help the children with homework or assignment we were able to keep on feeding the children and provide a neutralist warm meal on a daily basis not only to the aftercare children but to the community as a whole. The whole family gets a meal including the parents

Some children were able to get homework from school via WhatsApp or other means of communication that the parents and teachers have put in place. Out of this a need and a project has arisen. Many children and families does not have access to the internet to download assignments or research the topic given to them by the class teacher. There is either the issue of limited data or no excess to data. Conquest For Life is exploring the idea of providing free wifi and access to the internet to the community. The idea of this project is to give everybody the opportunity to have access to the internet and have a fair chance to be empowered and educated. Nobody will b marginalized because of their economical condition or where they stay in South Africa.

Conquest For Life needs to upgrade their computer centre, set up a fire wall, securing a printer and increase their internet speed. We are pursuing this goal however it will take some time because of the current economical condition in the country. The organization is looking at different partners, resources to make this project a reality to benefit all our children.



1.2 Just For Kids

The Just For Kids Project is a Experiential life skills Program taking place on a daily basis in different communities in a number of schools. The project take place during school time. The sessions seek to promote positive relationships and peace amongst people and children from all walks of life. The Just For Kids Projects address daily issues the children might face at school and at home and uses play to teach life skills. Our biggest challenge is to let the whole school participate in the program due to lack of capacity and personnel. The children at school loves the program because they get a chance to be out of the classroom or to see a new face that is relevant to them and understand them.



As with the Aftercare project, the Just For Kids Project were faced with the greatest challenge in 2020. Our schools were closed for a number of months Even when the school reopened there was a rotate of children in a class, our staff was not permitted to go into the school thus making it impossible to run any programs. A few schools allowed us in but on a limited basis. If one of the staff or children tested positive. The school will be in quarantine and lockdown for two weeks.

it is a bit difficult to accurately report in this annual report due to the epidemic and at some stages we had to focus on more urgent things, Hopefully the pictures will tell another story as we had to think on our feet.



1.3 Youth to Youth

The Youth to Youth program is the same as the Just For Kids. We use the same concept and methodology as the just for Kids. Just for Kids is for the Primary School and Youth to Youth is for the High School. The young people in the schools don't want to be called kids, so we just changed the name to accommodate them and to make them more likely to participate. The program allows the young people to come out of the class environment where everyone feel so pressed down and create an an opportunity to laugh and play.

The Youth 2 Youth Project has the same challenge as the Just For Kids Project. The closure of the schools had a huge impact on the projects. It is no longer business as usual. All of us have to think out of the box and make some serious changers but put the safety and security of everybody first. We are lost for words as we fight for survival and making ends meet.



2. Youth at Risk Program

2.1 Building Bridges Diversion

The Building Bridges Diversion Project is one of Conquest for Life's more intense programmes, targeted at youth in the community who are at risk of getting involved in gang related activities, drug abuse, and getting in trouble with the law. Young people who are not allowed to be part of the solution will always be part of the problem. The building Bridges Diversion Program keeps young people accountable and responsible for their actions. Life skills topics covered in the Diversion program includes but is not limited to Goals and Dreams, Substance Abuse, Bullying, Conflict Management, Anger Management, Believing in oneself, etc. The program gives everyone who have done something wrong an opportunity to make it right. One people are given a second chance to get out of the hole. A support structure is formed with Staff, Social Workers, Prosecutors, Parents and Family Members. The ball is in your court and you have the chance to play.

Our Building Bridges Diversion Project continued as planned with limited numbers coming through. The project were closed during level 4 and 5 but is continuing. As with all our projects we have to continue thinking about Change.



2.2 Youth Development Program

The Youth Development Program focusses on young people at risk who are at school, out of school, unemployed and who wants to make a change in their lives. Most of the participants are referred from school because we can monitor them and keep them accountable for their actions and the decisions they have made. Young people get reintegrated back into the school to complete their schooling.

With the school closing for a longer period and the children and youth going to school every alternative day impacted the project .



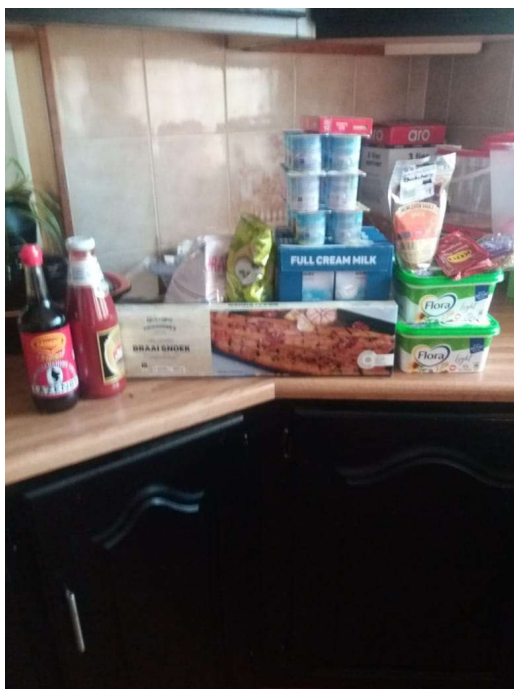
3. Umanqoba food Relief

The Umanqoba Food Drive forms part of all Conquest For Life's Programs. It is the feeding arm of the Organization and it supplies food to all the programs and Projects. With the COVID-19 the program was forced to stand on its own and supply food to other organizations, individuals and churches. The organization have established a Network of groups, Organisations, NPO's, Churches and people that distribute food in various communities. This allows the organizations to share resources, eradicate duplications and ensure accountability.

A big Thank You to all our donors who funded us with in kind donations. The food that was donated made a huge difference in the lives of thousands of people. Children were able to go to bed with a full stomach and confident that there is something for tomorrow. One of our funders donated food vouchers to the value of R 400.00. This particular gesture empowers the individual even more. You receive the voucher and you could go to any Shoprite, Pick N Pay or U Save and are allowed to buy the food you require and need. The feedback from participants were great. They were excited as the shops concerned were very friendly and assisted. The only negative was from Pick n Pay. They don't know anything about the project and not very friendly. People were able to buy mild, baby products and veggies.

During this project we discovered that the lockdown affected many people, the source of income for the family was cut off, poverty and unemployment have a huge effect on our communities.





2.4



Our Funders / Partners



Josseline Esau



SR & A Winer Education and Benefit Trust



Sharon Hill



CONQUEST FOR LIFE NPC

4.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
at 28 February 2021

	NOTE	2021 R	2020 R
ASSETS			
NON CURRENT ASSETS		1 974 142	1 974 142
Property, plant and equipment	4	1 910 036	1 910 036
Intangible assets	5	62 192	62 192
Investments	6	1 915	1 915
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		429	39 403
TOTAL ASSETS		1 974 571	2 013 545
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		330 748	787 264
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	1 643 823	1 226 281
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		1 974 571	2 013 545

CONQUEST FOR LIFE NPC

5.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the year ended 28 February 2021

	NOTE	2021 R	2020 R
INCOME		2 167 234	452 842
EXPENDITURE		2 623 760	948 687
		<u>(456 518)</u>	<u>(494 045)</u>
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	8	<u>(456 518)</u>	<u>(494 045)</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR		787 284	1 281 309
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT END OF THE YEAR		<u>330 748</u>	<u>787 284</u>

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