The theme of this newsletter is sustainability, and we dedicate it to Amelia Jones, CEO of the Community Chest of the Western Cape. We acknowledge Amelia for her servant leadership, commitment, passion and dedication to the NGO sector, to which she has dedicated 38 years of her life.

St Anne’s Homes’ holistic approach to sustainability is in how we capacitate and empower the women and children who seek our services. This was affirmed by our 95% rating in a Performance Monitoring evaluation conducted by the Department of Social Development into our governance structures, management practices, human resource management, financial resources and service delivery. A 2-day social compliance ethical audit earlier this year revealed that St Anne’s remains compliant against local laws and ethical standards. These partnerships are an important part of the sustainability of our work; and Communicare - which provides transitional housing opportunities to our women when they leave St Anne’s - is a critical component of our work.

My own learnings this year included a visit to Washington DC and 3 other states when I was selected by the US State Department to participate in the International Visitor Leadership Programme. The theme of the programme was Capacity Building for NGO’S through Social Entrepreneurship.

I was also selected to present a paper on St Anne’s Model of Care and Support at the 2nd World Conference for Women’s Shelters in Washington DC. My experience of the USA was that civil society innovation, creativity and social entrepreneurship are alive and flourishing. Civil Society holds government to account, yet the two parties still find common ground to bring about the social change. Our challenge in South Africa around Active Citizenship is one that we must start embracing more fully!

This year has flown by and it has been a year of great turbulence and learning. May you all have a restful festive season. God bless!

Joy Lange, Director

Amelia is described as a pioneer, catalyst for change and bridge builder. She attributes her sense of values and passion for making a positive difference to her parents who believed in education, good neighbourliness and respect for others.

CEO of the Community Chest of the Western Cape since 1996, Amelia was the first black manager in the Community Chest Movement and is the first female Executive Director of the Community Chest of the Western Cape, heading up an organization of 32 permanent staff and over 9000 volunteers. Her previous 25 years were spent in social work, and encompassed various field and managerial positions. Amelia has played an active role is developing the profession of Social Work toward non-racialism, enabling social service delivery to disadvantaged communities, and she serves on various civil society, corporate and community initiatives - evidence of her commitment to developing human capital, enhancing community and individual capacity locally and internationally.

Amelia serves in leadership positions through the United Way Worldwide, the international organisation to which the Community Chest is affiliated. She is described by her colleagues as “always broad in outlook, wise, dedicated, conscious of priorities, realistic, optimistic, caring and ahead of her time”.

We pay tribute to Amelia Jones, a visionary leader who has served communities in various capacities for 45 years.
See their faces,
Little do they know
If it wasn’t for this place,
Where would they go?
A roof over their heads,
Food in their tummies.
All of these children,
Can be proud of their mommies.
Choosing to make a difference,
Showing they’ll survive.
Teaching their children,
It’s beautiful to be alive.

Seeing their faces,
Is all you need
To know what a difference you make,
For a child to succeed.

Innocent and pure,
The heart of a child.
Not knowing the dangers,
In a world so wild.

There’s a place of hope,
A shelter where they go.
Building and empowering,
Mother and child as they grow.

Angelique is the Receptionist at Thompsons Travel Leisure & Corporate, Cape Town, one of our faithful sponsors.
A PLACE TO FIND HER FEET

Life has been a challenge for 27-year-old Siphokazi Ntsomi, but the secure environment of St Anne’s Homes has brought her stability and healing.

Life had become chaotic when, as a third year Bachelor of Education student, Siphokazi became pregnant. Her bitterly disappointed mother had been looking forward to Siphokazi changing the family’s fortunes: “She never saw this coming and couldn’t take it”, says Siphokazi, who found herself homeless, moving from friend to friend. She was forced to stop studying. “There was no one to look after me or the boys. Finally, I went to iLitha Labantu and spoke to a Social Worker who referred me to St Anne’s.”

Siphokazi is grateful for the emotional and physical support. “I’ve healed a lot emotionally. I get counselling every Tuesday... I’m beginning to discover new things about my potential. I feel peaceful, much clearer”. Siphokazi also reconciled with her mother on Mother’s Day.

She recently started work at Maverick Engineering, a company that produces wine bags. “I work on the production side, identifying mistakes. I’m so enjoying myself and there is room for growth for me there.”

With the support of St Anne’s Homes - “holding the space, finding the grace” - and a deep faith in God’s providence, Siphokazi has emerged from this turbulent chapter grateful for her 11-month old sons and ready to face the future.

St Anne’s organised a Sports Day for the Western Cape Women’s Shelters during Child Protection Week. Charlene Blacker, Programme Director at A Reaching Hand writes.

“Women from several shelters came together to honour the value of a child on the occasion of Child Protection Week. They came from all walks of life but had one thing in common: they were women with children who have survived a difficult life - oftentimes victims of abuse, and the deprivation of poverty leaving them destitute. On this occasion they left behind, just for a day, all the challenges that led to them to being at a shelter. It was beautiful to watch the children at play, embracing the joy of just being children, not having to be witnesses to the harshness of life.

Games were organized for the children, and some for the women too, and a spirit of camaraderie was enjoyed, with a bit of competition thrown in between the women representing their shelters. Food and drinks flowed, keeping everyone’s stomach’s full and faces smiling, and the sun shone down on this beautiful event. But just for a day, everyone had a glimpse of what life could and should be like.

It was a well-organized and fun day for all that literally ended on a high note with the women creating their own “karaoke” using a cellphone taped to a microphone (a feat that can only be accomplished in true Capetonian style), so they could play their favourite songs and sing and dance along.

It was clear that this was an event everyone wanted repeated in the not too distant future.”
2-day social compliance ethical audit was conducted at St Anne’s Homes to measure compliance against local laws and ethical standards. The audit showed that the Home remains compliant and accountable against the set criteria, retaining its status as a viable and ethical operation/organization.

THE AUDIT INCLUDED:

- The selection and interviewing of employees working at the Home.
- Verifying payroll records and clocking schedules of selected employees ensuring that there is a timemanagement system; no excessive hours are being worked, that employees are paid accurate overtime premiums and receive pay slips.
- Verifying employment contracts and employees’ 1 proof of age
- A facility tour to verify that the facility is safe, hygienic and environmentally friendly.
- Reviewing of policies, procedures and regulations which show that the Home complies with the rights of Freedom of Association, No Discrimination/ Abuse/Sexual Harassment/ Forced Labour, etc…

A closing meeting was conducted with management highlighting relevant findings which were agreed to and corrective action plans were suggested.

The audit was conducted by Theresa Graner who has certification from Social Accountability International against the Social Accountability Standard (SA8000). She also undertakes corporate social compliance audits for international brands doing business with service providers in South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.
Lorraine Syms was recently promoted from her position as Bookkeeper to Operations and Finance Manager. She began her involvement as a volunteer 10 years ago.

“In 2001 I was a volunteer - I worked in the crèche and helped with donations and driving. In 2002 I was approached by Elizabeth Petersen, then-Director of St. Anne’s to work 3 days a week as a Bookkeeper, which resulted in a full time position. This year in January, I stepped into the Director’s shoes when she was abroad in the USA. Apart from looking after the finances I was responsible for overseeing and managing the day-to-day activities of the Shelter. Managing the staff was difficult at times but quite exhilarating.

I am excited about my new position with the prospect of contributing towards improving the lives of our residents. My vision is to see the staff of St. Anne’s happy, because happy staff means a good environment which in turn means a healthy organization.”

Our Partnerships

Communicare and St Anne’s Homes have been in partnership for the past five years, as part of Communicare’s social investment programme with Non-Profit Organisations that require affordable rental accommodation for the most marginalised groups with special needs. These include organisations that work with people with intellectual disabilities, vulnerable children, older persons, abused women and early childhood development centres.

In 2004 Communicare’s Board approved a policy for leasing properties to such organisations. By entering into partnership with other NPO’s in this manner Communicare is catering for a sector of the market in which it does not necessarily specialise but to which it is able to contribute in a significant manner.

In 2007 Communicare leased a house to St Anne’s in Ruyterwacht to provide shelter for abused women. This partnership has been working very well and expanded further when Wasima Fisher, Community Development and Special Needs Manager joined the Board of St Annes’ Homes.

Performance Monitor

ST ANNE’S “MATURE/HEALTHY”

The Western Cape Department of Social Development’s Directorate: Monitoring and Evaluation (Metro North Region) conducted a Performance Monitoring of St Anne’s Homes. The purpose was to assess progress in terms of the signed Transfer Payment Agreement entered between the parties. A multi-disciplinary team of M & E officials and a Social Worker conducted the monitoring.

The report concluded that St Anne’s performs at a mature/healthy level (95%). “The organisation is fully functioning and sustainable with diversified resource base and partnership relationships with national and international networks. Structures for governance, management practices human resources, financial resources and service delivery are in place and functioning.”
My heart-felt gratitude to the St Anne’s Board, staff, donors and volunteers for your unwavering commitment and sterling service throughout this past year to the women and children in our care. Your support has enabled us to provide the much-needed holistic model of care and love which restores hope and dignity to the lives of our residents. Peace and Blessings to you and your families this festive season...Safe holidays!

Elizabeth Petersen
Chairperson of the Board