



# ANNUAL REPORT

1 March 2018 – 28 February 2019



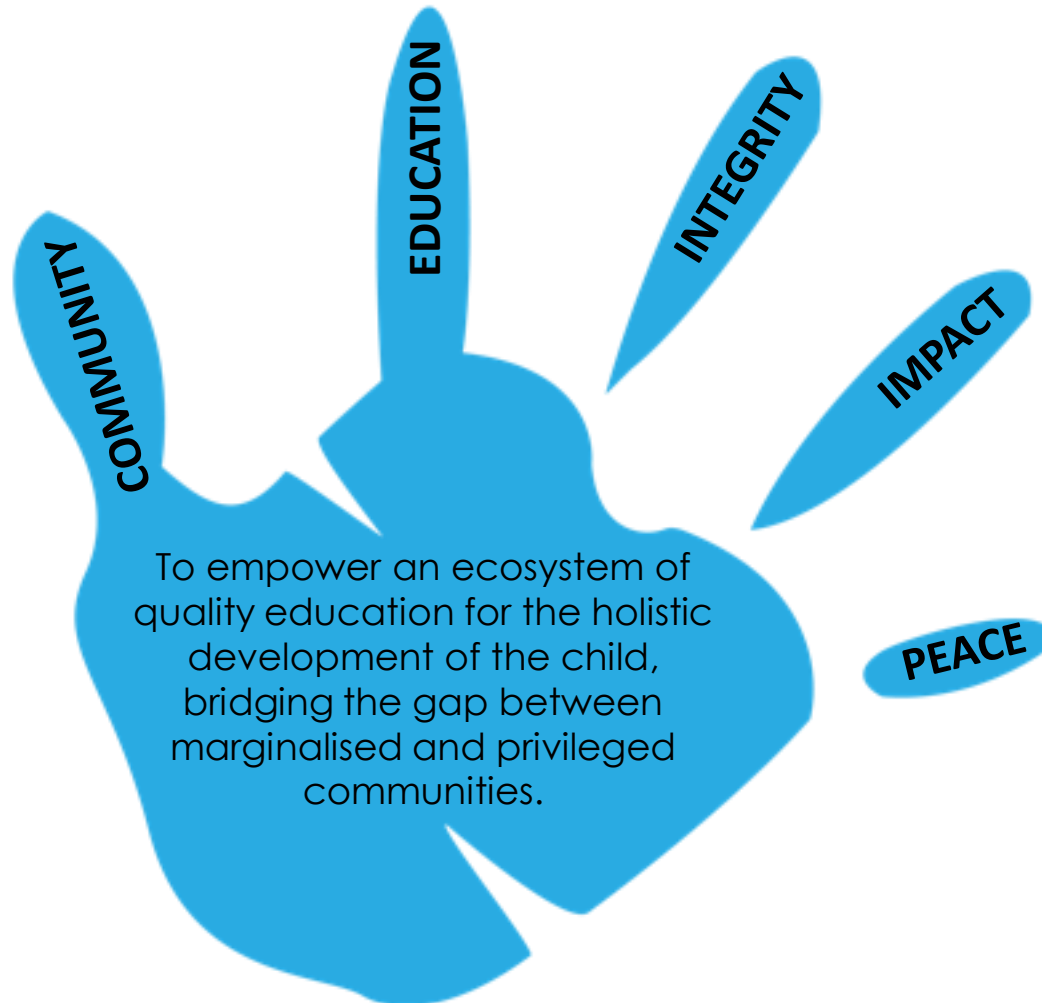
Quality ECD that cultivates confident, capable children.



Start where you are.  
Use what you have.  
Do what you can.

**OUR VISION:** A South Africa where our children have **equal opportunities** to **quality foundation education**. We are excited to open up a true **enjoyment** and **enthusiasm** for learning, generating **hope** and creating **possibilities** and **opportunities** for their futures.

**OUR 5 VALUES:**

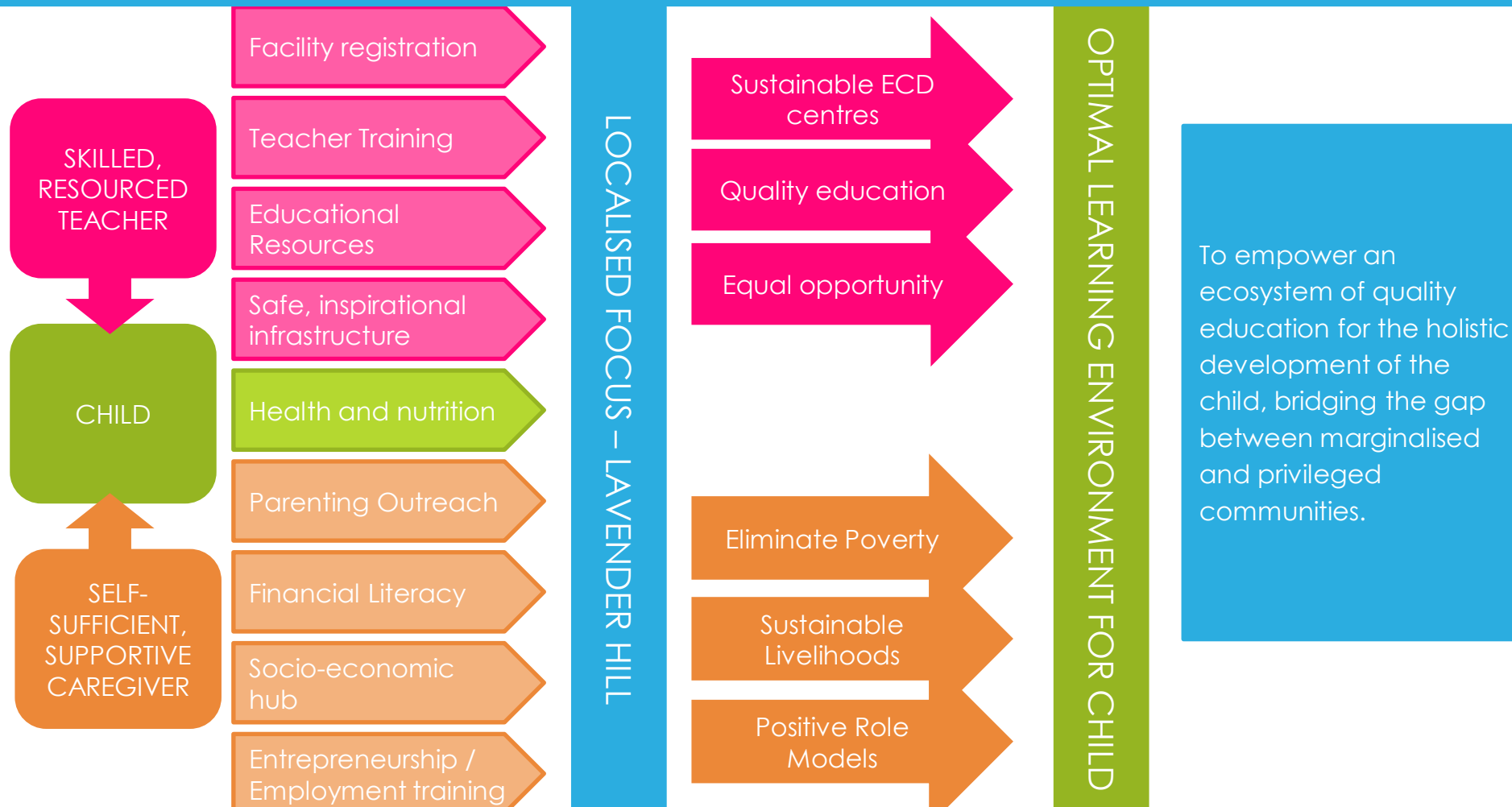


**OUR MISSION:**

To empower an ecosystem of quality education for the holistic development of the child, bridging the gap between marginalised and privileged communities.

# Theory of change

COLLABORATION | PARTNERSHIPS | SHARING



TRAUMA COUNSELLING | CONTINUOUS SUPPORT & MENTORSHIP | COMMUNITY RESEARCH



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**“To heal is to touch with love that which we previously touched with fear”** Stephen Levine



# Message from the board

ECD Director – Jacky Price

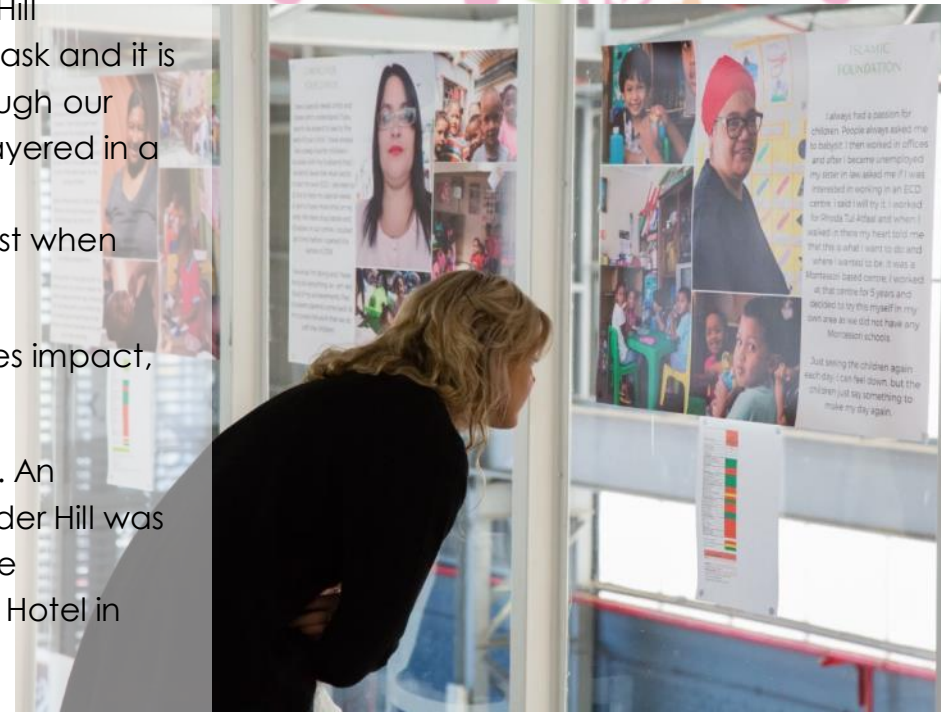
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Engaging and seeing different perspectives in the Lavender Hill community when it comes to childcare practices is no easy task and it is heartening to work with brave and courageous women through our ongoing conversations and workshops. The challenges are layered in a community that is impoverished and it is evident that good childcare/parenting is not high on most of this community's list when there is so much more to worry about.

It is through small persistent steps that Learning in Reach drives impact, starting with young children and their guardians.

Key to creating impact is connecting partners who can help. An incredible showcase of each of the ECD centres from Lavender Hill was held in March 2018. Beautiful posters gave a visual story of the development of each centre. This was hosted at Greenways Hotel in Claremont.

The Mandela Day Maker space saw us making classified cards to help with language and vocabulary development.





**“Everyone talks about peace, but no one educates for peace. People educate for competition and this is the beginning of any war. When we educate to cooperate and be in solidarity with one another, that day we will be educating for peace.”**

Dr Maria Montessori

Five of our seven candidates were brave and determined enough to complete their practical exams with Montessori Centre South Africa in November 2018. These ladies, Mikayle Booysen, Charlene Matthews, Nawaal Jacobs, Elaine Davids, and Janine Hardenberg, within their communities work towards implementing good ECD practices. The exams were very exacting and all were asked to return in 2019 to redo elements of these exams, holding them to a very high standard of ECD delivery.

ECD workshops continued for each quarter starting with connecting each centre with a business and ECD mentor. The second term meeting was hosted at Burning Bush, Louise Johnson demonstrated ways of bringing healthy, nutritious meal planning into limited food budgets. Third term meeting at Little Giants, Lynne from Wordworks was invited to share her experience in literacy for young children and introduced us to the Wordworks literacy app. This provides daily tips for interacting with children to encourage language development, together with Nal'ibali stories.

The final ECD meeting in October facilitated by Chery. It was heartwarming to hear personal stories of change and appreciation from some of the women who were present. Many language and numeracy resources made during the year were shared with all.

In December/January after much search for a venue to begin a preschool hub, whilst Learning in Reach continued to plan a purpose built hub, a underutilised site was found within the Lavender Hill community which now houses Children's House of Lavender Hill. In collaboration with Pastor Desmond August and the Montague Village community, this church space houses the preschool during the week offering teacher and parent workshops when possible, and church functions on the weekend.



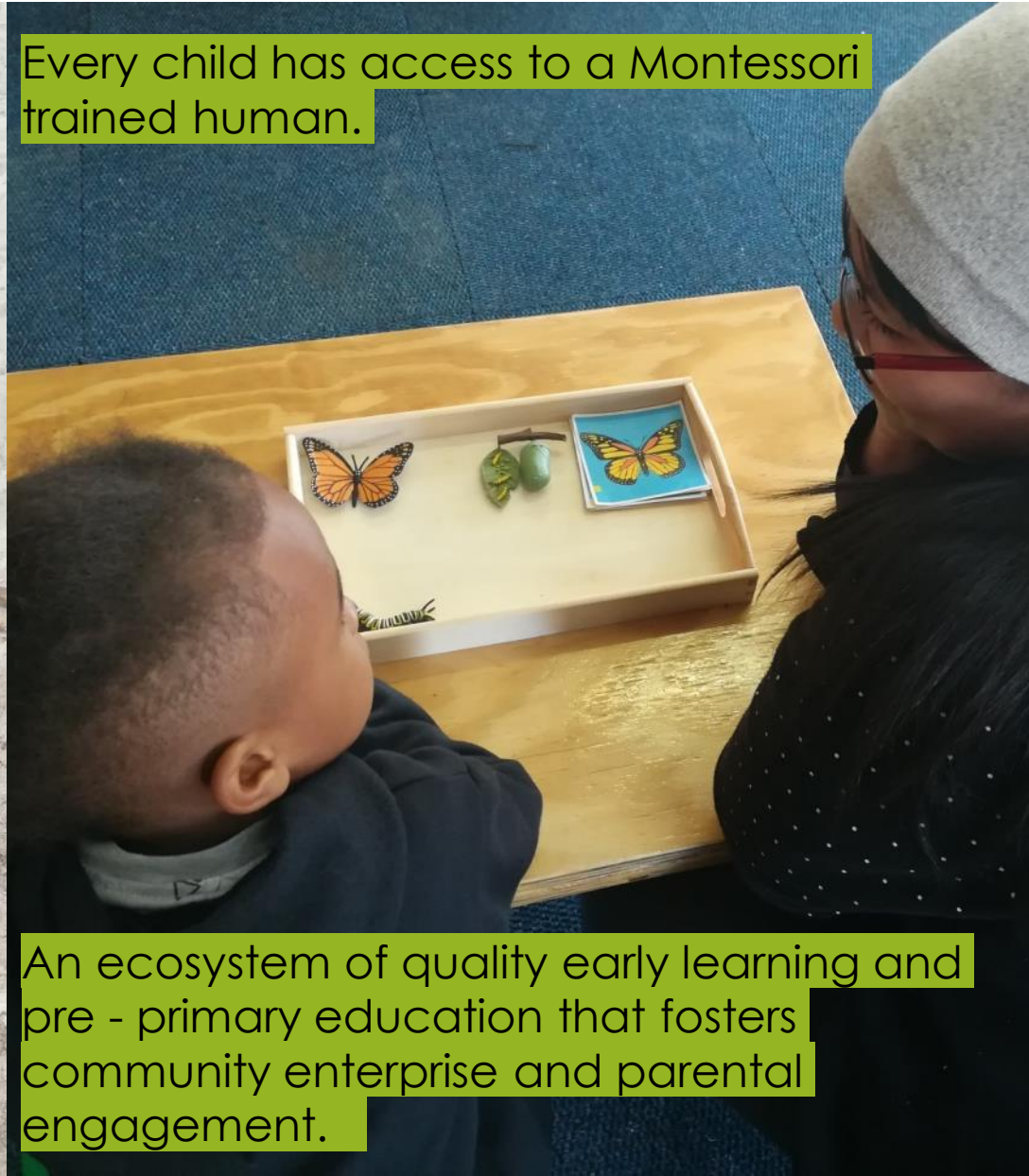
## The Problem

Vast inequality and intergenerational cycles of poverty are perpetuated by poor quality, or lack of, early childhood education.



## The Solution

Every child has access to a Montessori trained human.



An ecosystem of quality early learning and pre - primary education that fosters community enterprise and parental engagement.

# Message from the ground

## Project Director – Leanne Reid

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As I reflect on Learning in Reach's third year of operation, I celebrate a year of building solid relationships, partnerships in many cases, with the strong and determined women who create the safety net of early childhood centres in the community of greater Lavender Hill. Our journey to delivering quality early childhood education has just begun, but these women identified this need and have been delivering to the best of their ability and resources for many years before us.

As we seek to create a replicable model that speedily shifts a community out of poverty, towards dignity, freedom and opportunity, we acknowledge the depth and breadth of the task we have undertaken and the solid commitment required. This neglected community cannot take any more rejection or disappointment and positive progress is our only option.

It has been a year of learning and unlearning and I am grateful for the committed and enthusiastic individuals walking this journey with Learning in Reach. We have surrounded ourselves with passionate individuals and organisations who believe in the impossible and expect miracles, as much as the Learning in Reach team does. I am resolute in our undertaking to see 30 ECD centres to full compliance with basic health and safety requirements, to connect every child with a Montessori trained human and to equip centres with the infrastructure and resources to offer a foundation education of equal standard to our partnering suburban schools. Every child deserves to achieve their full potential. Every child deserves an equal opportunity to thrive in life. South Africa deserves this, and together the beautiful, colourful people of this nation will make sure it is so.





**“The child has a different relation to his environment from ours...  
the child absorbs it.”** Dr Maria Montessori



**5 ECD renovations & repairs**



**7 full bursaries for MCSA**

# Spotlight on 2018: ECD centres

Feb 2018  
vs Feb 2019



34 known ECD facilities in greater Lavender Hill area  
4 DoE schools with Grade R  
2 pipeline ECD centres  
5 community based ECD centres  
23 home based ECD centres



**111 ECD staff**  
**>1150 children aged 0-6 years**



ECD program



Business plans & policy



Teacher qualifications



Lease / Title deed



Security clearances



Building plans



First aid



Infrastructure



Fire



Land use / zoning



**“A river cuts through rock, not because of its power,  
but because of its persistence.” James Watkins**



**Local labour  
hired for  
renovations**



**>640 hrs of  
training &  
mentorship**



**> 7425 Rise  
Against Hunger  
meals**



**Swap shop  
sharing  
resources**

# Ecosystem of support





There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children. (Nelson Mandela 8 May 1995)



# What the teacher's say

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**RISE AGAINST HUNGER PARTNERSHIP:** “Joy’s (name changed for anonymity) mother has 5 children. Her mother doesn’t work, only her father. The children get sent to school for breakfast and lunch. Education is a bonus for them.

Joy is a very pleasant child; she’s spontaneous, outspoken and responsible.

Before [RAH], Joy ate bread most times as this was affordable for me. She was often sick. Since eating the Rise Against Hunger meals her immune system has improved. The children are livelier now. Emotionally they are very happy children and physically they are getting stronger and sleep very well now.”

**ME & MY MONEY TRAINING:** “The training was good, it was really engaging. I started saving straight afterwards and saved R600 within 3 months. I also saved R600 in stamps over 3 months. I started buying in bulk when I saw specials. My goal is to save for a family home.”



**INTRO TO BUSINESS TRAINING:** “The training taught me where to start writing my business plan and what to include in it. The team gave me ideas of how to grow my business and different aspects to look at to improve what I’m doing. The pitch was also helpful and a good experience.”

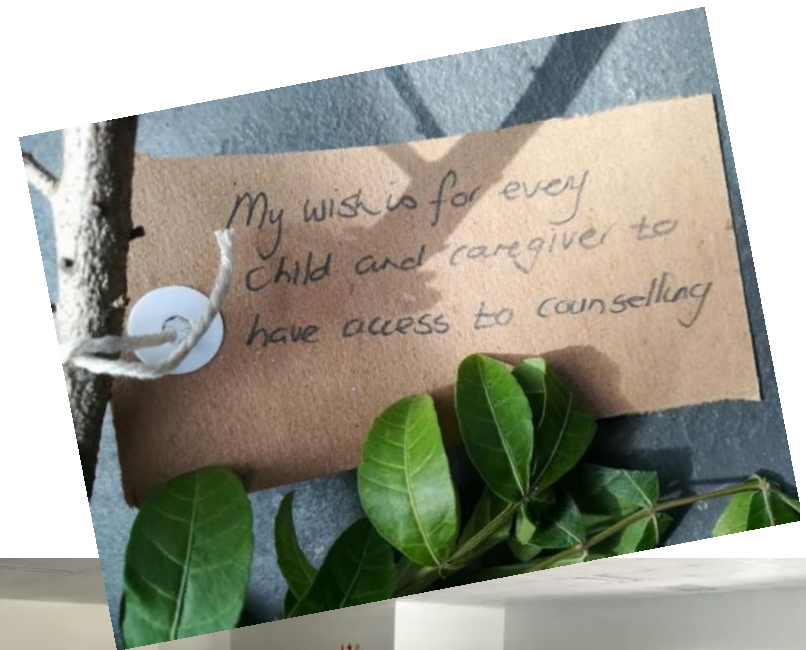


# Trauma-informed caregivers

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You can't teach a traumatised child! Sadly, all our children are exposed to levels of violence, abuse, neglect and poverty that affect them in ways we can't imagine. We started rolling out trauma-informed schools training with all ECD teachers and principals and included after school practitioners from the primary schools.

We have since incorporated trauma-informed families training into our parent training and are looking at how to offer extended support services to aid the healing process.



**94 ECD / AFS  
teachers/principals  
attended intro**



**>1670 children**



# Spotlight on 2018: Families



CV writing, security clearances and interview preparation together with corporate and NGO partners helped more than 15 moms secure employment last year. This was the first step towards creating a parent engagement program to pilot in 2019.

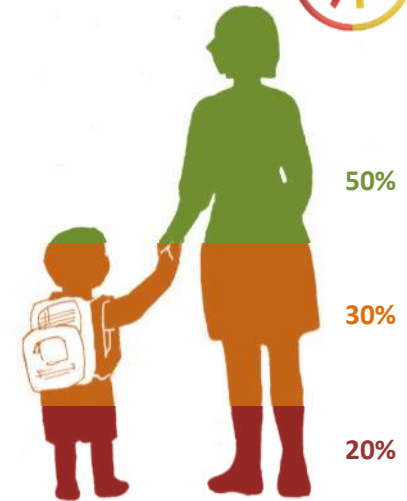


Greenlight is an approach that helps people progress out of poverty by empowering them to understand and map their own choices. It encourages households to participate and own their journeys out of poverty, and provides a clear line of sight of how to get there; at the same time allowing organisations delivering support to measure progress against their programme objectives.

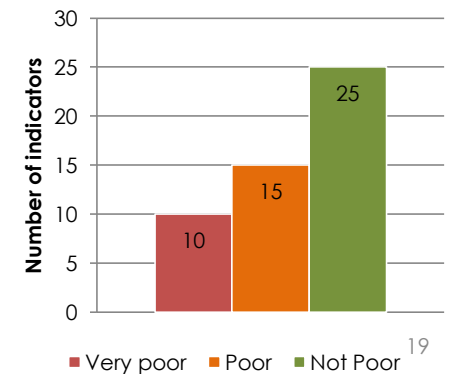


Learning In Reach are implementing this tool and methodology to gain a better understanding of the current situation families face, to assist in applicant selection, to evaluate and adapt programs and measure impact made over time.

Greenlight Scores 



On average beneficiaries joined our programme with 25 green.



# Community building: Renè Roman School Library



Learning in Reach was instrumental in the furnishing, installation and opening of the Levana Primary Renè Roman School Library.



Local parents  
contracted



4 PCs,  
1 printer



> 4000 books



> 1100 learners

# Community building: After School for youth at risk



> 4200 learners

Learning in Reach co-ordinates a termly after school dialogue inviting key after school stakeholders including school practitioners, community based organisations, non-profit organisations, parents and at times children, to discuss challenges and solutions to improve the implementation of after school programs at school. Our objective is to offer children more reasons to go to school and stay at school and opportunities to reach their full potential.

Through a partnership with Kulu Manzi and Play Handball SA, Learning in Reach facilitate the offering of Handball at four local primary schools through a locally recruited intern.

Community based organisation, Young Knitters Club, started 3 years ago and continues to offer knitting as an after school activity at schools four days a week, and on a Saturday for approximately 150 learners per week.



# Network building: Mandela Day 2018



6700 math and literacy kits



163 participants, >15 companies,  
9 sponsors, 22 volunteers, 5 locations



R121 374 raised for ECD projects

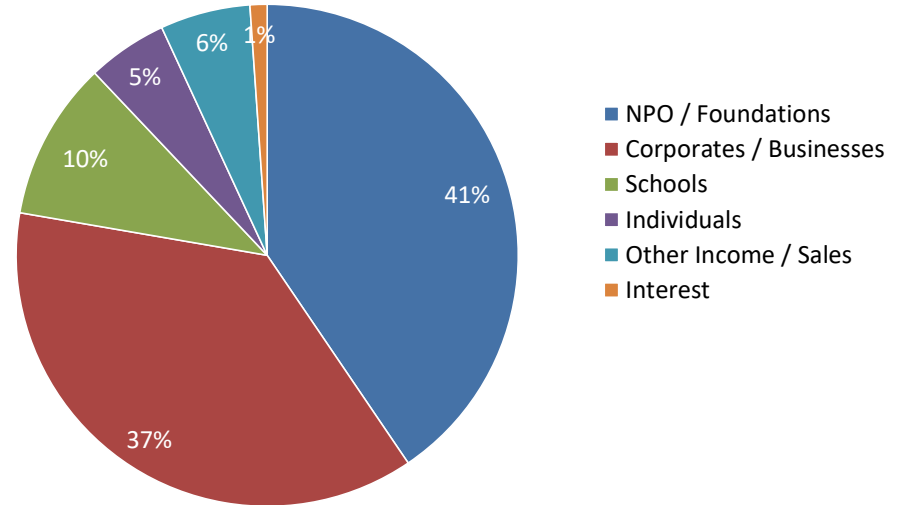


Press coverage included Cape Talk,  
VOC, People's Post, Muslim views

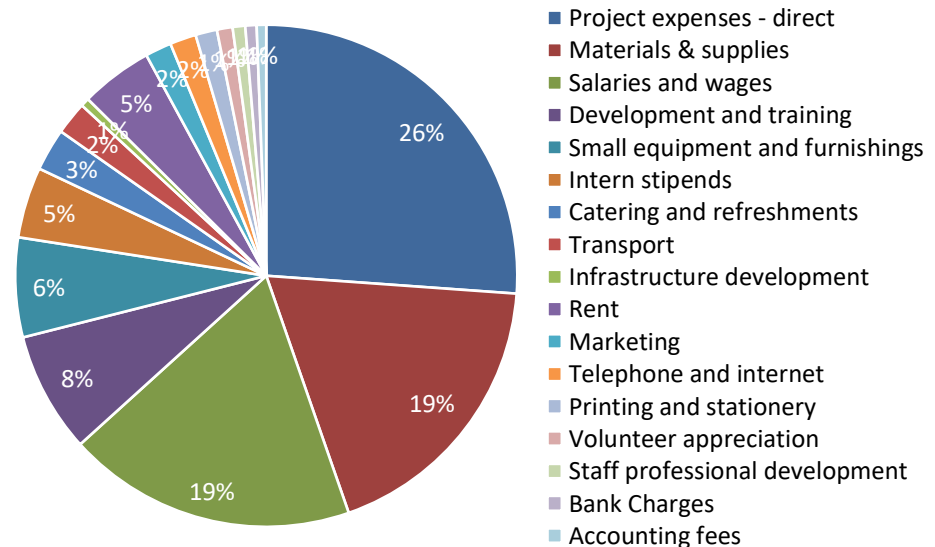
# Financial report

	2019	2018
<b>Gross Revenue</b>	833 321	414 185
Donations Received	784 438	200 141
Other income / sales	48 883	214 044
<b>Other Income</b>		
Interest received	9 258	78
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	638 282	339 348
Accounting fees	3 900	896
Bank Charges	4 631	3 715
Catering and refreshments	17 428	28 592
Development and training	49 583	21 120
Infrastructure development	3 535	4 643
Intern stipends	29 135	49 080
Marketing	10 802	2 539
Materials & supplies	118 317	103 289
Printing and stationery	8 846	12 786
Project expenses - direct	166 813	45 512
Rent	29 677	13 857
Salaries and wages	118 808	-
Small equipment and furnishings	40 877	27 270
Professional development	5 150	10 069
Telephone and internet	10 793	4 966
Travel expenses	13 538	7 541
Volunteer appreciation	6 449	3 473
<b>Net surplus for the year</b>	204 297	74 915

INFLOW OF FUNDS



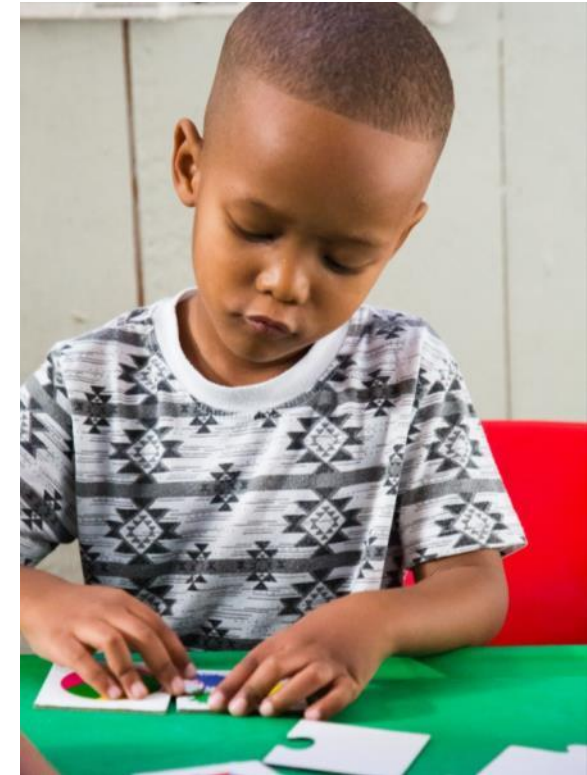
OUTFLOW OF FUNDS



# Funding and support

Our grateful thanks to our sponsors, donors and partners who believe in and support our work.

24.com	Green Hills Montessori School	Print on demand
Allan Gray	Greenlight office	Rise Against Hunger
Allan Gray Philanthropy	Habitat for Humanity UCT	Rotary Club Cape of Good Hope
Alpha Montessori	Headstart Mercy Montessori	Rotary Club Waterfront
Back a buddy	IDC	Schoeman Law
Bergvliet Lions	iKamvaubomi	School Aid UK
Better SA	iLearn	Silicon Cape
Birmingham Primary School	Inkpace	Silver Soft
Blink Tower	Just Money	South African Montessori Association
Bright Light Montessori	Knowledge to share	Southern Mail
Brownie Points	Kulu Manzi	Super Union
Cecile & Boyd Foundation	Le Sel	The Book People
Child Magazine	LexisNexis (Pty) Ltd	The Bookery
Childrens House	Montessori Centre SA	The Clothing Bank
Chipbase Retreat	MSCI	The Hill Preschool
Community Chest Western Cape	Mulberry Tree Infant Community	Timbercity
Community Police Forum (Steenberg)	Muslim Views	Trematon
Constantiaberg Bulletin	NB Publishers	Weave Well
Columbia Business School	Open Collab	Western Cape DSU
Dekro Paint	Park Avenue Stationerys	Wordworks
Designed to Connect	Parrot Products	Workshop 17
Eat up kids	People's Post	Young Knitters Club
Eduone	Pinelands Montessori	
Euphoria	Play Handball SA	
Generation Schools Blue Moon	Price Waterhouse Coopers	



A heartfelt thank you to the individuals who have donated to our projects, friends and employees of Learning in Reach. It truly takes a village to raise a child.

# Board members



**Jacquelyn Price**

**Director**

Board member since: 2016

Company: Generation Schools Blue Moon

Position: ECD Best Practice Specialist and Co-founder

Skills: Strategic leadership, Early Childhood Development, Montessori



**Leanne Reid**

**Director**

Board member since: 2016

Company: Learning in Reach NPC

Position: CEO and Co-founder

Skills: Strategic leadership, governance, information technology, project management, finance, fundraising



**Andrea Britt**

**Director**

Board member since: 2016

Company: Secret Getaway

Position: Marketing and Communications and Co-founder

Skills: Strategic leadership, marketing and communications, small business development, partnerships



## What do we do?

**Learning In Reach** is a solutions driven non-profit organisation which works with the community members in Lavender Hill to help develop solutions for impactful change by building sustainable, holistic ecosystems.

Our focus is on early childhood development and the support children need. A child's caregiver and surrounding environment has a crucial influence on their education and healthy development, and so also need assistance and empowerment.

## How can you help?

**Invest in our future. Invest in empowerment. Make a once off or regular contribution.**

- Become a Friend of Lavender Hill, donate R67 to support the work of Learning In Reach in Lavender Hill.
- Become a regular donor and pledge R67 per month.
- Make a difference pledging R6700.00 (or more) toward Learning In Reach Projects.
- Make a social investment, donate R67 000 (or more) to grow Learning In Reach Projects.

Donate with SnapScan



**EFT with our bank details**

Account name: Learning In Reach NPC  
Bank: First National Bank (FNB)  
Branch number: 250 655  
Account number: 62614116904  
Ref: [YourEmail]

## What makes us special?

**Community Driven:** In the community, for the community. The project leader for the delivery of the project is a teacher or parent from the community. They are invited to take ownership once they have completed their training or mentorship, and the project is financially self-sustaining.

**Ownership:** The overall goal is ownership and responsibility at all levels. These are the core principles as it ensures community pride, engagement and sustainability. It replicates at a micro-level as it encourages children to go home to continued support and understanding, and enables parents to feel more equipped and engaged in their children's opportunities and their own power in facilitating that.

**Location:** Our current focus is Lavender Hill where initiatives are being driven by a local teachers and other community leaders. The aim is to start a school and co-operative utilised by the out-of-work or part-time-working parents.

**Equality:** Extensive training, mentorship and resources will ensure the delivery of a high standard of education and support bridging the gap between marginalised communities and higher income groups.

## Get in touch

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