

APRIL 2024



# DELFT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Empowered by **PROCHORUS**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## APRIL 2024

Remembrance is the action of recollecting memories. It is necessary for us to do this occasionally to strengthen our sense of identity and purpose in the now and to offer us hope and courage for the future. As we reflect on the past, we recognise, in humble gratitude, the slight change of trajectory that the Early Childhood Development Project have carved - like the water of a river shaping the riverbank though years of flowing in the same direction - to change the history of principals, teachers, scholars, families and the community of Delft. As our first communication for the year, we as a team felt that it would be good to revisit who we are, what our vision is and what our journey has looked like so far.

The Delft Early Childhood Development Project was launched approximately in 2018 as a partnership between two registered non-profit organisations, Prochorus Community Development and Amazing Brainz.

**Prochorus** is a community-based organisation, which was established in 1996 with the aim of taking care of the poor.

**Amazing Brainz** is a multidisciplinary team approach to providing a variety of services to early childhood development (ECD) centres in low-income areas with the aim of providing solutions for early childhood development.

The collective vision is for the future of the children: To empower teachers and workers in crèches and early ECD centres in the Delft township of Cape Town and assist committed caregivers to develop the essential knowledge and skills needed to lay firm, educational foundations for local children.

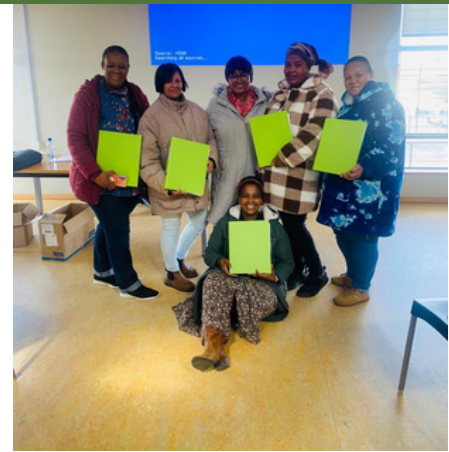
**“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness,” Desmond Tutu.**



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The Delft Early Childhood Development Project then includes:

The Amazing Brains program:

- Training teachers and ECD workers over a 25-week period to nurture optimal brain development in young children through research-based educational practices and provide age-appropriate, play-based learning programmes with resources to facilitate optimal brain stimulation.
- Assisting in creating physical environments conducive to learning in the early years.
- Facilitating and encouraging ECD workers to obtain official qualifications.
- Mentoring ECD centre owners and principals through processes, such as the registration of schools with the Department of Social Development, thereby giving them access to available subsidies.

And a supporting team:

- Advocating for those in need and mobilising churches and volunteers to follow suit.
- Providing logistical and administrative links to contribute to the success of creches.
- Continued pastoral care, prayer, support and encouragement to keep on growing, hoping, and building.
- An annual camp to encourage support amongst teachers, hope for the future and refreshment of their souls

**"Education is the key that unlocks the golden door to freedom," George Washington Carver.**

Our journey so far....

- In July 2018 we worked with 18 schools and 76 educators who became Group One of our Delft Early Childhood Development Project. They finished their training and their schools are flourishing after the journey of more than two years with Amazing Brainz.
- In December 2019 a group of approximately 100 volunteers came together to wash, sew, fix and build previously loved toys donated by the Durbanville community for our Delft Toy Drive. We delivered these toys to the different crèches in our project.
- In 2020 COVID hit the world: Shofar Durbanville sponsored the principles of the crèches to partake in a Micro MBA. Food vouchers, food parcels and three soup kitchens varying in size served a community of over a thousand individuals. More than R750 000 of relief aid was poured into Delft to feed and encourage those we have grown to know and love over the last few years.
- In December 2021 we started with the training of Group 2 being represented by 80 educators from 20 Delft ECD schools. This group has also completed their training in 2023.
- In September 2021 we started our Toolkit Campaign in which we supplied every educator with a Toolkit (worth R3800) containing every resource she requires to teach and develop her class effectively. From educational toys, posters, books, etc. you name it, the toolkit contains it.
- In 2023 we established ongoing mentorship of the schools who completed the Amazing Brainz program through "Continued Professional Development" workshops and school visits. We also upgraded the website to include the necessary information of every crèche including street maps, photos and contact information. A website holds various practical benefits for small businesses.
- We have held five annual camps at various camp sites. In the first two years all the principals of Group One attended. In the last three years with the addition of Group Two we had between 30 and 40 principals attending annually.
- Our team is still 100% volunteer run and for this we are immensely thankful.

As we reflect on our journey so far, we recognise that:

**"The essential thing "in heaven and earth" is that there should be long obedience in the same direction; there thereby results, and has always resulted in the long run, something which has made life worth living," Friedrich Nietzsche as quoted and adapted by Eugene Peterson.**

Thank you for your prayers, your financial contributions, your time and your care.

With deep thanks

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