



Creating a safe place for learning to enable children at risk to reach their full potential



A School for Street Children & Children at Risk

2021 Annual Report

Our Vision & Mission

To build the gap between the current unschooled state of the children and mainstream education

To empower the children to rise above their circumstances and focus on high self-esteem, while giving them hope and education to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy



Introduction

This report covers the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

Our Chairperson's report gives an overview of our challenges, celebrations and our key learnings, whilst the Treasurer's reports on funding and finances, the Project Managers Report covers performance and impact, the changes we have made, our growth and our future plans.

Endorsement of our business and governance practises are provided through compliance with The Non-Profit Directorate, The Western Cape Department of Education and The South African Revenue Service. The Board has reviewed this report and is satisfied with the accuracy thereof.

The context in which Tereo School Operates...

Children who live in an environment where the abuse and rape of women and children is commonplace and death by physical assault an everyday occurrence, often results in these children falling out of the formal education system or never forming part of it.

In the Helderberg areas of Sir Lowry's Pass, Macassar, Chris Nissan, Lwandle and Nomzamo which are the feeder areas for Tereo School, a significant portion of the population aged 20 and under has no education, while this area also has the highest proportion of adults over 20 who are unschooled. (URDR Study, University of Stellenbosch).

Our Mandate is to:

- Special purpose school for street children and children at risk (Gr 1 – 5)
- Build the gap between the current unschooled state of the children and mainstream schooling
- Offer teachers and teaching methods which understand their circumstances
- Offer learners free access to education
- Encourage on-going self development through psychological support and extramural activities

These investments in communities result in sustainable outcomes that:

- Break the cycle of poverty caused by little or no education
- Build resilient young people who realize their own potential who work productively and fruitfully to make a contribution to their families and communities
- Give them an alternative to turning to crime or prostitution which so many are forced to do so due to circumstances.

On March 23, 2020, South Africa was placed in a National State of Disaster, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In lockdown the principle was "everyone should stay home where it's safe". For our children, it was anything but safe. For the most vulnerable, the environment was unstimulating, and all their 'safe structures', both in the morning and the afternoon, were ripped away from them. Whilst Covid-19 restrictions were implemented with the best of intentions, physical health was prioritised to the detriment of children's intellectual, emotional, social and food security needs.

Many children were left hungry, with the adults around them losing jobs and experiencing increased symptoms of anxiety and depression, which has also impacted on the children.

Poverty, unrest, gangsterism, drugs and other social ills are rife. The youth in these communities are the poorest of the poor, exposed to traumatic circumstances on a daily basis. This, coupled with poor governance, discrimination and frequent upheavals, means that the children in these fragile communities are likely to be among the furthest left behind.

Tereo School offers a stimulating and safe school environment, creating a secure place for learning to enable children at risk to reach their full potential. With structured, customised education and support programmes as the basis for our approach, we pay careful attention to the mental and physical well-being of our children and support them in succeeding in school and beyond.

The lives of our South African children are at a make-or-break point now, and focus must be placed on how to best provide opportunities for our young people to break out of the cycle of poverty and unemployment and raise their own children differently.

Governance:

The Tereo Project Executive Board is tasked with oversight of the organisation's operations and to provide an advisory and guidance role. The Board meets once a quarter and minutes are taken at each meeting. The Treasurer and Project Manager meet on a monthly basis where minutes are taken.

The management team consists of the Project Manager, Child Protection Officer and Head of Academics who are responsible for the day-to-day operations, fundraising, communications and financial management. Management maintains a transparent and accessible relationship with its employees to ensure a harmonious working environment.

The Board approves the annual budget and provides the necessary authority for expenditure. Expenditure outside of the budget must be approved by the Board.

Tereo as a registered NPO and Independent school with the Western Cape Education Department, has a mature and well-entrenched range of effective policies and procedures, all of which are introduced to new employees during their induction. The Board holds the Project Manager to account and ensures that management complies with all legislation, regulations and policies.



Final Board Meeting for 2021 – 30 October

Changes:

1. Ronel Pieterse stepped down as Chairperson
2. Francesca Garrard voted in as New Chairperson from 13 December 2021
3. Ronel Pieterse Secretary for 2022
4. Additions and amendments to Constitution (*Italics*).

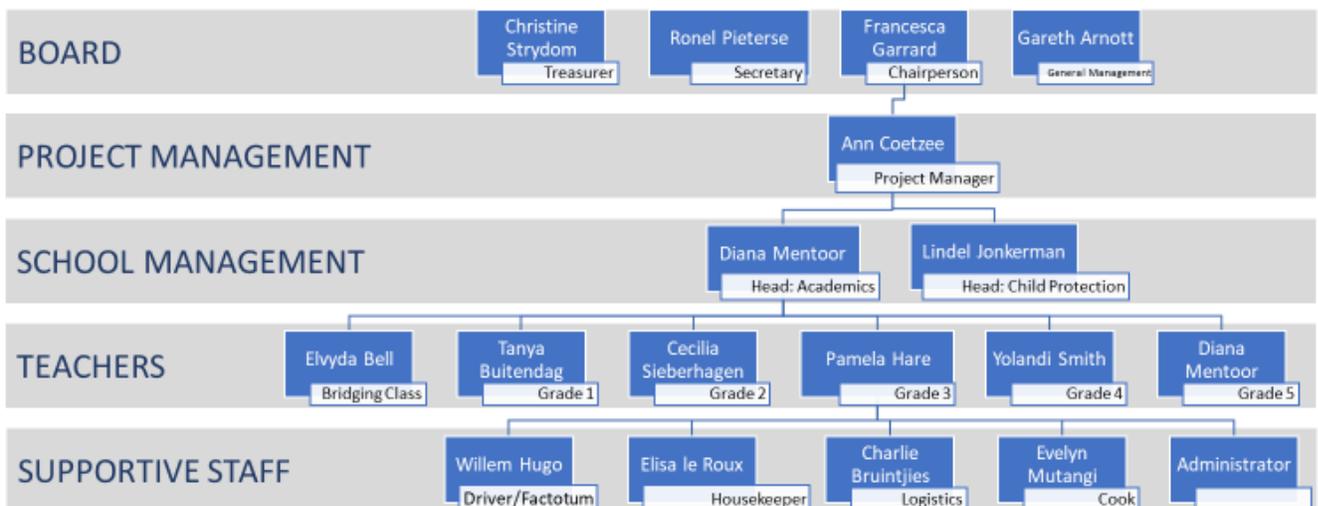
Main Objectives

- Build the gap between the current unschooled state of the children and mainstream education.
- Address the educational and social needs of the children.
- The reintegration of the children into society.
- *Present Primary School Education to children at risk within a Christian Environment*

Secondary Objectives

- The creation of a formal school using the CAPS curriculum.
 - The development of partnerships with community organizations that can address medical, legal, psychological, educational and physical needs of the children.
 - The creation of a home environment for the school children
 - *Provide After Care and homework support for children at risk*
 - *Provide Counselling and support for learners experiencing physical and sexual abuse*
 - *In conjunction with our Child Protection Officer, social workers and the South African Child Protection Legislation, seek alternatives, support and where necessary, place learners into places of safety.*
 - Bringing the children into contact with the Christian community.
5. Application for registration with DSD for “Protection of the Vulnerable”

Organogram 2022



Letter from the Outgoing Chairperson: Ronel Pieterse



Tereo is a Greek word that means to attend carefully, take care of or to guard. Our slogan shortly states this as “to protect and serve”. 22 Years ago a handful people took the message of James 1:27 seriously. This message makes it clear that true worship means to take care of the orphans and widows in their distress.

This is what Tereo is all about, to take care of the vulnerable in such a way that we enable them to ultimately take care of themselves and those around them.

I have had the privilege to be part of the Tereo family since the end of 2015. It has been an amazing journey for which I am truly grateful. All journeys end somewhere and so my journey at Tereo in my capacity as chairperson has also come to an end.

Each year has been it’s own rollercoaster of ups and downs. The miracle and grace however is that we have been able to transport, feed, educate, uplift and support about 1500 children and their families through all these ups and downs in this 22 years.

This year has not been different. We have had to face the challenges that Covid-19 brought last year again this year. It is not only dealing with the virus and health consequences, but also dealing with the emotional and social impact the virus had on the part of society that we also serve.

A heartfelt thanks to each teacher and all the support staff that has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the vision of the school a reality. A Vision is only as good as it’s implementation thereof, otherwise it just stays a dream. At Tereo we don’t just dream of making a difference, we actually make a difference every day in the lives of these children. I can attest to the fact that for each person involved at Tereo this is not just a job, but a calling. I salute you all.

Where our teachers and support staff are the hands and feet of Tereo, our sponsor’s are the fuel that makes all of this possible. We are truly grateful for the many open hearts of our various sponsors throughout the years. It is this generosity that enables this project to exist and flourish. To each sponsor, big or small, we truly value your contribution.

No project can exist without a good captain steering the ship. Ann has taken over as project manager at the end of last year at a very difficult time for the project. Within a year she has been able to steer this ship from stormy seas to a safe harbour. It has taken many hours of tireless work and we are fortunate to have a passionate captain aboard our Tereo ship.

Tereo is a beacon of hope in a turbulent world. I am grateful that I could be a part of this wonderful project for 6 years. Tereo will always remain part of my heart.

My prayer is that Tereo will go from strength to strength for many more years to come.

R Pieterse

Tereo Theory of Change:

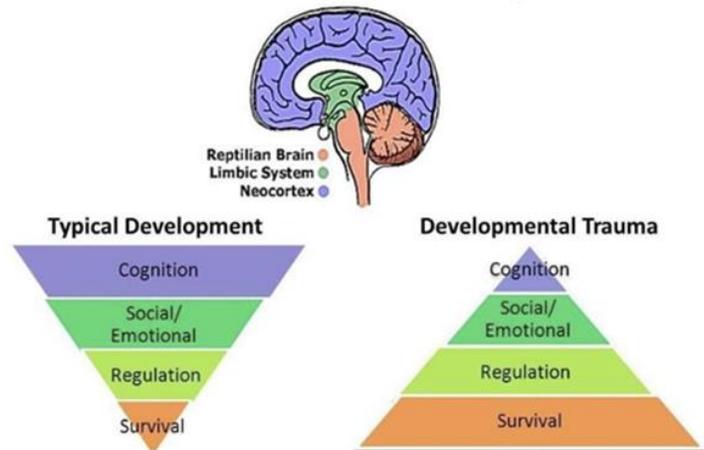
Tereo's process for thinking about and describing; the change we want to see; and our plans for achieving that change

The Journey to Education and Academic Success...

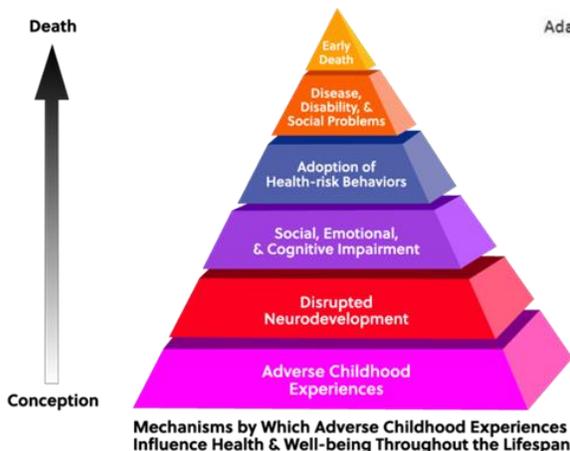
Adverse home experiences	Effect	Outcome	Impact	Repetitive Cycle
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poverty ▪ Witnessing Psychotic episodes brought on by Alcohol and/or drug usage ▪ Mental & Emotional Abuse ▪ Physical Abuse ▪ Sexual Abuse ▪ Violence ▪ Loss ▪ Neglect ▪ Separation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funds for schooling • No parental or adult support to encourage education • Lower learning ability or desire to learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little or no school attendance • Poor academic achievement • Increased School drop out rate after Gr 4 and 5 • Poor self esteem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance abuse • Gang membership • Crime • Prostitution • Violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learned helplessness • Lower expectancy for future success • Diminished initiative to respond to life requirements

Trauma & Brain Development

Exposure to trauma results in literal brain damage. The hippocampus (part of the brain responsible for function, learning, memory, emotion and control) actually shrinks with abuse. If a learner experiences abuse as a child, it stunts development and other parts of the brain then take the lead. Simply put – Trauma is serious!



Adapted from Holt & Jordan, Ohio Dept. of Education



We at Tereo have to determine how best to teach our learners given that most of our children experience at least one if not all the adverse experiences listed above.

What Tereo Offers:

1. Baseline assessment prior to placement in grade
2. Small classes with individual attention
3. Experienced Teachers
4. Teaching customized to learner
5. Bridging Classes
6. Learner Support Programme
7. Regular in-house wellbeing assessments identify where we can facilitate professional therapeutic interventions and monitoring the psychosocial well-being of every pupil.
8. Scholastic and psychological assessment to address learning and/or developmental issues.
9. School Nutrition and feeding programme. Each child receives 2 cooked meals per day and a snack at break time Family food parcels are provided monthly to take home.
10. Extramural Programme
11. Child Protection Programme
12. *Provide school homework assistance and reading skills to reinforce a Zero Drop-out for our pupils

Our approach aims to:

- Strong learners fast tracked into mainstream schools
- Assessment identifies learners requiring skills or remedial schooling
- Allows more time to focus on the learners who require help.
- Individual strengths identified: E.g.: scholastic, artistic, computer and technology, etc.
- Counselling Support for abused learners (psychological, physical and sexual abuse) and neglect
- Placement in care (where required). This is done in conjunction with Social Workers, Child Welfare and the South African child protection legislation.



Tereo Project Impact Results

Bridging/Multigrade Class:

This class aims to ensure an easier transition to the formal education process especially for children that are older when starting school or those with learning challenges e.g., Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) or other cognitive problems due to parental substance abuse during pregnancy.

2020 : 8 pupils

- 2 Pupils started Grade 1 at ages 10 & 11. Upskilled and progressed to Grade 4 in 2021
- 2 pupils progressed to the main Gr 2 and 3 class in 2021

2021: 10 pupils

- Grade 1 – 2 pupils
- Grade 2 – 4 pupils
- Grade 3 – 4 pupils

Grade 1:

2020: 19 pupils

- 9 progressed to Grade 2

2021: 18 pupils

Grade 2:

2020: 17 pupils

- 13 progressed to Grade 3

2021: 13 pupils

Grade 3:

2020: 18 pupils

- 14 Progressed to Grade 4

2021: 14 pupils

Grade 4:

2020: 14 pupils

- All progressed to Grade 5 (of which 2 progressed to mainstream)

2021: 14 pupils

Grade 5:

2020: 9 pupils

All progressed to mainstream schools

2021: 12 pupils

Tereo Support Programmes 2021

Extra Mural

All children exposed to Extra Mural Activities

- 81 children : Computer Laboratory
- 15 Dance class
- 15 Drama class
- 8 Pottery
- 8 Music class
- 11 Art class
- 16 Lego Play
- 1 child : Gifte@programme
- All Learners attended various outings:
 - Planetarium
 - Aquarium
 - Beach Clean up
 - Noddy Party
 - The Playhouse theatre
 - Jump for Fun
 - Monkey Town

Psychological & Scholastic Support

- 1 Child placed into place of safety
- 11 Children in play therapy
- 4 Children scholastic assessed for accelerated progression
- 13 children assessed by Educational Psychologist for possible placement in Skills or LSEN schooling
- 1 Child place in Care Centre due to Profound Intellectual Disability
- 3 Children successfully accepted at AxiosSkills School in Faure
- 1 Child successfully accepted at Westcliff Skills School in Belville

Stakeholder Engagement

Over the past year Tereo has made a point of improving communications with our many stakeholders and developing new relationships with industry practitioners. We have focused on ensuring that the wider Helderberg community, donor and sponsors are aware of what we are doing and how our learners are growing. This has been done using social media. Newspapers, newsletter and general correspondence.

<p>Daily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What App messages to parents regarding transport, extra mural activities and food parcels 	<p>Monthly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook on events and outings • Feedback to parents • Learners meet with Child Protection Officer
<p>Weekly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WhatsApp messages to parents • Facebook update of school activities 	<p>Quarterly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletters to entire database • Sponsors and donors • Parents meeting with teachers • From 2022 each parent will meet with Project Manager privately • Performance awards
<p>Bi-annual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper articles • Mid-Year Report 	<p>Annual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prize giving • Awards • AGM
<p>Ad hoc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls & Meetings with parents for follow up on lessons • Meeting with parents or care givers on psychosocial interventions where needed 	

Staff Development and Training

Any organisation is only as good as the people who drive and work in it. Tereo is committed to employing the rights staff and developing our people to meet the needs of an everchanging environment.

- Bi-weekly staff meetings are held with detailed minutes
- Quarterly meetings with staff for Performance Appraisals and in-class assessment
- Quarterly meetings with WCED and MEED

Due to Covid and other factors training could not take place as frequently as we would have liked but the following did occur:

- In May, two staff members were sent on First Aid training to ensure that our staff have current First Aid qualifications
- In June all staff attended Fire Fighting training
- Our Learner Support is completing a UNISA qualification on reading and support interventions
- Our Bridging Class teacher completed a Remedial Certificate programme

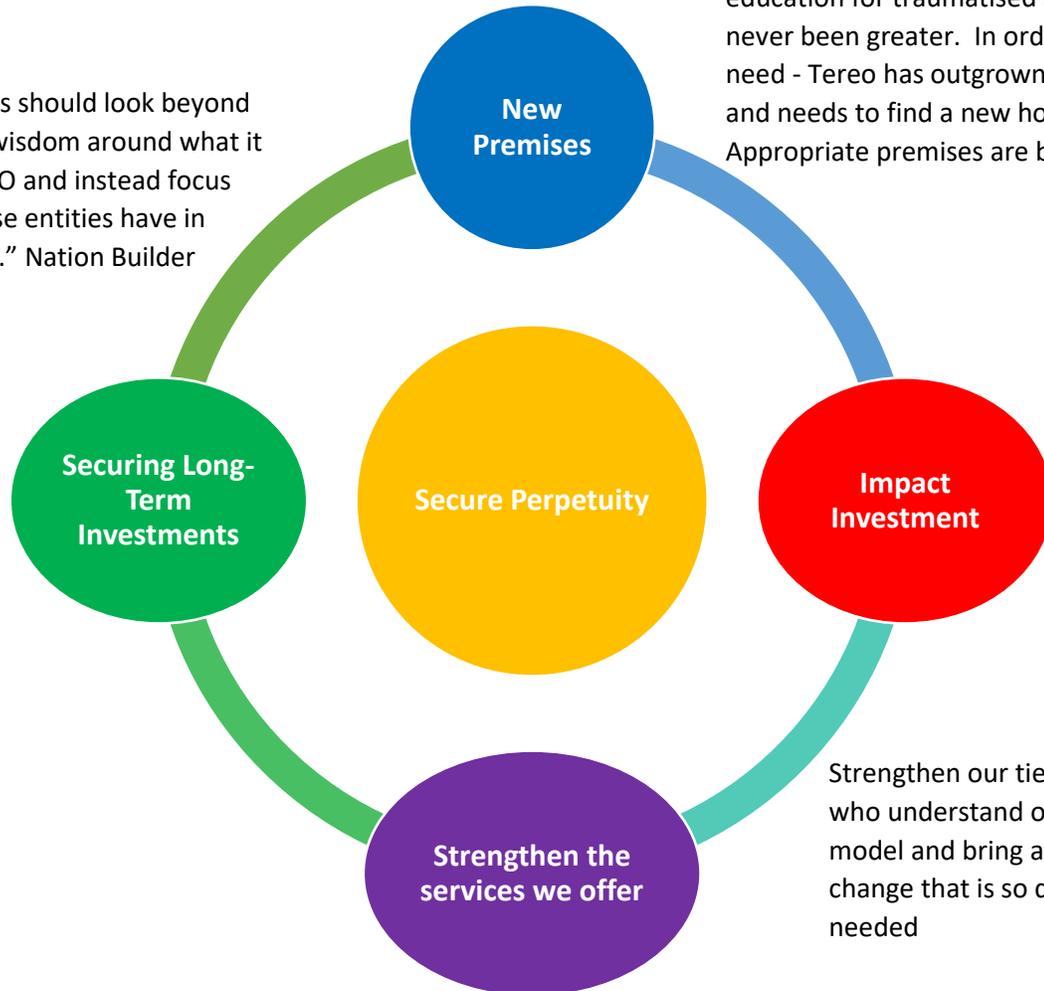
- A workshop for all staff on 13 November with Sue van der Spuy a trauma counsellor – This was for the teachers on how to deal with trauma and abuse of our learners and provide them with coping skills
- Train the Trainer for our computer learning centre teacher through Stimu-Zone.

Training planned for 2022:

- Follow up training with Sue van der Spuy on learner trauma and abuse as well as teacher debrief.
- Jelly Beans Hope Organisation: Workshop for our learners on dealing with inappropriate Sexual Behaviour
- Halli Trust: Body Preventative training for learners
- Persona Doll Training: Train the trainer for all teaching staff on how to deal with diversity and abuse in learners
- Patch Prevention Training for all employees at Tereo.

The Year ahead...

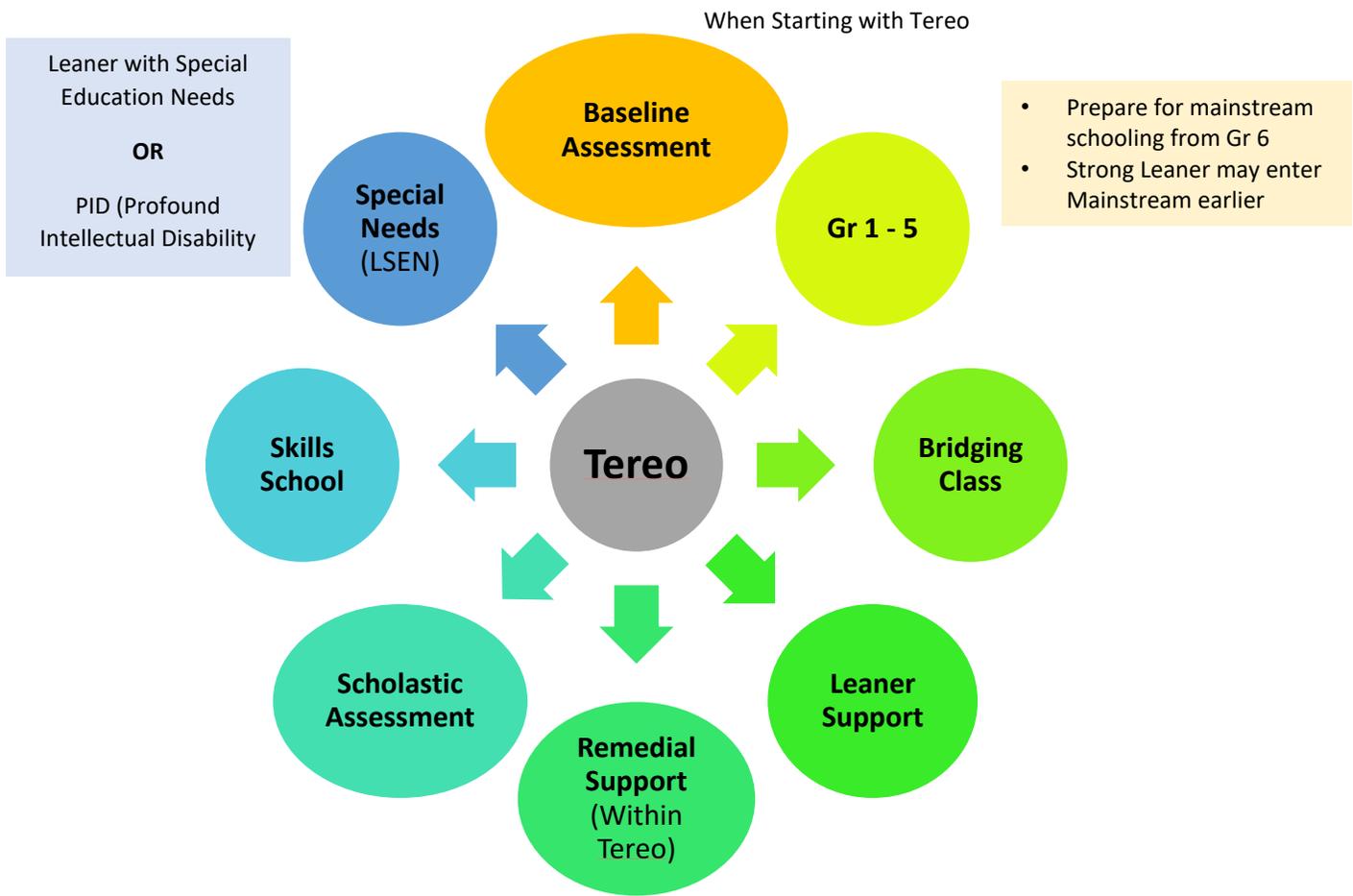
“SA social investors should look beyond the conventional wisdom around what it costs to run an NPO and instead focus on the impact these entities have in their communities.” Nation Builder



The need for appropriate customised, education for traumatised learners has never been greater. In order to meet this need - Tereo has outgrown its premises and needs to find a new home. Appropriate premises are being sought.

Strengthen our ties with partners who understand our business model and bring about the change that is so desperately needed

Tereo Learning Strategy going forward...



Letter from the Treasurer: *Christine Strydom*

Following short on the heels of 2020, 2021 felt like an extension of 2020 in many ways with often unexpected, volatile and extremely challenging circumstances due to covid-19 and the ensuing lockdown(s) and loadshedding. Many economic and social consequences stemmed from last year and spilled over into the current year. However, Tereo, by the grace of God, has weathered the storm and standing at the end of this year, it is with a grateful heart and great hope and expectancy for the future that I present a concise financial report for 2021.



1. Treasurer

I was appointed as new treasurer in November 2020 to replace the outgoing treasurer and after a little more than a year in the saddle, I am grateful to be part of such a dynamic and caring team that never loses sight of the goal of why Tereo exists. I look forward to another year working alongside those who make this all possible.

2. Annual Financial Statements

Tereo's financial year runs from January to December. An official audit is conducted annually in order to be fiscally responsible. The 2020 audit was finalised in May 2021 and a copy of the 2020 financial statements are available on request. The 2021 audit is planned to commence in January 2022.

3. 2021 Financials

I summarise a few brief points below:

- During lockdowns in 2021, with intermittent loadshedding, operations were at times somewhat hampered, but the school could remain open and not nearly as many school days were lost as in 2020 and for most of the year the school could function normally;
- This resulted in increased activity and corresponding costs, including the appointment of some new staff members;
- Currently, monthly expenses run at roughly R200K/month and are carefully monitored – cost cutting (but not at the expense of staff welfare and quality education) remains priority and is constantly considered in managing the finances of Tereo;
- Outsourced bookkeeping and payroll services that formed part of monthly expenditure have been replaced with an inhouse, online accounting/bookkeeping platform with real-time capturing capabilities (Xero) as well as an online payroll solution (Simplepay), both of which saves significantly on costs and time-consuming administration;
- Ann Coetzee, our outstanding project manager, is still doing a sterling job of procuring and raising funds which ensures that Tereo remains in a strong and steady financial position.

We do not reflect in the financial accounts the many items and services such as clothing, supplies, classroom assistance and requirements that Tereo may need, as well as volunteers who give selflessly without reward. We thank the various organisations and individuals who give so generously without any remuneration. Without this unpublicised support Tereo would not be able to function – for all of you: God bless you for your support.

4. Final Thoughts

As we look ahead into a new, unknown year and rely on God's providence and provision and we look back at how good He has been, it is fitting to thank the staff and volunteers who steward this work of His. Without your dedication and hard work, Tereo would not be able to continue. Have a restful Festive Season!

For Donations...

Account name: Tereo Project

Bank: First National Bank

Account number: 62009313339

Branch code: 250655

Swift code: FIRZAJJ



Tel: 021 851 4005

Email: [Info@tereo.org](mailto:info@tereo.org)

www.tereo.org

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NPO No: 010-517 (20/11/2000)

PBO No: 18/11/13/211

Thank you to our Main Contributors, Partners & Supporters

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Our numerous Private Donors