

TEREO SCHOOL

Annual Report 2023

Changing the future one child at a time through...

- INNOVATIVE EDUCATION
- OVERCOMING ADVERSITY
- LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



Changing the future one child at a time

www.tereo.org

Message from our Chairlady

It is difficult to believe that 2023 is over. I wish Tereo and Friends health and happiness for a bright new year ahead and a personal pray for an end to the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.

In my statement last year, I mentioned the 4 key areas which the board should focus on:

- Securing new premises for Tereo
- Bringing teacher salaries inline with industry norms
- Establishing a reserve fund to secure the growth and long-term future of Tereo, by forging relationship both locally and in Europe. Relationships with our all-important existing sponsors would also be developed.
- Strengthening the board.

I believe that we have made considerable progress towards achieving our objectives. Tereo soon to be renamed Tereo Community School, will have beautiful, safe and green new premises to move into before winter; salaries have increased substantially; Tereo's recently established account at Investec will receive donations for our reserve fund and considerable time and focus has been given to making presentations and submitting applications for new funding.

Two new members have been appointed to the board; Theo Willemse, who I have asked to act as Co-Chairman, adds years of experiences, a very long list of invaluable contacts and enormous energy along with Kobus Massyn who will make a valuable contribution to the board.

Sadly, our treasurer Darryl will be leaving us early in 2024 to enjoy a more leisurely retirement and he has our enormous gratitude for all the hard work, time and energy he has dedicated to Tereo. Jodine Viljoen will take over as Treasurer from 1 February 2024 and as a professional chartered accountant, I am confident that she will be a great asset and continue to ensure that Tereo operates with the same high standards of accountability and complete transparency that we insist upon.

Fund raising will present us with an enormous challenge over the next 24 months; our expense bill has increased substantially; the new school will be more expensive to run; we have added two additional grades and increased the number of learners by 35; classrooms have to be built and we also plan to establish a "Medical/Trauma Counselling Centre" which will also be available to other local community schools, as well as fulfilling the dream of many of our learners to have an outdoor space with trees, a vegetable garden and their first proper sports fields and facilities.

I would like to conclude by expressing my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all our Sponsors and Supporters worldwide; Imibala and The Rupert Foundation for their practical and financial support, Wings of Support for their long standing commitment to Tereo, and the Somerset West community for noticing Tereo's plight during the floods and responding with unsolicited generosity. Giving is not all about money - Wayne Munro of Windor Fencing went out of his way to help us out as the busiest time of the year; Charlie spent most weekends and holidays clearing up after the floods or dealing with break-ins at the school, my two gardeners who carried out the arduous and dirty job of clearing our new site in their free time.

Tereo would not be the place it is without Ann Coetzee and her team; the board and I recognise the vital role they play and appreciate their invaluable contribution, dedication and effort that they give to Tereo and to our precious pupils.



**Francesca
Garrard**



Message from our CEO

What a busy year we had at Tereo in 2023.

We welcomed our first grade 6 class along with new teachers and exciting activities, but 2023 also proved to be a really challenging time with extreme flooding experienced during May, June and September. The ongoing flooding and the fact that we have outgrown our current premises necessitated us looking for new premises.

We managed to find a property in Strand which we purchased through fundraising and our chairlady, who had provided us with funds to purchase this property. We would still need to do extensive alterations and additions to the property for it to be made suitable for our school to move during 2024.

Despite the challenges that we have faced in 2023, it has been so rewarding to observe the growth in both the children and teachers over the year. We were privileged to be able to restock many of our class libraries with new readers generously donated to us; reading being such a significant and critical part of our offering at the school. Our outings also focused on the arts and the children were exposed to many theatre and dance opportunities. We ended the year with a Christmas party, jumping castles, water slides, hotdogs and our first School nativity play and choir event hosted by The Playhouse Theatre!

As we look back at 2023, it is fitting to reflect on how we make so much happen every year! We have an incredibly dedicated team who go beyond what is expected of them to make each year such a success. They pour their hearts into caring for the children we serve, always placing the children's needs at the centre of everything they do. Because of this, the children continue to flourish.

We cannot make a difference in these learner's lives, without the support of our donors and partners. It is with thanks to all of you for believing in the work we are doing, and for caring about the well-being of these children. We are truly grateful for all the support we continue to receive in so many different ways.

Our ongoing relationship with the Imibala Trust is also a valued part of our school, who through their sponsored uniform programme and extra mural activities give our learners access to experiences that they would never normally be able to participate in.

We have big plans for 2024... Our move to the new premises in Strand along with our new Grade 7 class. This will be the first time in the history of Tereo that all primary school grades will be offered. We also have new sports projects lined up including aligning with The Pedal Project, but more about this in our Sport report.

We are looking forward to make a really big difference in 2024!



Ann Coetzee



2023 Highlights

Full Primary School & Umalusi Registration

It is with great excitement that we obtained the necessary registration in 2022 which allowed our school to present Gr 6 & 7 from 2023. This now made us a fully registered Primary School. Up to that point Tereo School was only registered to provide Grade 1 – 5.

In March 2023 we also received our Umalusi Accreditation. This is a truly arduous process but ensures that we are recognized as providing top class education to meet the standards required from all independent schools in South Africa.

The successes we have seen so far, with the additional grades, have been heartwarming with us being able to keep many learners who would not otherwise have found a place in other mainstream schools.

We have also been able to identify some strong academic performers and are now able to give them the necessary guidance and support in preparation for high school. The new grades necessitated the purchase of the textbooks and stationery required. We received generous donations which made this possible. Under the guidance of Charmaine Opperman, our Grade 6 teacher, all learners have passed grade 6 and now progress to Grade 7 In 2024.

Systemic Test Results

The systemic tests are conducted annually in South African schools for Grades 3, 6 & 9. Home language literacy and Numeracy are assessed. Tereo takes part in these tests annually for our Grade 3 class, which are internationally benchmarked and administered, marked and moderated externally to ensure objectivity and to provide a credible and relevant benchmark for evaluation. Systemic tests are conducted annually in October with Tereo receiving their results in March 2023. There was a significant improvement in results indicating that our teaching approach with emphasis on mathematical numeracy and home language literacy i.e. reading with understanding is providing positive outcomes.



Books galore!

During 2023, the Tereo School has been fortunate to receive numerous book donations from generous contributors. These literary gifts play a pivotal role in enhancing our learners' reading and comprehension skills, offering them access to a diverse range of bright and engaging stories. The support from these organizations has not only expanded our libraries but also opened up new opportunities for our learners to immerse themselves in the joy of reading and knowledge exploration.

Enriching 2023 through memorable outings

The Tereo School learners were able to experience an abundance of outings this year. Fun runs, bike rides, theatre and art museums; it has been an amazing journey for our learners. These outings show the children the world beyond their confined world and give them the opportunity to participate in an array of new experiences. This helps motivate the children to dream big and find their passion. Read about some of these experiences in our sports and life skills report.

Year End Celebrations

In the spirit of spreading joy and festive cheer, our learners were blessed with the wonderful gift of Santa Shoeboxes generously donated by Somerset West Baptist Church, filling our children's hearts with the magic of Christmas. This initiative ensured they felt the warmth and joy of the holiday season. As a delightful build-up to the end of the year, we hosted a vibrant year-end party featuring jumping castles and water slides, a reptile show and treating our hardworking children to well-deserved moments of fun and celebration. In addition to these festivities, many of our learners and teachers dedicated their time and effort to create a spectacular year-end concert for friends and families at The Playhouse Theatre, showcasing talent and dedication that reflects the vibrant sense of community we cherish at Tereo School.



Educational Report

At the core of the Tereo School 3 Pillared Programme is a commitment to Innovative Education. Our teachers go beyond assisting learners with classwork and homework; they also lead supplementary numeracy and literacy activities tailored to reinforce the CAPS curriculum, enriching the learning process. Reading for meaning also remains one of our main focus areas and teachers take time in every day to read with learners while monitoring their understanding

Thematic Teaching

The numeracy and literacy activities in Tereo's teaching methodology use a thematic approach, promoting interdisciplinary learning by focusing education using a central theme. Stimuzone and the NumberSense programme for Grade 1 & 2 along with the Greenshoots online programme for Grades 3 – 6 are key to this approach. This method enhances students' understanding of concepts by emphasizing connections between different subjects, making the material more engaging and relevant. Thematic teaching fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills, encouraging exploration and the synthesis of information.

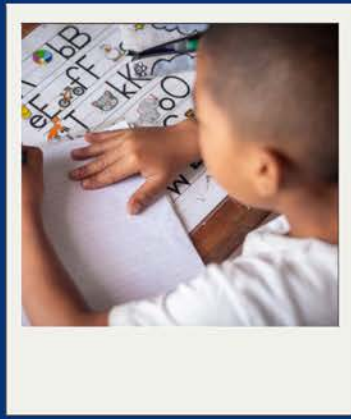
Plans for 2024

Throughout the year the central theme will revolve around sustainable living, encompassing discussions on crucial subjects such as pollution, energy, conservation, recycling, as well as the cultivation of plants and the practice of growing our own food. Learners will be actively engaged in exploring, discussing, reading, and writing about these topics. The aim was not only to enhance their language skills but also to instill in them a profound appreciation for the natural world.

Learners will also participate in practical projects like recycling, planting seedlings and doing experiments to learn about plants and how they work. This thematic approach not only contributes to language development but also fosters a deeper understanding of the importance of sustainable practices in our daily lives.

In the third term, the Grade 7 theme will be financial literacy, something that needs to be taught from a young age. Learners have to apply their skills and knowledge of mathematics to a financial context while playing shop, pretending to run a business or participating in market days.





Learning Through Play and Experiential Learning

At most schools learners are often expected to be engaged in active learning while being seated for long periods of time. During 2023 Tereo has emphasised facilitating learning through play and experiential learning as much as possible which ensures comprehensive development, particularly in the Foundation Phase of Grades 1 - 3. These approaches tap into innate curiosity; fostering creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Play provides an enjoyable environment, reducing stress and promoting a positive attitude towards learning. Experiential learning bridges theoretical knowledge with practical application, enhancing understanding and retention. Together, they cultivate a holistic education that goes beyond memorization, nurturing essential life skills and preparing individuals to navigate the complexities of the modern world as lifelong learners.

Individual Child/Teacher Support Intervention

As many of our children have little exposure to education prior to joining Tereo and often have little or no support at home to assist with homework, we provide an **Individual Learner Support Programme** (one-on-one interventions) through two dedicated teaching assistants.

Children's individual learning challenges are identified by the grade teacher and then worked through with the dedicated assistant to ensure that the child grasps the necessary concepts to bring about better learning.

Each grade has an allocated time slot where children with learning challenges in that grade are given the necessary attention. This is a 45-minute slot per child/2 or 3 times per week to address that child's specific needs. We have focused significant attention on assisting learners with the many challenges relating to mathematics and reading and are seeing the results in the learner's assessment scores.

The success of this programme during 2022 & 2023 is such that we have employed an additional Learner Support teacher to start in January 2024 so that we can extend this approach to a greater number of learners.

Internal Academic Assessments

In June and November, our students participated in the Tereo School assessments. The outcomes of these assessments play a crucial role in enhancing our understanding of our students' capabilities. This valuable information enables our teachers to provide personalized assistance to each learner, directing our resources and training efforts to areas where they can have the most significant impact. The assessment seeks to highlight where shortcomings lie as findings consistently demonstrate that without an understanding of numerical concepts and an inability to read for comprehension at their respective grade levels compromises learning.

There was a significant improvement in our results again this year, indicating that our teaching approach with emphasis on mathematical numeracy and home language literacy is providing positive outcomes.



Extra Mural Report



Running

Cross-country Running is an important part of our school program. From term one training commences with term two allowing learners to participate in running events each week. Runners also get to participate in runs in and around the Boland area where our learners run 5-7km trails which serve as one of our reward systems. By exposing our learners to the community in and around them gives them a sense of belonging which is crucial in building their identity. They get the opportunity to work on their communication skills before, during, and after each run. Their overall confidence is gradually developed through working on their listening skills, talking skills, and memory-retaining skills. This, in conjunction with the challenges that come with running long distances, strengthens their mental fortitude.

Cycling

As Tere has had limited space for sport activities we have partnered with The Pedal Project who will provide our learners from Feb 2024 with a unique opportunity to use mountain biking in the natural environment, paired with mental and emotional development opportunities, to encourage the formation of positive values, healthy habits and create resilient young people both on and off the bike.

Lack of safe spaces, exposure to new experiences, and little access to nature are some of the issues our learners face on an ongoing basis. Through a combination of intellectually and creatively challenging activities, mountain biking, and the guidance of caring mentors, Pedal Project equips our learners between 10-14 years old with mental health support to help them overcome some of these challenges.

"Cycling represents everything! It improves physical health, builds friendships, fosters a spirit of adventure, and freedom, builds technical skills, provides jobs, and more. Mountain biking in particular gave me a sense of community, access to nature, and the ability to explore new territories and landscapes. I wanted to share this incredible gift with those who need it most." Jaco van der Linde – Founder of The Pedal Project

Our Grade 6 class had firsthand experience of this program when they attended a 3-day leadership cycling camp during the October Holidays.

Extra Mural Activities

Provided through our partnership with the Imibala Trust

Our ongoing relationship with the Imibala Trust is a valued part of our school, who through their sponsored uniform programme and extra mural activities give our learners access to experiences that they would never normally be able to participate in. The unique approach that Imibala uses with dedicated, enthusiastic teachers ensures that our learners are exposed to amazing learning experiences which challenge both their intellectual as well as their artistic abilities. From dance, to music, drama, pottery, cooking and needlework ensures that they have learning experiences that are not only fun but help equip them to develop holistic life skills that can be used throughout their school years and beyond.



Life Skills Report

Extra Mural Programme

All learners take part in Extra Mural Activities:

91 Learners : Stimuzone Computer Laboratory, Robotics and Coding

All grade 3, 4, 5, & 6 Learners on Greenshoots Computer Maths Programme

16 Dance

16 Drama Class

12 Art Class

26 Lego Play

4 Music

8 Pottery

6 Needlework

44 Learners participate in Cross Country with 13 progressing to Provincial competition

All Learners attend various outings each term

Academic Impact Results (91 learners enrolled for 2023)

FOUNDATION PHASE

Due to little or no Pre-school exposure within our Grade 1 learner, they are often unable to recognise, colours, shapes or have poor fine motor skills when starting school. In addition, many have poor support structures at home which significantly impairs their ability to deal with structured learning i.e. they can't understand why they need to stay in a class. Neglect at home results in the emotional state of the learner being impaired.

This environment often necessitates learners having to repeat Grade 1 to allow them to catch up with their counterparts who have been exposed to ECD learning or a supportive home environment.

- **Grade 1: 23 Learners**
 - 11 Progressed to Grade 2
 - 12 to repeat
- **Grade 2: 13 learners**
 - 12 Progressed to Grade 3
 - 1 to repeat
- **Grade 3: 19 Learners**
 - All learners progressed to Grade 4

Academic Impact Results

INTERMEDIATE PHASE

Grade 4: 17 Learners

16 Learners progressed to Grade 5

1 accepted at Axios School of Skills | 2024

Grade 5: 13 Learners

All learners progressed to Grade 6

Grade 6: 10 Learners

9 Learners progressed to Grade 7

1 Learner assessed to move to Rusthof LSEN special needs school



Life Skills Report



Child Protection Services

On enrolling at Tere, Our Child Welfare officer spends time with the learner and parents or caregivers to ensure they understand their role in the learner's development as well as providing her with the opportunity to identify possible challenges that may exist within the family unit e.g., drugs and alcohol abuse, unemployment or other social ills that may impact the children's ability to prosper.

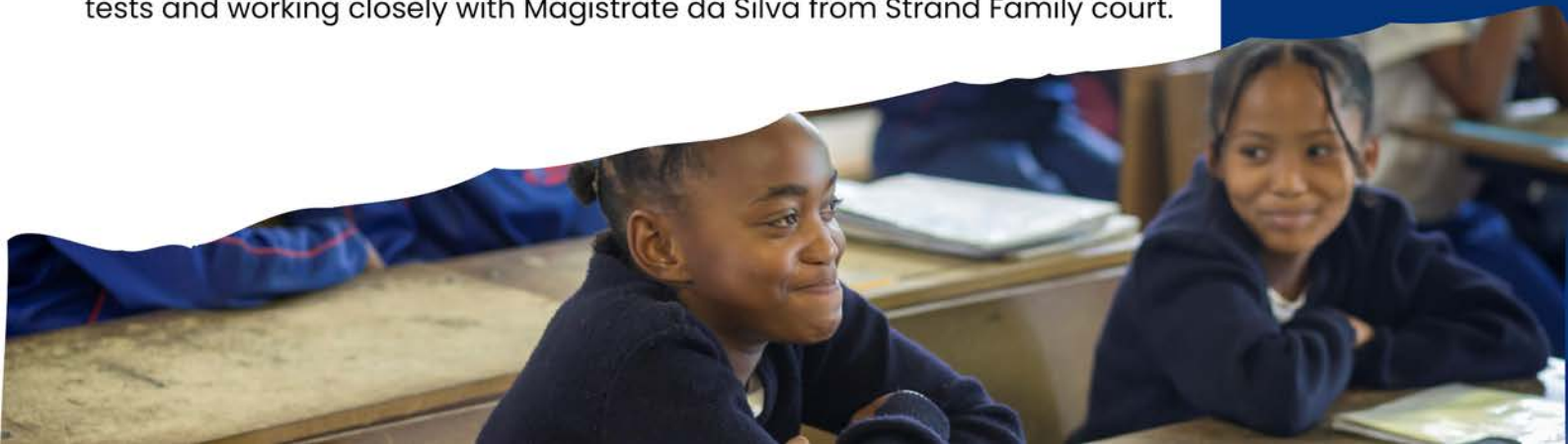
Each child is monitored on a daily/weekly basis. In the event of a problem being identified, e.g., abuse - the necessary emotional or psychological support is provided along with home visits and reporting to the necessary authorities/social worker. In extreme cases children may be moved into places of safety. This is where our relationship with the Family Court in Strand and the Western Cape Government Child Commissioner has proved to be invaluable when a learner needs to be placed into safe spaces.

Psychological & Scholastic Support

- 3 Learners undergoing counselling with PATCH for rape/sexual abuse
- 1 Child put under a protection order with the family court
- 8 learners assessed by Educational Psychologist for placement in LSEN special needs school
- 7 Learners assessed for test/exam accommodation using Reader & Scribe Support
- 5 Learners assessed for application to Axios School of Skills
- 1 Learner placed in Rusthof LSEN
- 4 learners on accelerated scholastic programme
- 1 learner identified as gifted and enrolled on suitable programme
- 6 Additional learners identified for assessment during 2024
- 2 children expelled due to drug use and violence

Birth Certificates

Despite the free service to register births, we have 23 learners who do not have birth certificates. We have developed an effective process in conjunction with the Family Court, Social workers and the Department of Home Affairs to ensure that all learners are able to get a birth certificates. This has included conducting DNA tests and working closely with Magistrate da Silva from Strand Family court.



Play Therapy

Due to the traumatic home environment that many of our learners experience with abuse, violence, neglect, and extreme poverty, behavioral issues are commonplace. We currently have 12 learners in play therapy and they and the learning environment are reaping the rewards.

Trained therapists use playtime to observe and gain insights into a child's problems. The therapist can then help the child explore emotions and deal with unresolved trauma. Through play, children can learn new coping mechanisms and how to redirect inappropriate behaviors.

Within the Terezo context play therapy assists with:

- Taking more responsibility for certain behaviors
- Developing coping strategies and creative problem-solving skills
- Self-respect
- Empathy and respect for others
- Alleviation of anxiety
- Learning to fully experience and express feelings.
- Stronger social skills
- Stronger family relationships

During 2023 we had 6 learners in Play Therapy and the behavioural changes have been encouraging

Teacher Development

During 2023 our teachers have been able to attend an array of training initiatives which all hone their skills and ensure that we can provide continuous improvement in our teaching methods.

Training included:

- **Funda Wanda – Literacy for Grades 1 & 2** including workbooks and in-class guides. Funda Wanda only provides training for home language teaching other than English. The topic covered was: Afrikaans Home language – using and understanding of language and sounds to help learners in Grade 1 & 2 to read.
- **First Aid Level 1 & 2** certification for 3 teachers
- 3 teachers completed **Reader Scribe Certification**
- **Making Learning Fun** with Taryn Flack who also provided Educational Games and Activities manual for each teacher.
- **Understanding Socio-emotional Development** - to improve teaching skills.
- Grade 4 – 6 subject development training
- **Project Based Learning** for Grade 4 – 6 which will be extended to Grade 7 in 2024.



PARTNERSHIPS

Educational Partnerships

In 2023 we welcomed the opportunity to enter into a partnership with Funda Wanda and Numbersense through our association with Helderberg Sunrise Rotary. This collaboration has been instrumental in providing our learners with access to exceptional reading materials, and mathematical books and giving us access to a wealth of educational resources. This support has ensured we are able to create an enriching and comprehensive learning environment for our learners in all grades. As we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Funda Wanda & Numbersense, we acknowledge the profound impact this partnership has had on Tereo's educational initiatives.

Nutritional Partnerships

Our nutritional partners play a pivotal role in our children's well-being and health. This year, our collaborative efforts with esteemed partners, including Virtual Resources, FoodForward and Carmen Stevens Wine have significantly enhanced our ability to provide essential nourishment to the young minds under our care. Virtual Resources has been steadfast over many years, contributing to our mission by ensuring that our children have access to balanced and nutritious meals both at school and with family food parcels. FoodForward and Carmen Stevens Wines, with their focus on holistic health, has played a vital role in promoting overall well-being among our most vulnerable learners. These partnerships go beyond providing meals; they form the cornerstone of our commitment to creating an environment where children can thrive.





Collaborative Partnerships

Connect Network

Our partnership with the Connect Network has proven to be a valuable connection in community engagement. Quarterly meetings serve as a crucial platform, allowing Tereo School to network with other school and afterschool NGOs. Through these discussions, we address community issues and identify areas where our organisations can make a meaningful impact.



Citizen Leadership Lab in conjunction with MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet

Citizen Leader Lab develops and strengthens the leadership capability of individuals within the education sectors. Their unique approach to learning involves pairing business leaders with their counterparts. They offer an array of programmes and workshops aimed at fostering social cohesion and driving substantial social transformation in the South Africa Education System. Additionally, they facilitate collaboration that transcends sectoral boundaries, fostering robust connections and partnerships while nurturing a culture of active citizenship. Tereo has benefited from the Leaders for Education and School Leadership forums which has provided access to a wealth of educational resources and specialists who have contributed to our goal to provide innovative, unique approaches to teaching and learning.



FINANCIAL REPORT

2023

The Tereo Community School has had a very successful year, and this is reflected in the financial results.

Once again, our donors, local, overseas, corporate, church and individual have continued their fantastic support of this very worthy cause. While it is not possible to thank everyone individually, please be assured that every donation has been gratefully received and well utilized. In total we received over R3 million in cash donations and over R750 000 in kind, a portion of which was of a capital nature. In addition, we received our promised subsidy from the Western Cape Education Department on time and in full.

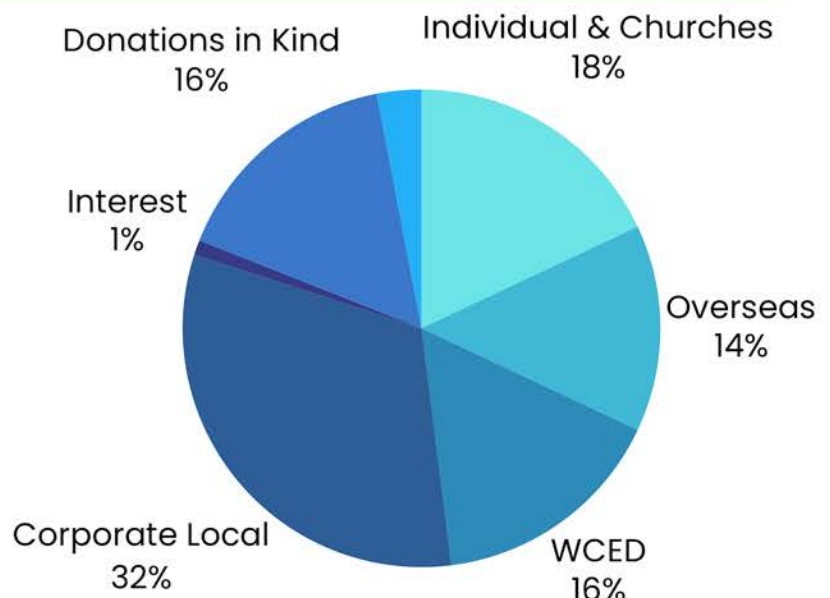
During the year we suffered two burglaries and three devastating floods. Fortunately, we were adequately insured, and the insurance company played its part in enabling us to recover from these setbacks. Our CEO and her team played a huge part in containing costs, without affecting the level of support we provided to our learners. As a result, we were able to finish the year with sufficient cash resources to ensure that the school continues its essential and excellent work in the coming year.

The premises we currently occupy are very old and are situated in the flood plain of the Lourens River. In addition, they are very close to an informal settlement which is the likely cause of the burglaries, and the definite cause of staff being harassed on a regular basis. The Cape Town Municipality has also given us notice to vacate the premises by mid-2024. Thanks, in the main, to the generosity of our Chairperson, we have been able to identify and purchase much more suitable and secure premises, and we hope to move in the second quarter of the year. This will place a strain on our financial resources, but our enlarged Management Committee is putting in place some new and exciting fund-raising activities.

In summary, we are pleased with the results for 2023 and excited about the prospects and opportunities for 2024.

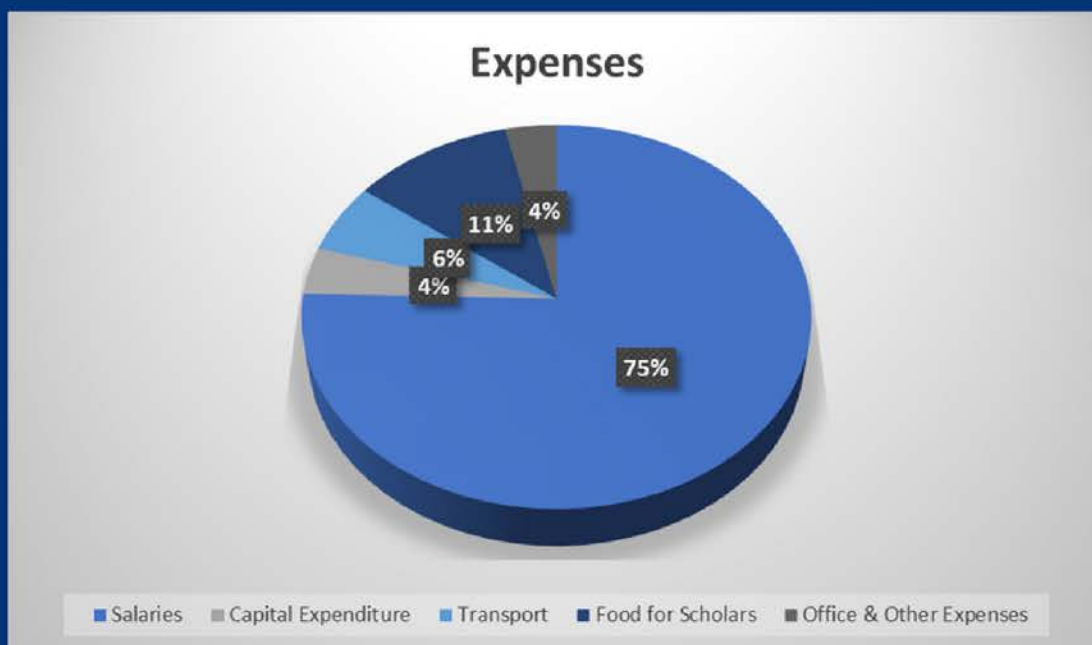
Darryl Cousins - Treasurer

Income 2023



How donor funds are spent to ensure learner development at Terezo

Innovative Education using Experienced Teachers	Scholastic Assessment for each learner	Individual Learner Support	Computer Learning
Feeding program: breakfast, mid-morning snack, cooked lunch, after-school meals, and monthly family food parcel	All stationery	School uniform	Personal hygiene products
Learner Wellbeing Program: Play Therapy, counselling, and trauma support.	Home visits and family support (per child)	Extra Mural Activities: Both cultural and sporting	Transport: to and from school, extra mural activities and medical visits



Strategic Goals for 2024

Sustainability

Sustainability, growth and longevity of the school, with the establishment of a reserve fund, development of partnerships with overseas based schools, charitable organisations and foundations and the acquisition of a freehold building for the school and the formation of a 'Friends of Tereo'.

Funding for New Premises

Tereo seeks to be a Centre for Excellence for Street Children and learners at risk which with the purchase of the new premises, this dream can become a reality. Additional funding is required to ensure that the facilities support our 3 Pillars of: Innovative Education, Provision of skills to overcome adversity and Life Skills Development through sport, art and culture.

Salary Alignment

Progressive alignment of salaries with industry norms; ready access to counselling and training and development for the staff

All donations are tax deductible!
We are a Level 1 B-BBEE contributor
and 100% B-BBEE SED recognition.

Any donations can make all the difference whether cash or in kind.

You can sponsor a teacher, a child or donate funds toward our new school

EFT PAYMENTS:

Account name: Tereo Project
Bank: First National Bank
Account number: 62009313339
Branch name: Helderberg
Branch code: 271344
Swift code: FIRNZAJJ

**Thank you to our donors,
contributors & partners for your
ongoing support!**



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