

APRIL 2020- MARCH 2021

# ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY

**THE WESTERN CAPE  
STREET CHILDRENS  
FORUM**





## **THE WCSCF is....**

**A network of organisations working in partnership to create empowered, coordinated, integrated and collaborative sector for vulnerable children and children living, working and begging on the street.**

### **VISION**

We have a vision of strong, healthy families where children can reach their full potential, and where no child is living, working or begging on the street.

### **MISSION**

The WCSCF is a network of organisations working in partnership to create a coordinated, integrated and collaborative sector for children living, working or begging on the street and always acting in the best interest of the child (in accordance with the Constitution and Children's Act 38 of 2005).

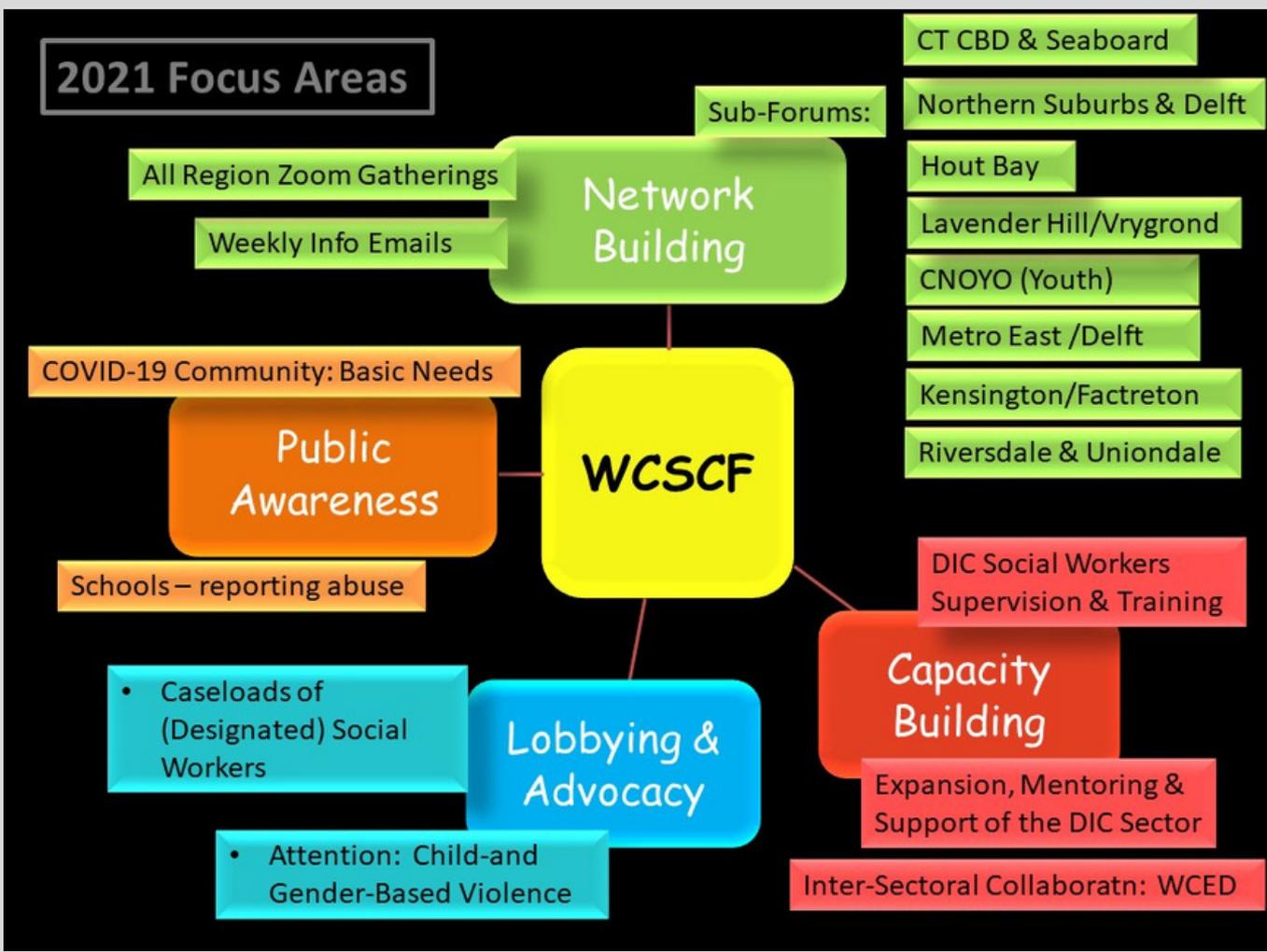
### **ETHOS**

We believe that children belong in families and that no child should be living, working or begging on the street and that everything should be done to prevent this. When this does occur (OR children do end up on the street), we believe that, although they have specific needs, they are children with the same potential as any other child, they have equal human rights, and they should be cared for and protected by law.

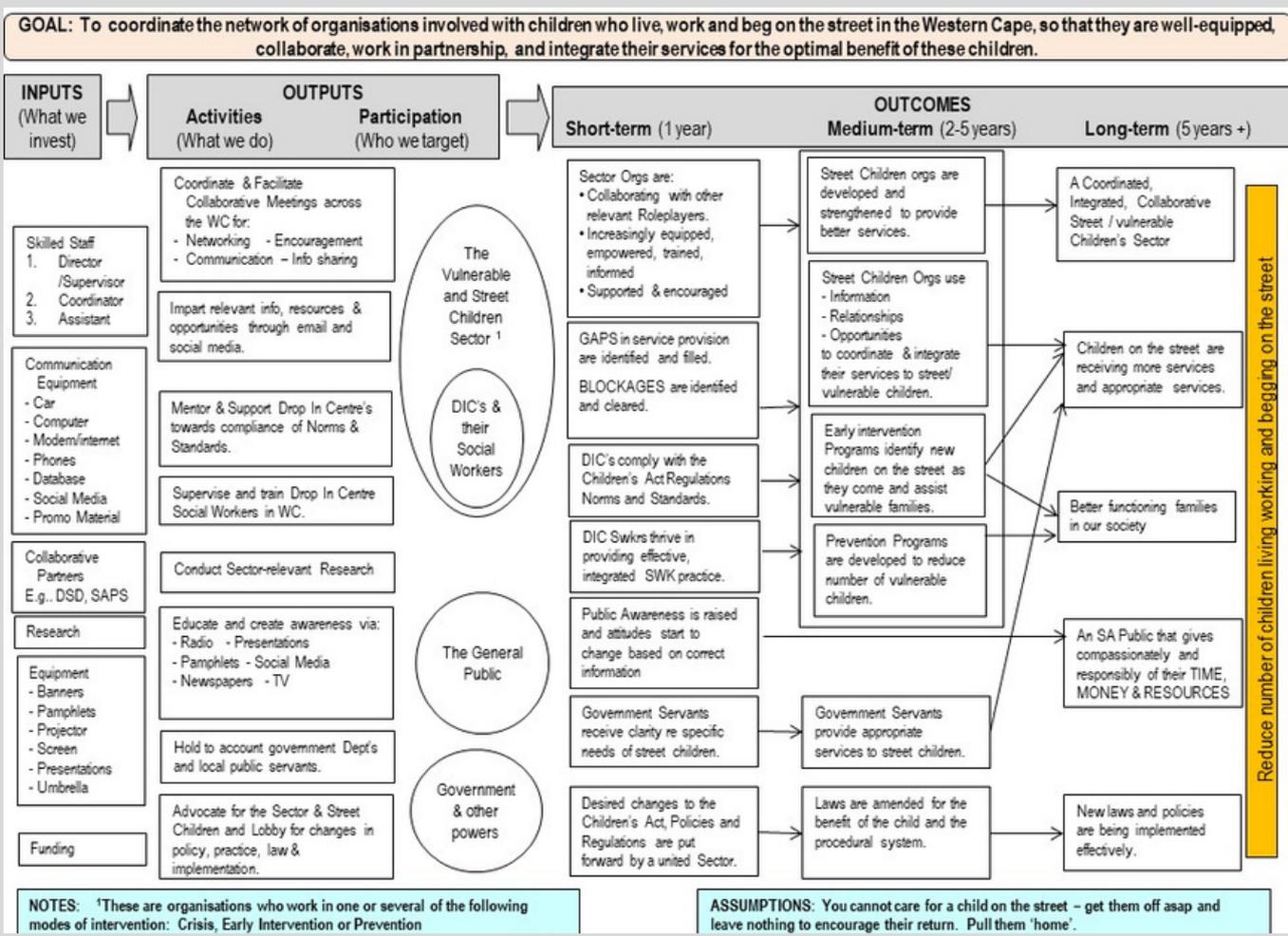
Therefore, we support:

- Strategies that connect with the unique needs and dynamics of every child within an holistic approach,
- Therapeutic interventions to support children to develop an alternative lifestyle off the street, and
- Interventions that ensure their access to care that address their specific needs.

# 2021 Focus Areas



## The Theory Of Change



# The WCSCF Board Members



**Wilma Piek**  
(Voortrekker Road CID)  
Chair



**Stacey Doorly-Jones**  
(S.T.A.N.D.)  
Treasurer



**Herman Smit**  
(CAP Swellendam)  
Executive Member



**Betty Niewoudt**  
(StellCare)  
Executive Member



**Wendy Bosse**  
(Olympians)  
Executive Member



**Isaac Rambouli**  
(Agape Mosselbay)  
Executive Member



**Chris De Beyer**  
Executive Member



**Cindee Bruyns**  
(Lecturer UCT)  
Executive Member



# THE WCSCF Team



## **Director: Janice King**

A social worker from Cape Town, she specialises in street and vulnerable children, child care and protection, anti-racist and feminist practices, mediation and refugee/asylum seeker rights.

She values relationships, collaboration, truth and kindness. She has coordinated the WCSCF since 2013 and still LOVES IT!!



## **Coordinator: Rushni Collins**

A social worker from Cape Town, who has loved working in the NGO sector. She started out in child protection and then moved on to adult diversion. She has a passion for community development, groupwork and taking on special projects.

She truly believes in kindness and giving everybody a fair chance.



## **Assistant Coordinator: Jennifer Claasen**

Newly appointed, Jennifer, has a degree in BA Health Science and Social Services and has done a number of counselling courses at lifeline and skillful hands. She is adept in working with children in the community from the ages of 4-12yrs. She has also done course facilitation and workshops with faith based organisations.

Its important for her to deal with the root cause of issues and not only to deal with symptoms. She believes in working holistically and has done a social and community consultant course as well work on interfamily violence.



# WCSCF CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



With Rushni joining our team, the footprint of the Local Child Protection Forums has already grown. Jenny is providing much needed support to them both. The whole team makes sure we all receive the weekly newsletter, containing much useful and relevant information and opportunities which all in the child care and protection sector can utilise to our own benefit and the benefit of the organisations we represent.

We continue to advocate for:

- 1.the appointment of more designated social workers to ensure better quality of work and more manageable caseloads;
- 2.an improved adoption and fostercare system to increase permanency plans for vulnerable children;
- 3.an improved usage and process with regard to alternative care facilities for children with behaviour problems;
- 4.expanded services in the area of trauma-informed Substance Abuse Disorder services;
- 5.the registration of all Drop-in Centres to assist the centres with proper social developmental services and safeguard the children (funding or no funding);
- 6.improved integration of services and collaboration with the WCED's role in assisting children with learning barriers to access education opportunities;
- 7.more linkage with Dept of Health 1st 1000 days programmes and vulnerable families;
- 8.and the list goes on.

Collaboration and integrated services to especially our street and vulnerable children remains key and we will continue to develop relationships across sectors and hold stakeholders accountable to ensure that the most vulnerable children receive the services they need and have their basic needs met.

A special thanks to our Board Members who continue to serve the Forum with their skills, time and influence. Thank you too, to our Members! Without your support and the services that you deliver on a daily basis, we would not be able to serve the best interests of our vulnerable children, together!

We had hoped we would be able to return to "normal" once the Covid pandemic was under control, but it's a year later and all of us have adapted to the "new normal" as we fight the next Covid-19 variant. The socio-economic impact of the pandemic is affecting all of us on various levels and the poorest of the poor are suffering the most. Many NGO's are struggling to keep their doors open, needs of the vulnerable are increasing and now, the safety net that NGO's and Government provide to the vulnerable, is needed more than ever.

We are thankful that the Western Cape Street Children Forum has grown, despite the many challenges experienced. Colleen, our Assistant-Coordinator, left us after many years of committed service. With the change of staff, we again realised the importance of proper admin support and a team who share the same vision and do their work with diligence and passion.

We welcome our two new team members, Rushni Collins (Coordinator) and Jennifer Claasen (Assistant Coordinator). In the short time they have been with us, we can already see the impact they have made and witness how they support Janice and help to fulfil the Forum's mandate Forum.

Janice, our Director, continues to lead and manage the WCSCF with excellence, while still doing the supervision of seven Drop-in Centres (DIC's) with great success. The DIC's were a safety net for many vulnerable children during the Covid pandemic, at least in terms of food security.



**Wilma Piek**



# WCSCF TREASURER'S REPORT

As per our needs and our funding, we have been able to employ two new team members, who contribute to the teams efficiency and effectiveness.

Lockdown reduced the number of Supervision and Mentoring trips to the Eden Karoo, as well as other planned, usual trips, which meant reduced spending on the Transport budget. Our investment in a WCSCF vehicle, although paid for in cash with money saved for this, was a financial outlay that reflects in our financials. This however results in ultimate saving of organisational costs, by not using employees vehicles.

Although our audited financials reflect a deficit, this is due to the vehicle purchase, and we actually end the year with a surplus taking our original budget into account.

Thanks go to our main funder, the Provincial Department of Social Development, as well as to generous individual donors. We appreciate your continued confidence and support of the work that is done by the WCSCF. It is our intention to focus on diversification of funding in the new financial year.

As is indeed common to our NPO field, a riveting financial year was had.

With TPA's being confirmed late for the last 2 years, it was challenging to plan. Although we erred on the side of caution, there were some breathtaking moments – but once DSD confirmed our funding late last year, our caution was shown to have paid off, and we found ourselves in a healthier financial position.

Due to the constraints brought on by Covid and further levels of Lockdown, the WCSCF waived the annual Membership fee, losing possible income of R16000, but we felt good about the little we could do for our partners and affiliates who were struggling financially but still managing to increase their feeding programmes to hungry and unemployed citizens. We were happy to have facilitated and been party to this contribution.

We applied for and were awarded the Sanlam/Connect Covid Support Grant on behalf of our registered and unregistered Drop In Centres, and were, in an unprecedented way, able to be the conduit for some support funding to these vital community-based prevention and early intervention programmes for vulnerable children.



**Stacey Doorly-Jones**



# WCSCF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As was expected, the Supervision of Drop In Centre (DIC) Social Workers, and the continued Mentoring of DIC organisations, brings with it a beautiful synergy and cross-growth opportunity for both these orgs and the Forum. More in-depth awareness at the DIC community level feeds well into the full child care and protection sector, enabling us at Forum level to address more issues with more understanding, as well as seek improvements to a greater degree. DIC Manager, Directors, Social Workers, Administrators, Child and Youth Care Workers, Social Auxiliary Workers, Community Development Workers, we salute you, being right there where those children's takkies hit the tar, holding the hands of abused, neglected and vulnerable children, women and men, doing your best to hold families together against the storm of poverty, unemployment and suffering.

We salute you and we are here to support you, offer input and develop the sector wherever we can. We are grateful for ongoing partnerships with our Members and individual organisations all working hard (now harder!!) to improve the lives of and services to vulnerable children. We appreciate increased, improved collaboration with government departments (esp DSD, Health, WCED, SAPS) and ongoing relationships with other networks, like The Connect Network, The WC Child Protection Collaborative (CPC) and Protective Behaviours Southern Africa and our newer connection with the University of Cape Town Dept of Social Development.

So.... since together we can do more, let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another. I look forward to seeing you along the journey...

The saying "there is nothing permanent, except change" does come to mind at this time, does it not. As does "never a dull moment"!

One change in the WCSCF that I am ecstatic about is the welcoming of Rushni and Jennifer to the WCSCF Team and the work that we have been able to do better together. My move from Coordinator to Supervisor of DIC Social Workers took some time, helped along as usual by Covid, but "all good things come to those who wait". Our understanding of connecting has undergone a virtual transformation, but fortunately technology allows this to be possible and the WCSCF has enjoyed continued connection with our Members, Partners, Affiliates and Participants this year through our online meetings.

As often as lockdowns allow, we have still managed to see real faces, and always love this! But safety first. On the brightside (and with me there is always a brightside!), virtual meetings have shown increased attendance and allows those who hadn't come before to seek connection therein. I will still be found driving over to visit orgs, though, especially those who struggle to connect online.



**Janice King**



# WCSCF CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

I am sure many of our other Sub-Forum members feel the same. I also have to mention that even with Covid around, our members have still been able to do the most and for this I THANK YOU. Being Coordinator, however, does not mean that it's all forums and meetings - there is social media fun to be had as well!.....

As mentioned, with COVID we have been restricted and therefore social media has become an important tool: WCSCF now has an Instagram page with the handle **@wcscf7** - Please go and check us out and give us a follow.

Our website and Facebook page is also being updated - we hope to become more interactive and post about meetings, forums and trainings, as well the marvellous work that the Drop In Centres and other child protection organisations are doing.

While 2021 has been a crazy and unpredictable year so far, it has also brought with it understanding, compassion and learning curves that we will never forget.

So, I trust that whatever you do, you remember that you may not be able to change the world for everyone but can you change the world for someone.

I have only been at the WCSCF for five months and boy, what a five months it has been. At first it was a bit overwhelming but soon I found my groove and now I'm really starting to enjoy it. I have done and learned such a lot. I have also met some amazing people who just want to make children's lives better.

In our sub-forum meetings, you can really see people's passion as they are eager to engage, make a real difference and connect with other role players in their area. In their own way each person wants to do the best they can to make a difference and make sure that the children in our communities are safe.

Our Hout Bay Forum, for example, seems like a small cluster of people, but they are always busy with something wonderfully positive and are always wanting to know "who is running this in our area". Shelli Marx, who is a member of the Hout Bay Forum and also works for SHAWCO has expressed that "it is very important to have this forum" and that "We just need to get more people to participate, but this will take time due to Covid."



**Rushni Collins**



# WCSCF MEMBERS

**Action Volunteers Africa**  
**Agape Child Welfare**  
**CAP Swellendam**  
**CCID**  
**El Theos**  
**Elkana**  
**Hands and feet**  
**Hope Options**  
**Justice Desk**  
**KBSJ SRA**  
**St Kizito**  
**Knead2succeed**  
**KRAC**  
**Living Hope**  
**Taking Hands/Hande vat**  
**UCT Dept of Social  
Development**  
**Valleys & Mountains**  
**VRCID**  
**YFC Kidstop**

**TLC Tableview**  
**Connect Network**  
**Masithembele**  
**Mange Daycare & Aftercare  
centre**  
**Olympians Social Development**  
**Community who cares**  
**St Annes Home**  
**Quality Life Montessori (QLM)**  
**Happiness Haven**  
**Advance Edukos**  
**Think Twice**  
**Adonis Musati Project**  
**Project- Playground**  
**SaferkidsZA**  
**Village Care Centre**  
**CID Claremont**  
**STAND**  
**Stellcare**  
**SA-Yes**  
**Masizame (Plett)**

# WCSCF SUB-FORUMS

The WCSCF runs a number of Sub-Forums aimed at facilitating inter-sectorial partnerships amongst role players in local communities. This fosters good relationships, encourages collaboration in order to improve the integration of services in the child care and protection sector.

## Local Sub-Forums include:

- WCSCF All Regions Forum (Quarterly)
- Cape Town CBD Street Children's Forum
- Northern Suburbs Street Children's Forum
- CNOYO: Collaborative Network of Youth Organisations
- Lavender Hill & Vrygrond Child Protection Forums
- Hout Bay Child Protection Forum
- Kalksteefontein/Camps Bay Forum

## New Sub-Forums currently being established:

Brackenfell/Kraaifontein Child Protection Forum  
Mitchells Plain/ Metro South Child Protection Forum

**\*N.B. If you would like us to start a forum in your area, please let us know**



# **SUPERVISION and MENTORING of DROP IN CENTRES**

Covid-19 brought significant challenges to 'hotspot' communities, making the job done by community-based Drop In Centres even more vital and life-changing for those families and children who they serve. Families, already poor and struggling, leaned even more heavily on the services of Drop In Centres, as heightened unemployment and poverty due to Lockdown meant possible starvation and increased suffering. Those children, already at a high risk of school drop-out, had their tenuous grip on their education further challenged by Covid school closures. Drop In Centres became havens for local food relief, health information and sources of support in times of crisis.

During Lockdown, Social Work as a profession was declared an "essential service", meaning that DIC Social Workers and their Teams had to be available and working while others stayed at home. While businesses closed their doors, Drop In Centres opened theirs wider to feed and encourage and support. Whereas before, children would come to the Centres, now brave and committed Teams often went out into communities to deliver food packs to homes or offer roadside meals and survival packs to a greater number of needy than ever before.

The WCSCF was glad to be able to acquire unusual Covid-19 Support funding through The Connect Network from Sanlam which could then be distributed to those Drop In Centres who needed to supply so much more to their communities than usual. This was a help to the Centres and we were delighted to be able to support and partner in this way. We partner with the following Centres:

**Masizame, Plett**  
**Sinethemba, Knysna**  
**YFC Kidstop, George**  
**Agape CW, Mosselbay**  
**Village Care Centre, Lav Hill**  
**Youth Outreach, Stellenb**  
**Masithembele, Delft**  
**ACVV Brightlights, SomWest**

**Happiness Haven, Westank**  
**El Theos, Parow**  
**Philisa Abafazi Bethu, Vrygrond**  
**KRAC, Leonsdale**  
**StellCare, Stellenbosch**  
**Olympians, Durbanville**  
**Valley Devel Projects, Oceanview**  
**Living Hope, South**  
**HandsandFeet, Strandfontein**



# WCSCF ADVOCACY

## 2020/21

- April 2020. Janice was a temporary Monitor for the Human Rights Commission, contributing to the assessment and subsequent Report on the Strandfontein Homeless Site, when it opened. She assisting in checking for minors on site, basic health, hygiene and environmental conditions, and compliance with COVID-19 regulations. 16 children were found on site and relocated. The multi-disciplinary SAHRC Report lead to the ultimate closure of the site, as it was in serious violation of human and disaster regulations and rights.
- 24 June: The WCSCF collaborated in a Blanket Drive with Connect Network, Kholisi Foundation and Adidas – 2000 blankets were distributed to 3 WCSCF Orgs: Village Care Centre, Philisa Abafazi Bethu, Sozo Foundation at a wonderful event held at Sozo.
- 25 August – Participated in the Night vigil remembering Uyinene Mrwetyana
- 29 August - Participated in the Gender Based Violence protest to Parliament
- A collaborative Submission to the Standing Committee on the 3rd Amendments to the Children Act, in collaboration with the Child Protection Collaborative (CPC)
- 27th Jan – Participated in a Consultative Workshop on the review of the White Paper for Social Development.
- March 2021: advocating for the registration of NPO's doing Children's Act Chapter 14 Drop In Centre work in communities with vulnerable children but not being acknowledged, monitored or considered for registration by Provincial DSD. As a result, Chief Director did took responsibility for this and committed to achieving it.



# WCSCF DONORS

We would like to thank our donors big and small for their contribution. Without you doing what we do would not be possible.

A big thank you to:

- The Western Cape Provincial Government  
Department of Social Development  
Child Protection Programme
- The Sanlam / Connect Network Covid Grant
- The Kolisi Foundation & Adidas
- Gunther Van Biljon
- Grant McFadyen

With honorable mentions of

- CCID
- VRCID and
- Bettaway Community Church

for allowing us to use there space for workshops and forum meetings.

072 4500 456

If you or anyone you know would like to donate please check our website for banking details. As WCSCF is a registered NPO we are able to provide you with a section 18A certificate for tax purposes.



# Contact Information

NPO REGISTRATION NUMBER: 069-906 NPO



Website: [www.wcscf.org.za](http://www.wcscf.org.za)



<https://www.facebook.com/wcscf>



<https://www.instrgam.com/wcscf7>

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