

Lighthouse Children and Youth Ministry

– Year report 2021/2022 -



Foreword from the directors

Our second year as a ministry is a fact. I would like to mention how truly grateful I am for everybody that helped us to help the children. Lighthouse has grown a lot in the previous year. We used to do all the programs for the children in and around our (Directors') house. This was beautiful, but also challenging. We were also limited in the number of children we could help, due to space. In August 2021, a big plot became available for us, to use for free. The only thing we need to do is maintain it. We moved all our programs to this new plot, which is great, because now we can do so much more for the community. Not only can we help more children, we could also start with two new projects: the agricultural project (Hope Garden) and the needlework project. With these projects, we teach young people and mothers new skills. I would also like to mention that Lighthouse is currently employing 20 people from our local community, all as staff workers. We are thankful for all the sponsors and all the support we got. We realize that we can't help the children without other people's support. With this report we would like to give you a better idea of all that Lighthouse did within the past year.

Gerlinda Shipipa – Bruijnes
Director of Lighthouse Ministry



Afternoon Programs

This is our largest program, where we have over 60 children at the moment. What we do is basically to identify children that are needy, and then we do a house visit. The house visit is done to see how the living circumstances of the child is, whether or not there is a caring parent or guardian, if the house is safe, and if the child gets its basic needs met. We identify these factors and decide which program the child needs to be a part of. Children that lack care and parents that work to provide basic food, are the ones we will take into the afternoon programs. They come to us every weekday after school. We provide a warm meal, as well as a snack. They also play with toys and different other games. We give them lessons in mathematics, reading and Bible Study, in order to improve their educational and social skills. Also, we provide different activities on a daily base such as sport, creativity and games.

At the beginning of every year, the children get their school uniforms, stationary and all essentials they are in need of for the school year. The past few years we have managed to also provide them with winter and summer clothes.



Sunshine club

The Sunshine club is a program for all children that we registered within Lighthouse. However, we have a specific number of children (27 at the moment) that is only coming on Mondays. "The Sunshine club kids". These children grow up in poverty, but there is a caretaker at home. The biggest struggle for these families is financial. Therefore, these families are being helped with a food parcel every week and practical help such as school uniforms, stationary and school bags.

For the children, the Sunshine club is one of the highlights of the week. I see that they come in full numbers on a Monday. That is an indication that our kids love this program. Especially our times of praise and worship. It just makes our program extra nice with a live musician on the keyboard, and also the way our kids engage in the different expressions of singing and dancing. But what captures my heart is whenever the children learn a new song, and how they keep on singing that song, even while they walk home. They are so determined to know it perfectly, so they can sing it with full confidence. Our kids come from challenging backgrounds and circumstances, and many of them have learning disabilities. However, they learn the songs easily, because as we all know, music is a universal language.

We are still busy with going through the Bible, which is almost done. We really want to focus on motivating our kids to live life to the fullest every day, and that they should not let their circumstances hold them back from reaching the dream or potential that is within them. It is also very nice to see how many are responding to questions. Even if they don't answer it correctly, the heart is still to keep them motivated and not put our kids down, so that they can keep up their boldness. At Lighthouse we do that, so that when they fully know themselves, they will speak out more boldly for what is right and make a difference outside of Lighthouse.



Hostel Program

The hostel program currently caters to 22 children. The children in the hostel program are those that were in the afternoon program, but were put in the hostel because the situation at home didn't improve. It's worsened by the fact that the child is going to beg in the streets, not going to school everyday, and not faithfully showing up to the program.

We believe that attending school is the only way for them to change their home circumstances. Thus, we send them to the hostel, because there they eat on time, get study time, and sleep in a safe and secure environment. We make sure we pay the hostel fees, and the transportation to and from the hostel.

We also provide their toiletries on a monthly basis, which includes soap, washing powder, cream, toothpaste, roll-on, and sanitary pads for the girls.

Lighthouse Youth

Every Monday at 16.00 we have a Youth program. We call it the Lighthouse Youth. Children from the other programs that are in Grade 8 and above can attend, as well as others in that age group. We focus on teaching them how to build and maintain a healthy relationship with God.



We create an atmosphere where they can really be themselves without feeling any fear whatsoever. We aim to create an atmosphere whereby they can express themselves, as they all come from very difficult circumstances. They get a warm meal and a snack after the program is done, and we also give them toiletries. We have about 18 children in this program.

Testimony: Riaan "What Lighthouse had done for me".

My name is Riaan and I am a student at Rehoboth High School, in grade 10. I want to tell you about what Lighthouse has done for me. I came to Lighthouse in the year 2021, and since then, Lighthouse has done a lot for me. Lighthouse has supported me through everything, and when I was in need of food, they would always give me, if they had. Every day after school we would go there and first eat, then we would start learning; The teachers would give us work and explain what to do. We learn new things every day and do creative things. When it is examination time, all the kids that attend the afternoon programs would be told to take their books and study; except the younger kids. The teachers would help us and explain things to us that we don't understand. When its end of year, they would give us food-packages containing all the necessary items. Also, when it is winter time, they give us jerseys, a jacket, warm trousers and beanies to wear on the head, to cover the ears. Everyone at Lighthouse is very kind. That's what Lighthouse has done for me.



Needlework Project

Lighthouse Mothers Needlework Training



For this program we received sponsorship by Imago Dei, Namibia to buy the first two sewing machines and one overlocker, and a variety of other supplies to start training the mothers of the children who attend Lighthouse Ministry. We launched the program on the 1st of March and had approximately 12 women show interest over the phone to attend the training. However, only 5 ladies showed up on the first day where we introduced the program. Four of the ladies are program mothers and one an aunty. For the sake of having a better sized group, we allowed the aunty to join also. On the 1st of March, we introduced the program and from there we commenced the practical trainings. We are focusing on the very basics of machine work, like setting up a machine, knowing the machine parts, putting in oil, reverse stitching and turning corners, and they were also introduced to putting in a dress zip. None of the ladies came with any experience, but I can see that they are very committed and are enthusiastic about the program and all that they are learning.

Each day we start with a devotion, and bread, coffee and tea are provided for the sessions, with one tea break in the middle of the lesson. Sometimes, the ladies are enjoying the work too much that they would prefer to continue through the tea break though. From the very first practical lesson until where we are currently, I have seen obvious improvement in the work the ladies are producing, and their confidence working with the sewing machines.

Overall, the start of this program has been very encouraging, and it is more effective to work more consistently with one smaller group, so that each trainee can be given quality assistance to develop their sewing skill.



Afternoon Knitting Sessions - Grade 5 + girls

These afternoon programs are going well. The girls always look forward to doing the creative activity of knitting. Initially, I started off with training the girls in crochet, but it seemed to be difficult for them to grasp. So now, we are doing knitting instead. This is not my main field of expertise, but some of the girls also have experience from doing home economics in school. We are working on constructing a knitted blanket where each young girl is knitting a square with any colour they like. As soon as they finish one, they start another, and so on. As they make the squares, I am attaching them together to make a blanket which will be given to one of the teachers who is soon due to give birth to her baby boy. The overall experience is positive and reasonably easy, as once they know the basic steps and repeat them over and over, they are more confident to do the work without too much assistance.



Testimonial Needlework Training for Lighthouse mother

Name: Elvera Bikeur

I have enjoyed the needlework training a lot. The machine I like to work with most is the overlocker, and also using the special stitches on the sewing machine. Also learning how to sew a zip and use the special buttonhole features of the machine is fun. The class is taught in English, so I have been learning a few more English words through the training as well. What I first found challenging was remembering how to thread the machines correctly and control and guide the fabric through the machine in a smooth line. But now I am becoming more confident. I am inspired to get my own sewing machine and start my own home business after I finish the training.

Young & Pregnant

We are still in the process of preparing a training of two months for pregnant young girls. Throughout this training we would like to prepare them for the coming of their baby. This training will focus mainly on young teenagers, pregnant for the first time. Last year we did not get the time to really start the training. The training manual we want to offer is now finished and within this year (2022) it will start. This year we did continue handing out baby hampers for young mothers, to support these young mothers practically. We are excited to see how the training is going to impact young mothers to be.



Hope Garden

Hope Garden is an agricultural project under Lighthouse Ministry Skill Centre which began operating from November 2021, with the aim of producing food and training the community through a sustainable, holistic and practical farming approach. Teaching the community to produce vegetables or food products while using minimal water, and yet producing healthy vegetables and food with high nutritional contents. Since the inception of Hope Garden, three community youths have been employed on a full basis, while helping them to develop their farming knowledge. With a couple of community members being offered employment on a casual base.

1. Staffs

Hope Garden consists of 5 staff members, of whom 4 are on a full-time basis, and 3-5 community members on a casual base.

2. Plants

When Hope Garden was started in November 2021, Yellow and White maize, Sweetcorn, Spinach, Watermelon and Tomatoes were planted, this was because we were late with summer season. Within winter season (May- August) Hope Garden have planted Spinach, Lettuce, Beetroots, Onions and Cabbage. This was because these plants can survive the cold weather.

3. Training

In early January 2022 we had our first training where by 6 youths from Rehoboth community were trained on Horticulture farming, and it was a success.

4. Future

We as an organization are very excited about the future of Hope Garden. Of course, we don't know what tomorrow brings, but we look forward to more Horticulture farming training courses being offered to the community members in order for them to have the experience and knowledge on how to produce healthy vegetables, using Farming God's way techniques. This is a system where we use natural products like grass as a barrier (God's blanket), which is covered on the ground to prevent unwanted plants (weeds) from growing. It also keeps the ground moist and it reduces water evaporation. We are excited about equipping the community members through training, but also about working together to find amicable solutions when it comes to food security.

