

### Foreword from the director

With gratefulness in my heart I am writing this year report. Looking back on the previous year, I can only say how thankful we are for all that Lighthouse could do for the children and community in the previous year. This was our first full year at the new plot we are using. Our biggest highlight is the fact that we could help more children within our programs, due to the space we now have, and due to all donations we have received.

Two other highlights of the previous year are: The purchase of our very first Lighthouse Ministry car, which helps us to reach out to the schools and do house visits. Having contact with both the children's teachers and caregivers helps us to help the children better. Also, this year we could build a playground for the children. It is so amazing to see the big smiles on their faces and how they are enjoying the play area.



I am truly grateful for our amazing team, people that support Lighthouse and everybody that is involved in the work we do. Together we could make an impact in the lives of our children.

In this year report we will give you a short summary of all programs we had in the previous year.

*Gerlinda Shipipa – Bruijnes*  
*Director of Lighthouse Ministry*



### Afternoon programs

Every day, we had 80 children come to the afternoon programs. Children that both need emotional as well as practical support. The program during the past year was as following:

- 13.15 children come in to play
- 14.00 devotion + warm meal
- 14.30 reading or mathematics
- 15.15 activity (such as social topic/ Bible lesson/creativity/sports/ fun activity)
- 16.00 get a snack and go home

All our activities and lessons are offered in a playful and fun way for the children to enjoy it and to learn at the same time. We have lots of toys that gave our children the opportunity to play, and just be child. We find this important because at home, they can't really be a child, because they have other responsibilities.

We are grateful for the progress we see in our children. The way they behave and act and how faithful they came to the programs is truly a blessing. We could give them the love, attention, and support that they lack at home.





**Testimony Whitley (grade 4) – attending the afternoon programs**

*I love going to Lighthouse. We come together to play and to learn. We also get a nice meal when we are there. The Lighthouse teachers do care for us a lot. When we get cold, they give us clothes and blankets to keep us warm. They help us with many things. I love to come together with my friends from Lighthouse.*

**School & house visits**

In the mornings, we would go to the schools to talk to the children’s teachers. We find out from them how the child is doing, and how and where we can help the child. Working together with the schools helps us to assist the children better.

Unfortunately, it does happen that our children are not at school. We would then go to the house to find out what the problem is. Many times, it has to do with the fact that parents are absent due to alcohol abuse, because they passed on, or because they went to the farm. These children are often struggling on their own. At home they are not encouraged to go to school.

Twice a week we go to the houses of the children to see how things are there. We check if something has changed in their home situation, and we talk with the caregiver.

We try to encourage the caregiver to look after their child. Our vision is: parents/ caregivers should take care of their children; we are just there to support and help where we can. For us it is a good thing to go to the houses of the children, for us to help them better.



**Sunshine club**

Every Monday we have the Sunshine club. This program is for all children from the afternoon program, plus 30 extra children. These children do not need the emotional support, but they do need the practical support. These children come on Monday only, so we can keep an eye on them.

The Sunshine club program is different from the other days. The children did play when they would come in, because we find it important that they can be a child and forget their worries for a moment. After a time of playing, the children receive a meal. Then we would have a time of worship. This is always lots of fun, with singing and dancing. After that, we share a Bible story with them. The past year we really made this so much more fun. The team would do a drama and play the story out for the children to understand it better. After the story, kids would go in three groups for different activities such as: creativity, games and making puzzles. Before they go home, they receive a snack.



We expect the caregivers of the Sunshine kids to come to Lighthouse once a week, to help clean the land. In return they receive a food parcel. In this way they take responsibility for taking care of their children. We believe it is also good for their self-esteem when they can provide for their own children.



**Testimony Brigitte – mother of Sunshine club child**

*It makes me feel good that my child is part of the Lighthouse program. It helps our family a lot. I don't have a job and couldn't take good care of my children because of that. Lighthouse is the place that helps us. They provide food for our children and keep them warm. Also, my child is enjoying the Sunshine club a lot. When he comes home, he tells us about what he has learned. For example, about discipline, Gods word, how to stay out of the streets, and how they can love and care for others.*

**Hostel**

For some of our children, living in Rehoboth isn't working out. These are children that are mostly on their own. No one is really looking after them. These children used to be part of the afternoon programs, but unfortunately, we couldn't motivate them enough to go to school. The problems at home were too big, and it wasn't safe for these children to stay there. The hostel is for us the last attempt to help them attend school. Lighthouse made it possible for these children to stay in a hostel by providing for transport fees, hostel fees and the needed toiletries. We see that for most of our children, the hostel program really helps them stay in school. This year we could help 22 children through our hostel program.



**Testimony Frans (grade 11) – Hostel program, previously afternoon program**

*\*Frans used to attend our afternoon program. Unfortunately, his father passed away. That's why he is now staying in the hostel.*

*I love being part of Lighthouse. Some of the things I enjoy the most are reading the Bible together, to play and the food. To receive a warm meal every day. The impact Lighthouse made in my life is big. They helped me to go to school and provided for all the needed essentials. Now they are also helping me to go to a hostel. They pay my hostel fees, transport and toiletries.*

**Programs in general**

All our children (afternoon program, Sunshine club & hostel) receive all the needed school essentials such as a uniform, schoolbag, and stationery. Also, we help them practically with toiletries, blankets, winter- and summer clothes, food items and more.



Twice a year we have an outing with our children. This year, we were invited to come swim and eat at our local resort "Lake Oanob". It was such a blessing for the kids. Also, a group from the Netherlands organized a birthday party for the children, whereby they all ate cake and drank coldrink. They were playing fun games and they even received a gift. Those moments are so special, and we believe it helps the children realize how precious they are.

Lastly, we had our end of the year function. We hired jumping castles, played fun games (including water games), the children did a Christmas drama and we closed off with a nice braai. All children were given a very big food parcel that would help them during the two weeks we were closed. These two weeks are the only weeks during the year that Lighthouse is closed, the rest of the year the children are coming from Monday until Friday to receive love, attention, and care.



**Testimony Glendy (16 years, grade 8) – Attending the afternoon program.**

*I love to come to Lighthouse, to spend time with my friends and with our teachers. I love to play games with them. Lighthouse helped me with many things, like a school uniform, a bag with stationaries, clothes, and toiletries.*



**Lighthouse Youth**

Every Monday afternoon we have Lighthouse Youth. This program is especially for youth going to high school. Together we talk about social topics and learn from the Bible. We play fun games, have time for praise & worship, read the Bible together and we close off with a meal. In this year Lighthouse Youth became more serious. Every Monday there are around 30 youth coming to the program. It's beautiful to see how eager these young people are to learn and grow.



**Young & Pregnant**

This year, we continued with the Young & Pregnant program as the previous year. We provided training for young mothers where they could learn more about pregnancy and about taking care of your baby. After the baby was born, these mothers received a big hamper with all the first needed essentials for the baby and mom.

**Hope Garden**

Our agricultural project (Hope Garden) is growing. A company from the Netherlands sponsored a big shade net, which helped us to grow more vegetables. Our team really learned how to look after and take care of the plants. The harvest was used for the following:

- Selling locally, to create a bit of income for the organization, seen that we are fully dependent on donations.
- The meals for the children: we find it important that the children receive nutritious meals.
- Give out to the community and old age homes. Those who can't afford vegetables.



This year we offered different agricultural trainings to the community, whereby they learned more about agriculture and different ways of farming.

Also, this year our first kids from the programs finished high school. Unfortunately, they couldn't go for studies, because their grades aren't good enough. The three boys that finished school started in January with our agricultural training. They will work alongside our agricultural team for a year, and in this way, they learn agricultural skills. They are our first fulltime 'students'. We can see they really enjoy it and they have already aquired so much knowledge and understanding of farming.



**Testimony Natangwe (22 years old) - trainee at the Hope Garden.**

*Lighthouse is like a family to me. To be at home isn't nice, but the moment I come to Lighthouse, I feel at home.*

*Lighthouse made me feel worthy of who I am, gave me hope and helped me believe that I can do much more than I think I can. I was also reminded that God is for all of us. He loves and cares for us all.*



**Aquaponics**

This year we started off with a new project: Aquaponics. This is a way of farming whereby one makes use of fish. People from the community were invited to receive a training about this and our team was trained on how to do aquaponics, too. This project is really a try out, and we will see within the coming year how it will work and how it can benefit the community.



It is good to know that both our agricultural project, as well as the Aquaponics, are not to make profit. It is used to train young people so that they can learn new skills, which helps them build a better future.

**Needlework**

Training mothers

We first tried to train the mothers of our afternoon program children. Unfortunately, they wouldn't show up or have excuses why they could not make it. Reality is that mostly they would come drunk or not come at all. When we started to train the mothers of our Sunshine club children, it was a success. One can really see the difference between these mothers. For us, this was a confirmation that the children of the afternoon program do need help daily, and that the Sunshine club children mostly need the practical support. Their mothers did show up and would finish the training. We had some dropouts, because these mothers found a job, which we feel is a good thing, seen that the needlework training is to equip mothers with skills that could help them find a job, or create some income for themselves. The training for the Sunshine club mothers was a great success. The mothers really enjoyed it, and you could see them grow in their skills. We will continue with training such mothers.



Training youth

In January we started to offer the same training to one of our girls who finished school. Unfortunately, she also could not study, because her school results aren't so good. She is really enjoying the training so far, and we can't wait to see her finish the training. She will also be trained for the whole year, and she will help to make some items, such as aprons and bags. In this way it also creates a bit of income for herself. This helps her to look after herself.