

MASICORP

masiphumelele
township
south africa



Annual Report 2015



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Cover page photos: **Top** – Graduates from Masicorp and Evangeline Ministries Life Skills course with Masicorp volunteer Fran Loudon.
Bottom – Wordworks learner at Masi Library.
Photo credit: Louise de Waal

Our Vision

- Everyone in Masiphumelele will have access to quality education, training, advice and support.

Our Mission

- To work with the people of Masiphumelele, and key partners, offering opportunities through education and enterprise to help residents progress out of poverty towards a sustainable livelihood.

Our Values

- Utmost **respect** for those we serve and for each other.
- **Participation** in decision making by all those affected by our actions.
- **Empowering** all involved to take ownership of their own development.
- **Integrity** and **transparency** in all our operations.
- Long-term **sustainability**.



This year saw the retirement of our Vice-President Jill Stirrup. Jill made a huge contribution across all of our programmes, but was particularly instrumental in establishing the Bursary Programme. She is seen here alongside Olwethu Mlaza, who became the first university graduate of the programme, when he completed his degree in Mechanical Engineering. Jill was a mentor and friend to many of the bursary students, and served on the Masicorp board for many years. We wish her a long and happy retirement and cannot thank her enough for everything she has done to promote education in Masiphumelele.

Notes from our President & MD

Andrew Smith

That was the year that was!

Masicorp did well – we faced some significant challenges, we grew and developed our programmes in all key areas of education, we laid plans to revitalize our business enterprise section, we were awarded the head lease for the Chasmay Road Campus (more about this initiative next year), and we made a smooth change in our senior management.

Because so much has been achieved, as you will see from all the information in this report, choosing highlights to mention here is not easy. I will mention just two: the University Bursary Programme has gone from strength to strength under the leadership of Susan de Vaux. We now have 24 students at university, four graduates in 2015 and the newly launched Alumni Association has got off to a flying start. The bursary team includes 21 Masicorp mentors and three assistants to Susan, namely Elize Taylor, Paul Giess and Trish Ferguson.

Another highlight is the completion of our new pre-school, Masi Educare, that has space for 160 children and will be run to the highest possible standards. The official opening is in March 2016, but the pre-school was up and running at the end of this year – all thanks to the work of our team leader Fiona Maitland, the school Principal Lindi Hangana, and our project manager Colin Blaikie.

None of what we do can be done without funding and the teams in our sister organisations in the USA and UK, our SA fund raising efforts led by Carol Hanks, and of course our donors everywhere have, again, made possible what has sometimes seemed the impossible!

As the year closed social unrest swept through the township with violent protests and a worrisome collective feeling of frustration and anger amongst Masiphumelele residents. The exact cause is difficult to ascribe to any one factor, but it is clear that the lack of effective policing, slow delivery of promised housing, and not enough jobs were at the top of the list.

Our response was, and continues to be, to keep our people safely out of harm’s way, whenever the protests erupt and to find ways to get on with our work in the meantime. When faced with such difficulties, it would be entirely understandable for volunteers and staff to stop working with us and it is a great tribute to their sense of purpose and determination for what we are doing that **everyone** has continued.

My term as MD comes to an end this year and I thank everyone involved in Masicorp for the help, support and guidance they have given Masicorp, and me personally, over the past seven years. I will continue as a non-executive Director and honorary President. Our new MD, Milli Firth, will, I am certain, take Masicorp to new levels of achievement in serving the people of Masiphumelele.



Our Projects



Seedlings – Nurturing Pre-School Children



The early years in a child's life are critical for development, as this is a period of rapid physical, mental, emotional, social and moral growth.

Objectives:

- To raise the standard of care and learning outcomes.
- To provide a high quality education and care.
- To prepare and equip children for a successful school career.

Some achievements in 2015

- Our biggest achievement in 2015 was the build of the new **Masi Educare centre**. In partnership with the City of Cape Town, who donated the land, Masicorp raised funds to renovate the original building, construct eight new classrooms, two ablution blocks and two playground areas. The funds were raised with thanks to our generous donors in the USA, UK, Europe and South Africa.
- The Masi Educare centre has flourished under the leadership of Lindi Hangana (Principal) and her team. We recruited **six new teachers**, who have proved to be valued team members. As parents expressed a strong desire for their children to be exposed to English, language ability was taken into consideration when we recruited new staff.
- **Six teachers graduated with accredited ECD qualifications** from Auburn House, an accredited Montessori teaching facility. Home of Love, a Masicorp supported crèche, is being piloted as a Montessori school.
- Two teachers achieved level 4 qualifications from the Centre for Creative Learning.



- Through successful **partnerships with The Unlimited Child and other NGOs** delivering training and equipment, 30 community care givers benefited from ECD training and a donation of special developmental educational equipment. Masicorp, in partnership with Valley Development, continues to support and mentor these centres. We endeavour to further grow and develop this relationship with The Unlimited Child.
- Through **food programmes in partnership with JAM and Stop Hunger Now**, 600-1000 young children received a daily nutritionally fortified breakfast (JAM) and a cooked daily meal (SHN). We truly value their partnerships, as you cannot teach a hungry child.
- Three educare centres received **support and guidance with the Department of Social Development registration process**. The aim is to help the centres navigate the complicated registration process and ultimately secure a government subsidy that helps these community centres to become more sustainable.

Our Projects

Learning Labs – Primary Education



Maths & English Labs

Objective: The Maths and English Labs are based on the success of the Science Lab. Expertise and skills are transferred from teacher to teacher. The English Lab served over 500 learners and 15 teachers each week and introduced a new English Lab Assistant, Aviwe Mamonyane.



Maths Lab achievements in 2015

- Maths Lab served 250 Grade 4 learners and their 4 teachers.
- Pass rate on Maths end of year test increased from 17% to 53%.
- Introduction of iPads provided access to online teaching platforms.

English....Please! Our 5th year...

Objective: To improve English language skills of children from Masi, who attend Fish Hoek Primary School.

Pupils are enthusiastic and eager to attend class. They are making good progress with most pupils achieving on average above 60% for English. Top mark is even above 70%.

English...Please! achievements in 2015

- Since 2012, all pupils were accepted at their high school of choice.
- The programme was extended to include Occupational Therapy to address sensory integration difficulties.
- A home programme was set up for children, who are struggling for extra practise.



Further Primary Education achievements in 2015

- We supplied school uniforms to children in most need, especially those who lost their uniforms due to fires.
- Masifunde Reading Programme provided reading intervention in the lower primary grades to around 200 learners.
- Grand opening of the Teacher Resource Room that was funded by Astellas Pharmaceuticals, providing computers, printers and internet access to teachers.
- Completion of the Classroom Makeover Programme under Paul Dibley's leadership, including the repair and refurbishment of desks, storage lockers and bookshelves, as well as provision of white boards & other teaching aids.

New Sport Facilities



Physical education is a crucial part of every child's learning experience and we recognise that involvement in sport develops skills, such as discipline, commitment, punctuality and loyalty, as well as health benefits. We undertook a full survey of Ukhanyo Primary School's sport facilities that were considered to be in very poor condition.

Our Sport Initiative began in 2015 with the refurbishment and remarking of existing facilities. The final aim of this phase is to provide an all-weather running track and netball court. Fundraising activities are currently in full flow for the next phase, which will see the development of new multi-purpose sports courts and the laying of a new turf surface to the sports field.

Our Projects

High Hopes – Secondary Education



At secondary education level, we continue to develop the confidence and mathematical efficiency of Masi High learners in grades 9-12.

Some achievements in 2015

Collaboration between Masi and Fish Hoek High schools was improved by instigating an after school Maths Club at Fish Hoek High School. Around 20-30 learners attend each week. In addition, our regular Saturday morning Maths tuition continues at Masi High School.

Bright Futures – Tertiary Education

Some achievements in 2015



22 bursary students enrolled on degree courses ranging from Nursing to Agriculture.



An **Alumni Association** was established for past graduates of our bursary programme. The association met for the first time in September 2015 with a successful event attended by 19 past graduates. The event provided an opportunity for networking between past graduates and current Masicorp volunteers.



We are extremely proud to announce that **ALL 19 Masicorp graduates** are either in full-time employment or continuing with postgraduate studies. Loyiso Tunce became the first Masicorp bursary student to complete a postgraduate qualification, a Masters degree in Town Planning from Wits University in Johannesburg.



Student bursaries continue to be funded by our generous donors. In 2015, we expanded our funding base to include not only overseas donations from the USA and UK, but also from South Africa.

Our Bursary Programme would not be possible and nowhere near as successful without the kind support from our team of dedicated volunteer mentors. We recruited six new team members in 2015 to ensure that every student had the support of their own individual mentor.



Our Projects

Made in Masi – Business Enterprise



Establishing a successful business can be tough at the best of times, so Masicorp's support in this area focuses on all the factors critical to success.

Some achievements in 2015

A Business Hub was successfully established supporting entrepreneurs from Masiphumelele to create businesses and other employment opportunities. The Business Hub provides business and skills training, mentorship and administrative support, especially in the areas of financial record keeping, IT support and funding.



Future Aims

- Identify local entrepreneurs to provide them with mentorship and guidance to fully develop their business ideas.
- Link entrepreneurs to appropriate government schemes in order to obtain funding and further guidance.



Route Out of Poverty – Community and Lifelong Learning



Evangeline Ministries and Masicorp have continued their partnership providing life skills to the Masi community. The Evangeline Life Skills programme targets mostly women with little formal education and teaches them basic sewing and computer skills, as well as English language skills over a six month period. Upon successful completion the graduates are awarded a personal sewing machine.

Some achievements in 2015



42 adults graduated from the Life Skills programme and were offered the opportunity to earn an income by making e.g. children's clothes, traditional skirts, hats, choir robes and aprons.



Life Skills graduates are offered the opportunity to become involved in the Sewing Café, where they receive more advanced sewing instruction and further training in the use of industrial machines.



In cooperation with the Masicorp Business Hub, business plans are being developed with interested community members and budding entrepreneurs, to produce an improved product range necessary to create better income generating opportunities for Life Skills graduates.



Our Projects

Masiphumelele Library

The vision of Masiphumelele Library, established by Masicorp and now managed by the City of Cape Town, is to support informational and recreational needs in the community, including computer literacy, education, early childhood learning, and gender and HIV/AIDS initiatives. The library also provides conventional support for formal and informal education for the community through its reference, study and internet services.

In addition, our mission is to initiate and develop outreach programmes for young people to draw them into the library.

Some achievements in 2015



About 40,000 annual attendees for library programmes, including English and computer literacy, and homework clubs.



The library stocks more than 18,000 books and has seen around 150,000 library users.



We have expanded the **Masicorp Stay & Play** group at the Library to twice weekly sessions. This group offers skills transfer to care givers and a fun, educational and stimulating morning to the children. The focus of this group is to catch some of the children, who are not exposed to pre-school education.



Community Sport

Our community sports programme has been led for many years by sport and physical education coach, Nceba Jonas. Working from the hard surface sports area at Ukhanyo Primary School, Nceba has developed and coached rugby, netball, basketball and football teams and they have done well in many tournaments around the Western Cape.

Some achievements in 2015

- Nceba became a qualified rugby referee and completed a sports coach course in SAQ (Speed, Agility & Quickness).
- One of the community netball players, who has been part of his programme for 4 years, has obtained her WP colours for under 16s.
- The netball teams mostly played local friendlies due to a lack of funds. The senior ladies team won the Youth Day tournament.
- The soccer team played in the LAFA (Local Football Association) tournament, which was won by the senior team. Most of the other teams reached the quarter finals.
- The soccer teams also played in the Easter and Youth Day tournaments and reached the quarter finals.

The Figures

	2015	2014
Income	ZAR 5,834,332	ZAR 6,139,586
Restricted	4,199,430	4,001,172
Unrestricted	1,363,168	1,918,941
Interest	271,734	219,474
Expenses	ZAR 6,215,437	ZAR 4,253,105
Education	4,847,464	3,072,762
Community Development	811,291	649,392
Entrepreneurs programme	60,497	16,997
Operational Expenses	496,185	513,955
Operational costs as a % of total expenditure	8%	12%

Note: More detailed accounts are available upon request to any person or organisation with a legitimate interest in the work of Masicorp.



The above figures are taken from our consolidated global accounts, relating to our activities in South Africa, the USA and UK. These accounts are audited and submitted to the relevant authorities of all three countries.

Masicorp endeavours to keep their operational expenses as low as possible in order to spend as much of our precious donor money on our projects. However, there are genuine operational costs to run our organisation professionally and efficiently, and these costs are kept to an absolute minimum.

Our Team

Masicorp would not be able to carry out any of its work in Masiphumelele (South Africa) without the generous help and support of our 60+ volunteers. Neither would we be able to run our organisation without the extensive fund raising efforts in both the USA and UK, and the time the respective overseas boards willingly give to our organisation. Likewise with our board members in South Africa.



Our Team based in the USA



Our Patron Dame Linda Dobbs



Our Team based in the UK



Andrew Smith
President & MD



Jill Stirrup (MBE)
Vice President



Milli Firth
Deputy MD



Elize Taylor
Director Operations



Carol Hanks
Director Development



Dr Paul Giess
Director Communications



Jan O'Connor
Director Education



Susan De Vaux
Director Bursary



Fiona Maitland
Director ECD Seedlings



Alan McKelvey
Non-executive Director



Michael Tyhali
Non-executive Director



Fran Loudon
Non-executive Director



Jane Philippi
Non-executive Director



John Thompson
Non-executive Director



Carol Thompson
Non-executive Director

Without the support of our wonderful volunteers and community staff, we would not be able to deliver our projects and make so many valuable contributions to the community of Masiphumelele. **A big thank you to you all!**



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