

From Isolation to Inclusion



South African Mobility for the Blind Trust

Annual Review **2022**



From Isolation to Inclusion



When I was a blind child, it was so wonderful being at school with other blind children. We played on the swings, we had fun on the slides and if we bumped into each other now and then, it wasn't such a big deal.

In my final year, I began to realise that I will not be interacting with only blind people in the outside world. I voiced my fears to my classmates and we made a pact that we will stick together at university. Little did we know that we would be accepted to different universities. I arrived at the University of KZN with 48 000 other students and no Orientation and Mobility Practitioners to help a blind student like me.

I had to either try to make friends very quickly or ask my father to teach me the way to my lecture venues. I was afraid to approach other sighted students and ask for help, and so I isolated myself. When I was not at a lecture, I was at the disability unit, sitting. I was waiting to hear a friendly voice, hoping that I can ask that person

to take me to the canteen, or to help me to my next lecture.

Many blind people have comparable stories. At SAMBT we hear their stories from our practitioners in the field. We hear about the blind child who is not allowed to play outside with other children and is confined to the house, his parents afraid that he will get hurt. We hear about the young blind woman who wants to be a part of so much more but is isolated and dependent. We hear about the blind grandfather who sits all alone in his house waiting for a visit from his grandchildren. We hear about the gogo who longs to go to church on a Sunday because the pat on her shoulder when leaving, is the only human interaction she will have.

Her challenge now though, is that being blind, she does not know how to get to church, or the tuckshop, or to visit her friend two streets away on her own. This is until one of our practitioners train her. And this is the importance of the independence training we at SAMBT provide. Not only does it give the gift of independence, but our training brings people from isolation to inclusion.



CONTENTS

2	From Isolation to Inclusion
6	What Have we Done This Past Year?
8	Meet Some of the People we Trained
8	Bongiwe
10	Josephine and Moses
11	Kediarametse
12	Monitoring and Evaluation
13	Some Independence Skills That Blind People Need
14	Thank you to our Donors
16	Partnership and Advocacy
17	Plans for the Year Ahead
19	Governance
20	Auditor's Report
23	How can you Help a Blind Person?



Kate can now visit her cousin whenever she wants.

I have been with SAMBT for just over a year now.

Leading an organisation that makes a valuable difference in the lives of my fellow blind people on a daily base, is simply incredible. Going on field trips, interacting with our clients and knowing that our practitioners are giving every blind person they train, the gift of inclusion fills me with joy.

Even though I experience it every day, I continue to be in awe of our work.

Parishna Ramluckan
Managing Trustee



Parishna Ramluckan and Silomo Khumalo – SAMBT Chairman

What Have we Done This Past Year?



We ran altogether 18 training programmes in seven provinces, covering 13 district municipalities. Five of the training programmes were at schools and one at a college for the blind, while the other twelve programmes were community based.

We trained altogether 226 blind people. They varied in age between 5 and 89. 67 of them were children.

The areas we worked in ranged from the semi urban Hammanskraal in Gauteng to the very rural Ga-Masha in Limpopo.

The average duration of each training programme was 12 weeks. This is apart from one training programme at Christiana School for the blind. Our practitioner Beauty Manoto returned to the school to complete a programme that was interrupted by an outbreak of Covid at the school in the previous year.

We assessed **251** people

M&E consultant & management undertook **14** field trips

We trained **226** people of whom:

- **180** people are blind
- **46** people are partially sighted

- **67** Children
- **42** Young people aged 19-34
- **75** Adults
- **42** Pensioners

- **109** females
- **117** males

- **97%** black as per the BBBEE codes

○ Shows the number of people whom we trained in each area.



From Partial Sight to Inclusion



Although **Bongiwe** is partially sighted, she was unable to take care of the family's grandchildren.

She explained like this 'I think I am overloading these kids with responsibilities, and I am supposed to be the one helping them. So if I am more independent, then they can have their free time.' She also said, 'I am fine around the yard, it's just that I am forever at home, I can't go anywhere on my own.'

The first things Bongiwe needed to understand and agree to, was that her white cane was going to tell the world that she was blind, even though she had a bit of sight left over. Bongiwe was ready, as she said 'even if there are things that I can see by myself, I cannot walk by myself. I really need a cane. People can talk, I am fine with this.'

Our practitioner Kidibone Setlhabe tells of the

importance of the assessment phase in a case like Bongiwe. For Kidi to properly train her partially sighted client, she needed to know exactly what and how much Bongiwe could see.

For example Kidi noticed that although Bongiwe could see a blue shape of the tuck shop, she could not see the deep dangerous dark donga next to the bridge.

So carefully, Kidi showed Bongiwe with her cane: "now move two steps to your right, now feel with your cane", and as Bongiwe's cane slipped into the hole, she realised how her cane could be her eyes, when her eyes could not detect danger.

These days, the children in Bongiwe's care, are allowed to be children again. She is no longer dependent on them to get around and to help with all the chores.



Joint Venture

Josephine and **Moses** are both blind. They are both graduates and sadly are part of 97% of unemployed blind people in the country. Our practitioner Thabelo Muofhe trained them in rural Limpopo.

Josephine tells of standing on her own at the taxi stop after coming home from town: waiting, calling, asking anyone to walk her home, to no avail. You will be glad to know that since Thabelo trained them, Josephine and Moses are able to walk the distance home from the taxi stop on their own, without getting lost.

Josephine tells of her relief, of no longer being stranded, unsuccessfully asking for help and unable to get home. And then she mentions something else that we often hear.

“Suddenly, now that people can see that I am able to do things for myself, now they suddenly ask if they can help me”.



Proud Graduate

Kediarametse's story is particularly touching. She is a blind granny caring for five grandchildren below the age of twelve in rural Northern Cape! Her needs were truly unique to her situation.

Our practitioner Joyce Thebeyagae told how at first, she helped Kediarametse clear her front yard. It was a mess with years of litter lying around. With that cleared out, Joyce was able to help Kediarametse to get to know her front yard and to orientate herself. She can now get from her front door, through her yard, to the tuckshop on her own.

Kediarametse can now do the family's washing and cook a meal. The little ones are better cared for, and she can clean her yard on her own.

Her older grand children can now attend school every day because their granny is independent. When the eldest ones come home from school now, they can be children, no longer primary caregivers.



Monitoring and Evaluation



Thabelo Muofhe, Thabang Kotsi, Beauty Manoto, Moira Higgerty, Kidibone Setlhabe and Joyce Thebeyagae.

Moira Higgerty* monitors and supervises all our training. This includes regular telephone calls with each practitioner to discuss any challenges they may be facing.

Moira plays a major role in the planning of continuous professional development of our practitioners.

*Moira brings a lifetime of commitment to her work at SAMBT, providing independence training for the blind. Moira serves on the Executive Committee of the International Mobility Conference. She is the retired head of the College of O&M at SA Guide Dogs. She is a powerhouse of knowledge, and yet she is the first to ask a fellow expert for advice if she believes her knowledge is not deep enough. We are lucky to have her as part of our team.

Some Independence Skills That Blind People Need

Here are some skills that blind people need to learn, in order to become independent, and with that become included in their local community life:

- Getting around with a white cane, is paramount to the well-being of blind people
- Finding the outside toilet at your rural home
- Making tea without getting burnt
- Preparing a sandwich
- Knowing the value of banknotes and coins
- Going shopping
- Safely cooking a family meal
- Knowing the time
- Doing the washing
- Using the radio

These skills are not universal but depend on the needs and environment of each person.



Thank you to our Donors

To our 31 donors: it is thanks to you that SAMBT achieved its income target for the year and the 226 blind people trained, like Josephine and Moses are visibly independent, confident and part of family and community life.

Whether corporate, trust or foundation, the National Lotteries Commission or our individual donors - both here and in the USA - a heartfelt Thank You!

To the 11 new corporate and trust donors who came on board this year, your commitment to blind people's independence inspires us.

We are encouraged by government's partnership with us. Our thanks go to the ETDP-SETA in the Free State and North West Province Department of Health.

A special note of thanks to the John and Esther Ellerman Memorial Trust who has supported SAMBT since inception in 1998.



A curious grandchild watches as her grandfather learns to know the difference between a R100 and a R50 note.

14.



Abbott Laboratories South Africa (Pty) Ltd

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National Lotteries Commission

North West Provincial Department of Health

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Rachel du Toit Charitable Trust

Simmonds Hampton Trust

SASOL administrated by CAFSA

Sri Sathya Sai Organisation in South Africa

Stanley and Alison Sher

Solomon Ruben & Ann Winer Educational & Benefit Trust

the fair labour practice

Victor Daitz Foundation



15.



Partnership and Advocacy



Maselo stepping out independently to visit friends.

Blindness can make you feel isolated, dependent and lonely. But it need not be so. Because we know that Independence Training can change all that.

And that is why we do the work we do.

- There are over 1 million blind people in South Africa.
- There are just under 50 practitioners training blind people nationally, mostly in the big cities.
- Together they can train about 2 300 people in one year.

It is clear that there is a dire need for more independence training. Together with the John and Esther Ellerman Memorial Trust and the SA Guide Dogs Association's O&M Department, we work towards creating more O&M practitioner posts and growing the College's capacity to train new generations of O&M practitioners.

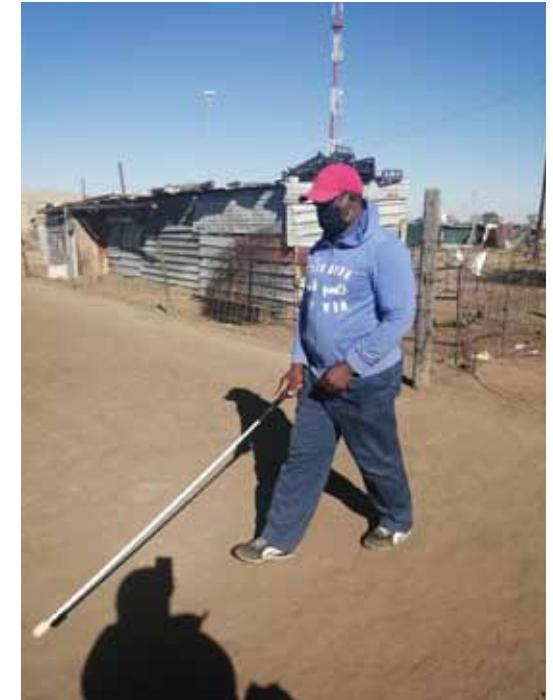
Plans for the Year Ahead

As before, we do not expect blind people to find us. Instead, we bring independence training to the homes of blind people, particularly those living outside of urban areas.

Independence after all starts from each blind person's home environment.

- We plan on running 22 training programmes in eight provinces, both community-based training and at various schools / colleges for the blind.
- 8 community awareness events around blindness and the benefits of independence training.

We know that awareness campaigns bring greater acceptance and inclusion of blind people into community life.



Going forward...



We love it when donors visit us. Here Ms Queen Molebatsi from North West Province Department of Health is visiting our practitioner Kidibone Setlhabe at Christiana School for the Blind.

Governance

SAMBT Board of Trustees has nine members, six of whom are blind.

Board members bring skills relevant to the work of SAMBT and their roles as Trustees, including: disability rights activists, legal and financial expertise, NGO governance and leadership experience, and knowledge in the special education sector.

There were no changes in the governance structures and 3 meetings were held.

Parishna Ramluckan replaced founder, Ian Hutton, as managing trustee in April 2021 with full support of the SAMBT board.

Quarterly finance meetings were held with treasurer, Avril Halstead.



Samuel, shopping on his own.

Audited Financial Statements

SOUTH AFRICAN MOBILITY FOR THE BLIND TRUST TRUST NUMBER IT 10593/97

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022 R	2021 R
ASSETS		6 219 716	4 544 625
Non current assets		592 419	263 369
Equipment	3	592 419	263 369
Current assets		5 627 297	4 281 256
Accrued income	4	227 470	-
Cash and cash equivalents	5	5 270 879	4 110 272
Inventories	6	128 948	170 984
Total assets		6 219 716	4 544 625
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES		6 219 716	4 544 625
Reserves		4 024 542	3 441 144
Trust capital		100	100
Accumulated surplus		1 349 185	1 385 951
Sustainability reserve	7	2 082 838	1 791 724
Equipment fund		592 419	263 369
Current liabilities		2 195 174	1 103 482
Accounts payable	8	42 621	49 645
Deferred income	9	2 117 775	982 161
Provision for leave pay	10	34 778	71 676
Total reserves and liabilities		6 219 716	4 544 625

Audited Financial Statements

SOUTH AFRICAN MOBILITY FOR THE BLIND TRUST TRUST NUMBER IT 10593/97

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022 R	2021 R
INCOME		4 631 720	3 970 585
Grants, subsidies and donations	11	4 511 826	3 652 369
Ters benefits		-	169 567
Interest received	12	119 894	148 649
EXPENDITURE		4 048 322	3 657 527
Advocacy		374 824	329 684
Monitoring, supervision and evaluation		518 390	372 770
Office and administration		711 798	705 951
Training		1 641 208	1 592 433
Communication costs		54 356	50 607
Salaries and other contributions		835 618	850 230
Training equipment and accessories		139 810	248 985
Travel and accommodation		611 424	442 611
Staff in service training and conferences		107 057	64 727
Sustainability		403 769	329 011
Training programme - Preparation and Co-ordination		291 276	262 951
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		583 399	313 058

Audited Financial Statements

SOUTH AFRICAN MOBILITY FOR THE BLIND TRUST

TRUST NUMBER IT 10593/97

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022 R	2021 R
Cash received from funders		5 419 970	3 448 271
Cash expended on programmes, suppliers and employees		(3 928 157)	(3 455 590)
Cash (utilised in)/generated from operations	15	1 491 813	(7 320)
Interest received	12	119 894	148 649
Net cash inflow from operating activities		1 611 707	141 329
Cash flows (utilised in) investing activities		(451 100)	(16 509)
Acquisition of equipment		(451 100)	(16 509)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		1 160 607	124 820
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		4 110 272	3 985 452
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	5	5 270 879	4 110 272

Small Steps you can Take, to Help a Blind Person to Feel More Included

- Include a blind person in your circle of friends
- Introduce yourself to a blind person in your area and refer them to SAMBT for independence training
- Offer your help and support to a blind person in your area
- Talk to the blind person in the taxi or bus next to you
- Donate to SAMBT



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PBO: 18/11/13/1400

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www.sambt.org.za

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To donate:

Banking Details, South Africa:

FNB

Account Number: 62927387987

Branch Code: 250655

America:

<https://kbfus.networkforgood.com/projects/13797-s-kbfus-funds-south-african-mobility-for-the-blind-trust-za>

“These days I can get there on my own. My husband can see me from the kraal. And he is proud.”

