



South African Mobility for the Blind Trust

Annual Review **2019**





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Managing Trustee's Report

SAMBT was born of an idea. And that idea was to take Independence Training to blind people anywhere in the country – to rural and township places – to places where blind people there would otherwise have no chance of getting Independence Training at all. And we would look also to schools for the blind – where Independence Training is conspicuous by its absence.

And what does this training do? It changes you. You change from being someone who is dependent on sighted help for so many simple things into someone who can do all those things yourself. You can now take your white cane and go where you want to go on your own, like to visit a friend or family member, or to the shop, to the clinic and to church, to university and to work. You can use a cell phone, an ATM and cook the family a meal.



Ready to leave the school gates.

And then, there is the blind child who has left her school gates for the last time. And she feels equal to the new challenges that the big world out there will bring her. She can find her way round a college campus or help her father in his spaza shop.

She can become a ward councillor and she can make herself a cup of tea. And yes, she can be a mother to her children. How hard would all of this have been if she had not got Independence Training at school. In short, Independence Training is the key to so much else.

And so it is that, since 1998, we have stayed true to our mission to reach out to blind people rather than expect them to find us.

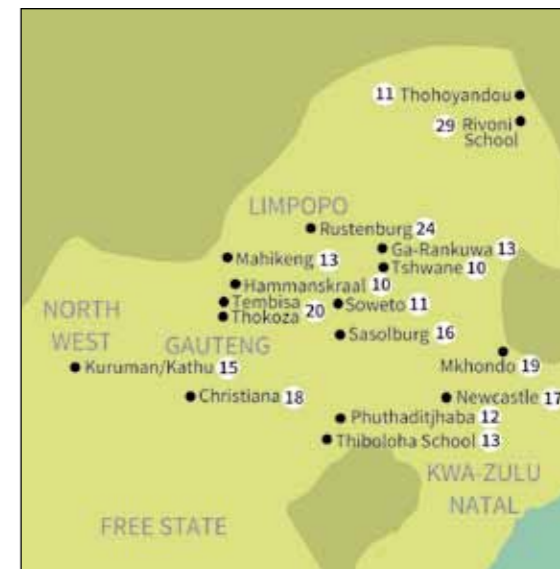
To this day we have helped to change the lives of something like four thousand such people and thousands more who are the families of those people.

It is a sign to me of the worth of our outreach efforts when someone says to me, “When I went blind, I was praying every day for help. And then, your trainer came to me, like an angel from God.”

The Training Programmes

We originally planned to run a total of 19 training programmes during this past financial year. However, we reduced that number to 18 for reasons which I will explain below. The average length of each of our programmes was 11 weeks. These spanned seven provinces: Gauteng, Limpopo, North West Province, Mpumalanga, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Cape.

Three of the programmes were at schools for the blind. The rest were community-based. These ranged from very rural places around Thohoyandou in Limpopo and Newcastle in KZN, to Kuruman in the Northern Cape and those in urban townships such as Soweto and Hammanskraal – as well as everything in between.



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



Through this, we reached a total of 251 blind people and trained them in white cane and orientation techniques as well as in a number of other independence skills. These were people of all ages. Of them, 60 were children.

As I mentioned above, we ran one programme fewer than originally planned. As well as that, we contracted the College of Orientation and Mobility (COM) to run three of our six Gauteng programmes. We had to do this because one of our practitioners fell ill with a succession of serious medical conditions which laid him off work or made it difficult for him to carry out his tasks fully.

And so, in December last year and with huge sadness, we had to terminate Bongani Maleka's employment on grounds of ill health.

Planning and Monitoring

In the past, our Practitioners would complete all their training records by hand. These included client assessments, individual and overall programme plans, daily logs, and final reports. They would then send all this to the office twice a month. Last year, however, we launched a digital system to do all that. This makes it quicker and easier for our Practitioners and the information is instantly available to management. It was SAMBT's initiative to employ people to design this digital platform and already the College of Orientation and Mobility has decided to adopt the system. This is a great improvement on how things were done previously.

Added to this, and as usual, our expert consultant Moira Higgerty carried out field trips to evaluate our training and provide field support. She also kept in phone contact with our Practitioners.



The People Behind the Statistics



Every time I go on a field trip, I am reminded of the humanity that underlies everything we do. It is all about people, each of them with their own feelings, their stories and their hopes.

Here we have the little blind child on his first day at school. It is a big scary place and so very far from home. Here is the young mother who has just lost her sight and who thinks that her life is over. And here is the delivery driver who, for twenty years, has put food on the table for his children and now he can't work anymore because his eyesight has gone.

And then we see the pride and joy of a blind person when they have learned to do something they thought they would never be able to do again. These are the people behind the statistics.

The Grannies

“Oud maar nog nie koud!”

Here we are in Kathu near Kuruman in the Northern Cape. It is a clear winter's day and four grannies are foregathered outside in the yard.

They can do it because our Practitioner, Beauty, has taught them how. And here on the table is a fancy cake and lots of cooldrink. It's party time. Then, someone puts the music on and it's four ousmas up and on their feet and dancing in the sun. “Oud maar nog nie koud!” Beauty exclaims. Old but not yet cold.





The Little Ones

Rolivhuwa

Little Rolivhuwa is totally blind. He was just six years old and in Grade R when our Practitioner, Thabelo, arrived there in April last year to begin her training programme.

He, Rolivhuwa, had come to the school wearing nappies and was still wearing them! He couldn't, you see, find his own way from the playground or any other place in the school to the outside toilets and often couldn't get there in time. But look at him now. He can make his way, by himself, from the hostel to his class and back and, yes, from the hostel and classroom to the toilets.

No more the discomfort and shame. Yes, Rolivhuwa no longer wears nappies.

Samkelo

And here is another little Grade R boy - Samkelo. Our trainer, Kidibone, says he is a quick learner. Yes, he has already got his own little white cane, cut to size and he is very attached to it.

But he is not allowed to keep it with him between lessons, not until he knows how to use it very well. Still though, he holds it very close as Kidibone leads him back to his classroom. Just before they get there, Samkelo is offered a banana as a small inducement to yield up his new white cane friend, just until the next lesson, you understand. And then, Samkelo pulls off an amazing feat. He somehow manages to peel and eat the banana without for one moment letting go of his beloved new buddy. Finally though, and with small sticky fingers, he hands his cane back to Kidi. He knows that he can trust her.

And Samkelo will go far one day, I think. His white cane will go with him, of course.



From Heartbreak to Hope

It is late at night. Sehanka, who is a truck driver, has knocked off from work and he is walking home to his shack through one of Sasolburg's informal settlements. And then suddenly, it happens. He is surrounded by four men. They are brandishing broken bottles. He tries to run. They attack him, cutting his face and body. They rob him of everything – cell phone, money, cards, shoes. And there is something else that he, Sehanka, has been robbed of: his sight.

That happened in 2011 when Sehanka was still in his early thirties. And so there he was, a young man, feeling lonely and isolated because of his blindness and living off nothing but a social grant. "I felt stuck in the middle of somewhere," he says.

Unwilling to take things lying down though, he enrolled on a course which would teach him how to use a computer with the aid of screen-reading technology. But then he had to pay someone R20 a day, R400 a month, to walk him to and from the college. And that is when SAMBT found him and offered him Independence Training.

One of the routes Sehanka can now walk, and it is quite a distance, is that route to his college. And he does it alone. Gone is the need to pay someone to get him there. Sehanka's next aim is to become a businessman. His computer will help him with his research and to find a business partner. "This training improved my life a lot," says Sehanka. "As a blind, I know how to walk around where I stay. This has given me my confidence back."

Training Statistics

Finally, we come to the statistics of the people we have trained. And these are important too. As I have already mentioned, we trained 251 blind people over the last financial year. But there are a few things that I would like to emphasise here:

- firstly, these are all people who would otherwise not have been able to get Independence Training;
- secondly, if you consider the number of family members who have benefitted as well – taking an estimate of four per blind person – close to 1 250 people in total have benefitted in one year alone;
- finally, if you were to look back to when we began our work in 1998, you will see that we have trained around 4 000 blind people. If you add their family members to that, we are talking about a total of twenty-thousand people whose lives we have helped change.



Advocacy

The need for Independence Training out there is enormous. We need many many more trainers (O&M Practitioners) than there are right now and they need jobs to go to when they qualify. The NGOs alone cannot create all those jobs. The government must take responsibility. They can't though until Practitioners are registered with a recognised body. And here is where the problem lies.

The body in question here is the Health Professionals Council of South Africa (HPCSA). The organisation that represents the Practitioners (OMASA) put in an application to the HPCSA for registration in 2013. The hope is that this will happen by the end of 2020. This means that our efforts, together with others', to get the relevant government departments



prepared to create posts for O&M Practitioners have ground to a bit of a halt. We have put our weight behind OMASA to make sure that things stay on track with the HPCSA. To that end, I am on the executive committee of OMASA.

All this is a hill to climb. But we will get there.

Fundraising

To our donors: you are the backbone of our work. Without you we would not have achieved what we have. The proof of that is both in this report but out there in the places where we work. It is also in our financial statements where you will see that we raised the funding needed for last financial year. And we must understand this too: for the Rolivhuwas and Samkelos and Sehankas and the dancing grannies of this world, it is also about knowing that somebody cares.

During the year under review, we had donations from trusts, corporates and the Gauteng Department of Health. We also received gifts from private donors, both locally and from the United States. Here, I would also like to make mention of the John and Esther Ellerman Memorial Trust. They are our longest standing supporter. They have been with us since our inception in 1998.



Thank-you to Our Donors and Supporters

Our Blind Wine Tasting Fundraising Event raised enough money to train two blind people. This is thanks to the generosity of those attended. We extend our sincere thanks to our MC and Trustee: Rhulani Baloyi, Vinimark, Nick Steere, Rob Whiteley, Norman Goodfellows, speaker: Jeremy Opperman, Sam McGrath, Groot Constantia, Catherine Smetherham and wonderful artist Yonela Mnana (pictured here).



Our 2018-19 Donor List

Anglo American Chairman's fund
Anonymous
Betsy & Neil Coville
Craig Roberts
Gauteng Department of Health
Gillian Gosnell
Harry Brunskill Education and Charitable Trust
HCI Foundation
JAM Events
Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust
John and Esther Ellerman Memorial Trust
King Baudouin Foundation United States
Michael and Denise Moys
Michael Steinrueck
Mpumi Seme
MS Parker Educational Trust
Picturenet
Soila Auret
Solomon Ruben and Ann Winer Educational Trust
Stanley and Alison Sher
the fair labour practice
Victor Daitz Foundation



The Team

We employed four full time and one part-time Orientation and Mobility Practitioners, all of whom lived and worked away from home for extended periods of time to take Independence training to blind people who would otherwise not have had any access to it. It is because of your dedication and sacrifice that we are the organisation that we are. Thank you to Thabelo Muofhe, Kidibone Setlhabe, Queen Molebatsi, Beauty Manoto and Bongani Maleka and also to Thabang Khotsi who joined us in January.

Wendy Sadie, with the help of Christina Pretorius, ran what I call “the engine room” – the day-to-day financial management and the management of our other systems; all the logistics, the processing of information and so



much else. We also worked with two specialist consultants in fundraising and supervision, Helen Vosloo and Moira Higgerty. Marianne Christie kept our books once a month, provided monthly financial statements and reports and organised the annual audit.

Plans for the Coming Year

We plan on running 18 training programmes during 2019/20. These will cover six provinces and will include five schools’ programmes. Except for some of the Gauteng programmes, we have identified all the schools and the areas where our community programmes will be run.

We will also be looking hard at our options in our advocacy work. The registration of Practitioners with the HPCSA is particularly crucial.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. W. Duma".



Freddy is now able to slice bread and make sandwiches thanks to this bread cutting board.

Audited Financial Statements

SOUTH AFRICAN MOBILITY FOR
THE BLIND TRUST

TRUST NUMBER IT 10593/97

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT
31 MARCH 2019

	Note	2019 R	2018 R
ASSETS		2 790 152	3 968 687
Non current assets		273 180	355 352
Equipment	3	273 180	355 352
Current assets		2 516 972	3 613 335
Accounts receivable	4	1 800	3 300
Cash and cash equivalents	5	2 270 812	3 335 988
Inventories	6	244 360	274 047
Total assets		2 790 152	3 968 687
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES		2 790 152	3 968 687
Reserves		2 657 790	2 585 275
Trust capital		100	100
Accumulated surplus		1 184 511	1 029 823
Sustainability reserve	7	1 200 000	1 200 000
Equipment fund		273 180	355 352
Current liabilities		132 362	1 383 412
Accounts payable	8	26 902	21 893
Deferred income	9	78 957	1 334 867
Provision for leave pay	10	26 503	26 653
Total reserves and liabilities		2 790 152	3 968 687

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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 2019

	Note	2019 R	2018 R
INCOME		4 182 474	4 156 304
Grants, subsidies and donations	11	4 030 140	3 961 091
Interest received	12	152 333	195 213
EXPENDITURE		4 109 958	3 500 904
Accounting fees		72 908	72 151
Advocacy		52 100	47 904
Auditor's remuneration	13	54 191	53 433
Bank charges		10 152	8 546
Cleaning		6 923	5 591
Computer expenses		21 692	65 192
Conference and meetings		11 800	53 570
Depreciation		86 572	91 729
Fundraising costs		6 000	7 850
General expenses		-	405
Insurance		66 052	63 078
Marketing and public relations		509 831	446 956
Monitoring evaluation		85 747	-
Motor vehicle expenses		295 634	297 314
Postage		7 430	11 461
Printing and stationery		30 550	32 153
Rent, water and electricity		91 718	88 632
Repairs and maintenance		69	68
Salaries and contributions		2 173 569	1 779 521
Security		16 140	11 384
Special events and campaigns		127 378	111 745
Staff development and training		41 193	25 498
Telephone and internet		103 699	46 398
Training equipment		150 677	92 384
Travel and accommodation		87 933	87 942
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		72 516	655 400

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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 2019

	Note	2019 R	2018 R
Cash received from funders		2 774 231	4 151 273
Cash expended on programmes, suppliers and employees		(3 987 340)	(3 565 182)
Cash (utilised in)/generated from operations	15	(1 213 109)	586 091
Interest received	12	152 333	195 213
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities		(1 060 776)	781 304
Cash flows (utilised in) investing activities		(4 400)	(385 358)
Acquisition of equipment		(4 400)	(394 358)
Proceeds from insurance claim on stolen laptop		-	9 000
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(1 065 176)	395 946
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		3 335 988	2 940 042
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	5	2 270 812	3 335 988

Over the last financial year we reached a total of **251** blind people and trained them in white cane and orientation techniques as well as in a number of other independence skills.

These were people of all ages.

Of them, **60** were children.





South African Mobility for the Blind Trust

Tel: +27 11 648 9035; +27 79 526 8245

Email: info@sambt.org.za

Fax: +27 86 666 6629

Postal address: SAMBT, PO Box 28995, Kensington, Johannesburg, 2101, South Africa

Physical address: 18 Gill Street, Observatory, Johannesburg

Trust registration no.: IT10593/97

NPO Registration no.: 007-220 NPO

PBO: 18/11/13/1400

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Banking details, South Africa:

Nedbank, Eastgate Branch

Account number: 1924260212

Branch Code: 192405

America:

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