

## Winter Newsletter

June 2019

As we start to layer up for the three days of winter in Durban I am thrilled to start peeling back the layers of love and generosity we have experienced in term two. Our hearts are warmed and I sincerely hope this letter will warm yours too.

The Centre welcomed four new donors to our family, the classroom and playground upgrades reflect the outpouring of love and support we have experienced this term for the work that we do. The playground is bursting with new custom designed equipment and the classroom are gleaming. We committed a large portion of our donations to purchasing the highest quality toys and educational resources. All three our workspaces are now adapted to facilitate light play which has become a firm favorite amongst our low vision children. Work has begun on our sensory garden and it smells heavenly!

I am incredibly proud to report on the successful placement of two of our boys. The significance of these placements is that both boys are completely blind, with almost no early intervention taking place prior to their enrolment at Bright Eyes. These placements occurred within two years of them joining the Centre and is a true reflection of the hard work and dedication of my team.



August will see me traveling to Cape Town to meet with the amazing team at Edit Micro Systems. They are the leading supplier of educational technology solutions in Southern Africa. Their input to my plans for our Braille Unit is something I cannot wait to share with you.

We bid a sad farewell to our Social Media Guru Chelsea. She was welcomed onto the social media team for the Sharks and we will miss her dearly. Her shoes have been filled by a single Mom who has been a loyal supporter of our Centre since we first opened. The administrative support is crucial in allowing me to dedicate my time and energy to the children of our Centre.

I am surrounded by some incredible minds and I took the time off during the June holidays to reflect on some of the advice that I have received from my mentors. It became clear to me that there are many people who want to help and that it us up to me to show them how they can support us. Together with my team I will embarking on a brand new approach to generating a sustainable income at Bright Eyes.



Our community has been continuously supportive. We enjoyed a wonderful morning at Jump for Joy as an end of term outing and my team received a helping hand from LexisNexis when they dedicated an afternoon to starting our sensory garden. Our Durban High School boys have been loyal in their support and become a part of our family. I was very excited to host Umhlanga Pre-Primary when their Grade R group spent the morning with us making picture frames while blindfolded. Even their principal got stuck in completing an obstacle course blindfolded!

The first Aid Training we attended last term sparked enquiry into the need for more training in the relevant areas for my team. Once again Kyle Van Reenen from Marshall Security stepped in and made it possible. My ladies and I attended Fire Safety training and I am feeling confident in our ability to handle any emergency.



I will soon be reaching out to all donors both past and present to welcome you onto our donor platform. Using a password you will be able to gain access to an exclusive page on our website. Here I will publish reports and news aimed directly at our donors.

Bright Eyes turns ten this year and I am excited to share with you in our Spring newsletter the happenings of our birthday celebrations.

In conclusion I leave you with this thought by Albert Camus "In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer"

Yours sincerely



Carron Strachan  
Co-Founder

PS: The adorable Khwezi is infamous for leaving her glasses at home.

TEACHER: It is always better to wear our glasses on the top of our noses so that our eyes look straight through the lenses

KHWEZI: That's if we even remember to wear them!

Khwezi age 4