

Spring Newsletter

October 2019

Spring has arrived and we are nestled into a brand-new routine. True to the season we are hatching a few new projects and I anticipate sharing the fruits of our labor with you very soon.

In August I traveled to Cape Town and met with the team from Edit Microsystems. I have been planning this trip for almost two years and it was surreal as we touched down in the Mother City.

Edit Microsystems delivered beyond our expectations when they went as far as linking us up with Athlone School for the Blind. It was interesting to see how similar the challenges are within the context of early intervention and I was saddened to see how a province as progressive and efficient as the Western Cape is also still struggling to highlight the importance of early childhood education and intervention for the visually impaired child.



The highlight of my visit to Edit Microsystems was being introduced to the Braille Buzz. This little device is designed to introduce and teach braille in a fun, non-threatening way! Its design is very similar to the

educational toys made for teaching the alphabet to sighted children. I have never come across anything similar to this device. Its versatility means it will find its place in the classroom amongst our little ones but also be friendly enough to allow us to teach adults the basics of Braille. Thanks to a very well timed and unexpected donation I am looking forward to offering workshops in the new year that will see parents and children being introduced to the basics of Braille in a fun, easy to understand activity.



This quarter is packed with training once again as I strive to increase my knowledge and stay up to date with all things Non-Profit! Ongoing donor support has allowed us to spend more time attending training and workshops this year. For this I am truly grateful. As a growing organization it is imperative that we stay ahead. Turning Point Chartered Accountants held a two-day seminar in October which I attended, and I was relieved to hear that our little organization was still on the right track regarding our financial management. They shared some excellent tax advice as well as guidelines on how to better serve our donors.



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great
vision isn't
only for
super
heros



Early detection of visual impairment in young children is something that we are passionate about and I am pleased to report that one of our staff members have recently signed on as an agent for Peek A Vu. At the moment we are working within the Durban Central area performing eye screenings on children in schools using the Plusoptix mobile vision screener. This device allows us to measure refraction of both eyes simultaneously from one meter away within seconds. This device then generates a report which allows us

to confirm the need for examination by an eye care professional should there be one. My dream for this endeavor is to be able to offer free eye screenings to those cannot afford them. Considering that 80% of our functionality is learned through sight you can imagine how delayed our little ones are who go 3 and sometimes almost 5 years without any intervention. The problem that they don't know what they can't see and sometimes don't realize that they are struggling. The Bheka project is set to launch this summer and I am so excited to see what an impact this will make in the field of early intervention.

We had the most spectacular outing to Flag Animal Farm thanks to Striker Security Specialists who even joined us on the day to lend a hand with our troupe. We were assigned the most wonderful guide on the day. JJ shared a heart for our little ones and went out of her way to ensure that the activities were accessible to each and every one of our children. It was at this outing that our little ones fell in love with the tractor ride. True to the nature of Bright Eyes we received a donation shortly after which we put towards the purchase of our own little tractor for the front garden. Our children are still enjoying the jungle gym and I am working continuously to make trinkets and contraptions to attach and make it our own.



Yours sincerely

Carron Strachan
Co-Founder