

## NEWSLETTER

As 2018 comes to an end, all at freshStart look back on a year of growth and progress.



We have 33 wonderful **volunteers** who come regularly to ensure that the weekly SwopShop operates efficiently and that every child who attends has a wonderful experience. Each one contributes in a special way. Lida is our project leader and her role includes purchasing stock, sorting donations, stocking the shop and planning our market days. Marco, Wian and Schalk help the children carry and weigh their bags of recycling. Robin allocates the points while Marianne and Leticia complete the attendance cards reflecting what each child has earned. Those not on “admin” and weighing are the patient shoppers who accompany children as they browse the items and choose their purchases.

Gail, Annie and Hettie man the checkout tables. It is often Pat, Selina, Lynnette and Christine who help children in the activity area, the ‘Kiddies’ Corner’. Our photographers are Dinie and Irene while Martie provides any first aid assistance required. In addition, Jane and Anne look after our finances. Annie and Irene keep our Facebook page updated and Christo is responsible for our web page.

**'It is rewarding for us as volunteers that we have hopefully made a difference in one child's life. We are so glad we found freshStart and try not to miss a Wednesday.'**

*-Marco and Lynda*



It is a real privilege to have **visitors**, who come from around South Africa and abroad. This year our visitors have come from as far as Canada and Italy, as well as from the George municipality. We know that the SwopShop leaves a lasting impression and they leave as ambassadors for freshStart.

**Knysna Municipality** sends their truck every week to take away the recyclables and Chantal continues to send helpers along to load the truck and trailer.

Over the year, **SwopShop** operated on 31 days, with an average of 235 children attending. Over 18 000 items were purchased, with the most popular items being pencils, erasers, clothing, socks, marbles and cars. The most popular activities have been play dough and the chalk and blackboard drawing corner. Three children were awarded for 100% attendance and many children received bonus points for regular attendance. 44 624 kg of recycling has been collected.



In April we got a new weigh station, thanks to our supporter Kobus. Weighing is definitely easier now for Schalk and Wian.

We have a number of regular **donors** who have provided wonderful items for the SwopShop, including pyjamas and clothing, toys, toiletries and stationery. The Voortrekkers for example have very generously donated toiletries, our friend Louise from Gauteng sends boxes of new clothes and shoes, and our Dutch friends, Mienieke and Marjolijn continue to inspire friends and family to send clothing and toys for the shop. Others donate cash which is used to replenish the shelves in the SwopShop and to buy the fruit given to the children each week.



This year we were delighted that freshStart was accepted as a beneficiary of the My School/My Planet programme. We have over 60 supporters who have nominated freshStart as a beneficiary on their My School cards and all their purchases at Woolworths and participating stores contribute towards freshStart.



	<p>Every now and again, we notice one particular child in need. Anthony's glasses were so badly damaged, he urgently needed new ones. We decided to take him to the local optometrist who diagnosed 'far sightedness'. New frames and proper lenses were organised and between a Sunday collection and freshStart, costs were covered.</p>
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At the beginning of the year, we bade farewell to our founding directors, Jennifer and Antony Tooley, Tim Carr and Joy Diedericks who retired from the Board. We welcomed three new directors, Carl Lamprecht, Lorraine Alfreds and Anne Dunn who continue to ensure that we follow principles of good governance, liaise with the auditors, produce the required regulatory documentation and together with the Management Committee, review and set strategy.

Towards the end of the year, our UK volunteers, Val and Keith Lewis resigned from the Manco to pursue other interests. Over the years they have made valuable contributions in administrative and governance matters as well as obtaining donations for freshStart. We are most grateful for all they have done and wish them well in the future.

Our second project, **Soccer for Girls**, started last year, with leader Vusi and volunteers Selina and Naomi. 15-25 primary school girls attend training and practise sessions four days a week at the Smutsville sports stadium and play matches against teams as far afield as Mossel Bay. Soccer balls and team uniforms have been donated by offshore donors, mainly in the UK.



Both projects continue to impart important life skills to the children.

Thank you for the part you have played and the contribution you have made to ensure that these children are given a fresh start in their young lives. We hope that we can continue to depend on you as a supporter of freshStart.

Please visit our website [www.freshstart.org.za](http://www.freshstart.org.za) and follow us on Facebook: freshstart, Sedgefield, South Africa.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me: [lida@webmail.co.za](mailto:lida@webmail.co.za)

Lida van As  
Chair Management Committee

Sedgefield, December 2018