



# The House Group

Annual Report to the Annual General Meeting  
of 23 October 2003

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Chief Executive Officer

From the minutes that we have just read, it is noticeable that members were eager to volunteer to serve on a committee but afterwards their well meant resolutions fade like mist before the sun. The unfortunate situation then arises that the organisation can not proceed to move forwards because the wheels have fallen off the wagon. I ask that those of you that make themselves available for election to the Board of Directors and to the subsequent committees must realize that they will have a promise to live up to.

The members elected to the Board of Directors will have to elect committees to assist them in managing their portfolios. These committee members will be elected from members of The House. So, members of The House are forewarned that you may be put in to harness. Hopefully, this year is going to be a year of full participation by members.

The Management Committee accepted a proposal that our constitution should be revised. Jean du Plessis was given this task. He then provided us with a 61 page document that is not only one of the most comprehensive constitutions but can also serve as a manual for the efficient running of a project. The duties and obligations of each member are spelled out clearly.

This document was accepted as our new constitution and will be in effect as from this moment. Some of the changes that you will notice are that we now have a Board of Directors and not a Management Committee. We have a President instead of a Chairperson, a vice-President instead of a Vice-Chair, an Administrative Director instead of a Secretary, a Financial Director instead of a Treasurer. I understand that this is done to bring us in line with international tendencies.

Because of the size of the document, only serving members will be provided with copies. Members in possession of a PC will be able to download it from The House Group's website in the near future or can request the constitution by e-mail.

### **Aims and Objectives of The House are in short:**

1. To assist in the removal of teenage girls from undesirable places and to assist in the rehabilitation of such children.
2. To give advice, assistance, shelter, guidance and direction to teenage girls that are involved with drugs and/or prostitution and are exposed to undesirable influences, and those that are homeless, destitute, molested or runaways.
3. To educate, assist to educate and rehabilitate such children and/or to refer them to sanctuaries or reintegrate them with their families.
4. To provide young girls with a life skill that will enable them to become self-sufficient.
5. To provide Skills Training that will enable selected girls to re-enter society with the ability to provide empowering skills to their community.

During the last 12 months The House provided such services to 616 girls. The daily services provided amount to 15,240. This is good, but the need for our services is far greater than reflected in these statistics.

The current situation in our country, i.e. unemployment, the Aids pandemic, increase in crime, and the acceleration of poverty coupled with the steady increase of cost of living, cause more and more girl-children and teenage girls to be driven to the streets.

With the funds we have available, we can help a limited amount of cases. With the subsidy received from the Department of Community Planning and Development, The House manage to keep providing the required services. Outside donations enable us to operate our training courses.

Unfortunately, most of the donations received from other sponsor needed to be invested in the Kulula Skills Training Centre and the Theosis Skills Centre. The skills training projects are of vital importance. It serves no purpose to provide a shelter and a home to a destitute girl if we have to send her back to her former miserable live on the streets, or her impoverished community, without the necessary coping skills that will enable her to make a living.

We need more funding. To only depend on donations is futile. We have to generate an income by other means. We have to offer something in return for money. That is how society works. One way of doing this is to produce products

that we can sell. In that manner the girls that have completed a skills course will be able to earn an income and The House will become more self-supporting.

The doll-making and the dressmaking is a first step in this direction. The dolls we will find a market for locally and overseas. I have no doubt about that.

In the meantime, Nadine Naido and Ingrid du Plessis are working on an interesting project concerning dressmaking. See their attached report on the Theosis Skills Centre.

Ons is op en wakker! Marilyn Michau organised a Charity Luncheon during August. At the luncheon dolls made by the girls in the Theosis Skills Centre and donated artefacts were auctioned which brought in the fantastic amount of R27 394-. This effort serves as an indication of what can be done to acquire funds and we thank Marilyn for her time and effort in arranging this successful event.

From the National Development Agency we received R128 000- for skills training purposes. Some of this money was used to train four of our Youth Care Workers as instructors so as to be able to teach our girls how to make dolls.

In addition, we used some of the NDA's funds to buy second-hand computers for our computer literacy classes.

The Theosis Education Trust raised R150 000- from Kerkinactie. The funds enabled the lease of the premises and equipment for Theosis Skills Centre for a period of two years, as well as assisted with the usual operation costs of running the various projects.

From the Waldorf organisation and the Helicon School in Holland we received R42 750- during the year.

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Those of you that entered the Website of The House would have noticed that the pages were not updated for the last four years. Funding was sourced by Theosis Education Trust who contracted Prodeo WebSolutions in Canada to develop an interactive web site for The House Group. The web site will provide transparency, current and on-going information on the various projects, enabling an active executive web for the Board of Directors as well as an active member's site. The Board of Directors have to approve of the format of the web site that Prodeo was instructed to create. Each member must look at the following web address: [www.thehouse.org/setup](http://www.thehouse.org/setup), and should they wish to contribute or comment, they are welcome to contact the web manager. The new web site will be the "window" of The House Group and comes with much work and effort, and will require great responsibilities and discipline; therefore it is essential that we all

keep to our obligations and commitments to ensure the success and affectivity of the web site.

We are extremely grateful to these dedicated supporters of The House but unfortunately these once-off donations may stop at any time. The House will just **have** to start money-generating projects. We need all the help we can get from our members.

## **Kulula Skills Centre**

Kulula is situated on the farm Zonkolol near Cullinan. This project came in to being because of the need for long term Skills Training. The House has great expectancies for this project as will be seen when the Kulula Report is read.

Because of the distance and because of the future projects to be implemented at Kulula, it became impossible for me to manage all the projects of The House personally. Therefore, our Social Worker, Maria Venter, was appointed as manager for Kulula. She used to assist in the management of Kulula on a part time basis but will now be employed on a fulltime basis starting the beginning of November.

Maria will have the difficult task of acquiring funding for the huge project we envisages, but I know Maria and fully believe that she will manage to do so. Maria has been associated with The House for more than seven years.

Thank you all.