

DITP: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to all our founder members, our current executive committee members, our members, donors, sponsors and our guests. We hope that the information that we will be sharing with you this morning is of use to you, hoping we will afford you the opportunity to see a clearer picture of where the organization comes from and where we intend to steer it. Your presence here today is valued and we welcome all forms of input and comments forwarded to the managing team through all the available channels. Let us all join hands in turning the tide of fatherhood to be a more positive and effective one for our children, their mothers, our spouses, our families and peers alike.

Today is the 3rd of many meaningful Annual General Meetings to come as we embark on this journey hoping to shape our organization into a well-managed, well operated and accountable institution. We are a registered non-profit organization, with a valid bank account in our name, looking to be transparent to our members, donors, sponsors and partners as governed by our constitution. An electronic copy of the constitution is available for you to peruse should you so wish.

2014 has been a year to try and consolidate all our efforts from the past years. The latest trend of using electronic media as a positive tool has been implemented in the organization. This has truly been of great help in **GROWTH** the organization as we:

- ✚ Managed to grow our email database by 20%, of which I believe we have 50% committed to our cause
- ✚ Our Facebook Group has grown by 100% to the current +420 men and we have over 1,600 friends on our Facebook profile.
- ✚ Our twitter following has seen a 40% growth to well beyond 400 followers over the last year.
- ✚ Our website is online and will be kept up to date as one of our faces in the electronic media.

In the short period of being in operation we are humbled with the amount of **MEDIA EXPOSURE** we continue to enjoy in the form of print, radio and television:

- ✚ We have been hosted on Thobela FM, Ligwalagwala FM, Motswedding FM, Ubuntu Radio, Gunta Radio, Moretele Community Radio, Kurara FM and Power FM. Our footprint on Power FM has received a boost with weekly contributions on Masechaba Lekalake's Power Life show. I am pleased to announce that we enjoy a continued presence with one of our dads being a regular contributor on the show. Daddy Zibuse Kunene we are humbled to have you in our midst.
- ✚ Our organization has appeared on all 3 SABC channels and 5 DSTV channels namely 340 Dumisa TV, 262 Tshwane TV, 161 Mzantsi Magic, 405 ANN7 and 410 CNBC Africa respectively and it's been for all the right reasons if I might add.
- ✚ We have appeared in big publications such as City Press and Mail & Guardian. We also made it onto community newspapers namely Joburg East Express, City Vision of Cape Town, The Beat of BelaBela, Lesedi News of Rustenburg respectively.
- ✚ Mzantsi Biker Magazine also ran a feature on the organization in their launch issue.

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We haven't been short on a few notable **ACHIEVEMENTS** we ought to be proud of:

- Through continuous collaborations with other organizations within the Fatherhood sector our website link has been added to the Africa Fatherhood Initiative website www.africafatherhood.co.za. This initiative has a footing and collaborations in over 6 African countries.
- We are an active member of Front Page Father and this partnership has given us great exposure and access to a number of locally-based organizations. Part of the value we brought has been the Annual National Essay Competition that we have hosted and sourced sponsorship for in the past year. We hope to translate some of this benefit to our advantage.
- We participated in the annual Drivers of Change Awards nominations as operated by Southern Africa Trust, an organization that oversees the integrated operations and policy dialogue to address poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. We are proud to have been selected as finalists in the 2014 Drivers of Change in the Civil Society category for which we received the a Certificate of Recognition for our innovative approach in addressing the fatherhood challenges! Let us note that as this initiative covers the Southern Africa Region and the Awards ceremony had the SADC Executive Secretary Ms. H.E. Stergomena Tax as a keynote speaker. Her speech can be found on the trust's website or via email if so wish.

In line with being relevant in our communities we are need to **ENGAGE** the different stakeholders on different platform. We took part in:

- ✚ Nedbank's How Can Individuals & Organizations Contribute to Socio-Economic Transformation of SA through Active Citizenship Dialogue held at the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund. The dialogue was in partnership with SAFM and aired LIVE on Rowena Baird's show.
- ✚ Indigenous Musical Instrument Festival (JIMI) forum invited us to a Cultural Dialogue at Johannesburg's Apartheid Museum. Where we shared the panel with Dr Mathole Motshekga of The Kara Institute. A lot of input from the public came out to further indicate societal challenges we as an organization ought to look to address in future.
- ✚ City Press held a dialogue titled "Giving back begins at home" at University of Witwatersrand to which we were invited as part of the discussion panel. This invite came as results of our nomination for the Southern Africa Trust's Drivers of change award.
- ✚ Suid-Afrikaanse Vrou Federasie held their 110 Year Congress in September to which we were invited as honourable guests. This is an organization with a rich history and a wide presence throughout the country. This is the organization that continues to deploy social workers in our townships and run most of the successful old-age homes. Our interest in partnering with them came as results of their vested interest in addressing fatherhood challenges. Famnet, which is a division of SAVF is the founding member of Front Page Father Media campaign and continues to be the biggest funder of the movement.
- ✚ Numerous religious grouping have welcomed Dads in the picture and are looking to learn from us and support our efforts in their congregations. St Cyprians Church of Langa, Cape Town held a Family Enrichment Conference which we took part in! We also gave a Children Safety Awareness talk at Orlando West, Soweto's Holy Cross Church as well as a Father's Day talk at Soweto's African Methodist Episcopal church.

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As an organization we set out to **POSITION** ourselves as:

- ✚ Providing a vehicle through which we can expose men to different cost effective activities they can enjoy with their children
- ✚ Rendering a platform for men to engage with each other in a relaxed environment
- ✚ Providing the tools and contacts in getting men to open up about their challenges, accept these challenges and address them

Having identified the need to have meaningful partnerships, we have embarked on a journey to identify our peers in the fatherhood sector, looking at established as well as new organizations that we can link with in order for us to offer a meaningful existence. We are however very strong on not **ALIGNING** the organization to any particular:

- ✚ Religious believe as this will lead to some dads being marginalized on these basis
- ✚ Political organization as we believe ours is an organization that sits above politics

Our current resource and services **PARTNERSHIPS** include:

- ✚ We are part of the Front Page Father Media campaign that aims to bring all the organizations dealing with Fatherhood issues together thus have a collective effort in addressing the challenges facing our communities.

We are looking to have mandatory **TRAINING** that will be aimed at all office bearers nationally going forward. There will also be material made available to all registered members to help empower them. The knowledge of our country's Child Act and all other related legislation needs to be built within the organization as a tool to ensure our compliance, ensure the members empowerment and grow us as an organization. A Botswadi course as recommended by Department of Social Development is already available to be offered thru SAVF or in-house, details of which are available on request!

In conclusion, we aim to launch in the remaining five (3) provinces namely Northern Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Eastern Cape during the 2015 calendar year whilst keeping the momentum in the provinces where we are already established. For this to happen we need commitment from all our members. This commitment will be in the form of:

- ✚ lobbying for the organization,
- ✚ making time to perform organizational tasks where required and
- ✚ supporting all the efforts made by the office bearers in advancing our cause



Thanks you all for your commitment, support, donations and for making the difference in the lives of our children. We couldn't have managed to achieve all that we have and the dream will still be just that...a dream!