

EXCERPT FROM NGO MATRICES

3.17 TOMORROW TRUST

Goal

To make a meaningful and sustainable impact on the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children through education, both in South Africa and worldwide.

Objectives

- To give orphaned and vulnerable children the opportunity to become self-sustainable, self-empowered, compassionate, proactive and independent members of their economy and society by financing and supporting their post-secondary education; and
- To supply the support structures for orphans and vulnerable children to pass their final school exams in a successful manner that is indicative of their full potential.

Programs:

Post-secondary program:

The post-secondary program focuses on ensuring that the young people receive the best education possible in a field about which they are passionate. The program focuses on all aspects of both academic and vocational post-secondary education and training, and assists children who are interested in academics, trades, sports, and the arts.

Objectives:

- To empower orphaned and vulnerable children;
- To provide effective and valuable post-secondary education;
- To facilitate and support success through mentorship;
- To provide life skills and enabling tools to succeed in life;
- To provide stepping stones required to obtain full-time employment to enable youth to become self-sustaining individuals who are able to form part of our economy and country as a whole;
- To create leaders of tomorrow;
- To give tools to create a career which will allow youth to support themselves, their siblings, families and their communities as a whole;
- To give opportunity and enabling tools for youth to become totally independent and not have to rely on charity.

Vacation program objective:

To improve school performance of vulnerable children (Grade 10s) by supporting them in two areas through a three-year program:

- Life Skills workshops facilitate issues around values, beliefs, goals and commitment; provide a support system to assist the child through the normal educational school curriculum; and encourage them to develop self-help and self-growth skills.
- Academic workshops to enhance school performance.

Foundation phase program:

The Tomorrow Trust also offers Holiday schools for Grades 0, 1 and 2 to ensure that the Foundation phase education of orphans and vulnerable children is developed with

strength and understanding; to ensure that the children start their schooling years on a solid foundation.

Objectives:

- To be proactive and really intervene in the childrens' lives, through quality, holistic education, at a much younger age;
- To keep the children off of the streets and out of danger during their holidays and to help to alleviate their boredom by providing a stimulating educational environment.

1. Development of best practice models

Grant summary:

- Category: Basic Education
- Type: Capacity Building and development of post-secondary department¹
- Rationale: Supports the Fund's goal of assisting orphans and vulnerable children to reach their full potential.

Work undertaken:

- A staff member was hired to assist and grow the Post-Secondary department.
- With the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) grant, the Trust established two separate departments within the Post-Secondary Department, working closely with college and university students. Colleges have an individual person allocated to deal with Tomorrow Trust students. The staff member provides support within the colleges to students and attends to their needs. He or she also has access to any information that the organization may need, for example, attendance records, grades and attitude reports.
- Through THE RBF funding, the Trust has been able to find ways to access additional scholarships for a range of academic and skills training through government and business sponsors.
- Corporate: The Trust worked with partners in vacation work and mentorship to build skills and development within the child. It also used corporate sponsorship to extend funds to reach a larger number of orphaned and/or vulnerable children. For example, the Trust has forged a partnership with PricewaterhouseCoopers to sponsor students interested in information technology, accounting, and actuarial science in post-secondary educational programs. These students work at PricewaterhouseCoopers during school vacations and receive three-year contracts at the company after graduation. Other partners include Advitech, a holding company for four post-secondary colleges covering a range of fields.
- Educational institutions (including universities, colleges, foundations, the SETA's): These provide the students with career counselling that will empower them to make educated life choices (such as the University of Johannesburg²).

¹ GRANT NO.: 07- 146: Report received

² Other educational institutions involved: College Campus Parktown & Pretoria; Varsity College Sandton & Pretoria; Rosebank College JHB & Pretoria; WITS; UNISA; University of Stellenbosch; Tshwane University of Technology; Rhodes University of Pretoria; Placecol; Health Quest Academy; Greenside Design College; Midrand Graduate Institute; LISOF

- Government partners: Access loans and grants for the Youth, for example, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme for South Africa (a government agency mandated to provide funding for underprivileged students to further their education at the post-secondary level).
- NGOs: Expand its programs. The Trust will partner with other NGOs, such as Ikamva Labantu, an RBF grantee, and the Ubuntu Trust, a well-known NGO in Port Elizabeth that works closely with the Wilderness Foundation (another RBF grantee).

Organization's contribution/achievements:

- Tomorrow Trust formed solid working relationships with the educational institutions and as a result, accessed greater discounts than previously, which enabled it to assist more students.
- Through the corporate partnerships, Tomorrow Trust was able to include students from the following grassroots organizations: Abalangani children's haven, Alexander Children's home, Hope World Wide and Tikkun.
- The training has grown and works within a set system, which addresses each need. This enables the student to develop in all aspects to reach their full potential. For example, students learn budgeting, interviewing, CV-writing, goal setting, and critical thinking skills. In addition, there is a focus on creating greater self-awareness, issues of self mastery, morals, values, ethics, team building, trust, communication and team work.
- As a result of the Tomorrow Trust, holiday schools have developed systems and are running efficiently. In 2007 the matriculants attained an 82% pass rate. The Grade 10-12s are for the first time, realizing how education can benefit them.
- The South African dropout rate in 1st year university is now 50%. In contrast, Tomorrow Trust does not have a dropout rate at all, and out of 132 post-secondary students who are all in university or college it is concerned about academic reports of four students.
- Within the post-secondary division Tomorrow Trust's post-secondary students have steadily increased from 15 in 2006, to 75 in 2007. 120 students are confirmed for 2008.

Challenges:

- To meet the increasing demand for such a program created by the number of children who are left orphaned and or vulnerable on a daily basis in South Africa;
- To ensure steady and continual growth to meet the needs discussed;
- To ensure that growth is met with continual assessment and assurance of the maintenance of the standards that have been set by the Tomorrow Trust.

Lessons learnt:

- Tomorrow Trust is careful to ensure that its growth is not at the expense of the quality of its work.
- It is vital for Tomorrow Trust to ensure that the students have the necessary tools they need to become successful individuals.

2. Advocacy and Policy Influence

- Tomorrow Trust does not focus on advocacy.

3. Institutional Development

Capacity Strengthening:

Acquiring new skills or training attended

A staff member was hired to assist and grow the Post-Secondary department by building relationships with educational institutions, National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), government and many NGOs who are now strong partners of Tomorrow Trust.

Networking abilities and opportunities

Through the RBF fund, Tomorrow Trust was able to build and strengthen key partnerships with corporate, NGO, and educational institutions.

Growth in organizational numbers, reach or services offered

There has been a growing interest in students to participate in the holiday schools program, as well as the post-secondary program. For the post-secondary program the number of students increased from 15 in 2006, to 75 in 2007 and 120 in 2008. 600 youth participated in its holiday schools in 2007. 55 children attend the Pretoria Foundation Phase Holiday School and 120 children attend the Johannesburg Foundation Phase Holiday School³.

Tomorrow Trust students include university and college students, as well as learnership students. Students are learning various trades and are studying within a variety of careers, including baking, beauty, information technology, accounting, medicine, and economics.

Communication, dissemination and sharing of the organization's work

Tomorrow Trust meets with its partners (both public and private sector) to ensure that all partners are aware of the progress and work of the Tomorrow Trust. Through this process, The Tomorrow Trust can ensure that partnerships are maintained and that all parties involved are aware of their role in the partnerships.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):

- Tomorrow Trust has M&E in place. Progress is tracked through weekly 'check-ins' with students, in which everything is recorded and kept on file.

Organizational Development (OD) support:

Tomorrow Trust did not take part in the OD services funded by RBF because they were not aware of the service.

Lessons learnt:

- It is valuable and essential to increase staff capacity and the number of partnerships, as this makes it possible for the organization to have a wider reach and therefore to assist more disadvantaged youth.
- With the crisis of vulnerable children in the country, it is essential that NGOs partner with each other, as well as with other sectors, to create an impact that is sustainable and long lasting.

³ Tomorrow Trust website http://www.tomorrow.org.za/message_from_ceo.html

- The Trust learned how to apply for American funds, the importance of reporting back to funders (including RBF), and how to use these funds in the most productive way.