



059-896 NPO

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 APRIL 2010 – 31 MARCH 2011**

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**Patrons:** The Most Reverend Desmond M Tutu, O.M.S.G. D.D. F.K.C. Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town and Leah Tutu

**Sunlight Safe House / Childline Gauteng / Johannesburg Children's Home Board of Governors:** Clive Fletcher (Chairperson), Humphrey Borkum, Nicola Elphick, Digby Jennings, Oscar Lockwood, Hon Lucy Mailula, Maude Makola, Siphon Mdluli, Tshebo Mokoena, Rosie Motene, Sally-Ann Niven, Lynne Cawood (Childline Director), Narisha Govender (JCH Director)

**Sunlight Safe House Management Committee:** Siphon Mdluli (Chairperson), Oscar Lockwood (Vice-Chairperson), Vivienne Davidoff (Crisis-line Representative), Diaan Ellis, Clive Fletcher, Digby Jennings (Treasurer), Anne Letsebe, Mathula Magubane, Sandi Mabatsha, Rosie Motene, Lebo Mothibe, Jonathan Parkinson, Caroline Skhosana (Sunlight Safe House Rep), Lynne Cawood (Director), Annette Brokensha (Assistant Director)

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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lynne Cawood

The Sunlight Safe House continues to provide a caring professional after-hours service to children who are in life threatening circumstances. We provided care for a total of 511 children during the period under review; 258 were in care at the beginning of the year; 181 children came into care; and, 72 received overnight services in the Sunlight House Reception Centre.

We were exceptionally privileged to open new premises for our Sunlight House Reception Centre which is now based at the Memorial Institute for Child Health and Development. These new premises were made possible by donations from Unilever, Sunlight Brand, Group Five and many contractors who refurbished the premises at no cost.

Our new home enabled us to render our services in a very child friendly environment and stimulated the development of the Child Protection Partnership with Childline Gauteng; Department of Health and Social Development; Child Welfare Society; the Family, Children and Sexual Offences Unit and Teddy Bear Clinic. This partnership allows for a broad base of child protection services with all organizations working collaboratively in the best interests of the child.

Our service delivery to children and parents was exceptional: 2961 engagements with parents; 1655 sessions with children; 55 children's support group sessions; 25 parent support group sessions; training of

new SSH parents and 2 groups of foster parents; and 48 Saturday morning sessions with the teens and preteens from Soweto, Sebokeng, Inner City and Katorus.

We have established a wonderful community comprising of our children, 125 volunteer place of safety / foster families, and staff and management who all work together to ensure the best interests of every child in our care. I pay tribute to the team who has saved so many lives and ensured children's rights are restored with the minimum of support. They are the real champions.

Sadly our long term sponsors, Unilever the Sunlight Brand and the Hollard Foundation have given us notice of changes in their funding policy and we will no longer qualify for funding in the future. We thank these loyal partners who have assisted us so generously.

We do have a shortfall in sponsorship to sustain the services and we invite our partners to engage with us to ensure that we are able to continue to render this vital service to children.

We thank all our sponsors and partners for your support and dedication to the Sunlight Safe House community. We do hope that our children will continue to make you proud and inspire you to go the extra mile to ensure that children's dreams are realized.

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Siphon Mdluli

*The old African saying 'It takes a village to raise a child' has never been more appropriate in the time of HIV & AIDS. Where households have been affected by AIDS-related losses, hope may be found in strengthening 'the resilient traditional social network system, the African kinship system.'*  
Ankrah, 1993

In the context of widespread child abuse and neglect – often directly linked to HIV & AIDS - strengthening the African kinship system has never been more important. This is precisely what the Sunlight Safe House does. Children in need of care after hours are brought to our warm, child-friendly reception centre and are then placed with volunteer families in communities around Gauteng, who care for the children in a home environment that fosters a much-needed sense of safety and belonging.

Our Sunlight Safe House families are regular South African families, who find it in their hearts to take these abused and neglected children into their homes, for no financial reward...I battle to think of a greater vocation out there. After meeting some of the volunteer parents, the passion and love for children I saw resonated with me for months after the encounter. Although this is not the only service offered by the Sunlight Safe House, it is one of the most underrated.

The opening of the Sunlight Safe House Reception centre was a milestone for us, as it provided the much needed space for the execution of our services in a secure and friendly environment.

However, the global economic recession has affected the Sunlight Safe House directly, as we rely on private sector funding. We are very grateful to corporates in the private sector who continue to support us during these trying times. We are also appreciative of the funding which we receive from the Department of Health and Social Development.

In conclusion, I would like to single out two people, Lynne Cawood (Director – Sunlight Safe House) and Annette Brokensha (Assistant Director – Sunlight Safe House), these are individuals who could have lucrative employment in the private sector, but have chosen to care for abused and disenfranchised children as a vocation. You are my heroes!

Further acknowledgement goes to the staff and volunteers at the Sunlight Safe House. 511 children were cared for, with only 3 social workers, 1 social auxiliary worker, and 120 volunteer parents.

The above was achieved with your valued support. Thank you.



## VISION STATEMENT

Working collectively to promote a culture of child rights in the field of alternative care.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The establishment of a culture of respect for all children's rights as outlined in the South African Bill of Rights and Constitution is essential to the continued wellbeing of our communities and the future stability of our country.

Children's right to: a name and nationality; family or alternative care; nutrition; shelter; education; health and social services; protection from maltreatment, neglect, abuse and degradation; exploitative labour practices; freedom from detention; and, protection from armed conflict, are sadly often violated. These violations impinge on children's right to equality, human dignity, and life, which ultimately stunts their happiness, growth and development.

To maximise children's potential in the interests of their communities, the Sunlight Safe House is committed to:

- Develop support services and resources to respond to the survivors of such child rights violations.
- Contribute to societal transformation through development programs, advocacy and training of all role players.
- Network with all stakeholders within the field of child rights to combat violence against children and young people.
- Research current trends in child rights violations within the South African context.

## VALUES

The Sunlight Safe House subscribes to the following set of values and undertakes to:

- Operate always within the best interest of the child.
- Provide child-centred services that take cognisance of the rights of children and young people and preserve the family unit where possible.
- Ensure children's voices are heard in all of our projects.
- Deliver efficient, effective, specialised, culturally sensitive, accessible and supportive social services.
- Remain transparent.
- Remain accountable to the children we serve, the social work profession, our partners and the Sunlight Safe House team.
- Demonstrate respect for persons of all class, race, language, religious, cultural and sexual orientations.
- Maintain open and direct communication.
- Reflect all South African cultures in our management team, staff and volunteers.
- Develop efficient and effective organisational structures, policies and procedures that will enhance service delivery to children.
- Work within a development model of social service delivery that respects the client's right to confidentiality within the limitations of the child protection system.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

The provision of loving places of safety and foster care in family homes within the community for abandoned, abused, neglected, HIV/Aids infected and affected orphans and vulnerable children.



# SUNLIGHT SAFE HOUSE TEAM

## Sunlight Safe House Staff

Director	Lynne Cawood (BA Social Work Honours & Masters / Clinical Psychology) - part time
Assistant Director & Fund Raiser	Annette Brokensha -part time
HOD: Parent Services	Lineo Rabotapi (Social Auxiliary Worker & Community Development)
HOD: Children's Services	Pauline Hobbyani (BA Social Work Honours)
Therapeutic Team	Sandy Mahapi (Social Work Honours) Gabriel Mathole (Social Work in progress) Margaret Bowes (Social Work in progress) Landiwe Nkosi (Social Auxiliary Work)
Administration	Suzy Beaumont
Finance	Sipokazi Gumpe - part time
Child & Youth Care Workers	Vivienne Ramodia (Child & Youth Care Diploma in progress) Nthabisen Madzinge (Child & Youth Care Diploma)
Housekeeper and Relief CYCW	Julia Ndzukula
Volunteer Supervisors	Sylvia Phiri, Cindy Sproat, Marie Waspe, Sydney Tshabalala, Suzan Nqukutha.

## Sunlight Safe House Parents

Adelaide Ndlovu, Agnes Mdluli, Alice Ntuli, Alfreda Maseko, Angelina Nchunu, Audrey Sikhosana, Bongeka Dukisa, Carole Lamont, Caroline Skosana, Katherine Chauke, Catherine Mosemaka, Catherine Sefula, Christina Gabela, Cindy Sproat, Conny Chauke, Corinah Mkhabela, Diana Dick, Dieketseng Dithugoe, Doreen Mampane, Doris Mbuyisa, Dorothy Maake, Duduzile Mdlalose, Elizabeth Mkhize, Elizabeth Mokhale Dithlare, Elizabeth Monare, Elizabeth Phiri, Elsie Mposula, Elsie Vilakazi, Emily Ngobeni, Esther Modau/Matamela, Esther M Selepe, Ethel Nkangana, Eunice Smelane, Fikile Khanyile, Francise Maduna, Gertrude Koahela (Kunene), Gertrude Dlamini, Gladys Dlamini, Gladys	Sonto Ndlovu, Gloria Ncama, Grace Manamela, Grace Ralapenya, Jabu Tsagae, Jabulile Ndlovu, J osephine Ngalo, Josephine Maluleke, Joyce Chaane, Joyce Tshesejane, Julia Dudu Makhubo, Jumaima Mthethwa, Kate Twala, Lerato Netshidziwane, Lethiwe Motsoeneng, Lettie Modiga, Letticia Fortunate Thulo, Lilly Selelo Nyembe, Lipolelo Thungo, Margaret Mpulenyane, Maggie Seya, Maria Hlekwayo, Martha Manganyane, Mary Makananise, Maureen Mkhize, Maureen Raphela, Motshabi Kunene, Nanana Ngwenya, Nancy Mamabolo, Nicola Mogee, Nomangesi Malinga, Nomathemba Tsagae, Nomsa Dlamini, Nomvula Sithole, Nonhlanhla Nkosi, Patience Mtonga, Patricia Khuzwayo, Petunia Sithole,	Petrus Matebe Sibongile, Poppy Mzobe, Poppy Sigenu, Poppy Tebakang, Priscilla Ziqubu, Puleng Ikaneng, Regina Mashilane, Ruth Pule, Sandra Makhathini, Sara Mbatha, Sara Mkhwanazi, Sarah Machedi, Sheila Shomang, Sidney Shabalala, Sontile Mapiza. Sonto Sithole, Suzan Mabatho, Suzan Nqukuthu, Sylvia Baloyi, Sylvia Lesito, Sylvia Maboŋja, Sylvia Molapo, Sylvia Phiri, Tabita Serunu, Teboho, Mamahlodi, Thandi Khuzwayo, Thandi Nhlapho, Thandi Thomo, Thandi Xaba, Thembi Dube, Thembi, Ethel, Thembisile Sithole, Thoko Mabuza, Thoko Mofokeng, Thoko Sithole, Thokozile Hlekwayo, Tholokele Mazibuko, Thuli Lucy Mhlongo, Violet George, Willemina Makhudu, Willemina Tholo, Yolanda Pama, Zacheus Mhlanga.
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## BACKGROUND TO THE SUNLIGHT SAFE HOUSE

The Sunlight Safe House (SSH) was initiated in 1997 as a partnership between Childline Gauteng, the South African Police Service - Child Protection Unit, the Department of Social Development and Child Welfare in response to the tragic plight of children who remained in unsuitable conditions following removal from their families after hours.

The project began with 20 community parents who were trained to take children into their homes and provide a healing environment until such time as the statutory services were able to place them in permanent placements.

There are currently 125 community Safe Houses situated in Johannesburg, Soweto, Katorus, Tembisa, Sebokeng and the West Rand.

The Sunlight Safe House has provided care for approximately 4600 children since the inception of the project.

In 2002 the services were expanded to provide foster care for children with special needs which made it difficult to find caring families for them. Children who are HIV positive and teenagers can now remain in foster care with SSH families.

## CURRENT OPERATIONS

For the past 14 years, this project has grown to the extent that it is now an independent Not-for-Profit organisation with its own NPO number and audited financial statements, ensuring that it is able to expand services to meet the needs of abused, abandoned, lost and HIV/AIDS infected and affected children.

This year saw the launch of the Sunlight House Reception Centre at the Children's Memorial Institute. The establishment of this centre has enabled the organisation to improve services to children considerably.

Children are received in a warm, caring environment after hours, and they remain at the centre for 24 hours. Every morning the team conducts a case conference to discuss the needs of each child, ensure a trauma

debriefing, medical assessments and placement with the correct Sunlight Safe House in the community. The new venue provides a permanent home for the organisation and will serve as a base for children to return to whenever they are in need of support.

The growth of the Sunlight Safe House has occurred as a result of a 10-year partnership with Unilever, the Sunlight Brand and a 4 year partnership with The Hollard Foundation as well as the Department of Health and Social Development, who have offered the Sunlight Safe House both financial support and mentoring. The Sunlight brand has supported the opening of the reception centre.

Together with its funders and volunteer parents, the organisation strives to live out the African belief of "every child is my child".

## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF

The Sunlight Safe House is mindful of the responsibility to ensure the best possible treatment and care for all children, and to this end, the development, training and supervision of staff members is vital.

The following training opportunities were arranged in consultation with all staff members:

- **Stress Management** - attended by the H.O.Ds and social workers.
- **Facilitation Skills** – attended by 2 social workers.
- **Art Therapy Training** – 1 social worker attended.

- **Implementation of New Children's Act** – H.O.Ds and social workers attended.
- **Child Justice Act** – 2 social workers attended.
- **First Aid Training** – 5 child care workers attended.
- **Succession workshop** – 2 social workers

In addition, all Social Workers and Heads of Departments received monthly supervision and consultation sessions.



## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

During the past financial year, in the partnership with the Sunlight Safe House parents, the organisation was able to provide 24 hour, 7 days per week care to 511 children who required placement after hours.

In addition, the Sunlight Safe House, under the experienced leadership of Pauline Hobyani, ensures that the children in care receive assessment, counselling, education, medical attention and life skills.

### COMPARATIVE ANNUAL STATISTICS No of Children in the Sunlight Safe House

2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/2011
277	299	312	326	333	451	644	501	511

### REASON FOR PLACEMENT

	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Abandoned	Lost	Behaviour Problems	Refugees	Children in care at start of the year
2007/8	111	51	17	67	33	11	3	158
2008/9	102	50	26	66	48	24	0	328
2009/10	86	39	25	46	41	7	0	257
2010/11	65	20	33	30	10	8	0	258

### THERAPEUTIC SERVICES- COUNSELLING SESSIONS FOR CHILDREN

	Office Interviews	Telephone Calls	Home Visits
2007/8	427	662	304
2008/9	257	819	202
2009/10	509	1315	932
2010/11	198	1171	286

### THERAPY AND DEVELOPMENT

The 181 children who were brought for placement at the reception centre received trauma debriefing from the social workers on call. Referrals were made for specialised services such as long term therapy.

Home visits and telephonic contacts were conducted on a monthly basis to monitor placements. A total of 1415 contacts were made to assess children's adjustments to placements and provide support to the Safe House parents.

### GROUPS FACILITATED

Supportive life skills groups have been facilitated for SSH children over the age of six:  
The Pre-teens in Soweto and Katlehong are members of the Skills Development groups run by social workers. The topics covered were self-awareness, relationships, laughter, expression of feelings, and maintaining their memory boxes, awareness of their rights and responsibilities, child abuse, relationships, good choices vs bad choices also relating to usage of drugs, health matters and good hygiene, general protection and safety. Children's birthdays are celebrated in group sessions as well.

The group in Tembisa had to be terminated because there are no older children in placement from the Tembisa area. We have been faced with a lack of statutory services being rendered in the Tembisa area. As a result we have not been receiving children for placement in that area.  
The Sebokeng children enjoyed school holiday programmes as well as a camping trip.  
The teenagers group continues to run successfully. The children had monthly sessions on skills development topics including, assertiveness, self-esteem, sexuality, dreams for the future, a drumming session, yoga classes and a craft workshop.



## CASE CONFERENCES

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Weekly meetings / case conferences have been hosted to ensure effective long-term planning for the children we serve.

Daily case conferences are held to ensure the correct initial placement of all children and meetings with statutory sister organisations are hosted to discuss the needs of our children.

## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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Children receive starter packs when they get placed with Safe House parents. The starter packs include basic clothing, toiletries, a memory box and life story book. Children living with HIV/AIDS receive nutritional

food parcels to boost their immunity. A stipend of R11 per child per day is paid to the Safe House parents to support the children. The older children receive pocket money.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

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Yoga sessions are held on Saturdays for children from Soweto, Sebokeng and Katlehong.

The teenagers received computer lessons offered by RHRU and were trained as Yoga instructors by the SA school of yoga.

# PARENT'S SERVICES

The Sunlight Safe House is dependent on our partnership with ordinary community parents who have the love and compassion to take children into their own homes. They are a vital component of this service and we honour their passion and commitment to vulnerable children.

The Sunlight Safe house is managed according to developmental principles and parent services are managed by Lineo Rabotapi who is an expert in community development. She is committed to providing training for all parents to ensure the best possible care for children. The selection, screening, training, supervision and monitoring of each placement is vitally important.

The SSH provides additional support for parents in the form of a daily stipend of R11 per child, a small allocation of furniture, payment of crèche fees and provision of nutritious food for homes where HIV positive children are placed. Unilever, Sunlight Brand offers parents a quarterly donation of cleaning materials whilst the Hollard Foundation has assisted us to access furniture and other necessities.

The Place of Safety grant is often difficult to access as a result of administration challenges within DHSD. Sunlight Safe House parents continue to care for children with limited support from the organisation.

## DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUNLIGHT SAFE HOUSE PARENTS

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### Training New Sunlight Safe House Parents:

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The group of new volunteer parents was very participative and found the training very helpful. One mother reported that the course helped her to tell her 28 year old son that she loved him for the very first

time. It was very moving. Many children expressed their gratitude in seeing a change in their parent's behavior. Twenty new parents were trained this year.

### Monthly Parent Training:

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Ten training sessions were conducted throughout the year. The SSH Mothers have shown a great deal of courage in working with children in crisis. They are recognised as leaders in their communities and are frequently required to provide information and advice to community members on how to help nurture

children's emotional, physical and intellectual development. In the new financial year we hope to train mothers in mentoring to further assist them in sharing their knowledge with others. A regular fathers group will also be piloted.



## SAFEHOUSE

### Cluster Foster Care training:

Forty five parents were trained in the new cluster foster care model. The model will be implemented in the course of the new financial year as soon as the Department of Health and Social Development (DHSD)

has developed its funding models. The DHSD has selected SSH as a partner to investigate the feasibility of funding the cluster foster care model as proposed by the Children's Act

### Parents of Pre-teens:

Seven sessions were held with parents who look after pre-teens. While the parents reported that they have a better understanding of the challenges of this age

group, they are still struggling to achieve open dialogue and would like further support and training.

### Parents of Teens:

Eight sessions were held with parents who care for teenagers. The parents indicated that they have a

better understanding of the children and they are able to communicate more openly.

### Parents of Toddlers and Babies:

The 7 session with this group has shown great results. The parents reported a better understanding of the need for children to attend pre-schools and the need for

healthy nutrition. They are monitoring the babies' developmental milestones more regularly.

## SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PARENTS - STATISTICS

	Office Interviews	Telephone Calls	Home Visits
2007/8	894	1760	491
2008/9	869	2061	448
2009/10	655	1446	322
2010/11			

## WORKING COLLECTIVELY - NETWORKING

The following organisations have continued to work collectively with the Sunlight Safe House project to improve services to children:

Regular networking is done with different Child Welfare Organisations, the Department of Health and Social Development and relevant Police Stations that place children in our care.

- **E-block watch** assists with missing children.
- **Big Shoes** offers medical services to HIV positive babies.
- **Open Disclosure foundation** – Sharing information on services rendered and discussion of possible working together on projects.
- **Children's Court** – discussion on completion of new Children's Act forms.
- **Hillbrow SAPS**
- **Ikhaya Lethemba** – working agreement.
- **VEP Booyens SAPS** – Presentation of our services and working agreement.
- **Children's Home Forum** – Presentation of our services.
- **SAPS FCS Unit** – working agreement.
- **Boipatong SAPS** – working agreement.
- **Douglasdale SAPS** – presentation of our services at the SAPS launch.
- **Hollard & Midvaal** – working agreement.
- **NGO meeting** – discussion on problems with delays of grants.
- **Justice & Sassa** – processing of grants and challenges of the new Act.
- **Diepkloof SAPS & Bara Hospital Social workers** – working agreement.
- **Jozi Book Fair** – launch of children's programme and working agreement.



## CHALLENGES

The HIV/Aids pandemic continues to wreak havoc on families and children, who are the most innocent victims. We are mindful that there is a need to upscale this project to ensure that children are placed in alternative family care to ensure that future generations are able to provide caring family structures.

We are committed to working collectively with our partners to ensure that we are able to provide this service.

The programme is designed to keep children for only a limited period of time, however, due to the lack of capacity in our statutory sister organisations, they often remain for a year or more. This is very disturbing as children become bonded to our families and experience great trauma when they are removed to their new families. Whilst we have asked that some children remain in our care to avoid this trauma we do not have the capacity to keep everyone. We hope to access the necessary resources to grow our long term foster care component into the future.

Difficulties in accessing birth certificates and identity documents from the Department of Home Affairs requires greater resources to ensure this basic right is met for each child.

The levels of burn-out have to be monitored continually as constant exposure to the pain and suffering of vulnerable children makes it very difficult for parents, care and social workers to sustain themselves emotionally.

The removal of children by the SAPS from their caregivers is very concerning as this is a specialist service that should only be undertaken by a social worker, with the assistance of the FCS unit. We are grateful that the Johannesburg central region of the Department of Health and Social Development has appointed a highly competent Child Protection Unit comprised of experienced social workers, which provides 24/7 services to children in need. We hope this can be extended to provide services to every child in Gauteng.

The limited means of most of our Sunlight Safe Homes means that our children receive only the basic necessities and we would love to give them increased services.

## MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

- **SABC 1 Shift** – discussion on National Children's Day.
- **SABC 2 (Blue Wizard)** – topic on Bullying.
- **Lesedi FM** – Child Protection Week.
- **SABC 1 YO TV** – Child Protection and Safety in general.
- **Randburg Sun Newspaper** – Increase in Abandoned Babies found.
- **SABC 1 Shift** – Discussion on Matric results.
- **Lesedi FM** – Children's Rights vs Parents Rights.
- **Soweto TV** – Launch of Sunlight Safe House after hours service

## SUPPORT SERVICE

### ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES

We acknowledge the outstanding work our administrative team have done this year to ensure that the financial and administrative infrastructure continues to support the social service sector of the organisation.

We welcome Suzy as the new administrator, her contribution to the development of new systems in the Sunlight Safe House Reception Centre has been very positive.

### FUNDRAISING

The past year has seen the Sunlight Safe House renovating premises at the Children's Memorial Institute for the new Reception Centre. Many people and organisations have provided material, emotional, financial and skills based support and we honour each and every one who has given according to their means.

We pay a special tribute to the Gauteng Department of Health and Social Development, Unilever, The Anglo American Chairman's Fund, The Hollard Foundation and BOE Charitable Foundation, who have loyally continued their grants in support of children's services over the last few years.



## SPECIAL FRIENDS AND PARTNERS

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### Donations –in – kind:

Amy Ford  
Big Shoes  
Blu Blood  
Brett Will & Associates  
Bytes Technology  
Camilla Banchetti  
Candice Gilbert  
Cello Terracotta  
Combined Ceilings  
Corp Communications  
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