

**earth  
child  
PROJECT**

# Annual Report 2022



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FOUNDED:  
2007



LOCATION  
Western Cape  
South Africa

PBO: 930032635  
NPO: 062-936  
NPC: 2007/012855/08

## OVERVIEW

Earthchild Project operates in disadvantaged primary schools in the Western Cape.

Working with children and teachers, our educational programmes focus on providing practical skills that compliment the academic curriculum.

Earthchild Project aims to inspire a new generation of confident, conscious and responsible young leaders.

## CHILDREN REACHED



4500



## TEACHERS REACHED

150



## DEMOGRAPHIC

100% BLACK & COLOURED

## FOCUS AREAS

EDUCATION

ENVIRONMENT

HEALTH

LEADERSHIP

BUDGET (2022)

R5 430 000



# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As the founder and leader of Earthchild Project, 2022 was the most significant year to date since the organisation's inception 16 years ago. It was a year marked by challenges and crises, as well as great wins and achievements.

The pandemic had far-reaching consequences in the communities we serve, with increased unemployment, gang violence, and substance abuse, adversely affecting the well-being of our children and teachers. As a result, our team's experience working in the schools this past year was exceptionally challenging

In addition, 2022 was particularly difficult due to the reduced capacity of donors, and we therefore spent much of the year trying to close our funding deficit. One often hears that out of a crisis comes innovation and creativity, and this was indeed the case for ECP!

We reached out to ask for help and were overwhelmed with gratitude when several of our donors, who we have forged long-term relationships with, stepped in to offer additional support to keep our projects afloat.

Another exciting outcome was the registration of Earthchild NPO in Germany, which was formed by a small group of our dedicated German supporters and ambassadors.

The intensity of the year prompted me to re-evaluate my role in the organization and its sustainability. This process was invaluable, leading to a renewed personal conviction and commitment to the work we do and to the growth of our reach and impact.

During the Santam Women of Future award entry process, one of the questions posed to me was "what qualities are most important to do this work?" My answer was "passion and resilience" - two qualities that were definitely required for 2022, and two qualities that the ECP team embody. I feel immensely proud that we overcame the challenges we faced, and if anything, came out the other side, with renewed strength, clarity and passion. Thank you to everyone who supported us along the way.



With gratitude  
Janna Kretzmar | Earthchild Project Director

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Supporting the Earthchild Project and the incredible work that Janna and her team do has been a privilege. One of the personal highlights was the "Walk with me" calendar that the team produced for 2023. The calendar project involved giving twenty children disposable cameras to document their families, friends, communities, and experiences with the Earthchild Project. This exercise aimed to empower the children to tell their stories and offer a unique glimpse into their world. The resulting stories were inspiring, celebrating the unique project that is Earthchild and its meaningful impact on communities.

In the midst of the challenges faced, Janna and her team took time to reflect on the past few years and invested in team-building efforts to create a more cohesive and inspired team. They also increased their investment in monitoring, evaluation, and learning, resulting in improved data to better measure the project's impact and support the team in delivering an even better offering to the communities. These measures have resulted in improved and mature data collection and reporting to donors.

From the perspective of the Earthchild Project board of directors, there has been a definite maturity in accountability and governance, resulting in a more mature organisation that can take on the role of expanding fundraising efforts in the creation of a German Earthchild NPO partner.

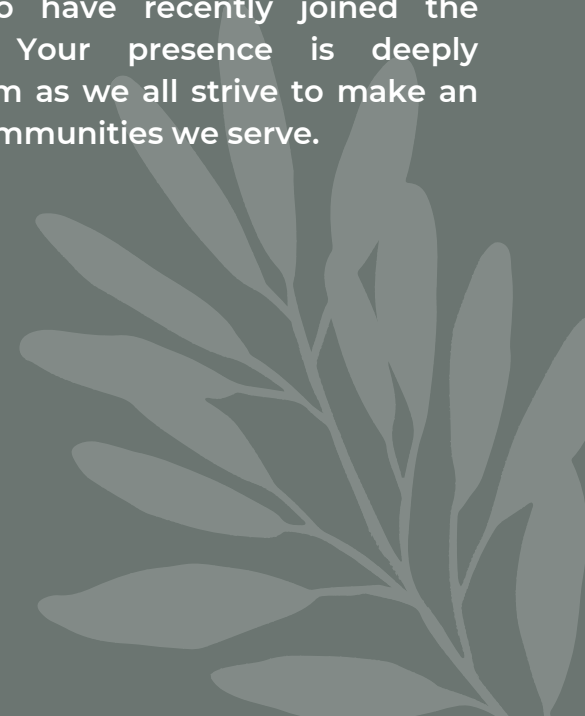
Janna's incredible leadership and dedication to the organisation's mission were recognised externally by the broader community when she received the Santam Women of the Future award, which is awarded to an entrepreneur who is making a real difference in her community.

Over the past sixteen years, the Earthchild Project has impacted the lives of thousands of children. Some of the earliest participants are now part of the Earthchild team, which is a testament to the project's resilience, value, and inspiring impact on so many lives.

On behalf of the Earthchild Project board of directors we thank everyone who has been a part of the journey, and we warmly welcome those who have recently joined the broader Earthchild family. Your presence is deeply appreciated by the entire team as we all strive to make an even greater impact on the communities we serve.



Taryn Casey  
Earthchild Project Chairperson



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



# Celebrating 15 years



After a challenging 2021, we started off 2022 with a wonderful and much needed celebration to mark our 15th Anniversary. Staff, teachers, children, parents, donors, supporters, ambassadors, board members, volunteers, and friends all came together virtually to celebrate this important milestone.

We were honoured to have our Earthchild Project Ambassador and friend Zolani Mahola, MC the event. From reminiscing about special moments, and beautiful storytelling from our beneficiaries, to singing and dancing with our earthchildren, it was certainly an evening to remember. We felt great joy and pride as we looked back over 15 years of dedicated hard work by a passionate team aimed at inspiring a new generation of confident, conscious, happy, healthy and responsible earthchildren.

Going forward into a new and exciting chapter for Earthchild Project we are more committed than ever to our vision and deeply grateful for the privilege of being able to connect and work with so many incredible children and youth along the way.



Earthchild Project's 15 Year journey.



Share



Watch on YouTube

[WATCH VIDEO  
HERE](#)



Earthchild Project 15 Year Celebration Highlights



Share



Watch on YouTube

[WATCH VIDEO  
HERE](#)



# Janna Kretzmar, Santam Women of the Future Social Entrepreneur Award Winner 2022



In October 2022, Earthchild Project's Founding Director, Janna Kretzmar, received the prestigious Santam Women of the Future Social Entrepreneur award. This recognition is given to entrepreneurs who are making a significant impact in their communities, and Janna is undoubtedly deserving of this honour, having dedicated years of hard work to nurturing a team that strives to create a lasting difference in the lives of children. Janna founded Earthchild Project in 2007 with the goal of fostering a new generation of conscious and empowered young leaders. 16 years on, she continues to lead with integrity and passion, and the entire Earthchild Project team is immensely proud of her and the impact she is helping to achieve within these communities.

[READ MORE](#)



'After 16 years of giving my all to the EarthChild Project, it has been incredibly meaningful to be recognised in this way. This award has been so affirming, not only for myself but also for my amazing team, our beneficiaries and our supporters. We have gained national exposure and credibility as a leading NGO in the sector, and this will definitely support our next phase of growth and expansion.'

**Jana Kretzmar**

EarthChild Project

2022 Santam Social Entrepreneur



# New ECP Classroom at Hillwood Primary



In August 2022, after numerous Covid related delays, we launched our new classroom at Hillwood Primary School, in Lavender Hill. The event was attended by the school principal, teachers, our sponsors from Truworhts, Earthchild Project staff, and of course the little yogis who will benefit the most from this peaceful and beautiful space. Earthchild Project has been working at Hillwood Primary School for over a decade, but until now, we faced the challenge of not having our own dedicated space from which to teach our Programmes. The Lavender Hill community faces ongoing safety issues, making it crucial to create a positive and secure environment where children and teachers can feel safe. Our new classroom provides precisely that, enabling thousands of children to access daily yoga and life skills lessons, extra murals, teachers' workshops, and holiday programmes. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors Truworhts and Earthchild Clothing, as well as everyone who helped plan and construct the classroom.

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)

***"When learners are being taken to the yoga room, it's like taking them away from what's happening in Lavender Hill. It's like allowing them to be a child."*** ~ Mr Alkana, Hillwood Primary School Principal



# Launch of Earthchild NPO in Germany

A major highlight of 2022 was the successful registration of Earthchild as an NPO in Germany. This was made possible through the incredible support of a dedicated group of influential individuals based in Germany who have been advocates of Earthchild Project for a number of years. The newly registered NPO will support the growth and impact of Earthchild Project in South Africa by allowing us to fundraise more effectively within one of our biggest individual giving communities. We believe that this will in time have a huge impact on the financial stability of the organisation and our ability to not only grow our reach and impact, but also to build a much needed financial reserve.

*"For the last 5 years I have been privileged enough to be a strong supporter of the South African Project whose work has been a huge inspiration. With EarthChild e.V. we want to give disadvantaged children around the globe access to mindfulness, yoga, meditation and nature." ~ Laura Malina Seiler, President of EarthChild e.V.*

[VISIT THE WEBSITE](#)



# PROGRAMME REPORT





# 1. LIVING CLASSROOMS

We're turning existing classrooms into 'living' interactive learning environments. Working together with the teachers during class time, we're bringing our holistic and experiential approach to education into the classroom.

There are two main components to the Living Classroom Programme:



Yoga & Life Skills



Worm Farming & Container Gardening



# Yoga & Life Skills

Through interactive processes, yoga postures, relaxation exercises, and games and songs, our biweekly yoga lessons are equipping children with practical life skills and knowledge in how to be healthy, confident and resilient.

## IN 2022 WE HAD



**107**

Living Classrooms



**4280**

Children reached



**1320**

Lessons taught

## END OF YEAR TEACHER FEEDBACK

The greatest changes that teachers noted on the days that their children participated in yoga classes:

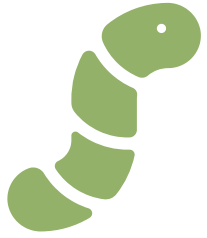
- The children are more positive.
- The children are more confident.
- The children are calmer.
- The children fight less.
- The children listen to me better.
- The children work better with each other.



*"My children are so calm in class and they have respect, not only for me but also for each other and the environment. I love the self-confidence they always show."*

~ Living Classroom school teacher





# Worm Farming & Container Gardening

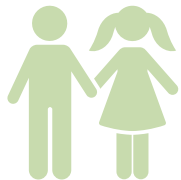
Our Earthchild Facilitators set up a worm farm and container garden in each Living Classroom. We then use them as a practical resource to teach biweekly lessons about the environment in a way that is fun and engaging.

## IN 2022 WE HAD



**107**

Living Classrooms



**4280**

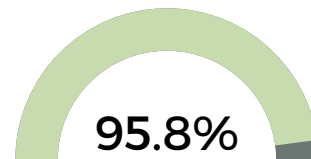
Children reached



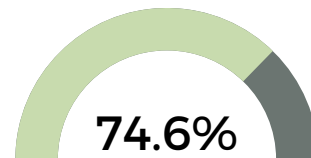
**1260**

Lessons taught

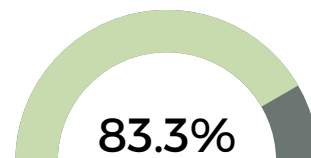
## END OF YEAR TEACHER FEEDBACK:



CHILDREN HAVE LEARNT HOW TO TAKE CARE OF A WORM FARM



CHILDREN HAVE LEARNT ABOUT THE WEB OF LIFE



CHILDREN HAVE LEARNT HOW TO GROW THEIR OWN FOOD



*"Caring for the worms has taught them how to take care of their living space, natural resources and caring for each other as well."*

*~ Living Classroom school teacher*



# Teacher Training & Wellness

Our aim is to empower and inspire teachers with the knowledge and tools to extend the reach of our Living Classroom Programme. Through quarterly workshops, hikes, and weekly yoga classes, we are equipping teachers with facilitation skills and resources they can use with their learners, as well as supporting their own personal development.

## IN 2022 WE RAN:



**180**

Teachers Reached

**30** After school  
workshops



**Twelve**

**Hikes**



**72**

Yoga Classes

**2** Weekend  
Workshops

*"Communication with my colleagues has improved, because we communicate more often than we used to, we have that togetherness now which make us work more effectively."*



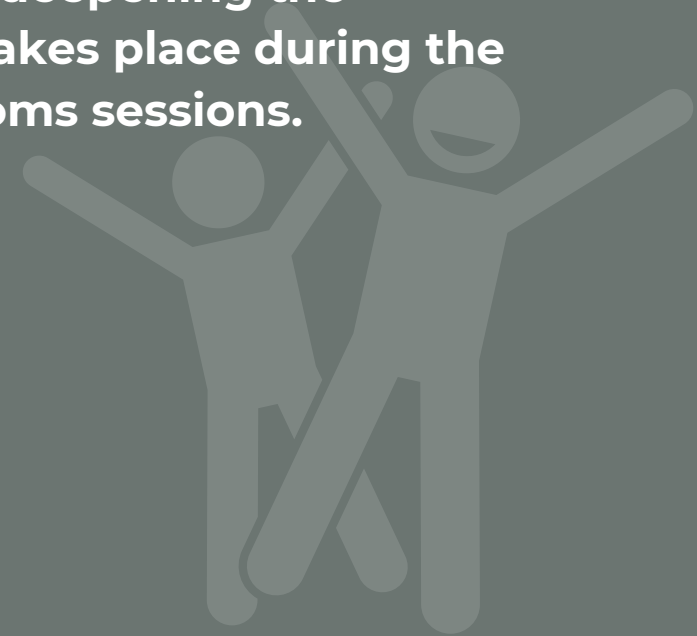


***"My determination and drive to complete and persevere on the hikes have helped me to apply that to my teaching and life in general."***



## 2. EXTRA MURAL CLUBS

Our Extra Mural Clubs are held weekly after school. They are an opportunity for us to work with smaller groups of mixed aged children, giving them more focused attention and deepening the learning that takes place during the Living Classrooms sessions.





## Yoga Clubs

Through interactive processes, yoga postures, relaxation exercises, games and songs, our weekly yoga lessons are equipping children with practical life-skills and knowledge in how to be healthy, confident and resilient.

IN 2022 WE RAN

**8** Clubs

**183** Children reached

**155** Extra Mural Sessions



## Eco Warriors

Through positive, experiential and engaging sessions, our Grade 5 and 6 Eco Warriors are learning about the role that each of them plays in our environment, as well as practical ways that they can take action within their own communities.

IN 2022 WE RAN

**6** Clubs

**191** Children reached

**159** Extra mural sessions





*“I liked being active, learning about the Earth, the importance of water and wildlife, as well as the different reactions of people to the environment.”*



# Crown Sisters

Through our Crown Sisters Clubs, we are creating safe spaces for adolescent girls to discover new pathways to personal growth and empowerment. The weekly extra mural sessions and quarterly workshops include movement practices and themed processes that aim to build positive body image, confidence, and resilience.

## IN 2022 WE RAN

**79** Children reached

**72** Extra mural sessions

**4** Clubs

**7** Full day workshops

**6** Cultural excursions

*“I learnt to never give up as a girl. I am beautiful in my own way. I am fearless.”*



# 3. ECO EXPLORERS



Through our Eco Explorer hikes and camps, we aim to inspire Grade 7 learners to connect with and learn about nature, as well as empowering them with life skills such as teamwork, leadership and communication. Ultimately, growing future environmental leaders who become change-makers in their communities.

## IN 2022 WE RAN



**3**

Clubs



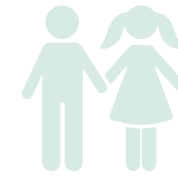
**23**

Day hikes



**2**

Camps



**63**

Children reached



*"It made me feel like a new person and most of the time I feel relaxed and calm and I've learnt to be caring towards nature and the plants."*





# 4. ALUMNI PROGRAMME

This Programme focuses on nurturing the leadership potential of a select group of our primary school graduates throughout their high school years. Through quarterly skills development workshops, an 8-day camp, and helping to organise and run our Holiday Programmes, they experience deep personal transformation and practical opportunities to implement their leadership skills.

## IN 2022 WE RAN

 **4** Full day workshops

 **1** 8-Day camp

 **30** Youth reached

*"I found myself and learnt to love myself. The biggest change I have experienced is changing my pain into power."*





*"My biggest change is that I stopped the negative things I was doing because I met great souls that changed my life."*



# OUR TEAM



Janna Kretzmar  
Director



Phila Sopazi  
Operations Manager



Nokuphiwo Jada  
Schools Programme  
Manager



Kim Pillay  
Schools Programme  
Manager



Athenkosi Khulu  
Environmental  
Programme Facilitator



Nosiphiwo Moshilbane  
Yoga Programme  
Facilitator



Carly Appleby  
Communications  
Manager



Romilly de Buck  
Project Manager



Jadene van Neel  
Yoga Programme  
Facilitator



Asemahle Ndodana  
Environmental  
Programme Facilitator



Abongile Nonkondlo  
Environmental  
Programme Facilitator



Liya Mgudlwa  
Intern



Anathi  
Phitinjazomlungu  
Intern



Claumi Kueluyele  
Intern

# OUR BOARD



Taryn Casey



Cheryl Cornelissen



Phindile Dhlamini-  
Motshegwa



Lisa Pantani



Deidre Baatjes

Earthchild Project is grateful to our dedicated Board of Directors who guide and support our work.

# Farewell to our Seva Warrior

Kimendhri Pillay

8 December 1979 - 19 April 2023



It was with very heavy hearts that we learnt about the tragic passing of Kimendhri Pillay on 19 April 2023. Kim was an incredibly gentle, kind, open hearted, and generous person. She had a great sense of humour, was fun, and always positive. She was a true 'Seva Warrior' and devoted her life to being of service. In the few short months that she was part of the Earthchild Project team, she impacted so many lives and formed strong bonds with our team, the schools, and teachers she worked with. Kim will be missed immensely by our team and our thoughts have remained with her family and friends throughout this incredibly difficult time.

# FINANCE REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS @ 31 DECEMBER 2022

## CAPITAL EMPLOYED

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### Retained income

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|                           |           |         |                |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|----------------|
| RETAINED INCOME           | 572,952   |         |                |
| NET PROFIT/LOSS THIS YEAR | - 277,506 | 295,446 | <u>295,446</u> |

## EMPLOYMENT OF CAPITAL

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### Fixed assests

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|                                |         |         |  |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|--|
| PROPERTY, PLANT, AND EQUIPMENT | 770,193 | 770,193 |  |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|--|

### Current Assets

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|                             |           |           |  |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES | 177,019   |           |  |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS   | 1,063,500 | 1,240,519 |  |

### Current Liabilities

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|                              |         |             |                |
|------------------------------|---------|-------------|----------------|
| PREPAID INCOME               | 691,571 |             |                |
| BUILDING FUND                | 200,080 |             |                |
| BUILDING CAPITALISATION FUND | 737,176 |             |                |
| TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES     | 86,438  | - 1,715,265 | <u>295,446</u> |

# FINANCE REPORT

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS @ 31 DECEMBER 2022

PLEASE NOTE 2021 WAS FROM MARCH - DECEMBER &  
2022 WAS FROM JANUARY - DECEMBER, DUE TO CHANGE  
IN FINANCIAL YEAR END

|                                       | 2022             | 2021           |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>                        |                  |                |
| DONATIONS                             | 4,813,395        | 4,409,112      |
| <b>OTHER INCOME</b>                   |                  |                |
| INTEREST RECEIVED                     | 32,349           | 42,977         |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                       | 5,123,250        | 3,916,545      |
| ACCOUNTING & AUDITING                 | 136,879          | 118,885        |
| MARKETING & FUNDRAISING               | 213,267          | 166,272        |
| BANK CHARGES                          | 83,844           | 49,051         |
| COMPUTER EXPENSES                     | 20,738           | 33,888         |
| CONSULTATION FEE                      | 6,628            | 64,650         |
| DEPRECIATION                          | 14,021           | 17,390         |
| INSURANCE                             | 17,774           | 12,678         |
| MONITORING & EVALUATION               | 147,442          | 149,090        |
| ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT            | 144,290          | 140,101        |
| PRINTING & STATIONERY                 | 5,182            | 1,081          |
| OPERATIONAL SALARIES                  | 620,722          | 1,166,433      |
| PROGRAMME SALARIES                    | 2,626,428        | 1,289,758      |
| PROGRAMME COSTS                       | 869,248          | 495,086        |
| RECRUITMENT                           | 9,860            | 39,052         |
| STAFF TRANSPORT                       | 95,194           | 69,685         |
| STAFF WELFARE                         | 49,103           | 6,394          |
| TELEPHONE - INTERNET                  | 2,630            | 74,111         |
| RENT                                  | 60,000           | 22,940         |
| <b>NET PROFIT / (LOSS) BEFORE TAX</b> | <b>- 277,506</b> | <b>535,544</b> |

# OUR DONORS

We are incredibly blessed to have a network of individuals, businesses, foundations and ambassadors who support us. We would like to thank all of our donors for their trust, generosity and for being part of our Earthchild Project family. Our work would not be possible without you!

Major donors of R50 000 and more for the 2022 calendar year include:



*Laura Malina Seiler*

*The Sophia* FOUNDATION  
*Raising consciousness for the good of the whole*



*Ackerman*  
FAMILY  
FOUNDATION



MORDAUNT  
FOUNDATION

*Inge van  
Keenen*

CSILINKED TRUST  
CONNECTING NEEDS



*Otto Stehlik  
Foundation*



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## JOIN THE EARTHCHILD PROJECT FAMILY

Our dedicated team is passionate about inspiring positive change in society!  
Join us in creating a new generation of confident, conscious and responsible young leaders!