Annual Report 2017/2018

PRISON CARE AND SUPPORT NETWORK

Caring for inmates, ex-inmates and their

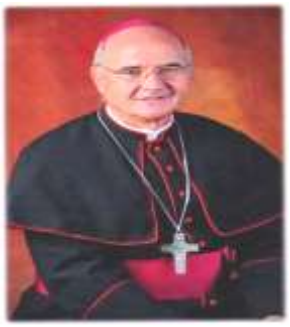
Under the auspices of the Catholic Church

VISION

The Vision of PCSN is to create hope in the individual and restore a sense of humanity in the community.

MISSION

PCSN will realise its vision through providing prison ministry based upon the values and teachings of Jesus Christ.



OUR PATRON

Archbishop Stephen

Brislin

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Fr. Babychan Arackathara msfs

BOARD MEMBERS

L-R Chairperson Nina Richards; Financial Director: Randall Bredenkamp; Benjamin Jamie; Ursula Schenker; Nathaniel Siljeur; Tony dos Santos; Neil Fortes; Janice

VOLUNTEERS

Mary-Anne Ferguson (Team Lead); Victor Grantham; Cecil Jansen; Louise Warden; Shirley Johnson; Sharon Loots; Esperance Niyongere; Henry Timm; Ntabiseng Lebitsa; Merle Hendricks; Peter Koopman; Phakiso Khanye; Sylvia Mack; Nonkosi Kaleni; Elizabeth Ziegler; Sophia Absolom; Sr Marie Brady; Agnes Julies; June Yon; Callie-Jo Bouman; Adele Fritz; Peter Sampson; Florence Van der Westhuizen, Vera Roomaney.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF

Coordinator: Jasmine Bailey, Outgoing Coordinator: Bernadette Davids; Programme Coordinator: Alledene Cupido; Office Administrator: Bernadette Adams.

ARCHBISHOP OF CAPE TOWN

"The Prison Care and Support Network (PCSN) , on behalf of the Archdiocese of Cape Town, reaches out to those members of our society who are caught up in the criminal justice system and offers pastoral care. Not only does it bring hope and healing to the incarcerated but does so also to their families and communities at large. In this way the Church is responding to the calling of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew 25:36—

' I was in prison and you visited me'.

God's people were created in His image and likeness and all are equally loved by God. As followers of Christ, it is our duty and role to accompany prisoners on a path of human and spiritual development. This involves assisting prisoners in reconciling with themselves, with others and with God. Through this interaction we take the message that mercy is greater than condemnation, goodness exceeds evil and light overcomes darkness. Punishment, in itself, is unlikely to change people. An encounter with God's love is transformative..

The Restorative Justice programme of the PCSN brings perpetrators face to face with their victims helping them to understand the effects of their crimes on victims and their families, and to express remorse.

My message to all the faithful is that each one of us can support the efforts of PCSN—be it through praying, giving of your time as a volunteer or helping the ministry financially. Working together we can bring the incarcerated and ex-offenders in the Western Cape renewed hope and a sense of dignity.

I take this opportunity to thank all those involved in PCSN—your dedication and selflessness in heeding God's call to bring love, hope and kindness to those living in fear and despair, is acknowledged and appreciated. I encourage you to persevere in your mission and I ask the Lord to make your ministry with prisoners ever more fruitful.

+ Stephen Brislin

Archbishop of Cape Town

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE — Nina Richards OFS

South Africa has the highest incarceration rate on the continent, ranking 12th in the world, due to high crime and recidivism rate leading to overcrowding in our prisons.

According to the 2016/2017 crime statistics the Western Cape shows the highest increase in violent crimes due to gang violence. Recidivism rate in the country is between 60% and 70% which is extremely high. At one stage, Pollsmoor Prison reported 194% overcrowding, remand (those awaiting prison) was 300% overcrowded, aiding to the spread of gang violence and broken sanitation.

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Prison Care and Support Network, in its 22nd year of operation, aims to respond to the spiritual, emotional and educational needs of the incarcerated offenders and their families, and to provide care and support during incarceration and after release for the social reintegration of offenders.

We create hope in the individual and restore a sense of humanity in the community. Our programs aim to influence the rate of reoffending through intervention in prisons and after release. We are proud to share our highlights of the past financial year. I refer you to the Performance Indicators and Coordinators report. As we have only 3 full-time staff members, we rely heavily on the work of our volunteers (22 in total), chaplain and clergy to execute our mandate. Today wish to thank them for their invaluable service to the organisation and impact which they have on those in prison and their families.

Our main challenge remains the lack of financial stability, where we have recently experienced two of our international funders shifting their priorities and withdrawing their funding. Gaining access to new and appropriate donors is a major component of this challenge. Care and support for offenders and ex-offenders is not always the first priority for

CHAIRERSON's MESSAGE Conti...

Corporations or their desired area of CSI. At times we had sufficient resources to meet our immediate financial needs, but never in excess.

The board wishes to express our deep appreciation to all our donors and partners for their generous and continuous support, without whom our operations would not be a success. We acknowledge our gratitude towards all those who supported us through fundraising initiatives. We are proud to launch 'I Am My Brother's Keeper' planned giving initiative and encourage individuals and companies to 'sign up', knowing we can rely on your mercy and support.

We are grateful to the Archbishop (our patron, His grace the Archbishop of Cape Town) for raising the Prison Ministry Sunday collection as an obligatory collection for all parishes. We sincerely hope that parishes will come 'on board' to support the ministry that is close to the Heart of Jesus, being conscious of our mandate as Christians to reach out to those imprisoned due to various circumstances.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge and thank my fellow Board members, most of whom are also donors for their dedication and service.

We have increased our board to 10 members and will present today two additional nominees.

The organisation's current challenges can seem overwhelming and it is for this reason that we must ground ourselves in our goal and purpose. In the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation (Africae Munus /Africa's Commitment), His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that prisoners are human persons who, despite their crime, deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. They need our care. The Church must provide for pastoral care in prisons, for the material and spiritual welfare of the prisoners. This pastoral activity is a real service that the Church offers to society… (AM 83). Let us continue to be the Church's response in working to provide that 'real service'.

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2017/2018 Annual Report.

Yours sincerely

Nina Richards OFS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Fr. Babychan Arackathara msfs

As I complete my 20 years of prison chaplaincy, I thank God for the blessings that I received through the ministry. It was Sr Marie Brady who introduced me to Pollsmoor prison, who now having spent 56 years is South Africa, will leave for Ireland. Her legacy along with the pioneers of Prison Ministry in Cape Town will continue bringing hope and strength to the hidden population of our country.

Over the years I journeyed with several inmates and ex-inmates and I had the joy of keeping contact with many who now are leading successful lives outside. The vast majority of our prison population is from poor families who were victims before they became offenders.

Poverty and unemployment continue to be the major drivers for increased crimes in our community. The unemployment predicament of pre and post incarceration of offenders is the major reason for the high recidivism in our country.

PCSN, as an organization under the Archdiocese of Cape Town, continues to respond to the spiritual, emotional and educational needs of prisoners in the Western Cape. Spiritual support for inmates is critical in changing their thinking and behaviour, given the emptiness and hopelessness they find themselves in inside the prisons. Through Holy Mass, Bible studies, Restorative Justice and other programmatic interventions we were able to create a glimmer of hope among our prison population.

Chaplain's message conti...

It's a reality that many who end up in our prison systems ,with unmet needs, find themselves being part of number gangs who give them a false sense of security and belonging. The utter lack of support for rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders is a serious concern that should disturb us all.

The mini interventions of bursary support, skills training through CETA by the network, have integrated many ex-offenders with their families during the past year

At times the enormity of the task at hand versus our limited capacity questions our effectiveness as an organization.

We feel as Mother Theresa felt, "that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean". However, Mother Theresa found hope and courage and she could say that, "the ocean would be less because of that missing drop".

We have a mandate from the Lord himself, to visit prisoners, to bring them hope and strength because they are our own brothers and sisters.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Bernadette Davids

Organisation

During 2017/18 financial year Bernadette Davids continued in the role of Coordinator of Prison Care & Support Network (PCSN).

During the latter part of 2017 Michele Franke resigned from the Board where she served as the Organisation's secretary.

At the 2016/17 Annual General Meeting the following candidates were introduced to Archbishop Brislin and the attendees as potential Board members: Benjamin Jamie, Neil Fortes, Janice Fortes, Ursula Van Horsten-Schenker, Tony Dos Santos, and Nathaniel Siljeur. They have been formally appointed by Archbishop Brislin during October 2017.

During June 2017 H. Daniels & Company was appointed as the Organisation's bookkeepers.

Ministry to Offenders

During the 2017/18 reporting period, PCSN appealed to the community, through The Southern Cross and Archdiocesan News, for volunteers to assist with prison ministry. Five new recruits heeded the call and are now actively involved in the prisons in the Western Cape, together with the other 17 volunteers.

PCSN volunteers (22) and the Chaplain (Fr. Babychan and other priests) continued the work of creating hope to the incarcerated during the reporting 2017/18. They were actively involved in the following prisons: Pollsmoor (Juveniles – Medium A; Medium B - Adult Males; Medium C - Pre-release; Admissions Centre – unsentenced; Females); Worcester (Males & Females); Brandvlei (Medium & Maximum); Voorberg (Males); Goodwood (Males), Malmesbury.

The commitment and love displayed by the team is to be commended as the challenges that the team faces never puts them off from living out their ministry with dignity and respect towards one another and our clients. There is always great excitement whenever the team embarks on a new programme or prison visit.

On average the prison chaplain and priests provided 52 Eucharistic celebrations, reaching between 800 -1000 inmates during the year; whereas the Restorative Justice team reached 125 inmates and 143 family members during the same period.

In addition, the team also provided Bible Study (32), Prayer Sessions, Personal Development (15), individual consultations (320) and Catechetical Sessions (16), to name but a few.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT conti...

Care and Support during incarceration

PCSN follows a holistic approach as far as possible. Given the challenges that the ex-offender face after release, PCSN strive to prepare the incarcerated/ex-offender for reintegration into society. In collaboration and with the financial backing of various service providers and donors PCSN has been able to provide bursary programmes to 12 beneficiaries, electrical skills programmes to 20 inmates, court support to 27 unsentenced clients, visits to 14 foreign inmates, to name but a few.

We are, however experiencing many challenges across the various prisons for the courses on offer, as many inmates do not have their respective latest qualification or identity documents handy. Families of inmates are also not always in a position to assist.

PCSN also provided, with the assistance of two of the volunteers, court support to 15unsentenced offenders.

Social Integration of ex-offenders

In most instances ex-offenders finds that they are still subjected to the harsh judgement after they had served their prison sentence. Distrust and judgement prevails far beyond incarceration. The ex-offender grapples with forgiving themselves and being judged by society makes it very hard to integrate into society.

It is for this reason that PCSN strive to assist the ex-offender to transition back into society. The organisation offers support that enables the ex-offender to become mature and self-reliant so that they can get back their self-worth, be respected by their families and community and take their rightful place as care-givers and providers.

PCSN, with the assistance of various sponsors, donors and volunteers provided spiritual support through the Alpha programmes (Volunteers- Ex Offenders), child nutrition, food parcels and clothing and blankets (National Lotto), Christmas outreach for children (Parents with a Passion- Lansdowne Parish), Buckets of Love (Catholic Welfare and Development), and many more.

Sponsors & Partners

Sponsors and Partners, on behalf of PCSN and our beneficiaries, please accept our heartfelt appreciation for your generosity in support of the work that we do.

Your assistance means the world to us, especially during these trying economic times, as all our good intentions would not have materialised without your financial and material contribution .

Operations

No organisation can function without finances. With the challenging economic environment, it has become quite challenging to obtain financial assistance from sponsors and donors alike. PCSN was, however still able to continue with its programmes due to the generosity of various sponsors and committed donors.

Meeting our operational obligations, however, proves to be challenging as the organisation is not always able to secure unsecured funds for this purpose. We were, however blessed by the Archdiocese of Cape Town through the Prison Ministry Sunday collections and the Catholic Community of Cape Town, Community Chest Western Cape, Fr. Ralph De Hahn, Rotary Club Newlands, Mr. Stephen Wrankmore as well as all the many anonymous donors with much needed funds that made it possible for us to keep the organisation afloat. On behalf of PCSN I would like to express our sincere gratitude towards all of you for your generosity in allowing us to continue the ministry that is so close to our hearts.

The Board, staff and volunteers play an integral part in keeping the Organisation's vision and purpose alive. I would like to thank the Board, staff and volunteers, for their selfless efforts in continuing to create hope to our incarcerated brothers and sisters as well as their needy families. May the good work that PCSN provide continue in the future so that many more clients may have their hope in humanity restored. May you be blessed and may your labour of love bear much fruit in the lives of those that you meet in your journey through your ministry.

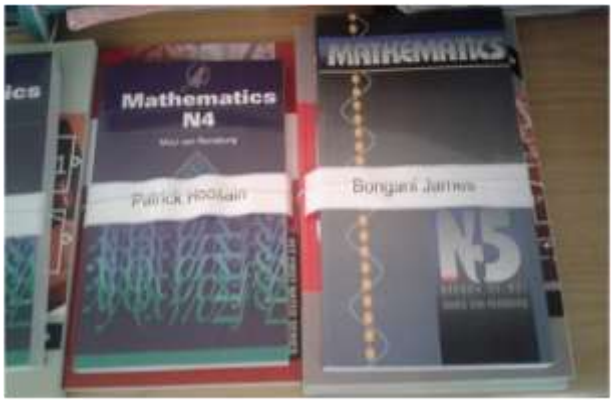
Sponsors	Programmes Sponsored
Construction Education & Training Authority (CETA)	Bursary Programme Electrical Skills Programme
Rotary Club of Newlands	Bursary Programme
Community Chest	Operational Costs
Better Life Organisation	Basic Education Programme
South African Bishop's Conference (SACBC) – Lenten Appeal	Restorative Justice Programme
National Lotteries Commission	Adult Basic Education & Training Bursaries (ABET) Aftercare Support Volunteer Reimbursements Clothing Child Nutrition Programme Food Parcel Programme Personnel Salaries & Benefits Personnel Training
Collaborative Partners	**Benefit**
Catholic Welfare and Development (CWD)	Buckets of Love
Parents with a Passion – Lansdowne Parish	Bags of love and Christmas Gifts

Parents with a Passion (PWAP): Lansdowne

Catholic Welfare & Development (CWD) Initiative

Buckets of Love distribution

Bursary Support Programme: Bursary recipient collecting books and stationery



Stationary and text books for beneficiary

Performance Indicators: 2017 - 2018				
PA-annually ; M- Monthly, B- Beneficiary)				
Strategic objective:	**Measurable objective /Programmes:**	**Measure**	**Target:**	**Actuals**
Responding to Spiritual and emotional needs of the incarcerated and their families.	Personal Development	PA	10	15
	Church Services (no. Of attendees)	PA	750	802
	Restorative Justice	PA	150	125
	Family Members(RJ)	PA	150	143
	Follow-up(RJ)	PA	150	125
	Holy Mass, Word	PA	50	52
	Catechetic Sessions	M	10	16
	Bible studies	PA	35	32
	Other Programmes	PA	20	42
Providing care and support during incarceration:	Individual Consultations	PA	200	320
	Bursary	B	12	12
	Visit to Foreign Inmates	PA	10	14
	Court Support	PA	20	27
Projects	CETA - Electrical Skills Programme	M	20	20
	Adults Basic Education & Training	PA	3	3
	Food Parcels	PA	100	144
	Child Nutrition	PA	100	120
	Buckets of love (CWD)	B	100	100
	Clothing & Blankets	PA	29	29
	Ex-Offenders Gathering (incl Alpha)	PA	6	8
	Christmas Outreach	PA	30	29
Providing care and support after release: Social reintegration programme of offenders, including RJ phone calls	Stipend	M	24	15
	Spiritual/Emotional Support	PA	120	112
	Telephone calls	PA	500	729
	Home Visits	PA	5	9
	Volunteers training(New)	B	0	5
	Volunteers workshops	PA	1	1
	Number of active Volunteers	PA	20	22
	Number of active Board Members	PA	10	10
Collaborative Partnership:	NICRO	PA		1
	CWD	PA		1
	DCS	PA		1
	ROTARY(Newlands)	PA		1
	SACBC	PA		1
	National Lottery Commission	PA		1
	Better Life	PA		1
	Construction CETA	PA		1
	People with a Passion (PAWP)	PA		1

FINANCIAL REPORT

Randall Bredenkamp

Our current economy at a snapshot:

- In June 2018 ratings agency Fitch has affirmed South Africa's sovereign credit rating as junk status
- Individuals buying power has reduced by 30% due to inflation and vat
- In July 2018 S.A. Unemployment rate rose to 27.2%

However,

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey, for the period April to June 2018, indicates that 77 000 new jobs were created in the Western Cape over the past year, representing a 3.2% increase.

Given that almost 250 000 jobs have been lost in that quarter, it's a stellar performance from the Western Cape. The provincial unemployment rate is at 23.2%, which is 4% lower than the national rate of 27.2

PCSN Synopsis 2017/18

The vacancies in the prior period resulted in the implementation of the following measures:

- Outsourcing the accounting functions to an independent accounting firm, the advantage being segregation of duties to safeguard the organisation against theft and potential fraud.
- Appointment of a new auditing company conducting the external audit thereby providing an independent opinion on the operations and bookkeeping function .
- In the absence of a coordinator in the latter part of the 4th quarter of 2017/18 financial period, the Board became more involved in the management of the normal operations, ensuring that PCSN continued with its obligations.

Financial Health:

Since January 2018 PCSN has faced financial challenges. This is exacerbated by the current economic position within the country.

To assist PCSN in meeting their financial obligations, the following initiatives and appeals have been launched/implemented:

- 'I am my Bother's Keeper' , appealing to the broader community to assist the Prison Ministry, by pledging to make a contribution (debit order, EFT, Direct Debit, Cash), and heed God's call to assist the marginalised in our community.
- Appointment of a new coordinator , whose main function would be to focus on sourcing funding
- Renegotiation of bookkeeping and auditing fees
-
- Appeal to the Archdiocese of Cape Town to pledge a monthly fixed amount to assist with the operational expenditure.
- Appeal and sign-off of a mandatory Prison Ministry Sunday collection across all parishes in the Archdiocese of Cape Town.

Words of appreciation:

- The support staff especially for providing detailed financial information on projects that required approval.
- The Archbishop Stephen Brislin for his continued spiritual and financial support.
- The volunteers for their selfless and charitable support.
- The Board for their commitment in ensuring that PCSN remains true to its values.

Total Assets	1,930,398	1,912,243
Equity and Liabilities		
Equity		
Retained Earnings	1,568,474	1,545,459
Total Equity	1,568,474	1,545,459
Liabilities		
Non-current Liabilities		
Long Term Loan	356,314	361,173
Toatl Non-Current Liabilities	356,314	361,173
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	5,611	5,611
Total Equity and Liabilities	1,930,398	1,912,243

VOLUNTEER LEADER'S REPORT

Mary-Ann Ferguson

Ongoing training for volunteers is a priority for PCSN and this takes place on the third Saturday of every month. This year one workshop was organized. These meetings provide a good opportunity for team building and fostering good relationships.

Presenting programmes and individual sessions, we are able to appease the hunger for love, acceptance and healing that is sought by the participants. Many clients change their ways of life due to spiritual talks and support they receive as a result of the spiritual guidance given by PCSN volunteers. The programmes include relationships, self-esteem, fears, change of mindset to a positive attitude, and finding oneself.

Very often we understand our lives better in and through stories. In our programmes we use the bible story of Joseph and David. Sharing these can be heart breaking for clients as they come to associate with the characters in the stories, learn to trust volunteers and grow in confidence to share their own stories and experiences. The sharing lessens the burden and lead to healing.

Despite all the challenges volunteers are still eager and willing to go the extra mile to bring about the change in the individual. The volunteers bring the attitude of 'The Good Shepherd' to their ministry. For them it is a labour of love lived out on their commitment to service. Their caring and their untiring efforts to bring healing, restoration and wholeness to those they serve. Presently we are 22 volunteers, but many more are needed to continue the work of love for our neighbour.

In addition to the prison visits and work done there, PCSN also support clients and families present at court hearings. The support is appreciated greatly by by both client and family members as offenders feel very insecure and anxious, not knowing what to expect. PCSN work alongside and within the boundaries of the Department of Correctional Services. One of the volunteers also help as an interpreter in court.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE REPORT

by Janine Richards

PCSN presents an average of 5 Restorative Justice Programmes in 6 prisons annually. They include Worcester CC : Male and Female, Voorberg CC, and Pollsmoor CC: Female Section.

Howard Zehr highlights a few main comparisons between Retributive Justice and Restorative Justice. The Retributive Justice system views crime as a violation of the law and seeks to find out which laws were broken, who is responsible for the crime and what the suitable punishment is.

Restorative Justice is relationship focused and seeks to find out who have been hurt by the crime, what the victim's needs are, who is responsible and accountable for breaking these relationships and whose obligation it is to actively seek restoration with the community.

Restorative Justice incorporates everyone involved to seek healing in relationship through forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration. The Restorative Justice (RJ) model works at four stages:

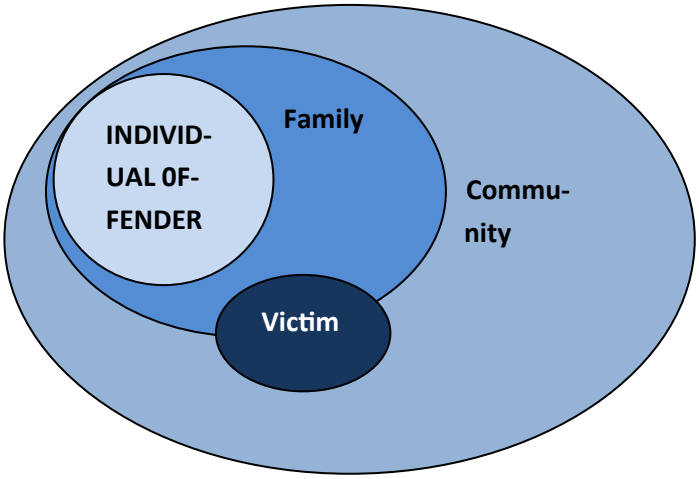
- Restoration at the individual offender level
- Restoration with the families of offenders (including the FOM Day)
- Victim/Offender Dialogue (depending on the interest of the primary victim)
- Community Restoration and Reintegration

The Victim-Offender-Community (VOC) Model is used to explain the level of effect the crime has and the relationships wounded and severed during a crime. The Restorative Justice Model views crime essentially as a violation of inter-personal relationship between people. Whenever a crime is committed, victims and communities are harmed. Restorative Justice aims to repair these relationships harmed by crime.

The programme which spans over a month essentially is a five day programme which may vary and includes at least two follow- up days and the Family-Offender

The Victim-Offender-Community (VOC) Model is used to explain the level of effect the crime has and the relationships wounded and severed during a crime. The Restorative Justice Model views crime essentially as a violation of inter-personal relationship between people. Whenever a crime is committed, victims and communities are harmed. Restorative Justice aims to repair these relationships harmed by crime.

The programme which spans over a month includes at least two follow- up days and the Family-Offender Mediation Day. (FOMD)



Stage 1: Restoration of the Individual Offender

During the sessions followed by group sharing, the offenders cover topics such as "Who am I' where they explore their uniqueness, their true identity (apart from their crime) and the hopes and dreams they had when they were younger . The programme aims to instil the sense of self worth and self- esteem often lost as a result of their crimes and incarceration.

They discuss the meaning of true and false friendships while reflecting on the influence friendships had on their choices. The story of David is used as a tool and a mirror to look at their own lives.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE REPORT Cont….

The offenders are given the opportunity to reflect at their own crimes by looking at the 'Fall of David': the wrong choices he had made in his life ; how these affected his relationship with God and the consequences felt ,not only by him but also by Israel, his people.

They discover who is ultimately responsible for their crime, accountability and the consequences their crimes on themselves (offender), victims, families and the community. PCSN also make use of unrelated victim testimony during the programme to instil victim empathy. It is in this part of the programme when the offenders often experience remorse and express an awareness of the severity of the crime they had committed.

Stage 2: Restoration with the families of offenders

The programme concludes with 'Forgiveness'. Here the individual offender reflects on their own past hurts, which has often played a significant role in their choices to commit crime. Many of the inmates I have experienced are victims of crimes, often occurred during their childhood where they were too vulnerable and unable to protect themselves. They are faced with unforgiveness towards family members and members in the community who had hurt them. They often grew up feeling rejected, unwanted and abandoned. These feelings are perpetuated by being separated from their family and community through incarceration. They also find it very difficult to forgive themselves for their many poor choices.

Restorative Justice Team

The sessions and small group sharing aim to provide them with steps of starting the process of forgiveness.

The Family Offender Mediation Day is attended by at least two family members of each offender whom they had invited. This day provides the space for the offender and their family to dialogue with each other in an open and honest way. They are encouraged to share their hurts and disappointments.

These are some of the comments of the offenders after participating in the Family - Offender Mediation Day at Voorberg CC (Males):

" I've learnt to start with forgiving myself first before I could ask my family for forgiveness."

"For the first time in 7 years I felt like myself. I experienced no judgement."

"Since the FOMD I relive that dialogue I had with my family each time I place my head on my pillow. I still feel emotional and my remorse grows each day."

"I am still a human being, not a monster. I discovered this when my tears flowed as I experienced forgiveness."

"Since then I have joy in my heart and thoughts. On that day, the PCSN RJ Team caught my tears."

Restorative Justice-Worcester Male CC

PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

Alledene Cupido

Our collaboration with Better Life Organization commenced in 2016 when we first applied for financial assistance for this very worthy programme and they were keen on partnering with PCSN due to the high impact that this programme creates. Very often the beneficiaries of this programme feel rejected, are either aggressive, or anxious and withdrawn due to the separation of an incarcerated parent/s. The lack of basic educational tools often adds to their bleak and hopeless situation which could lead to depression and dropping out of school.

This programme provides the direct beneficiaries with school uniforms (winter and summer), books, stationery, school bags and school shoes. Although the functions performed (obtaining sizes, suitable and affordable stockists, collection of uniforms, transportation of beneficiaries, dates of pickup, etc.) before distribution is time consuming and cumbersome, the hope, enthusiasm for education and the zeal for life that is being created makes the work worthwhile.

To ensure that the funds are well spent, PCSN monitors the progress of beneficiaries by requesting regular report cards and encouraging good performance. By showing an interest in the child, we inspire them to work hard and perform to the best of their ability. When the child visits the office they are given an opportunity to speak, in confidence, about their challenges with peers and other. The encouragement from a sympathetic listener assists them to work through their issues and come up with positive solutions to overcome these challenges.

Bursary Support Programme

Funded by: Construction Education & Training Authority (CETA)

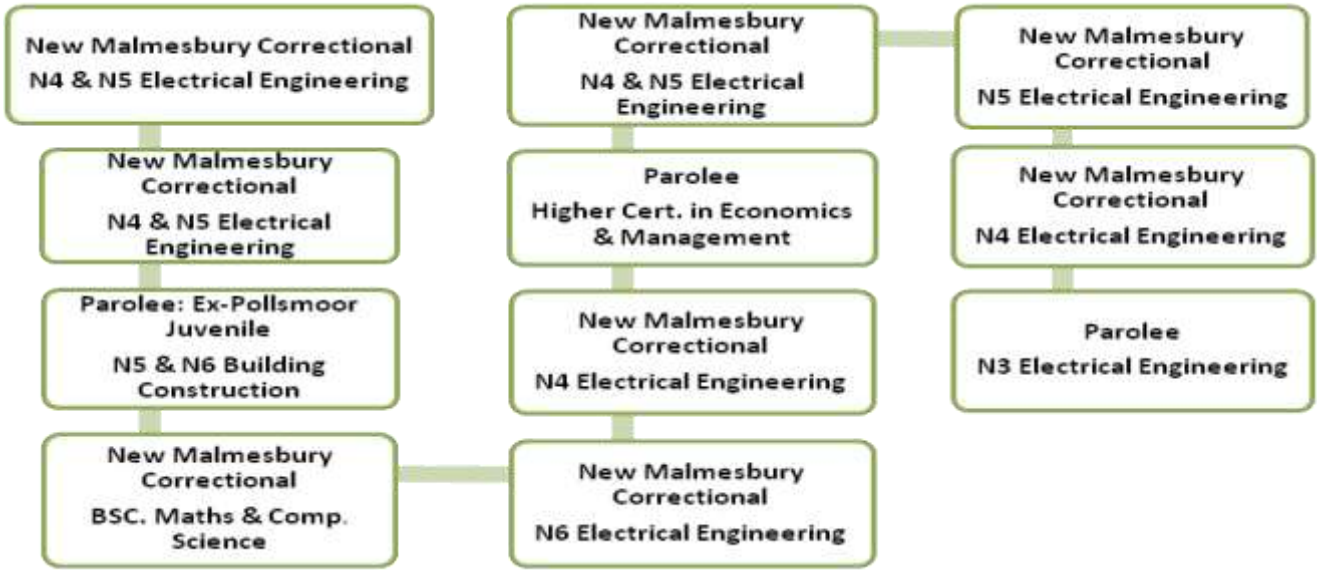
PCSN was very fortunate that CETE offered funding for our bursary students (current and new) to study within CETA's approved scope. The majority of the students that were funded through this programme are incarcerated.

Facing many challenges, such as a shortage of internet accessibility and resources, the beneficiaries continually strive to obtain good results. In the respective prisons the willing and able students are assisted by the Education Officers of the Department of Correctional Services.

In addition to the incarcerated students, we also have a number of students who have been released on parole and continue their studies.

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR's REPORT conti...

This proves, however to be very difficult, as many have served long prison sentence and find integration into society a daunting task. The drive to want to succeed outweighs the challenges and many show great tenacity and perseverance to continue their studies after release. A total of 11 beneficiaries completed the modules that they have enrolled for in the year under review. Please refer to the attached table below:



Bursary Programme

Funded by: National Lotteries Commission

PCSN is pleased to announce and congratulate one of their beneficiaries, who commenced his studies in Adult Basic Education & Training Level 1, at completing all 10 modules in one academic year. He is indeed an inspiration for all other students. This student is very enthusiastic and would like to continue with further modules in level 2, however, unfortunately PCSN is in a financial position to assist this student with further funding. We, therefore call on individuals/companies to come forward and assist with this worthy course in giving hope to those that are not in a position to afford the costs of studying.

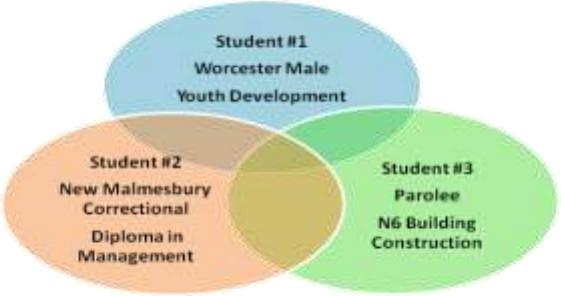
We are also pleased to report that two further beneficiaries continuing towards their ABET qualifications.

Bursary Support Programme

Funded by: Rotary Club of Newlands

The Rotary Club of Newlands remains to be a key funder for our Bursary Support Programme. We remain indebted for this support which enables our students to carry on to study towards their qualification. The education officers play an integral role in assisting the offenders to realise their studies. During the reporting year we were able to assist 6 beneficiaries. We appreciate the collaboration between ourselves and Rotary that allows many needy beneficiaries to study towards a qualification that would serve as a stepping stone towards becoming economically independent in the future.

Congratulations to 3 successful students who completed their studies in 2017



PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR REPORT conti…

Parents with a Passion(PAWP): Our Lady Help of Christians, Lansdowne:

Bags of Love:

Parents with a Passion made it possible for us to hand out bags of love to the carers of children of incarcerated parents containing essential food items together with divine treats for the child beneficiaries. These bags were distributed just prior to the office closing in December 2017. This is a critical time of the year where the children have just started the school holidays and is not able to access the school feeding scheme for meals. Not only was this gift of food appreciated by PCSN for our target clients, but also hugely by the direct beneficiaries.

Christmas Outreach/Christmas Gifts:

The Christmas season is extremely tough on children with incarcerated parent/s as they are experiencing vulnerability and loneliness caused by separation from parents. This is exacerbated by the commercialisation of the season as these children cannot keep up with those from normal families. This often leads to isolation and hence socialisation problems.

Our generous donors, Parents with a Passion (PAWP), tries to alleviate this problem of isolation and feeling of rejection by making Christmas more meaningful and the season of giving/receiving real to these children. They gave each child a personalized Christmas gift, wrapped in beautiful, attractive packaging and the children's faces lit up, which spoke volumes when they received their gifts. Through this generous initiative, we were able to share the love of Jesus Christ with them who stirred the hearts of this respective group of people. PCSN is grateful to PAWP for the ongoing collaboration, care and assistance given in creating hope in each individual that benefit from their generosity.

Parents with a Passion (PAWP) outreach

PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR REPORT conti…

Letters of gratitude

I, Nkululeko, would like to show my gratitude towards your support to my children over the years. I am humble and excited by your support. My eldest boy Siyasanga is in grade 12 this year, without your support it was going to be difficult for me to support my children. The younger one is in grade 6 this year and she is excited about this support.

Yours sincerely,

Unemployed parent (ex-offender)

Basic Education Program Recipient

31 January 2018

To my Sponsor

Thank you for this Big Blessing I had received from you today.

My stationery, Uniform and Food Parcel. You make it possible for me to have the same what the other children have in my class, Grade 11A at my school.

I thank you and love you!! God Bless you xxx

T Pietersen

Grade 11 direct beneficiary

Dear PCSN

I just want to express my appreciation for the support that you are giving to me and my family. Thank you for the school uniform, stationery, books and the food parcel that I received.

Thanks a lot and I really appreciate it. I have a happy and healthy family because of PCSN.

Unemployed grandparent (ex-offender)

7 November 2017

Goeie more Ally

Hoop dit gaan goed.

Wil net laat weet ons het die jackets ontvang.

Will ook baie dankie sê vir als wat julle in hierdie tyd vir ons as gesin gedoen het. Weet dit was nie maklik vir my om alleen te staan vir al 4 kinders nie en ek dank God elke oomblik vir mense soos julle. Toe ons familie se deur in ons gesigte toegaan, het God mense soos julle gestuur om daar te wees vir ons. Ek sal altyd dankbaar wees.

Baie, baie, baie dankie - ek kan ’n mondvol sê maar weet dat ons dit regtig uit die diepte van ons harte waardeur. Wanneer jy na die pictures kyk - daai smile wat julle op my kinders se gesigte sit dis die beste verjaarsdag geskenk aan my vandag. Sal nooit vergeet nie om my kids happy te sien is wat my hart soek.

Bless you all and your families

Mooi dag vir julle.

Lots of love

Franke family (Husband incarcerated)

31 January 2018

My Sponsor,

With short little words, I want to say, 'thank you' for what I have received today for my granddaughter, Theola. Many thanks for the stationery and the uniform. I also want to thank God for placing you on our lives' journey. You will never know how we appreciate it. I thank you once again for this blessing assigned for Theola. God will bless you with more good health, long life and a blessed future.

Thank you!!

A. Pietersen (Grandmother and Carer of Child beneficiary)

PCSN THANK OUR FUNDERS & SPONSORS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

PCSN THANK OUR PARTNERS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

PCSN THANK ALL THE GROUPS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

CPT Malayaleel Prayer Group

Catholic Women's League: Steenberg

Kilmore Diocesan Apostolic Society

St Nicholas, Stellenbosch

PCSN THANK ALL INDIVIDUALS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

A. Bok
Fr. Ralph de Hahn
T. dos Santos
S. Duchene
R. Elliot
M. Fernandes
M. Franke
N. Jacob
K & S Mattimoe
Dr. MJ Michaelis
Sr. Monica
Mgr. C. Stokes
Fr. M. Pothier
Rose
T & C Singh
All Anonymous

Prison Care and Support Network

Launch: 'I Am My Brother's Keeper'

Our ministry is based upon the teachings of Jesus Christ who mandates us in Matthew 25:36 "I was in prison, you came to visit Me', and to remember those in prison and those who are mistreated (*cf. Heb 13:3*). We would be failing in our Christian charity if we ignore this mandate.
As an organization we rely heavily on our volunteers as we only have 3 staff members. We realize that for many Christians, due to their work commitments, it may be impossible to visit those in prison.

So how can you get involved? Firstly, by praying for those in prison; and secondly through your material support to the ministry. We would appeal to you to get involved with our fundraising initiative '**I am my Brother's Keeper' club, which was launched on 8 September 2018 at our 18th AGM.**

This is an invitation to all Christians to get involved in the ministry in a tangible way. Kindly pledge from as little as R50 or R100 per month. Your donation will bring hope and restoration to a prisoner every year and sustain this important ministry which is going through a difficult financial period.

Please consider extending your support by pledging your monthly contribution via **debit order**, **stop order, EFT or cash handover.**

Kindly contact us and we will send you an application form.
Tel: +27 21 5311348 / 0550 or
prisoncare@mweb.co.za

"I was in prison and you came to visit me ... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:36, 40

To assert in any case that a man must be absolutely cut off from society because he is absolutely evil amounts to saying that society is absolutely good, and no-one in his right mind will believe this today. *-Albert Camus*

Every time you stop a school, you will have to build a jail. What you gain at one end you lose at the other. It's like feeding a dog on his own tail. It won't fatten the dog. *- Mark Twain*

I know not whether Laws be right or whether Laws be wrong; all that we know who live in gaol is that the wall is strong; and that each day is like a year, a year whose days are long. *- Oscar Wilde*

Prison Care & Support Network

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