



# The Rachel Swart Fund

HELPING PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES  
ESTABLISHED 1960

## 2012-2013 Annual Report

### Introduction

Looking back over the past financial year the Rachel Swart Fund is pleased to report that many clients throughout South Africa have once again benefited from our Fund. At the beginning of each year the Fund sets out to help as many people as possible. The organization continues to be that life line to professionals in the disability field who have clients that cannot afford the mobility aid that is vital to enhance their quality of life. This relationship with professionals in the disability sector is one the Fund will continue to nurture.

More than 80 % of our clients are previously disadvantaged South Africans.

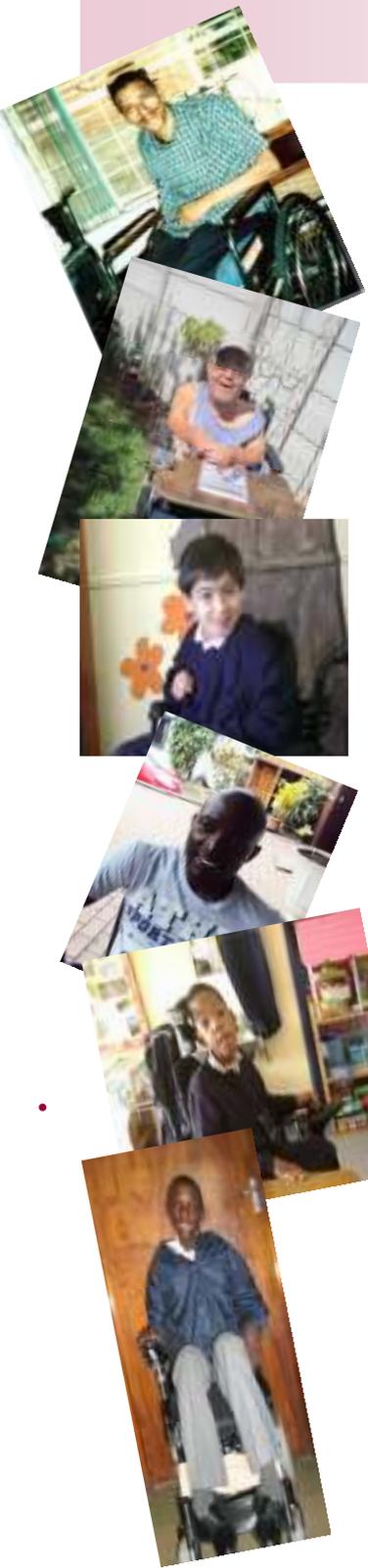
During this financial year 147 clients were helped by the Fund. This assistance comprised both manual and motorized wheelchairs, pressure care cushions, pressure care mattresses and repairs and maintenance to wheelchairs. Repairs and maintenance are vital to the fund's clients as they are helpless if their equipment does not function. In many areas where clients live, the infrastructure is weak and is hard on their equipment.

Farieed Lawrence from the Strand, one of these clients has been able to get out into his community, visit friends and take part in community projects and visit his local clinic with ease now that he is independent and no longer needs to pay someone to push him around. All of these benefits give Farieed a sense of dignity and independence.

**Tegeleco** was born with cerebral palsy and lives in a home for people with severe disabilities in the Free State. Her wheelchair has enabled her to get out and sell snacks and other products to the general public and she is able to do small tasks around the home.

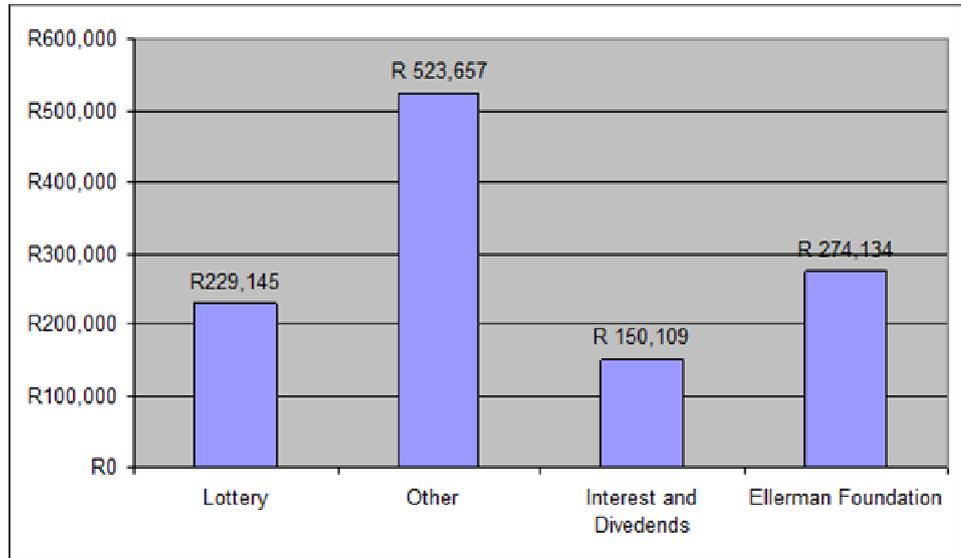


**Tegeleco Baisitse**



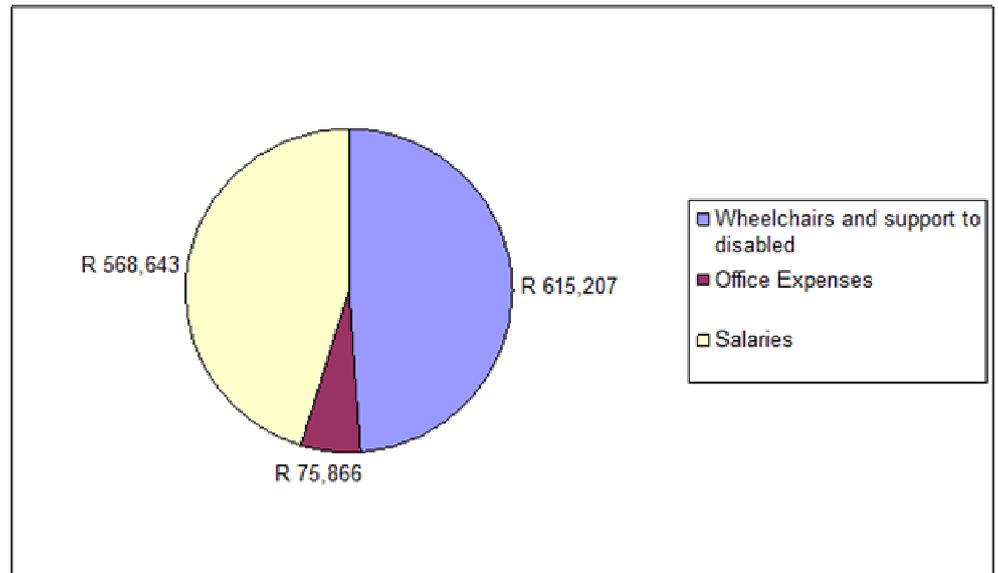
## Income received from April 2012–March 2013

“Being disabled should not mean being disqualified from having access to every aspect of life.” Emma Thompson



## Expenditure

April 2012 –  
March 2013



## List of Donors

- John Ellerman Foundation
- E.G.Woods
- Aaron Beare Foundation
- Australian High Commission
- Apexhi Charitable Trust Fund
- Clifford Harris Trust
- Victor Daitz
- Malcolm and Gladys Cameron Trust
- Anglo American Chairman’s Fund
- CE Harding Trust



## The Motorized Wheelchair Project

In 1986 the Fund started a motorized wheelchair project and chairs were manufactured locally as no affordable chairs were available in South Africa. 236 quadriplegics received these locally manufactured chairs. From 2000 the demand became too great and the fund was able to build relationships and partner with suppliers of motorized wheelchairs. These suppliers provide our fund with generous discounts, enabling us to help more clients with the donor money we receive.

Each year the fund receives many applications for motorized wheelchairs and this year the Australian High Commission, Anglo American Chairman's Fund and the Victor Daitz Foundation with their generous donations enabled the fund to purchase 29 motorized wheel chairs. These chairs have not only impacted the clients themselves but have brought relief to family and friends and these clients have been able to make themselves available to the community and in some cases have found employment.



*“this year the Australian High Commission, Anglo American Chairman’s Fund and the Victor Daitz Foundation with their generous donations enabled the fund to purchase 29 motorized wheel chairs.”*



**Marque Pretorius** is a quadriplegic who experiences challenges as a result of his disability and yet he has many responsibilities. The motorized wheelchair has brought relief to the chronic pain that he was feeling and enables him to carry out his tasks with a lot more ease and independence. He is a member of many community projects and is in the process of developing a new rehabilitation centre. **The Victor Daitz Foundation** made this chair possible.

**Perciville Timmie** is a 9 year old boy who has cerebral palsy and lives in Worcester. Perciville was born without any function in his lower body. He is an extremely bright young man with a happy spirit and zest for life. On receiving the motorized chair, made possible by the **Australian High Commission**, Perciville’s world has opened up and he has adapted well to his new school.



## Financial Report

This was a challenging year financially as less donor income was received. A workshop was held with the staff and other stakeholders to find ways to rebuild the Fund’s donor income base. This groundwork has led to improved funding in 2014 which has enabled the Fund to reach more beneficiaries.

In addition, costs were analysed and operating costs were reduced by 10%.

With revenue once again increasing in 2014 and costs reduced, Rachel Swart has weathered the past few difficult years and is positioned to be sustainable for many years to come.

## Governance

In September 2012 the Rachel Swart Fund signed an Independent Code of Governance for Non-Profit Organizations in South Africa. The Code reflects the values and principles upon which non-profit organizations are run. With this Code the Fund was able to benchmark its policies and operational systems and appropriate measures were taken to ensure that Rachel Swart complies with good governance practice.

The areas that were addressed were the implementation of risk analysis on the Fund's activities, the adoption by the Committee of measures such as a conflict of interest policy, an anti-corruption statement and policy and improvements to the internal controls of the Fund. Formal documents have been re-drafted and final documents will be made available to donors and the public by placing them on the Funds website.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** This has become a significant part of the Fund's activities as measuring the impact of its work tells the Fund how well it is addressing the needs of its beneficiaries, their families and the community around them. Clients and therapists are issued with Evaluation forms to gauge the effectiveness of work done. Information from these questionnaires is shared with the Fund's donor

## Staff and Committee Members:

The Rachel Swart Fund is made up of three staff members and nine committee members.

**The staff members are:** Joy Badham-Thornhill, Nathaline Petersen and Mandy Newman

**Committee Members:** Mark MacGinty, Helen Richter, Richard Heath, Igsaan Hendricks, Mirriam Mocosana, Necia Miller, Veruschka Ramanjam, Joan Vosloo and Jan Hofmeyr.

## Thanks

I would first like to thank Joy and her team for the hard work they put into the Fund. The Committee voluntarily gives its time in guiding the organisation and provides valuable medical, operational, legal and financial input to Rachel Swart Fund. The work of the staff and Committee significantly contributes to the sustainability of the organisation. The work of the Fund is enriched by the contributions of many people, companies and organisations sharing their time, funds, skills and services for the benefit of people in need. I would particularly like to thank the Fund's donors for trusting the Fund with their invaluable contributions. The Fund looks forward to continuing the partnerships and teamwork with all our stakeholders during the decades to come.

