



March 2017 Annual Report



The Rachel Swart Fund

HELPING PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES
ESTABLISHED 1960

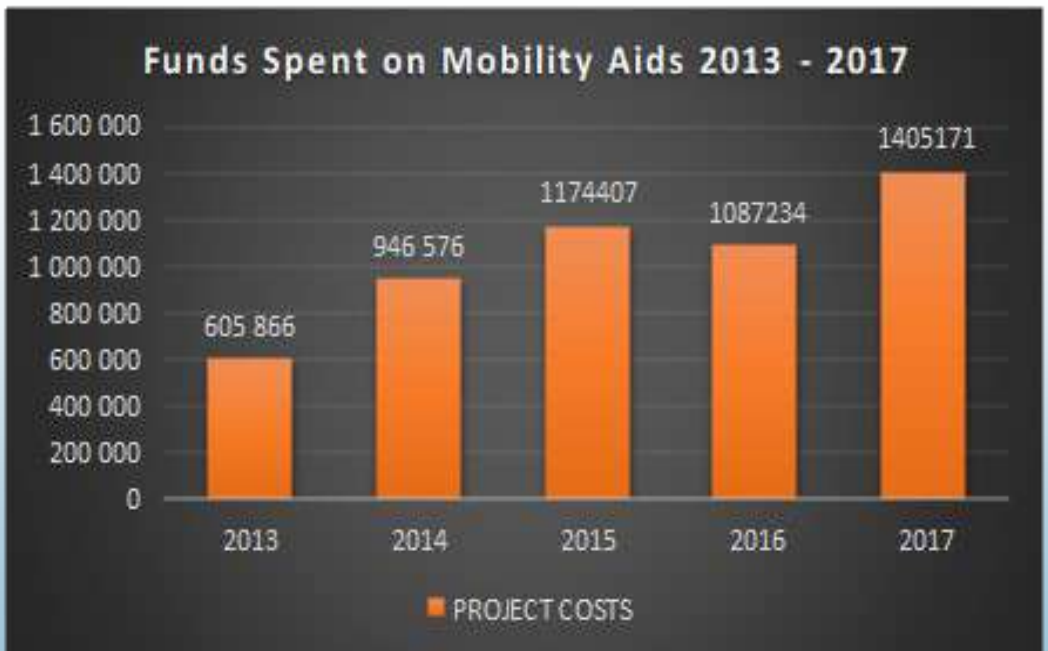
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A Letter from the Chairman

2016/2017 was a good year for the Fund. Thanks mainly to support from new and ongoing donors income received was at record levels. This flowed into increasing payments to beneficiaries by more than R300 000, to investing behind Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), fund-raising and to travelling to spend more time with donors and other stakeholders.

The process of streamlining administration also got under way and apart from cost savings of R70 000 will enable the Fund to significantly increase its capacity. This will allow Rachel Swart to increase assistance to beneficiaries without increasing costs.

It also marks the end of my tenure as chairperson and ushers in a new era of leadership under Dr. Verushka Ramanjam. I am confident she will take the fund to a new level.



2017: A Year in Review

36 Motorised wheelchairs ordered and delivered to beneficiaries

19 Manual wheelchairs ordered and delivered to beneficiaries

38 pressure cushions

159 beneficiaries assisted with maintenance

A Warm Thank You to Our Supporters

The Rachel Swart Fund continues to grow and operate thanks to the generous donations of our supporters. We are grateful for their faithful support and proud to demonstrate what they have helped us achieve this year. A warm thank you to our largest contributors this year:

Ellerman Foundation
National Lotteries Commission
CE Harding Trust Fund
Beare Foundation
Clifford Harris Trust Fund
Oasis Crescent Fund
Old Mutual Foundation
David Graaf Foundation
Victor Daitz Foundation
ApexHi Charitable Trust Fund
The Nussbaum Foundation
De Beers Trust Fund
Anglo American Chairman's Trust Fund
Nordex Energy South Africa Pty Ltd

In addition to the generous donations provided by our corporate and not-for-profit funders, we would also like to recognise our beneficiaries and their family members and communities, who offer small, regular donations, and whose efforts this year raised a total of R 136 380, 00.

BENEFICIARIES ASSISTED WITH MOBILITY AIDS

ELLERMAN FOUNDATION

Nico Smit was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1975; he has been using a motorised wheelchair for the past 40 years. He lives in the Eric Miles Cheshire Home in Milneron, Cape Town. Nico has been a client of the Rachel Swart Fund for many years. Nico requested a new motorised wheelchair because the one he was using was starting to jeopardise his posture. He explained it was like sitting on bricks in his chair and there was nothing he could do about it. Therapists seated him at the Western Cape Rehabilitation Centre in Mitchell's Plain and a motorised wheelchair was recommended that suited his disability and postural needs. Nico loves to get out and about during the day, and now that his new chair is more comfortable, he can be out for longer periods. This gives his care givers at the Home more time to themselves and to look after other residents. The Fund is grateful to the **Ellerman Foundation** for Nico's motorised wheelchair.



Siphokuhle is a grade ten student at the Northern Lights School in Port Elizabeth. Since receiving her motorised wheelchair, also with funding from the **Ellerman Foundation**, Siphokuhle has expressed her excitement in being independent. She loves the fact that she does not have to ask anyone to push her around and, now she can move around as she pleases. Siphokuhle loves to help other students and with her boosted self-confidence she is helping a grade 4 student after school with their school work.





Temeron Nel is an 11-year-old little girl with Arthrogyposis. She attends a special needs school in Port Elizabeth. She only came into the schooling system at the age of 9, and after being assessed, she was accelerated to grade two. Due to her disability, she was unable to self-propel in the manual wheelchair that she was using. Since receiving a motorised wheelchair, that was funded by the generous donations of the **Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon Charity Runners**; she has become independent in her mobility. She no longer needs friends and teachers to push her around. She "speeds" along the corridors at school and has had to be asked to slow down, as the school does have a speed limit for the wheelchair users. The teachers say that Temeron is very excited now to be at school every day because of her chair and her ability to be included in all the activities going on around her. She can run errands for the teachers, and she can move around the playground with her friends at break time.



The Temerons family are very happy for her, her Aunt and some friends were at the school during the wheelchair handover to take pictures. She is cared for by her grandmother. Temeron's independence and mobility have given her grandmother more time for herself.



Samson Joseph lives in KwaZulu Natal with his elderly mother; they live in a residential home. Samson is a very motivated individual and has always shown great appreciation to the Fund for his motorised wheelchair. He is not employed but enjoys fixing small electrical appliances. He travels with his motorised wheelchair to people's houses to collect broken appliances. Before receiving his new motorised wheelchair, he was experiencing severe pain and his mobility was limited. In his thank-you letter, he used words like "Jubilant" and "Gleeful" to describe his appreciation for the chair. Samson says that 15 additional people have been favourably affected by him receiving the motorised wheelchair including carers at the residential home and his mother. Samson collects second-hand clothes from his church and distributes them to the needy in his community. He is forever grateful for the mobility that the motorised wheelchair affords him.

Samson was a recipient of a grant from the **National Lotteries Commission**.



ANGLO AMERICAN CHAIRMAN'S FUND

Wazeer Rejaldien is ten years old and has Cerebral Palsy; he attends a special needs school in Cape Town. Since receiving a motorised wheelchair, Wazeer has been able to take part in all the activities going on at school. He loves going to the library and can run errands for the teachers. Previously Wazeer's facilitator had to push him around everywhere. His new found freedom has boosted his self-confidence, and he is excited about school. His teachers even put his improved speech down to him receiving the motorised wheelchair. His family can take Wazeer with them on family outings and they can include him with everything they do. The motorised wheelchair has brought about Wazeer's inclusion in all spheres of his life and more than 25 people, including friends, family and the community has benefitted from his independent mobility. Wazeer's motorised wheelchair was sponsored by **ANGLO AMERICAN CHAIRMAN'S FUND**



FUTURE GROWTH

Nthabiseng Lekeka lives in the Free State, she is a Cerebral Palsy Quadriplegic and received a motorised wheelchair through funding received from **FUTURE GROWTH**. When the application for a new motorised wheelchair for Nthabiseng was received by the Fund, her existing chair was broken. Nthabiseng loves to take part in the Annual Wheelchair Race that takes place in the Botshabelo District.

She received her new motorised wheelchair in time for the race and came first in the quadriplegic event. Nthabiseng is an active member of the community and loves to motivate other wheelchair users. Her mother is elderly and suffers from arthritis and the motorised wheelchair has helped her tremendously in that her back pain has improved and she has more free time.



DEBEERS TRUST FUND

Ashnadine Slemmert is ten years old and lives in the Fazeli Dabi District in the Free State. She is using a walking frame and a light weight manual wheelchair suited to her disability. Funding from the **De Beers Trust Fund** has enabled Ashnadine and many other disabled members in this community to obtain the devices necessary to lead productive lives. As a result of using the walking frame at school, Ashnadine is more upright when she walks, and therapists are pleased to say that her posture is improving. The impact of the device is enabling Ashnadine to concentrate better at school and partake in all activities. The manual wheelchair brings relief to the family as they no longer have to carry Ashnadine around. They spend less on transport as they can walk and push Ashnadine rather than use a taxi.



Sydney Buga, a 57-year-old double amputee, was assisted with a motorised wheelchair with funding received from **The Oasis Crescent Fund**. As Mr Buga approaches his pensionable age, he is not employed but moves around his community now with ease and is able to visit family, the clinic and friends. He is also a very committed church member and can attend the services on a Sunday. The motorised wheelchair has given him dignity and mobility. Sydney lives with his elderly mother who no longer suffers from back ache from having to push him around.



Sizwe Mabaso is a teenager who attends the Open Air School in Durban; he has Muscular Dystrophy. Before he received his motorised wheelchair, he indicated to the Fund that it would be a "real blessing to get a motorised wheelchair." He found navigating steep hills very difficult, and on one occasion fell out of his manual chair. Now with the motorised wheelchair, he is finding hills a lot easier to ascend and his time at school is much more productive, as now he has more energy. For his family it is a dream come true. They feel that the motorised wheelchair will be life changing for Sizwe and have noticed how his confidence with his friends has grown.

Funding from **NORDEX Energy South Africa Pty Ltd** made this possible



APEXHI CHARITABLE TRUST FUND

Siyabonga Mgquibelo lives in the Strand and attends a Day Care Centre for Children with disabilities. He is a Cerebral Palsy Quadriplegic and thanks to **Apexhi Charitable Trust Fund**, a motorised wheelchair was purchased for him. Siyabonga copes very well intellectually at school. The teacher at the Care Centre feels hopeful that Siyabonga will be able to pursue tertiary studies and ultimately employment one day.



NUSSBAUM FOUNDATION

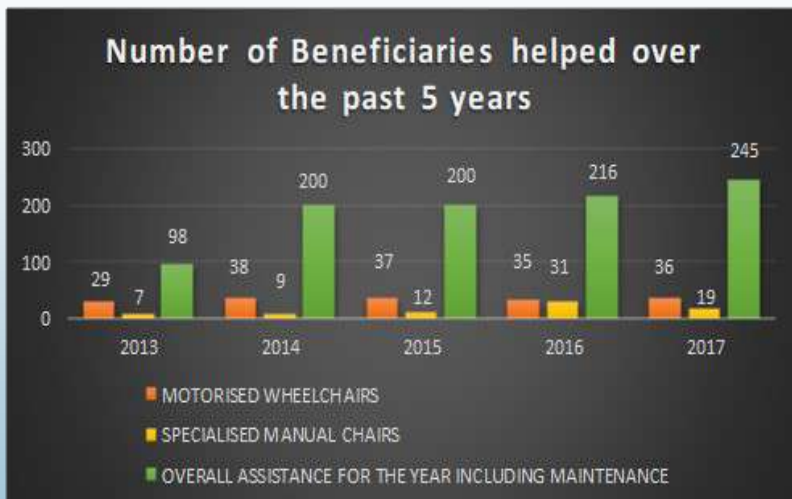
Silindokuhle Malia has a chronic cardiovascular condition and she is not able to walk more than a few steps. She attends a school for children with special needs in the Eastern Cape. As a result of this, Silindokuhle was often isolated from her friends and frustrated at not being able to participate. Since receiving the motorised wheelchair, the therapist at the school says that Silindokuhle's life has been transformed. She can move around the school freely for her different lessons and activities. She loves the freedom and independence and her confidence and academic achievement have improved substantially. Silindokuhle's Grandmother who takes care of her says a much more fulfilled and contented child comes home each day. She is a member of the Boccia Team at school. She helps with the administration and is learning to referee. This chair was sponsored by the **Nussbaum Foundation**.



VICTOR DAITZ FOUNDATION



Nontobeko Dunjana has Cerebral Palsy and she is currently doing an internship at the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation. With the motorised wheelchair Nontobeko no longer has to self-propel, she is a lot more independent and says she has gone from "zero to hero". For the first time, Nontobeko can go to the shops on her own and for this, she expresses her sincere thankfulness to the **Victor Daitz Foundation**. Nontobeko's life has been greatly improved. She is motivated and hopes to find permanent work one day.



The Financial Report

Income at R2.28 million was 66% up on 2015/2016. This was due to budgeted 2015/16 income being received this year, to improved communication with donors and not least to a new fundraising consultant, Katie Florian.

During the year RSF invested in Fundraising costs (R76 000) and M&E (just under R10 000). In addition, the manager increased her travelling to meet stakeholders and donors. These trips kept the Fund up to date with donor requirements. Medical professionals are given overviews on RSF's M&E program and guidelines on how to improve applications to the Fund to ensure swifter assistance to beneficiaries.

Administration systems are being streamlined using the Salesforce software. All records and data will be housed in a Salesforce data base. Mechanising this key administration process will:

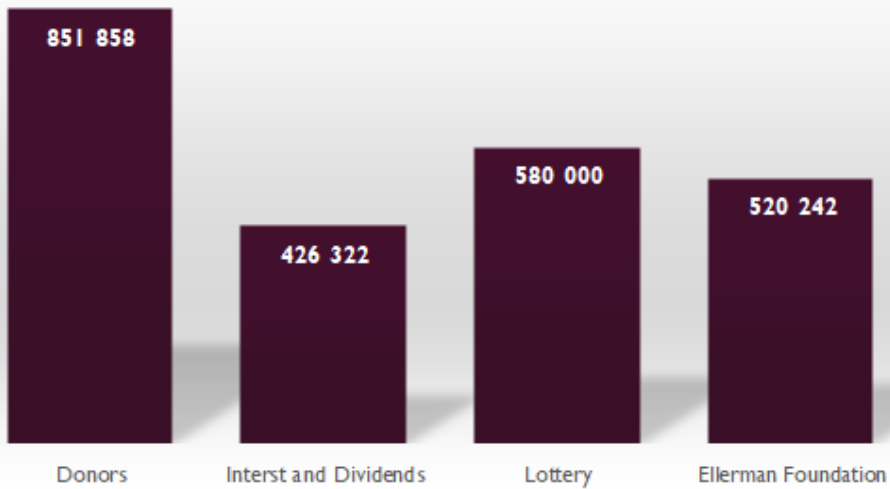
- Result in time saving for the Fund's staff thereby increasing capacity to process more applications for assistance.
- Enable them to respond faster to donor and stakeholder queries.
- It will improve control as it will allow management to login to easily check that all applications are comprehensively handled.

245 beneficiaries were assisted in the current year and in monetary terms program funding rose to R1.41 million from just under R1.1 million in 2015/2016.

Costs were controlled. Operating costs, excluding Fundraising and travel, rose by just over 4%.

The Fund's Bookkeeper resigned in December 2016 and was replaced by a part-time experienced bookkeeper – see Committee and Staff below. This change will bring R70 000 in annual savings.

Income for April 2016 - March 2017

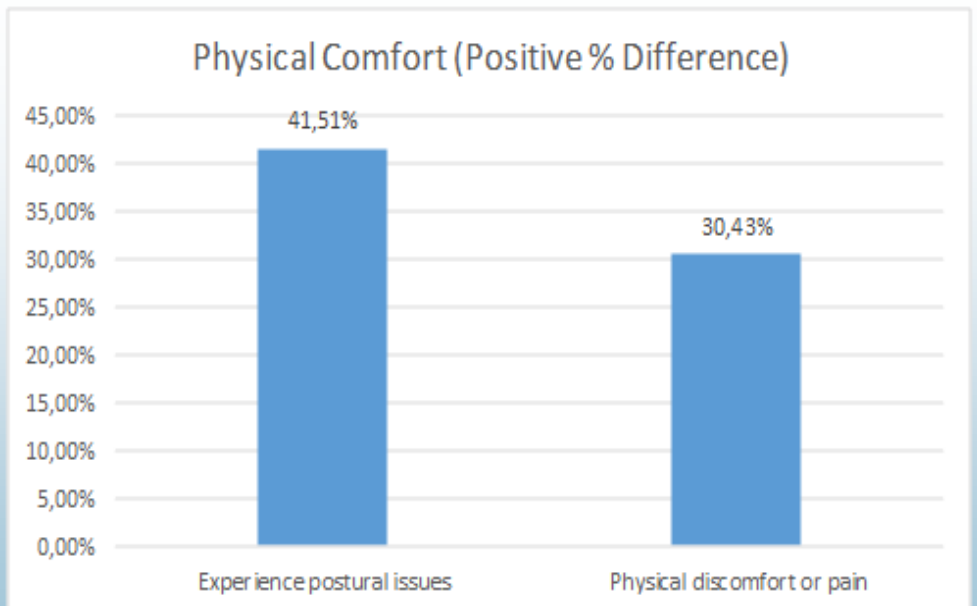


MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Good progress has been made with M&E. Questionnaires have been finalised and more than 100 beneficiaries have participated so far. Initial test data indicates that 25% of beneficiaries of motorised wheelchairs no longer need assistance to be mobile, 30% experience less pain and 42% have improved posture (poor posture is an indicator of future medical problems and patient discomfort).

Ongoing training of committee members and staff continues as does communication with key stakeholders.

The Fund is indebted to Katie Florian for initiating the process and the Fund is now working with Phillip Mcelu a Sales Force consultant.



Staff and Committee

I would like to thank the Committee for their assistance. The Medical sub-committee led by Verushka and Sameer vet every application to Rachel Swart and they give invaluable input which helps ensure the beneficiaries get the most suitable device for their needs. Jan Hofmeyr has set up reports and systems which have considerably improved the Fund's financial reporting. Finally the Committee has assisted with breakaway M&E sessions.

Welcome to Sean MacGinty who joined Rachel Swart and has given input into the M&E program. Sean has several years NGO experience in South Africa and Argentina at both program set up and implementation plus invaluable M&E experience.

Considering that all Committee members' input is voluntary, RSF is fortunate to have such dedicated service.

I wish Verushka every success as she takes over the Chair in September.

Committee members: *Mark MacGinty* (Chairman), *Verushka Ramanjam* (Vice Chairman), *Jan Hofmeyr*, *Igsaan Hendricks*, *Sameer Rahim*, *Joan Vosloo*, *Nomazizi Pasiwe*, *Gadija Koopman* and *Sean MacGinty*

The Rachel Swart Fund operates thanks to two dedicated staff members – *Joy Badham-Thornhill* and *Nathaline Petersen*.

Heather Le Roux has been contracted as a part-time bookkeeper and in a few months has already had a sizeable impact.

Mandy Newman resigned after more than thirty one years of loyal service to take up a position at St. Giles. Mandy thank you for your hard work and good luck with your new venture.

Finally, I would like to recognise the staff for the wonderful voluntary fund-raising they do. They manage the Two Oceans Marathon which brings in more than R150 000 a year. In addition to their normal busy workload, they recruit 50 runners to run the race and coordinate each runner's fund raising program.

How you can help!

The Rachel Swart Fund relies on the generous donations of corporates, foundations, and individuals alike to continue its work. For more information regarding how to donate, or for general information about the organisation, please visit the website: www.rachelswart.co.za or contact joy@rachelswart.org.za

