

## HIGHLIGHTS OVER 90 YEARS

### THE BEGINNING

**THE P.E. SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILD LIFE** was established on **30 September 1917**.

The first staff consisted of:

Hon. Secretary  
Hon. Treasurer  
Assistant Secretary  
Nursing Inspector who did all the home visits

The problems at the time included:

- Severe Poverty
- Slum Housing
- Child neglect / abuse
- Child Abandonment
- Poor Parenting Skills
- Child Labour
- High Mortality Rate

### THE TWENTIES

At the time Child Welfare work was very health oriented and the Society started off with two baby burdeaux (clinics).

**In 1918 the Society's name was changed to the P.E. CHILD WELFARE SOCIETY.**

In **1925** the **BABY BUREAX** were taken over by the local authorities and are now the municipal clinics.

In **1927** a **MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC** was started. It was served by an itinerant Doctor from the Mental Hospital in Grahamstown. Over the years this work expanded to such a degree that during the **1930's** it became an independent organization – **THE MENTAL HEALTH SOCIETY.**

By the end of the 1920's the Society was employing "unqualified" social workers.

## THE THIRTIES

On **16 February 1932** the **Clarendon Crèche and Mothercraft centre** was officially opened.

The Centre also served as a training facility for Good Hope Nursery Nurses, a Dietetic Centre and a Baby Hotel where mothers going on holiday or who were in need of special rest, could leave their children.



In **1938** the Society received its **first government subsidies**, one for the Secretary's salary and one for the Clarendon Crèche.

## THE FORTIES

In **1940**, Mrs Biggs, the first qualified Social Worker was appointed. In the same year a nursery school was established at the Clarendon Crèche.

The Society opened the first **P.E. PLACE OF SAFETY FOR COLOURED CHILDREN IN 1941**. This was followed by a **PLACE OF SAFETY FOR EUROPEAN BOYS IN 1942 AND ONE FOR EUROPEAN BABIES AND GIRLS IN 1943**.

In **1943**, the **first "Black" Social Worker** was appointed to serve the New Brighton area. Sewing classes started for unemployed females in Schauderville and Sidwell. Social Workers of the Society took over the supervision of children in foster care in their areas.

After the establishment of the **SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN 1948**, the "Places of Safety" were transferred to that authority.



In **1948** one small girl accompanied her granny to the Schauder sewing class to help her thread her needles, but stayed to make a dress. By the end of that year **6** children were helping their mothers. A voluntary worker added games and singing – and this was the start of the **SCHAUDER TOYNBEE CLUB**.



## THE FIFTIES

In **1952 Messrs WELFIT ODDY** donated the “**10 BABY PRAM**” to the Clarendon Crèche to enable the smallest Clarendon babies to be taken to the clinic.

Early in the fifties the need was identified for an Emergency Home for “white children”. The **ROUND TABLE** agreed to collect funds and erected a small home for this purpose. **CHILD HAVEN** was handed over to the Society in 1954. This facility is today known as **UKHUSELO HAVEN FOR ABUSED WOMEN** and managed by an independent organization.



## THE SIXTIES

In the sixties the focus of social work changed. It graduated from the old idea of handing out bounty to the poor and putting needy children in homes – to the worker seeking to help parents to understand their own problems and tackle them intelligently.

During the sixties the society started making use of the Salvation Army Home for Unmarried mothers.



In 1965 – The **GELVANDALE TOYNBEE CLUB** was opened.

In **1968** PORT ELIZABETH was hit hard by floods and many people lost all their belonging. This Society served on a special committee to assist the flood victims.

## THE SEVENTIES

### 1975

The Society appointed its first **Director, Mrs P. Blecher**. The Society's offices housed above the Herald Offices in Military Road, Central.

### EQUAL PAY FOR ALL SOCIAL WORKERS

### 1976

After the unrest in the "Black" areas, all "Black" crèches were taken over and run by their own committees, under the auspices of the then **BANTU ADMINISTRATION BOARD**, who also took over their subsidization.

During the mid-seventies problems were experienced with attendances at the Clarendon Crèche. There was no longer a need for the service in that area. In **1977** the Clarendon Crèche was taken over by the Lake Farm Centre as a nursery school for handicapped children.

In **1979** the Society's offices moved to the **FEATHER MARKET COMPLEX**.

## THE EIGHTIES

In **1981** the Society's name changed once again to the **PORT ELIZABETH CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY**.

In **1981** a new home for unmarried mothers was opened. The Society revamped a cottage in the grounds of the Salvation Army Ray Schauder Home. The Home was run by the Salvation Army in close co-operation with the P.E CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY.

**IN 1986, LIEBENHAUSE, THE CENTRE FOR STREET CHILDREN OPENED.**



During the latter part of **1988** the phenomenon of child abuse became more prevalent.

With the assistance of the **LIONS' HOST CLUB, THE CHILD ABUSE CENTRE AND CHILDLINE SERVICES** were launched on **7 DECEMBER 1988**.

In 1988 The Society moved to new premises in Pearson Street, Central.



**1989** saw major changes in the **ADOPTION** field when there was a move from the traditional secretive non-disclosure approach to the open adoption method. This Society did its first open adoption in **March 1989**.

## THE NINETIES

The highlight of 1991 was the completion and opening of the new **TOYNBEE SCHAUDER COMMUNITY CENTRE.**



The Society started its job creation project when, in **1991**, it was awarded a contract by the Department of Manpower to train 40 unemployed women from the Northern Areas in the skill of machine sewing.

This programme was terminated in 2006 owing to a lack of contracts awarded to the organization.



In **October 1991** the first community development officer was appointed to do groundwork in the North-Eastern areas.

With the help of 3 major church organizations, **ST. CHRISTOPHERS** in Middle Street, North End opened its doors to the street children of Port Elizabeth in **DECEMBER 1991**, our first phase shelter for street children. Today this facility is managed by A.C.V.V. as they became more involved in rendering services to street children.

In **1992** an Educare Coordinator was appointed so as to enhance and maintain a high standard of service at our ever increasing number of educare centres.



In **1993 LIEBENHAUS** became the Second Phase shelter for street children in Port Elizabeth and was registered as a Children's Home for 25 boys.



Also in **1993 SIZWE SETHU EDUCARE CENTRE** in Motherwell, and the **Toynbee Gelvandale Community and Educare Centre** was opened and each catered for 120 pre-school children from the Motherwell and Gelvandale areas.

During the early 1990's the organization ran **8 Soup Kitchens** which was sponsored by the Department of Population development and provided meals to approximately 1300 people per month.

**The GOVAN MBEKI EDUCARE CENTRE IN GOVAN MBEKI FOR 120 CHILDREN** were opened in **SEPTEMBER 1996**.

**1997** was also a first for the organization when we appointed **9 TRAINEE SOCIAL AUXILIARY WORKERS**.

After submitting a comprehensive Family Preservation community proposal in 1997, this organization was selected by the Inter-ministerial Committee on the Transformation of the Child and Youth Care Services as a new initiative and was allocated seed funding to run a pilot programme in Helenvale. This included intensive work with families and children, a youth programme with trained youth mentors, trained neighbourhood friends, after school programmes and ubuntu play schools and a teenage mother's programme.



Today our organization is recognized as one of the leaders in the field of the Family Preservation Model.

## **THE NEW MILLENIUM**

As a result of the underutilization of the Toynbee Schauder Community Centre and the cost of office accommodation, the Management Committee was forced to make a serious decision to alter the Community Centre into office facilities. On 27 March 2000 the Organization moved to the premises in Schauderville.

**On 11 May 2000 the organization changed its name to P.E. CHIDLIN AND FAMILY CENTRE/EASTERN CAPE.**

**THE TOLL FREE CHIDLIN EASTERN CAPE, SPONSORED BY TELKOM, WAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED IN JULY 2000.**

During **2001** the Court Preparation Programme for children was initiated. This programme was streamlined by our inclusion in a pilot project run by Vista University.

In **April 2002** the organization appointed a Marketing and Funding Manager to assist in raising capital to drive the organization.

In 2002 the hard work and commitment of our staff were acknowledged when our Community Training Programmes (within the Family Preservation Programme) were nominated and awarded a Silver Award by the Impumelelo Innovations Award Trust for making a difference in communities.

During 2002 the organization introduced an Adoption Unit with 3 Social Workers working as a team rather than having only one Adoption Social Worker.

In **January 2003** P.E. Childline took over the services in Kirkwood, at the request of the community and with the approval of the Department of Social Development. One Social Worker and one Social Auxiliary Worker are active within the Kirkwood and surrounding areas. These services were terminated in March 2005.

During 2003 all the staff members at the organization were trained in Family Preservation and the Family Preservation values, principles and strategies were integrated and entrenched in all our services – not only community based services. This was a major achievement as the whole organization had now become part of the paradigm shift to developmental services.

During 2003 the Job Skills Programme expanded into Uitenhage. All the Job Skills Training programmes were accredited. However, as a result of changed policies in the allocation of contracts, the organisation had no choice but to terminate its Job Skills Training Programmes.

Much of **2004** was spent on training of professionals and volunteers in the rural communities of the Eastern Cape. Both Child Abuse Training – identification and treatment as well as Family Preservation training, were offered.

During **2007** the demand for our training has resulted in the formation of a Training Unit consisting of 2 Social Workers and 2 Social Auxiliary Workers. This unit is also responsible for the Child Abuse Awareness Programmes.

The annual report will show the focus areas in which the organization is presently involved in.