



**PEN Profile 2015**

**(Participate, Empower, Navigate)**

## 1. PEN OVERVIEW

Our urban context, coupled with global urbanisation trends, pose unique challenges to our society. The ever increasing population in Tshwane's inner-city is resulting in problems like overcrowding, unhygienic living conditions, pollution, joblessness, malnutrition, substance abuse, domestic violence and high-risk lifestyles.

PEN is a faith-based organisation that has been working to uplift people living in the inner-city since 1992. Our vision is to partner with those we serve: "To Ignite Change, Nurture Togetherness and Heal communities". We offer a holistic set of services to support people to overcome their current circumstances, restore their dignity and become self supporting, well adapted, responsible members of society.

Our focus is on "most at risk population groups" including orphaned and vulnerable children, the homeless, sex workers, drug addicts, pregnant women and children without access to suitable educational opportunities. Our outreach workers identify vulnerable people in the community and introduce them to the relevant PEN programmes so they can receive the help they need.

We provide a mix of charge-able and non-chargeable services, so that quality, affordable services are available to those who would not otherwise have access to them. Income generated from these services, contribute to PEN's ability to provide free services to those most at risk.

Our services are mobilised through 20 projects focusing on the following themes:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • <b>Community support and citizens rights</b> | • Supportive housing                         |
| • <b>Healthcare and emotional well being</b>   | • Creative arts, music and recreation        |
| • <b>Education and access to technology</b>    | • Enterprise coaching and skills development |
| • <b>Christian community and discipleship</b>  |  |

The work done within in each of these themes is described in detail in the sections that follow.

## 2. PEN THEMES

### 2.1. COMMUNITY SUPPORT & CITIZENS RIGHTS

#### ***Addressing the basic needs of people in crisis and restoring human dignity.***

We work to befriend homeless people and sex workers so that when they choose to change their lives, they have somewhere to go for help. We journey with them through drug rehabilitation, safe house placements, access to healthcare, therapeutic counseling, skills development, securing ID documentation and job searching. We assist them to access the facilities they need to complete their journey to their restoration. Unfortunately the stigma associated with their circumstances makes it difficult to access these facilities on their own. We meet with local forums to raise awareness and advocate for fair policing practices.

*"I am homeless. I got robbed while sleeping; they took all I have, even my ID. I heard about PEN I so went there and met with David. He showed me where I could shower and clean myself up. I also met Nancy; she said she could help me with this bad cough that can't leave me. She took me to the clinic where they said I have TB. They gave me medicine and Nancy kept it safe for me to come and take every day. Katleho helped me get a new ID book and that helped me to get a job. It's a small one now, but I am already looking at the horizon". Siph*

#### **Did you know in 2014 we:**

- Provided 20 women with emergency housing and placed 5 women in safe houses.
- Introduced 12 women to drug rehabilitation facilities, and helped 30 women gain access to medical care,
- Assisted 21 people with obtaining legal documentation,
- Taught **180** children and over **200** parents about their human rights.
- Provided nearly 200 homeless adults with access to a support group and to sanitation facilities (toilets, showers and laundry)

## 2.2. HEALTHCARE & EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

### ***Restoring dignity through physical, emotional and mental healthcare.***

Many of the people we serve have experienced significant trauma and have social and emotional struggles as a result. These challenges often make it difficult to function well in family, school and work situations. Our team of psychologists and social workers draw alongside these community members to support them in dealing with their distress and help them overcome their current circumstances.

Our psychologists also work with pre-schoolers that have barriers to their development at school and support older children to make informed career choices based on their abilities and interests.

Sediba Hope Community Clinic offers free community orientated primary health outreach services that identify individuals within the community who are in need of health care. Often these people have experienced some form of barrier in accessing health care in a public clinic. Such individuals often include homeless people, drug users, female sex workers, pregnant women and children and refugees.

#### **Did you know in 2014 we:**

- Provided **2680 people** with HIV testing and counseling and **educated 2363 people** on HIV prevention or management.
- Provided over **200 women** with **ante and post natal** services
- Supported **482** people with therapeutic counseling with a psychologist or social worker.
- Trained **40 parents** on parenting skills and **reconnected 41** people **with their families**
- Worked on **8 child protection cases**

## 2.3. EDUCATION & ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

### **Breaking the cycle of poverty through education**

Early childhood development: Children's body's and brains develop at an amazing rate from age 0 to 6 years. These are the most receptive years in which young children continuously interpret the information they receive from their surroundings. Children who emerge from this stage of life without having received proper "pre-schooling" find simple tasks like holding a pen or identifying shapes difficult. Coping at school becomes impossible.

Our Preschool Forum assesses, trains and coaches teachers from inner-city daycare centers to improve the level of safety, nutrition and education of pre-school children. PEN's two pre-schools provide an affordable educational program including bursaries for those in need, that enables inner-city children to be "school ready". \*

Education support: Our after-school centre provides tutoring and reading support to inner-city learners who don't receive educational support at home. We work to ensure these children are technology enabled from an early age and provide coaching in subject choices and further study opportunities.

*"Previously we only had pictures to show the children, but through the training, theme planning and the toy library, I am able to plan my week. My children can now touch something instead of only seeing pictures. I will encourage others to join the Preschool forum". - Edith Abeneto, Eden Day Care*

#### **Did you know in 2014 :**

- **We trained 142 care givers;** giving over **1500 children** access to improved **Early Childhood Development** Programmes
- **1394** children participated in our **reading** programme
- **42** children attended **subject choice** and **study opportunity** workshops

\* Thank you to Momentum for their support of the Pre-school forum

## 2.4. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND DISCIPLESHIP

**Many of PEN's projects work to practically demonstrate God's love for His people by attending to their physical and social needs, other projects focus specifically on community members' spiritual wellbeing.**

Activities include one-on-one counseling, weekly devotionals, support groups, kid's Bible clubs, a weekly Youth Celebration and weekend camps for both our kids and youth. We believe that it is vital to build strong relationships with the people we journey with and only then can we start making God's word relevant and contextualize His voice in their lives.

*"I only saw horses in the magazines and books at school; the idea of riding one was so scary! You know what, I got on the back of a horse and I wasn't scared anymore! The camp leaders told us that we can conquer all those things we are afraid of just like getting on the horse's back. The music was great and we had a lot of worship time. God is good and thank you PEN! I will never ever forget this!" - Bongani*

### Did you know in 2014 :

- **50** people attended Christian **counseling sessions**
- **584** people attended **devotional groups**
- **221** people attended **youth camps**

## 2.5. SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**Adding stability to the lives of people in crisis.**

Supportive housing strengthens communities and helps integrate people with disabilities and other special needs into the life of their neighborhoods.

Our emergency rooms provide a safe haven for families in crisis and women who have left abusive situations.

Our Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme provides a safe, loving, homely environment to the 35 children who have been removed from or have chosen to leave abusive or neglectful situations and are now in our care. We support these children emotionally, physically and academically to enable them to break the cycle of poverty and abuse.

*"Hendrik was a street dweller before he was given the opportunity to reside in PEN's supportive housing. He waited patiently for the house to be renovated and when he moved in he committed to taking care of his own belongings and the house in general. Hendrik got up early in the morning and swept the outside yard and cleaned the kitchen and lounge. He liked things to be neat and clean."*

### Did you know in 2014 :

- Our **emergency rooms** helped **46 people** with short term accommodation in crisis situations.
- **127** people resided in our **subsidized housing** programme.
- **35** children found a home in our houses for orphaned and vulnerable children.

## 2.6. CREATIVE ARTS, MUSIC & RECREATION

**We work to develop young people's potential and confidence through mediums of art, music and sport.**

"Stage door" is aimed at teens and young adults with a flair for the performing arts and provides them with the opportunity to attend acting workshops and gain experience on stage. We support those wanting to enter a career in the arts to create their portfolio and register with agencies.

"The Celebration Show" works with younger children. Through the performing arts, these children learn discipline, perseverance, determination and confidence.

*"Being part of the Celebration Show is like being part of a family that understands you, but also knows that you have a lot to give. I have never been to the coast and last year I had to choose between going to the seaside for the first time or playing my part in the Circle of life production, of course I chose the Celebration Show. They teach me how to endure and better myself and when I take the stage; I'm free!" - Zani,*

### Did you know in 2014 :

- We held **5 productions** starring nearly **40 young people** from the inner-city community

## 2.7. ENTERPRISE COACHING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

### ***Restoring dignity through employment***

Recycling buy back centre: We have recently set up a recycling buy back centre that supports informal recyclers to improve their situations. Informal recyclers now have access to toilets, showers and laundry facilities as well all other PEN services. We aim to increase the quality and volume of recyclables they have access to through strategic partnerships with corporate contacts.

Urban greening: We are working with children to establish food gardens at PEN education centres. We also plan to develop roof top food gardens on larger PEN buildings – these will provide hands on training and employment opportunities for the unemployed as well as improve the nutrition and food security of our beneficiaries.

Small business development: We work with small business owners to increase their profitability and their ability to create jobs through training, coaching and marketing support.

### 3. INTERNAL STRUCTURES AND MANAGEMENT

#### 3.1. GOVERNANCE

PEN is a Not-for-Profit Company (Reg. Nr. 92/01259/08;013-087 NPO) that employs 140 full time staff members and is governed by an independent board of directors and executive management team.

PEN is proudly BEE compliant (rated as a level 2 contributor with a black beneficiary base score of 82%). We certify information needed for a BEE scorecard. PEN can also present section 18A tax exemption certificates where relevant.

#### 3.2. ADMINISTRATION

Our “Mission Support” team provides centralized administrative support to all PEN projects including: financial management, HR, marketing, monitoring and evaluation, IT support, building maintenance, volunteer coordination and vehicle management. This reduces the administrative burden on projects and ensures that project staff can focus on servicing beneficiaries.

#### 3.3. FINANCIAL HEALTH

PEN’s balancesheet has grown over the last 10 years, while liabilities have been kept below 5% of total assets. We rely on external and internal funding. External funding is made up of donations from individuals, events, businesses, government and churches. PEN’s long term investment strategy includes investing in income generating assets such as: office space, housing, parking and conference facilities that are rented out. PEN’s internal income covers PEN’s administrative overheads so externally sourced funds can go to direct project costs.

PEN has an annual budgeting process and monthly meetings to review actual vs. budgeted spend. Our central finance function oversees the financial management of PEN. PEN is financially audited by an independent auditor (Schreuder & Associates, Chartered Accountants (S.A.)), as required in the Companies Act.

#### 3.4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We work hard to be good stewards of our resources and have systematised monitoring and evaluation processes in place so we are able to understand the impact we making and improve our effectiveness where necessary.

For further information, please contact us at +27 (0) 12 323 6688 or [info@pen.org.za](mailto:info@pen.org.za).

Kind regards



Dr. Marinda van Niekerk

PEN CEO