

WORDWORKS

£6379.62

To implement a school programme for the teaching of early language and literacy skills to deprived South African children.

To provide teacher training, volunteer training and parent training to ensure sustainability of the programme

The TFN grant enabled WORDWORKS to do three very important things:

- to expand the number of sites in which they are active
- to develop new programmes and materials
- to monitor their programmes and spend time on planning for the future

Prior to receiving the funding from TFN they were active in only two schools; however, with the funding from TFN they were able to offer their literacy programme in three additional communities in and around Cape Town. They organised several parent 'empowerment' programmes in different areas in SA. With the help of the funding they were able to run 6 more "Hero Books" groups for children who have undergone emotional trauma. 36 children benefited from these support groups. They initiated and ran a 3-month language development programme in a pre-school in an impoverished township. They also initiated a teacher-training programme, which is ongoing, for the teachers of all the classes in the pre-school. The funding from TFN enabled them to spend time developing new educational materials. The funding has also provided them with precious time in which they could evaluate their programmes, monitor successes and make changes where necessary.

WORDWORKS has had a remarkable success rate with their literacy programme. In their other programmes, success is more difficult to quantify, as the work is long-term and involves emotional and cognitive growth. However in these areas, qualitative feedback such as comments from participants, the ongoing dedication of our volunteers, as well as the love of learning so obvious in the children who beg to come to the Wordworks hut to learn with them, speaks for itself.