



Born in Africa
P.O.Box 1674
Plettenberg Bay, 6600
South Africa

info@borninafrica.org
www.borninafrica.org

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060-686-NPO

Plettenberg Bay
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Overview report 2019

2019! Yes folks, it has come and gone, virtually in the blink of an eye for so many people out there when you talk to them. Born in Africa on the other hand, has so much good news to share with our faithful family, sponsors and friends, about our students as well as the social development genre! There is a saying that goes: "He who opens a school, closes a prison", a motto which we pretty much live by each day as we enter our office, our schools, our centers and embark on our daily activities. Of course, one needs to give **gratitude** where gratitude is due and therefor all the accolades go to our hard-working staff members, our loyal volunteers and board members in South Africa and abroad and our sponsors of course! For together we can make a difference!

Huge news is of course that in 2019 we commenced the building of our **sports fields** right next door to the Born in Africa Educational Centre in Kranshoek. The opening of the Born in Africa Sports and Culture Centre will take place in 2020 and we are so proud to not only promote the educational progress of our children, but also to ensure they practice sport and stay healthy, as we all know that a healthy body promotes a healthy mind! Soccer, hockey, netball and cycling are just a few of the sports which will be played at this centre.

Another feather in our cap for sure is the amount of **dreams** we were able to realize this year, with no less than 287 dreams realized! Dreams in 2019 varied from kids wanting their own bike, to kids dreaming about having their own bed. Kids were also treated to outings such as visiting the beach, Adventure land with lots of swimming and fun taking place! Other children needed medical attention and these dreams were also realized, by them receiving reading glasses, kids seeing the doctor, dentist, dermatologist and more. The Dream in Africa project is so valuable as the children immediately see that dreams can come true!

Volunteers play such a valuable part in our organisation. They re-enforce our team either as a volunteer or as an intern and come with wonderful wealth of knowledge! They equip our children with a new set of skills through additional computer lessons, reading classes, typing, mathematics and homework lessons just to name a few.

Keeping our children's attention focused throughout the year is also something we focus on. Therefor we hosted **various competitions** for our children where their knowledge was tested in a fun environment! Typing competitions, Dictation Competitions and Recycling Competitions were some of the fun events hosted by BIA.

We all know what a beautiful part of South Africa we live in, however it also comes with its dangers. **Water safety** is vital, living next to the ocean and we prepare our learners in various ways how to take care of themselves when entering the water. Our Learn to Swim program teaches children the basics of water safety. We also have a group who is learning to Surf on a weekly basis and then a number of our children take part in the Adopt a Swimmer program. Our BIA Development Nippers team are part of the Junior Life Savers program where their swimming skills are tested to the maximum. They also have the opportunity to become Junior lifesavers

when they reach the appropriate age and earn pocket money during the school holidays. What a wonderful project and we are so proud to stand behind each and every little flipper in the water!

Over full classrooms are a daily occurrence in the 8 schools we work at daily. To help alleviate this problem we sponsor 3 **assistant teachers** who work alongside the class teacher on a daily basis. This enormous help gives the class teacher the opportunity to focus on those who need additional help.

Born in Africa also employs 4 **mentors** who work with our children every day, using various social development programs. We all know the struggles young people of today face. Drug abuse, Alcohol abuse, gangs, teenage pregnancy and crime are just a few issues they struggle with and we work endlessly to ensure our children receive the necessary life skills to combat these issues and overcome them. We do this by hosting group sessions which are a fun environment for our children to express themselves and then also have individual sessions where serious issues are discussed in a private and safe environment.

Once in high school we need to start thinking ahead! **Career guidance** is necessary to ensure our school leavers who are about to embark on their tertiary studies receive the proper guidance for them to make the correct decisions on their future studies. Both at Plett Secondary and Wittedrift High School, where Born in Africa now boasts with 38 top- performing students, intense career guidance sessions are organized by BIA academic coordinator Belinda!

Once our children have made their career choice, we assist with the necessary applications and support them during their **Tertiary studies**. We are so proud to announce that currently we are supporting a total number of 34 students studying such a wide range of studies which include: Chemistry, Medicine, Teaching, Law, Psychology, Office Administration, Accounting, Television and Media studies, Hospitality Management, Chef, Fashion Designing and Nursing to name a few. It is such an honor to see our young people develop into the outstanding adults they were meant to be!

Making sure all 395 children in Born in Africa come to their group sessions and after school activities is easy, as we provide fun filled afternoons where children also receive necessary nutrition, educational camps and holiday outings. At the beginning of the school year, each learner receives a full school uniform, stationery, books and a backpack. Also, all the above-mentioned activities and programs keep the children united under the Born in Africa flag where our motto "Together we can make a difference" is something we strive towards each and every day!

Amount of children in the program: 391

Amount of godparents: 835

Amount of staff: 10

Amount of volunteers: 20