

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	The PlettAid Foundation
Name of the project TFN funded:	Pastoral care & bereavement counselling for children and home-based care for the dying
Date Funded by TFN:	15/03/2017
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	Yes
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	<p>The biggest impact the grant had was that it was instrumental in enabling us to employ a dedicated social worker, which deepened and broadened the scope of psycho-social and palliative care the foundation could offer. Previously it was our registered nurses previously who had to deal with the psycho-social aspects of care as well as medical attending. The appointment of a social worker enabled them to focus on the more physical aspects of care which improved their management pain and other symptoms, for patients.</p> <p>The £8,500 received through The Funding Network specifically enabled The PlettAid Foundation to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We enrolled 30 new children in the past year, which brought the total of children cared for in 2017/18 to 103. The services/ support given to these children according to our initial objectives, were as follows: • Objective 1: To support 20 orphans and/or vulnerable children with food security/nutritional parcels and home care assistance, therapy, educational support and assistance in securing long-term financial aid through the child grant system. • Social auxiliary worker salary as most of the services are psycho-social in nature. • Play therapy costs (a minimum of 6 sessions per child in care to assist with life-skills training, bereavement support and trauma counselling). • 22 children were assisted with play-therapy, counselling and bereavement support. • School uniforms and stationary for children of indigent patients . • 37 children were assisted with access to schooling, securing school uniforms, stationery and enrolment in appropriate schools. • Educational support for children who have learning difficulties, through funding after-school tutoring • Through a collaborative effort with the different schools, after-school tutoring was done at schools by individual

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	<p>teachers at no cost to the organisation. This enabled us to support 17 more children than originally budgeted for, with actual access to uniforms, stationery and enrolment in the appropriate schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 2: To improved living conditions for indigent households including the following: • Food parcel for 10 indigent households while government welfare grants are being sourced. • 45 patients and their families were supported with nutritional parcels. • 39 patients and their families were assisted in securing social welfare assistance. • Ensuring basic shelters are dry and warm - this requires extra planking for walls and flooring, heavy duty plastic roof covering and a decent bed & mattress for the patient. • 53 patients and their families were assisted in improving their living conditions. • 30 patients and their families were assisted with financial and/or legal support regarding housing, electricity supply and wills.
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	6%
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	277
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	368
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	Yes
If yes, how much were you able to raise?	R 50 000 The Joan St Lindbergh Trust through Nedcor Group £2,500 from additional UK donors
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	No
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We wouldn't have been able to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
Since presenting at TFN, has your	No

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<p>organisation undergone any other significant changes?</p>	
<p>Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?</p>	<p>We are immensely grateful to TFN for having supported our fundraising efforts in the UK and having catalysed growing support from our UK network. Thank you</p>
<p>Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?</p>	<p>La-eqa, a 3 year old girl diagnosed with a neuroblastoma, was referred to us for palliative care as her cancer was not responding to any treatment. She lived with her mom, Leezonnia, and older sister Le-zane, in a 16 square meter, one-roomed wooden structure. They had electricity through an extension cord from a neighbouring house, and had access to water from an outside tap and made use of a pit-latrine.</p> <p>In spite of their very poor circumstances, the house was always immaculate and the obvious bond between Leezonnia and La-eqa was underscored by the care Leezonnia took with meals, games, keeping to medication schedules, her fierce protection of La-eqa.</p> <p>The cancer caused a massive swelling of La-eqa's head and proptosis and destruction of her right eye. She needed daily dressing of this eye and this caused her a lot of physical pain as well as emotional trauma while she was in the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town. It was thought that La-eqa would have to stay in hospital until her death, as the hospital staff did not think Leezonnia would be able to cope with her at home.</p> <p>Leezonnia insisted she wanted to take her child home and contacted us for assistance. We assisted her with La-eqa's wound dressing; taught her how to manage the different pain medications and how to grade La-eqa's pain according to her behaviour; we helped Leezonnia and Le-zane to confront the reality of the situation and their emotional response to it; we gave La-eqa her biggest wish - a pink scooter; we helped Leezonnia to access social welfare grants for both children and provided them with food parcels until those grants were paid.</p> <p>In this time, La-eqa, who was just about non-responsive while in hospital, sitting in her mom's arms all day long, refusing to sleep anywhere else than in her mom's arms, underwent a transformation. She started talking to family and friends, she started eating more - not very nutritional stuff, but having her ask for hot chips was quite an improvement on having to cajole her to eat anything at all. When she said that her biggest wish is a pink scooter, we did not expect her to be able to use it, but gave it to her in any event and she surprised everybody by disappearing down the road one afternoon to visit an old man she was very fond of. In short, she was just happy to be home</p>

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	<p>with all her loved ones around her and this lasted for about 4 weeks.</p> <p>La-eqa went back into hospital about 6 weeks after she was discharged, with a very low blood count and subsequent shortness of breath and she needed some oxygen to relieve some of this discomfort. La-eqa passed away 2 days after she was admitted to hospital again.</p> <p>This grant enabled us to give this little girl quality of life in the last weeks of her life. It enabled us to support a mother and sister in their bereavement, give them some much needed help and sometimes just a shoulder to cry on. Le-zane received bereavement play-therapy and after only 3 sessions the therapist concluded that she was coping and was a very well-adjusted little girl.</p>
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