

Children's Book Network (CBN)

Funding Proposal 2019-2020

Putting children and books on the same page

www.childrensbook.co.za



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Children's Book Network Trust No IT20964/2014

NPO Number 163-927

PBO 930054855/Section 18A

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Front cover photograph by Nyasha Makwarimba

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Children's Book Network



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General Information

Children's Book Network (CBN) is about Children, Books and Friends. Our aim is to promote joy in reading to the extent that children will come to love books. We provide a safe place for them to let their imaginations fly and give them cultural stimulation and access to knowledge outside their everyday experience.

CBN has been slowly building bridges between children and books for six years now. It is time to grow. Time to develop what we have worked on with the children of Red Hill, Clanwilliam, Stanford, De Kop, Hermanus, Tafelsig in Mitchell's Plain and elsewhere. Time to share.

Children we work with:

Under-resourced children between ages 9 and 12 – a seriously neglected group
These children usually can technically read – but don't read.

If they are not motivated to read at this stage – they never will read with ease and pleasure.

Our voluntary participants attend workshops during weekends and school holidays.
We work in English because we often have multi-lingual groups – and they all almost always understand and can respond in that language.

Lack of resources for this group

More needs to be done for this very neglected age-group. There is a huge gap between Early Learning and adolescence where very little is offered out of school. Many of CBN's children come from environments where books and reading are not part of daily life. Much, much more needs to be done to make reading cool – to make friends of books.



What we do ...

Our core work is through themed reading workshops that can last for a few hours, or a few days.

The workshops bring fun to the idea of reading, include cultural activities and team-building games as well as instilling a sense of confidence and self-worth. Books and stories are the backbone of every workshop, interspersed with games and fun around the theme.

<https://www.childrensbook.co.za/reports>

How much do we do?

During 2018, we held a total of 27 workshop days in various venues. Our workshop register is attached, giving numbers, dates and places.

Our work depends on as much one-on-one contact with children as possible. If numbers are too great – and facilitators too few – our work is diluted.



How are we monitoring and evaluating?

During 2018, CBN has been working with Jerushah Rangasami and her team at Impact Consulting, to implement a monitoring system for CBN. This has been funded by National Lotteries Commission.

New Departures as of July 2018

Teen Team

In association with Hermanus High School, we have enjoyed the support of a spirited and dedicated group of teenaged volunteers who help out with everything from administration to tie-dying T-shirts. They are absolutely invaluable, and their project is now an official part of their school's Social Responsibility programme.

A room of our own

For three years the Butterfly Centre (a school for children with additional needs) has generously allowed us to use their premises out of school time. As of the end of 2018, we will be contributing to the rental and making use of a back room as an office and workshop, as well as the two classrooms for workshops.





Who has funded this?

Our earliest supporters were Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians in South Africa who provided not only funding, but also practical advice and support. Rotarians in Sweden, Germany and Britain have been generous with their help. An extended project in Clanwilliam was funded as part of a social responsibility project by the Department of Water and Sanitation in association with archaeologists at UCT and at PGS Heritage. American storytellers held a fund-raiser in support.

National Lotteries Commission supported our operational costs during 2018 and a generous donation from the Paddy and Sue Kell Family Trust enabled many of our workshops and the development of the toolbox project. Investec made a timeous donation late in 2018.

We have also worked in tandem with the Centre for the Book (SA National Libraries) and Enlighten Education Trust in Hermanus who have both funded workshops at their venues. We have collaborated with Red Cross Children's Hospital School., which has one of our donated Toolboxes.

Other donations include those from the Joan St Lindbergh Trust, JH Richards Will Trust, Henrietta Chiappini, Anthony Gregorowski and (from Germany) Michael Grimm and Klaus Pampel. We are hugely appreciative of many personal funding donations, and by the priceless donations of time and energy from our volunteers.

Our registration process and governance is complete with our bank accounts, NPO Registration and tax exemption certificate acquired and our annual audits approved. We are ready for more action.

What next?

We continue developing reading kits and reading toolboxes that will extend our reach through teacher-librarians and librarians, particularly those working after school and on Saturday mornings. The Toolbox Project has been two years in the making and is being warmly anticipated by teacher librarians and librarians who have attended training workshops. The kit provides material for a ten-week term of activities.

There is a full Toolbox containing over 50 books for those who have few resources, and a smaller kit for those working in well-equipped libraries where they can make use of books they already have on their shelves.

Most importantly, in both cases there is a detailed handbook (over 100 pages) on how to use the kit and expand on our suggestions for encouraging a love of reading. There is a story (Zeb Super-Book Hero) specially written for the project that gives a way into selected books and activities. There is the CBN Reading Game, which we have developed to get children reading through an exciting board game. There will be more!

Please go to: <https://www.childrensbook.co.za/reports> where there are details of every workshop we have done – with thousands of photographs and also a section on the development of the toolboxes.

When funding permits, we will add art materials and more games to the mix – all with the same aim of getting books to children and children to books.







What do we need?

Help. Funding is a given (every organization needs more of that). Just as importantly we need to expand the number of people involved, and that particularly in the communities where we work.

We need fresh ideas and input, more people on the floor at workshops ... advice. People publicizing us on social media, people writing and researching for our website: people helping with planning and making the Toolboxes; people!

If you would like to, and are able to, help please contact us at info@childrensbook.co.za.

Thank you!

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