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PHOTOS: Jemal Countess, Mada Siebert, Mfundo Zeka

ABOUT ASAP

THE SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM
Linet Dube Program Director
Mada Siebert Business Manager
Sean Meredith Accountant
Xoliswa Pajiya Office Administrator & Fundraising Co-ordinator
Mfundo Zeka Community Development Co-ordinator
Noluthando Nizimande Community Development Co-ordinator

ASAP BOARD
Susan Crewe (Chair)
Noah Fischel
Priscilla Higham
Andre Titus
Mbali Thubisi
Patricia Dlamini

UK FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
Zita Lloyd
Anne Lambton
Camilla Lowther
Elizabeth Ashcombe
Jade Parfitt
Jane Ormsby Gore
Jasmine Guinness
Jose Fonseca
Lynne Franks
Maia Norman
Priscilla Higham
Rosie Bartlett
Sue Crewe
Tarka Russell

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NOPHUMLANI RIGALA (47) IS A MOTHER OF FOUR WHO IS THE FULL-TIME SECRETARY OF THE NONKQUBELA PROJECT.

"I joined Nonkqubela because I wanted to help the children in my village. What motivates me is seeing the change in children’s lives. Children who were withdrawn are now able to play and associate with other children. All of the children have school uniforms now, thanks to ASAP, providing for the vulnerable children and putting everyone on the same level. The children love coming to the centre. They enjoy the attention and love they receive here. I am inspired by the smiles on those little faces."

VISION
Orphans and vulnerable children benefit from holistic and integrated systems of care in their communities, enabling them to grow, learn, access opportunities and make a positive contribution to society.

MISSION
African Solutions to African Problems (ASAP) identifies women providing care for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in rural areas of South Africa. ASAP works with the women to develop their personal and organisational capacities to be able to relieve the social, psychological and economic effects of the HIV pandemic on the children and their communities.
Dear Friends and Supporters

This has been an extremely positive and encouraging year for ASAP. Because of your generosity two villages have graduated from the six-year ASAP model and continue to thrive, four villages are progressing well at various stages of development, others are in the process of evaluation in preparation for their participation and the youth programs are expanding.

In January 2018, ASAP founder Priscilla Higham, longtime supporter Jane Ormsby Gore, Monument Trust Executive, Matthew Williams and myself, went to South Africa to visit the villages in which the charity works.

In Durban we picked up a 4x4 vehicle to continue the five-hour journey to Matatiele, a small town in Kwazulu Natal province, where the ASAP office is located and where the three full time field staff are based. Following the resignation in November 2017 the Executive Director, the amazing Linet Dube, who has been with the organization for ten years, has been promoted to Program Director. She is now based in Matatiele and heads up the organization, assisted by Community Development Coordinators, Mfundo Zeka and Noluthando Nzimande.

During the following week we visited all the villages and met the children and their caregivers. We heard about their successes and their setbacks, we drove hundreds of miles, along extremely rough dirt roads to remote places to meet village elders, to be shown vegetable gardens and water pumps and to witness first hand what aspects were a success and where modifications needed to be made to the ASAP development model. On one occasion we were joined by Andre Titus, another South African Board member, who is generously helping develop a real-time Monitoring and Evaluation App for field work.

In a year when charities working abroad have been under the spotlight, it seems appropriate to emphasize that there is a close and personal connection to, and financial oversight of, the projects and employees that you are supporting.

Returning to Cape Town, Priscilla Higham and I met with our South African Board members, who besides Andre Titus now includes the extremely proactive Mblali Thubisi, Patricia Dlamini and Mvula Dhlomo Seroto as Treasurer. We spent time with our Cape Town office administrator Xoliswa Payiya and accountant Sean Meredith and sanctioned the relocation of the office to a space in a dedicated not-for-profit hub which has the advantage of not only costing less than ASAP’s previous location but provides state of the art facilities and support. We also engaged, on a freelance basis, the supremely efficient and committed Mada Siebert as Business Manager, who supports the staff in their various capacities and acts as direct liaison between the Board and management.

Besides strengthening the Board with highly professional and motivated South African members, we also commissioned Jill Ritchie of Papillon Consultancy to conduct a fundraising campaign aimed at opening local SA funding sources. This has proved successful, cost effective and uncovered numerous leads that are being followed up.

HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and grinding poverty still stalk the remote villages of the Eastern Cape and the tenacious women who care for the orphans and vulnerable children of their villages still need our help. They need our help to raise a generation of young South Africans, who in turn will battle to overcome the blight of neglect and disease.

Susan Crewe : Chair of the Board of ASAP
WHERE WE WORK

SOUTH AFRICA
7.52 million people living with HIV
19% adult HIV prevalence
270,000 new HIV infections
110,000 AIDS-related deaths
56% adults on antiretroviral treatment
55% children on antiretroviral treatment
Source: UNAIDS Data 2017 & STATSSA 2018

THE CHALLENGE

South Africa has the biggest HIV epidemic in the world. Kwazulu Natal province is the hardest hit area, with more than a quarter of the nation’s HIV positive population. ASAP works here in the remote areas near Matatiele, where the social, economic and psychological devastation still causes enormous suffering. A large portion of the productive population has died or are ill, and the area lacks economic opportunity for those still able. Food insecurity, and therefore malnutrition, is rife. Lack of access to basic healthcare and social services are common, especially in families challenged by extremely remote location and poor levels of education. Most villages still have no electricity, indoor plumbing or ablutions, running water or tarred roads. Many youths are not aware of opportunities for tertiary education and feel despondent about the future. Amidst all of this, the toughest battle for survival is fought by the orphans and vulnerable children, often living with ageing grandmothers or in child-headed households.

"During the 30 years of the global HIV epidemic, an estimated 17 million children lost one or both parents due to AIDS. Ninety percent of these children live in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, 3.4 million children under age 15 are living with HIV. Despite some decline in HIV adult prevalence worldwide and increased access to treatment, the number of children affected by or vulnerable to HIV remains alarmingly high." - USAID
WHAT WE DO

ASAP identifies proactive women who care and provide for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) despite the incredibly meagre resources available to them in their rural villages. ASAP partners with these women to develop their capacity and formalise as effective Community Based Organisations (CBO), registered and compliant with the requirements of the Department of Social Development. The management and boards of the CBOs receive governance and organisational management training while the caregivers are upskilled in home-based care, first aid, early childhood development, psychosocial support and nutrition. Each CBO builds a Drop-in Centre where the children are screened for health and psychosocial needs, receive a daily meal, play and develop with indoor and outdoor play equipment and benefit from therapeutic art workshops over the holidays. Each CBO is assisted with organic gardening training and the fencing and planting of a food garden. If needed, boreholes are dug, and pumps installed for water supply. Depending on the need in the village and the goals of the CBO, caregivers also do home visits and provide home-based care, arrange support groups for grandmothers, HIV testing drives and awareness events in partnership with Government.

ASAP additionally provides for the direct needs of OVC in the form of nutritious meals, school uniforms, mattresses and blankets, until the CBOs are able to access other resources for the children.
An inclusive facilitation process with all village stakeholders, endorsed and supported by the local chief, is key to unlocking and shaping each community’s vision for its development. Together, participants create goals, identify assets and learn to leverage them to reach common goals. The paradigm shifts from a needs-based approach to understanding existing strengths as a foundation for building upon.

Individuals who have stepped up to deal with challenges in their communities are identified and their skills deficit established within the framework of the community development goals. ASAP staff members then facilitate various workshops and events at the appropriate level to build capacity and assist these individuals in dealing with the needs in their communities. This participatory process underpins the success of ASAP’s unique, six-year model which was developed and refined, in the field, over 15 ‘hands-on’ years. Communities are empowered to build sustainable CBOs that provide holistic solutions for orphans and vulnerable children, and can continue their work indefinitely once ASAP exits.

“In sub-Saharan Africa, we expect over 5 million new HIV infections for children and adolescents between now and 2050 if current trends continue. This calls for sustainable support, care, and treatment and better planning for future generations.” - UNICEF
Hello Everyone. My name is Linet Dube and I am the new Program Director at ASAP. I started working for ASAP in 2008 as office administrator. After four years I took on the role of Programme Manager and four years later, that of Development Manager. In 2017 I moved to Matatiele to lead the field office and implement strategic changes to our developmental approach in the field. Over the last ten years I have grown with the organisation through its developmental stages, gaining a wealth of knowledge, experience and insight, which was deepened by working in the field this past year.

What I enjoy the most is seeing entire communities transformed over time, starting with the enormous change we bring to the lives of the children. I also love talking to the women in the villages and getting to know them, how they work and what their passions are - what really drives them. The work that they do is not easy, it's not work that anyone can do. It requires passion and commitment. When I started working at ASAP a woman said to me: “When you come to this job you stop being an employee and you become a mother.” I now realise what she meant. We cannot separate the work that we do from our everyday life. We are dealing with people’s lives, children’s lives and they become part of us because we think of them and their cases constantly.

2017-2018 was a busy year for ASAP as we worked to consolidate some of the changes in our implementation inspired by the Assets Based Community Development (ABCD) model. In real terms it meant working weekly in a more facilitative manner with the women in each Community Based Organisation (CBO) to first determine their goals and then work out the ‘how’ and ‘when’. In some ways we temporarily slowed down the development process to ensure we have a strong foundation to build for long term sustainability. Ultimately, we believe this will enhance the longevity of the CBOs and the women’s ability to care for the vulnerable children as well as uplift their communities. The CBOs now feel a greater sense of ownership of the process, having designed their development pathway in a more clean-cut, participatory process.

Towards the end of 2017 we welcomed Noluthando Nzimande, our new Community Development Coordinator, who brings wonderful energy, compassion and extensive experience in rural community development. She works closely with Mfundo Zeka, who has become a stalwart of the team over the last four years, as they share a passion for developing our Youth programme. As far as our team goes, we could not have asked for better. Alice Klaas, our Child Care Coordinator sadly retired after five years with ASAP, but we are grateful that she is still available to ASAP on a needs basis. Lehakoe Diaho, Community Liaison and nutrition trainer, resigned to follow her other passions.

We have also developed many new relationships with Government departments and NGOs over the last year, strengthening the networks that can aid many of the needs of our beneficiaries whilst adding to the sustainability of the CBOs. Matatiele is still a region hard hit by HIV, with numerous challenges both at systemic and ground level. While the work is slow and incremental, I am heartened to be able to report sustained change.

There is so much hope!
Hungry children must be fed, sick children must be nursed, children with disabilities must be helped, children with social problems must be reintegrated, and orphaned children must be taken care of.

UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

ORPHANS & VULNERABLE CHILDREN

ASAP supports a holistic approach to caring for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), meeting their direct needs through daily nutrition and protection against the elements, addressing health issues by screening and home visits, providing access to clinics where needed, working with local government departments to ensure holistic healthcare in the communities, providing psychosocial support, aftercare and homework assistance during school term and therapeutic holiday Programs.

We are pleased to report:

- 44 939 plates of nutritious food served to 300 OVC
- 32 households individually assessed to determine needs of OVC
- 402 home visits conducted by women at the CBOs to the OVC households
- 39 referrals of OVC to the clinic and hospital for medical care
- 55 blankets and mattresses supplied to extremely needy children
- 67 school uniforms and shoes provided to children that had none
- 193 children attend this year’s Art Workshops and loved every minute
- 55 caregivers based at four Drop-in centres provided care for 903 OVC

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Tertiary education is nearly impossible to access for children from poverty-stricken, deeply rural communities. Lack of access to role models, information and opportunities leads to another cycle of unemployment which negatively impacts on the communities. In response to this, ASAP has worked over the past year to increase the scope and depth of its Programs aimed at empowering village youth with personal development, career guidance and access to tertiary education workshops.

ASAP also partners with the Rural Education Access Program (REAP) to bring the opportunity of tertiary education to these communities. We are proud of the six learners who were part of the bursary application with REAP. All six passed their Matric and two of them are covered by REAP for their fees, living expenses and any additional academic support they need.

We wish them all the best!

AKHONA GXATHWANA IS A 19-YEAR-OLD ORPHAN COMPLETING GRADE 12 NEAR MATATIELE.

He lives with his grandmother, two aunts and six other children. Only one of his aunts has a job at a local supermarket.

“The most important thing in my family is education, but we have financial problems,” he explained. “With ASAP’s guidance I have chosen to study civil engineering because it offers a lot of job opportunities and follows on my favourite subjects.”

Akhona passed his Matric with distinctions and now studies at Wits University with all his expenses covered by REAP.
Fifty-five community members across four Community Based Organisations (CBO) were able to grow in their capacity to provide for the children as caregivers and as CBO members. The management and board members were supported to define their vision and mission as organisations. They learnt to set goals and develop detailed Program plans. They learnt how to find the information needed to make good decisions and choose priorities for their personal and organisational development as well as for the children in their care. Training in governance, organisational management, computer skills and bookkeeping supported these processes.

Key to the CBOs realising their visions is the importance of government and service providers delivering on their mandates. Therefore, relationships with key stakeholders who are important to the communities, were developed and strengthened to see services and goods delivered. This included the heads of various departments in the Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Department of Social Development, Home Affairs and the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development. Nutrition, psychosocial support, home-based care, Caregivers received training in first aid, nutrition, early childhood development and psychosocial support. They learnt to screen the children for health and psychosocial needs, plan and produce a daily meal, play with the children and support their homework needs.

THOBeka Zeka, is a widow, unemployed and has 3 children

“I am so happy for the support I get at Reahasetjhaba (CBO). I do not know what I would be without them. I really do not have words to express the gratitude I feel. I am speechless.”
The rural villages where ASAP works are some of the poorest and least food-secure in South Africa. Their remote locations compound the difficulty of affording nutritious food, with little available locally and relatively large transport costs to the nearest fresh goods suppliers.

Negotiations for tribal trust land on which CBO’s can establish food gardens on a long-term basis are the first step of ASAP’s foundation processes for this program. The gardens need to be adjacent to and provide fresh food for the Drop-in Centres. Once the land is secured, it is fenced and, if necessary, a borehole sunk and a pump installed for a secure water supply. Implements and seeds are also provided as part of the start-up package.

Training is then conducted in all aspects of organic food production such as compost making, seasonal planting, crop rotation and companion planting. After the initial intensive food garden training course, which includes the laying out and planting of new gardens, weekly monitoring of the fledgling gardeners ensures success in providing for the nutritional needs of OVC with excess produce to sell on to the community.

By helping women to access the resources they need to grow and sell food, we enable them to invest in education and healthcare for their children, creating a positive cycle of growth out of poverty.
When I met Mbali five years ago she was a shy, sweet energetic twelve-year-old. At the time she was recently orphaned, both parents having succumbed to the AIDS virus while Mbali herself was born HIV-positive. I spent time with Mbali, chronicling her routines and daily life, one of which was a four kilometer bi-monthly walk to retrieve her anti-retroviral medication. I also saw her daily participation in the support program run by ASAP. Her story and daily life, set against the beautiful but sometimes harsh environment of the Eastern Cape, was inspiring and deeply humbling.

A follow-up visit two years later revealed a bright, vibrant fourteen-year-old embracing her early teens, facing life head on, seemingly unhampered by the HIV she lives with. She even asked me why I didn’t show her face in the story I previously produced about her. Am I not beautiful? she asked through her care taker. I had to explain to Mbali my responsibility to protect her as a vulnerable child, even though vulnerable is not what she would consider herself by any means.

Fast forward to my latest visit to the Cape in November of 2017 and I came face to face with a sharp and focused young woman. Set to enter college in 2018, in great health, surrounded by friends and driven to pursue her education in Medicine, Mbali is truly an inspiration to myself and I hope many others, whether they are living with the virus or supporting those with the virus. At a time when HIV-AIDS was deemed a death sentence by many, especially in Africa, Mbali survived. I look forward to hopefully visiting again as she makes her way through college, and as she graduates. I am honoured to know her and blessed to be able to share aspects of her journey.

Jemal Countess
## ASAP Statement of Financials

**March 2017 - February 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Rand</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>Pound</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donation Income</td>
<td>R 3,035,333</td>
<td>$262,324</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Received</td>
<td>R 51,522</td>
<td>$4,095</td>
<td>£289,332</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>R 3,186,855</strong></td>
<td><strong>$275,419</strong></td>
<td><strong>£198,278</strong></td>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents brought forward from previous year</td>
<td>R 3,464,932</td>
<td>$299,451</td>
<td>£213,405</td>
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### Costs of Generating Funds

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Rand</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>Pound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising &amp; Publicity</td>
<td>R 172,399</td>
<td>$14,899</td>
<td>£10,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK Charity Fee</td>
<td>R 0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Charity Fee</td>
<td>R 0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Costs of Generating Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>R 172,399</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,899</strong></td>
<td><strong>£10,618</strong></td>
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### Charitable Expenditure

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Rand</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Programs</td>
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<td>£178,718</td>
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<td>Management &amp; Administration</td>
<td>R 2,388,448</td>
<td>$193,819</td>
<td>£145,481</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Charitable Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>R 5,280,188</strong></td>
<td><strong>$444,597</strong></td>
<td><strong>£324,200</strong></td>
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### Assets

<table>
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<th>Item</th>
<th>Rand</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>R 2,892,852</td>
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<td>£179,761</td>
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<td>Other Receivables</td>
<td>R 25,045</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$261,077</strong></td>
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### Liabilities

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<th>Item</th>
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<th>USD</th>
<th>Pound</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
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<td>$17,472</td>
<td>£12,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>R 202,173</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,472</strong></td>
<td><strong>£12,452</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

US & UK currency has been converted at:

- $1 = R11.57094
- £1 = R1.2364202133015

Average rate for the year.

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### Thank You

To our individual donors:

- Andy O'Neill & Alex Richards
- Anna Jackson
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MAC AIDS Fund, Estee Lauder
Mazon Anti-Hunger Foundation
Monument Trust
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Nininski Trust
Oyster River High School
PEP Stores
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Zintle Njiyela
WAYS TO SUPPORT ASAP

Donations can safely be made through our secure website at https://www.africansolutions.org/donate. There is no minimum donation amount - every penny helps!

Material support is always welcome. We accept and appreciate art supplies, carpets, sewing supplies, laptops/computers, water tanks, garden implements and seedlings/trees, stationery, blankets and warm Winter clothing (for children and adults).

Voluntary internships at our Cape Town head office and volunteer opportunities to work in the field for a minimum of six months (where Xhosa and Sotho speakers are at an advantage) are available.

Please email info@africansolutions.org to get involved.