ASAP
ANNUAL REPORT
2008 & 2009

Thriving, Achieving & Expanding
The poor are completely capable of changing their own lives with their own efforts, provided barriers which are put around them by the existing system are removed. ... If the bottom 50% of the world’s population - the poor and the small producers - are allowed to bring out their productivity, ingenuity and creativity the world will be a better place for all...

Professor Muhammed Yanus
Working With Purpose

Mission
ASAP supports community-based organisations of women caring for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS.

ASAP OFFICE - SOUTH AFRICA
Priscilla Higham
Linet Dube
Charlene Blacker (Part-time)
Admore Chipayaera (Part-time)

VOLUNTEERS
Alex Richards
Andy O'Neill

ASAP BOARD - SOUTH AFRICA
Priscilla Higham
Rosalia Mashale
Thobeka Miniam Zwane
Dr. Funwile Njoebe
Beatrix Silvano
Leonara Sauls

ASAP BOARD - USA
Priscilla Higham
Noah Fischel
Alice Treves
Patricia Blanchet
Sasha Wade
Alex Richards
Andy O'Neill

ASAP BOARD OF ADVISORS - UK
Elizabeth Ashcombe
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Diana Heimann
Camilla Lowther
Melanie Metcalfe
Beatrix Silvano
Thriving, Achieving & Expanding
Letter from the Founder

There are times when I feel overwhelmed by the vast numbers of children being orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. ASAP’s efforts seem insignificant against the tide of the disease in South Africa. It is the compassion and hard work of the women in the organizations with whom we work that gives me hope. It is the high spirits of the orphans and vulnerable children, despite losing one or both parents that gives me inspiration. How little it takes to make a difference; a school uniform and shoes uplift a child’s confidence; a warm blanket and a square meal make a child feel that they are on a par with every other village child. The grandmothers have such resilience, in the face of dire poverty inheriting their children’s children. It is their incredible human spirit that encourages me to continue to champion women’s efforts to build sustainable care for the vulnerable children in their communities.

Our pioneering CBO partners are graduating from ASAP into sustainable organizations. There was no assistance for the orphans at Hlomelikusasa when we started working in Mt Frere 7 years ago. There are now 80 village health workers with thriving organic food gardens and 15 former nutrition sites have developed into multi-service drop-in centres. We appreciate the American Jewish World Service (AJWS) grant over 5 years to support their development. The women are being trained in home-based care to equip them to care for the people with AIDS in their communities, and there are now 3682 children in their care.

In Qwa Qwa, the group of 348 women managed by Kakaretso will soon qualify for government grants. We have extended ASAP’s involvement for another year in support of 73 early childhood pre-schools caring for 5065 children. The Bolata AIDS project, a volunteer youth group are caring for 60 orphans and vulnerable children. In Nyanga township outside of Cape Town a pair of women and their 7 volunteers at Fakisandia support 39 families with 82 very vulnerable children.

It has been thrilling to see the 7-year ASAP model for community-based intervention for orphans and vulnerable children put into practice in two remote villages in the Eastern Cape. We based the ASAP model on our experience working with our pioneer community-based organisations and we are extremely grateful to the Monument Trust for their grant to implement the first three years of the model in these villages.
At the end of 2009, ASAP is making an impact on the lives of 9653 orphans and vulnerable children through our partner organisations, which are made up of 590 women. In addition, we are assisting more than 500 grandmothers through a network of support groups that engage them in gardening, knitting, sewing, beading and support group luncheons.

Many thanks to Grandmothers United for ASAP in the UK who have held fetes and teas in support of their counterpart ‘Gogos’ in South Africa. We value the continued funding from the children of East Wood School and Sasha Wade’s School programme, who make it possible for large numbers of children throughout South Africa to continue to access education.

We greatly appreciate the generosity of our donors - none of this would be possible without you. I’d like to make special mention of Camilla Lowther, the Chair of our 2008 fund-raising lunch and the ASAP Board of Advisors, who arranged a memorable event for the bi-annual ASAP London lunch. Building on the base of our 2006 support, they threw their net even wider and ASAP has steadily gained supporters in the UK who succeeded in raising the amazing sum of £245,000, which helped us to develop and grow over the last two years.

ASAP was fortunate to have two volunteers, Andy O’Neill and Alex Richards, who stayed for a year in Mt Frere working in the remote villages and helping Hlomelikusasa office to improve their services. I am very grateful to them and also for the hard work of ASAP’s loyal staff: Camilla Corbett in London and Linet Dube, Admore Chipoyera and Charlene Blacker in Cape Town. They ensure that our office in Muizenberg runs efficiently at the lowest possible cost. Beatrix Silvano gives her financial expertise pro-bono and we remain committed to keeping our organization small, so that donations are directed to where they really count - in the lives of orphans and vulnerable children.

We look forward to another year of expansion in 2010 as we set our plans in motion to replicate the ASAP model in another 4 communities.

Yours sincerely,

Priscilla Higham
Founder and Programme Director

“’The position of women in a society provides an exact measure of the development of that society.”

Gustav Geiger
Promoting Sustainability: Helping Communities to Help Themselves

In 2008, we travelled to the far north-west of the Eastern Cape on the border of Lesotho, in the lee of the Drakensberg mountains. We conducted research with the goal of expanding the ASAP model for community-based intervention for orphans and vulnerable children. We met women volunteers from 2 villages who were feeding about 20 desperate orphaned children when they had food available. These remote villages are battling a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, unemployment, food shortages and poor access to health and educational resources. We made an agreement that for the next 7 years ASAP will support them in developing sustainable organisations to care for their many orphaned and vulnerable children.

Year one saw the groups register as community-based organisations, Mamohau and Itekeng Batswadi. We helped them to develop constitutions, open bank accounts and form Boards to ensure accountability. ASAP provided Project Management training in their own language and assisted them in writing their first grants. This 4-module training helped them define their roles and responsibilities and determine their scope of work. The women responded so positively to learning about time management and the benefits of planning, while putting into place effective procedures.

Using ASAP's household assessment tool, we conducted a preliminary analysis through home visits to determine Coping, Acute and Emergency vulnerability levels of the orphans and vulnerable children in the villages. The results enable us to assess the urgency of intervention necessary and determine which children needed our assistance to stay in school, get uniforms, access regular nutrition and other basic services. We also got a clear indication of the eligibility of the children to acquire government grants.
Year two of the model has seen some exciting developments in Mamohau and Itekeng Batswadi. ASAP engaged the services of HAPPI (Homeless and Poor People's Initiative) to facilitate the building of two Drop-In Centres and an office in these villages. The buildings have been made by the community themselves out of traditional mud brick with thatch roofs. These attractive and affordable structures, made from local materials are suited to their environment and climate. They have helped the community save money and reduce the carbon footprint by up to 80%, thereby reducing greenhouse gases and generating carbon credits.

To boost the sustainability of the nutrition programme, ASAP provided hands-on training in organic food gardening through Food & Trees for Africa. Three thriving gardens have been established at the two Drop-in centres and at a participating school. We have also facilitated much-needed HIV/AIDS and Treatment Literacy workshops involving the broader community, as the secrecy and denial of HIV/AIDS is an ongoing challenge.

We are delighted to report that these new groups in the ASAP fold are now meeting the various needs of around 220 orphaned and vulnerable children. Their nutrition programmes provide a well-balanced, cooked lunch five days a week after school. They manage education programmes that pay school fees for Senior Secondary students, and supply uniforms and shoes where necessary. There has been a significant effort to go through the difficult and time-consuming processes to secure government grants. There are active health programmes to refer children and their guardians to clinics and hospital when necessary. In addition, 40 grandmothers caring for their orphaned and vulnerable grandchildren are now engaged in ‘Gogo’ support groups that meet once a month for a luncheon, where they have started beading and sewing for income generation.

We look forward to rolling out the ASAP model to another 4 organisations in the year to come.
Building on Strength: Skills & Accountability

More than 7 years of experience, working hand in hand with women who care for orphans and vulnerable children, has led to the effective streamlining of ASAP’s multi-faceted capacity-building programme. There are two core mutually-agreed objectives: to support development to become sustainable and accountable organisations; and to support substantial outreach programmes that provide holistic health, education, nutrition, skills development and family and social services support to children.

Best practice training, ongoing monitoring and the establishment of rigorous organisational procedures help our partners develop administration, management, reporting, accounting and financial oversight. We continue to emphasise the importance of project management skills and provide expert training for both staff and Board members. The women enjoy receiving these skills and expanding their abilities; they take pride in their increasingly well-run organisations, their computerised field offices, and they are experiencing the value of transparency in their communities.

Our training support and the provision of tailor-made tools also makes a great impact on the delivery of quality services. ASAP carries out structured quarterly site visits in the communities where we work. We provide hands-on technical skills and help to develop management systems to track programme implementation and document outcomes. The women submit reports and ASAP monitors progress against the proposed activities, goals and objectives.

Unfortunately, the rate of illness and death due to HIV/AIDS is not yet on the decline in the communities where we work. There is a constant challenge to bring programmes to scale and ensure that all children are properly cared for.
“It’s amazing to see how far we have come. We will push on with the struggle to ensure that orphans and vulnerable children... are able to live with integrity...”

Baba Valele
Enjoying Healthy Food
Organic Gardening - Vegetables & Fruit Trees

Being able to depend on regular, nutritious meals is not only vital for a child's normal physical growth and cognitive development, it also impacts on emotional well-being. Adequate nutrition has long been a critical issue in the communities where we work. While we continue to supply emergency food for children to have a square meal a day, our aim has been to increase the availability of locally-produced food. Despite fertile soils, food production has been in decline in the rural areas of the Eastern Cape. Traditional farming skills have been lost, and the lack of knowledge and technologies to manage and conserve water and soil has resulted in little food production.

ASAP's provision of permaculture training, gardening infrastructure and materials has turned into a veritable organic food gardening movement. So many village health workers have responded with great enthusiasm to the establishment of food gardens at their homes. Using permaculture design and techniques, they harvest water, build soil fertility, save seeds and grow a great variety of organic vegetables, herbs and medicinal plants. We also supplied 33 village health workers with 500 egg-laying hens to provide protein for the children's meals. As the ASAP nutrition programme has developed and expanded village health workers have reported a decline in malnutrition and illness amongst orphans and vulnerable children.

Our Christmas fundraiser provided a wonderful boost for the nutrition programme in the form of fruit trees. Orchards are being planted at the drop in centres, with Peach, Pear, Plum, Apple and citrus trees added to the bountiful gardens and the children are already enjoying the fruits.
“Before there were many children suffering from malnutrition in our rural areas and now it’s rare to see hunger…”

Nokulunga Mzoboitshe
Staying in School
Every Child’s Right to Learn

Not only is continuous school attendance vital to a child’s learning, but school itself can provide a safe harbour and a reassuring routine for children whose homes are in turmoil due to extreme poverty, illness and death. Keeping orphans and vulnerable children in school is an ongoing challenge for our partners. ASAP continues to provide school fees, uniforms and school supplies where necessary, ensuring that these necessities do not become barriers to education for orphans and vulnerable children. Village health and child care workers constantly monitor vulnerable households to ensure that children are not kept from school because they are instead looking after siblings, ill parents or caregivers.

There has been an increasing focus on developing relationships with the Department of Education and deepening relationships with the local schools so that the communities’ educational infrastructures are active in the network that supports orphans and vulnerable children. ASAP helps foster these connections by providing infrastructure support, as well as food gardens and supplies at particular under-resourced schools.

We have also continued to focus on providing training and supplies for Early Childhood Development centres caring for orphans and vulnerable children under 6 years. Through the best practice Khululeka High Scope training women learn how to create safe and stimulating learning environments.

ASAP continues to assist motivated youth to access to higher education such as technical colleges. In turn, students volunteer their time working at our partner organisations by providing peer education and counselling in the community.

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity"

Albert Einstein
Insisting on Healthcare
Improving Access & Quality

Home-based care is now recognised by the government as a primary strategy in improving access and quality of health care for those living with HIV/AIDS. This has resulted in opportunities for village health workers who have completed the required accredited training to progress to being employed in government programmes.

The home-based carers make regular visits to households with sick children or family members. They assist with basic first aid, monitor medications and make referrals where necessary to the clinics. ASAP has supported numerous First Aid and HIV/AIDS awareness training initiatives and has supplied the woman with home-based care kits and monthly refills. We are now focused on providing certified training that qualifies the woman for the government programmes.

ASAP continues to provide support to the Bolata AIDS Project, a dedicated volunteer youth group in Qwa-Qwa, who provide home-based care, counselling and support to mostly youth living with HIV/AIDS, as well as support for orphans and vulnerable children.

The government’s accelerated roll-out of Anti-Retrovirals (ARVs) has brought to light the widespread lack of treatment literacy. We responded to this need by funding trainings by the Community Media Trust for 60 village health workers and 30 youth at Hlomelikusasa. This training included a series of educational DVDs in isiXhosa to promote understanding of the science of the body, how the virus works and the importance of adhering to the medication and preventative measures. A recent translation to isiSotho will be rolled out to the new groups. We hope that the knowledge that AIDS is a treatable disease, will lessen the stigma and arrest the rate of so many people dying undisclosed and untreated.

The secrecy and denial of HIV/AIDS is an ongoing challenge, that hampers both access to and the effectiveness of Anti-Retroviral Treatment.

"Finding out your status, one is faced with lots of challenges, fears and different emotions and feelings."
Princess Mchumu
Wellbeing in Every Way  
Supporting Family & Social Relationships

Securing support for teenage orphans and vulnerable children can often be far more difficult than for younger children. Our community-wide focus has kept us aware of the need to provide opportunities for the youth affected by HIV/AIDS to hear, to develop and explore leadership and self confidence.

Unemployment is so rife in the rural areas that so many young people have few hopes and dreams of productive futures. In addition, there is a great lack of career guidance and information available about tertiary education, career choices and the world of work. ASAP has addressed this by providing youth with best practice workshops on preparing for future studies and careers, on how to access study information and apply to colleges and write letters and CVs.

In addition, we engaged PYE Global who has been training 16 unemployed youth in workshops that help them to develop creative and responsible directions for their lives. These trainee youths have then facilitated a five day camp for young children. The youth have formed groups in their villages to pass on the training to local children. Working with the rural youth has shown us that they are highly responsive to rising to the challenges of their circumstances, improving their prospects and building lives that enable them to reach their potential. Many are willing to take on leadership roles and make a difference in their communities.

ASAP has funded numerous training interventions by the National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW). Completion of this in-depth, accredited training which is tailored to suit the village health workers, gives them skills to intervene in the lives of orphans and vulnerable children. It also qualifies them as government approved Child and Youth Care workers who can be employed by the NACCW. This ensures that our partner organisations can graduate from dependence on ASAP and build the long term sustainability of the organisations.

ASAP is concerned with the holistic development of orphans and vulnerable children. The community care we support endeavours to go beyond the urgent needs of food, medical care and education to encompass the issues of day to day nurturing and the fostering of family and social relationships.
Give a little love to a child and you get a great deal back.

John Ruskin
### ASAP Statement of Activities Mar 2008 - Feb 2009

#### Income

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<th></th>
<th>RAND</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>POUND</th>
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<td>Donation Income</td>
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<td>Rental Income</td>
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#### Less Costs of Generating Funds

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<td>UK Charity fee</td>
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#### Total Net Income

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#### Charitable Expenditure

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#### Assets

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#### Liabilities

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*US & UK currency has been converted at:
$1 = R7.5 & £1 = R12*
ASAP Statement of Activities Mar 2009 - Feb 2010

<table>
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<th>Income</th>
<th>RAND</th>
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<td>Rental Income</td>
<td>18,000.00</td>
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<td>Total Income</td>
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<td><strong>397,469.51</strong></td>
<td><strong>263,807.19</strong></td>
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Less Costs of Generating Funds

| Fundraising & Publicity         | 227,874.39  | 30,383.25  | 20,165.88  |
| UK Charity Fee                 | 26,769.70    | 3,569.29    | 2,369.00    |
| US Charity Fee                 | 25,732.50    | 3,431.00    | 2,277.21    |
| Total Costs                    | **280,376.59** | **37,383.55** | **24,812.09** |

Total Net Income

| Total Net Income               | 2,700,644.71 | 360,085.96 | 238,995.11 |

Charitable Expenditure

| Programmes                     | 3,909,959.32  | 521,327.91  | 346,014.10  |
| Management & Administration    | 208,047.59    | 27,739.68   | 18,411.29   |
| Total Expenditure              | **4,118,006.92** | **549,067.59** | **364,425.39** |

Assets

| Investments                    | 781,125.93    | 104,150.12  | 69,126.19   |
| Stock                          | 90,405.00     | 12,054.00   | 8,000.44    |
| Cash                           | 1,608.02      | 214.40      | 142.30      |
| Total Assets                   | **873,138.95** | **116,418.53** | **77,268.93** |

Liabilities

| Accrued Expenses               | 6,877.44      | 916.99      | 608.62      |
| Total Liabilities              | **6,877.44**  | **916.99**  | **608.62**  |

* US & UK currency has been converted at:

$1 = R7.5 & £1 = R11.3
Thanks for intervening in matters that don’t concern you.

Nelson Mandela