



DRAKENSTEIN CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME 2019

In partnership with Valcare, Ezrah will be implementing the second year of the Drakenstein Child Protection Programme during 2019. This long-term programme forms part of Connect Network's city-wide safe community strategy to implement 10 safe communities in the Western Cape and has two main projects: 1) The coordination of a child protection steering group and 2) the facilitation of a series of child-focused workshops and mentoring.

Project 1: Coordination of the Drakenstein Child Protection Steering Group

The steering group currently has the following member organisations that collectively work together with other child protection stakeholders to share child protection knowledge, protocols and resources:

- Khula Development Group
- Salt and Light Children's School Discipleship
- Kin Culture NPC
- Valcare
- Paarl Youth Initiative
- Rise up with Advocacy and Action (RUWAA)
- Ezrah Community Training and Development NPC
- Ma's vir Wellington
- Good Hope Psychological Service

Together we strengthen the child protection system in Drakenstein/Cape Winelands and raise awareness for child protection through various community initiatives and the development of protocols. Some of the community initiatives planned for child protection month in May include celebrating World Foster Day, hosting child protection projects in local schools, implementing child participation projects, wearing green ribbons, visiting House Andrew Murray, implementing a collaborative mentoring programme and praying for our children.

Together we grow as child protection champion organisations by ensuring that our staff teams are properly screened and that we implement well-developed child protection policies within our respective organisations.

Project 2: Facilitation of child protection workshops

Ezrah also facilitates the following community workshops that are well attended by various NPO's, ECD's, social workers and other child protection stakeholders:

- Parent mentoring workshop to strengthen parenting skills
- LEAD child participation workshop based on Ezrah's LEAD model
- Child protection empowerment workshop focused on combatting human trafficking, cyberbullying and sexual offences against children
- Child protection policy workshop

Participants' feedback on the impact of the programme

- The programme has helped us to hold hands with other organisations and to be united in purpose, vision and resources is a win!
- It motivates me to operate in excellence and to get things in place.
- The programme is excellent, structured, motivational and well-focused on specific goals and outcomes. It is one of a kind child protection programme.
- I have learned to acknowledge and not to overlook the small changes in service delivery and in the stakeholders and the community's attitude.
- I learned that I must implement the knowledge that I know to the children and I must be calm when solving problems.
- I learned how to develop a child protection policy and the importance of health and safety or risk assessments.
- Having a positive attitude is key. Sharing your knowledge and wisdom with others will always help build bridges regarding social or economical or political input.
- I have learned the importance of the inclusion of children to promote solution-focused and empowered adults when they grow up.
- The LEAD model is a well implemented framework to help with the development of children.

We also welcome the input from representatives of the North-West University, The Royalty Project, Child Welfare Stellenbosch and the Department of Social Development who attend our steering group meetings as guests. Together we can make a bigger difference for children in line with our motto: Grow Today. Lead Tomorrow.