



# Marsh Memorial Homes

Nurturing children and transforming lives

## ANNUAL REPORT

2022- 2023

**021 689 9301**

18 Norton Way, Rondebosch  
P O Box 9, Rondebosch, 7701  
<http://marshmemorial.org.za>

# Foreword

*“A Wesleyan Christian is one who grows from the experience of the warmed heart into a life of disciplined love for God and for neighbor, expressed in acts of devotion and worship, compassion and justice. A Wesleyan Christian should be by definition, one who has made an intentional option to stand with the poor and marginalized of society, against principalities and powers that hold all such in bondage”*

*( Rev Dr Peter Storey in “Rediscovering Wesley for Africa”: Page 22 ).*

Marsh Memorial Children’s Homes has stood for many years as witness to the generations of Wesleyan Christians who have made an intentional option to stand with poor and marginalized children. We are grateful to God that even today, Marsh continues to offer home, love, care and education to children who otherwise would have lacked these. It is a fact that the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic continue to be felt most by the marginalized and the poor of society. This results in countless poor parents, mostly single women, who cannot provide for their children. Institutions like Marsh Memorial Homes and other Children’s Homes have found themselves inadequate compared to the children in need in their surrounding communities! Some have experienced financial challenges and have had to close their doors due to lack of government funding. We are therefore, grateful to God that Marsh Memorial remains open and continues to offer hope, transformation, and healing to those children they can accommodate. Praying that the home grows from strength to strength!

On behalf on the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, therefore, I extend words of gratitude to all donors and supporters of the Home for their contributions- be they in cash or in kind! They are highly valued and appreciated. To the Board, the Principal and the Staff of the Home- we cannot thank you enough! Your individual and collective sacrifices are what makes Marsh Memorial Homes a success! I wish you all strength!

Wishing all the children at the home a bright future and a blessing of becoming the best in whatever God calls them to be!  
Remain in the love of Christ!

Rev Purity Malinga  
(Presiding Bishop) August 2023



# Board Members

## Chairperson



**YVETTE  
MOSES**

Yvette is an ordained minister in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and Bishop of the Cape of Good Hope District. She holds a Masters Degree in Theology (Stellenbosch). Her passion lies in mentoring/training ministers, addressing gender-based violence, environmental justice and ecumenism. She is married to an Anglican priest with 2 adult daughters.

## Secretary



**LESLEY  
MOSTERT**

Marsh Homes forms a significant part of Lesley's childhood as a 'manse child'. She has a background in Chemical Engineering, experience working across cultures with churches in Thailand and as SA National Director of an international mission organisation. Currently she works in research writing and curation while giving herself to people orientated and theological projects

## Treasurer



**FRED  
JENKINGS**

45 years' financial experience in JSE-listed companies. Formerly CFO of Paramount Property Fund and Tower Property Fund. Currently Director of Ovland Management Services, an accounting, tax, and secretarial service provider.

## Member



**YVETTE  
ANDREWS**

A social justice activist with a particular interest in health and addressing the inequalities found in the public health system, Yvette is passionate about assisting organisations understand how the public health system works and assisting the organisation in developing care pathways between themselves and health.

## Member



**MBONISI  
SIBANDA**

A seasoned Mathematics Educator of 25 years. He is in possession of a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Statistics (UNISA), a Bachelor of Technology degree in Education Management (Technikon Pretoria), a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Statistics, a Diploma in Theology and a Diploma in Mathematics Education.

## Member



**PHUMLA  
SATYO**

Now retired having served as a teacher, head of the English Department, Deputy Chief Education Specialist for English, and Director for Curriculum Studies: FET. Her church involvement includes Vice President of the Methodist Women's Manyano in the Dumisani circuit.

## Member



**TERTIUS  
VAN ZYL**

TA Senior Architectural Technologist. He finished a BTech Degree at CPUT in 2005. After 8 years of experience in the industry he established his own business and is currently in practice with his wife, Natalie. They have 2 young daughters and live in Observatory.

## Member



**LYNELL  
MASSEY**

Retired Educator with experience in Primary and Adult Education. She currently represents the Cape of Good Hope Women's Auxiliary as the District Justice and Service Secretary. She is the wife of a retired Methodist Minister

**Member**



**VATISWA  
MAKIE**

Currently employed as a Deputy Director Nursing Education & Training in the Western Cape Department of Health, she brings to the Board a strong background in the provision of health care and delivery of health services within the public sector.

**Member**



**EUGENE  
BRETTENNY**

Eugene has 26 years of Corporate Industry experience and knowledge, with qualifications in Personnel Management and Skills Development. He is an Executive member of a Skills Training Academy. His passion lies in upskilling unemployed youth and staff in both the Corporate and Government sector. He is a member of Claremont Methodist.

**Principal**



**KEVIN  
NEEDHAM**

An ordained minister of the MCSA and a registered Social Worker with a degree in Social Work from Wits. He has served on various NPO management committees while ministering to the Methodist people in Rosebank, Wynberg and Bergvliet.

**Minute  
Secretary**



**SHIRLEY  
LOWNDES**

Born into a Methodist family, educated in Gauteng and then trained as a teacher in Cape Town. One of the schools she taught at was Marsh Memorial Homes School. She was also secretary at Rosebank Methodist Church.

## Chairperson's Report

*"The child is the beauty of God present in the world, that greatest gift to a family."*

Mother Teresa

Statistics suggest that families and homes in which the precious gift of children should be celebrated and nurtured, remain the most vulnerable places for young children, with untold trauma and damage being inflicted for generations to come. Many children experience high levels of violence, abuse, sustained neglect, and exploitation within family spaces as well as the wider community. Marsh Memorial Homes offers a small drop of hope in the vast ocean of despair experienced by children every day. When William Marsh bequeathed the residue of his estate to his son, the Reverend Thomas Marsh, for the founding and maintaining of a Home for destitute children, he could never have imagined the magnitude of the devastation that children would experience in years to come, nor the priceless gift this Home would become to the many vulnerable children of this nation.

This year Marsh Memorial Homes celebrates 120 years of its existence since the first children were admitted on 12 January 1903. For over a century, Marsh Homes has

sought to transform and nurture the lives of the thousands of children who have been entrusted into our care, by creating a safe and loving space for them in which they might thrive, and hopefully return to their families and society at large able to navigate life as confident and caring individuals. While the central focus of Marsh Memorial Homes is the children who are placed here, we take pride in equipping and developing staff too in their vocation in child and youth work. Additionally, we seek to maintain and upgrade our grounds and buildings as far as possible, as we responsibly manage the resources entrusted to us.

Reflecting on the past year we are thankful for the many routine functions which are fulfilled daily, and celebrate the highlights as are outlined in this Report. The proposed new Training Centre is in its preparatory stages due to the required due diligence and meticulous care that must be taken in the restoration of the historic building. The design has been approved by the Board and an architectural company appointed. We eagerly anticipate the renovation work on what will be named Heatherdale House which will begin in 2024, and the opening of the Training Centre, possibly a year later. This ambitious project requires much professional expertise, discernment, practical support, and prayer, as well as financial investment and supporters. To this end the Board is working towards the appointment of a professional Fundraiser for the next phase of the Project.

One of the most important focus areas of the Board during this past year has been the future economic sustainability of the Homes, given the present challenging economic climate of the world and dwindling commitment to charity organizations from large business corporates and Trusts. The Board has approved a long-term rental agreement which will allow for the extension of the Woodside Retirement Village, on a small unused section of the Marsh land. This will generate an additional small stream of fixed income for Marsh Homes in the future. The Audited Report gives important insights into the financial position of Marsh Memorial Homes and my grateful thanks goes to our Treasurer, Mr Fred Jenkins, for his meticulous oversight of the finances of the Homes as a whole.

Our work can only be achieved through a collaborative team effort of the Marsh staff, Management Board, and a considerable network of churches, community supporters, volunteers, service providers and donors. Each one fulfils an important role in the life and work of Marsh Memorial Homes. Appreciation is expressed to the staff in every department for their tireless efforts and dedication to Marsh Homes. Each one is valued for their contribution, no matter how small or big that may seem. Words cannot express my immense gratitude to our Principal, the Revd Kevin Needham, for his extraordinary dedication and work ethic in ensuring the smooth running of the Homes at every level. Special thanks go to our senior Social Worker Supervisor, Mrs Jerusha Raghobar, for her oversight of the crucial social work component of the Homes.

I offer my deepest gratitude to the Marsh Board, all of whom voluntarily offer their expertise, time, and energy, to engage in many governance matters and for their support

offered to the principal in his managerial role of the Homes. I wish to pay tribute to two members of the Board as they come to the end of their tenure viz. Mrs Lynell Massey who has served since 2018 and Mrs Phumla Satyo who has served since 2015. They will be sorely missed. Lynell brought great value to the children's devotional programme and maintained the strong link the Homes have with the Women's Auxiliary of the Methodist Church. Phumla brought her compassionate spirit and invaluable insights and expertise to the Homes from her educational background. I honour them both and wish them well in their continued retirement and family responsibilities.

As always, sincere appreciation is extended as to all who contribute to the wellbeing and functioning of the Homes in any way, as well as the many donors who contribute financially or otherwise. We remain deeply grateful for this extended family of Marsh Memorial Homes without whose generosity and support we would not be able to fulfil our mission of nurturing and transforming lives. Special recognition is offered to the Department of Social Development which is our critical partner in the financing and development of meaningful programmes for our children.

Helen Keller once said, "A sane society whose riches are happy children, men and women, beautiful with peace and creative activity, is not going to be ordained for us. We must make it for ourselves." Fulfilling the vision and mission of Marsh Homes requires not only hard work, but faith, hope, and courage to trust that the vulnerable children entrusted to our care may have a different narrative to share one day.

It is indeed a privilege to be part of the incredible Marsh family and its vision of nurturing children and transforming lives.



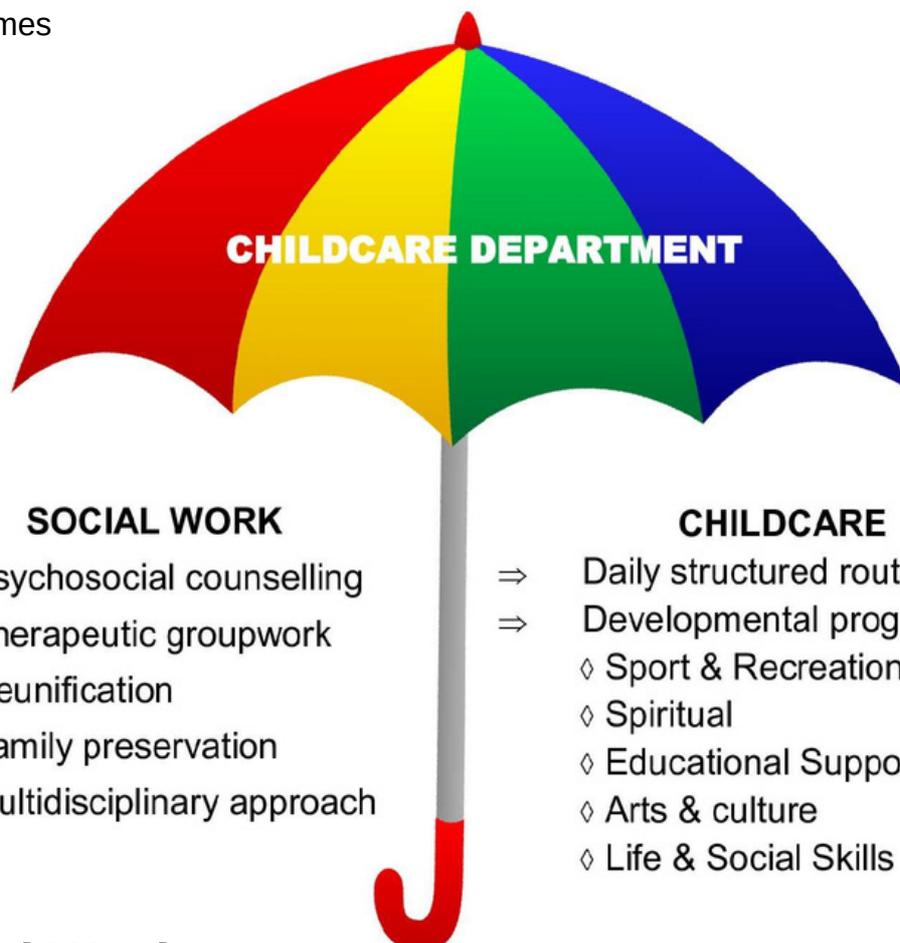
Rev Yvette Moses

Chairperson – Marsh Memorial Homes Board



# Childcare

Aligned to our current registration in terms of the Children's Act, No 38 of 2005, Social Work and Child and Youth Care Work constitute the Childcare Department at Marsh Memorial Homes



## SOCIAL WORK

- ⇒ Psychosocial counselling
- ⇒ Therapeutic groupwork
- ⇒ Reunification
- ⇒ Family preservation
- ⇒ Multidisciplinary approach

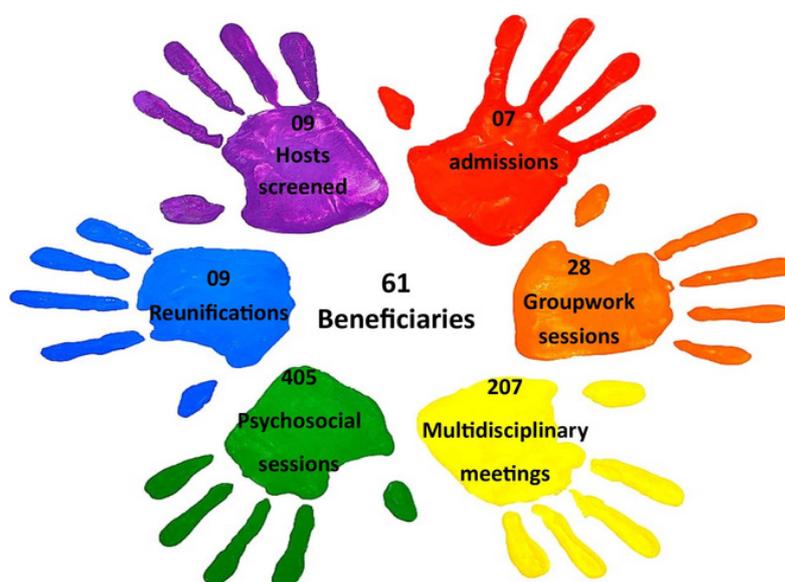
## CHILDCARE

- ⇒ Daily structured routine
- ⇒ Developmental programmes
  - ◇ Sport & Recreation
  - ◇ Spiritual
  - ◇ Educational Support
  - ◇ Arts & culture
  - ◇ Life & Social Skills

## 1. Social Work

Marsh Memorial Homes was the gateway for transformation for 61 children found in need of care and protection this past year. Our Homes serve as a home away from home for a diverse group of children originating from the Cape Flats to the West Coast.

Our priority is to ensure the restoration of a child's holistic wellbeing by employing a multidisciplinary approach. We acknowledge that our children's need for family is of utmost importance hence reunification features strongly in our intervention plans. Where families are not an option due to risk, host parents step in to offer a child a sense of family and belonging. Nurturing children and transforming their lives can never require too many hands but together elevate a child to new heights.



**“It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it”  
- Nelson Mandela**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**That you too can extend a helping hand by becoming a host parent? Get in touch with us should you need more information.**

## **2. Child and Youth Care Work**

It is undeniable that our children have witnessed and survived unexplainable trauma in their young lives prior to placement at our safe-haven.

Tasked with the care and development of children placed in our care, Child and Youth Care are crucial for rearing and nurturing responsible, resilient and respectful children that would one day be placed back into communities. Guided by the Homes' values, the overall aim is to empower and capacitate our children with skills and knowledge to navigate through life and make healthy decisions for sustainable lives. Play is an essential feature in a child's vocabulary and so many of the programmes rolled out take cognisance of this fact. Our holistic approach to childcare involves volunteers and an external multidisciplinary network which play a key role in the work we do by contributing in their area of expertise. t

RESPONSIBLE, RESILIENT, RESPECT



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**That you too can help guide some footsteps towards transformation by becoming a volunteer? Get in touch with us should you need more information.**

## **3. Children's Forum**

The Children's Forum is derived from the Children's Act, No 38 of 2005 with the principle of child participation being the cornerstone. What better way to understand the needs of children other than listening to them? The Children's Forum is the platform for resident children to voice their opinions and recommendations on how their Home can improve. Life and social skills development is of utmost importance in all projects undertaken by the Children's Forum, ranging from communication to entrepreneurial skills. Through the language of play, representatives were engaged in multiple excursions that sought to create awareness of culture and the environment, as well as understanding of the importance of service to others. Through participation in excursions it was possible for representatives from the Children's Forum to gather a first-hand account of experiences and later impart these to other resident children through workshops.

We are grateful to many stakeholders that sponsored exciting and educational excursions such as visiting Robben Island, Intaka Environmental Education Centre, Hout Bay Skate Park and sailing. Through these excursions, learning about the environment and culture has created not only awareness but appreciation for the environment. Whereas several projects were undertaken this past year, of major significance was the launching of the Marsh Tuckshop in June 2022. The tuckshop is operated by the children for the children. Apart from reinforcing the Homes' value system it also teaches children requisite skills such as budgeting.

# Heatherdale House transformation

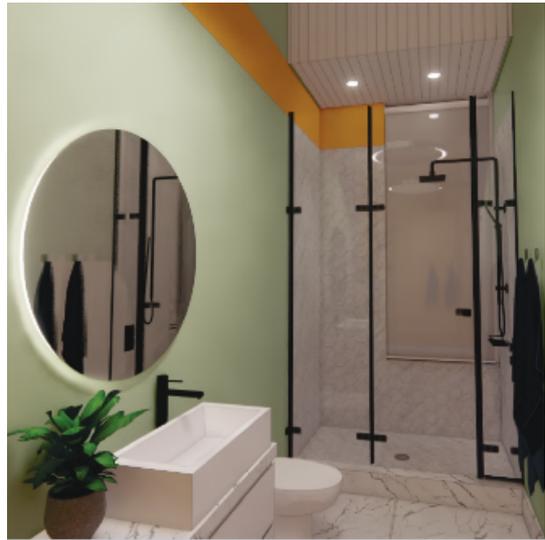
Pause under the arch of the Marsh Lodge and you will see a magnificent building directly ahead of you. This building, now known as Heatherdale House, has been the subject of insightful planning by a team at Fusion Architecture in conversation with the Marsh Facilities Subcommittee. This technical team has been a gift to Marsh as they exhibit both a delight in heritage buildings and a heart for vulnerable children

The result of this collaboration is a practical and thoughtful concept for the renovation and repurposing of this elegant structure to provide an inspiring working-and-living space for the Marsh Child and Youth Care Workers Training Programme. The design combines delight in the Fynbos biome as our physical context, respect for the original building as our historical heritage, and appreciation for the vision of a stimulating learning environment as our future hope.



The design was finalised in April 2023. The ground floor houses two lecture rooms, study and recreation space, living quarters for the dean, room for day staff, an administration area, and cloakrooms. The upper storey provides accommodation for twenty students in single, double, and triple bedrooms, with eight communal bathrooms.

The basement will house a self-serve laundry and, finances permitting, recreational space for games and larger-scale media viewing. Also, funds-dependent, are planned gardens and landscaping



# Financial Report

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Marsh Memorial Homes receives the bulk of its income from three main sources:

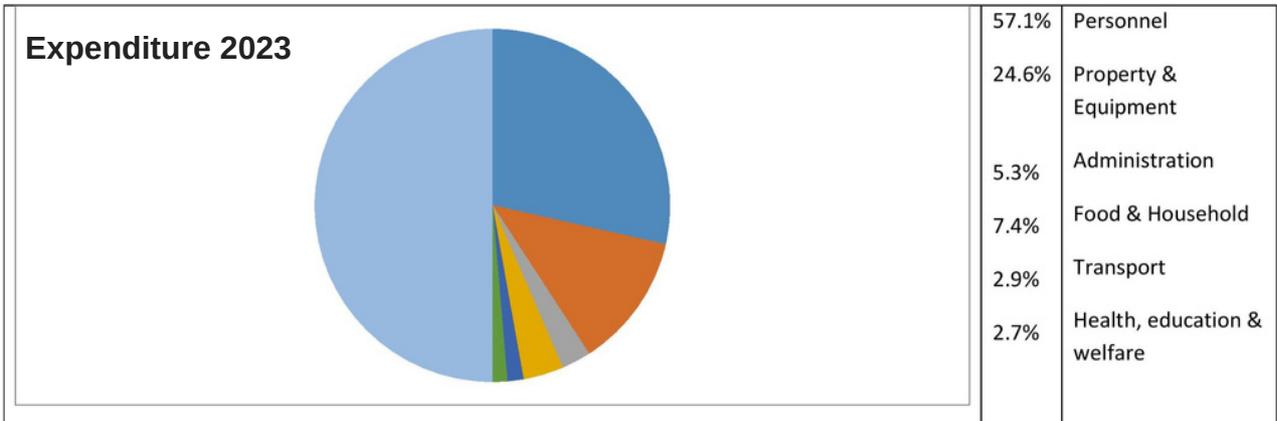
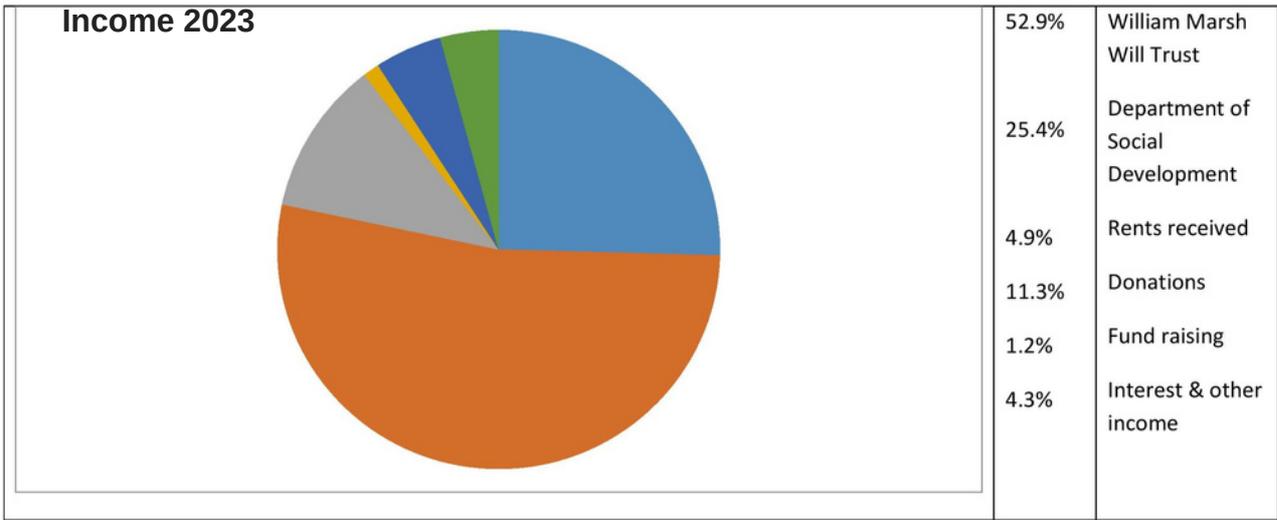
- The Department of Social Development,
- The William Marsh Will Trust and
- Donations from various sources.

In addition, funds are generated through the rental of properties, fund raising activities and interest earned on funds invested. Once again the annual fete was a huge success, generating in excess of R100 000. Of concern is the fact that state grants are not increasing in line with inflation, resulting in more reliance being placed on other sources of income.

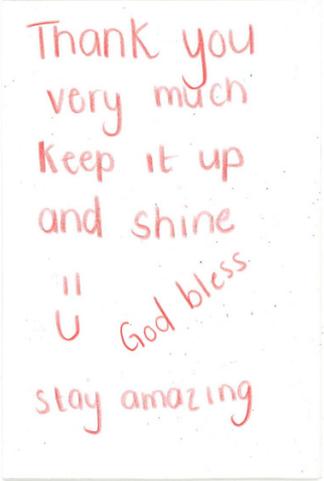
The operations for the year ended 31 March 2023 reflected an operating surplus of R89 000 (2022 - R91 000), with most of the expenses either on budget or, if not budgeted for, approved by the board. Staff turnover remains a concern and a stepped approach has been introduced to bring staff salaries more in line with those paid in the private sector.

Our appreciation and thanks are extended to all those who have continued to support the Home during the past year, both financially and in time given selflessly in raising funds.

Fred Jenkins  
Treasurer



**We are grateful**



<b>Account Name</b>	Marsh Memorial Homes
<b>Account Number</b>	50171126764
<b>Account Type</b>	cheque
<b>Full Name of the Bank</b>	First National Bank
<b>Branch Code</b>	201 509
<b>Swift Code</b>	FIRNZAJJ

# Donors and supporters

We would like to thank our loyal donors, funders, supporters and volunteers for their valuable contributions to our work (not all of whom can be mentioned, but are equally appreciated):

Adams. MF	Fester. T	Mcloughlin. S	Smith. S
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