

ANNUAL REPORT
2020





2020 was undoubtedly a year that left many of us with more questions than answers. In the midst of an unprecedented global pandemic the impacts of inequality, the effects of corruption, and virulent hatred of discrimination all eroded the sense of progress that many felt the world was making. We saw children unable to attend school, families going hungry, jobs being lost, and lives taken. NGOs far and wide had to scale back their efforts to affect positive change. It was blatantly clear that we are all in need of a strong and certain hope, an unbreakable anchor holding us fast through the storms. Resilience is required to move forward in our ever-changing world. And so, I am able to look back on the most tumultuous of years with a measure of joy and appreciation for all that we endured. I was immensely pleased to see our family pull together to help each other through a difficult season. In a year where we were scarcely able to spend time on the futsal pitch, we found opportunities to drive our relationships to new levels off of it. Through our COVID response that included food parcels, home school packets, and careful conversations, we showed loving kindness and we put people first. A year that saw some of our greatest dreams fall flat mercifully provided moments of hope pointing to a brighter future still to come. As I engaged with NGOs worldwide during the course of the year, I was pleased to see that the training4changeS approach is truly innovative and adaptable; I was encouraged to see just how resilient our team and tactics are. I am excited for us to embrace the uncertainty of 2021, and continue our journey together in the pursuit of justice and opportunity for all.

Soli Deo Gloria,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be 'D. Thoma'.

Daniel Thomae





Mission

training4changeS exists to utilize sport as a catalyst for holistic community transformation and to intentionally equip young leaders with essential life skills and values.

Core Values

Relationship | Integrity
Leadership | Excellence

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING





Eighty-five percent of our Futsal Academy boys live in adverse circumstances. In the midst of COVID, the need for mental health support increased exponentially.

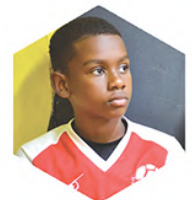
All of our sessions are designed to be safe, trauma informed spaces where young people can get the loving support that they need to flourish. Regular physical activity reduces anxiety and risk of depression.



Through regular physical activity, our purposeful play activities help improve participants' health, including improving sleep, reducing blood pressure, lowering risk of cancer and other chronic disease, lowering risk of heart disease, increasing bone strength, and maintaining a healthy weight.



Having a global support network enabled us to respond proactively to the COVID pandemic. All of our futsal activities were suspended from 16 March – 12 October. Prior to closure we facilitated a special education session to equip our Futsal Academy boys to navigate the risks and realities of COVID-19. In an effort to help curb the spread of the virus, all training4changeS members received a custom designed face mask. Our coaches completed a COVID Safe Sport Coaches Certification course.



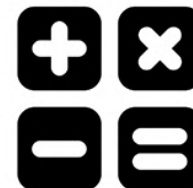




We believe that leaders need to be readers, so we place a special emphasis on helping our Futsal Academy boys improve their reading through weekly exercises designed to improve both reading fluency and reading literacy.



This year the Reggie Meyer Education Fund partnered with us to launch a scholarship that will make it possible for our Futsal Academy boys to attend Calling Academy high school. This is a life changing milestone in our support of quality education. Three of our boys will benefit from the scholarship when they start high school at Calling Academy next year.



Sixty-three percent of South African learners fall below international standards for basic mathematical knowledge and, sadly the poor education system was further hampered by COVID enforced lockdowns. Because 80% of our boys had no access to school work during Lockdown Levels 4 & 5, we provided customized learning packets for each child to keep working while they were out of school.





5 GENDER EQUALITY





Although we weren't able to host our usual girl's futsal tournaments, we celebrated Women's Month by announcing a new partnership with Cape Town based Brooklyn Sports and Development. Our joint aim is to increase opportunities for female participation in sport, pursue gender equality, and empower young women to be transformational leaders.



Research shows that girls who play sport experience numerous physical health benefits, do better at school, learn valuable life skills, build self-confidence, and improve mental well-being.



We are privileged to be able to draw strength from partnerships with Coaches Across Continents, Common Goal (including Dutch midfielder Tessel Middag), and others to help support the growth of safe spaces for girls to play soccer.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH





Local partner East Mountain plays an important role in the education of our Futsal Academy boys by placing year-long volunteers to teach with us. This year East Mountain volunteers gained valuable work experience as they developed lockdown learning packets for our boys, and led our weekly classroom sessions when COVID measures permitted.



Our leadership team used time away from the field during lockdown to upskill themselves through a variety of online courses and workshops. Through Coaching courses with United Soccer Coaches, professional development sessions with Beyond Sport, CAC, and Soccology, as well as certificate programs through Harvard and Tshwane Institute of Technology, the knowledge gained will drive our work to new heights in the years to come.



Youth unemployment officially stands at 55.75% in South Africa, but in some of the communities we serve the numbers are significantly higher. We start equipping people from a young age with tangible skills for work so that they will be able to access, retain, and excel in their desired field of employment.



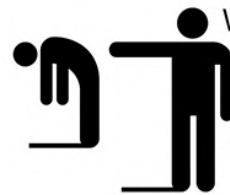


10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES





Statistics show that South Africa is the most unequal country in the world, and Stellenbosch is the country's most unequal town; so we work in the perfect laboratory for tackling the root causes of both resource and existential inequality.



We are taking on a system that instills shame, self-contempt, and fear in young people; a system fraught with unequal allocation of recognition and respect; a system where prejudice and stigma create perpetual underperformance. We strive to open channels of mobility to empowerment, inclusion, and opportunity.



Our Futsal Academy includes boys from 7 different schools and 5 different communities. We are proud to have built a sport-oriented space that is more diverse than any in the area. This year we were able to realize the dream of bringing together White, Black, and Coloured boys into one space, providing common ground for them to grow together as family, friends, and leaders who fight inequality.





16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS





Our coaches foster trauma-sensitive environments where children can escape everyday abuse, exploitation, and violence to enjoy being together for times of purposeful play. Throughout lockdown, our coaches were able to maintain their mentoring relationships with the boys to help guide them through the numerous challenges they faced.



Only 20% of our Futsal Academy boys live in neighborhoods with safe play areas. Our Futsal Academy provides safe spaces for boys to learn skills for peaceful conflict resolution, and we equip them to take a stand against the tragic violence and abuse plaguing their communities.



The intellectual birthplace of Apartheid, Stellenbosch has long been synonymous with injustice and racism. We choose daily to be antiracist, and proactively challenge injustice. We are committed to addressing the root causes of attitudes that allow discrimination and corruption to thrive. We equip young people to be champions of peace and justice.





In Partnership With



