

RACHEL SWART FUND

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2011

Overview

The Rachel Swart Fund, now in its 51st year, has once again been fortunate to be the funder behind what is to disabled people a life necessity. The Rachel Swart Fund does not take this privilege of providing mobility aids on by itself; we have as usual partnered with other donors and corporate organizations. The year under review has once again been one of giving people the hope that they long for. Mobility aids are so expensive and the sector of people that the Fund strives to help are from a more impoverished way of life and so these mobility aids are not a reality unless they get financial assistance.

Various schools, hospitals, homes and private clients have sent in applications to us, each with a unique story, stories that tug at the heart strings and one wishes that there were never any kind of financial constraints. Over the past year we have been able to help many people with disability aids. We have helped 63 people with motorized wheel chairs, 16 with pressure care cushions and 7 pressure care mattresses. We were able to help 9 children with cerebral palsy with shona buggies and various other clients received smaller apparatus to help with making their disability more manageable. 55 children are helped each month through out financial assistance to care centres and others are helped each month through our assistance to the Care Attendant Scheme.

*Having received a late approval of funds from the **Lottery** that we had applied for in 2008 we started this financial year on a good footing and were able to purchase 46 wheelchairs for people throughout South Africa. Also early in the year we received a donation from **Theodore Berwitz Trust**. Other donors like **Nussbaum Foundation** and **Victor Daitz Foundation** sent us money in June which contributed enormously to our mission of helping people with disabilities. **E.G Woods Will Trust, Aaron Beare Foundation** and an anonymous donor were the other donors that contributed to our fund in the late part of 2010.*

*Once again in October the **John Ellerman Foundation** sent us a generous amount of just under R 400 000 which was agreed on by the late Sir John Ellerman that this annual contribution would always be used by us to cover our administrative costs. This regular donation has been the life line for The Rachel Swart Fund for the past 51 years and has always been the reason why we have been able to seek funding from donors purely for mobility aids as almost all of our running costs have been covered by the Ellerman Foundation. The John Ellerman Foundation is a charitable trust in the UK which owes its existence to two men called Sir John Reeves Ellerman – father and son.*

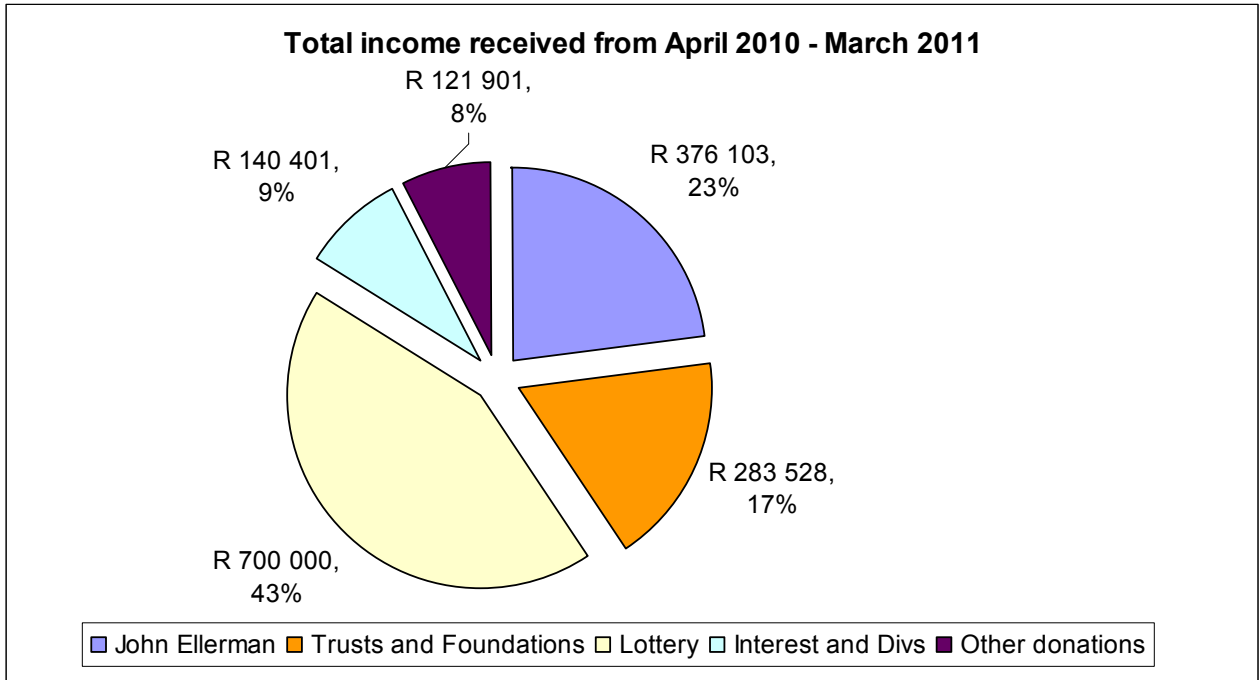
*Also contributing to our running costs was a donation of R 80 000 from The **Apexhi Charitable Trust Fund** which we received in the last month of our previous financial year. This amount has also been a valuable contribution to our running costs this financial year.*

We received a second donation from the Lottery in December of 2010 and have so far been able to purchase 17 chairs and will be able to buy at least another 22 before our financial year ends. The lottery too is a key donor and we rely on them substantially for the success of our impact into the lives of disabled people. Since 2003 we have thankfully received lottery money and so at this point we wait with baited breath to see if our next application is approved.

*The New Year started off by us receiving donations from the **Clifford Harris Trust, the Malcolm and Gladys Cameron Foundation, CE Harding Charitable Trust** and the **Anglo American Chairman's Fund**.*

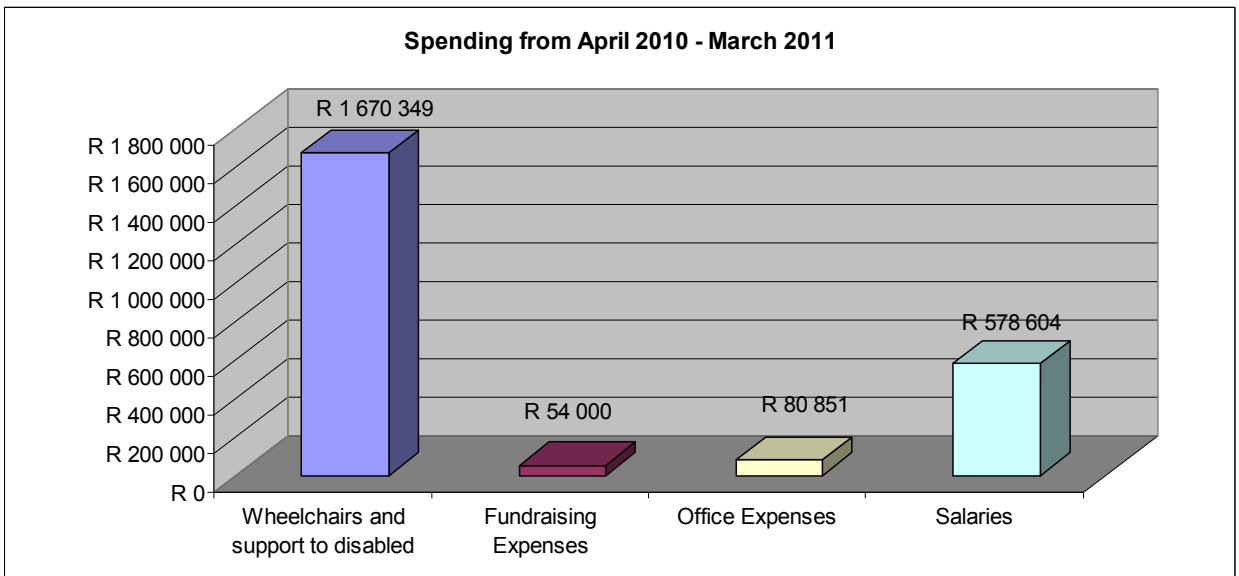
Our clients that we service with disability aids and help towards the maintenance of their motorized chairs, are always encouraged to make contributions no matter how small. During this financial year we received R 78 434 from our clients with various disabilities to help towards the maintenance costs of the wheelchairs and to help towards purchasing other smaller appliances.

Our Administrator of 12 years Elize Braye retired at the end of 2010. Elize gave many years of excellent service and offered her very best to the clients over the years. The Rachel Swart Fund was fortunate to have Elize at the helm and she will be missed by all staff and committee members including clients who have been used to dealing with Elize. We employed Joy Taylor at the beginning of 2011 to replace Elize.



During the past year our major donors were:

- *Theodore Berwitz Trust*
- *Nussbaum Foundation*
- *Victor Daitz*
- *E.G. Woods Will Trust*
- *Aaron Beare Foundation*
- *Clifford Harris Trust*
- *Malcolm and Gladys Cameron Foundation*
- *Anglo American Chairman's Fund*
- *CE Harding Trust*



Clients that were helped due to the support from donors

Anglo American Chairman's Fund

The generous donation from Anglo American Chairman's Fund of R 75 000 allowed us to help four recipients in the Free State. Three in Bloemfontein and one in Harrismith. The recipients from Bloemfontein all live in the Jean Webber Home.

The Jean Webber Home was established by the Association for Persons with Disabilities in the Free State to provide care, accommodation and rehabilitation for persons with severe physical disabilities. Men and women with severe physical disabilities from the ages 20 to 78 are accommodated in Jean Webber Home. The home accommodates 30 persons with disabilities, that is, quadriplegics, paraplegics, hemiplegics and those suffering from the consequences of a stroke.

Matilda Ngubeni one of the Jean Weber Home residents is a quadriplegic as a result from a gunshot wound. Matilda contributes to the running cost of the Home by being involved in street collections. She was sitting in a chair that was very old and was breaking down regularly. This was very risky for Matilda and she was losing her independence every time the chair broke down having to rely on others to push her around. We were able to help her with a new motorized chair from the money we received from the Anglo American Chairman's Fund.



Matilda Ngubeni



Hendrick Van Den Berg

Hendrick Van den Berg is a Hemiplegic. He used to be able to walk with crutches but has deteriorated to the point now where he is struggling to push a manual chair and this is limiting his dependence. We were able to purchase him a motorized wheelchair with money from the Anglo American Chairman's Fund's contribution.

Sandra Goosen suffers from severe Rheumatoid Arthritis she is employed at the Association for People with Disabilities in the Free State. Her previous chair was getting to old and affecting her seating posture. This new chair will now help her to continue being effective in her employment.



"I would like to use this opportunity to thank you and The Rachel Swart Fund for the CE Power Motorized Wheelchair with adjustable backrest as well as the cushion that was donated to me.

It is very important for a person with a disability to have the correct assistive devices to be more productive in the workplace. This wheelchair is making it much easier for me to move around, which is very important in my work as a Job Placement Manager at the Association for Persons with Disabilities – Free State.

Thank you for making a difference in my life."

Sandra Goosen

Victor Daitz

A charitable trust founded by Victor Daitz on 4 July 1984. We have been recipients of the Victor Daitz Trust since 2004. Nompumelelo Zondi from Umlazi Durban was someone we helped with Victor Daitz funding. We have had a relationship with Nompumelelo since 2002. At the time she was a student at the St. Raphael's School for the disabled in Durban. Nompumelelo has spinal muscular atrophy and has always been confined to a wheel chair. Since her first motorized chair at the age of 16 she has shown much determination and is studying at university this year. We were able to help her with a second motorized chair last year as her first one was 7 years old and had become unreliable. Once she received her new chair she sent us the following letter:

Dear Rachel Swart Fund (2.12.10)

I have received my wheelchair on the 14th of September and I am writing this letter with a happy face and a smile.

I have had my old wheelchair for a while now and like I said in last letter, it is not as reliable as it was. It has been difficult for me to move around freely with the old wheelchair and I would like to say thank you. Next year I am going to register at university and now I will be able to depend on myself and my new wheelchair. The forms for the batteries are the icing on the cake because it is difficult indeed to get new batteries since they so expensive.

You have not only made my life easier but you have made the lives of the people around me easier. My mom also appreciates your help so much because when I don't have a wheelchair she becomes more depressed than me.

*You have made my disability a lot easier and you have changed my life for the better from the bottom of my heart **THANK YOU SO MUCH.** Words can not describe the way I feel inside.*

*Yours faithfully
Nompumelelo Zondi*

This kind of letter is always very heart warming and makes us realize that the work we are doing is very much appreciated. We are grateful to Victor Daitz for partnering wit us to help Nompumelelo.



Lottery

One of our clients that benefited from the National Lottery Distribution Fund is Bianca Van Rooi, Bianca is a Cerebral Palsy Quadriplegic, and she was admitted to the Woodside Special Care Centre via the court due to abuse and neglect. We have been able to help Bianca with a Pacer Steel Power Wheelchair. Her life is dramatically different since sitting in the Power Chair.



Bianca Van Rooi



Bianca with some staff at Woodside Special Care Centre

Saadiq is a wonderfully bright six year old. Despite his condition (cerebral palsy diplegia) during a visit by the RSF manager he had such a big smile on his face and was very excited about having his photo taken. Saadiq is very eager to learn and wants to be able to keep up with his class mates. The motorized chair is going to enable Saadiq to be more independent in the class room and around the school.

Oratile who lives with Congenital Myopathy is also a very happy keen learner and was very anxious to show staff and children at Vista Nova School how he had mastered the use of his chair in the short time that he had had it. It is always encouraging to see the wonderful work been done by the staff at Vista Nova. They are both in a position to thrive thoroughly. Thanks to the lottery for making these two chairs possible.



Saadiq Daniels



Oratile Masilo

Recipients of our financial assistance:

Masinedane Care Centre

Masinedane Care Centre situated in Nyanga is run by Nancy Rwexana a single parent of an 18yr old child severely affected by Cerebral Palsy. She has 15 children in her care. She has been running the care centre for the past 6 years. It was because of her daughter's condition and disabilities that drove Nancy to open her doors to look after other children in the community who have Cerebral Palsy. She has an extremely open heart and has sacrificed most of her life to giving to these children. Masinedane have carers that come and help on a daily basis. These workers are key to the running of the care centre. Their time and patience is greatly appreciated and is benefiting the children hugely by all that they do. The Rachel Swart Fund has been helping the centre with financial aid since 2005.

The needs at Masinedane are great. Most of the children live at the care centre and so food and other supplies like nappies are always in demand and Nancy is at the mercy of contributions from donors or members in and around her local community.



Nancy Rwexana (Manager of Masinedane)



Children in Nancy's care at Masinedane

Yomelelani Special Day care Centre

*Yomelelani started in 2003 with parents of disabled children in Phillipi. Parents who have been drawn together because of a common heartache of having children with disabilities like Cerebral Palsy. **Buziwe Phendu** who is the manager of the care centre runs the centre from her home. Initially there were four mothers and three children, today they have ten children, seven girls and three boys.*

Yomelelani is dealing with children that can do nothing for themselves. Most of them cannot walk or talk and wear nappies. Without the care centre, parents have no choice but to leave their child at home unattended for hours at a time. Buziwe has created a safe haven for parents to bring their children and to leave them there to get the nurturing care that they need. The Rachel Swart Fund has been supporting Yomelelani financially since 2006. Our contribution helps a lot but still leaves the centre with many ongoing needs that the children have like food and nappies that are very expensive. The running cost of a centre like this are also very challenging and Buziwe needs more assistance with the running costs like electricity, water and paying of salaries to her helpers.



(Buziwe Phendu and her daughter)



Some of the children at Yomelelani

Vukani Centre

Lindelwa Madlkane is doing an excellent job at the Vukani Centre. She accommodates 30 children and is a centre for working parents to leave their children during the day. One of Lindelwa's challenges is how to accommodate the over 18 year olds. They still have them at the centre but space is becoming a problem they have applied for funding to purchase a house that would help them to spread out and give the smaller children the space they need for further development.



Lindelwa Madlkane

The other care centres that we support financially are:

- *The Joy Special Educare for Disabled Children in Mitchell's Plain*
- *Sibongile Day and Night Care Centre in Khayelitsha*

Care Attendant Scheme Report

The Care Attendant Scheme (CAS) is a project of the Community Development Service Department of Cape Town Association for Physically Disabled. The CAS project supports clients in need of physical care, at home and at work. This service supports families and contributes to the health and wellbeing of clients, maintaining their dignity and independence, despite severe disabilities.

We have been financially supporting the CAS since 1995 and it is always encouraging to know that our contribution is bringing aid and relief to clients who are dependant on others and yet at the same time able to maintain their dignity. By having care attendants come and assist them they are able to do the things that you and I take for granted and they are assisted in such a way so that they can still get into their communities to partake in activities that keep them contributing to society which is what they really enjoy otherwise they are home bound and this leads to depression and feelings of inadequacy.

Segment taken from Co-ordinator's report – M.Norval

Recipients of Services:

The CAS project has assisted 12 clients with personal and general care. Their needs range from minimal assistance to hemiplegic clients, to full time care dependent quadriplegic clients. The clients live in the following areas: Bonteheuwel, Michel's Plain, Rondebosch, Landsdowne, Khayelitsha, Vanguard, Gugulethu and Nyanga. Clients are responsible for submitting a time sheet as written proof for the care that they receive. This proof serves as a supporting document for a requisition of subsidy funds that the association pay on a monthly basis. Thus 12 clients, and their families have benefited from this service and 12 carers have benefited from work experience and an income.

Managers Report

The beginning of 2011 was the beginning of my relationship with the Rachel Swart Fund. I came into the disability field with no experience but have thoroughly enjoyed fitting in and finding my feet. At the end of 2010 Elize Braye who had worked at the RSF for the past 12 years left to a much deserved retirement.

The work at the Rachel Swart Fund continues to be inspiring and rewarding and I have been very pleased to be part of a team of staff and a committee who are dedicated to help others in such a practical way.

It is always rewarding to help children who have been born with permanent disabilities that restrict them from having the quality of life that a lot of us take for granted. As part of my orientation I had the privilege of visiting some of the schools and care centres that we have helped.

*A very heart warming visit to the Vista Nova school was well worth it as I got to meet **Oratile Masilo** and **Saadiq Daniels**, two of our recipients of motorized wheelchairs.*

I have also had a lot of encouragement from the various organisations that we network with. Hillary Lane the CEO of the Cerebral Palsy Association has been very willing to chat and give guidance and I have been to the General Network Meetings that have helped a lot to connect with people and to understand the world of disability in a more practical way. Also a morning at the Western Cape Rehab Centre was very enlightening as I learned a lot about the seating process and how the system works in terms of clients getting the correct chair for their specific needs.

I have come to realize that the Rachel Swart Fund has close relationships with each of their clients and I have enjoyed being a part of this. Not only does the fund provide assistive aids where it can and when funds are available but we are also very much involved in the maintenance of the chairs. This is a huge expense and a lot of effort is made to encourage the client to make a financial contribution no matter how small. Batteries cost at least R 500 a set and so the fund definitely needs assistance with this ongoing need.

Also the relationship with the client or the therapist that makes the application on behalf of the client is further established by making sure that the client is receiving the correct apparatus and so ongoing correspondence is carried out until all details are finally in place and the client can be helped in the best way possible.

Thanks to the staff at Rachel Swart, Nathaline Petersen our very efficient secretary who has been a great asset in keeping me up to date and on the ball with all that needs to happen. Mandy Newman our bookkeeper who has been here for over 20 years has helped me hugely with understanding the financial side of things and Nomie Tsotsobe our clerk who has worked here for over 30 years has a wealth of experience and a knowledge of the clients that has been very beneficial to my learning curve this year. Also big thanks to Elize Braye whom I work with for just a month in a handover period at the end of last year. Her knowledge and experience set me off on a good footing and I am honoured to be filling in such big shoes as she holds a well respected reputation with all the organisations that we deal with.

Joy Taylor

Fundraisers report

This past fiscal year has been a challenging one from a fundraising perspective. Whilst corporate social investment was still recovering due to a lag effect after the recession, its focus areas also shifted and narrowed. These factors meant that the Fund lost two longstanding donors, Anglo Gold Ashanti and the HCI Foundation, in the year under review. Welfare organizations, of which the Rachel Swart Fund is one, have been particularly hard hit with Margie Keeton, South African fundraising guru, recently remarking that welfare organizations are bleeding! In many instances, welfare organizations rely on funding from the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund (NLDTF), and whilst our income from the NLDTF held stable in the past financial year, the NLDTF have warned that money they have to give to projects is significantly down as the recession bit into the public's ability to purchase lotto tickets. Interestingly, a year of fundraising effort with well researched international donor bodies did not bear fruit and I attribute this now to the fact that issues around disability are not uniquely an African problem. As such, these international donor agencies are likely to support this area on or near their doorstep but unlikely to extend this support into South Africa which is increasingly being viewed as having a too high per capita income to warrant development assistance and priority.

On-going corporate fundraising activity for the year under review resulted in the Anglo American Chairman's Fund being welcomed on board as a new funder and 86% of previous donors remaining loyal. Whilst fundraising activity for the year did not result in as many new donors actively supporting the Fund as we would have liked, we have gained invaluable knowledge from continuous interaction with potential donors and feedback from them. This information is currently being used to inform the developing of a new, very different and far more focussed fundraising strategy. This plan will utilize the following strengths that the Rachel Swart Fund has:-

- Good relationships with an extensive network of service providers delivering within the disability field, which means that our Fund is well-positioned to align itself with corporate business which must meet Charter requirements within specific areas in which they operate;*
- A reserve fund that covers two years of operating costs which assures donors that the Fund values sustainability and manages its resources carefully;*
- People with disabilities increasingly being recognized as marginalized and projects which focus on this group being viewed as having not received due focus and support, meaning that South African companies are going to be looking for opportunities to engage with NPOs that deliver in this area.*

Ilse Tennant

09 September 2011

High light

50th anniversary luncheon

On 13 October 2010, after much planning and deliberations, a wonderful celebratory luncheon, sponsored by the Ellerman Foundation, was held at the Kelvin Grove in Rondebosch. This special occasion was attended by over 160 guests, both beneficiaries and benefactors of the Fund. Of these some 68 were in wheelchairs and this required major organizational skills on the part of the staff regarding transport to and from the venue, all of which went miraculously without a hitch. We were honoured to have the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ellerman Foundation, Richard Edmunds and fellow Trustee, Sue MacGregor fly from London to attend the celebrations which began the day before with a small gathering of close friends of the late Sir John and Lady Ellerman at Ellerman House, their home in Cape Town and committee members. Fond reminiscences were recounted of aspects of the life they lived in South Africa and how much they valued the privacy and informality they were allowed here.

At the luncheon the next day, Mr. Edmunds delivered a message of birthday congratulations on behalf of the Ellerman Foundation and spoke movingly of the ties between the Rachel Swart Fund and Sir John who had started the Fund in 1960 in memory of Rachel Swart. Also present at the luncheon were members of Rachel's family – her son Johan, with his wife and three daughters who had flown from Johannesburg and Eljo, Rachel's daughter and her two sons which made the gathering so special for everyone present. During the luncheon many guests attested with love and gratitude to the incredible impact the Fund has had on their lives and many a tear was shed. After a rousing "Happy Birthday" was sung, everyone left with a copy of a special promotional cover page of the newspaper Die Burger about the Fund which was most generously sponsored by the Vosloo family.

An enormous thank you to the staff, ably led by the manager Elize Braye, for organising a highly successful and moving event.

*Honey Richter
Vice Chairman*



Rachel Swart's Grandchildren



*Richard Edmunds – Chairman of
the Board of Trustees of the Ellerman
Foundation*



Networking and Partnerships

In the helping process the Fund has always relied on the support of other NPOs, health services, schools and other organisations countrywide to provide the necessary information to assess the application and to act as links with the applicants whom they present for assistance. This interactive process to facilitate the helping process has proved mutually beneficial and effective, with very few exceptions.

The main support services involved include:

- *Associations for People with Disabilities (APD) (in different parts of the country)*
- *Cerebral Palsy Association in the Western Cape*
- *Most of the Cheshire Homes (group residences for people with severe disabilities) - three in Durban, three in Cape Town, one in Johannesburg, two in Port Elizabeth*
- *Hospitals (usually the physio or occupational therapy departments): Grootte Schuur, Red Cross, Lenteguur (WCRC), Alexandra, UCT Private Hospital (all in Cape Town), Macassar Community Health Centre, as well as Caledon Hospital in the Overberg, the Chris Hani Barangwanath Hospital in Gauteng, Entabeni in KwaZulu Natal, Life Entabeni and Zithulele in Eastern Province and a number of other government hospitals.*
- *Schools for learners with disabilities e g the following: Athlone School for the Blind (now for all disabilities), Paarl School, Vista Nova, Bel Porto, Alta du Toit, Friends Day Care, Forest Town, Meerhof*
- *QuadPara Associations of South Africa – in different parts of the country, especially the Western Cape Branch*
- *Rehab – for Physically Disabled in the Eastern Cape*
- *St Giles Association – Western Cape.*

Our Committee

At the beginning of this year Rachel Swart bid farewell to Cecily Howard who had been part of the committee for many years. Her input and experience over the years had been of great value to the team. Since then Igsaan Hendricks has been invited onto the committee. He is an old client of the Rachel Swart Fund having received a wheelchair from us in 1988 after a diving accident. We have maintained a relationship with Igsaan over the years and he was happy to join the committee. We are sure his input and experience will bring great value to the team.

The current committee is as follows:

*Mr. Mark MacGinty (Chairman)
Mr. William Combrink
Mr. Igsaan Hendricks
Mrs. Necia Miller
Ms. Joan Vosloo*

*Mrs. Helen Richter (Vice Chairman)
Mr. Richard Heath
Mrs. Mirriam Makasana
Dr. Veruschka Ramanjam*

Staff

At the end of 2010 the Manager of 12 years at the Rachel Swart Fund, Elize Braye resigned from her position and made way for a new manager Joy Taylor. She had worked previously for an NGO that partnered with churches in training and equipping leaders to run soccer clinics as a tool to reach out to the community. Prior to that her work roles were mainly in administration and also a short stint as a volunteer at Beautiful Gate a Christian organisation in Phillipi providing care and support to vulnerable children. She joins a strong team of women who have collectively over 50 years of experience in disability.

The staff are:

*Joy Taylor (Manager)
Mandy Newman (book keeper)*

*Nathaline Petersen (Secretary)
Nomie Tsotsobe (Clerk)*

Acknowledgements

From the side of the committee and staff of the Rachel Swart Fund there is much appreciation for support and generosity received in many different forms. The work of the Fund is enriched by the contributions of many people, companies and organisations sharing their time, funds, skills and services for the benefit of people in need. Their support, generosity and guidance are essential for effective assistance to the people we serve. We want to thank the John Ellerman Foundation in particular for remaining the lifeline of the Fund, while local donors are treasured for making available funds which are directly spent on helping people with disabilities. We further thank colleagues at other organisations and institutions, suppliers, and committee members for their invaluable input, guidance and participation and staff members for their commitment and loyalty. We look forward to continuing the partnerships and teamwork during the decades to come.

CHAIRMAN: _____ DATE: _____