

## **RAPCAN ANNUAL REPORT 2004**

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

With her secondment to the World Bank, our Chairperson Charlotte McClain-Nhlope felt that she should hand over the reins at RAPCAN to someone who could be more involved than she could, as she is to be based in Washington DC. Accordingly, the Board of Directors asked me to assume the office of Chair. It is thus my pleasure to report to our funders, our friends and our partners on our activities in 2004.

As Chairperson, it is pleasing for me to observe the credibility and profile that RAPCAN enjoys, and to observe the quality and quantity of work that is delivered by the staff. We are particularly proud, at RAPCAN, of our reputation of putting children and the protection of children's rights at the forefront of all our work and activities. Highlights of 2004 included:

- A significant focus of our advocacy work in 2004 was on the Children's Bill, and we are confident that this will bear fruit when the Bill is enacted in 2005.
- We continued to be part of the International NGO Advisory Panel to the Global Study on Violence Against Children, and in this capacity also agreed to serve of the Regional Steering Committee for the Eastern and Southern African Regional Consultation in relation to the Global Study.
- In 2004, RAPCAN developed a significant amount of new material, including material on prevention, on sexual harassment, on child abuse awareness and on alternatives to corporal punishment.
- We begun to conclude our work in the Uitsig area of Elsie's River, and anticipate that this process will be finalised by the middle of 2005.
- The Child Witness Project was opened in a further two Sexual Offences Courts (Cape Town and Atlantis).

With a more stable funding base, RAPCAN ended the year in a strong position to carry on with its work. My thanks go to my colleagues on the Board of Directors who selflessly give many hours to support and guide the organisation and its work, and to the staff whose commitment and energy are dedicated go ensuring that children in South Africa get the childhood that is the right of every child.

Thank you

Ntutu Mtwana  
Chairperson.

## **THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Every year, I start this Report by commenting on how busy the year under review was, and this year was no exception. As Executive Director, it is with great pride that I look back on what RAPCAN accomplished during 2004. We are a relatively small group of people, and have carried a significant workload; we are proud of our credibility at national, regional and international level, and of the quality of work that we deliver.

In a context with very high levels of abuse and neglect, we have made a difference in the lives of individual children and children more generally, and have worked extremely hard and with commitment and dedication to do so. Our work remains focused on changing the present realities of children in South Africa that our work is focussed.

### **2. TRAINING & MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT (TMDU)**

#### **2.1 Training**

RAPCAN delivers training workshops in a variety of contexts, to children, young people and adults. Our purpose is to:

- To inform and educate children and young people on their rights.
- To provide teachers and other professionals working with or encountering abused children to recognize this, respond appropriately, and be aware of their legal and ethical obligations.
- To enhance the understanding of the various types of abuse and neglect within communities, and to raise awareness of the issues.
- To raise the awareness of communities in general about the links between child abuse and gender violence, power, control and socialisation.
- To empower children and young people, and enhance their ability, to recognise and possibly take appropriate action in potentially abusive situations.
- To increase the likelihood that young children will, when abuse has occurred, disclose this and seek appropriate assistance.

The total number of adults reached in 2003 was 2,779, which compares well with the target of 1,000. We set a target of reaching 3,500 children, which was also exceeded - 5,717 children and youth participated in RAPCAN workshops.

Participants were broken down as follows:

Children and youth	5,717
Community members	1,429
Educators	885
Students	465

With regard to work in communities, the above figures include the following:

Area	Children reached	Adults reached
Khayelitsha	650	154
Uitsig	2,000	261

Our intensive work within the Uitsig area of Elsie's River continued for the full period under review, but the resignation of the staff member involved meant that work in the Khayelitsha area was suspended temporarily. This will be resumed in 2005, and the process of withdrawing from Uitsig will be concluded. The Retreat / Steenberg area has been identified as the community in which we will work next.

## 2.2 Materials Development

A significant project was the development of a manual and training material for the Chrysalis Academy on sexual harassment. This material was developed specifically for work with young people being developed to play leadership roles in their communities. It will, early in 2005, be adapted for use with young men at risk, in particular.

The period under review also saw the realisation of something that had been planned since 2001 - the development of the South African Young Sex Offenders Programme (SAYStOP) diversion material into preventive material. SAYStOP was developed by a consortium of organisations (including RAPCAN) over a number of years and at the beginning of 2004, was handed over to the Department of Social Development. It had always been the intention to adapt the diversion programme for prevention and work with boys at risk, and this was done and the programme delivered in all 9 provinces in the period under review.

Significant progress towards the development of a Tool Kit on alternatives to corporal punishment and positive discipline was made, and a poster was developed as an integral element. This was presented at a workshop on the issue in South East Asia in November last year, and requests for it to be used in that region were agreed to.

The first book in the Healing Books series currently in development, was completed to draft stage (the Healer's Manual is for community volunteers and those delivering services to children). The Manual for Care-givers and the three workbooks for children (pre-school, primary and early teen) will be developed in 2005.

Marketing of our training courses was more successful in 2004, and we worked closely with the Education Management District Committees in delivering especially workshops to educators on alternatives to corporal punishment.

### 3. RESOURCE CENTRE

Our Resource Centre seeks to be a resource to the community at large, and a repository of information. It is open to the public and operates like any other public library. It houses an extensive collection of written material, both popular and academic, as well as audio, visual and other material dealing with child abuse, neglect, children's rights, and (more generally) gender, women's and other issues. It is used extensively by our own staff, and also by a range of students, researchers, practitioners and people with an interest in the field. During 2004, and in addition to our own staff, an average of 5 people used our Resource Centre each month. We ascribe the decrease in usage to the fact that we had moved at the end of 2003, and were no longer as accessible to our users as we had been. By the end of the period under review, a reversal of this situation was noted.

The lower levels of usage by users of our Resource Centre was compensated for by the higher level of resource dissemination.

Resource	Sale	Free	Total*
Posters	1,013	377	1,390
A Trolley Full of Rights	7,837	65	7,902
Child Sexual Abuse in SA	46	42	88
Pamphlets (no charge)	N/A	760	760

\* Does not include resources disseminated by TMDU Unit/CPSS

The Western Cape Department of Education, in 2004, initiated and subsidised the "Box of 100 Books" Literacy Project in 2004. RAPCAN's "A Trolley Full of Rights" in 3 languages was one of the books selected for this project, aimed at putting a box of 100 books into every Grade 2 classroom in the province. This resulted in a large number of orders.

In addition to disseminating materials ourselves, some of our resources are also disseminated by others. In particular, Common Threads in the United Kingdom is printing and distributing RAPCAN's "What is Child Abuse" poster throughout that country, and the Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Project is using and disseminating the same poster, translated into Venda. The Greater Nelspruit Rape Intervention Project uses and disseminates "Trolley Full of Rights". UNICEF Lesotho placed a further order for 80,000 Sesotho copies of "A Trolley Full of Rights" for dissemination to children in Lesotho. These organisations have the permission of RAPCAN to disseminate our materials in these ways.

#### 4. ADVOCACY AND STRATEGIC NETWORKING

The Children's Bill and activities related to it dominated our advocacy work (and that of many other organisations) in the year under review. The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee heard submissions on the Bill in the second half of 2004, and these were preceded by the preparation of a number of Fact Sheets and other documents, as well as content meetings, by the Children's Bill Working Group of which RAPCAN is a Secretariat member. It is likely that this Bill will be enacted by mid-2005. In 2003, this area of our work continued to grow significantly in terms of both work load and impact.

- We continue to be involved as a member of ACCESS (the Alliance for Children's Entitlement to Social Security), with advocacy related to the extension of the Child Support Grant and the campaign for a basic income grant for all South Africans.
- Our membership of the Provincial Plan of Action, a liaison group which oversees service provision to children provincially and is comprised of NGOs, welfare organizations and government departments, including Social Development, Health, Education and the South African Police Services, also continued.
- RAPCAN continued to serve as chair of the ChildrenNOW Network - a network of NGOs which has drawn together to write and submit the second Alternate Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- RAPCAN also became a member of a new Task Team, convened by the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) Unit within the National Prosecuting Authority which is looking at standards and levels of service delivery to sexual assault survivors within the court system.
- The work of the NGO Advisory Panel to the UN Global Study on Violence Against Children continued, and a meeting was held in Geneva in April 2004. Planning for the Eastern and Southern African Regional Consultation began in the period under review, and the Regional Consultation is scheduled for mid-2005.
- RAPCAN attended a meeting of the NGO Liaison Group on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, of which we are a member, and a side event of the 60th meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights, also in Geneva.
- We served as Chair of the South African Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (SASPCAN).
- We continue to be regularly consulted by funders, researchers and government on issues within the child rights and child protection sector.
- We continued to be interviewed frequently by the press.

We attended the following conferences and meetings:

- The DICAG Symposium
- The ANPPCAN Conference in Enugu, Nigeria (a paper on the role of the community in abuse and neglect prevention, and one on the Global Study on Violence Against Children were presented)
- Presented on the Children's Bill to the quarterly meeting of the Intersect Coalition
- Presented on the Children's Bill at the Provincial Network on Violence Against Women's Annual Conference
- Presented on the Children's Bill at the inaugural meeting of the University of Free State Law Faculty's Child Rights Project
- Attended and presented at an Inyatelo workshop on fund-raising
- Attended a two-day conference organised by the Office on the Status of Women
- Presented on the Children's Bill at the South African Paediatrics Association annual congress
- Attended the three-day Themba Lesizwe Annual Victim Empowerment Conference in Durban
- Made two presentations at the Themba Lesizwe Conference and chaired one of the commissions.
- Presented on the Children's Bill at Huguenot College
- Presented at a meeting convened by the South African Human Rights Commission on lessons from the Children's Bill for the Older Person's Bill.
- Attended the Charities Aid Foundation Conference in Johannesburg

## 5. CHILD PROTECTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

### 5.1 Referral counselling

The calls made on us to provide counselling, even though RAPCAN does not offer a counselling service, continued in the form of telephone counselling calls, occasional "walk-in" counselling clients, and numerous disclosures by both adults and children during our workshops. Our capacity in this regard continues to be strengthened by the appointment of qualified, registered social workers as trainers and in our Child Witness Project. In addition:

- The Childline/RAPCAN referral manual was finalised.
- Training of staff in telephone and walk-in counselling took place.
- A system for referral has been established and forms have been distributed to staff. Statistics must be recorded monthly and compiled onto a database

### 5.2 Child Witness Project (CWP)

As planned, the service opened in the Cape Town and Atlantis Sexual Offences Courts early in 2004. Discussions with the Department of Social Development regarding financial responsibility for these services were pursued, and we are optimistic that they will bear fruit in 2005.

Twenty-nine lay Court Supporters at the five courts in which we were active during the period under review (Cape Town, Atlantis, Wynberg, Khayelitsha and Parow) and assisted 5,160 parents and children. The service includes:

- ensuring that child witnesses are fed, rested and supervised while they wait to testify;
- ensuring that child witnesses are prepared to testify in terms of knowing what to expect, and understanding the roles of the different people present;
- aware of their rights as witnesses;
- thoroughly debriefed after testifying and after the verdict.

### 5.3 Other activities

#### Management of Court Supporters

Group supervision sessions and individual sessions are a regular feature of management of the Court Supporters. In addition, in-service training dealt with a range of issues including assertiveness training, conflict resolution, and working with the mentally challenged child.

#### Marketing

The brochure was updated, and a new poster was developed. The formal launch of the project in Khayelitsha and Parow was celebrated. Articles in a number of community newspapers were also published (Tygertalk, Tygerburger, Vukani and Weskus Nuus, and the Absa and FNB newsletters).

Working relationships were established with Childline, Safeline, Riebeck Street Primary School, and the Belhar Police Station. RAPCAN played a lead role in organising a programme in Khayelitsha during the 16 days of Activism, where 300 people were reached

#### Training of intermediaries

Five intermediaries were trained in a process which combined this training and the training of Court Supporters, and which focused on Afrikaans and Xhosa-speaking people, and the training manual was updated this year.

## 6. GENERAL

Staff changes during the year under review included:

- the resignation of Nomazizi Mguda from the CPSS Unit
- the appointment of Tantaswa Gubevu in her place
- the resignation of Sthokozo Nxumalo and Mabee Mdlalose from the TMDU
- the decision not to replace them in 2004, but to wait until 2005 before doing so
- the appointment of Rene Kiewiet as Finance and Administration Manager

One edition of the Bi-Annual Review was published in 2004.

As usual, the year at RAPCAN ended with the Annual Evaluation and Planning meeting. At this time, we evaluate the year that has just passed, and we confirm our plans for the next year.

## 7. CONCLUSION

RAPCAN has continued to grow in the amount of work that we do and the influence that we exert. We are proud of our achievements, but very conscious of how much there is yet to do.

We acknowledge the support of all our friends and supporters in our continuing endeavours to fulfil our long-term vision of a safe environment for all South African children, free from all forms of abuse, neglect and violence, in a country in which children are loved, respected and treasured; a country where children's rights are upheld and respected, and where we lead the way for other countries in terms of the full implementation of children's rights.

RAPCAN's growth and the increase in the level of our impact was, as always, the result of true team work. The ongoing support and commitment of the members of the Board of Directors, their professional approach to their work, and the seriousness with which they perform their functions, contribute significantly to our work and credibility. The dedication, commitment, hard work and openness to learning of the professional staff, combined with their many years of skill and experience also contribute much to our credibility and ability to undertake a heavy work-load. The ongoing support and willingness to be flexible of the support staff were invaluable. And of course, the financial support from our funders ensured that we had the wherewithal to do our work. This Report acknowledges the role of everyone, and thanks them on behalf of those individuals and communities with whom RAPCAN works, and from which we learn every day and in many ways about why we need to do what we do.

Thank you

Carol Bower  
Executive Director

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Income in 2004 was considerably boosted by income generated by RAPCAN itself. The TMDU generated R138,018 and the Resource Centre generated R227,482, for a total of R365,500. This represents just under 10% of our total income for 2004.

With a more stable funding base and a significant increase in self-generated income, RAPCAN has ended the year in a strong position. Our sincere appreciation is extended to all our funders and supporters. (Copies of the 2004 Audited Statements are available from our office).

Funders in 2004:

Total income R3,293,654

- ABSA Give As You Earn
- Bernard van Leer
- Community Chest of the Western Cape
- D G Murray Trust
- FNB FirstRand Foundation
- FNB Home Loans
- Ford Foundation
- Foschini
- Impumelelo
- Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- Mvelaphanda
- National Lottery
- Norwegian Human Rights Institute
- OSF
- Provincial Government of the W Cape
- Pick-'n-Pay
- Rockefeller Brothers
- Save the Children (Sweden)
- Standard Bank
- terre des hommes
- UNICEF

Thank you.

Marijke Barnard  
Treasurer