



Annual Report 2013

I have learnt so much and so have my children.
It has opened a door to a brand new way of teaching.
I am now much more confident in teaching language.
Thank you Wordworks for investing in me.



2013 in numbers...

644 parents attended the 7-week Home-School Partnership Programme

over 600 volunteers gave their time as tutors in the Early Literacy Programme

2361 children across four provinces benefited from additional early language and literacy support

49 Grade R teachers from 26 schools attended STELLAR training to strengthen literacy teaching, reaching a further 1500 children

45 schools, 5 preschools and 1 library ran one or more Wordworks programme

11 partner organisations received training and materials to implement Wordworks programmes independently

A message from Shelley O'Carroll, Director of Wordworks:

2013 will be remembered as a year of growth and new opportunities. We partnered with a record number of schools, extended the reach of our work to include children from birth to five years, and saw policy briefs reaching government ministers and partners across the country. We also took time to strengthen our organisation through investing in the development of internal systems and policies.

We continued to live out our commitment to sharing knowledge and 2013 saw the launch of a new Wordworks website which includes many free resources and publications. These resources have been developed with the help of generous support from donors who have journeyed with us and helped to shape the direction of our growth.

Over the past seven years we have invested in the development of programme content and materials, as well as the tools needed to set up and manage programmes. This has made it possible for partner organisations in other provinces to use our resources to strengthen their work in communities. We continue to

balance this growth with a commitment to the people and communities where our work began and continues to grow.

As we ended 2013, we secured a new three-year grant which will make it possible for us to support many more Grade R teachers to strengthen language and literacy teaching in this critically important year.

Going forward we will also be extending the reach of our work through new resources for home visitors who work with caregivers of children aged between birth to five years.

We continue to be humbled and inspired by the many teachers, volunteers and parents who are passionate about giving all children the chance to learn to read and write successfully. We have the privilege of being witnesses to how individuals, schools and organisations take our work forward in ways that we could not have anticipated. We thank and salute them all.

Very best wishes,



Our donors make our work possible – sincerest thanks to you all.

DG Murray Trust	Itron
Claude Leon Foundation	UWP Consulting
The Learning Trust	ProPrint
JET	Davis Foundation
ELMA Philanthropies	Anglo American Chairman's Fund
JP Morgan	Peoples Education Fund of Japan
Hout Bay/Llandudno Community Education Trust	3C Metal
Breadline Africa	O'Carroll Bursary Fund
USAID	Masiphumelele Corporation and Trust

Wordworks supports early language and literacy learning among children from historically disadvantaged communities in South Africa. By sharing our materials, know-how and enthusiasm with teachers, parents, volunteer tutors and home visitors in a respectful and inclusive way, we seek to ensure that all our children can learn to read and write successfully.

To find out more about our work, visit our website at www.wordworks.org.za or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wordworksSA.