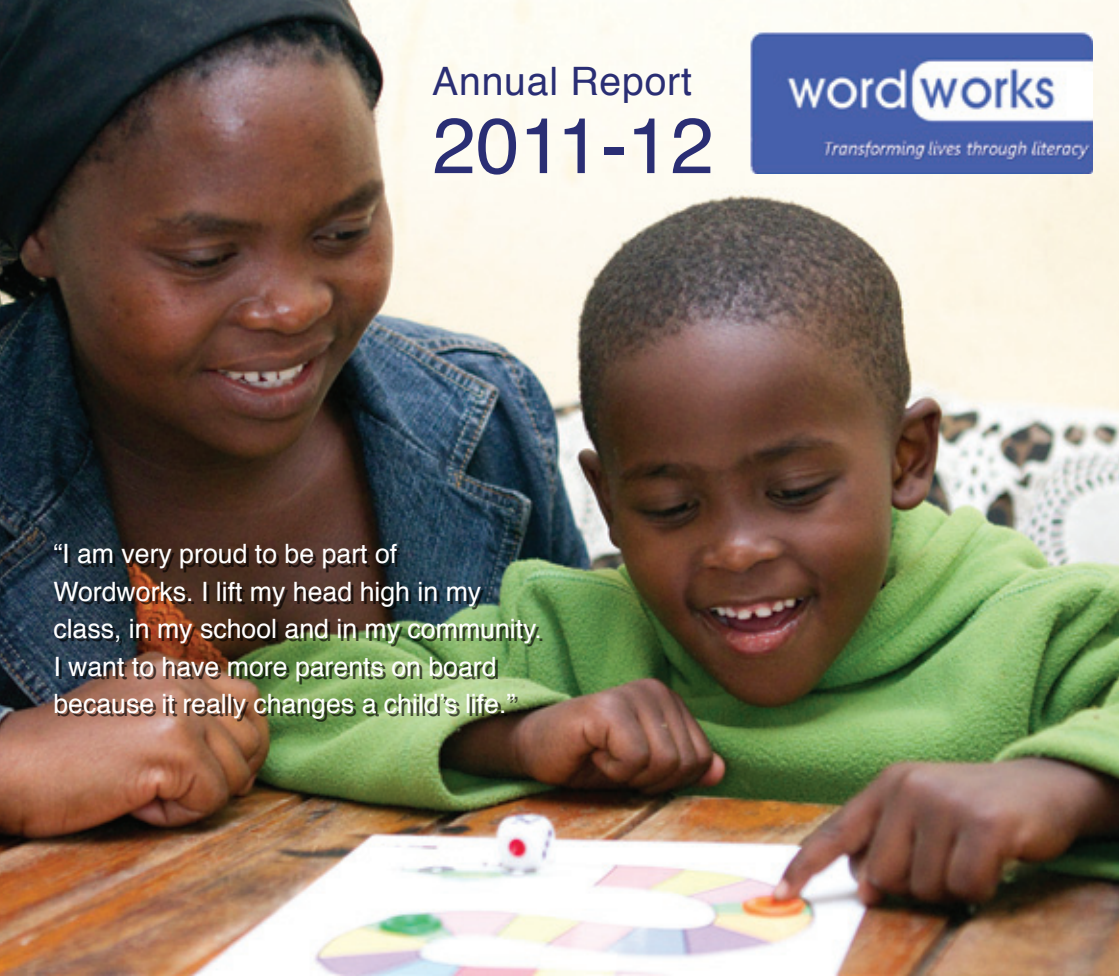


Annual Report 2011-12

wordworks

Transforming lives through literacy



"I am very proud to be part of Wordworks. I lift my head high in my class, in my school and in my community. I want to have more parents on board because it really changes a child's life."



2011-12
in numbers

1256 (792) children
received regular support with their reading and writing

305 (138) volunteers
gave their time as tutors

210 (170) parents
attended the parent programme (with 11 new schools
trained and ready to start the programme)

35 (20) schools and 2 (3) libraries
ran Wordworks programmes

28 preschool teachers
received training to strengthen literacy teaching in
Grade R, reaching a further 400 children

(The figures in brackets show the equivalent numbers for 2010-11)



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

Every time I visit one of Wordworks' programmes, I am inspired anew by the dedication and enthusiasm of the volunteers and parents who we work with. We could never have anticipated how much it would mean to parents to have access to new knowledge and materials and the impact it would have on their self-esteem and confidence. Thanks to ordinary community members like them, the reach of our work continued to grow rapidly last year despite the fact that we remain a relatively small organisation.

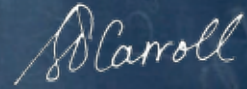
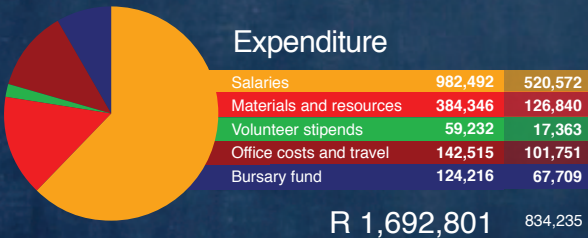
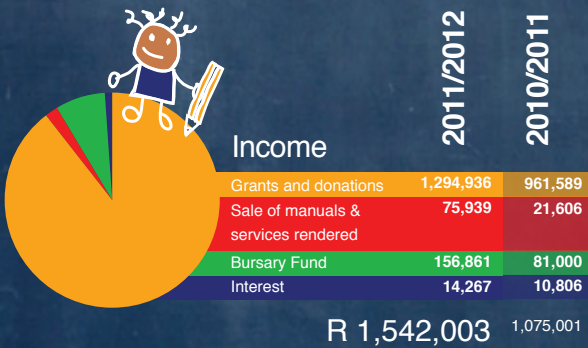
In 2011, Wordworks partnered in a new project to develop resources and provide training to strengthen literacy and language teaching in Grade R. The pilot was a great success and we will continue to build on this area of work to ensure that more teachers and children can benefit from our methodology and resources.

We have extended the scope of our work still further by giving greater attention to the years before children begin school. In early 2012, we published an important new report on language and literacy

development between birth and six years, and we have also built new partnerships with organisations in the ECD field. We are particularly excited about the potential to work with home visitors to support young children's language and literacy development in the pre-school years.

One of Wordworks' core beliefs is that the people who are best placed to transform the educational and life prospects of our most vulnerable children – parents, teachers and ordinary community members. At a time when there are increasing calls for citizens to take more ownership of education in South Africa, the Wordworks approach resonates more than ever, showing the potential for transformative change when parents and communities are supported in and recognised for the vital role they can play in their children's learning.

Very best wishes,

Our donors, supporters and partners make our work possible – sincerest thanks to you all. Major donors and partners in 2011-12 were:

- Anglo American Chairman's Fund
- Argentarius Foundation
- Breadline Africa
- Centre for Early Childhood Development
- Claude Leon Foundation
- Davis Foundation
- Foundation for Community Work
- DG Murray Trust
- Hout Bay & Llandudno Community Education Trust
- Itron
- Joint Education Trust
- The Learning Trust
- Masiphumelele Corporation and Trust
- O'Carroll Bursary Fund
- Project Read
- Pro-Print
- US Self Help Grant
- UWP Consulting
- Vrygrond Community Development Trust