The Richmond Community Development Foundation

Registered as a Section 21 company not for gain
The Richmond Community Development Foundation (RCDF)

Mission Statement

Building communities through skills development training, and working towards sustainable job creation, thereby reaching out and changing lives.

Summary

The Richmond Community Development Foundation (RCDF) is a private non-profit community development project located in Richmond in the Karoo. Founded in 2009 by a group of prominent Richmond farmers and booklovers who established Richmond as South Africa’s first and only book town, RCDF aims to provide comprehensive, compassionate skills development programs to the impoverished residents and countless family members, as well as a food gardens project.

RCDF is currently assisting learners in the primary school whose families cannot afford to pay school fees, with the cost of their school feeding scheme, as it is one of only two small meals that these children get each day, the other from the community soup kitchen. The foundation is also assisting the Book town literacy programme, with an introduction to the world of books and literacy by reading to the children each day, and dispensing children’s story books to the children.
Michael Drysdale from the Richmond Community Development Foundation
Reads to the Children at the Soup Kitchen

The poverty in the town of Richmond is worse than that found in the west of Tanzania, the North of Kenya and southern Sudan, a poverty that is currently exacerbated by the fact that Richmond has no industries to speak of the community survive on handouts and government grants. The rate of HIV infection in the town currently stands at 38%, with the problem being compounded by the abuse of liquor, usually a potent homebrew.

The organisation’s programs and services are supported by sales of items produced by the various skills development skills programmes. By taking responsibility for the success of the skills programmes, the members of the community make a personal investment that greatly enhances their level of commitment to achieving a sustainable income and relief from poverty. However, the organisation is committed to providing skills training and services to any individual who demonstrates a desire to improve their skills and knowledge base.

The Richmond Community Development Foundation (RCDF) respectfully requests a grant of R1,983,207.50 (or alternatively a portion there-of) for the following purposes:

- Capital Equipment, property upgrade & security  R 270,000.00
- Administration Expenses     R 546,433.50
- Running Costs     R 136,660.00
- Project equipment & training tools     R 460,945.00
- Project Materials (raw material)     R 180,689.00
- Training fees for learners in the first year     R 342,480.00
- Training fees for educators/trainers     R 46,000.00

The foundation would exist in perpetuity and enable the Organisation to become self sustainable as well as generating a consistent income for the impoverished local community.

In addition, The Richmond Community Development Foundation would also be able to sustain a community based feeding scheme for the members of the community who require food assistance from the Organisation’s Family Program.

Registration:

“The Richmond Community Foundation” is registered as an Association incorporated under the Section 21 Company’s Act (incorporated not for gain) with the CIPRO Registration Number 2008/00/1433/08 the registration is “First ready Development 894” trading as “The Richmond Community Development Foundation”

The purpose of which is:

To improve the lives of the unskilled and unemployable community of Richmond community by providing sustainable skills training and to assist the trainees with the formation and registration of sustainable community owned co-operatives, and to then provide mentorship and assistance to the community with the management of the co-operatives so as to ensure sustainability and economic independence of the community

Organisational Capacity

The Richmond Community Development Foundation is not a religious organisation, yet the road to self-worth that the Organisation provides is a spiritual journey that begins with basic honesty and leads to character development, and emotional and mental maturity for the unskilled community members. Even
more, the Organisation recognizes that poverty is not one of isolation. The families, friends and colleagues of an impoverished person are also affected. Therefore, the organisation provides family programs that enable the loved ones of the impoverished and unskilled to become contributing community members.

The results that The Richmond Community Development Foundation will achieve will be a skilled labour force that becomes productive members of their communities. Most of the beneficiaries become active participants in the development programme, not only bringing in a personal income but also bringing in much needed funds to the town of Richmond, and making the town a must stop destination for travellers on the passing highway between Johannesburg and Cape Town, thus making their home town an economically viable one.

The Richmond Community Development Foundation is a community facility that provides adult men and women with several programs to alleviate their cycle of poverty, and to maintain a lifestyle that is productive and focused on personal growth.

The Richmond Community Development Foundation has as its main focus skills development, with sewing, carpentry, pottery and felting programmes.

The Richmond Community Development Foundation also has a food growing and feeding scheme as poverty has led to tremendous hunger in the local community, with the majority of crime being reported in the town being the theft of food.

The Board of Directors of The Richmond Community Development Foundation, through careful management of resources and a strategic long-range vision, has kept the budget for funding significantly lower than that of comparable projects, while maintaining quality programs, hiring and retaining dedicated staff and ensuring that the Organisation's facilities are most conducive to the restoration of the community as a whole.

There are many things unique about The Richmond Community Development Foundation; the staff members are mature and dedicated, they are not only highly skilled but also have years of experience in their respective fields, and are passionate about making a difference in the community. In addition,

The Richmond Community Development Foundation is governed by its mission – to focus all efforts and programs on what is best for the community in their efforts to gain skills and positive and permanent changes in their lives.

The Board of Directors provides the leadership and resources needed to perpetuate the dream on which The Richmond Community Development Foundation was founded - to provide freedom from poverty – freedom to live a productive life and spiritual growth.

The organisation provides compassionate and comprehensive skills training programs to members of the community, and is open to anyone without regard to gender, age, creed or national origin. The programmes will be run by Michael Drysdale a veteran of community development projects who has been actively involved in skills training projects for the past eleven years, and Lisa McKane a Karoo veteran who has been involved in the Karoo community for the past ten years. This will be augmented by several of the local farmers and their families who are determined to see the community develop and become a productive one.

The Richmond Community Development Foundation will be an augmentation of a project targeting children and the youth which is currently being run by Rotary International in the town, Rotary International from Maryland in the United States of America, are currently running an AIDS awareness campaign in the town, they are running a successful grassroots soccer programme in the town, and have built five houses for squatters that were then moved from the community hall, which has been repaired and is now in use as a soup kitchen, and a venue for community gatherings. The Rotary International Group is also in the process of building a library for the children of the community so as to provide a safe environment. Rotary International has also installed two pumps in the town to improve the system of sewerage removal.
The RCDF skills training projects and food gardens project will be a programme that runs in co-operation with the Rotary International programme and the Book Town literacy project. The involvement of Rotary International is an indication of the tremendous need to alleviate the severe poverty of the community of Richmond in the Karroo.

**Statement of Need**

As a consequence of their poverty many of the community members have developed a dependence on a powerful homebrewed alcohol to which they have become addicted, many of the community members have seen a precipitous decline in their personal relationships with their families. Sources of funding to assist these individuals have been reduced or even curtailed due to the current economic and healthcare environments.

This financial burden also greatly impacts the ability of family members of our clients to attend the organisation's Family Program – a program that enables spouses, children and parents of the community members working in the skills training programme to benefit RCDF provides the skills training to the community at no cost, in addition, the food growing programme will be provided to the community at no cost, while all excess will be sold to provide an income to the programme.

The Richmond Community Development Foundation will provide individuals and families with demonstrated financial need to receive food and access to the skills training programs that RCDF provides.

**Program Description**

**Food Gardening Project**

The foundation has established a significant need for a sustainable food gardening project in the town of Richmond as all vegetables are currently trucked into the town from Bloemfontein or Graaf Reinette and sold at a high cost, no growing of fresh vegetables is undertaken in this desert town. This program encompasses time-tested techniques from programmes that have been run world-wide;

The Richmond Community Development Foundation has been given the use of 2 acres of land with two boreholes and an irrigation dam. The local farmers have offered to plough the land at no cost to the project. A further two acres of land is also available, and both properties need to be fenced in.

The overarching goal at The Foundation is to provide the best possible opportunity for each community member to participate in the food growing programme and thus be able to feed their families with fresh vegetables, any surplus will be sold to the local townsfolk and the local supermarket as an income generator.

The food growing program will allow the members of the community to lead productive, successful and emotionally rewarding lives.

Funds are required to purchase fencing, implements and seed. Every acre of productive land will provide employment to three people, and there are many acres of fallow land that could very easily be acquired at no cost to increase the size of the project.

**Skills Development Program**

The town of Richmond has no industry; the only employers are the Prisons department, local municipality and police force. Richmond is situated next to the main highway between Johannesburg and Cape Town and is thus accessible to travellers under taking the 1,400 km journey between these points, being situated approximately half way between both makes it an ideal stop-over, thus development of a crafts industry in the town is an essential part of economic re-growth for the Town of Richmond.
Due to the non-existence of any industry, the local community has never had an opportunity for skills development, and have thus never learnt any skills, resulting in an unskilled and unproductive community relying on handouts and government grants.

**The Sewing Project**  
The sewing project will teach the production of high end bed-linen, handbag making, soft furnishings, clothing production, quilting and traditional African felting (local farmers have offered to provide all the mohair the program requires for free). Some of the products will be sold locally in crafts stores which are to be established, the majority of the products will be marketed to the interior designers, and high end boutiques both nation-wide and internationally. The project requires sewing machines and clothing production equipment.

**The Carpentry Project**  
Will teach furniture manufacture and restoration with completed products being marketed to interior designers and furniture stores country-wide, being on the main highway transport to and from major centres is not a problem, thus furniture for restoration can easily be freighted into the town and back out to the client, as well as newly manufactured articles. The project requires the purchase of carpentry tools, and funds to repair a council building which is in a severe state of disrepair.

**The Pottery Project**  
A number of years ago a successful pottery industry was run from the town of Richmond, but on the death of its founder, the business was moved to the Western Cape. The town of Richmond has a source of rich clay, which makes it ideal for a pottery project, where high end pottery products can be crafted and then sold in local crafts shops, and also marketed to interior designers and home ware stores both nationally and internationally. A kiln, pottery wheels and pottery craft tools will be required.

**Future Projects**  
The Richmond Community Development Foundation also aims to identify, develop and retain skilled fine artists in the community, thus further enhancing the income generating capacity of the community and the sustainability of The Richmond Community Development Foundation. A future book restoration project is also on the cards with the services of a well-known book restorer having been acquired to teach this exacting art for the restoration of rare books. With this project a book printing and binding centre will also be set up in the town.

**Evaluation**  
The Richmond Community Development Foundation will provide donors and grant givers with an annual report detailing the number of people who received assistance and skills training. This report will include a financial report, as well as a summary of the Foundation's follow-up efforts to determine the success that our marketing campaign has had on increasing sales and income generation for the community.

**Conclusion**  
In an era that has engendered a volatile trade and production industry and an increased need for skills development, The Richmond Community Development Foundation is committed to meeting this need. An investment of R 1,983,207.50 (or alternatively a portion thereof) will help those who have the greatest need and the least resources begin their life of sustainable productivity and contribution to their families and community at the Richmond Community Development Foundation. The return on this investment will be seen in the increased number of individuals who will be able to support themselves, their families and their local communities living lives of continued productivity. The Richmond Community Development Foundation will also enable family members find the strength and guidance they need to restore their families and undo the cycle of destruction that has been caused by poverty.
FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Account Name: The Richmond Community Development Foundation
Bank Name: Standard Bank
Branch: Richmond
Branch Code: 050608
Account Number: 083152288
Address: 129 Pienaar Street
City: Richmond
Province: Northern Cape
Postal Code: 7090
Telephone: 0860-101-341 / +27 11 898 4200
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Name & Title of Contact: Ina Fourie – Branch Manager

[1] Financial needs
[3] Executive Summary
[4] Section 21 Registration Documents

Further Resources:

http://www.richmondnc.co.za/


http://www.grassrootsoccer.org/

http://www.pakedi.co.za