2026

save a child
red 'n kind

5 years

REPORT
to the
NORTHERN
SYNOD



5 jaar

VERSLAG aan die NOORDELIKE SINODE

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Centres of Hope

GAUTENG
Daspoort – 012 460 9272 X 4
Derdepoort – 012 460 9272 X 7
Lotus Gardens – 012 460 9272 X 9
Lynnwood – 012 460 9272 X 6
Moot– 012 460 9272 X 5
Wierdapark – 012 460 9272 X 8
Wonderboom – 012 460 9272 X 0
Children's Centre Queenswood – 012 460 9272 x 3

LIMPOPO
Louis Trichardt – 082 644 9296
Musina – 063 864 5274
Warmbad – 014 736 2557

NOORDWES
Brits – 012 252 3207
Hartbeespoort – 064 956 6770

Thank you!

Our sincere thanks to:

- The Board of Directors for their dedicated leadership and guidance
- Our Financial Manager and his team for their continued support and valuable expertise
- The Northern Synod of the Dutch Reformed (NG) Church for their financial contributions and continued support of service delivery
- The Departments of Social Development in Northwest, Limpopo and Gauteng for their vital financial support
- All our donors, whose generous contributions make an immeasurable difference
- Louis Botha Children's Home for making office facilities available
- All our staff members for their unwavering commitment and meticulous service
- Foster parents, adoptive parents, and clients for their trust, cooperation, and willingness to walk the road with us.
- Places of safety and safety parents who care for premature babies and newborns with love, and always walk the extra mile for those who are the most vulnerable
- Our Heavenly Father, who graces us with wisdom, strength and compassion to serve faithfully and wholeheartedly

Dr R. Aylward
General Manager

Anchored in care

CSC North is a **Child Protection Organisation** (CPO) and a **Non-Profit Organisation** (NPO), rooted in the Christian faith, with a clear focus: **to give hope to people in need.**

This point of departure takes **practical shape** in the labour of the qualified social workers who protect children, support families, and assist communities.

Child protection is central to the organisation's work. When a child's safety is threatened, the CSC North intervenes to protect the child and to ensure the necessary support and care.

The work extends further than the **immediate crisis.** Therapy and assessments, parent guidance, foster care, family reunification, and preventative programmes form part of a broader approach in which child *and* family are seen in context.

Poverty and social distress also affect the ability of families to care for their children. That is why CSC North's services include **practical support** such as food supplies and other essential help, together with programmes that equip people and strengthen communities.

Through **15 Centres of Hope** in Gauteng, Limpopo and Northwest this work is continued daily.

CSC North's basic principle is simple: to spot need, to act responsibly, and with compassion, expertise and faith to support children and families—to be a safe haven for the most vulnerable people.

Services delivered by CSS North

CHILD PROTECTION
CSC North protects children in circumstances where their safety and welfare are threatened by things like abuse or neglect.
By means of professional social services, support, and safe care, the focus is on the child's immediate needs and further recovery and development.

FAMILY CONSERVATION
The family is an important foundation for the care and development of children.
CSC North supports families with parent guidance, professional guidance, and help with handling challenges, improving family functioning, and to reunite families where possible.

POVERTY RELIEF
Poverty is placing growing pressure on families and often affects their ability to provide basic needs.
CSC North offers practical support, among other things with food, clothing, and other essential aid, to relieve immediate need and to support families in difficult circumstances.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Community development focuses on strengthening and equipping people to improve their circumstances and social functioning.
CSC North collaborates with communities and other role players to address needs, develop skills, and promote opportunities for greater independence.



A simplified identity, the same meaning

CSC North's logo has been simplified to create a more modern, recognisable, and multifaceted visual identity, without jettisoning the significance of the original logo.

The three figures remain central and still represent children, families, protection and care—the essence of CSC North's work. The familiar corporate colours were retained to ensure continuity with the organisation's history and identity.

With the new logo CSC North's established slogan in all three languages remains unchanged: ***Ons gee hoop | We give hope | Re fa Tshepo***. This articulates the promise that still stands at the heart of the organisation.

MISSION & VISION

The vision and mission of CSC North was adapted earlier this year to more strongly reflect the organisation's identity as a **Sanctuary.** It articulates the committal to create a safe space for protection, care, and support where children, families, and people in need can again find hope.

The CSC's Christian ethos is the foundation of our involvement strategy, rooted in compassion and inclusivity.

Mission
To protect the vulnerable, conserve families, and strengthen communities by means of integrated programmes that promote human dignity and bring about sustainable, transforming change.

Vision – A Safe Space
To create safe sanctuaries for protection and support where human dignity is restored and hope can grow.



The **Save a Child** project arose from a decision not to accept child abuse as an unavoidable reality.

The project began in 2000 with a clear purpose: **to protect children who are in danger, to actively respond to abuse,** and **to give every child the chance to recover**

A special logo was designed for the project and often used with the CSC North-logo.

Children are innocent. Via the **Save a Child** project children receive **protection and therapeutic support** that accompany them on the road to recovery.

CSC North remains committed to action in the **best interests of every child** — to restore safety, build trust again, and to help children to move from trauma to hope.

save a child
red 'n kind

90 years of hope and service

1936 – 2026

In 2026 the CSC North celebrated its **90th year** – a special milestone for an organisation that has since 1936 been part of the South African social welfare landscape. What began nine decades ago, has developed into a professional network of social workers that today, with 15 Centres of Hope in Gauteng, Limpopo and Northwest, protect children, support families, and assist communities.

Its 90th year was commemorated at a special celebration on 14 April 2026 at the Atterbury Theatre in Pretoria. To mark the event and capture the significance of this milestone, a **special 90-year commemorative logo** was designed.

The logo links CSC North's history to its well-known identity and message: ***Ons gee hoop | We give hope | Re fa Tshepo.***







CSC North managers: */ to r,* Petro Fourie, Lizette van Niekerk, dr Ronel Aylward, Rudolf van Jaarsveld and Neo Mashao.







Overview and summary of services per province

Service	Gauteng	Northwest	Limpopo
Family conservation	✓	✓	✓
Child protection	✓	✓	✓
Therapy	✓	✓	✓
Community development	✓	✓	✓
Poverty relief (supplying food)	✓	✓	✓
Assessments	✓	✓	✓
Statutory work	Limited	✓	✓
Foster care	–	✓	✓
Adoptions	Limited	–	✓
Foster care training	✓	✓	✓
Parent guidance	✓	✓	✓
Children's Court cases	Limited (no new foster care)	✓	✓
Interactional analyses	✓	✓	✓
Pre-school development	✓	✓	✓
Job creation	✓	–	✓



2021/2022 Unscripted BUT UNSHAKABLE

25 600 TOTAL NUMBER Beneficiaries

19 600 children
6 000 adults

Services

Family conservation

- 170 new families reached
- 35 children reunited with families
- 542 new families registered for services
- 15 children returned to families of origin

Child protection

- 1 087 total number of beneficiaries
- 15 000 children reached in Child Protection week campaign
- 250 children assessed by Child Centre
- Child Court cases:
  - 275 cases
  - 141 cases closed
  - 134 cases carried over to new financial year

Poverty relief

- 60 total number of people reached by entrepreneurial project
- 28 adults by support services

Services PROVIDED AND BENEFICIARIES

- Group work with children
- Parent guidance and therapeutic groups with parents
- Marriage counselling
- Divorce guidance
- Life skills
- Trauma counselling
- Therapy at schools
- Reuniting children with families of origin

HIGHLIGHT



At the entrepreneurial project, participants learned skills and gained knowledge to expand and maintain their own businesses. Many participants gave positive feedback.

The challenge confronting every organisation working with families and children, is how we can help to relieve poverty in a sustainable way.

Growing towards a better future

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FOSTER CARE UNIT

- 17 Foster families successfully selected
- 97 Foster parents supported

ADOPTION SERVICES

- 7 Adoptions finalised (closed adoptions, from foster care, step-parents)
- 12 Number of cases handled
- 20 Number of parents handled
- 66 Number of children who received services (assessments, interactional analyses, and therapy). Some children received different services over a period of time.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE UNIT FOR THERAPY AND ASSESSMENT

INTERACTIONAL ANALYSES (ASSESSING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILD AND CARER) AS WELL AS SOCIO-EMOTIONAL ANALYSES
89 children reached

THERAPY
22 adults 48 children

INDIVIDUAL PARENT GUIDANCE
42 individual parents

PARENT GUIDANCE GROUPS
3 groups 55 adults

APPEARANCES IN THE CHILDREN'S COURT
2 cases

Services provided and beneficiaries:

- Family conservation
- Child protection
- Therapeutic support
- Community development and poverty relief

2 909

The total number of families reached in the services listed above.

HIGHLIGHT

Despite the Department of Social Development's withdrawal of subsidies in Gauteng, the CSC North could still provide services to 2029 families.

We are only trees in the forest of life — where difficulties strengthen our roots and encourage growth.

Summary of services provided



CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY CONSERVATION

assessments	children reached in child protection week	children reached via projects and programmes
143	4,000	141

children made safe via court orders	children involved in Mandela day projects	children involved in ECD projects	people reached via adoption services
116	320	117	143

COMMUNITY UPLIFTMENT AND POVERTY RELIEF

FAMILY CARE SERVICES

Group work with foster parents	Children involved in holiday projects
114	189

360	short-term cases
864	people reached via poverty relief and skills development
124	older persons reached via community outreaches
130	life skills
304	awareness projects
836	individuals reached via generic social work



RENEWAL:
AN ONGOING JOURNEY

CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY CONSERVATION

191 Children made safe via court orders	171 individuals receive assessments	352 children involved in ECD-projects
281 children involved in Mandela day	28 people reached via adoption services	12 children at holiday projects

COMMUNITY UPLIFTMENT AND POVERTY RELIEF

2,084	One-Stop Project for the homeless
2,216	people reached via poverty relief and skills development
3	protective workshops

FAMILY CARE SERVICES

2,947	children reached in child protection week
2,620	children reached in projects and programmes
143	children placed in safety houses and foster homes

Renewal reminds us that change is not the end but the beginning of something greater

90	Foster parents doing group work
466	short-term cases
12	substance dependants served
78	older persons reached via community outreaches
629	life skills
2,518	individuals receive services
1,788	individuals reached via generic social work

Summary of services provided

25 SANCTUARY of SAFETY and SUPPORT
26





Protection begins with people who care



Child protection

172	260	20	4,841
Children made secure by court orders	assessments	People reached via adoption services	Children reached in Child Protection Week

Child protection begins by spotting risk-behaviour, by attentive listening, and by putting the child's safety and best interests first. CSC North provides the following services: assessments, family support, court-related protection, foster care and adoption services and raising awareness programmes in schools and communities.

The service:

- Protects children by prevention programmes, parenting workshops, and awareness programmes.
- Offers statutory services, including investigations and alternative care placements for endangered children.
- Offers therapy and assessments adapted to children's needs.

Community upliftment and Poverty relief

2,937	2,347	116
people reached by poverty relief, and skills development	beneficiaries reached by means of the One Stop Service for homeless people	older people reached by community structures



- Supply food, clothing, and school supplies to people and children in need.
- Offer skills development to help people earn an income.
- Offer mentorship and practical support to improve self-worth.

Needs that still exist

Growing poverty and food insecurity, declining food donations, homelessness, and the constant demand for toiletries, clothes, and other essential are continuing challenges.

Family conservation

14,144	629	92	202
people reached by generic social work	short-term cases handled	participants in foster parent group work	people reached by life skills programmes

- Strengthen family relationships.
- Support family stability by early intervention, assessments, and therapy.
- Offer courses in parent guidance.
- Promote healthier communities by improved social functioning.



STORIES of HOPE







Amanda (alias): Her school referred this five-year-old to CSC North due to serious concern for her safety and well-being. CSC North contributes by paying her school funds. After her mother's demise due to an overdose, she was placed in the care of her grandfather who had previously done time in prison. In a forensic assessment Amanda revealed sexual abuse by her grandfather.

After the assessment she was immediately placed in safety with approved safety parents. Before her removal her grandfather shaved her head because of head lice. Amanda now gets the protection, stability and care which every child should experience.

Lana (alias) is a one-year-old girl who lived with her mother, thirteen years a Crystal Meth addict. Lana is the youngest of four daughters, each with different father. Despite repeated admissions to rehab centres her mother could not beat her addiction and produced pornographic videos to finance her drug habit'

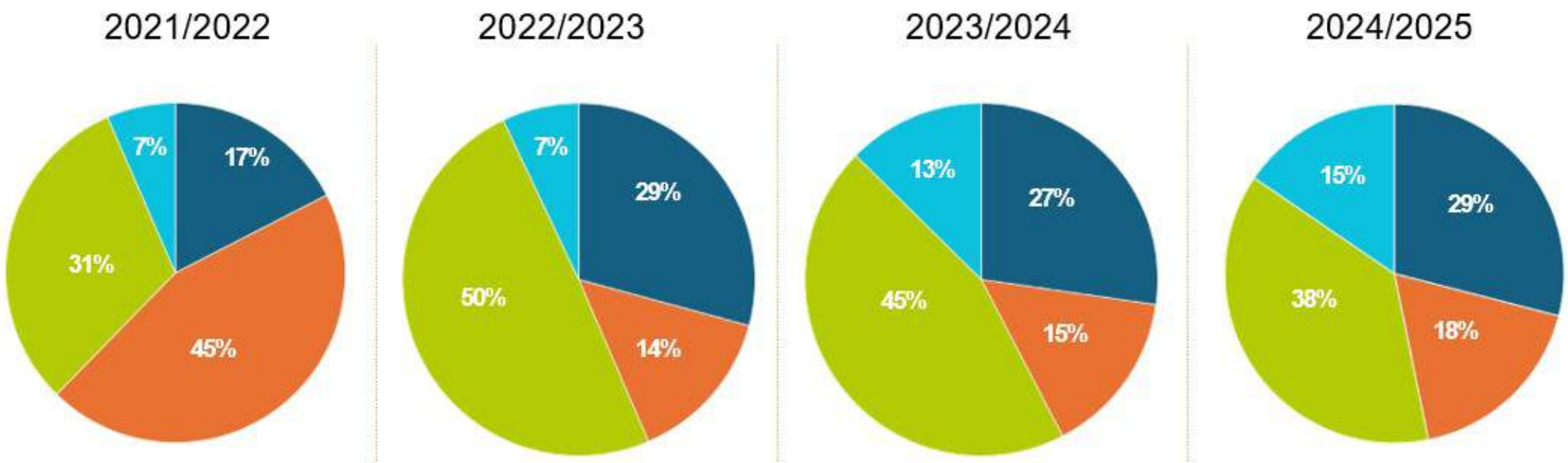
After her mother abducted Lana, CSC North intervened, and she was placed in the care of her biological father. She is now safe and only has contact with her mother under the supervision of a social worker. This intervention ensured that Lana can now grow up in a safe and stable environment.

Connie (alias), a three-year-old girl, is the second of three sisters. Her baby sister (6 months) was admitted to hospital with brain haemorrhage, bruises on her body, and broken arms.

Interactional analyses between the parents and the children were done to determine whether there was any harmful behaviour or abuse by the parents. The assessment found that the two older girls were well cared for and that they showed no signs of injury or abuse. Since then, the baby has been reunited with her parents, while the social worker continues to provide surveillance services to monitor her safety and care.

(The neighbour lady who looked after the baby that morning, was presumably the one who injured her.)

Sources of income



Subsidies (Dept of Social Development)

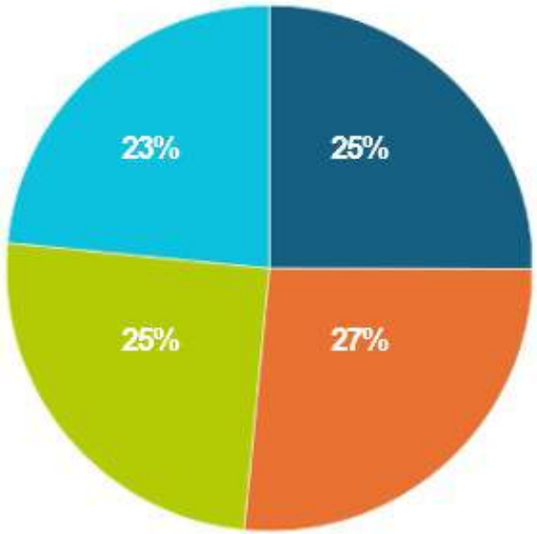
Donations and general fundraising

Dutch Reformed Church contributions

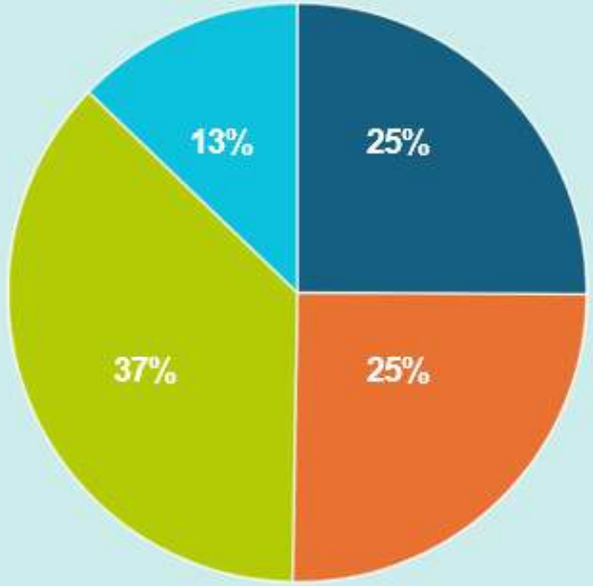
Other (interest, fees, professional fees, DWOS)

Sources of income

2025/2026



average income
2021 – 2026





Subsidies (Dept of Social Development)

Donations and general fundraising

Dutch Reformed Church contributions

Other (interest, fees, professional fees, DWOS)

STATE: the relationship with the Department of Social Development



SETBACK IN GAUTENG (2022)

- A service-level agreement with the Department of Social Development (DSD) in Gauteng on 13 April 2022 is unexpectedly ended.
- The CSC North loses 53% of its income (about R7m).
- DSD also revokes CSC North's status as Child Protection Organisation (CPO) on 6 June 2022.
- DSD also aligns themselves with pressure groups and dissatisfied clients.
- DSD does not give CSC North a fair chance to defend themselves.
- CSC North is forced to lay off 14 staff members on 1 July 2022.
- About 800 statutory cases are transferred to DSD.
- Many negative media reports containing half-truths and untruths about CSC North appear in 2022 en 2023.
- CMR North contracts the services of a media consultant.

WE DO NOT LOSE HEART

- CSC North brings an urgent application before the Supreme Court
- CPO-status gets reinstated on 20 October 2022.
- The Supreme Court and the Appeals Court rejects the DSD's appeal application with costs.
- The Department of Social Development (DSD) in Gauteng pays no subsidies to CSC North for the financial year 2023/2024.
- The CSC North again applies to DSD vir funding for specific programmes for the 2024 /2025 financial year.
- Financial support is again received from DSD Gauteng in the last quarter of 2024/2025 to the present.
- The CSC North Centres of Hope in the Northwest province (Brits) and Limpopo province (Warmbaths and Louis Trichardt) still receive DSD subsidies.

The CSC North received positive media coverage in 2023 and 2024 via:

- The Rekord newspaper (two articles in Social Worker Month. These articles were also posted on *Die Rekord*'s Facebook page),
- Swartskaap (TV-programme),
- Groot FM (interview with Dr Aylward in Child Protection Month) and
- Radio Hi 5 Stereo (during a fundraising event). Positive reaction from the public was received due to this coverage.

The CSC North continues to deliver social worker services by means of several programmes, namely: Family Conservation and Prevention; Child Protection (Statutory work), Community Development and Poverty Relief at all Centres of Hope.

Documentary insert on *Carte Blanche*

Documentary insert on *Carte Blanche*

- *Carte Blanche* contacted CSC North about several historical child protection cases. CSC North answered the questions comprehensively and transparently but decided not to take part in an on-camera interview.
- The decision was taken to protect underage children who had already experienced trauma, to comply with legal and ethical obligations, and to maintain the integrity of the legal and ethical processes involved.
- CSC North is a registered Child Protection organisation in terms of the Children's Act 38 of 2005. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that a child is in danger, the CSC North is legally obligated and authorised to place the child in temporary safe care by means of Form 36 under Section 152.
- CSC North does not make the final decision about the child's placement. The Department of Social Development, SAPS where applicable, medical specialists, and independent specialised social workers can be part of the final investigation. The Children's Court makes the final decision on a child's placement or long-term care.
- Stakeholders are requested to avoid public speculation and social media comments, which could cause further harm to the children or to the organisation. The protection of the children's identity, dignity, and best interests remain paramount.
- CSC North remains focused on its responsibility to serve children with compassion and to act within the bounds of the law. The organisation will at present make no further comment.

Positive media coverage in 2025

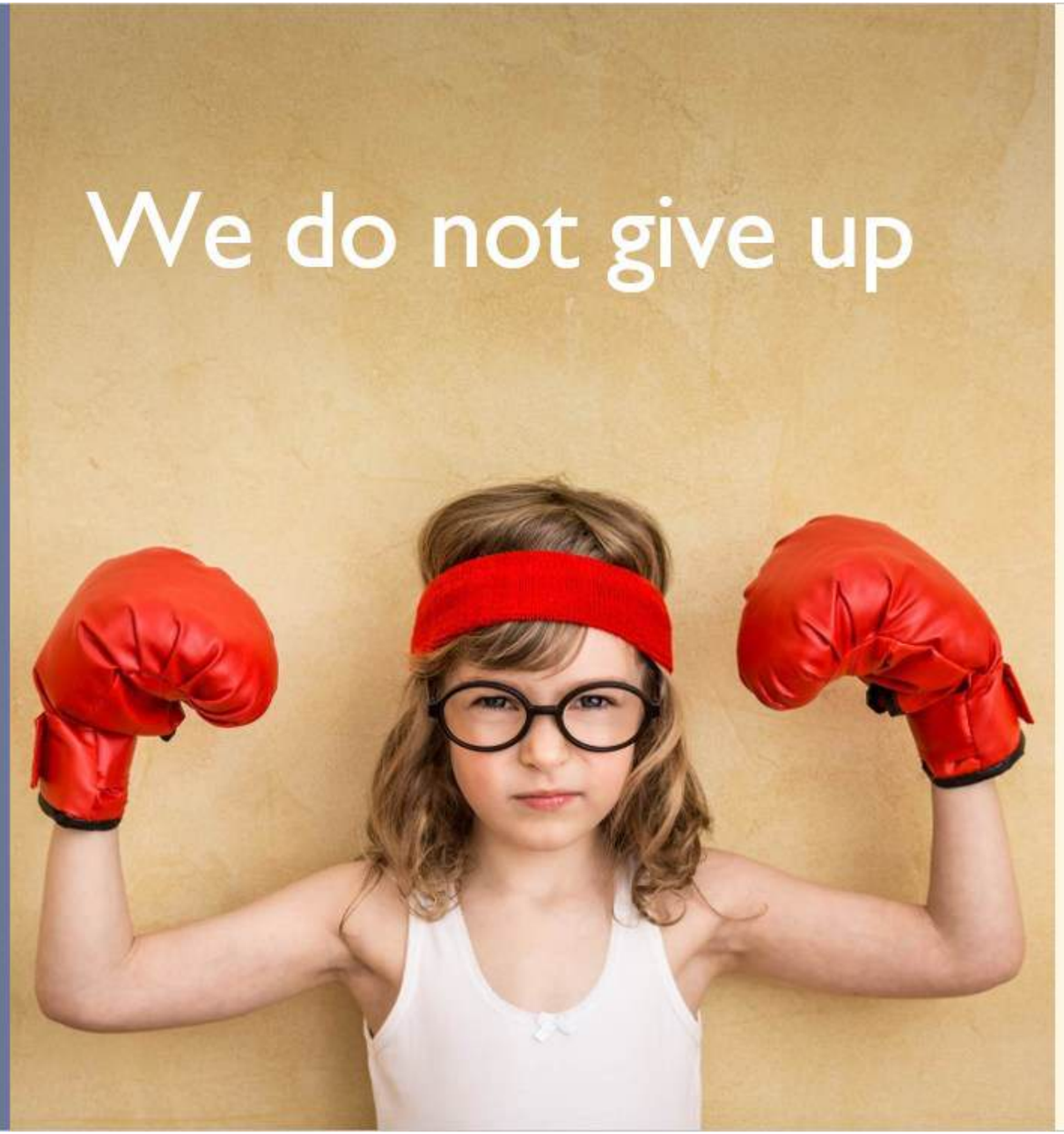
MAY

- PretoriaFM (Radio-interview): "Disturbing increase in the public exposure of victims of child abuse. CSC urges a child-centred approach."
- The Star newspaper (online-article): "Child protection organisation cautions against public exposure of child victims, with some masked as advocacy."
- Saturday Sun (printed article): "Child protection organisation cautions against public exposure of child victims, with some masked as advocacy."
- Cape Talk (Direct broadcast of a radio interview): "Child Protection Organisation: More Caution Needed When Speaking About Child Victims."
- Primedia Plus (online-article): "Be Careful What You Post: Are You Protecting or Inadvertently Exposing Child Abuse Victims?"

JUNE

- GrootFM (Radio-interview): "Focus on Child Protection Week"
- YouFM (Direct broadcast, radio-interview): "Child Protection"
- Die Groot Ontbyt (Direct broadcast on TV): "Disturbing increase in the public exposure of victims of child abuse. CSC urges a child-centred approach."

SWOT-analysis



STRONG POINTS

- Staff with experience
- Expertise available (CSC Child Centre)
- Physical resources
- Support for staff well-being
- Training opportunities
- Skills and training in statutory social work
- Well-developed procedures and protocols
- Community resources and networks
- Shared value system
- Opportunities for socialising
- Management support
- Teamwork
- Established organisation
- Involvement of the church
- Focus on conservation
- Positive organisational culture

CHALLENGES

- Limited resources
- Distance
- Communication (feedback from other organisations)
- Staff shortages for the workload/demands
- Funding
- Negativity
- Time management
- Caseloads too high
- Unrealistic client expectations
- Too much work-related responsibilities and tension
- Salaries
- Technological challenges

Financial sustainability

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

1. Saving/ rationalisation/consolidating:

- Overhead costs (office facilities, equipment)
- Personnel costs (four-day work week; freezing posts when staff members retire/resign (or filling the posts with less experienced staff)

2. Diversifying sources of income:

- State subsidies – where these align with the focus of service delivery and community needs.
- Retain support of the DRC Social Services at schools for payment
- Employee assistance programmes at businesses for payment
- Deliberate implementation of other paid services
- Utilise, protect, and grow reserves (Thusana) – and project funds.
-

3. Strengthening the marketing and fundraising section

Sociale media specialist

- Appointing more fund collectors
- Contracting fund collecting companies
- Maintain support from current donors en reach out personally to new ones
- Debit orders
- Bequests
- Submissions: Lotto, companies
- Utilise PBO status – Article 18A certificates

2026

save a child
red 'n kind

5 years

REPORT
to the
NORTHERN
SYNOD

Where hope continues to live

Five years' work can be summarised in reports, projects, and service delivery.

But the real meaning of it all lies in people's lives. In children who were protected, families who received support, and communities aided in difficult circumstances.

In 15 Centres of Hope in Gauteng, Limpopo and Northwest this work is continued every day by professional social workers and support groups.

CSC North's service delivery would not have been possible without the people and institutions who bear the responsibility together: **the Board of Directors, CSC North-managers, staff, the Northern Synod, the Department of Social Development, donors, foster and adoptive parents, safety parents, volunteers, clients, and other partners.** Each one's contribution makes up part of the greater whole where children are protected, families are strengthened, and need is addressed.

While the CSC North in 2026 is also commemorating 90 years of service, the focus is not on the past only. History carries forward a responsibility: to keep on identifying where need exists, to act professionally and with empathy, and to create safe spaces where hope can become possible again

Ons gee hoop
We give hope
Refa Tshepo

