



**Date:** McGregor, 23 June 2021

**To:** Stichting Symbulon / Symbulon Charitable Trust

## Report

Regarding the work of two volunteers from the Netherlands.

Marie-Therése Pelgrim, a Dutch Symbulon sponsor, requested the Symbulon Charitable Trust on behalf of two jong adults, living in Maastricht, if Symbulon could arrange and facilitate volunteer work focussed on children in McGregor South Africa for a period of half a year.

They also could contribute by providing hockey trainings for children. For that reason she organized 40 brand new hockey sticks, and a bag with balls.

The two young volunteers, both 18 years of age, announced their visit with a heartwarming and promising letter saying: "*wij zijn allebei harde werkers die enorm van kinderen houden*", in translation: We both are hard working people who strongly love children.

## Preparations

Due to the fact that Symbulon Charitable Trust itself cannot organize voluntary work (constitution) two trustees have offered to care of the preparation and take responsibility for mentorship.

These trustees have contacted four organizations in order to prepare the voluntary work and met great support of all of them: First Step Ballet Mcgregor, The Breede Centre, the Waldorf School, Buffelskloof Laer Skool, some time later added by Ezeltjesrus Donkey Sanctuary.

Both volunteers arrived on 31 January 2021 and went home on the 19th of May 2021. They mainly worked at The Breede Centre, and in their last weeks of stay at Ezeltjesrus as well.

## Reporting:

After they left the trustees made a draft on their findings and the activities of the volunteers; in order to check the correctness of that draft it has been send to them with the request to amend and/or add what was missing. This draft was meant to lead to a correct report in order to be added to the files of Symbulon. Report notes of The Breede Centre, by Katleen Verschoore and of FSBM by Mary Corpe Silver have been with their consent included in the draft.

This draft unfortunately did not meet the amendments of the two girls but instead of that the trustees got negative and pejorative comments by the parents on a personal level and rejecting the draft in total. Obviously the drafting was not a good initiative; the father of one of the volunteers (an attorney), acting on behalf of all parents and the two volunteers, announced to take legal action against the two trustees in person, and Symbulon Charitable Trust as well, if anything of the content or any photograph or videoclip would be published in a newsletter or the web site. The way to come to a balanced correct report was blocked. This report therefore cannot mention anything regarding the activities of the volunteers.

The trustees have then requested the volunteers to write their own report. This has not been answered at all.

The report therefore has to be limited to only mention the activities of the trustees, done to honor the work of the volunteers.

The trustees services toward the volunteers, selflessly, on behalf of the Symbulon Charitable Trust:

Mentorship:

- To make the volunteer work to a success the trustees contacted the projects mentioned above to create opportunities for the volunteers intention to work for children, and offered help to find a place to stay.
- They offered financial arrangements to save the costs for financial transactions and banking.
- Because they did not have a driving license, the trustees took care of transfers to the airport and all other travel needs and took them for shopping weekly, a good opportunity to discuss the progress of their work.
- Because the volunteers wanted to stay for half a year, the trustees arranged visa for them by visiting Home Affairs and by organizing the help of an immigration office in Stellenbosch.
- They made video recordings, with their consent, in order to offer them a nice memory of their stay after they left.

Excursions:

- To underline the appreciation of their voluntary work the trustees offered nice excursions like a visit to the Victor Verster prison, Drakenstein in Paarl; our good friend Manfred Jacobs was so friendly to offer a unique guided visit to the “Madiba house” (the last location of Nelson Mandela’s imprisonment); this house is still not open yet for public, so this visit was kind of a VIP arrangement.
- The pilot trustee offered flights over McGregor and its surroundings.
- They took the volunteers for a day trip to Oudtshoorn to the Cango Oistrich Farm.
- Shortly before they left they could enjoy a concert of the Zolani Youth Choir, especially arranged for them by Odwa Mvunge, with a guided tour through Zolani afterwards.
- And much more.

All was free of charge for the volunteers and paid from the private account of the trustees.

In the comment of the parents they offered to refund the trustees costs, with the condition that this would be brought to the benefit of children. This was a good opportunity to send them the itemization of costs which were € 1286,— (ZAR 21856,73) and the account number of Stichting Symbulon. The trustees for sure did not want to be compensated for their costs, but appreciated the offer of the parents in form of a donation to the Symbulon Charitable Trust. They have transferred € 220,— into the account of Symbulon Charitable Trust.

We explicitly thank Katleen Verschoore (The Breede Centre), Mary Corpe Silver (First Step Ballet McGregor), Hanlie du Plessis (Buffelskloof Laer Skool), Lisa van Zyl (Waldorfschool) and Juanita (Ezeltjesrus Donkey Sanctuary) for their spontaneous and kind cooperation to the trustees request regarding the hospitality on behalf Symbulon, and for their efforts to do what they could to make it a success. Last but not least thanks to Marie Therése for her gift of hockey sticks and balls.

McGregor, 23 June 2021,  
for Stichting Symbulon / Symbulon Charitable Trust,  
Caroline van de Velde (penningmeester)  
Jan Graat (voorzitter)