Portfolio: Establishing Schools

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My role is as both the Chairperson and the Director of Operations at <u>Crosspoint Academy – Strand</u> (*Cape Town area of South Africa*), having overseen up to 34 staff and over 300 students.

Having taken over this role at the end of 2016, I helped turn a small failing 88-student farm school into one that truly enables all children to experience safety, peace, and care along with their education.

From mid-2018, after being forced off the farm plot (with a. S.O.S. "Save Our School" campaign), we settled into and urban rental space across from the beach; yet still accessible for or low-to-mid income families from the surrounding areas and poverty-stricken Townships.

Our school fills a dire need, a niche between the over-crowded Government schools (with an average of 45 students per class per teacher) and the high-priced Private schools that exclude the majority demographic of South Africa.

Though we are a government-registered Independent school, we are a Non-Profit and Public Benefits Organisation that holds our school fees below what many Public schools charge—all while keeping to 24 students per class per teacher.

But is it more than just that, it is about providing these children with a *Holistic Wellbeing*. Not only do they receive an adaptive education (with individualised support), but they are cared for through an addressing of home-environment concerns (through our on-site counsellor). For, so much of what a child goes through growing up, is what they experience in and around them at home—to which we provide the help, support, and tools for.

Many children come into the school with Learning Barriers or undiagnosed Learning Differences. Some dealing with the oft poor hygiene associated with poverty and/or abuse. We then partner up with clinics, dentists, eye and ear specialists (glasses / grommets), as well as Psychologists to do screenings for Autism and/or ADHD (educating the parents along the way too).

Though we do receive a government subsidy to help cover costs, this does not cover the school fees for the students. And for those families struggling within poverty, who genuinely cannot afford our school fees (but want better for their child to what government schools provide), we connect them to international donors who sponsor their fees.

It is Non-Profit Organisations such as <u>project:help</u> in Germany who truly support the school with these sponsors and donations. Even **Provisions of Grace** is a financial <u>cause-way for donations</u> to come through from the United States (*as a registered 501c3*).

<u>The Crosspoint Foundation</u> (overseeing the school) is set up to continue establishing schools in the area. Our focus with the "Strand" school is self-sustainability within the tight financial limitations and economic struggles in a rental property. This year, we have shifted the current school into a Primary School with Pre-K, Kindergarten, and grades 1 – 7 (doubling up each grade into two classes each). Now with 24 staff and 240+ students (up to 350 students).

As we grow and see the needs of different types of schools in the area, our hopes are to also have schools specifically for NeuroDiverse children as well.

Having been established on the foundation of Love, we are diverse and inclusive across Learning Barriers, Learning Differences, Nationalities, Ethnicity, Race, Culture, Religion, Gender, Orientation, Economics, and more. Each school will carry this, *Guiding Hearts and Minds* of not only the children, but all who journey through our family.

Continuing to foster what the Lord has blessed us with.

Follow the school: <u>www.instagram.com/Crosspoint.Foundation</u>

Farm Plot School (2016 - 2018)













Strand Urban School (2018 - 2020)



















Strand Urban School (2021 - 2022)

















Strand Urban School (2023 - 2024)











www.CrosspointAcademy.co.za









Strand Urban School (2025 - Current)















