



A message from our CEO...

As we wrap things up for the year we look back at everything that has happened over the past 12 months. No one could have predicted what 2020 had in store for us and we have all had to adjust to the "new normal". For The Chaeli Campaign this meant modifying our existing programmes to meet the immediate need. We even created a new programme, Virtual Support, which has grown in leaps and bounds since April.

It has been a challenging year but one full of growth and we look forward to sharing more with you in 2021.

We wish you and your family a safe festive season.

Love Zelda x

In loving memory...

In the last two weeks our staff was shocked by the news of the sudden passing of two young men who have been part of The Chaeli Campaign's extended family for the past thirteen years.



Damian Michaels, dance coach for the Chaeli Sports & Recreation Club dancers and Chaeli's dance partner, passed away on 05 December. We asked Chaeli to share some words in remembrance of her partner.

"Damian joined our Chaeli Sports & Recreation Club dancing family in 2011 and has been an integral part ever since. His passing has shocked our club to its core, and there is a hole in all of our hearts where he fit perfectly. Although we are heartbroken, we have so many beautiful memories that we'll be sharing for years to come. He was always ready to help anyone who needed it, putting others' needs ahead of his own. Damian was one of the most compassionate people and this made him an incredible partner and coach for our disabled dancers. He was understanding of each of our challenges but always believed in and encouraged us to improve and embrace all of our abilities. We are going to miss Damian's love of life, his irrepressible spirit, and his contagious laugh and smile. He will always be part of the CSRC."



On Wednesday, 03 December, we received the devastating news that Oyintanda, who has been part of our lives for thirteen years, passed away. His father, Andile, is a Board member and we were heartbroken when we received the news. Ann Bullen, our physiotherapist, who worked with Oyi from 2007 shared the following with us:

"I met Oyintanda when he was 3 years old and his parents, Andile and Lolona, were looking for the very best opportunities for him to develop and learn. He was an amazing young boy, very alert and engaging even though he was unable to speak or move his body very easily. I was his physiotherapist and we worked hard at giving him more freedom of movement. Sometimes he complained bitterly especially when we stretched his elbow with gaiters but most of the time we laughed and had fun during our physiotherapy sessions. His mom and dad were always involved and we found innovative ways to get him to do his exercises, like putting his standing frame in front of the TV during his favorite program. After 3 years he went on to Simunye crèche in Kalkfontein and myself and Martha, ex Chaeli Campaign speech therapist, did some training with the staff there so they could find simple ways for them to include a differently abled child. We were sad not to see him as often but followed his progress throughout his school career at Alta du Toit school and when he left and was at home with a facilitator. Oyi and his family have remained part of the Chaeli Campaign family. I felt so incredibly sad to hear that he passed away. It feels much too early to leave us, and especially his parents, at 16 years of age."

We send our love and condolences to Damian and Oyintanda's family and friends during this very sad time.



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