

SOUNDS progress slowed down by COVID



SOUNDS, is a step-by-step learning system that trains pupils to read, starting with the first touch of a letter to learning the letter sound association and finally to reading. The Rotary Club of Pretoria East, (RCPE) has run the SOUNDS project since 2011, reaching many thousands of pupils year after year. RCPE was fortunate to gain its third Global Grant for this project in November 2018.



Left: The 2011 launch of the SOUNDS project. Former RCPE President Cheryl announced this project at the Meetse Primary School



Right: President Cheryl and Brenda Erickson from the USA at a club meeting in 2011. Brenda introduced SOUNDS into South Africa

COVID-19 has caused the SOUNDS project to grind to a halt but prior to that, much progress had been achieved. The second Annual Report with regard to this Global Grant was recently submitted. The full report is about 20 pages interested club members can obtain a copy from Robin Jones.

The milestones that were reported and the plans that were put on ice are:

✚ Training

- 96 Peace Corps Volunteers
 - **50 more volunteers were planned for July**
- 21 crèches from the Lethabong Crèche Forum
 - **85 Lethabong Crèche were planned for 2020**
- New crèches with PEN, which extended its reach to include
 - 4 crèches in Johannesburg,
 - 6 in the Winterveldt,
 - 2 in Nellmapius,
 - 2 in Kagiso and
 - 7 new crèches in Pretoria
 - **Many more creches in the pipeline**
- New partnerships have been cemented in Mpumalanga Province, with
 - Mercy Air, which functions in Mozambique
 - Kamagugu Primary school for mentally challenged pupils and
 - A crèche in Eswatini
- Approximately 180 pre-service student teachers from the University of the North West were trained in the use of the SOUNDS.
 - **Roll out of these NWU students into schools was meant to occur in March / April**

✚ Impact

- Our Swedish partners have also adopted SOUNDS as an adult literacy programme for immigrants to Sweden

✚ Production

- 285 sets of the alphabet have been produced by means of 3D printing with 400 budgeted over the three years.

Below: Young pupils trying to find a letter in the alphabet bag to test if they truly know their letters



The future looks hugely uncertain, but one outcome will probably be that the GG will need to be extended into a fourth year if all our objectives are to be met.