



Annual Report

Apr 2024- Mar 2025

Muscular Dystrophy Foundation
of South Africa – Gauteng
Branch

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South Africa – Gauteng Branch

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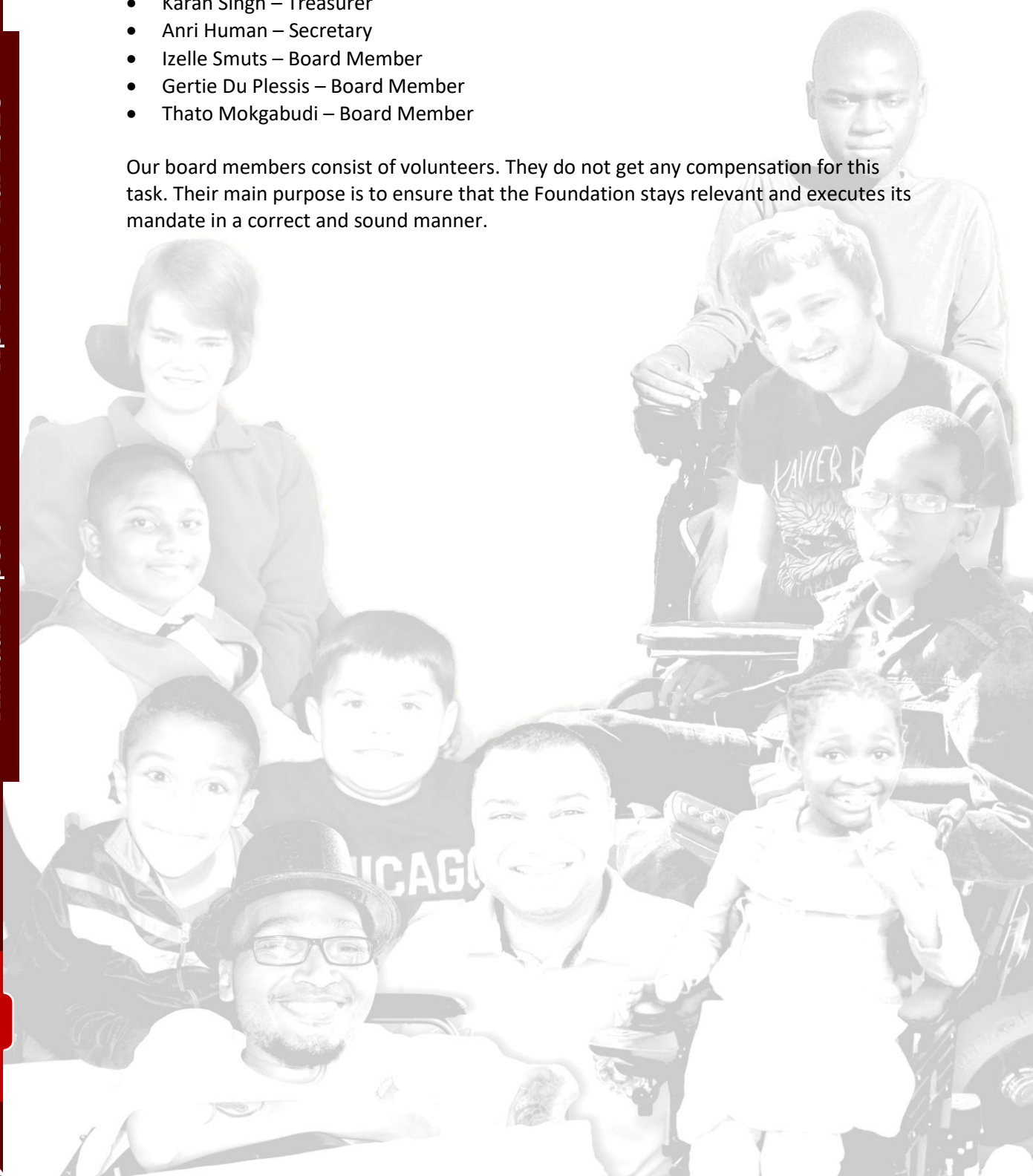
1. Mission Statement

To support people affected with Muscular Dystrophy and neuromuscular Disorders and endeavor to improve the quality of life of our members.

2. Board Members

- Andrew Miller – Chairperson
- Rudy Petersen – Vice Chairperson
- Karan Singh – Treasurer
- Anri Human – Secretary
- Izelle Smuts – Board Member
- Gertie Du Plessis – Board Member
- Thato Mokgabudi – Board Member

Our board members consist of volunteers. They do not get any compensation for this task. Their main purpose is to ensure that the Foundation stays relevant and executes its mandate in a correct and sound manner.



3. Message from the Chairperson

As the Chairperson of the Board of the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation of South Africa, Gauteng Branch, I am pleased to welcome you all to the 2025 Annual General Meeting of our branch.

As has been previously communicated, this will be my last formal engagement with the Gauteng branch in the position of Chairperson, as I will be stepping down from the role as of today.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone I have worked with over the last two years in this position, especially my fellow board members and the staff of the Gauteng branch, notably General Manager Robert Scott. I appreciate all the many interactions we have had, the positive spirit with which everyone has engaged, and the hard work and effort everyone has put forward to further the goals of the branch. It is with regret that I leave the position of Chairperson, and I would like to reaffirm that I will remain engaged with the Gauteng branch in the future, albeit not in an official or formal capacity.

Following a period of management instability, the branch has made good progress this year in stabilizing its structures and activities and has pushed forward well in several areas. Robert Scott has taken up the role of General Manager with success and has played an important role in addressing key points of strategic and operational focus. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member and supporter who has shown interest in our cause over the past year. Your goodwill—whether through financial support, time, input, or guidance—has been invaluable in enabling the Foundation to make a meaningful impact on the lives of our members. I would like to offer particular thanks to all those supporters who offer the regular financial donations that are so important to enabling our charitable endeavors.

I would also like to repeat my sincere thanks to the staff of the Gauteng Branch. Your hard work and commitment are the foundation of this organisation, and are greatly appreciated. We are very fortunate to have the services of such loyal, reliable and committed staff.

Andrew Miller
Chairperson

4. General Manager's Report

4.1.Social Services

At the end of March 2024, the Gauteng Branch faced the difficult reality of retrenching all our social workers. This brought our formal social services programme to a halt, as delays with the Department of Social Development's funding process severely impacted our ability to sustain these positions. Unfortunately, these challenges could not be resolved during the financial year, meaning the suspension of social work services continued throughout the reporting period.

Despite this setback, our office remained committed to our members. Operating as a single-person office under Robert Scott, we adapted our approach to ensure that members still had a point of contact for assistance, guidance, and support. While we could not replace the specialised work of our social services team, Robert ensured that members could reach out when needed, and every effort was made to respond with care, information, and referrals where possible.

4.2.Equipment

For many individuals living with Muscular Dystrophy (MD), specialised mobility and accessibility equipment is not just helpful – it is essential for independence and quality of life. Unfortunately, these items are often prohibitively expensive, placing them out of reach for many of our members.

The Muscular Dystrophy Foundation of South Africa (MDFSA), Gauteng Branch, remains committed to bridging this gap through our lifetime equipment loan programme. All equipment remains the property of the Branch and is returned when no longer needed, allowing it to be reused by other members.

During this reporting period, we were able to make a tangible difference in the lives of our members. We assisted one member with a mobility scooter and another with a motorised wheelchair.

Our Equipment Committee carefully assesses all applications, prioritising urgent needs within the limits of our resources. The application process includes providing identification, financial statements, and a medical or physiotherapy assessment to ensure the equipment is suited to the individual's needs.

We are deeply grateful to our donors whose generous contributions make this work possible. Thanks to your support, we continue to provide essential equipment such as motorised wheelchairs, bath lifts, mobility scooters, and other devices that help our members maintain dignity, independence, and a higher quality of life.



4.3.Fundraising

The Gauteng Branch of the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation of South Africa (MDFSA) enjoyed a productive and successful fundraising year during the reporting period. Despite ongoing challenges, we were fortunate to receive continued support from generous donors, sponsors, volunteers, and friends of the organisation. We are deeply grateful to our major supporters, including:

- Fuchs Foundation
- Wetterhahn Foundation
- Bradfield Foundation
- Wheelchairs on the Run
- Camissa
- Tiber Construction
- Axsys IT
- Cool Tech
- Digital Secure Systems
- Derek Anderson
- G-Force Cycling Club & Glencore
- Silverstar Casino
- Setzkorn Family Trust
- Kirkness Family Trust

We also recognise the many smaller donations and countless individuals, families, and businesses who supported us during the year — whether financially, through in-kind contributions, or by giving their time. Every single act of generosity plays an important role in enabling our work, and we thank you sincerely.

Our fundraising campaigns also delivered outstanding results. Casual Day 2024 was a resounding success, with supporters across the province purchasing stickers and raising awareness for our cause. Our Muscle Riders cycle team, the Little Heroes of Hope children's team, and the G-Force Cycling Club together achieved exceptional

results, with the Muscle Riders campaign alone raising an impressive R330,124.00 – the highest amount since the team’s inception.

We extend heartfelt thanks to every individual and organisation who contributed their time, resources, and energy. Your generosity directly impacts the lives of people living with Muscular Dystrophy, helping us continue our mission of support, advocacy, and hope. We look forward to building on this momentum and making the year ahead even more impactful.



Robert Scott
General Manager

