

Family Based Child Care

Program description



Share to Grow Trust – Tanzania & Tan-kids foundation - Holland

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Prologue

Children are a concern of all of us. And we, as social workers, have a strong desire to see children growing up healthy and happy.

Providing successful child and youth care is not an easy job, as we see the shameful reality of the millions of children worldwide, deprived of their basic needs because of family separation, poverty or instability.

We strongly believe that a lot of resources are available to provide sustainable child and youth care. Talents, skills and other gifts are given to every child, family and community. Although we can clearly see that not everybody is aware of that.

This is one of the reasons, we want to strengthen the capacity of parents and other caregivers, to take care of their children. And we want to empower children and youth, to take responsibility in shaping their own lives!

As co-partners, we developed a program to help children and their families to live the meaningful life for which they were created.



Wein Peter Nyasi
Share to Grow Trust – Tanzania



Annette Klijnsma-den Hertog BSW
Tan-kids foundation – Holland

Introduction of the co-partners

The initiator and CEO of Share to Grow Trust in Dar es Salaam is Mr. Wein Peter. Wein Peter is a life skill trainer, certified by UNICEF. He has experience in areas of child protection, child friendly schools, and social- emotional skill training for children and youth. Share to Grow Trust is a Tanzanian non-profit organization, with the goal to improve education, by providing extra tutoring and the training of skills. They intend to build a study center.

Tan-kids foundation in Holland supports local organizations in Tanzania, to provide care and education for children. After her study Social Work, Annette Klijnsma specialized herself as coach and counselor for children/youth and their family. Out of her pedagogical profession, she is focused on (the improvement of) the social-emotional development of children. She is working as director, child coach and trainer of Tan-kids foundation in Holland.



Share to Grow Trust and Tan-kids Foundation teamed up in 2015. They started their cooperation by providing a social-emotional skill training for children, youth and their teachers in Tanzania.

They are providing Learning Activities, School sponsoring and Family coaching in one of the outside areas of Dar es Salaam.

The co-partners combine and join their knowledge and experience, to be able to implement a professional way of working that fits well to the target group and their cultural environment.

The Child in/and the family

Only when we fulfill the basic needs of children, they will be able to learn and develop themselves healthy and happy. Taking care of these basic needs should always be our first priority. (basic needs are (emotional en physical) safety, acceptance, love, autonomy, belonging/contact)
The International Convention on the rights of the Child emphasizes the importance for a child to grow up in his/her own family as one of the basic needs.

(source: Children, orphanages and families – Faith to action Initiative, 2014)

“Research studies over many years in a wide range of cultures and contexts have consistently demonstrated the positive impact family care has on children’s growth and development.. It has also illustrated the harmful effects that living outside family care can have on children.

The most frequent causes of separation of children from parental care include poverty, lack of access to basic services, abuse, neglect, disease, disabilities and emergencies.

Parents and communities may see residential care as a solution to difficult circumstances. Local governments and communities might also see this as a quicker and easier fix rather than investing time, human, and financial resources into strengthening families and addressing the root causes that place families at risk of separation. Orphanages are too frequently promoted as offering more, in a material sense, than some families are able to provide without recognizing the vital role that emotional and social relationships play in child’s development. In the latter that is found within a family setting.

Communities can be mobilized and strengthened in ways that lead to a stronger safety net for parents, families and their children. For example, increasing the number and support of community-based social workers that can identify, access and refer vulnerable children and families to appropriate services is critical. Additionally, research has shown that a combination of access to basic services, together with economic support is fundamental to helping families stay together.”

“Conclusions:

Strengthening families and addressing children’s basic needs while enabling them to remain within family care is critical.

Studies show that when parents and relatives are presented with the option of support or social services to avoid placing their children in an orphanage, most would choose to keep their children at home. Supporting family based options is also shown to be more cost-effective than orphanages.

A robust body of evidence over the last 30 years demonstrates that families provide the best environment for a child’s development.

Children’s cognitive, social and emotional development are supported when they are loved and protected, have a sense of belonging and learn the life skills that are integral to growing up within a family.

Ensuring that all children are well cared for, ideally within a family, takes the active involvement of and collaboration between government, non-governmental organizations, local communities, churches, families and caregivers, as well as children and youth.

There is a role for each of these groups and a need for collaboration and a shared understanding of what is best for children. “

Family Based Child Care – the program

To provide a professional and effective social work for children, we need to have a view on different areas of their (family)life.

With different areas of life we think about: housing conditions, work and income, education, physical health, social-emotional health, parenthood and spiritual life.

We believe that the conditions and capacity within these various life areas influence each other (both negative and positive). They can reinforce each other and they can weaken each other.

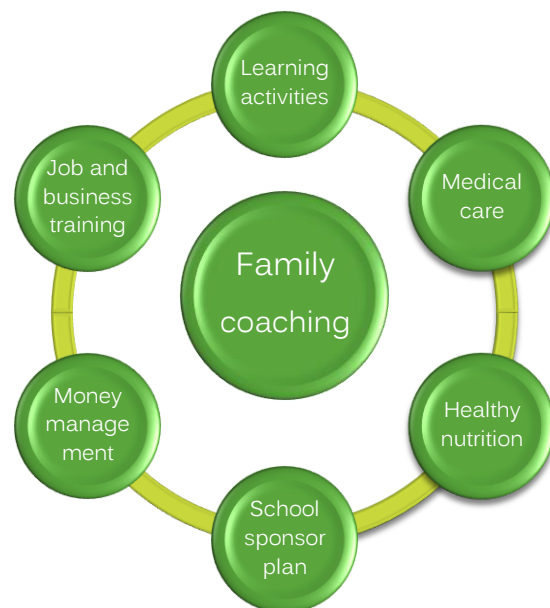


To get a view on these different areas, we need to pay home visits and school visits to discover the situation of the child and his family. For these tasks, a professionally trained family coach is needed. Each child and his family have their own life story. The family coach is trained to seek and find connection with every unique person in its own specific situation.

The role of the family coach occupies a central place in the program.

Family coaching

There is a need to build skills and competencies so as to ensure a nurturing and safe environment for children who are depending on their parents and other adults. The family coach helps the family to set goals they want and need to work on. Empowerment and counselling can be found in the area of network, parenthood, medical care, income improvement, social-emotional life skills and all there is for better living conditions. The family coach stimulates and/or connects the family to these interventions and social services.



Based on the needs of the children and the families we worked with during the last few years, we have chosen to start offering the following services, as components of the FBCC program:

The school sponsor plan

We meet the necessary costs for a child to be in school. The sponsor plan covers nursery school, primary school, secondary school and vocational training. School costs includes school fees, books, transport, meals, school uniform, shoes, schoolbag, exam fees and study tour fees. The parents will contribute according to their capacity.

Money management

As part of the screening, we ask the families to fill in their personal budget. Further coaching can be offered to create awareness about monthly income and costs, to learn how to calculate and make reservations for future necessary expenses. Generally we can say that this service is offered to help families oversee and plan their financial situation.

Job and business training.

Components of job and business training are: internalizing “ownership” of life (mindset transformation), job training workshops, business training, book keeping skills and practical skill training (learn to make new profitable products). All these are aimed at helping the families to become financially autonomous.

Learning activities.



At Share to Grow's site, there is a safe and child friendly outdoor area, where children come together after school to do homework, to read a book, have English lessons, computer lessons or attend art club. A wider range of learning activities for children and adults will be offered in the future, when the Learning Centre is built on this site.

Medical care.

Where needed, the family coach helps the family to go to the hospital, find a suitable health insurance or raise funds for medical costs.

Healthy nutrition.

To improve health and as prevention of health problems, a nutritionist shares knowledge about healthy food, according to the recent findings in the field of healthy nutrition.

Food emergency aid can be given in moments of need.

Goals of the Program.

FBCC is tailored to a holistic approach that seeks to engage and develop a whole person. Ranging from the physical, emotional, mental to the spiritual health. It is upon this background, that we seek to carry out different interventions.

Our main goals are:

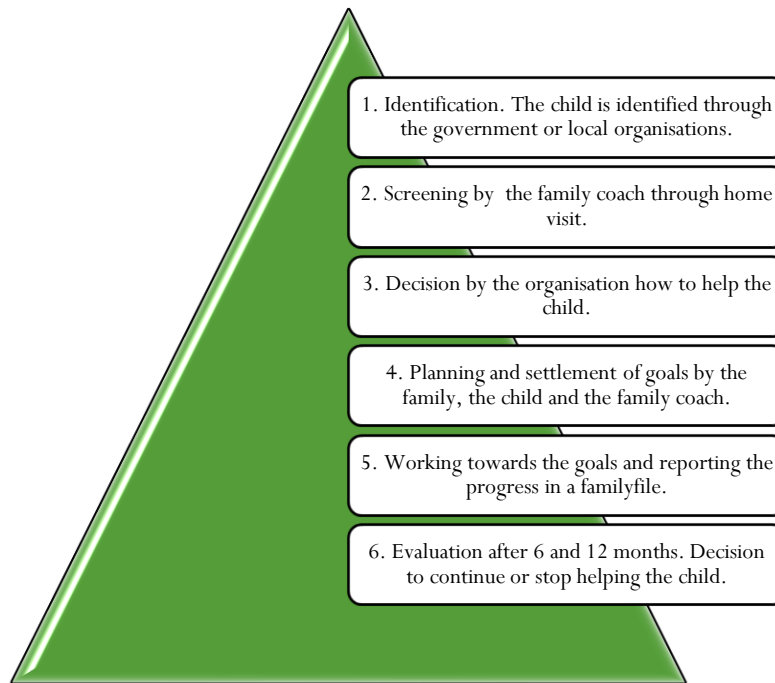
- Access for children in their basic needs. This includes nutrition, housing, a loving family, healthcare, safe water and sanitation, age appropriate child care and education, psycho-social support, space for play and leisure.
- Ability of parents to provide childcare. This begins from the ability of parents to give attention and love to their children as well as the required childcare knowledge and skills.
- Enabling the family have sufficient family (re)sources with which it can provide the basic needs, care and education of its children. Access to social, economic or educational services to improve their capacity.
- Enabling children to participate in after school activities, like visiting the library, attending art club, English lessons, computer lessons, homework assistance, life skills or receive a listening ear.

Target Group.

Disadvantaged children (and families) in Tanzania, who are in unfavorable circumstances of their basic needs. The age of the children is approximately from 4 to 20 years. Identification of these children is done by the local organizations or the government.



Methodology and Approach.



Screening Conditions.

Screening is the most important step for intake. Basing on it, a decision is reached how to help the child. The (background)situation of the child and his family will be examined on the basis of an extensive questionnaire.

This research includes following subjects:

Current situation of the child and his family. (family members, family budget, special needs, housing)

Family history

Social network

Job/business

Child development (physically, cognitive, social-emotional and spiritual)

Mother/father/caregiver (struggles, parenthood)

The family has to meet the following requirements:

Willingness to receive the help and use it accordingly towards self-sustenance.

Readiness to fully participate in the family coaching and other interventions that may be arranged.

The acceptance to let the organization use their photos for publicity and fundraising.

Requirements.

Projectplan:

This program will be put into operation on a project basis.

Project-based work is accompanied by a project plan, that will be developed and written by the co-partners.

Professional Child and Youth care:

Our way of working is a mixture of following approaches and methods:

Empowerment through Solution Focused Coaching, Task-oriented work, Social-emotional skills training and material assistance.

We work with a variety of tools to scale the development of the child, to set goals and evaluate them. A training is offered to organizations and social workers who want to implement the FBCC program.

The local organization:

The implementation of this program requires a local non-profit organization with both trained and committed social workers. There is need to have a local partner that shares the same vision and understands the theoretical base of this program.

Knowledge of the English language is a requirement, to be able to write reports and attend meetings and trainings.

Office facilities:

The local organization requires an office with Wifi, a computer and a printer.

Manpower

Social workers, as well as somebody to coordinate and administrate this program.

To become a family coach, social workers need to attend a training. A program certificate is needed before starting up the FBCC program.

Capital

At this moment, we are planning the fundraising through various channels in Holland and through the development of a local social enterprise.

Network

Cooperation and transparent communication with schools, families, churches, mosques and the local government is very important when we want to work in an effective way and combine our strengths. An effective child and youth care gives the best chances to the children.

A lot of help can be found from the church or mosque, when urgent help is needed. If a school wants to help disadvantaged children, the local government can assist with the record of these families. Our social workers and this program will be a helping hand to interact and link with these families.