

Your Help Needed! Passing the Virtual Basket

Every year at our conferences, we raise funds for Waldorf early childhood education projects around the world that are supported by the International Association for Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education (IASWECE), of which WECAN is one of 36 member associations. We usually pass baskets from hand to hand, from colleague to colleague, but this year, with our virtual conference, this is not possible.

We hope that you will join us in our support for the Centre for Creative Education in Cape Town. Since its inception in 1993, their Early Childhood Development program, rooted in Waldorf education, has been specially designed to meet the particular needs of educate centres in townships and rural areas, offering training courses at a fraction of their nominal cost. They also facilitate an association of about nine early childhood development centers called Isiseko Sobantu ("Foundation of Humanity") through varying means of professional and financial support.

From our Colleagues at the Centre for Creative Education in Cape Town, South Africa

Rudolf Steiner predicted that there would come a time when humanity would experience challenges that would call for human beings to strive, more than ever before, to work on developing their consciousness in such a way that they may do the necessary tasks for the continued healthy development of humanity. We are experiencing that time now. In this period of increased trouble and confusion, fear and great uncertainty, groups of people are encouraged, warmed and supported by the teachings of Steiner.

At a recent graduation ceremony of Early Childhood Development students at the CCE, a student quoted the following by Steiner: "If we do not believe within ourselves this deeply rooted feeling that there is something higher than ourselves, we shall never find the strength to evolve into something higher."

A third-year student shared: "My years here at the Centre for Creative Education (CCE) have given an insight into the secret of a successful future for the whole entire world. I have had the opportunity to explore things that were living in me but now I have become more conscious about them. I can really say that in this way the CCE has changed my life... once you see what is true and right and good you cannot unsee it again and I think that this is the beauty of Waldorf. We learn the truth and that leads us to really feeling a need with our whole beings to nurture a child holistically."

During the globally declared Coronavirus pandemic all students and staff at the Steiner-inspired Centre for Creative Education have been faced with previously unimagined challenges, as has been the case for so many people around the world.

Most of the Early Childhood Development students are women living and working in township areas surrounding Cape Town, and in rural areas in the Eastern Cape, where many within these different communities earn well below the breadline. Unemployment is high, poverty and crime are rife and communities experience daily the challenges associated with coping with ongoing trauma, as well as the effects of transgenerational trauma. It is these groups of students who have been most severely affected by the declared global pandemic and enforced government regulations. Yet these students have persevered with their training despite their varied challenges.

It is vital that the training offered by the Centre for Creative Education is shared with as many people as possible so real fundamental change through education can begin to happen.

PLEASE OFFER YOUR SUPPORT! Make a donation for South African Fundraiser via [PayPal](#). Or send a check to WECAN, 285 Hungry Hollow Road, Spring Valley, NY 10977
info@waldorfearlychildhood.org

