

**Activity Report 2018**  
**CHILD FOCUS FOUNDATION**

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## Introduction

Throughout 2018, Child Focus organized **28** different youth activities which included the regular weekly activities, special workshops and the summer activities program. Based on the registration forms received, **79%** of children who attend the **Sacred Heart School** were enrolled in the activities and **65%** of adolescents from the **Saba Comprehensive School** were enrolled in the activities. The total amount of children enrolled for the year was **197**. The progress of the activities and the behavior of the participants are discussed during monthly staff meetings. These activities are run by youth leaders who offer their time and effort on a voluntary basis.

The Child Focus program includes after-school activities for all Saban youth between the ages of 4-18 years. This means that children have the opportunity to participate in activities between 2 and 6 hours in the afternoon per week and several workshops throughout the year. The activities are focused on education, sports and culture.

This year has been a year with various changes, in terms of structure and management. Due to the fact that the secondary school has started their own extracurricular clubs in September, there has been a decline in the number of teens that attend activities. There was also the issue of discipline amongst the participants and Child Focus is making plans to address this behavior in the best way possible.

What Child Focus has learned from these experiences is:

- More parent involvement might be needed to help with discipline issues
- Parent/participation contracts can be implemented
- Collaboration with SCS could prove to be beneficial

# Mission and Goals

Child Focus Foundation is committed to offering after-school activities to all school-going youth from 4-18 years of age through care, support and guidance during after-school hours by offering a variety of activities. Children are encouraged in their development and supported with their schoolwork.

Here at Child Focus Foundation, we are fortunate to have personnel that enhance our vision with their special talents, talents given willingly and passionately. It has always been our vision to have our name become synonymous with excellence, innovation, honor, integrity, outstanding quality and service. In keeping our vision clear, yet goal-focused, with the help of our community, we will be able to turn every obstacle into a stepping stone, in order to achieve more, develop further and ultimately have our goals come to fruition.

A more concrete discretion of the goals based on the different areas of development are:

## **Social emotional development goals:**

- Children are able to solve problems through talking.
- Children are able to make friends.
- Children are able to work together in group settings.
- Children are able to take care of each other.
- Children are able to play together.
- Children are able to learn a new skill together.

## **Cognitive development goals:**

- Children receive help with their schoolwork.
- Children have knowledge about the flora, fauna and marine biology of Saba.
- Children have knowledge about Saba's history.
- Children know the importance of keeping their island clean and recycling.
- Children can learn to play different types of instruments and dance.
- Children know what healthy food is.

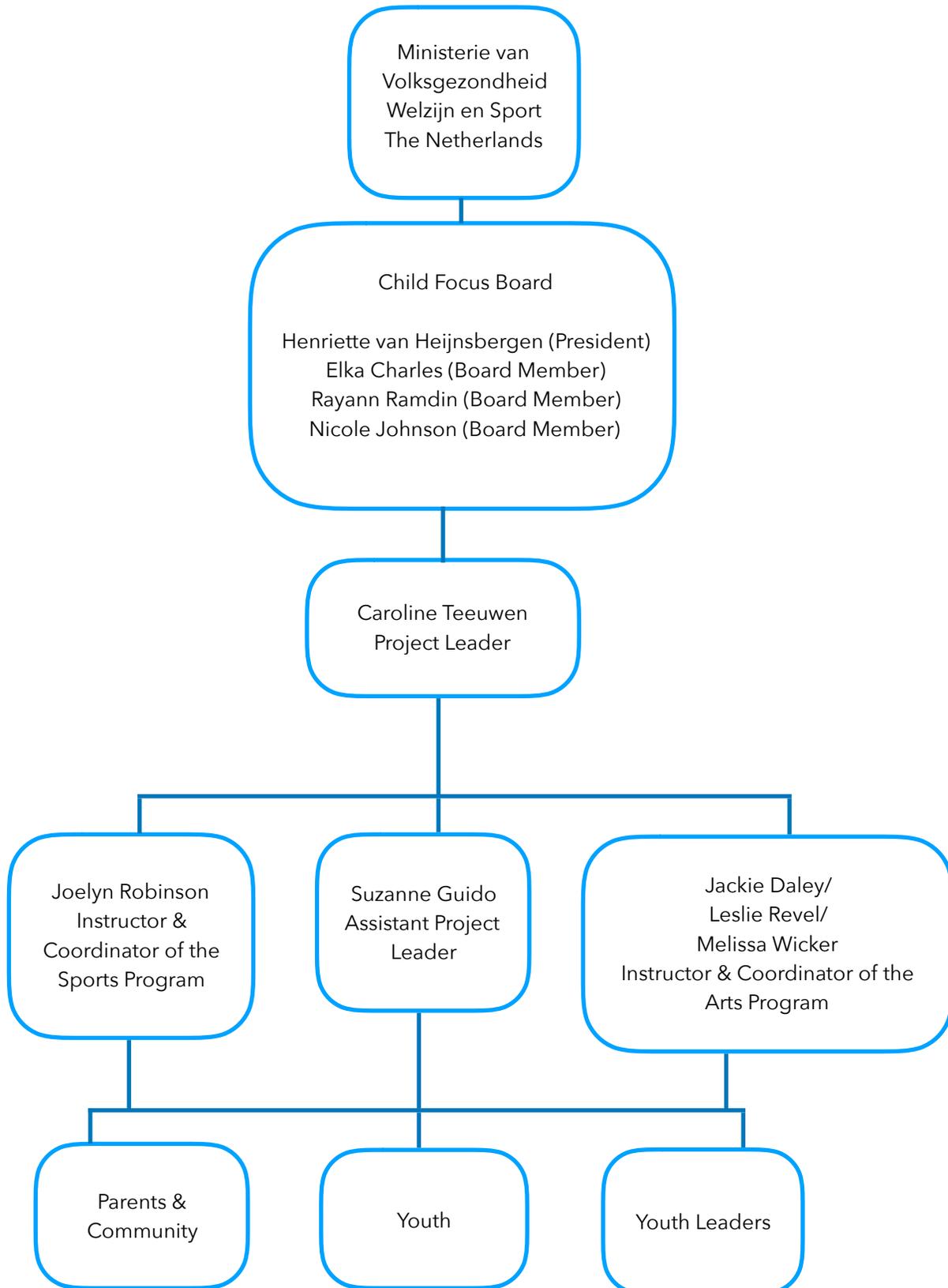
## **Autonomy development goals:**

- Children are able to make choices in the types of activities they would like to participate in, based on their interested.
- Children are able to express their opinion and feelings.

## **Motor development goals:**

- Children can run, jump, climb, roll, dance etc. during different types of activities.
- Children can play in the playground at Child Focus.
- Children can train their fine motor skills by doing different art projects and play musical instruments.

# Organizational Structure



## Stakeholders



Rijksoverheid

Child Focus Foundation is subsidized through the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports (Ministerie van Volksgezondheid Welzijn en Sport) in The Netherlands. Subsidy is received as a two year project with the option for renewal.



centrum voor  
jeugd en gezin

Schools and activity centers are often the first place where children with problems are identified. When a youth leader suspects that a child needs professional help, he or she can contact the Center for youth and Family. Since 2011, all municipalities have a Centre for Youth and Family. These centers provide advice on raising children and, when needed, guide parents and children into other areas of the youth care.



Child Focus collaborates with the community officer of the Police Department. In case there are mayor concerns about the behavior of children during activities, a meeting with parents and the community officer can be called. The purpose of these meetings to ensure the behavior improves and that parents are aware of the concerns of problem behavior.



Child Focus collaborates with the Saba Conservation Foundation by working with their education officer to carry out activities that aim at educating youth on nature conservation. Child Focus also gives an annual stipend to the SCF which provides a summer internship to a high school student or recent high school graduate.



Saba Fit covers the cost for children in the arts and crafts activity to be provided with a healthy snack of fresh fruit. Saba fit also assists in organizing and providing the financial assistance to carry out several healthy cooking workshops per year and well as the "Just Move" dance classes on Saturdays.



Saba Comprehensive School assists in encouraging students to register for activities and keeping students informed of new and upcoming activities for teenagers.



Sacred Heart Primary School

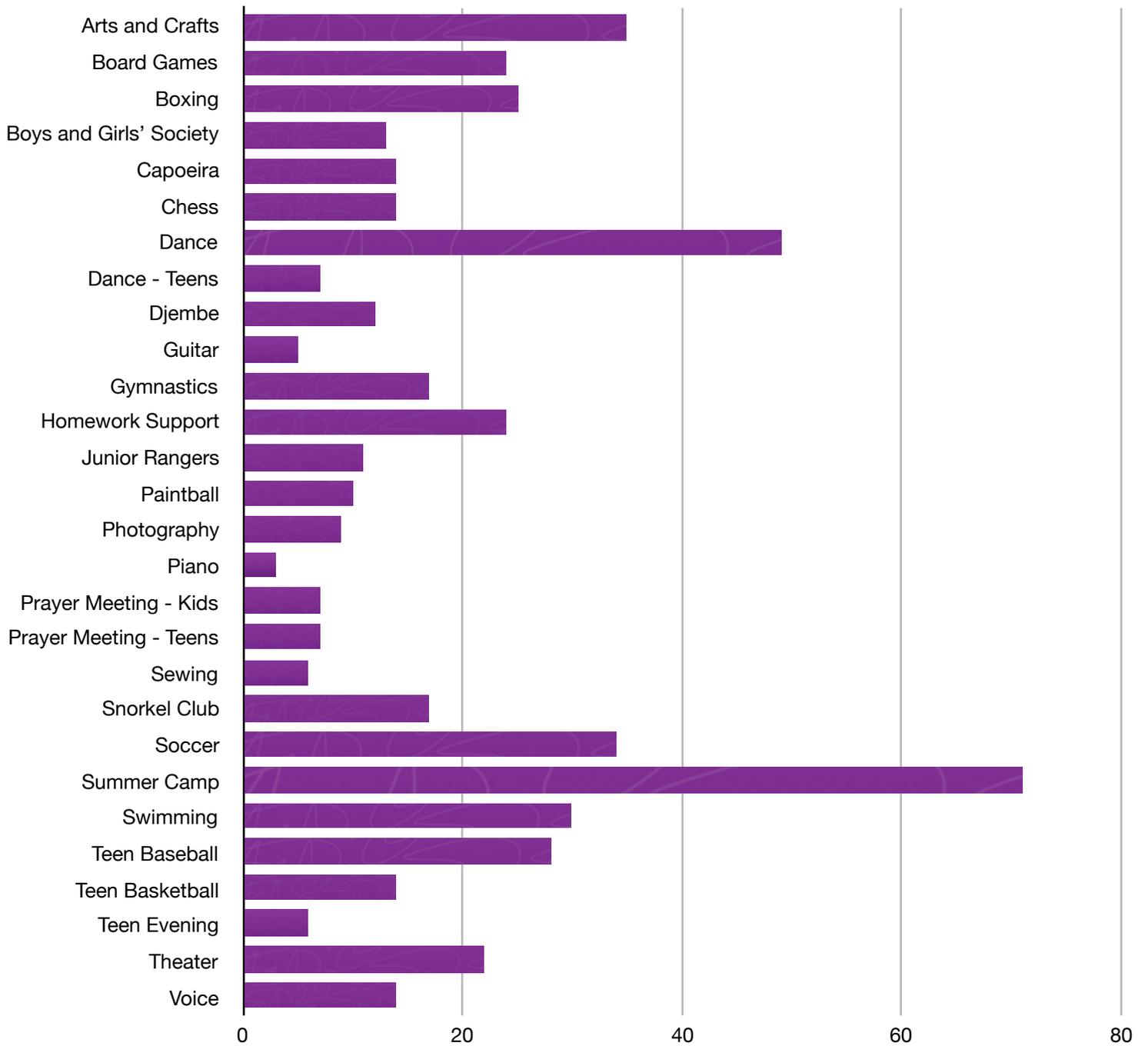
Sacred Heart Primary School ensures that students return their registration forms for activities. The Administrator delivers messages and letters to students about any changes in the daily activities. At times the Director may address incidents which took place at an after-school activity.



Living Water Community

The Living Water community provides activities to children where they learn about the Catholic Faith. All children of other faiths are welcome to join. Members of the living water community also volunteer at special events.

■ Number of Children in Attendance



Compared to 2017, there were less activities offered but the number of participants was relatively the same. There was an increase in Baseball in 2017 from 17 to 28 in 2018.

As is customary, activities such as the swimming workshop and the summer camp had a high attendance rate.

	<b>Sacred Heart Primary School</b>	<b>Saba Comprehensive School</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Children in schools per march 2018</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>Children in CF activities</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>Percentage of children</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>74%</b>

During 2018, Child Focus offered the following weekly activities:

<b>Nr.</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Youth Leaders/Instructors</b>	<b>Duration</b>
1	Arts and Crafts	Melissa Wicker & Claire Mandolado	Active
2	Board Games	Inge Beunder	Active
3	Boxing	Rodrick Lovell	Active
4	Boys and Girls' Society	Carla Simmons	Active
5	Capoeira	Jose Gomes	Active
6	Chess	Peter Johnson	Active
7	Dance	Nicole Hassell & Edsel Lake & Rachel Robson	Active
8	Dance - Teens	Nicole Hassell	Active
9	Djembe	Guyquade Lavia	Active
10	Guitar	Thaddeus Nicolson & David Johnson	Active
11	Gymnastics	Jacqueline Corness	Active
12	Homework Support	Sacred Heart School Teachers	Active
13	Junior Rangers	James Johnson & Jens Odinga	Active
14	Paintball	W. Schutten & Jose Gomes	Active
15	Photography	Ingrid Zagers	Active
16	Piano	Melissa Wicker	Active

<b>Nr.</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Youth Leaders/Instructors</b>	<b>Duration</b>
17	Prayer Meeting - Kids	Father S. Wilson & Miranda Simmons & H. Hassell	Active
18	Prayer Meeting - Teens	Father S. Wilson & Miranda Simmons & H. Hassell	Active
19	Sewing	Meghann Halfmoon & Melissa Wicker	Active
20	Snorkel Club	Jelle van der Velde & Jens Odinga & Martin Plante	Active
21	Soccer	Errol Bent & Orlando McPherson & Alejandro Londono	Active
22	Summer Camp	Lipscomb University & Local Volunteers	Active July
23	Swimming Lessons	Nelson Manuel	Active February
24	Teen Baseball	Errol Bent & Orlando McPherson	Active
25	Teen Basketball	Errol Bent	Active
26	Teen Evening	Melissa Wicker & Vito Charles	Active
27	Theater	Melissa Wicker & Daniela Velarde	Active
28	Voice	Femke Neunzig	Active

## The Children of Saba Receive Swimming Lessons

From February 16 until February 25, 2018, 30 children between the ages of 4 to 18 years old were offered the opportunity to receive swimming lessons by coach Nelson Manuel from Curaçao.



**Sabine Odinga (5 years old) jumping off the side of the dock at Fort Bay to start her swim exam**

“Swimming is an important skill for children to develop”, according to Child Focus Program Manager Caroline Teeuwen. “Swimming has always been my passion. Therefore, I have strived to make swimming lessons available for the children of Saba. My wish for Saba would be to have a public salt water swimming pool on Saba, so that swimming can be offered as a sport on Saba. Child Focus would like to continue offering swimming lessons to the children of Saba. The aim is to have as many children as possible learn how to swim.”

This time six children were able to receive their Swimming Certification A (Kobe Gomes (4), Sabine Odinga (5), E’shandrea Heyliger (8), Noah Zagers (9), Kadianna Baptiste (11), Avant Baker (15) & Jozua Baker (16).

Charlotte Zagers (11) & Zoë Gomes (7) were qualified for their Swimming Certification B.

Child Focus would like to thank Kansen voor all Kinderen and Public Entity Saba for their support in making this program possible and the parents who have shown their support for their children has been wonderful!



Child Focus Basketball Team holding up their trophy

## Child Focus Teens win March Madness Basketball Competition

The weekend of March 16 - 18, 2018 Child Focus Foundation organized a teen inter-island basketball competition, with the support of the Public Entity of Saba and Kansen voor all Kinderen.

The Child Focus team played against a collaborative team of Sint-Maarten National Basketball Association and Island Hoops.

A total of three games were played. The first game was won by Sint-Maarten with the score of 34-43. The second game was won by Saba with the score of 59- 52 and the championship game was won by Saba with a score of 53-47.

The interactive sport weekend gave the teens the opportunity to make new friends, play against other teens and experience the thrill of a match. The event ended with a friendly BBQ at Cove Bay on Sunday, where the teens were able to meet up in a relaxed atmosphere.

Child Focus Foundation is looking into organizing more inter-island sport competitions with neighboring islands. Child Focus is of the opinion that these types of events are important for the development of the youth of Saba and encourages the community to make events like this a success.



**Tobias Hermans, Benjamin Hermans, Agnes Hassell and Trevon Johnson are the proud winners of the Child Rights Film Festival Saba, Caribbean Edition.**

## And the winners are “The Terrible Two Sort It Out”

On Sunday March 18, 2018 the Child Rights Film Premiere Gala was held at Queens Gardens Resort on Saba. This event was made possible by UNICEF Netherlands, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Child Focus Foundation.

In total, 9 children participated in the Film Project. The children had the opportunity to create two short films about a Child Right. The theme of the film was selected by a drawing competition.

The jury mentioned that it was very difficult to choose a winner. After long deliberation the jury came to an unanimous decision. Commissioner of Education, Mr. Bruce Zagers, made the announcement that the Film “The Terrible Two Sort It Out” won, by one point.

The event was a great success. Many parents, friends and relatives attended the event.

The Child Rights Film Festival Caribbean Edition is a pilot project in which all children of the Dutch Kingdom had the opportunity to participate. Based on the results of the evaluation, a decision will be made if this project will return on an annual basis.

Child Focus Foundation is hoping that this opportunity will remain available for the Children of Saba.



Tanea Marten (l) and Gabriella Johnson (r) portray the main characters Shrek and Donkey.

# Happily ever Laughter

Child Focus Foundation Theater Group presents their annual Theater Production for a sold out venue.

During the weekend of May 25 -27, 2018, Child Focus presented their annual Children's Theater Production. This year the children portrayed a version of the movie Shrek, Happily ever Laughter.

In total, 22 children participated in the play. Every Monday and Thursday the children came to the Child Focus building to practice. With great determination theater teacher Melissa Wicker was able to write, direct and coach the children in their acting skills.

The Theater Production was shown to two sold out nights and a matinee. The children did an amazing job, portraying their character to the best of their abilities. They were very excited to be on stage and to show off their skills to their family and friends. Many parents, relatives and friends came to see the show and to support the talented children of Saba.

Child Focus Foundation would like to thank all the sponsors for their contributions for making this event into a success.

The Sint-Maarten Basketball team and Minister of Education, Culture and Sport, Jorien Wuite.



## SSS Inter Island Basketball Tournament

Child Focus Basketball Team wins third place.

The Child Focus Basketball Team went over to Sint-Maarten from May 11 till May 13, 2018 for a friendly inter island competition between Sint-Maarten, Sint-Eustatius and Saba. The trip was made possible in collaboration with the Public Entity Saba, the Saba Sports Federation and Child Focus Foundation.

As defending champs Saba played the first game against Sint- Eustatius. The game ended with a score of 54-85.

The second game was played on May 12, 2018 between Saba and Sint-Maarten and ended with the scores 41-72.

The Championship game was played between Sint-Maarten and St. Eustatius. Sint-Maarten won the championship game with a score of 70-58.

The Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Jorien Wuite, came to support the youth and to present the winning team with the Championship Trophy.

The teens mentioned that they had a wonderful time. They have been able to meet up with their friends from Sint-Maarten and St. Eustatius. Also some parents came out to support the Saba team!

Child Focus would like to thank Public Entity Saba, Kansen voor all Kinderen and Saba Sports Federation for their support to make this event a reality.



Coaches and their team  
for the Chess Tournament

# Third annual Chess Tournament

## Child Focus Foundation and St. Dominic High School

On April 21, 2018 the Chess Clubs of Child Focus Foundation Saba C.N. and St. Dominic High School Sint-Maarten met for the third annual Chess Tournament.

This year's winner is Leroy Goocharran of team Saba. The second place went to Edward Zeagers of team Saba and Third Place went to Romario Mills of team Sint-Maarten. The Competition was played according to the double elimination process, which means that the winners of each game continue on playing against each other. This also is the case for the loser of each game. The end game is played against the winner of the winners team and the winner of the losing team.

The idea behind the Tournament is to teach children the game of chess, to meet other teens that are interested in the sport, to make new acquaintances and to have an event to look out for.

Since the Child Focus teens visited Sint-Maarten last year, this year Sint-Maarten came to Saba. Most teens never visited Saba and they were very happy to have the chance to visit the island they can see on a daily basis on their horizon. The teens spent two nights on Saba and did several other activities together, such as a beach BBQ and hiking up Mount Scenery. Child Focus would like to thank Kansen voor alle Kinderen for granting us the means to allow this exchange to occur.

Child Focus is of the opinion that events like these are extremely important for the development of our youth, since this will give teens the chance to travel and visit countries within the Kingdom they would otherwise never visit. Also it is a great way for teens to experience a positive experience after the devastation of hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Mario Zaegors, Budu Lavia, Jair Burgzorg and Mervyn Dick exchanging rhythms with Trinidad youth.



## Saba Djembe Drummers visit Trinidad for Cultural Exchange

From July 26- 30, 2018 the advance Djembe Drummers of Child Focus Foundation went on a Cultural Exchange to Trinidad with the help of the Kansen voor all Kinderen fund.

Program Manager Caroline Teeuwen sought contact with musical and dance professor Mr. Mervyn Dick on Trinidad to arrange a cultural Exchange Program for the advanced Djembe drummers and their instructor Guyquade “Budu”Lavia.

The goals of the Program is to increase knowledge of the different types of drums, the rhythms, technique and history of the drum.

The group also visited the cultural event Lidj Yasu Omowale Emancipation Village Festival and visited the Kaisokah Moko Jumbies School of the Arts. A Youth Exchange with the Cocoyeah Police Youth Club and daily drumming lessons were also part of the program.

“I have learned new drumming techniques and rhythms to play the drum. I really would like to participate again in such a program, because it was fun going away and learning new stuff that I cannot learn on Saba” says Mario Zaegors 13 years old. “ I am most proud of walking on stilts!”

“I learned that you shouldn’t let anybody play your drum, because they may not be able to play the drum and damage it. A drum should also not be left unattended. The drum is something that should be respected, because it carries vibrations of the player” says Antonio Suares 11 years old. “I really would like to participate in a program like this again. It was fun!

“I really like the drumming lessons with Mr. Mervyn. They were fun. I also made new friends. I would like to do it again, because it is more fun to be with your friends and to travel to different countries. I have learned new beats and being respectful to others. I enjoyed the food the most and Budu teasing me” says Jair Burgzorg 13 years old.



**Youth dance group performing an Afro Caribbean Dance at the Emancipation Festival. Mario Zaegors, Budu Lavia, Jair Burgzorg and Mervyn Dick exchanging rhythms with Trinidad youth.**



**Visit to Kaisokah Moko Jumbies School of the Arts**



**Mario Zaegors getting ready to go stilt walking**



**Djembe lesson from Mr. Mervyn Dick**



## **Cultural Exchange Summer Camp Trip to St. Maarten**

On July 20th, 2018, Child Focus organized a day trip to Sint-Maarten as part of the annual Summer Camp. In total, 34 children participated in the event. The children enjoy these trips to the fullest. For some, it is the only time they are able to travel with their friends and have a wonderful time.

## **Halloween Family Day Extravaganza**

On October 31st, 2018, Child Focus in collaboration with Saba Lion's Club, hosted its annual Halloween Family Fun Day.



From 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., children came in their costumes and competed in games to win prizes and were given pizza, drinks and treats. The games included Halloween Bingo and bag race and there was also a Haunted House. Entrance was free for all.



## Updates:

### Farewell to Arts Coordinator Melissa Wicker



Melissa Wicker began volunteering at Child Focus in May 2017 when she moved from Minnesota to Saba. From September 2017, she took on the role as Coordinator of the Creative Arts Program.

Apart from her most well known work with varying age groups for Theater, Melissa also was the youth leader for Arts and Crafts, Piano, Teen Evening and also assisted with Sewing.

As of December 2018, Melissa Wicker resigned from her position as Arts Coordinator. Her work with Child Focus did not go unnoticed and we are grateful to have had such a motivated and passionate person be a part of our team.

## Playground Upgrade:

After Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit Saba in September of 2017, Child Focus has made great strides in repairing and revamping the playground, with the help of Public Entity Saba, Ministry of VWS, Saba University School of Medicine, PBCCG, BDO, Samenwerkende Fondsen, NRF and other anonymous private donations. The grand opening of the playground took place on Saba Day 2018 by Commissioner Wilson, with the help of Sabine Odinga.



Child Focus Playground prior to the upgrade

Child Focus has provided the children of Saba with a more suitable playground, with more durable equipment that can withstand the weather of Saba.

There are currently two playhouses, two super spinners, two cow springs, a see saw, a supernova carousel and swings.



Child Focus' new Playground

The playground has remained accessible to all children at all times.



## Conclusion

During 2018, the children were afforded the luxury of various cultural exchanges - a luxury that we hope can continue for years to come. The day trip to St. Maarten for Summer, to Trinidad for the Djembe exposition and other tournaments held in St. Maarten all gave the children a chance to experience life outside of Saba. This also helps to motivate them to attend the activities regularly and to perform at their best.

Child Focus was able to meet its goals for the year, including innovating the playground and ensuring its durability to withstand adverse weather, and the organization of numerous exchange programs.



It is our hope for the future that we can provide our youth leaders with more training and opportunities to allow them to further enhance their abilities and to provide quality care to all children on Saba.

## Projected Goals for 2019, Activities and Events

January	Welcome back social for staff, board members, volunteers and youth leaders
February	Begin preparations for Easter Event
March	Saba Doet - Playground Beautification
April	Easter Family Day Swim Camp
May	Start of new activities: Yoga & Dance
June	St. Barth's Exchange Dance Recital
July	Summer Camp Mega D Collaboration
August	Preparations for new school year activities
September	Start new activity schedule
October	Halloween Family Fun Day
November	Exchange Event: Soccer Exchange - SXM
December	Saba Day Activities Dance Recital

### Goals for 2019:

- Organize three to four Exchange Programs (possibly for Soccer, Basketball, Chess or Djembe)
- Organize Swim Camp at least three times during the year
- Arrange new activities based on feedback from the participants
- Organize cultural performances
- Encourage environmental awareness, with a focus on recycling and more reusable items (e.g. bringing your own water bottle to activities).