



IT TAKES A VILLAGE
TO RAISE A CHILD

ACTIVITY REPORT 2019
CHILD FOCUS FOUNDATION

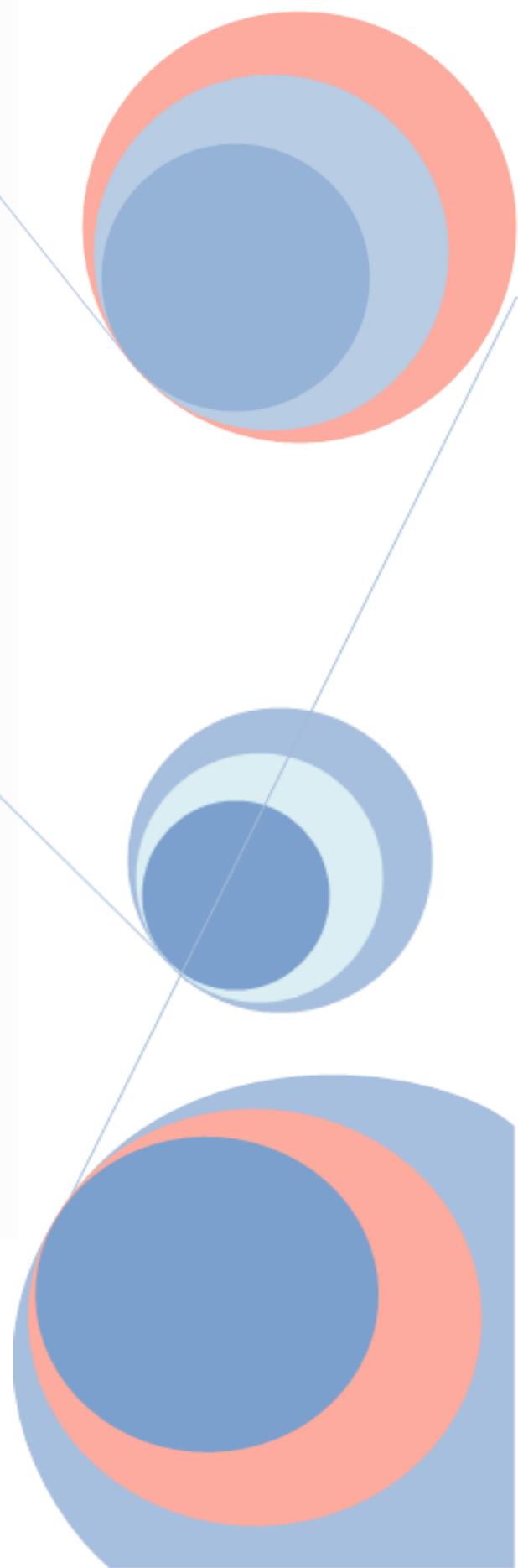
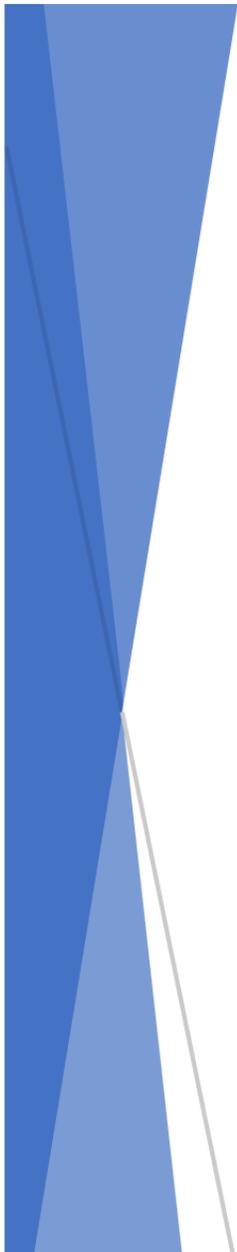


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Introduction

Throughout 2019, Child Focus organized **21** different youth activities which included the regular weekly activities, special workshops and the summer activities program. Based on the registration forms received, **65%** of children who attend the Sacred Heart School were enrolled in the activities and **5%** of adolescents from the Saba Comprehensive School were enrolled in the activities. The total amount of children enrolled for the year was **115**. The progress of the activities and the behavior of the participants are discussed during monthly staff and board 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. The secondary school has continued their after school activities, which has continued the decline of teens signing up for Child Focus activities.

What Child Focus has learned from these experiences is:

- SCS' mandatory clubs means that CF will focus strictly on the 4 – 12 age group
- More parent involvement might be needed to help with discipline issues, and more parent evenings/showcases may be beneficial to build rapport

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.

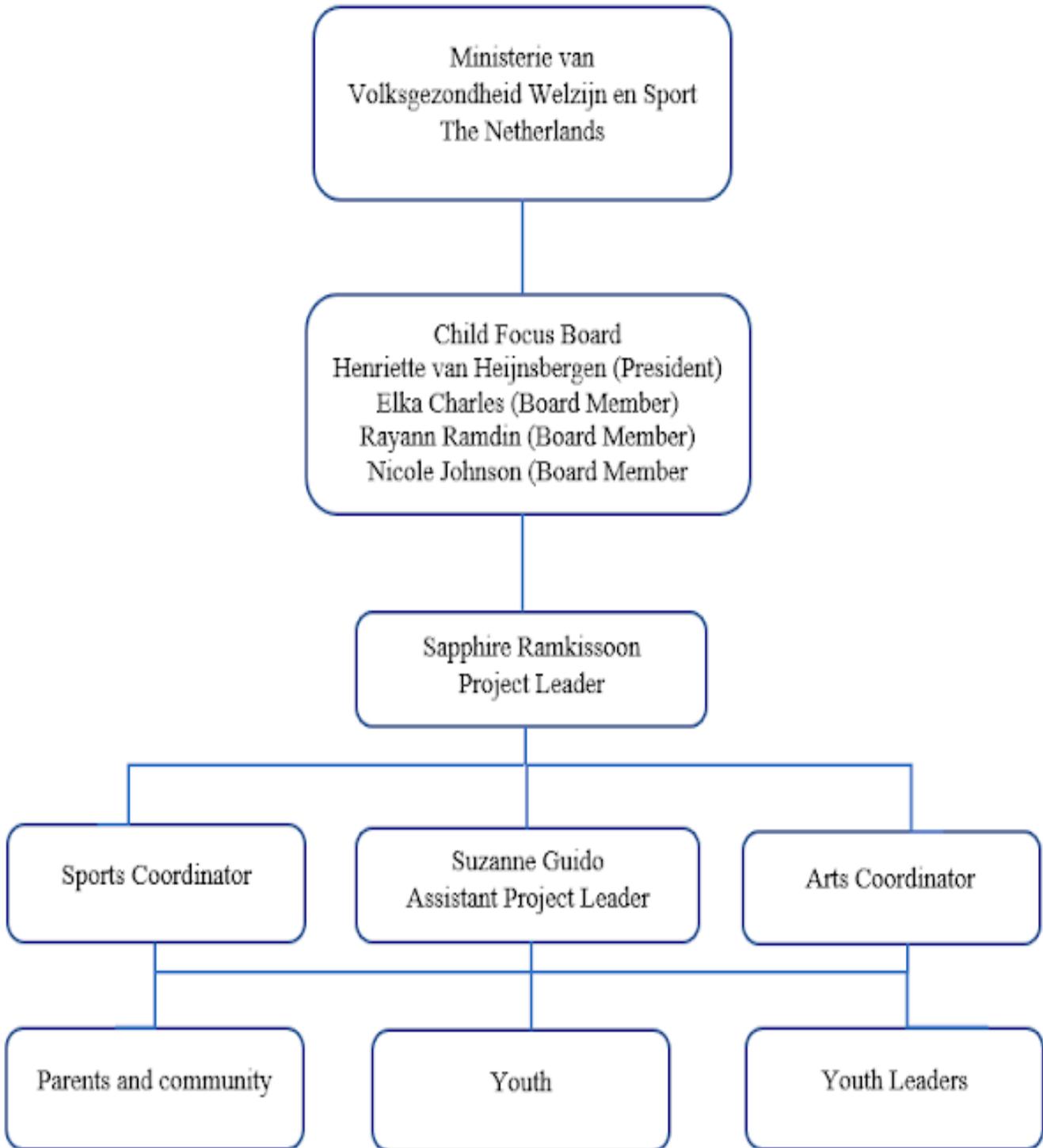
Autonomy development goals:

- 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



Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,
Welzijn en Sport

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.



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 Saba Fit with Lee, an activity which focuses on helping kids keep active and, at the same time, have fun.



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 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.

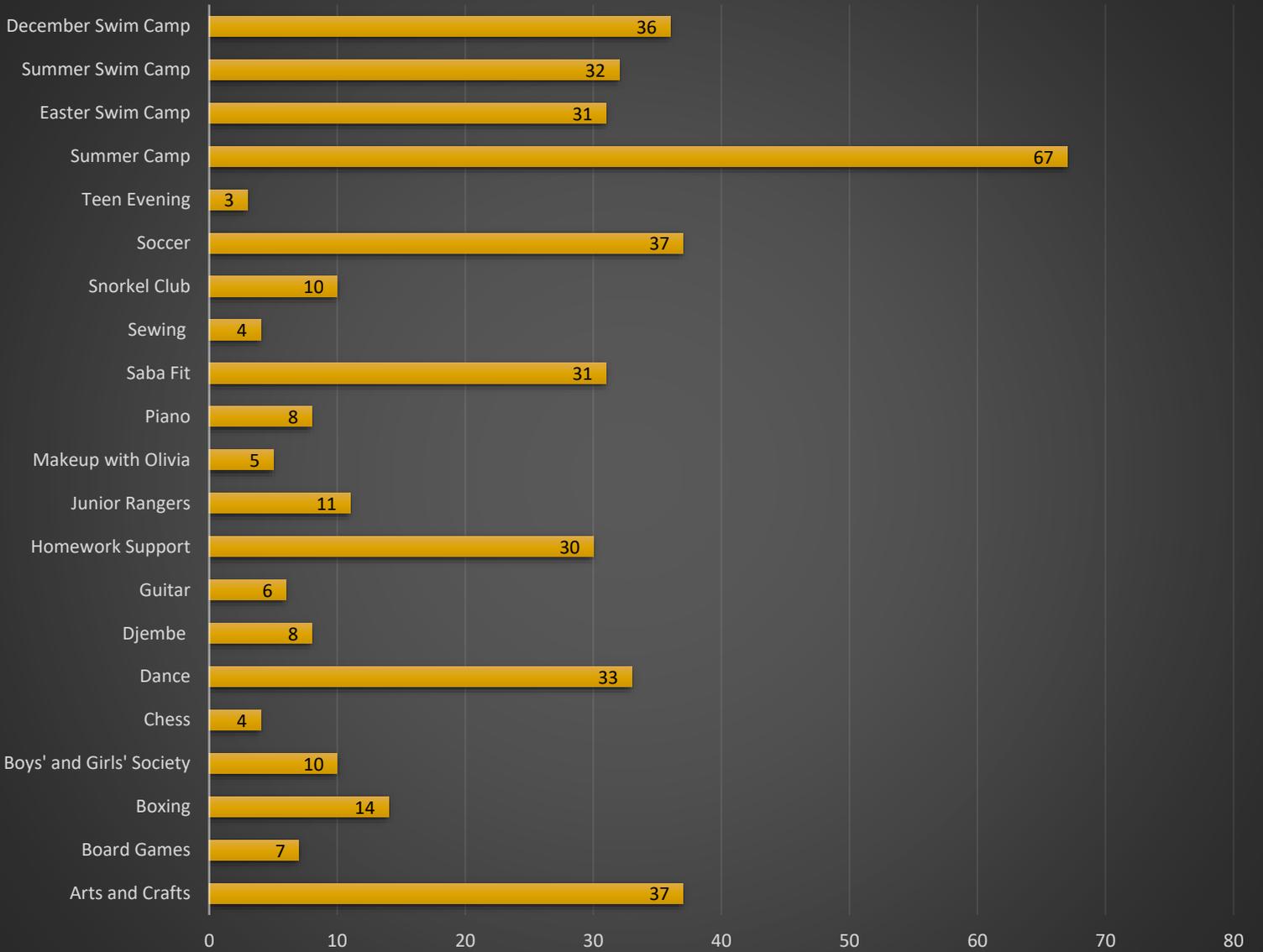


Afternoon school care promotes Child Focus activities and encourages parents to sign children up. Communication is also shared on children's behaviour and both organizations work together to ensure the best for the children. Plans are being made to collaborate more often

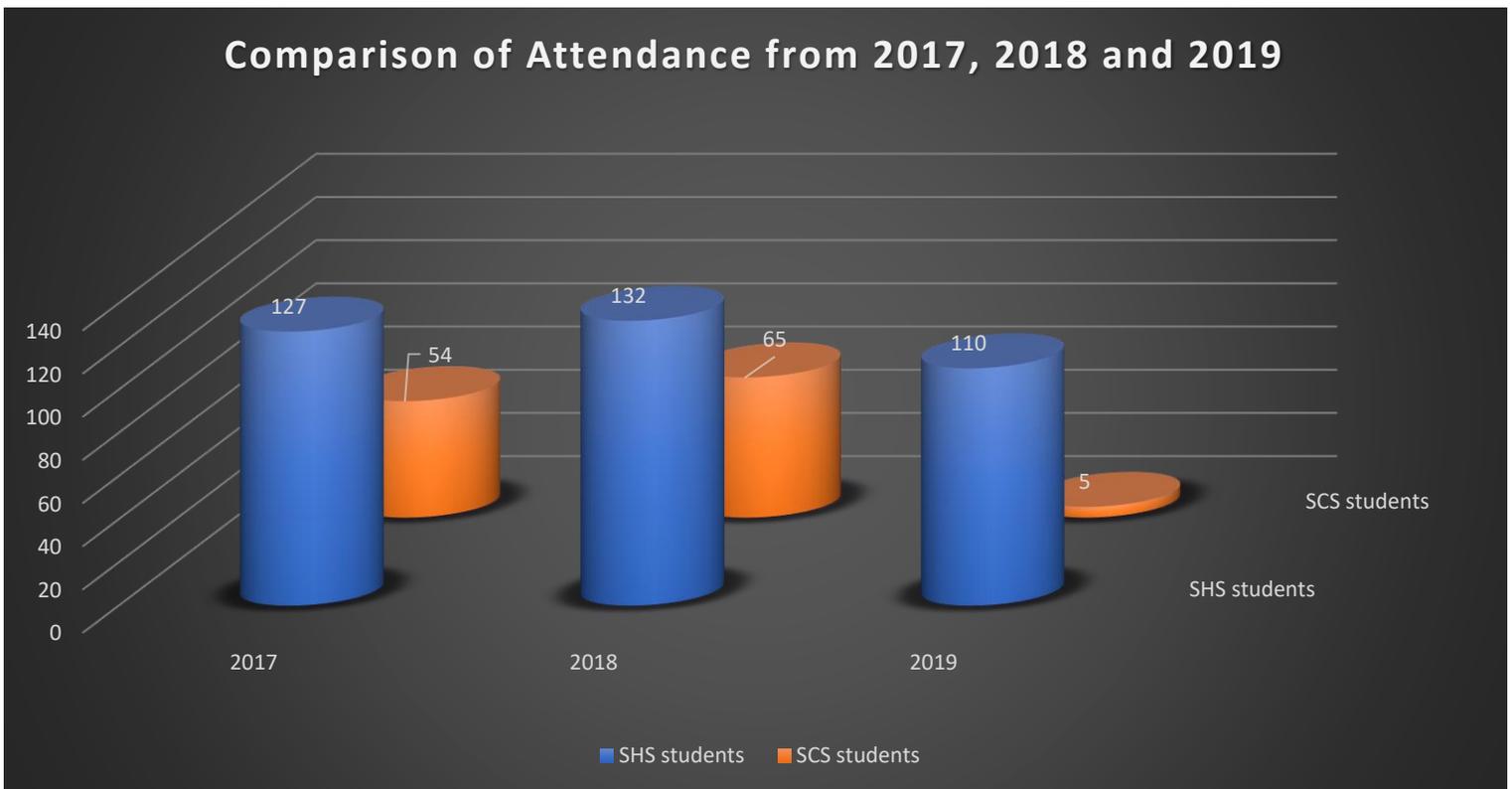


The Living Water community provides activities to children where they learn about the Catholic Faith. All children of other faiths are welcome to join. Members of the living water community also volunteer at special events.

Number of Students per Activity



	Sacred Heart Primary School	Saba Comprehensive School	Total
Children in schools per Sept 2019	170	99	269
Children in CF activities	110	5	115
Percentage of children	65%	5%	43%



Compared to 2018, there were less activities offered but the number of participants was relatively the same for the primary school group. The massive decrease in number of children signed up from Saba Comprehensive was due to the school's implementation of extracurricular activities and clubs, some of which take place at the same time as Child Focus' activities. Most high school students could not sign up for CF activities due to the clashes with regards to the times, as well as the fact that the activities from SCS are mandatory, whereas Child Focus activities are not.

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

Activity	Youth Leader	Duration
Arts and Crafts	Natalee Clarke, Claire Mandolado, Olivia Johnson	Mondays - Thursdays
Board Games	Natalee Clarke	Thursdays
Boxing	Shimail Levenston	Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
Boys and Girls' Society	Carmen Simmons	Wednesdays
Chess	Peter Johnson	Fridays
Dance	Roxana La Flor	Wednesdays & Thursdays
Djembe	Budu Lavia	Tuesdays & Fridays
Guitar	David Johnson	Mondays
Homework Support	Tevonille Dunchie, Miranda Simmons, Camille Blackman	Mondays - Fridays
Junior Rangers	Saba Conservation Foundation	Thursdays
Makeup with Olivia	Olivia Johnson	Thursdays
Piano	Eric Cornet	Fridays
Saba Fit	Kemaul Lee	Wednesdays & Fridays
Sewing	Sapphire Ramkissoon	Thursdays
Snorkel Club	Saba Conservation Foundation	Tuesdays
Soccer	Alejandro Garcia	Mondays, Tuesdays
Teen Evening	Sapphire Ramkissoon	Thursdays

SABA DOET

On March 13th, 2019, Child Focus set out to beautify the playground area. The playground had been lacking grass and needed more flowers in order to make it more aesthetic. We had numerous volunteers come out to help us, many of whom have lots of expertise in gardening.



We were able to clear out the troughs and plant aloes and marigolds along the boundaries of the playground. We were also able to plant more grass, which has definitely improved the appearance of the playground. Child Focus would like to thank the Saba Lions Club for this initiative and all the volunteers that joined us on that day.



EASTER EVENT



Our Easter event took place on Saturday April, 20th. There was an egg hunt on the Child Focus playground after Suzy hid a number of eggs in different places.

There were also five golden eggs, which if found, children would win special prizes. We also had cupcakes which the kids enjoyed, as well as volunteers from the Saba Lions Club and teens from SCS doing face painting.



SWIM CAMP

Child Focus planned three swimming camps for 2019 with Coach Nelson Manuel from Curacao. These workshops were offered to children between the ages of 4 to 18 years old.

At the end of each workshop, the swimming exam took place and diplomas were given out to those who were able to complete the exam. Several children were able to receive their A, B and C diplomas. A total of 47 diplomas were given out in 2019.

Without the support of Public Entity, as well as the parents who were able to assist in the water, this program would not have been as successful, and Child Focus is grateful for this assistance.



Easter Swim Camp

From April 24th to May 2nd, 31 children signed up for the swimming camp. There were two groups of 15 students each, as well as one on one sessions with a child with special needs. Each session was 45 minutes and took place at Fort Bay/Gary's Pond. During this swim camp, 16 of the attendees received Diplomas.

Summer Swim Camp

The Summer Swim Camp took place from July 8th to July 18th and 32 children signed up. There were two groups of 15 students each, as well as one on one sessions with two special needs children. Each session was 45 minutes and took place at Fort Bay/Gary's Pond. During these summer sessions, our Lipscomb group also assisted Coach Nelson in the water. The number of students receiving diplomas during this time was 10.



December Swim Camp

The December Swim Camp took place from November 25th to December 5th. There were 36 participants. There were 2 groups of 17 students each, as well as one on one sessions with two children with special needs. During these sessions, 21 children were able to pass the exam and attain their diplomas.

SUMMER CAMP



The 2019 Summer Camp took place from the 8th of July to the 19th of July with the help of some local volunteers as well as the Lipscomb group. The Lipscomb group came with 11 volunteers during the first week and 6 more arrived for the second week.

The activities ranged from field games/running club, to dance and gymnastics, to arts and crafts and painting. For the older children, there was also a focus on cooking and baking, visits to the ecolodge, gardening, a community project of visiting the old age home and a visit to local government.



During the summer camp, we had a number of collaborations, such as with Mega D Youth Foundation to host a talent show, as well as with Public Entity to participate in the Keep Saba Clean project.

Summer Camp with Mega D Youth Foundation

On July 10th and 11th, a group of 34 children as well as 15 adults (coordinators, parents, volunteers) came to Saba from Statia for a collaboration between Child Focus and Mega D Youth Foundation

On the first day, the children from Saba and Statia came together to participate in decorating t-shirts with their own custom designs. These t-shirts were then to be worn by the children during the talent show on July 11th, which took place at the Eugenius Center from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Prior to the talent show, the children took part in preparing the stage decor for the talent show, practicing their songs, dance

and even numerous magic tricks. They also were able to record a song and shoot a music video with the help of Mega D's team, who brought a plethora of recording equipment. Through months of organization, we are very pleased with the outcome and are grateful for the opportunities to be able to collaborate with the neighboring islands and to give the children a chance to foster friendships with them.



Keep Saba Clean



Through the initiative from the Public Entity, Child Focus participated in the clean up from English Quarter to Mountain Road to Hell's Gate. With the assistance of the Lipscomb team, the children went into different groups at different locations and collected any garbage they could find. After the clean up, Public Entity then supplied the children with pizza and juice.



SXM Day Trip



As is customary, during the Summer Camp, the children went to St. Maarten for a day trip. This time, 30 children and 7 adults went on the trip to Kimsha beach on Tuesday July 18th. Child Focus also provided the children with a meal from McDonald's as a treat.



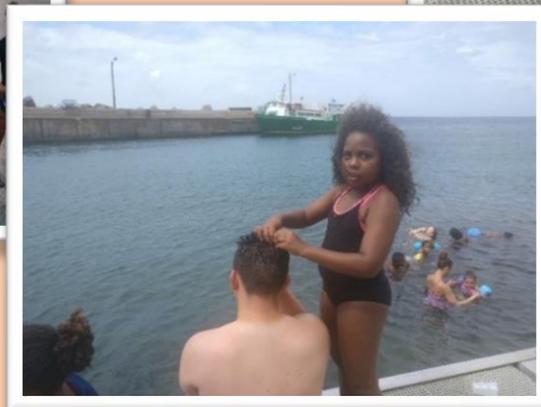
BEACH DAY & BBQ



Friday July 19th was the last day of the summer camp. The BBQ took place at Fort Bay from 8:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. and the children spent the day swimming at the harbor and enjoying hamburgers and hot dogs. Throughout the day, children showed their peers what they had learnt during the swim camp, while others jumped from the pier or braided hair with the help of the Lipscomb group. Some parents also attended and stayed with children in the water.



During the afternoon period, after the summer camp activities were finished, 21 children took part in the swim exam with instructor Nelson Manuel and were able to get their diploma.



FIT WITH LEE

From September 2019, Child Focus and Saba Fit began a collaboration called Fit with Lee. Kemaul Lee, who works at the Benevolent Foundation, is also an avid fitness guru, and leads the activity three times a week for 45 minutes to an hour for children aged 4 to 12. All of his sessions throughout the week are full, with more than 15 children signed up per group.

The initiative came up from Public Health as a way to encourage the youth to be more active and to ensure that they are using their energy towards something productive. Kemaul makes the activity fun for them by doing obstacle courses and different games and makes it a very interactive experience which the children always enjoy. He also has evening activities for parents and has been making waves in the Saban Community as he motivates both young and old to stay fit.



MAKEUP WITH OLIVIA



As a way to encourage more young people into practicing their hobbies more frequently and in a more formal setting with friends, Child Focus began a 5 week workshop focused on doing professional makeup with instructor Olivia Johnson. Olivia was a recent graduate from the Saba comprehensive school and is one of the best local make up artists. Apart from regular face makeup, she is also well versed in doing SFX makeup (special effects makeup) as is shown in the photos. She also taught the students how to use basic home items (petroleum jelly, cotton, red paint) to create some of these looks.



DANCE

During April of 2019, CF began ballet classes (two sets of ten children each) with instructor Roxana La Flor Triana. Roxana graduated from the National School of Ballet of Cuba, then graduated in Ballet and Dancing Styles from the University of the Arts in Havana, and has a master's degree in Management of Educational Institutions. She has 15 years of dance experience, ranging from ballet to jazz, hip hop, modern dance, tap, belly dance, tango.



Upon realizing that more children were interested, we soon had to begin another dance class for 10 more children. We opted for more modern dance and this group focused on hip-hop dancing.



BASKETBALL CLINIC



The basketball clinic took place from July 24th, 2019 to August 2nd, 2019 and was hosted by the St. Maarten National Basketball Association.

Through collaboration with Joelyn Robinson from the Saba United Sports Federation, 10 high school students, ranging from the age of 12 to 17, were able to attend the sessions from Tuesday, July 30th, 2019 for 4-hour sessions per day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

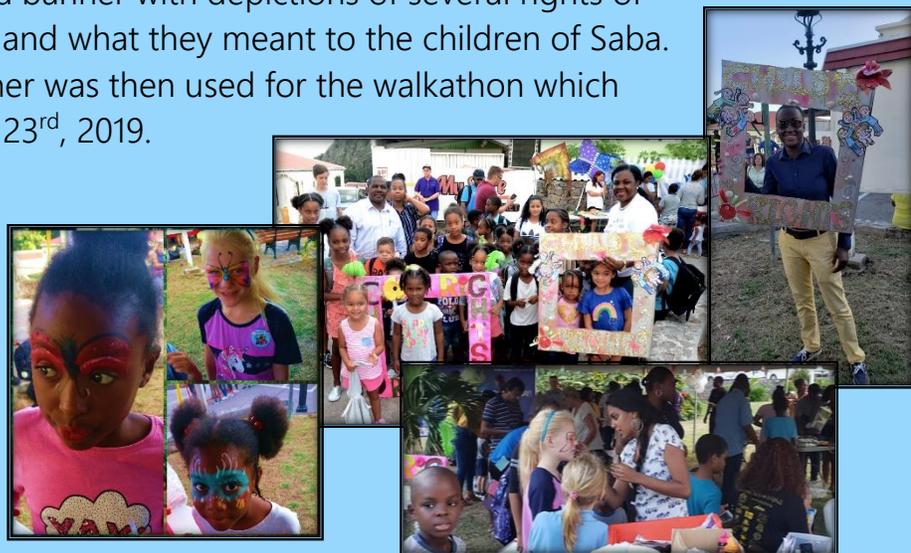


CHILDREN'S RIGHTS WEEK

Child Focus collaborated with Public Entity to host activities with an emphasis on the Rights of the Child. Our list of activities included jewelry making (creating bracelets with their names on it, representing the right for every child to have a name and an identity), painting (children painted based on which right they chose) and creating a banner with depictions of several rights of the child and what they meant to the children of Saba.

The banner was then used for the walkathon which took place on Saturday November 23rd, 2019.

The Children's Rights Fest took place from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Friday November 22nd, 2019 and CF participated by providing children with Face Painting done by Sapphire Ramkissoon and Olivia Johnson.



HALLOWEEN EVENT

Our annual Halloween event took place on October 31st, 2019 and was well attended. Children and parents poured out onto the road as they took part in games, face painting, Lucky Dip and many more activities.



During this period, we also had assistance from students from SCS as part of their job training, arranged by Tr Bianca Johnson. The two students were Alma Johnson and Tyler Johnson. Tyler assisted with the face painting and Alma focused on doing the photography throughout the

day, as exhibited in the following photos. Olivia Johnson, our Arts and Crafts and Makeup instructor, also assisted with face painting and games.

Child focus made an effort this year to not only include Halloween candy, but also healthy snacks such as bananas and oranges which were decorated in accordance with the Halloween theme.

CF would like to thank Satel who sponsored gift cards which were given as prizes for the games; Everyting's who sponsored Halloween makeup; Do It Best for supplying us with toys as a prize; Saba Lions Club for toys as prizes; and SUSOM for a donation which went towards candy and gifts.



SABA DAY ACTIVITIES

Through months of preparations and hard work put in by the children, our Saba Day activities went smoothly and was enjoyed by many.

On Friday December 5th, three dance groups (with the help of Tr. Roxana) performed in the Bottom for the Saba Day celebrations.

The first group, consisting of 11 girls aged 4 to 8, did ballet dance. The second group was the hip hop group, consisting of Daphne Hermans, Larianny Del Carmen and Sarah Lopez who danced to an Ariana Grande and Stevie Wonder song. The final group consisted of 12 girls, aged 9 to 12, and they danced a Tarantella.

The Djembe group, consisting of 5 children, also participated with the assistance of their teacher, Budu Lavia.



SABA DAY ACTIVITIES

On Saturday December 6th, a Soccer Tournament and Games day was organized. Instructor Alejandro Garcia was the referee and medals were given out to all children that participated. We also had face painting and sno-cones for the children. After the soccer game, we took part in field games such as balloon toss and other races.



On Sunday December 7th, in collaboration with Saba Conservation Foundation, we held a kite tournament. During the time James Johnson and Leslie Wulf spent with the children for Junior Rangers in November and December, they constructed kites, and these were used to participate in the tournament. Jeff Johnson was the judge and later that evening, medals provided by CF were given out to the winners.



We would like to thank all the parents for helping the children practice and be prepared for these important occasions and a special thanks to all our instructors who work tirelessly to ensure the children are doing their best.

CRUYFF FOUNDATION COACH COURSE

From May 12th, 2019 to May 16th, 2019, Alejandro Londono Garcia, our Soccer Coach, attended the Cruyff Foundation Coach Course in St. Eustatius, with Rob Groener as the course leader. During the course, participants (including Kemaul Lee, who later became our Saba Fit instructor, as well as Joelyn Robinson) learned about the Cruyff Foundation and the project: Heroes of the Cruyff Courts.



The course also did not focus on football sessions, but more so on active ways to empower young people from the community with the methods implemented of the Heroes of the Cruyff Court. After the course, participants became official Cruyff Foundation coaches. CF would like to thank Public Entity, and more directly Public Health, for their assistance.

CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE WORKSHOP

From November 23rd, 2019 to November 28th, 2019, our Assistant Program Manager, Suzanne Guido attended a Conscious Discipline workshop in Aruba. This workshop was organized and funded by the Best 4 Kids program. Other attendees include those from Daycare and Afternoon School Care on Saba, as well as other professionals from Statia.

This six-day professional development was presented by Dr. Becky Bailey, founder and chief knowledge officer of Conscious Discipline, as well as Mrs. Lety Valero,

Conscious Discipline Master and Instructor. It took place from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily at the Piedra Plat Entertainment Center in Oranjestad. The workshop focuses on using real examples, real practice and real connections in order to build an inclusive School Family.



CONCLUSION

Child Focus hopes that we can receive more parent involvement in 2020 as we believe that it helps to foster better relationships, not only in the family setting, but for the benefit of the community as a whole.

From 2020, all activities for teens will be organized by Saba Comprehensive School and Child Focus will provide activities for the primary school children. We hope that by doing this, we can provide better activities for this age group, and can concentrate on how these children grow, interact and learn together.

We will continue joining any professional development courses available for both office staff, as well as youth leaders, as the dynamics of working with children is always evolving and keeping up to date with best practices is beneficial to all. We hope that in 2020, with the arrival of our Sports and Arts Coordinators, we will be able to collaborate more with other organizations such as Afternoon School Care, and that we can provide more activities that children will be interested in joining and happy to participate in.



PROJECTED GOALS FOR 2020, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

January	Social for Staff
February	Begin preparations for Saba Doet & Easter Event
March	Saba Doet - Chill out Zone Dance Recital
April	Easter Family Day
May	UNICEF Children's Rights Film Festival Premiere @ Eugenius Center Welcome Arts Coordinator Theater activity resumes
June	St. Barth's Exchange
July	Summer Camp Mega D Collaboration - Trip to Statia
August	Preparations for new school year activities
September	Start of new activity schedule
October	Halloween Family Fun Day
November	Exchange event: Soccer exchange to St. Maarten or Statia
December	Saba Day activities Dance Recital

- Collaboration with Afternoon School care
- More DIY projects / zero waste projects
- More invitations for parents to sit in during activities
- Swimming camp should be more consistent - getting a local coach
- Arts & Sports Coordinators arrival