

CHILD FOCUS FOUNDATION

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD



ACTIVITY REPORT
2021



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INTRODUCTION

While still navigating the changes that came up due to the pandemic, 2021 went more smoothly as Saba was still mostly unaffected. Throughout 2021, Child Focus organized **16** different youth activities, which included the regular weekly activities, special workshops and the summer activities program. Based on registration forms received, 160 children in total signed up for CF activities (inclusive of figures from the school year ending June 2021, summer camp registrations, as well as registrations for the school year beginning in August 2021). For the purpose of this report, we will focus on the figures for registration as of October 1st, 2021, which was **114** students. This accounts for **64%** of the student population of the Sacred Heart School. The progress of the activities and the behavior of the participants are discussed during biweekly staff meetings and monthly board meetings. These activities are run by both coordinators of the organization and 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 4-12 years. This means that children have the opportunity to participate in activities between 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (maximum of 3 activities) per week and several workshops throughout the year. The activities are focused on education, sports and culture.

What Child Focus has learned from these experiences is:

- Greater parental support, cooperation and feedback are necessary in order to address children's behaviour and as a motivational tool.



MISSION AND GOALS

Child Focus Foundation is committed to offering after-school activities to all school-going youth from 4-12 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.

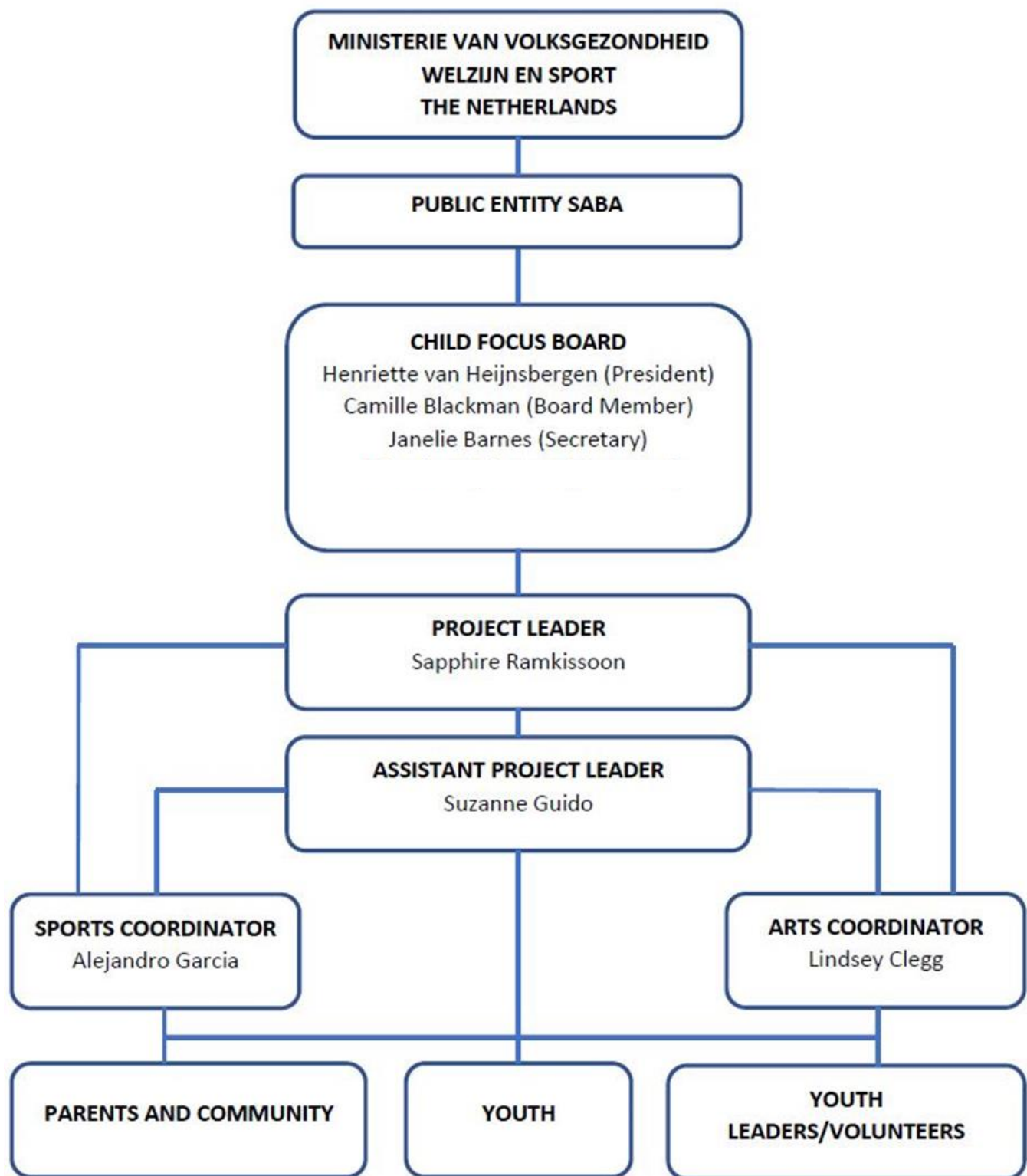
Autonomy development goals:

- Children are able to make choices in the types of activities they would like to participate in, based on their interest.
- 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 annually 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.



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. Currently, both the Sports Coordinator and Arts Coordinator of Child Focus host activities directly at the Afternoon School.



SACS Foundation 'hosts' the Triple C Curriculum, whose objective is for the youth of Saba to benefit from the experience and expertise of professionals and develop a deeper understanding of different disciplines. At the end of the year, the goal is to have the youth showcase their talents. They offer these services to all the education and childcare centers on island, including Day Care, Saba Comprehensive School, Afternoon School Care and Child Focus.



Saba Nature Education offers activities such as hiking and swimming, and lessons on environmental protection. Child Focus works with them during periods for summer camp especially.

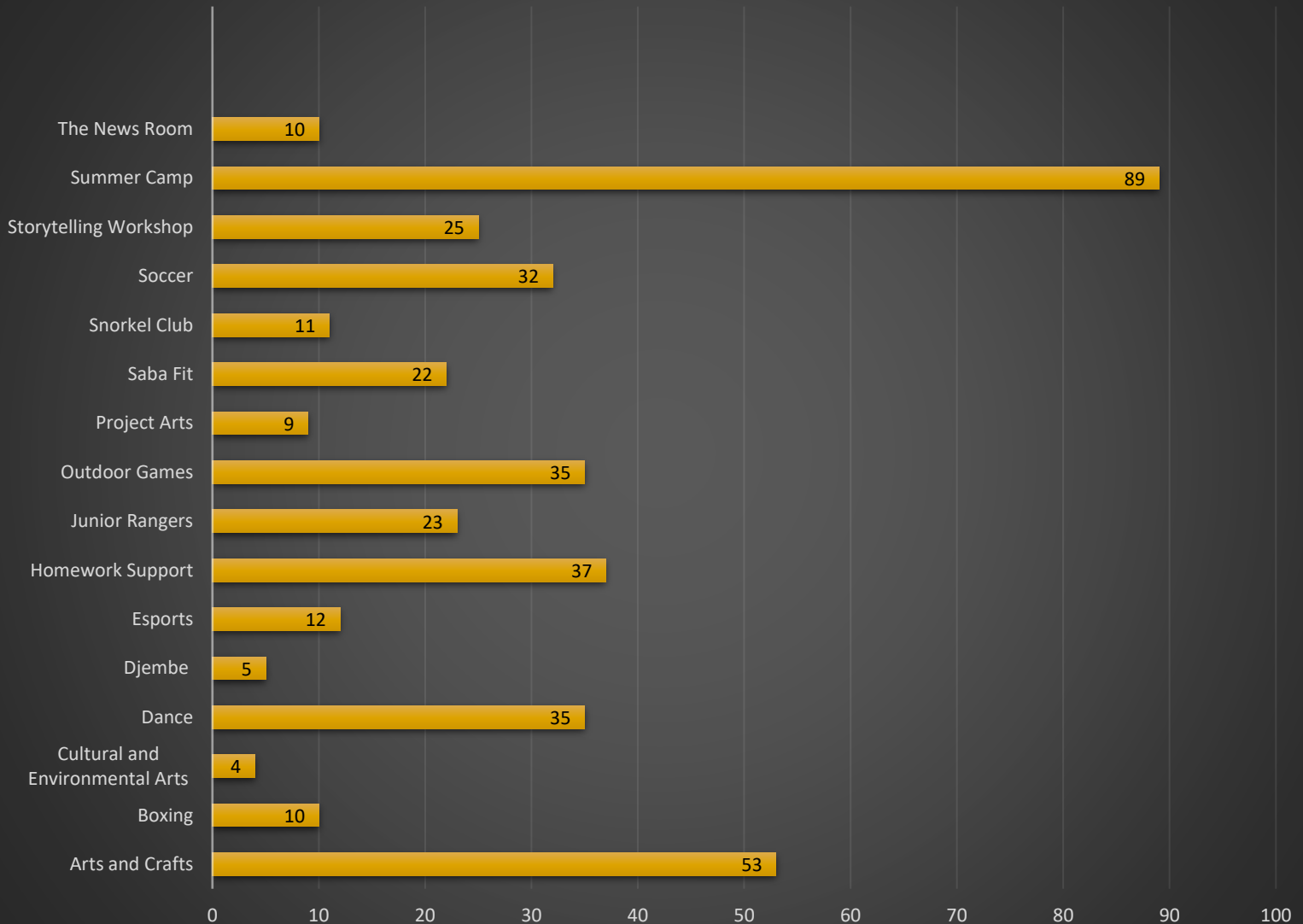


Although Child Focus no longer provides activities for teenagers, collaborations still occur occasionally with Saba Comprehensive School, such as with Becky's House of E-sports.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

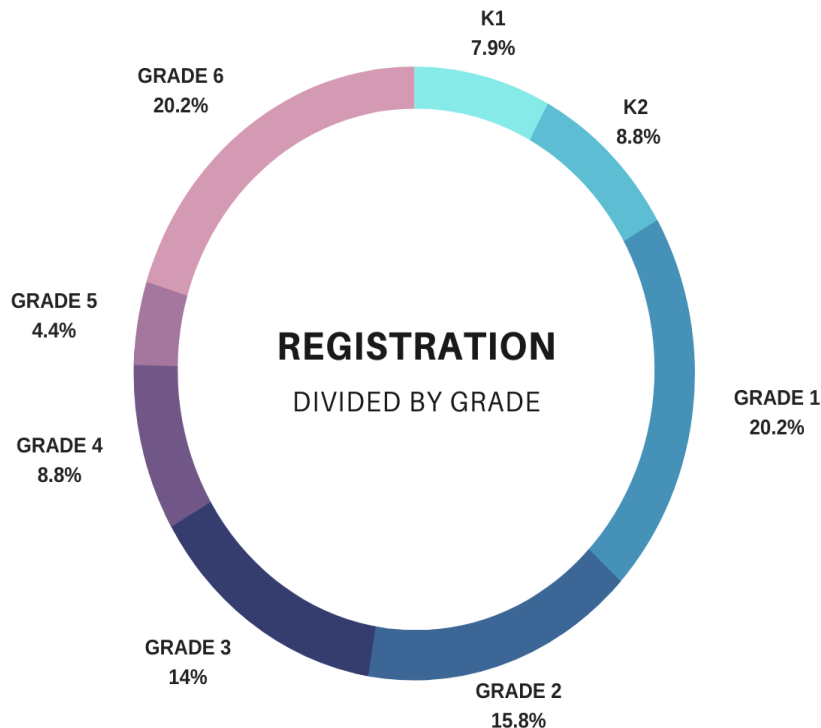
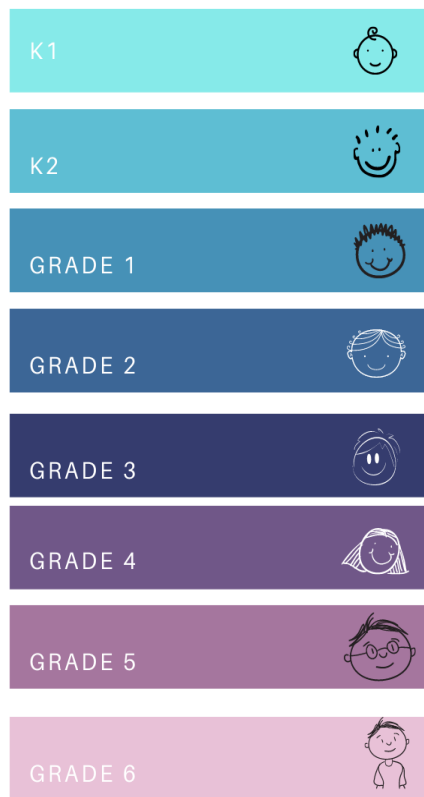
NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER ACTIVITY

Number of Students per Activity (Per Oct. 2021)



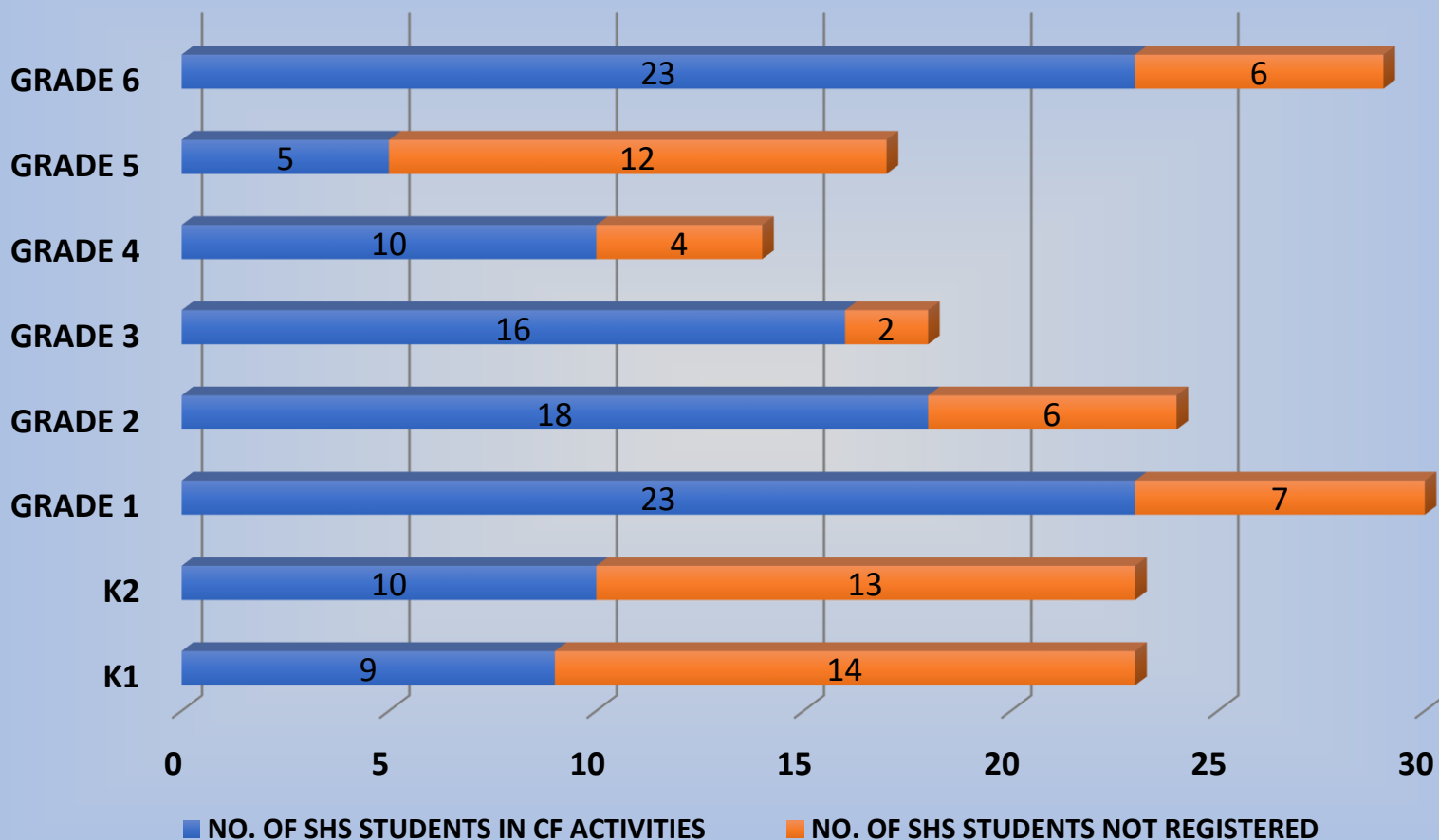
REGISTRATION NUMBERS

NUMBER OF STUDENTS REGISTERED PER GRADE



REGISTERED STUDENTS VS UNREGISTERED STUDENTS

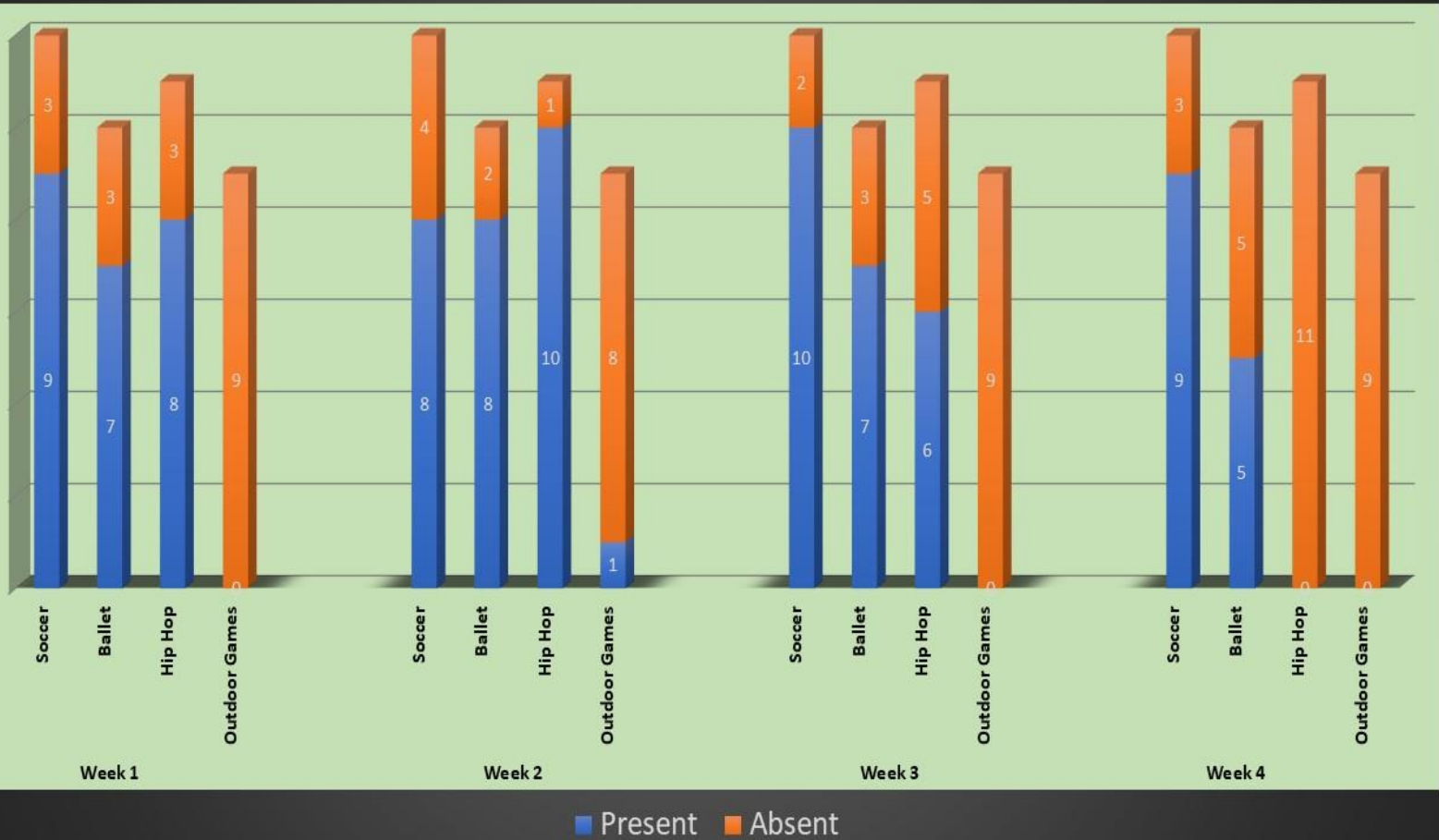
NUMBER OF REGISTERED STUDENTS VS UNREGISTERED STUDENTS



REGISTRATION NUMBERS

BUS SERVICE & ATTENDANCE RATES

An illustration depicting the direct correlation between bus service and attendance rates



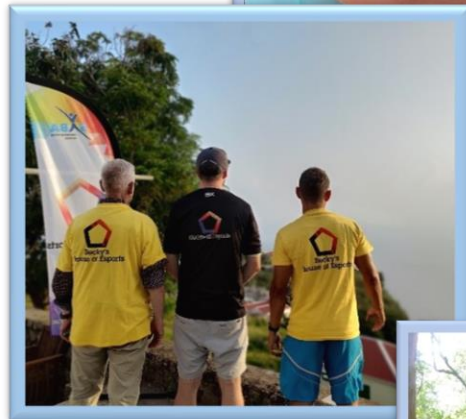
From August 2021, changes were made to the regulations for bus drivers. Buses can only work for one activity per day and can only cater to activities that finish at 5:00 p.m. This presents a challenge to Child Focus as some of our activities finish later than this. As shown in the chart above, there is a direct correlation between bus service and registration/attendance rates. Once there is no bus service, parents find it difficult to drop off their children/pick them up (this can be due to the fact that parents are still at work when the activity starts/finishes, or do not have access to a car/transportation themselves). This also hinders parents from signing their children up for activities as they know they will not be able to transport them during these times. We hope to rectify this by getting a consistent bus driver for the Child Focus bus, however this will only be a solution for some activities and not all.

COORDINATORS

SPORTS COORDINATOR – ALEJANDRO LONDOÑO GARCIA

As of April 2021, Coach Alejandro Garcia began his role as Sports Coordinator at Child Focus Foundation. Alejandro has been working with Child Focus for several years as the Soccer Coach. He has completed the Johann Cruyff Training in St. Eustatius in April of 2019; and throughout 2021, he has completed the World Heroes Training, House of E-Sports Training as well as English A2 Course with Saba Reach Foundation. He has also begun his Swim Coach training in St. Eustatius with, to be completed in 2022. Due to his prior experience working with the children, he already has a strong rapport with them, and they respect him. Child Focus is also continuing the collaboration with Afternoon school, where the coordinator goes to their location and hosts activities for children that are registered with ASC.

Alejandro will be hosting Soccer, E-sports and Outdoor Games (a broad term to encapsulate a variety of different games used to promote movement, coordination and well-being in general). He also works with a child with special needs, doing individualized coaching (so far, he has taught him how to ride a bike and use a skateboard). Coach Alejandro shows lots of promise and is dedicated to his position and to working with the youth on Saba. He is very health conscious and enjoys taking part in various local tournaments, such as Sea to Scenery, Bizzy B 5K and Saba's Strongest (winning second place). His hope is to encourage the younger generation to be more active and live a healthy lifestyle.



COORDINATORS

ARTS COORDINATOR – KERESE CHAMBERLAIN

Regrettably, due to a family emergency, Keresé Chamberlain, our previous Arts Coordinator, resigned and moved back to Jamaica in March of 2021.

She had many new and interesting ideas for activities and was in the process of doing a theater production with Grades 3+ for the movie 'Coco'.

She also started an activity called Books and Beyond which focused on storytelling and enhancing reading and learning comprehension for young children.



ARTS COORDINATOR – LINDSEY CLEGG

As of May 2021, Lindsey Clegg was hired for the position of Arts Coordinator. She has a background in Nutrition and is talented in the fields of photography and videography. During her time with us, she started new activities such as The News Room, a blend of theater with real life documentary making, and Cultural & Environmental Arts.



She also did the videography for the NRF Thank You project and completed summer camp project such as making air dry clay, jug planters, etc. Due to family commitments, she unfortunately had to resign as of October of 2021.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

CULTURAL EXCHANGES – SABA VS STATIA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



From January 29th to January 31st, a group of 16 children with 5 chaperones went to Statia for a Basketball Tournament. This was a collaboration done with Child Focus Foundation, Public Entity and Saba Comprehensive School. Over the weekend, there were multiple basketball games for the different age groups (under 12, teens and adults). CF's group won their games.

The children were also taken to a park/playground on Statia on Saturday morning, and in the afternoon, they went to a pool. These exchanges are especially important as some of these children have not been off island for a long time and although Statia is very close-by, some of them have never visited there before. The sports teams, especially, benefit from these exchanges as it motivates them to train harder.



On April 9th and 10th, the basketball teams from Statia (under Diker Academy) collaborated with various organizations on Saba for a basketball tournament for ages 8 and up. The tournament took place at the SHS gym from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. due to the number of teams that had to play. While the Saba teams did not win, they were able to put their training to good use and are looking forward to having more tournaments in the future.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

EASTER EVENT

On Saturday April 3rd, CF hosted its annual Easter Egg hunt from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There were 4 rounds of the easter egg hunt, 3 of which took place on the playground of Child Focus and the last round took place on the Museum Grounds. There were also 3 golden eggs which children could redeem for a prize.



Coach Alejandro also played various games with the children on the playground and art activities were also offered. Parents were encouraged to attend, and for most of the younger children, they were accompanied by a parent or relative. Cupcakes and fruits were also provided.



SCS JOB SHADOWING

On the 25th and 26th of March, two students from Saba Comprehensive School completed their job shadowing at Child Focus Foundation. Fabian Alkema and Elizabeth Tanner spent the day at the office of CF, experiencing a day in the life of the Coordinators, Assistant Manager and Manager. First, they took inventory in the activity room, documenting the materials available and what was needed for activities in the future.

They then attended activities with the coordinators – Fabian shadowed Coach Alejandro during Soccer, while Elizabeth shadowed Tr. Roxana for Dance class. The following day, they were requested to plan a trip to Statia for a group of 15 to 20 students. This involved them having to work out the logistics of this – the cost of tickets, accommodation, plans for the day/weekend trip.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

RECYCLE FOR SABA



A Family Fun Recycling Fair was organized on April 8th at the Princess Juliana Sports Field in the Bottom by Public Entity Saba. Everyone was invited to visit and learn more about Saba's recycling efforts, participate in games and activities such as an obstacle course. There was also live entertain by DJ Slim and DJ Noah. Child Focus attended and offered face painting and assisted on creating the photo prop with the hashtag Recycle for Saba.



KING'S DAY SOCCER TOURNAMENT



On April 28th, for King's Day celebrations, Child Focus hosted a soccer tournament on the Johann Cruyff Field for the age group 9 to 12 from 4:00 p.m. Several children came out to play and their parents also attended to support them.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

BODY POSITIVITY CAMPAIGN FOR SABA DOET



With the assistance of the Saba Doet project funding, we were able to have a "Feel Good Friday" for young girls, aged 10 - 12. This consisted of a lesson on Self Care (ranging from personal hygiene to healthy boundaries to good sleep patterns, etc.).

A prominent voice in the community on human rights, Lysanne Charles, also volunteered

and had the opportunity to talk to some of the girls one on one about challenges that they face as young girls on Saba. We hope to be able to host an event like this in the future with young boys and encourage them to take better care of themselves, both physically and mentally.



ENVIRONMENTAL POSTER COMPETITION

In collaboration with Saba Conservation Foundation, who hosts Snorkel Club and Junior Rangers, a poster competition was held on environmental sustainability with main topics such as: sustainable fishing, pollution, plastics and sustainable living and invasive species. We received many submissions, with the assistance of Tr. Miranda Simmons from SHS as she encouraged her students to submit. The drawings were then displayed outside of Child Focus for a week and

three judges (Vito Charles, Lynn Costenaro and Marijn van der laan) voted on which would be the winners.



Jenee Matthew won for the best Overall Poster, Quinten van Drunen for the Most Creative Poster and Zelena Johnson for the Most Informative Poster. The purpose of this competition was to encourage children to be more mindful of their environment and adopting ways in which they could make positive changes, relevant to Saba, to protect the environment.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

CULTURAL MEETING OF STAKEHOLDERS

On June 10th, a meeting was held with regards to forming a cultural agreement amongst all stakeholders in order to better promote cultural events and education on the island.

The stakeholders included Child Focus Foundation, After School Care, Daycare, Saba Comprehensive School, Sacred Heart School, Saba Association of Caribbean States and a representative from Best4Kids.



SABA DANZA – DANCE RECITAL WITH SACS

On June 12th, in collaboration with SACS, Child Focus hosted a dance performance led by Tr. Roxana La Flor as part of the Triple C Curriculum. There were 9 dances, ranging from K1 to Grade 6. From Child Focus, there were 3 ballet groups, 1 rock and roll group and a hip hop group. Other collaborators included Sacred Heart Primary School and Afterschool Care. This event was held at the Eugenius Center and many parents and members of the community attended to see the children perform.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

SUMMER CAMP

Child Focus hosted its annual summer camp from July 5 to July 30, catering to 48 girls and 41 boys. Activities included: cooking, hiking, outdoor games, slip and slide, basketball, writing workshops, arts and crafts such as nature painting, tie-dye, making air dry clay. Every Friday, during the entire summer camp, the children took part in the "Beach Day" at Cove Bay for some swimming and a BBQ.

Typically, a group from Lipscomb University comes to Saba every year to assist with summer camp. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lipscomb group was smaller this year, but the students were still able to offer a range of activities.

Lana Spry hosted a basketball clinic for grades 1 to 6 and Carly Spry hosted writing workshops at the library (Inspiration Station and Writing Wonders) for grades 3 to 6 from July 5 to July 20. In the second and third week of July, Jeffrey Northcutt hosted gymnastics, Aletha Thomas hosted cooking and exercise/games and Erin Gupton hosted crafts and assisted with a variety of activities.



In addition to our Lipscomb volunteers, we had local volunteers and teen volunteers. The teens take this opportunity to see what it would be like to work in childcare, and it helps to foster a sense of responsibility in them, as we encourage them to be punctual, remain attentive during activities and to be patient with young children. The children and volunteers also participated in special activities such as the annual Keep Saba Clean initiative of the Public Entity Saba on Friday, July 16. The children cleaned the area around the airport and the road towards Cove Bay, and then enjoyed some time swimming afterwards.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

SUMMER CAMP & COLLABORATION WITH SINT EUSTATIUS



On July 13, a group of 57, which included children, parents, volunteers, and coordinators, went on a day trip to St. Eustatius. The trip was organized in collaboration with Statia's Mega D Youth Foundation. The children attended a music parade there, followed by a basketball match, coached by Stanford Johnson, and the girls from the dance group performed with the help of their instructor, teacher Roxana La Flor during halftime.

A number of organizations and stakeholders lent a helping hand during the summer camp: Saba Nature Education (Michael Schillingburg – hiking), Saba Conservation Foundation SCF (Snorkel Club and Junior Rangers, as well as a summer internship program), Queen Wilhelmina Library (the location for the writing workshops), the Saba Association of Caribbean States Foundation (SACS) Foundation (Roxana La Flor – dance instructor), After School Care, Saba Lions (Mary Thielman – LCIF Peace poster activity).

Child Focus would like to extend gratitude to Best4Kids for their contribution to this year's summer camp, whose funding went towards accommodations for the Lipscomb group, as well as the trip to Statia. As always, we could not have had a successful summer program without our dedicated coordinators and volunteers.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

CULTURAL EXCHANGES – SOCCER TOURNAMENT

On August 27th and 28th, Child Focus hosted a Soccer Tournament with Diker Sports Academy (Statia).

These tournaments serve as great motivational tools for the children to want to train harder and become better. It also encourages them to work as a team on a regular basis.



CULTURAL EXCHANGES – DAY TRIP TO SINT EUSTATIUS



On October 15th, 32 children (Junior Rangers and Snorkel Club groups), accompanied by 15 volunteers and parents, took the Edge Ferry to Sint Eustatius. With the special help and guidance of Education and Outreach Officer, Achsah Mitchell, from St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation (STENAPA), the group went on a hike through the Quill National Park. The children were able to identify varying terrestrial species between St. Eustatius' and Saba's ecosystem and were then treated to swimming at Gallows Bay. After some fun amongst the waves, different to their experience swimming in the harbor in Saba, Mitchell led a turtle nest triangulation exercise on the beach.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

HALLOWEEN EVENT

The annual Halloween Event took place on Friday October 29th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sports Coordinator, Alejandro Garcia, was in charge of the bouncy castle; Olivia Johnson, who has volunteered with us in the past, did Face Painting; Saba Leos (Vernisha Robinson, Kimson Guerrier, Bea Durand) and Gabriella Johnson led the Haunted House and other CF staff did games.

In a bid to increase parental involvement, a prize for best parent and child costume was offered. The winner of this was the Holm Family (Joshua, Cassandra, Sophie and Landon) for their costumes as Batman and Robin.

Whilst pizza, cupcakes and candy were offered, we also encouraged children to eat fruits (apples, oranges and bananas) and did not provide them with any sodas (only water and juices were available).

Due to the large turnout that we typically receive for Halloween, parent surveys were also handed out at this time. We would like to thank all CF staff and volunteers for their hard work and a special thanks to the Saba Lions for their donations, the Saba Leos for their dedication on the Haunted House, SATEL and Do it Best for their donations.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

CHILD RIGHTS WEEK



The Child Rights Expo was held at the Princess Juliana Field on November 19th. Child Focus offered Face Painting, bracelet-making, and field games. We would like to thank the Public Entity for organizing this event; our teen volunteers, Amanda Clarke and Gabriella Johnson for their assistance; and all the other stakeholders who attended to make the day enjoyable for the children on Saba.



STORYTELLING WORKSHOP WITH TAMARA LEONARD

Child Focus hosted author, Tamara Leonard, from St. Maarten, at the Queen Wilhelmina Library on Saturday November 20th. Leonard has a number of children's books available, each with a particular lesson that children can relate to. She also frames it from a Caribbean perspective, enhancing its value to the children on Saba. Her themes range from the importance of good manners, controlling one's anger, listening to your intuition, and encouraging the expression of gratitude. Parents were also invited to attend with their children and prizes were given after each session. We are grateful to the QWL for collaborating with us on this venture.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

SABA DAY PERFORMANCE



Two dance groups performed for the Saba Day performance this year. This included the Hip Hop group and the Ballet (Grades 1 – 3) group. The dancers were led by Tr. Roxana La Flor with a total of seven girls for the hip hop group and seven girls and one boy for the ballet group.



CHRISTMAS RECITAL: DANCE & DRUMMING PERFORMANCES



As all of the dance groups were not able to perform for Saba Day, Child Focus Foundation decided to host a finale performance for the year with all the dance groups, as well as the Djembe group (led by Teacher Budu Lavia). There were five dance groups: 3 ballet, 1 jazz, 1 hip hop with a total of 32 children performing (26 girls and 5 boys). The performance was well attended by parents and other members of the community. We look forward to hosting more recitals in the future so parents can see their child's progress throughout the year.



CONCLUSION

Child Focus Foundation ended the year with a Christmas Dinner at Brigadoon Restaurant, inviting the members of the Board, staff, volunteers, and bus drivers. This was necessary after an arduous year of adjusting to life with the pandemic and the effects it has had on Saba. For these hardworking people who spend their time working to ensure that children of Saba get to explore and showcase their talents, our appreciation knows no bounds and we value the contribution that each and every one of them makes.

We are pleased that we have met goals that we set out last year – promoting environmental awareness (through the poster competition and encouraging more arts and crafts projects using recycled and reusable items) and body positivity (through the Saba Doet project). More needs to be done in both of these aspects and we look forward to tackling these in 2022. Swim coach training for Coach Alejandro has also begun in August of 2021, funded by the Public Entity and we are grateful to have a qualified swim instructor on Saba soon.

One major goal for 2022 will be promoting culture on the island, through Arts, Dance and Music. This will only be possible with collaboration of all stakeholders, and with a qualified music teacher to host activities. We also hope to be able to offer more individualized activities for children with special needs and to plan more parent workshops or collaborate with Public Entity or Afterschool Care more to encourage parents to take a more active role in their children's lives. We look forward to serving the community on Saba in 2022 and working in tandem with other stakeholders more closely.



PROJECTED GOALS FOR 2022

January	Welcome new Arts Coordinator
February	Basketball Tournament with Statia
March	Saba Doet
April	Easter Family Day
May	Dance recital
June	Preparations for summer camp
July	Summer Camp
August	Preparations for new school year activities
September	Start of new activity schedule
October	Halloween Family Fun Day
November	Children's Rights Week
December	Saba Day activities Dance Recital

- More events for parents to see the children's progress / contribute to their children's progress
- Promote cultural arts on Saba
- Sports Coordinator completion of Swim Training