

**2016 In Review**

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**MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**

This is the time of the year that we all reflect on how quickly the year has passed and it is incredible to think that we will be celebrating Christmas in a few days, and in just a week after that, 2017 is on our doorstep.

The year 2016 has been a challenging, but most rewarding year for DeafNET and our beneficiaries. It has also been a year that has seen plenty of hard work undertaken which of course makes us all look forward to enjoying the holiday season.

We have celebrated the 10th year anniversary of our organisation which has been established with the vision to be a world class network of knowledge and expertise in the interest of people in Africa who experience hearing loss and related communication barriers. The cherry on the cake for our celebration was our DeafNET Africa Conference 2016 which was hosted at the Premier Hotel, Johannesburg South Africa and hosted 31 countries (26 African countries). This has been an amazing journey of excellent networking and service to our Deaf community.



On behalf of the team at DeafNET, please have a safe, blessed and pleasant festive season and we look forward to more networking and empowering service in the New Year.

Blessed Christmas.  
**Suzette Willems**  
CEO: DeafNET

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**THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

**DeafNET commemorates 10 years**

**01 July 2016**

DeafNET Centre of Knowledge (DeafNET), was established on July 1, 2006 and commemorated 10 years of delivering and supporting the Deaf community and Deaf Persons in and all around the African Continent with the support of our main sponsor, Stichting Friends of Effatha (SFE).



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**DeafNET 4th Africa Conference**

**Johannesburg: 26 – 30 September 2016**

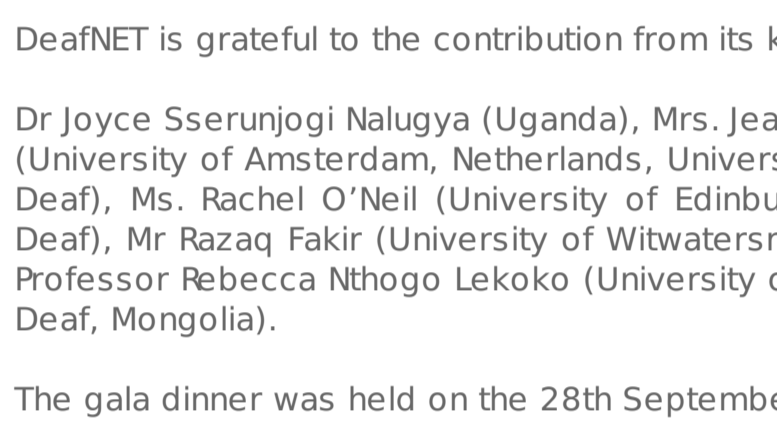
The 4th Africa conference was held in Johannesburg and it was well attended by all Africa regions including Northern Africa, Western Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands. The main purpose was to create a platform where the Deaf and Hearing Persons can interact, thereby strengthening and expanding new and existing networks. The conference called for a collective resolution to seek acknowledgment of the knowledge and skills that lies within the Deaf community and build partnerships to enable Deaf persons the access to education. This is achieved by working together and integrating services in benefit of the Deaf community for the achievement of our common development goals. The theme of the conference: "Deaf Education – Empowering Deaf Persons in Africa through knowledge" highlights the fact that Deaf persons have the human right to access education from early development stage.



**Pre-Conference Workshops included:**

**Red Star Training Method (Mrs Ina Senekal)**

The Red Star Training Method empowers teachers with the skills and methodology to impart reading and writing skills as well as sign language skills in Deaf Learners. It equips Deaf learners with literacy and communication abilities on levels earlier very difficult to achieve. Conference delegates had to participate in a practical lesson.



**Storytelling (Dr Ruth Morgan and Mr John Meletse)**

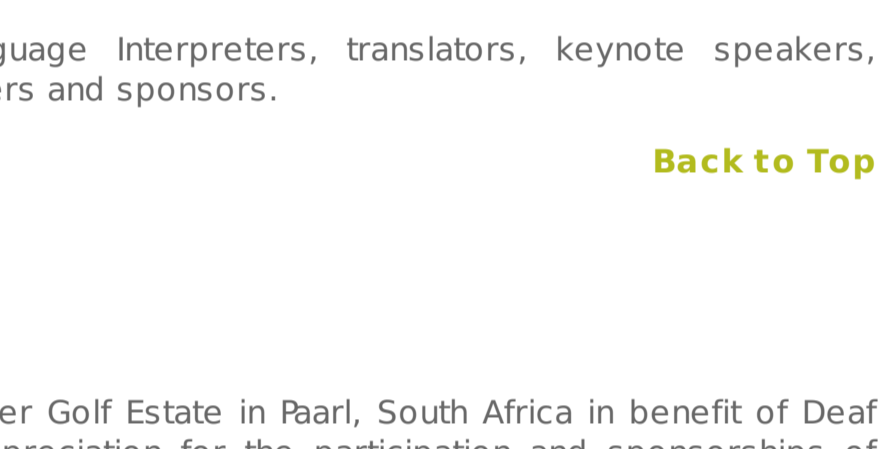
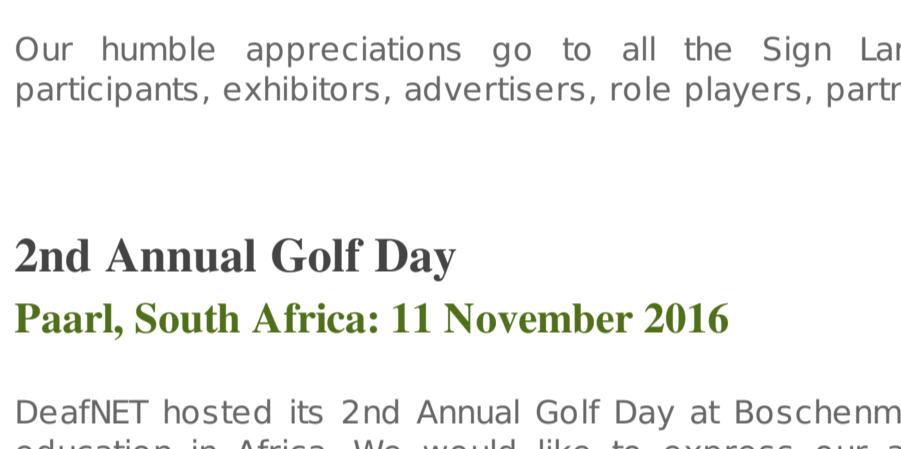
Deaf culture focuses on the stimulation of the eyes and the enhanced visual perceptiveness of Deaf individuals. Storytelling is important for the Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing persons to share their experience, however in a safe and secure way.

Storytelling is done through video about your life and journeys you had to take to be where you are. It is important for society to see the life from a Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing person's point of view. For the Deaf community it is ideal for the Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing people to share their stories so that the society that we live in can become aware of the difficulties the Deaf persons encounter on a daily basis.

DeafNET is grateful to the contribution from its keynote speakers; these included:

Dr Joyce Sserunjogi Nalugya (Uganda), Mrs. Jeannie Cook (De la Bat School, Worcester), Professor Anne Baker (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, University of Stellenbosch), Mrs. Ingrid Parkin (St Vince School for the Deaf), Ms. Rachel O'Neil (University of Edinburgh, Scotland), Mr. Deon de Villiers (National Institute for the Deaf), Mr Razaq Fakir (University of Witwatersrand), Dr Danny Titus (South African Human Rights Commission) Professor Rebecca Nthogo Lekoko (University of Botswana) and Ms Dulamsuren Jigjid (World Federation of the Deaf, Mongolia).

The gala dinner was held on the 28th September 2016 to celebrate DeafNET's 10th Birthday.



We were blessed with the presence of Dr Harma Defoury who represented our main sponsor of the conference, Stichting Friends of Effatha. The conference concluded with the election of the new DeafNET Africa Committee with Mr Braam Jordaan as the election officer.

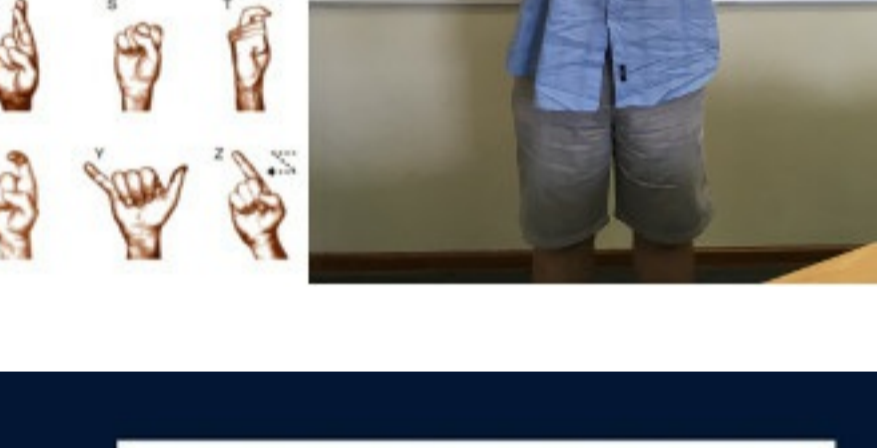
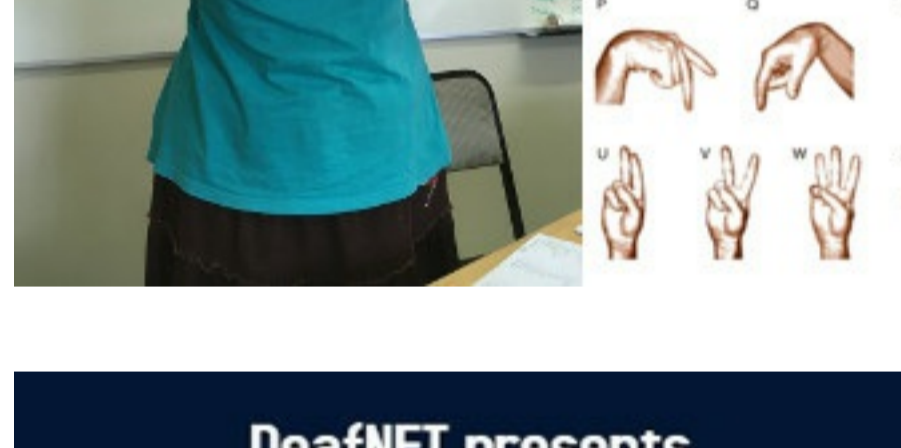
Our humble appreciations go to all the Sign Language Interpreters, translators, keynote speakers, participants, exhibitors, advertisers, role players, partners and sponsors.

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**2nd Annual Golf Day**

**Paarl, South Africa: 11 November 2016**

DeafNET hosted its 2nd Annual Golf Day at Boschenmeer Golf Estate in Paarl, South Africa in benefit of Deaf education in Africa. We would like to express our appreciation for the participation and sponsorships of individuals and companies to make our golf day a huge success. We have raised an amount of R 67000 during this fundraiser. We applaud Tusk Event Management who assisted us to make this event a success.



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**Basic SA Sign Language Training**

**Cape Town: December 2016**

DeafNET presented several Basic SA Sign Language training courses and workshops for individuals and learners in December 2016. The courses were facilitated by Eddie Tsubella, Sign Language & Communication Officer at DeafNET.

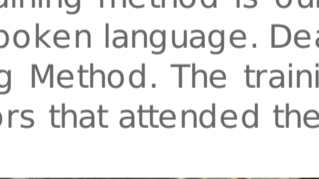


**DeafNET presents**


**1-Day Basic SA Sign Language Workshop for Learners**

Workshop Fees- R50 pp (Excl Meals)

**Grade 8 to 11 School Holiday Programme**



**Contact Eddie @ 073 064 3475**



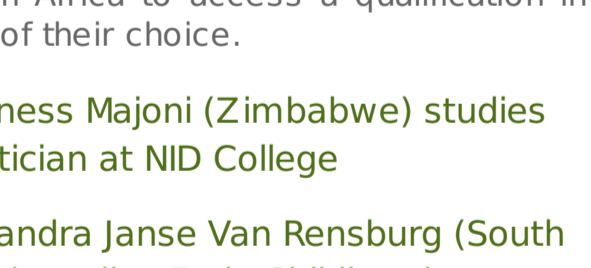
**WITH SIGN LANGUAGE, I AM EQUAL**

09H00-16H00  
5 Dec 2016  
DeafNET Offices  
30 De la Bat Rd, Worcester

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**Implementation of Red Star Training Method Zimbabwe**

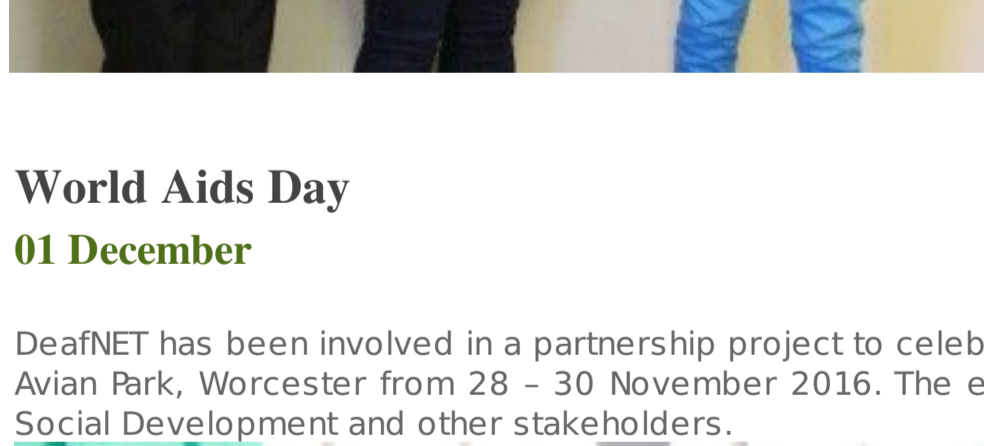
The Red Star training method is our flagship program and it was developed to bridge the gap between sign language and spoken language. DeafNET trained three educators of King George VI School in Zimbabwe in the Red Star Training Method. The training was facilitated by Mrs. Ina Senekal from De la Bat School for the Deaf and the educators that attended the training are implementing the method at their school with great success.



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**DeafNET Scholarship Program**

**Meet our Students**



DeafNET allocates a bursary to young Deaf girls from Africa to access a qualification in the field of their choice.

- Loveness Majoni (Zimbabwe) studies Beautician at NID College
- Cassandra Janse Van Rensburg (South Africa) studies Early Childhood Development – Level 5 at Compass Academy of Learning
- Ashleen Dammert (South Africa) studies Early Childhood Development – Level 5 at Compass Academy of Learning

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**World Aids Day**

**01 December**

DeafNET has been involved in a partnership project to celebrate World Aids Day 1 Dec. We had an exhibition in Avian Park, Worcester from 28 – 30 November 2016. The event was organised by the Department of Health, Social Development and other stakeholders.



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**DeafNET wishes you a happy holiday season; our sincere thanks for all the support and loyalty through-out 2016 and we look forward to connect with you again in 2017.**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



**SMS DeafNET to 48821 and Donate R10.00**

Contact Us	Fundraising & Communication Office
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