

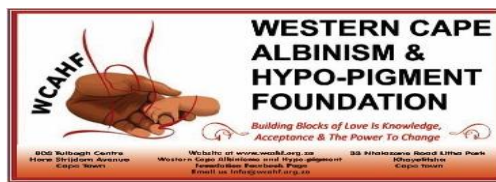
## **GOOD PRACTICE OF WESTERN CAPE ALBINISM AND HYPO-PIGMENT FOUNDATION (WCAHF)**

Western Cape Albinism and Hypo-pigment Foundation was found in 2012 and registered in 2013.

It was a call to fill the gap of inexistence organisation to promote and advance the cause of persons with albinism in the province of Western Cape. To avoid a spread of beliefs and superstitions about the condition as such they do not die just disappear when times come, they have a special power. These beliefs are due to lack of genetic information and ignorance affecting the life of person with albinism.

Therefore, persons with the condition of albinism come together to register the organisation to counterattack these beliefs, lack of genetic information and voice their causes within jurisdiction of the province of Western Cape. Indeed, in past years many persons with albinism have joined Blind Association due to a lack of an organisation dealing with their causes.

So, Western Cape Albinism and Hypo-pigment Foundation gives a platform to person with albinism to conduct projects which will carry a strong messages to the community about their ability and also to educate community about albinism and advance their causes, promote the right of persons with albinism due their skin challenges as visual impairment, skin cancer due to the lack of melanin and skin burns to the sun. Accordingly, persons with albinism need sunscreen lotion to protect their skins, long sleeves hat umbrella which are expensive and caused of trauma stigma and poverty to the family.



Aware of all these challenges the organisation conduct project to alleviate trauma, educate families, empower persons with albinism and boost their self esteem by the principle “Nothing about us without us”

## THE MAIN OBJECTIVES ARE

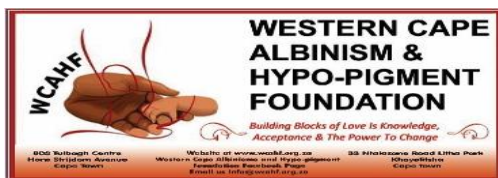
- To raise awareness of Albinism condition. Educate parents of children with albinism on how to take care of their skins
- Promote acceptance of children with albinism in the family and community at large
- Advocate for rights of persons with albinism such as right to reasonable accommodation at schools and work
- Work together with schools, universities to educate teachers and community about the condition of albinism and needs of persons with albinism
- Promote skills development that will empower persons with albinism to conduct projects to end prejudice and discrimination due to colour of their skin
- To alleviate trauma and stigma to family by boosting self esteem of their members

These objectives are in line to improve the life of persons with albinism who faces many challenges in their daily life

## Action of the organisation

First of all Western Cape Albinism and Hypo-pigment Foundation was sponsored by the Department of Social Development (DSD) from 2015-2017 which was a big achievement in terms of allowing us to rent facilities and conduct our projects. Above raising awareness and campaign about the condition of Albinism, the main project is an IT training centre with 5 computers with specific software of

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augmentative reading suitable to a person with albinism due to their low vision.

Then, the beneficiaries are receiving free IT training to skills them with necessary skills to compete in a job market. Boost their self esteem to seek job with IT Literacy skills. The beneficiaries once trained are placed to work for the organisation and other organisations in need of their skills. The IT training also empower them to conduct business project.

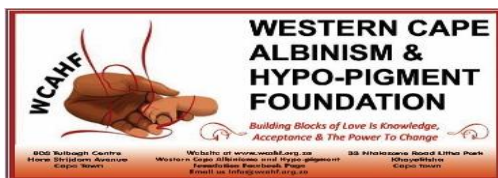
the organisation managed to place some beneficiaries at learnership position of 1 year with remuneration alleviating poverty in the same vein giving them an opportunity to gain work experience and get a permanent job.

It is a benefit of free IT literacy skills that have allowed them to be placed at various organisations and company in the province.

Today, the organization has partnered with COknowledge of the University of Cape Town to give free basic computers training to our beneficiaries and assist the organisation on IT matters. So, each week on a Friday 10h00-13h00 students from University of Cape Town teach basic computers literacy as Microsoft MS Office, Excel, powerpoint Internet to our beneficiaries

Secondly, a member of the organisation has published a book title: Albinism Biomedical Information Sociology and Human Rights Approaches to Disability. The book was launched at the centre for the book National Library and Central Library in Cape Town and National Library in Pretoria sponsored by Centre for Book.

The book is available in various municipal libraries as Bellville, Rondebosch, Parow, Claremont, Khayelitsha, Parliament Library (Western Cape Province) and National Library in Pretoria.



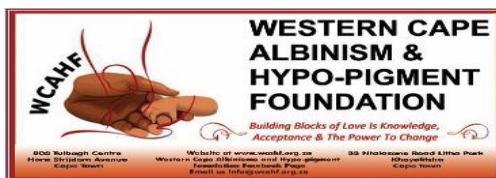
The book on Albinism was presented at the International Conference on Rare Diseases 11th summit from 19-22 October 2016 at Stellenbosch attended by more than 200 delegates of 22 countries attended the ICRD 2016. The discussion was on what can be done against stigma of albinism condition. Some suggestions were made to improve the life of persons with albinism and advocate their causes.

The book was presented on 22 November 2016 in Harare and Bulawayo through a partnership with Sign of Hope a Zimbabwe organisation and Alive Initiative Albinism in Zimbabwe which promote positive story of persons with disabilities and albinism in Zimbabwe. This partnership will assist us in terms of sharing positive and best practices on empowerment of persons with albinism and advocacy on disability.

Thirdly, there is a partnership with University of Cape Town (UCT) Human Genetics Department and Genetic Alliance of South Africa to network with expert in genetic. The partnership has helped to boost the knowledge of the genetic condition of albinism

So, in September, both Genetic Alliance and Human genetic department of University of Cape Town conduct campaign on genetic condition of which members of Western Cape Albinism and Hypo-pigment Foundation are invited to present and raise awareness about albinism

Fourthly, there is a partnership with the Department of Dermatologist of the University of Stellenbosch to learn about skin care and skin protection against cancer and early detection of cancer. The Department of Dermatology agreed to join us on awareness session at special school for the blind where many learners with albinism study in the same way at various local clinic



and radio station to raise awareness of skin care and early detection of skin cancer.

The partnership has also allowed us to contact some manufacturers pharmaceuticals as Eucerine and Beiersdorf which agreed donate and provide us with lotion and sunscreen protection.

So the company Beiersdorf had donated 100 bottle of sun screen lotion Nivea spf30 which was delivered and handover at special school for the blind in February 2017 and the project will continue in various clinics.

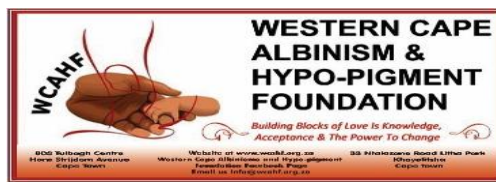
Fifthly, the organisation has secured sponsorship from the Department of Trade and Industry to raise awareness in the province

Sixthly, the organisation has partnered with the National Department of Arts and Culture (DAC ) and provincial department of Arts Culture Social Cohesion and Nation Building target group of disability programme and held a celebration of Albinism 5 month in September 2018 in Langa Cape Town where attended more than 600 persons. The National Department of Arts and Culture also sponsored a workshop on drama to learners with albinism at special school for the blind of Cape Town.

The Organisation partner with Arts Cape to celebrate International Albinism Awareness Day at Arts Cape on 13 June 2019 and conducted a music sponsored by ARTS Cape and music concert stage was shared by learners and youth with albinism which was an opportunity to boost self esteem of persons with albinisms.

The organisation has partnered with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) to celebrate Albinism awareness 5 month of September.

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