



## Celebrating Relational Child & Youth Care Practice: Connecting around the World

### LESIBA MOLEPO (70-00016)

Member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work

We are excited that we are celebrating **International Child and Youth Care Week 2024**. We need to remind ourselves about the nature of our work, which is being connected with those we serve. No matter how busy we get with operational matters, let us not neglect being relational with one another – i.e., with those we serve, as well as with those who provide the service, throughout the world. Let us expand our horizon and reach out to those whom we would normally not reach. In that way, we can make a meaningful impact to alleviate pain and suffering through our work. *Let us all strive to instill hope!*

### VAROSHINI NADESAN (10-10156)

Member of the 5<sup>th</sup> Professional Board for Social Work

Relational practice is critical to establishing and maintaining relationships and ways of connecting with children and young people. It is critical to be supportive and caring in all spheres of practice. As a registered social worker and a registered child and youth care worker, I share the concerns of social service professionals about the state and care of our children, particularly those children who suffer at the hands of adults, wars and strife. **International Child and Youth Care Week 2024** provides us with an opportunity to introspect and address the shortfalls in our work with Society's most vulnerable. *May we be good role models to our children and young people.*

### MERLE ALLSOPP (70-00013)

Member of the 5<sup>th</sup> South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP)

One of the paradoxes about child and youth care work is that our practice is not simple or straightforward, but when it is done well, it can appear 'easy' to the outsider. *This is a week in which the complexity of child and youth care work is acknowledged, and the skill that it takes to work with hurting young people is forefront in our minds.* In this week child and youth care workers are honoured – right across the world. We focus on the importance of a profession that allows us to influence children and youth and their families to engage with their worlds in positive and helpful ways – no matter how difficult those circumstances. We celebrate child and youth care workers who 'hang in there' with young people; who overcome rejection and hopelessness, to build competencies and connections. Our country needs you. Thank you for your commitment to children and families. Thank you for your hard work. We value this serious professional endeavour. Thank you.

Scan the QR codes and connect

Download the *CYC-Online May 2024* (No. 303) on Celebrating Relational Child and Youth Care Practice: Around the World  
#CYCWeek2024



### ANDRÉ VIVIERS (10-12729)

Member of the 5<sup>th</sup> South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP)

About connecting around the world, child and youth care work and relationships. Round-and-about 30 years ago my professional journey as a social worker crossed the pathway of the child and youth care work profession. At that time, a profession in the next phase of its journey of professional development within a brand new democracy. I was both fascinated and puzzled about this profession – and my compassion for children with a good dose of curiosity helped to unfold the many layers of the profession called child and youth care work. And that is how my relationship with our sister profession started and became part of my professional journey. My understanding of child and youth care work has its core in connecting with child and youth care work professionals in South Africa and from across the world. All contributed to my better understanding of child and youth care work (and recommended loads of books to read) and how child and youth care workers are an integral and essential part of the multi-disciplinary approach in social services, and in my case particular in residential care.

Now, during **International Child and Youth Care Week 2024**, I also celebrate my 30 year journey with child and youth care work, and when I reflect on this year's theme of "*Celebrating Relational Child & Youth Care Practice: Connecting around the World*" I realised that the value of my three decade journey lies in the quality of the relationships that developed over this time and not necessarily the "who" of these relationships. And it is this depth and quality of relationships that empowered me to understand child and youth care work, respect the profession as a peer and enriched my professional journey.

In celebrating **International Child and Youth Care Week 2024**, I also celebrate those child and youth care workers who engaged and challenged me to understand and respect your profession. Wishing all child and youth care workers and auxiliary child and youth care workers a week to linger a bit and *reflect on the theory and practice that make child and youth care work a profession and how it impacts on the lives of children.*

## Celebrating Relational CYC Practice:



International Child & Youth Care Week  
May 6-12, 2024



### FRANCISCO CORNELIUS (90-00299)

Member of the 5<sup>th</sup> South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP)

Over many years the work or intervention of child and youth care workers across the world is underplayed as assisting other professionals, and sadly so. The establishing of qualifications and Professional Board in South Africa is certainly a plus factor for the many child and youth care workers in the country and it paved the way for many to obtain higher qualifications and hold senior positions in the different sectors, especially in social services and education. It is important therefore that Council, the Professional Board and Professional Associations, reinforce the need for inter-disciplinary services for the vulnerable children and people in our communities. It is equally important to recognise the value of these different categories of professionals in services to the vulnerable communities. As we celebrate **International Child and Youth Care Week 2024** with the theme, "*Celebrating Relational Child & Youth Care Practice: Connecting around the World*" let us acknowledge the success of the interventions of child and youth care workers worldwide. Long may you continue to be a force to be reckoned with, especially in the lives of the many vulnerable children of the world. *Thank you for your unselfish intervention of their needs.*

### NICOLETTE VAN DER WALT (10-05929)

Member of the 5<sup>th</sup> South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP)

I salute the efforts, hard work, dedication, strength and love that child and youth care workers put into their work to make positive changes in the lives of children and their families. *Let us all celebrate each and every child and youth care worker, not just this week, but every day, as beacons of hope, champions of change, bringers of blessings and world makers.* Thank you, colleagues – may you too be blessed.

#CYCWeek2024  
#SACSSP



CONNECT with the *International Child and Youth Care Network (CYC-Net)* for information sharing, discussion, networking, support and accountable practice amongst all who work with children, youth and families in difficulty across the world.  
#CYCWeek2024

