SIMON'S TOWN SCHOOL
LAWHILL MARITIME CENTRE
Celebrating 20 years of operation in 2015

LAWHILL FUNDING PRIORITIES – 2015/2016

Operating for 20 years, Lawhill Maritime Centre is a non-racial establishment that introduces young people to the maritime industry and exposes them to a variety of exciting career opportunities at sea or ashore. Our learners come from financially-challenged backgrounds, many are from single-parent homes (some are orphans), and the overwhelming majority come from townships or informal settlements.

Despite the disadvantages that life has dealt them, they display determination to do their best and a most positive work ethic and we are immensely proud of our alumni's track record of success.

The Lawhill Maritime Centre is committed to continuing this track record of success into the future by embarking on new projects which support sustainable skills development and improve the access of young South Africans, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to the economy and in particular, to the maritime sector.

The Lawhill Maritime Centre is also determined to maintain the high standards associated with the Centre, despite the many financial constraints we face. The education, welfare and safety of the young people placed in our care are of primary importance to us and as the number of students studying and boarding at Lawhill increases, so too do our financial commitments.

Of particular concern are the increasing cost of utilities, especially as a result of hikes in electricity and water tariffs, and the effect those are having on our operating costs and also on food prices, the latter also being escalated by large increases in the price of petrol and diesel. We have also incurred increased and unexpected transportation and medical costs and require financial assistance in this regard.

The Lawhill Maritime Centre is entirely funded by donations and grants - we do not receive any State support for our programme, despite being part of a government school.

All financial donations to the Lawhill Maritime Centre are monitored and administered by the Bursar at Simons Town School and are audited annually by an independent firm of chartered accountants. Copies of the latest financial statements are available on request.

CURRENT FUNDING PRIORITIES

Our current priority projects include:

1. **PROVIDING EXTRA MATHS AND SCIENCE LESSONS. BUDGET ESTIMATE: R60 000 – R100 000**

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Mathematics and physical science are gateway subjects and a quality pass in these subjects is essential for our learners to be accepted for tertiary maritime studies.

The majority of learners joining the Lawhill programme in Grade 10 have not had access to quality mathematics and science education. The problem often has its roots in primary school, where learners were not given the opportunity to gain even the most basic of mathematical skills and as such, many have moved on to secondary school without the necessary foundational competence in these subjects.

The extra mathematics and science classes provided by Lawhill give learners the opportunity to master the basic mathematics and science concepts they need in order to benefit from the mathematics and science instruction provided in the higher grades. (Note: Basic concepts are generally not taught at this level as it is assumed that learners would have acquired and already understood those concepts. However, dysfunctional schools and ill-qualified teachers translate into learners not being at the required level of understanding and therefore, the backlog has to be addressed via extra lessons.)

The extra lessons we provide are aimed specifically at improving the learners' chances of achieving the pass they need which makes it possible for them to gain entry to studies at a tertiary education institution such as the Maritime Studies Department at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and ultimately, move into the workplace as sea-going officers.

Each year, Lawhill requires funding for a minimum of four lessons (three extra mathematics and one science lesson) per week, throughout the school year. Additional lessons may be accommodated on weekends in the lead up to exams.

Please note that the teachers involved are both experienced teachers and are also qualified ships' officers who, besides time in the classroom (about 2 hours per session), mark assignments in their respective subjects.

2. EQUIPPING A NEW ELECTRONIC NAVIGATION TRAINING CLASSROOM – BUDGET ESTIMATE MINIMUM: R120 000

From 2016, Electronic Chart Display Systems (ECDIS) will be used on most ships and, given certain requirements, the use of paper charts for navigation will be phased out. Increasingly, therefore, our learners will have to use this system when they get on board ships.

We have submitted a funding proposal to build an additional training unit at Lawhill that will prepare our learners for the mandatory, advanced navigation course that they need to complete at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology once they have left Lawhill and before they board their first ship.

In addition, because the training suites in the Electronic Navigation Training Facility will have a wide-ranging navigation training capacity, Lawhill learners will be exposed to a variety of simulated exercises so that they can apply their knowledge to almost real-life situations, e.g. collision avoidance, navigation in channels and waterways, approaches to harbours, and even helping them to understand some elementary concepts such as the length of time it takes a vessel to stop or to turn, etc.

A revised Nautical Science syllabus, which will introduce Grade 11 and 12 learners to these systems, is currently being discussed with the Independent Examining Board, the examining body for the subject at National Senior Certificate level.

Besides our application to another prospective donor to fund the building of the new classroom at Lawhill to accommodate this training, funding is also required for equipping the classrooms with the necessary work stations ie computers, desks, chairs etc. The cost of doing so is estimated to be in the region of around R120 000 (minimum estimate).

3. FURNISHING AND FITTINGS FOR AN ADDITIONAL SIX CABINS. BUDGET ESTIMATE: MINIMUM R60 000 or R5000 per new learner

The enlargement of our training facilities (ie the building of a new classroom for electronic navigation instruction) will make it possible for Lawhill to accommodate an additional 12 learners.

Increasing our learner intake will give even more young South Africans from all over the country an opportunity to benefit from our programmes. This, in turn, will improve their chances of selection for entry to tertiary maritime educational institutions and ultimately, they will stand a better chance of selection by shipping companies to begin their seagoing careers.

Our proposals for extending our current facilities include plans to build an additional six two-berth cabins ie to accommodate an additional 12 learners. An estimated budget of R55 000 – based on the cost estimates below - is required to equip these six cabins with furnishings and fittings.

OTHER

4. IT EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE, WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Replacing ageing IT equipment/infrastructure to improve the efficiency of our operation. Budget would include the cost of regular maintenance of our infrastructure by an experienced IT person as well as a budget to continue the development of our website and for printing consumables etc.

5. FUNDING PRODUCTION OF E-LEARNING MATERIAL: NAUTICAL SCIENCES

6. **FUNDING IN SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING (SUCCESSION) - SALARY FOR MINIMUM 6 MONTHS, PREFERABLY 1 YEAR**
7. **SPONSORING STUDENT BURSARIES, AS AND WHEN REQUIRED (this requires a THREE YEAR COMMITMENT)**
8. **SECURITY UPGRADES TO OUR BUILDING (Surveillance system)**
9. **STUDENT TRANSPORT COSTS**
10. **STUDENT MEDICAL COSTS**
11. **BUILDING MAINTENANCE**
12. **PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS INCLUDING (BROCHURES, PHOTOS/FRAMING, EXHIBITION STANDS ETC)**

Please see the Wishlist on www.lawhill.org for additional funding requirements.

We thank you for your interest in and support of Lawhill and for your kind consideration of the abovementioned.

We look forward to your support.

Debbie Owen

LAWHILL MARITIME CENTRE

Please find below the banking details, should you wish to support any of the abovementioned projects/priorities.

- *Account name: Simons Town School : Lawhill House Account*
- *Bank: First National Bank*
- *Branch: Fish Hoek*
- *Branch Code : 202309*
- *Account no : 620 331 222 01*