

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Background

Soil for Life is now in its 4th year of existence as an independent and sustainable non-profit organisation.

In the year ended February 2006 the organisation attained significant achievements in the advancement of sustainable organic food gardening in poor communities. It is currently involved in 27 schemes throughout the Western Cape.



Strategy Defined

In May 2006 the management and directorate of Soil for Life undertook a renewal of its strategy in order to enhance the focus and ongoing success of the organisation.

One outcome of this was to clearly identify the role of the directorate and the board. An expanded board of directors was appointed to reflect a broad range of strategic, organisational, legal and financial skills. The Board members are:

- Roy Silver
- Andy Du Plessis
- Margaret Gwegwe
- Thea Heunis
- Pat Featherstone
- Moira Chmielewski



Our Vision and Mission

The vision of Soil for Life is based on a fundamental and inspiring truth best expressed by Miguel Altieri in the words:

'We have within our grasp the ability to feed the world and conserve its irreplaceable resource'

Our Vision

Is to 'significantly improve the nutritional and economic status of individuals and communities'.

Our Mission

Is to 'educate and train people in organic food gardening using water-wise, low-cost, environmentally-friendly technologies in order to grow a lot of food in small spaces.'

Organisational Sustainability

We have contained our pattern of annual income exceeding our expenses (see financial report) and we believe the future is assured through prudent financial management, effective fundraising and the generation of income through the provision of high quality services.

Special thanks

Soil for Life acknowledges the tireless dedication of Pat Featherstone, our multi-talented Operations Director.

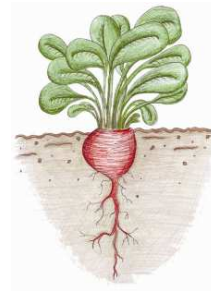
I would also like to thank all the other members of our talented team - Moira Chmielewski, Fabian Harms, Caro Sabaggha, Miriam Khatib, Sandy Lewis, Mildred Nyemezi, Edith Mwezo, Nokwanda Mgweto, Joan Featherstone, Lucas Besset and Pumzile Njadu.

Cindy Buske of Ithembaletu Professional Fundraising deserves special acknowledgement for the important role she plays as our fundraiser

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to our donors, sponsors, suppliers and supporters without whom we would not be able to achieve our goals.

Roy Silver, Chairperson

OPERATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Soil FOR Life. Soil IS life.

Soil is the very essence of our business.

We started the year surrounded by a desert of exposed soil and rubble at the height of a drought, sitting in two 'sheds' in a dust bowl that was gouged from the remains of a rubbish dump. The southeaster blew clouds of 'dirt' into our 'offices, the heat was debilitating, and most of the plants that we had salvaged from our eight year old garden were looking in pretty poor shape. A tough start to what was to be a tough year. One looks back with reluctance, but reflect we must, because that is the way to learn and grow and become more effective at what we do.

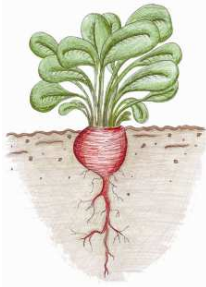


With a team of committed people the site for our new Training and Resource Centre has been transformed from a plan on paper, and a desert on the ground, to a veritable paradise for an enormous variety of plants and animals, and of course the many visitors who come to buy seeds and plants, and to ask advice. We acquired additional timber buildings to accommodate our tools and materials and, of course, our staff, built a composting toilet and turned the surrounding bush into a large veggie and herb patch. Our embryonic nursery has generated a fair income through sales of herbs and vetiver grass and we see this, not only as a source of revenue, but also as an opportunity to cut our materials costs and to train our staff and community groups in

plant propagation and to provide another opportunity to create self-employment.

Apart from 'growing' our own garden, the team has been through a rigorous training schedule. Six basic food gardening courses run at the Resource Centre contributed to the early development of the garden and provided the skills for people from all walks of life to start new initiatives, either at their own homes, or, as is the case with the Dietetic students from the University of Cape Town, to train others to do the same. In fact, there are regular letters from the students from around the country with questions that need to be answered about pest control, seasonal plantings and more, or just with news of their accomplishments. It gives a sense of great achievement when trainees come back with stories of joy and amazement at how well their home and community gardens are growing, and what impact their newfound knowledge and skills have had in their communities. There's nothing like a flourishing vegetable garden to enthuse folk and to stimulate an interest in what we're aiming to achieve – a food-growing culture in the Western Cape.





OPERATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued)

A further 22 basic training courses (for just under 400 participants) were carried out in the communities in which we focus our efforts and these resulted in the development of many new food gardens. The City of Cape Town sponsored ten of these courses, and a short follow-up programme for each group. However, there are sadly many people who do not persist with their gardening endeavours, and gardens full of magnificent vegetables and herbs are often abandoned to Nature, for the insects and birds to enjoy the harvest. Opportunities for betterment are thrown to the wind; a senseless waste of time and money. It is only the committed folk who realise their own potential, but also the benefit from the physical, mental and spiritual health that comes from having their hands in the soil.



We undertook to run the food gardening programme for Ikamva Labantu for the year. This started with a two-day training course for twenty-two members of their staff, and was followed by nine training sessions in different areas and resulted in the development of twelve gardens, many of which were outstanding. In fact, the winners of the gardening prizes at our annual competition in November 2005 were Ikamva groups.

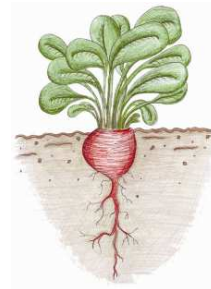
Compost workshops in Genadendal highlighted for us the efforts that are being made to encourage people to utilise what they have to improve their way of life. Composting toilets and earthworm bins were provided to this small rural community so that the human waste generated by each household could be put to good use by fertilising the soil and growing healthy crops. Soil for Life took part in the training process.



A partnership with Quaker Peace developed over the year as we ran a series of Food Processing and Preserves workshops in Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain. The rationale behind these was twofold. First, they provide a way of dealing with the excess produce from vegetable gardens (thereby reducing waste) and, in so doing, add value to the produce and, secondly, to provide a means of generating an income. These courses have been run in some of the most unlikely places – community halls, clinics and classrooms – anywhere other than in a kitchen. The participants have made jams, curds, pickles, atjars and chutneys, and have learnt how easy it is to dry fruit, vegetables and herbs on simple racks in the

Cape Summers. For many it is a first time experience, and they are proud to return home at the end of the two days with bottles of exciting preserves (no artificial colourants and flavourings; 100% natural ingredients) tucked under their arms. Costing the products and their marketing within the community are also discussed in these sessions. We look forward to seeing some competition with the supermarkets! Special mention here goes to Edith Mwezo from Driftsands who has been our assistant at all these workshops. She has done a very fine job and is now a very competent make of jam and chutney.

OPERATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued)



Our mentorship programme ran through the year, with all the groups we trained being a part of it. Not only does this provide support and motivation to new trainees lacking the confidence to start and handle a garden, but it also gives on-going training which ‘grows’ the people to grow the plants.

Soil for Life’s public face was enhanced by our presence at The Natural and Organics Expo in Cape Town and the Earth Water Fire Air Festival. We also took part in GreaterGood South Africa’s Giving Exchange at the Waterfront and the *Just-Do-It-Day*. At this latter event about 20 volunteers came together at the Sinethemba project in Gugulethu and helped to build a nursery, set up water tanks, erect wind breaks, dig vegetable beds and make compost heaps. It was a great time for building friendships whilst making things happen on the ground. Our thanks to GGSA for making it happen.



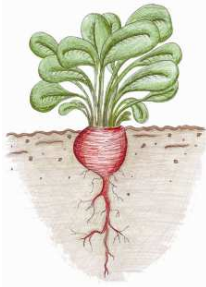
Perhaps the highlight of the year was the launch of the Masihlume Soup Kitchen at Driftsands. Linked to two gardens, and with a band of five women to run it, this small kitchen in two abandoned containers has been selling soup, vetkoek and vegetables to the locals. It creates a small income which has recently been boosted with the sales of jam, muffins and biscuits, all made in the kitchen. In fact, Soil for Life has supported the kitchen by ordering muffins, lemon cordial and jams for refreshments at workshops. Biblionef provided books to boost the small library for the neighbouring children, and there is also a jungle gym donated to encourage the children to visit. Special mention goes to the Dietetic students from the University of Cape Town who helped with the training of the group in health and hygiene and showed them how to prepare simple, low-cost, nutritious meals.

The Department of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation invited us to be a part of their Cluster programme in Mitchell’s Plain and have provided us with funding for three years to run the same. This is an exciting challenge and we look forward to having the opportunity of working with the department, and with some new groups. It also gives us a chance to develop our programme – **‘While our gardens grow...’**

Wherever one works one is faced with the problem that people do not have the money to buy what they need. Our work is to ensure that they have easy access to safe, fresh, healthy food, but this does not necessarily mean that there is sufficient produce to sell to provide the cash for their other requirements. This is what motivated us to focus our future work on improving people’s economic status, as well as their nutrition.



Soil for Life has committed itself to finding ways and means of creating opportunities for food gardeners to expand their horizons beyond the garden fence, to develop their skills and talents in such a way that they are able to earn the money to buy all they need for a healthy life and to pay for education and social services.



OPERATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued)

The aim is to run three programmes - initially in succession and ultimately in conjunction with one another – to create a hierarchy of activities which will contribute towards breaking the cycle of poverty. The activities will assist and support each other, and there will always be a firm base where individuals and households are ensured of a supply of food.

- **All** participants in the programme will be part of the bottom food-growing tier to ensure an adequate supply of fresh, nutritious food for themselves and their households at all times. After all, *FOOD COMES FIRST*. When people become aware that they can help themselves by growing some food easily and at virtually no cost, and that they will receive on-going support in their efforts from Soil for Life, hope and confidence are restored. They are in a better position to start building up their own lives, so that they can become an asset to society, instead of a drain on the State. The food gardeners will grow vegetables, fruit and herbs for home consumption, and also for local sales and exchanges.
- **Some, if not all**, of the individuals from the food gardening tier may elect to join the second stage of the programme by enrolling for skills training of their choice which will lead to self-, or group, employment. Since food gardening is not a fulltime occupation there is always time to engage in income generating activities **whilst the gardens grow**. This would include designing and embroidering bed and table linen, bag-, hat- and blind- making, fabric painting, candle- and soap-making, picture frames, cushion covers, jams and pickles, food-drying, essential oil production, health and beauty products, cooking and baking, plant propagation and seed saving. It would also entail linking people with job opportunities – for example, nurserymen grow decorative plants for catering companies and indoor garden displays for weddings, conferences and festive occasions.
- The third tier in the programme will provide the opportunity for unlocking the potential of emerging entrepreneurs and small businesses that grow out of the second tier, by providing business skills specifically targeted at these survivalists and start-up marketers.

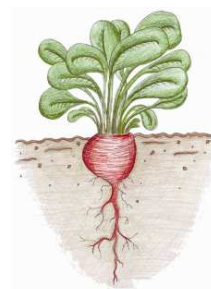


The rationale behind this programme - *Poverty is the chief reason why people go hungry; they do not have access to food, they are too poor to grow enough or to buy enough food, they do not have the money to exercise effective demand in the market.*

Poverty needs to be tackled on many levels. This system can be easily established in different areas, using existing, and new, gardening projects as the foundations. Once gardens are established and are growing and producing their harvests, the time and energy of the gardeners is channeled into the acquisition of skills and the production of marketable products and services.

The establishment of a network of these systems in different areas leads to co-operative activities that broaden the base of the programme and multiply the spin-offs. This will be the focus of our work in 2006 and thereafter. Gardens will be planted with financial opportunities in mind, as well as the physical, mental and spiritual health and well-being of the gardeners.

OPERATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued)



To prepare our staff for the entrepreneurial side of this venture, the team, together with Nettie Koekemoer of Touws River, underwent the Agriplanner training course devised by the South African Institute of Entrepreneurship. With the training materials in hand, several groups have benefited from this input, and are starting to realize that by carefully planning the use of their land, there is an opportunity to make money. The lesson for successful production: *Plan your work. Work your plan.* (and make sure you thoroughly research your market before planting!) Thanks to the sponsorship provided by DG Murray Trust, we have the skills and the materials to train a further 100 people in agricultural entrepreneurship.

Quite apart from working with communities, we have also needed to concentrate on building up the company. During 2005 *The Support Office*, a registered recruitment company, has committed itself, as its project in social enterprise, to assist and facilitate our organisational development. This is being accomplished through a non-monetary investment whereby the board members of *The Support Office* make a contribution to the development of Soil for Life by offering knowledge, expertise and specialised assistance in various agreed areas. We are deeply grateful to them for this very valuable input.



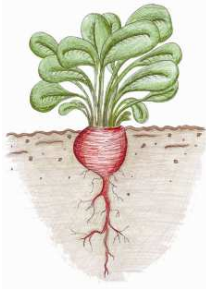
To all the staff – deepest thanks for your commitment to the people with whom you work. I admire you all for your dedication to the job at hand. Keep going strong, with your eyes focused on the top of the mountain. We need you to help us to realise our vision for a better world for all. We have learned many lessons this past year, but perhaps the most important of all is that *'until one is committed there is hesitancy; the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation) there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans. That the moment one definitely commits oneself, then providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favour all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no-one could have dreamt would come their way...* (Johan Wolfgang von Goethe). I believe that we have seen this to be true in the year that has followed.

Sincere thanks go to the outgoing members of our Advisory Committee – Jozua Lamprecht, Dilshaad De Vries, Beau Horgan, Marion Charleston and Betty Hanratty – for their considerable input over the last three years. Between them they have a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience which they have made freely available to us. It is to them that we owe our existence and the successes that we have had. Thank you.

To our current Board members, we look forward to a long and productive time together, working always to make a significant and positive difference to the lives and livelihoods of the people, and to impact positively on the health of this ailing planet and one of our most precious resources, the soil. Without it there would be no life.

The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, and death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no human community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.

(Global Health in Crisis; the answer lies in the soil - Alan Rosenberg and Thomas Linders)



FINANCIAL REVIEW

For the period March 2005 to February 2006

This is the third financial year for Soil for Life as a Section 21 Company and a non-profit organisation. Other than the registration with all relevant official institutions, we have been granted a SARS IT12E1 form for tax exemption which means that we are no longer liable for payment of the Skills Development Levy and company taxes and that donations made to the organisation are claimable against tax.

All monthly returns were furnished timeously for this financial year.

Cape Accounting Services cc audited the books for the current financial year and funds for which the company acted as a financial conduit were audited by separate independent auditors.

Income was generated by a number of training and support programmes:

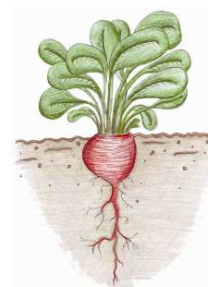
- Touws River Projects were funded by the Department of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation. This training and support programme was first embarked upon in 2003 and was subsequently allocated interim funding at the beginning of the 2004 fiscal. The contract was then extended until June 2005. Soil for Life supported this, and other food gardening projects in the Western Cape for the balance of this financial year without any additional funding from the Department.
- The establishment of a cluster of projects in Mitchell's Plain is also being funded by the Department of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation. This programme is to run from February 2006 to February 2008. The first tranche payment was received at the end of December 2005, falling into the 2006 fiscal, the balance of which has been carried over into the 2007 financial year.
- The partnership with Ikamva Labantu was forged in February 2005 and work continued until the end of the financial year.
- The City of Cape Town (Departments of Economic Development and Tourism and Social Development) again requested training workshops and follow-up programmes for numerous garden projects in the city. These generated almost R122 000.00. These projects received further support from the City in the form of seeds and seedlings to the value of R12 500.00.
- Quaker Peace contracted Soil for Life for Food Processing workshops for groups in Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain which brought in over R45 000.00.
- The Department of Agriculture provided various groups with seeds, seedlings, trees and herb plants. They also assisted projects by supplying them with water tanks, drip irrigation systems, fencing and compost.
- Ad hoc training workshops were run during the year. These included groups from Nceduluntu Sanctuary, Kayamandi, Warmth, Walter Teka (sponsored by Truworths) and students from the UCT Dietetics Unit. Courses were also held for interested members of the public at the Soil for Life Resource Centre.
- There was an increase in membership and in ad hoc sales of plants and seeds. Donations amounting to R71 500.00 boosted our reserves.

It was a tough year for the company. Financial resources had to be stretched to the limit to make it possible to help as many people as possible, and it became clear to the staff that it was essential to re-look at the fundraising side of the operation. To this end, the decision was taken to employ a fund development manager on a part-time basis to take the pressure off the day-to-day business activities.

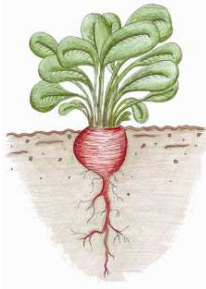
Audited financial statements for the 2005-2006 financial year are available on request.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

for the year ending 28th February 2006



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW			
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 28 FEBRUARY 2006			
Accumulated funds			184374
INCOME			945997
Funding received			599838
Donations	71,536		
Administration fee	31,044		
Funds	474,365		
Ad-hoc workshops	11,323		
Ad-hoc sales including accrual	8,340		
Membership	3,230		
Funding received for 2007			246895
Social Services Mitchell's Plain	175311		
Social Services Mitchell's Plain	71584		
Financial conduit funds			92850
DG Murry Trust Agriplanner	90000		
RUAF conference	2850		
Interest received			3207
EXPENDITURE			-818830
Accounting fee			
Accreditation fees			
Advertising & promotions			14125
Auditors remuneration			3500
Bank charges			4354
Communications accrual	2292		32099
Community resources accrual	4721		214040
Computer expenses accrual	15474		1268
Courier and postage			1468
Depreciation			24410
Electricity & Water accrual	168		929
Fund raising expenses			11228
Insurance			8829
Levies accrual	938		912
Material development			
Motor vehicle expenses accrual	1530		37745
Interest paid			6856
Printing and stationery			3670
Recourse Centre accrual	2955		35639
Salaries and wages accrual	364,826.00		411889
PAYE	47,343.00		
UIF	2,901.48		
medical	4,875.22		
Security			3538
Staff training and welfare			1645
Subscriptions			686
Net profit / loss			127167



TO DONORS, FRIENDS AND PARTNERS — our grateful thanks.

We couldn't have done it without you.

Soil for Life values the support and camaraderie of all those individuals, organisations and corporates that have assisted us in our quest to help people to help themselves to a better life.

- The Departments of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation and Agriculture for your on-going contribution to the development of projects.

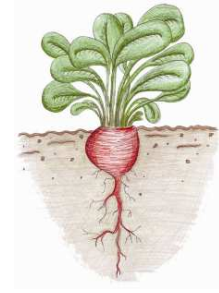


- Johan Van Vuuren and Francois Richter from the Department of Agriculture for always bearing us in mind when there are materials available for our gardeners.
- The staff and the Board of Trustees of the Constantia Waldorf School for their belief in what we're doing, for sharing their resources with us, and to the learners at the school for their enthusiastic support of our garden and seed and seedling service.
- DG Murray Trust for funding the Agriplanner.
- Ikamva Labantu (staff and project members) for giving us the opportunity to get your food gardening programme on the road.
- The City of Cape Town for giving us so much work.
- Radio 786 for the opportunity to go on air to share 'the message' and for giving us space at your health fairs.
- Miriam Khatib, who worked with us for a short time during the year, but has spent many hours promoting our work, and teaching people our methods, on a voluntary basis.
- Sandy Ellis-Brown and the staff of Custom Covers for being so generous with shadecloth off-cuts.
- The Garden Shop (Doordrift Road, Constantia) for the loan of plants for the Cape Horticulture Show.
- Topfell for the constant supply of logs (to build bed borders) and wood chips to hold the soil moisture.
- Charl Pienaar of BKS Engineering for shadenetting to cover community nurseries.
- Willem Myburgh and Basil Snyders (City of Cape Town) for the mountains of organic waste they delivered to gardens for mulching and trench-filling.
- Biophile Magazine for giving us a website.



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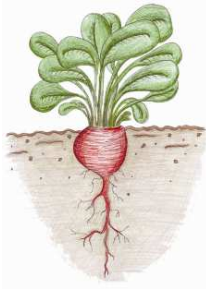


- Tommy Terpend for his help with our vehicles.
- Adi Pfaff for an on-going supply of unsprayed lemons for preserve workshops.
- Cash donations from Marjorie Lever, Noel Marten, David Wheeler, Fruit and Veg City(Tokai), David Irving, Aisha Zubillga and Nicky Chrisodoulides
- Patrick Dowling for trees for Arbor Day



- Gill Bowden for the jungle gym for the Driftsands Garden.
- Stella Gironi from Intaba Flowers for the boxes of proteas for the Driftsands soup kitchen launch.
- Fruit and Veg City for a cash donation.
- Memo Communications for office furniture.
- Biblioneef for books for the Driftsands Library.
- Old Mutual for sun visors for Greater Good South Africa Do-It-Day.
- Molicar Investments – R2 000 for the Driftsands Soup Kitchen.
- Starke Ayres Garden Centre, Ferndale Nursery, Dr Boomslang, Super Plants Tokai and Western Cape Seedlings, Reliance Compost, Woolworths, Constantia Village and Peninsula School Feeding Association for donations of prizes and food for our AGM 2004.
- All those people who helped us with providing recycling materials for soup[kitchens, plant pots for nurseries and much, much more.

Thank you, one and all.

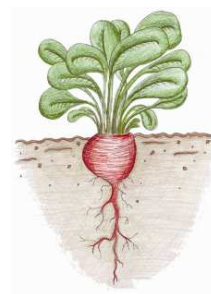


HOW CAN **YOU** GET INVOLVED IN THE WORK THAT WE'RE DOING?

- Tell people about our services.
- Become a member and encourage other people, organisations and corporates to do the same.
- Sponsor a person for an annual membership, or to attend a training course.
- Don't stop learning. Attend our workshops, demonstrations and training courses.
- Donate time, equipment, books, plants and seedlings.
- Come and visit.
- Use us on the SANE website to pay for membership, training courses and compost.. We trade there as well.
- Sponsor our activities.
- Assist us with raising funds in this highly competitive field.
- Take on a project; work and learn alongside a group
- Work in the Resource Centre garden; help to maintain and develop it.
- Grow seedlings and herb plants for our projects.
- Ask us where else we need help.



BECOME A MEMBER



MEMBERSHIP FORM

AS A MEMBER, WHAT DO YOU GET?

Soil for Life members are entitled to:

- Basic information on growing your own vegetables cheaply, safely and healthily.
- Access to fresh, low cost seeds.
- Access to our Resource Centre (open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 3:30pm).
- Advice, and your questions answered, by telephone, when you need it.
- A quarterly newsletter for, and about, the people with their hands in the soil.
- Access to weekend workshops on pest control, organic fertilisers, compost-making, vermi-compost, companion planting, simple nursery skills.
- The opportunity to help other people to help themselves.

I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF SOIL FOR LIFE

Name – individual or group	
Contact person (for groups or companies)	
Postal address:	
	Postal Code
Phone numbers: (home)	(work)
Cellphone:	Fax number:
e-mail address:	
Type of membership selected: <i>(see below)</i>	

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Individual membership – **R100 per annum**

One square metre membership – **R300 per annum** (*support 1 square metre of a township food garden for one year*)

Two square metre membership – **R500 per annum** (*support two square metres of a township food garden for one year*)

Company membership – **R 1000 per annum**

Monthly income below R1 000/per month – **R20 per annum**

PAYMENT DETAILS:

NB: please do not send cash through the post

- I enclose a CHEQUE / MONEY ORDER (tick if one of these is applicable) **or**
- I have made a deposit directly into the Soil for Life bank account, the details of which are:
Soil for Life, ABSA (Wynberg), account number 405 685 5300 **and**
I have attached a copy of the direct deposit slip on which I have written my name **or**
I have faxed a copy of this form and the deposit slip to your office, fax number (021) 794-4982.

SIGNATURE: -----