

## Letter from the Chairman: *Annual General Report (March 2014 – Feb 2015)*

Nthando Home of Safety: March 2012 – October 2014.

Having the home of safety where we could care for the most vulnerable in our community was a real privilege. We were able to care for 19 children and all of them were placed into loving homes. Some were reunited with their parents; others were put into foster care with relatives, either locally or provincially; some were adopted by families in Gauteng; some were placed into longer term home facilities; and our twins were adopted internationally by an American family. We trust that each one of them is thriving and growing in their new forever families. During this time we were able to train and grow the staff we had with us, learning from experiences and always striving for excellence. Our staff have all moved into new chapters in their lives after the home closed its' doors in October 2014, and we trust God will use their strengths and experiences to serve Him.

Closing our home of safety was not an easy decision, but a necessary one. Most children were no longer being placed in short term safe care (which Nthando Home of Safety was providing), but they were rather being placed in foster cluster homes. This is a more permanent living arrangement for these vulnerable children, and often where they stay until they are self-sufficient and independent (between 18-20 years old). There are several foster cluster homes in Somerset West already, and therefore we felt this was a need that was being met in our community. We spent time in prayer, seeking Gods will for the organization, and asked Him to show us where there was need. He took us to The Ark, just outside of Mfuleni, where our current Social Worker was working. The need was great, and the resources were few. After a site visit and a meeting with all those involved, we decided to "adopt" The Ark Christian Schools grade R class for the year or 2015, as a pilot project. Twenty eight Grade R learners were assessed by an Occupational Therapist in February 2015, allowing us to determine how we could assist their teacher, class assistant and individual learners that were struggling with medical, learning and cognitive difficulties. The plan is for those learners who are struggling, to be managed by the OT and Social Worker, by receiving weekly therapy, access to referrals to health professionals where indicated, and for social concerns to be addressed. Our aim is for all grade R learners learning needs to be met, and to encourage grade progression, either into Grade 1 or into an appropriate schooling environment (LSEN school). In 2016, we hope to take on a new Grade R and remain with our 2015 Grade R's who will be in Grade 1, and to continue strengthening their learning foundation. We look forward to what God has in store for Nthando in the years to come.

*Caraleigh Otto* (Founding Managing Director)

## Our Management Committee

We have been blessed with an outstanding management committee, each bringing their strengths to the table and giving of their time to changes the lives of vulnerable children. Thank you to Kelly Blair, our resourceful and gifted treasurer; to Michelle Orwin, who effortlessly manages Human Resources with a smile; to Rob Jones, who effectively makes sure the logistics of the organization flow together; and to Caroline Smit, who has recently stepped down, but left a huge foot print in her portfolio as our fundraiser – thank you for everything that you did for Nthando, the time you gave and the love you shared will always be remembered.

## Our Children

October 2014 saw us saying goodbye to the last remaining children at Nthando Home of Safety. Our three sisters were placed in a more permanent home facility, with their mother visiting regularly. And our brother and sister team were placed in foster care with their devoted granny. 19 children have been loved and cared for by Nthando Home of Safety from March 2012 – October 2014. We thank God for this opportunity to play a role in the lives of these beautiful children.



## Our partners

At the end of 2013, we welcomed **Kings Smile** onto the Nthando Home premises. Kings Smile is an NPO which has an excellent feeding programme in the local lower income communities. They used our premises to make 100's of sandwiches on a daily basis, and assisted in the financial running of Nthando Home. They were a tremendous blessing to us and we trust that they will be blessed for the hard work they are doing in our local communities.

## Our Funders

Our faithful funders continued to give generously, and for this we thank you. We have never had a month where we were without capital to cover our running expenses. May each of you be blessed for willing to be part of Nthando Home of Safety, and may you know that you were part of making a difference in the lives we cared for.

## Events

---

### Early Childhood Development Training



Two of our staff members had the opportunity to attend the Basic Early Childhood Development course held my Masikhule, in Somerset West. It is always so rewarding to equip staff with relevant skills, empowering them and improving quality of care for the children staying at the home.

### Mandela Day July 2014

Last year we challenged our local community to drop off 67 packs of nappies for Mandela day 2013, and received an overwhelmingly positive response. So this year, we challenged them to dropping off 67 baby toiletry items. Within one afternoon, we had collected 70 baby toiletry items from those that passed the home. Thank you and well done.



### Staff Farewell

In October we took the opportunity to say farewell to our four loyal staff members. An afternoon of coffee and cake allowed us the time to reflect on the almost three years the home had been open, and all the children that came through our doors. The great memories, the improvements we saw, how the children developed and grew, and how far we as an organization have come. Thank you to Leentjie, Trudy, Previlegde and Maggie for making our house a home.



### MySchool Project



MySchool project has continued to bring in funds over this year, with some months bringing in over R1000. It has been great to see our support base grow from 4, in 2012, to 79 in 2015. These numbers continue to increase and we thank those that have added Nthando Home as their beneficiary. Without you and the little extra effort it takes to swipe your MySchool card at the till, this would not be possible. Thank you.

## The Ark

The Ark is based just outside of Mfuleni, and boast of 800 people living on their premises. Part of the Arks service is a school for those that reside at the Ark and for those in the community that cannot afford school fees. From February 2015 we have been providing service to their Grade R class, 28 learners, and their teacher. Implementing basic assessment processes, screening for the need for additional assessments or referrals to various health and education professionals, and providing weekly Occupational Therapy to those that are falling behind. We look forward to what the year holds for Nthando, and trust that what we do in this community will have a positive and sustainable impact on their future.

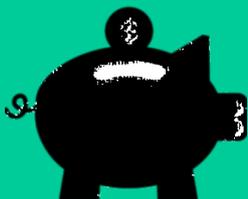


We once again **thank you** our supporters and God, for this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the vulnerable children in need.

*The Nthando Family*



NPO 077-148 PBO 930033182



**Donate**

### Bank Details

Nedbank  
Cheque Account  
Account #:  
1060276356  
Branch Code:  
106012  
Reference: your  
name and surname