

A PERSONAL LOOK AT CHUBBY CHUMS THROUGH THE EYES OF A SPONSOR

MY DAY WITH CHUBBY CHUMS

Today dawned hot and dry, but it was a day never to be forgotten.

We had planned to spend the day at one of the homes after a tour of the offices in Primrose Hill. The offices are wooden Wendy houses set up in the back garden. This is the hub of all collections and donations of all twelve Children's homes, as well as the training center, which is used to educate the community with up to date information and statistics of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Counseling is also done on these premises in a home-like setting.

Martin, Director/Founder of Chubby Chums, gave up his career to start this operation, and throws his heart and soul into it, sometimes working round the clock as he is on standby for the police and child protection units. He is often called by court in the middle of the night to fetch a child removed from their abusive parents.

We then decided to pay a short visit to one of the Homes: The Children's Home and Nurturing Center (Place of Safety) in springs. After an hour's driving, we arrived on the far side of springs, at what looked like a bush camp, dry red soil with little prefabricated buildings dotted about, and a beautiful old house which we were to learn was the Hospice and the core of the village. This was when the heartbreaking, but rewarding day began.

This particular Home houses 90 children, half of which are HIV positive or are in full-blown stage of AIDS. The other children have either been abused sexually, physically, and mentally and / or abandoned the tour of the Hospice was a revelation. Everything was so warm and friendly, so clean. As we entered the Hospice, we could not but help notice the "Wall of Remembrance". On this wall, Chubby Chums frames a picture of each little one which passes away because of HIV / AIDS. What was touching about the wall of remembrance is that below each child's name was a brief inscription of how each little one had lived its hard life.

Little babies fast asleep in clean cots, curled up and peaceful, totally oblivious to the fact that they have a life threatening disease hanging over their heads. Including the other 31 homes that Chubby Chums have in their care, they are responsible for approximately 2000 mothers and children infected with HIV / AIDS, and a total of 56.5000 children, of which about one third are Aids orphans.

We soon began to realize that the best thing one could give these children was not presents or sweets, but lots of hugs. We soon found ourselves with little arms wrapped around us from every direction. With the older children, although they were happy too, behind many of those faces lay stories of pain that none of we could ever imagine. The cigarette burns, the broken limbs, the bruises and bumps from being used as "human punch bags and footballs", not to mention the haunted looks on the faces of the young girls in the age group of seven or eight that have been raped or sexually assaulted.

Chubby Chums have done so much to help these children, not only by getting donations, but also by including these children and homes in their own lives. They try to visit each home at least twice a week to spend quality time with the children. What a rewarding day! You had to look at the positive side, if it was not for Chubby Chums, these children would have little or no future. The fact that we got to know Chubby Chums and the homes in their care has enriched our lives, as well as those of the children.

We are very impressed with the relationship that Chubby Chums has with all spheres of Governmental Departments.

Chubby Chums is also looked, by Government, as a source of knowledge and experience to assist them as they work on the ground, and in the field. The stipends that Chubby Chums receive are according to Government modules.

With Children Be Safe And Chubby Chums and The Team

Together we dreamt and built this dream A little one scared lost with nowhere to go
Chubby Chums hold out a hand and travels the road to a temporary safety care place.

Where there is love hope and care No more crying, hiding, No more fear.

No more sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect.

Our deepest thanks and appreciation:

Especially from our Children:

Whom now have a Home, a Bed and a Future? Our greatest inspiration.

Working Together to Safeguard Children

NIGEL CHILDREN'S HOME AND NURTURING CENTRE - PLACE OF SAFETY

The Home as been registered by DSD as Place of Safety for abused and abandoned children, there has been a huge influx of babies into the Home. These babies are in the process of being tested for HIV/AIDS. Sadly, a number of little ones have been lost this year and as usual, Chubby Chums has been very involved with the funerals. We look for premises for the Children's Home in Dunnotar Nigel, and were registered in a Trust Fund at the beginning of January 2006. The building belonged to the SAP Training College, so you can imagine what the condition of the building looked like. The home has a major job regarding renovations, as the premises consists of a pool, a huge warehouse, garage facilities, as well as eight small houses. The house consists of four rooms with verandahs we have enclosed the stopes and added bathrooms and shower facilities. All these houses are completed and fully functional The Children use the huge dining room to eat in.

The Kitchen is fully equipped to cook a healthy meal three times a day. We have also installed a cooler room for the perishable. Outside the Kitchen area there are storage facilities there is an office for the Senior Social worker an auxiliary Social Worker, where she does paper work and a playroom, which is used for counseling purposes, we have completed the reception area plus a Director's office. There is a big Boardroom for the monthly management meetings; we have completed setting up a computer/study/library facility for the children. The home has erected one pre-fab for the laundry room. We have converted the garages into storage rooms. We have managed to put up a soccer field for the boys to play soccer.

The Home can accommodate 90 children with courts orders form 36 The Home has laid two huge concrete slabs for the **Boys' and Girls' Village**, which will be erected soon.

The Home is in the process of structuring the Boys **Village**, which will accommodate

20 Boys and **Girls Village** will accommodate

20 Girls. **Hospice Units**, which have **40 fully blown** HIV/AIDS Children who are terminally ill. We have installed an Incinerator, as these nappies cannot be disposed of in normal methods.

Baby Sanctuary: have 10 babies.

(CRÈCHE) We have linked a crèche to the Children's Home. We are in the process of registration.

Rape and Crisis Trauma Unit: This unit is based on the property and is available for all rape victims, where we have a District Surgeon on stand-by. The reason for using the Home is because it is Child Friendly, and the Child will not feel threatened.

Conflict with the Law We are in the process of working with the law, to prevent the Child being put into prison. They must first come to the Home where we will rehabilitate them by showing them what is right and what is wrong. Prisons are not the ideal environments to prevent future misconduct, where as we can teach them to become law-abiding citizens.

In the near future Music for the Children will be erecting a stage for the purpose of cultural events. On the other side we will be doing a Charity Shop to generate further income for the home, we are also in the processes of putting up a playground, and netball field for the children. The boys will be involved in the gardening project. We are also in the process of trying to set up a Special Need classroom for the sick children, who cannot attend school, but can still be schooled educationally.

“Every Child has the right” to:

Appropriate alternative care, basic nutrition, education, shelter, health care and social services.

Be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation.

Extracted from the RSA constitution

MIDRAND CHILDRENS HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE - KAALFONTEIN EXT 3

At present the home has 50 orphans from birth to the age of 17yrs. We do assist them with their daily needs. Some of these children are HIV Positive, abused and abandoned. This Home was registered with the Department in 2002, and is run by volunteers. In December a 17yrs old school girl was placed with her child. The Home is situated in Midrand. We are in the process of assisting in refurbishing the Home. The Home also runs a feeding scheme for about 1420 orphans, seven days a week. There is a crèche linked to the Home. We are networking with the entire community and offer family counseling, when necessary.

The Home had to extend our Soup Kitchens in the area for the poor and vulnerable children who are destitute. We have managed to obtain bigger premises for the Home from one of our sponsors Terex Africa, we now have drawn up plans to build on the site so that we can accommodate more children and make it feel like home. Due to the crisis we have plenty abandoned babies/children.

We place these kids on a temporary basis at the Home until we can find suitable candidates for fostering or adoption. The reason for expanding the Home is due to a huge influx of abandoned babies, and the premises are very small where they are currently based. We must look upon these Children as our own and help them look through our eyes so that they can see a future and the rewards that life can offer. You cannot blame children. It does not take anything away from you, if you care for children. We need to get together and come to the rescue of vulnerable Children.

A NEW PROJECT FOR THE CHILDREN'S HOME

We are planning to erect **Boys' and Girls' Villages,**

Boy's village will accommodate 20 boys

Girl's Village will accommodate 20 Girls

And then a Baby Sanctuary will accommodate 10 babies

All our children need is some nurturing and to know that somebody cares. Child protection is everyone's business. You cannot afford to stand by and watch. Thousands of children are caught up in the ruthless mercy of been vulnerable. One in three girls and one in five boys will have been abused by the age 18 months. Many children do not report abuse because they are sworn to secrecy, or they are threatened, bribed or blamed and they live in a state of fear, shame and anxiety.

**VUYANI SAFE HAVEN, CHILD AND YOUTH CARE CENTRE - EASTERN CAPE – GRAFF
REINETTE**

Vuyani Safe Haven is situated in the Eastern Cape and was established to care for street children, abused and abandoned children. Martin Barnard visited them in August 2004 and found that they were in need of assistance and the children were desperate for love and attention. Chubby Chums has spent time with the founders and initiated programs for them. Chubby Chums is working very closely with Vuyani, telephonically and via email, and they are progressing extremely well. Future plans are to open a hospice unit and a baby sanctuary. Chubby Chums send products, clothing, etc. whenever possible and are continually working with Government on possible improvements for the Home. The Home was originally registered to look after street children but due to the new Children's Act everything has changed dramatically, all places must now be registered as **CHILD AND YOUTH CARE CENTER** and have just done so in June 2014.

We are now in the process of registering the second Home for our special needs and older children to be placed in permanent care this is what we call **Foster Cluster Care**. Our Founder/Director has visited the home some time ago, but has been dealing with Social Development in Gauteng to get them properly registered. Over the past years Vuyani Youth Care Center has expanded dramatically, we would like to do a Day Care Center, which will assist with the occupational therapy to reach out to their full potential of the children who are in the need of care. We are now in the process of training our Youth care workers in the CYCC, Child Youth Care Centre, as this is also one of the job opportunities for us to register our child and Youth Care Workers.

The Department of Social Development has been involved the process of the CYCC 'Child Youth Care Centre'. We have the Clinic Bus visiting our CYCC 'Child Youth Care Centre' on the regular basis to render the services to the children in need of care. We have also an ECD 'Early Child Development' linked to our CYCC 'Child Youth Care Centre' as we aim to provide the best possible programs for our Children under the age of 5; the Child and Youth Care Workers are being trained to provide social economic development. They also have a project were they make jewellery items and they are participating in gumboot dancing. We are also running Life Skills Programs where we hope to encourage the children to take responsibility for their lives and their future. We are also running a re-unification program where we aim to impact value of their biological family and to

assist them in the transformation period. We have just handed over our business plans specifications to Social Development for the home

We are also in the process of multi-disciplinary team of professionals, when we look back at our history of the Home and how the Home has developed over the years, we are proud to be at this stage, the Children are still writing thank you letters to our Founder/Director by thanking him for his involvement in the Organization as they look up to us for strength and motivation this Home has come a long way but still have a lot to be done to be in line with the Children's Act.

Government cannot eliminate the scourge on its own and a multi-sector response is required to address and end Child Abuse and Neglect.

CHUBBY CHUMS TO THE RESCUE IN THE PRINCIPAL OF "UBUNTU" (EP CHILDREN'S HOME)

LAMBTON

We have made a remarkable journey, since our beginning, crosscutting issues all about Child Protection and the Children in need of care and protection. Increased access to safety and care and support for Children exposed to abusive, traumatic and difficult situations. A Children's Home in Germiston has approached us for assistance and guidance seeing that the Government is utilizing us for the Children's Protection system, knowledge and experience in the Child Protection field.

This Home is a Children's Home where the Home has residential programs and can accommodate up to 90 children. We are utilizing this Home to place Children that have been neglected, abused or abandoned. These Children are only placed here by form 36 Court orders. These Children are only placed for a minimum period until we can reunite them back with their families and or foster care is an alternative option. We currently busy with Government to do Foster Cluster Schemes, as this is in the Children's guidelines and principals of the Children's act to rather place them with foster care rather than an institution there is a living independent program that provides long term residential care to Children that cannot be reunited with their families or placed with an existing Family member, this is when Foster Care will take place.

There is an Early Learning Development Program that pays special attention to the Children in the residential care who are developing mental delays either due to the different circumstances pertaining to the Children or reach developmental milestones in order to reduce the risk of having some or other disability.

As you can see we have a daunting task with all our programs that fall under our hub of Chubby Chums

A ORPHANAGE IN MALVERN – CYCC (CHILD AND YOUTH CARE CENTRE)

The Center is all Welfare and Development. They were told to go to Chubby Chums for assistants by Department of Social Development. They were very impressed with the relationship that Chubby Chums has with all spheres of Governmental Departments. They were told that Chubby Chums: is also looked by Government as a source of knowledge and experience to assist them as we work on the ground and in the field. They were looking for lot of assistance for this Home. They were on the verge of getting registered as a (CYCC) Child and Youth Care Place to stay as per the Children Act. The Home can accommodate 150 Children between the age of birth and 18 years. At present they have 80 Children. A School in Malvern has given the Home a piece of land and on the piece of land they would like to do a Crèche for the Children and then a Home so we can keep the little one of the street. The land is quit big so there for we need big containers so we can do this project. They have to start from scratch so you can imagine what must been done and the list is endless. We have started assisting the Home to feed, clothe and take care of the needs of Children. Home for residential Place of Safety for 20 Children any given time. The Home also runs a feeding scheme for about 1850 vulnerable Children; seven days a week from their premises.

We need to do a sponsor a bedroom. In the bedroom we must have bunk beds and it must be metal beds.

The Orphanage is doing these programs

1. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INTERFACING (SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND DIALOGUE WORKSHOP) THROUGH SPORTS, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION -CHILD AND YOUTH CARE.
2. EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT YOUTH INTERFACING PROGRAMME (SKILLS DEVELOPMENT-WORKSHOP-DIALOGUE).
3. HEALTH AND NUTRITION.

This is an outreach program. This is where most of the kids they get comfort that they don't get from their families and relatives. In some case, people from comfortable households find that their circumstances have changed so dramatically as a result of the economic recession that they are forced on to the streets. Social Welfare and Development and Home Day Care seeks to help those abused, abandoned, vulnerable, unwanted, and orphaned to reconstruct their shattered lives and seeks long-term solution were the Child is able to return to School and his own family or relatives. To facilitate a safe and neat home environment where the children can find a place of love, care, and protection. Where they are experiencing the motherly nourishment, physically, spiritually and emotional support. This Home is a safe net for the Children that are very vulnerable at a young age.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROJECTS ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE, NAMELY

Our outreach programs like **Soup Kitchens, Feeding Programs, and Vegetable Gardens.**

We are planning a **Boy's 'Dormitory** that will accommodate 30 boys.

We are planning a **Girl's Dormitory** will accommodate 30 girls.

And a Baby Sanctuary will accommodate 20 babies. We

need Showers & Toilets for the Girls and Boys Dormitories.

A HOME FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKED CHILDREN - ON THE BORDER OF KENSINGTON/ MALVERN

As our Founder/Director has been trained in the International Program of the elimination of Child Labour, Child trafficking, trafficking all Adults, and also been trained as a trainer in Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation: The Cleveland SAPS, Capt. Nzuzi has approached us to help assist and guide and monitor. Martin is a Child Protection Officer and he knows how to deal with child protect issues.

This is one of our new homes that we have taken under our wing due to the Child Trafficking in our Country. It is a very sensitive issue that we are dealing with Children that have been trafficked. You would ask yourself **WHAT** are they would do this to our Children, where they sell our Children and make profit.

What is a Child Trafficking?

It seems that when you are taken from the place where you live to another place inside or outside the Country in order for the Trafficker to take advantage of our Children. You would often have been misinformed or tricked into leaving your area, home/work or community.

Who traffics children and when?

Strangers, people that you know, like your family/neighbors/friend/girlfriend or boyfriend. Organized gangs, different people are involved at different stages that might also be involved in different activities. It can happen anytime or anyplace.

Reasons for Child Trafficking:

To do illegal or dangerous work, to beg on the streets, to smuggle or sell drugs or illegal adoptions to use them as a soldier in conflict or combat being child soldiers, for your body parts or organs and for sexual purposes. You are isolated from other people may be forced to have sex with other people for money, presents, food or favors. The money might be given to a person controlling your situation and allows you to be abused. You would not have any freedom in such situation.

What makes you vulnerable to be trafficked?

Family problems, poverty, having fee or limited opportunities for earning a living and unemployment, lack of education. If you not aware of how to protect yourself, living in different circumstances, living on the streets or involved in petty crime.

The process of Trafficking:

Stage 1 - Recruitment:

You are persuaded to leave your home at your own free will, sometimes you will be tricked or deceived into going by being promised a better life.

Stage 2 - Transport:

It means that when you are moved. You might be kept hidden or traveled in dangerous or uncomfortable circumstances. The trafficker will usually keep all the travel documents with him/her in order to control you.

Stage 3 - Destination:

Arriving at the final destination place where you are going to be taken advantage of. This is when you find out the truth. Different people might be involved in the processes and you might be abused at different times and stages. Abuse includes forced Child Labour and sexual exploitation.

Please be aware of these situations and please be aware that there is new trafficking act out in trafficking children and adults. Can you now see how dangerous this is to our vulnerable children that are out there? This is where the Child Protection system takes effect immediately. We have done a booklet on guidelines for acceptable on

household chores with the child Labour Program of action this is done with age appropriate and give them a sense of responsibility.

The Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa specifically states that every child has the right to be protected from maltreatment, Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation. Regardless of this constitutional right, every day thousands of children around the country are still victims and/or witnesses of physical, sexual and emotional violence and Child Abuse/Neglect and Exploitation. Children's Rights and Welfare of the Child, that provides statutory protection towards providing a better life for children. Other relevant international instruments and which the country has adopted in reforming the laws pertaining to children are, the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

Let's work Together to promote, protect and strengthen families

To give effect to the Republic's obligations concerning the trafficking of persons in terms of international agreements; to provide for an offence of trafficking in persons and other offences associated with trafficking in persons; to provide for penalties that may be imposed in respect of the offences; to provide for measures to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons; to provide for the coordinated implementation, application and administration of this Act; to prevent and combat the trafficking in persons within or across the borders of the Republic; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

RECOGNISING that the search for improved socio-economic circumstances and the demand for the services of victims of trafficking contribute to making persons vulnerable to becoming victims of trafficking; **CONCERNED** by the increase of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the role played by organized criminal networks in the trafficking of persons globally; **SINCE** the South African Common Law and Statutory law do not deal with the problem of trafficking in persons adequately; **AND SINCE** the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, enshrines the right to human dignity, equality, the right to freedom and security of the person, which includes the right not to be deprived of freedom arbitrarily or without just cause, and not to be treated in a cruel, inhuman or degrading way, the right not to be subjected to slavery, servitude or forced Labour, and the right of children to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation; and **MINDFUL** of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, and other International agreements which place obligations on the Republic of South Africa towards the combating and ultimately, the eradication of trafficking in persons.

BERTMAMS MORE PITTER PATER OF TINY FEET IN OUR LITTLE SHELTER

We have taken a Shelter under our wing, as this is real poverty. The Shelter is for Abandoned Women and Children (18 mothers and 78 little ones). When I asked about their meals – I was horrified. Breakfast – water and bread, lunch – tea and bread, Supper – a saucer of vegetables if there is any. We are currently attempting to assist the Crèche with all relevant facilities as these particular little ones were roaming the streets pleading for handouts, as most little orphans would do. We are liaising with the Department of Home Affairs to establish whether these little ones were registered at birth, which we doubt, as any past history is unknown. We are working with other shelters in the area as well. In Xenophobic Crisis the Children and Mothers that are in the Shelter do not stay there permanently this is only temporary accommodation and we place trafficked Children in the Shelter as they can deal with the languish barriers. We must remember a Child is a Child and in the best interest of the Child. We are now in the process of doing Living Independent programme. We have expanded with our sewing project, baking project, hair dressing project and nail project, with these project we managed to secure the sponsor to but these properties for us at Bez Valley not far from the Shelter.

With these project we teach the mother to be self- sufficient to get involve with these project, when they leave the shelter they have skills that they are skilled to do this kind of initiative to help them through the social economic. We are very proud of these projects and have our full confidence in the Shelter. Wow what we have accomplished. We are in the position to say job opportunities.

BERTRAMS THE CRECHE IS LINKED TO THE SHELTER

We are pleased to announce the birth of our “TEDDY BEAR CRECHE” at our Shelter. Children within close proximity of the Shelter attend our Crèche where they play with only a piece of hardboard and crayons. After a visit to the Crèche, in perfect unification, they clap hands and sing a song of thanks for spending a short time with them at their little Crèche. We are in the process of registering the Crèche. We have 178 children at present. We managed to enclose the back area so that they can still play even if it’s raining. We provide food parcels for the destitute families in the area it is amassing how these Children come from different countries and get along with each other the Children do not speak the same language there is a language barrier. But you must see how they play together it is so sweet to see them get along with each other.

VOSLOORUS SAFE HOUSE AND CRECHE

The Safe House was established in 2001. She was registered with Department of Social Development in September 2007. Caroline received a Health Practitioner Certificate in November 2007. We use the Safe House to place abandoned children. This is only a temporary placement. We look for alternative arrangements for fostering. She also accommodates orphaned street children. She has a feeding scheme in the informal settlement in Vosloorus. She is running an ECD Center (Early Childhood Development). We assist her with her feeding scheme in the informal settlements. At present we are feeding 860 people. We also assist her with all her daily requirements. We have fortunately found a sponsor to purchase land in Heidelberg, only 15 km away where we hope to start building soon. We are also using the ground to do a veggie garden. Caroline’s current property is sadly a little too small especially for the placing of children who have been removed from their homes as a result of abuse, abandonment etc. Our Founder/Director, who is a senior member of Child Protection Unit, frequently has to remove children within the same area. The plans have been submitted and we are now appealing to the corporate and private section for sponsorship toward the building of the new property. She houses Children from 3 months to 10 years. Caroline is a HIV/AIDS Councilor. We have made progress by assisting her in the feeding scheme and our aim is now to develop her skills so that the Home may grow. Thuthuzela, A sign of hope and comfort where frowns are replaced by smiles and tears are replaced by contentment, where hope, healthy life and justice replace despair.

A NEW PROJECT FOR THE SAFE HOUSE THIS IS A PROJECT FOR HEIDELBERG

There has been a huge influx of Vulnerable Children into the Safe House

This is why they are planning to erect **Boys and Girl’s Villages**,

Boy’s Village will accommodate 20 Boys

Girl’s village will accommodate 20 Girls

And then a Baby Sanctuary will accommodate 10 babies

A (CRÈCHE) will be linked to the Children’s Safe House

THE SANCTUARY FOR HIV/AIDS INFECTED/AFFECTED

Quietly snuggled in an East Rand suburb is our latest acquirement, Sanctuary; these little ones have been abandoned, orphaned or sadly HIV/AIDS infected/ affected. Within the area there are four houses: the Children are cared for physically, emotionally and spiritually – plus, unconditional loved. When we visited the home, one of the children was on double oxygen, obviously a critical situation. The Director of the Sanctuary is a highly trained paramedic and would forsake all, for the Children. Once a week a Doctor accompanies, care workers to Katlehong where food packages are distributed to 35 families, stricken by HIV/AIDS. At the Sanctuary we felt comfortable and at ease. One would never believe what these Children go through There has been a huge influx of children into the sanctuary Hospice unit, due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

TEMBISA: HOME, FOSTER CARE CLUSTER AND DAYCARE CENTRE

The abovementioned project is caring for 120 HIV/AIDS positive orphans, destitute Children ranging from 3 months to 7 years. These numbers are about to change due to poverty in the area. We feed them, clothe them and see to their everyday needs. The Home has managed to get a church involved that has built a full on Crèche for us to accommodate more little ones. We would like to do a play area for the little ones to do their outdoor activities. We have drawn up plans to extend the normal home so that they can accommodate more Children So that the little ones feel that they are part of the community, being loved, and educated, at the end of the day, become somebody, and contribute to our economy. The Home is doing a feeding scheme for the poor and vulnerable three times a week. They also do counseling. They give the children the opportunity to recover from their trauma and abuse. They also receive therapy. They work very closely with the schools in the area. In the near future we would like to help the informal Settlement with home base care for the terminally ill patients who are bedridden. There are plans in the pipeline of opening a hospice unit for the very sick children so that they can pass away with dignity.

GERMISTION HOME FOR ABANDONED & ABUSED CHILDREN (FOSTER CARE CLUSTER)

Johannesburg Child Welfare Director had told Yvonne to contact Chubby Chums for the correct procedure and protocols for the registration of the Home. 22 Children that have been abandoned and abused are placed in the Home. We are busy liaising with all Government Departments, regarding the registration and proto-call of the Children's Home. We have assisted in supplying the Regulatory Fire Extinguisher, First Aid Kit and Fire Blankets. We are now in the process of turning this Home into a Foster Cluster Home. They are also doing a feeding scheme in the Alberton Informal Settlement. Yvonne is entirely devoted to the Children and looks upon them as her own. The Home has an outreach program of ours. They have a workshop in Germiston, "Self Help Project" to assist in sustaining themselves.

BEST REWARD EVER CHUBBY CHUMS TO THE RESCUE

Putting the children first

Children in South Africa live in a society under our Constitution that has the highest regard for their rights and for the equality and dignity of everyone. Protecting children from violence, exploitation and abuse is not only a basic value, but also an obligation clearly set out in Article 28 of the South African Constitution. Despite the best efforts of the South African Government and civil society to protect children from child abuse, neglect and exploitation, it is a fact that many children still remain vulnerable.

To advance the best interests of children in all matters affecting them

To promote and enable the realization of the rights to survival, development, protection and participation To mobilize resources at all levels for children 's need and development Children like adults, are not a homogeneous group they have different needs, views, experience and wishes and these may vary with their age and stage of development

We have started to feed in Marathon informal settlement and doing a soup kitchen in a school at the informal settlement in primrose to make sure that the children get a plate of food each day

We remain concerned for young people growing up in Gauteng with our rapid urbanization, informal settlements, single parent or child headed households, increased maternal HIV infection rate, poverty and difficulty in accessing child protection and other essential services. We seek to maximize our impact through continued services, digital information dissemination to empower communities to deal with these social ills and promote positive transformation.

Chubby Chums and the children's homes subscribes to the following values:

The best interest of the child - this principal governs all our work in the child protection system

Child-Centeredness - provide child-centered services that take cognizance of the rights of children and young and

The drop in Centre is doing a feeding scheme 7 days a week we are in the presses of registered with Department of Social Development as a CYCC child and youth care center Our experience at Chubby Chums well-known brand and our grassroots Community Centers gives us a unique position from which to intervene effectively to strengthen families and communities, promoting the African concept that children are central to our future

TSHEPONG STIMULATION CENTER (DAY CARE CENTER) KATLEHONG

The Chair Person of the Katlehong CPU has approached Chubby Chums for assistance. The Center is called Tshepong Stimulation Center for the Mental Health Society. The parents drop the children off here on a daily basis. The center can provide for the Mental and Physical Impaired Children. They help the parents to understand the needs of the Mentally Disabled Children.

Children with disabilities are one of the most marginalized and excluded groups in society. Facing daily discrimination in the form of negative attitudes, lack of adequate policies and legislation, they are effectively barred from realizing their rights to healthcare, education, and even survival. They are less likely to attend school, access medical services, or have their voices heard in society. Their disabilities also place them at a higher risk

of physical abuse, and often exclude them from receiving proper nutrition or humanitarian assistance in emergencies

These Children become sexually active at a very young age. We need to understand their behavior AS THESE CHILDRENS ARE VERY SPECIAL. After all these are only children and they also deserve love and security a further development into the center we have managed to get foster parents for some of these children the children call me “Mlungu” that means the white man is come to feed them. The children have sends us letters to thank us for what we are doing for them and they are so happy that some is helping them. We have taken the children on an outing, as everyone does forget about the Disabled Children. You should see the expressions on their faces. It is so nice to see that they are enjoying themselves. What a differences we have made in each child life. We have put life back in to the Children after all a child is still a child no matter what. Let’s promote the slogan that says, **“My Child is your Child, Your Child is my Child”**.

PRIMROSE SCHOOL/ HOME PHYSICALLY IMPAIRED (RESIDENTIAL FACILITY)

Children with profound disabilities are one of the most marginalized and excluded groups in society. Facing daily discrimination in the form of negative attitudes, lack of adequate policies and legislation, they are effectively barred from realizing their rights to healthcare, education, and even survival. They are less likely to attend school, access medical services, or have their voices heard in society. Their disabilities also place them at a higher risk of physical abuse, and often exclude them from receiving proper nutrition or humanitarian assistance in emergencies.

South Africa introduced the inclusive education policy in 1996 acknowledging the challenges of access to education for children with disabilities. To date more children with disabilities are enrolled in mainstream schools as compared to Special Schools, receiving the same quality education, studying the same curriculum as their able bodied peers. The protection and the rights of children with albinism are also included in this regard.

The S.A.P. of Primrose Const. Cramer of the Crime Prevention Unit asked us to visit the School/Home. We visit the Children on a regular basis and give them as much love and attention as we can as who knows how much time there will be to do so in the future? The Children are our future, and ought to be heard. Children are creative and have capabilities and learn through trying. As adults our task is to take their hands and walk alongside to translate their ideas into action. The Children need people in their lives to show care, someone to relate to, confide in and to encourage them in their time of need. The children in the homes, with overwhelming problems, can get strong social support that could protect them from depression and strengthen them to cope with the realities of life.

Ithembelihle, meaning “Place of Good Hope” and is situated in a tranquil environment on the East Rand. The children suffer from different types of disabilities such as poliomyelitis, muscular dystrophy, spinal bifida, cerebral palsy and amputee’s. The 360 Children live on the property under the watchful eyes of a loving principal and educators 24 hours a day. We have managed to get a sponsor to do the special bathrooms for the girls, and

boys, so that these children can be washed in a little warm water during the cold winter days. Every child is wheelchair bound and many of the wheelchairs need attention or replacing. **How?** In some, of the classrooms, the Children share a desk, in others, there are: no desks. The dormitories, sparsely furnished, and cold, but on each little bed a teddy bear await a hug. Vegetable, yes, spinach once a week otherwise porridge and water, sugar and milk is not affordable. We thank you for your interest in our project. We are now in the process of establishing a physiotherapy center on the premises. The plans have already been drawn up and passed. We are fortunate now that Group 5 will be doing a new building for the disabled Children. Department of Education has created a training computer center to increase their skills and technology. As we are going towards the digital age and empowers them to achieve previously unattainable goals.

OLIVER TAMBO HOME SCHOOL FOR THE PHYSICALLY IMPAIRED RESIDENTIAL FACILITY (SOWETO)

The Education Department has approached our Founder/Director at a conference pertaining to the needs of the School and Children, as the Government cannot work in isolation and depends on us because of our skills devotion, loyalty and maturity in the last 16 years. We have now been working with the Education Department on Physical Impaired Disabled Children. We are empowering them with awareness skills on Child Protection.

There is concern in Government and society about learners who graduate into high school or tertiary education institutions without mastery of primary or high school reading levels and numeracy, The (ORC) office of the rights of child - supported by relevant Departments, must undertake to investigate the scope and gravity of this concern, effect corrective measures if necessary and to monitor improvements. This is an important intervention towards quality education and sustainable development in the country.

Child and teacher safety office of the rights of child on school premises has become a matter of great concern in the country. It is important that the (ORC) and relevant Departments understand the seriousness and extent of this problem.

Children indicated in (NPAC) Nation plan of action for children consultations that many of their schools and communities do not have laboratories, sports facilities and libraries and this leaves them with idleness that translates in many instances into delinquent behavior.

Together fighting poverty for the Physical Impaired. This seems to be a reality that people tend to forget about the disabled children. They are also Human Beings that have rights. We are not there yet, but no one accepts ourselves shall ensure that this dream is realized and so let us roll up our sleeves and get down to work, fully understanding that the task to build the South Africa for which we yearn in a common responsibility we all share. These Children also need lots of love and attention. These Children are special and unique and we must always remember these Children are physically challenged with various difficulties in their lives.

To create and sustain a safe, supportive, protective and caring environment for all Children in their homes, communities, schools and within Institutions. To strengthen, support the capacity of families, to protect and care for with Physically Impaired and vulnerable Children. Children's participation should be seen as an ongoing process of children's active involvement in decision-making (at different levels) and in matters that affect and concern them.

Effective and meaningful participation requires: information sharing and dialogue between children and adults, which is based on mutual respect and trust. The quality of Children's participation and their ability to benefit from it will be strongly influenced by the efforts adults make to provide an enabling environment in which Children and Young People feel able to participate fully and actively in all aspects of the proceedings with

Children and need to feel that their views are valued. More importantly, the participation of children in issues of governance is essential to the recognition of their rights. For example: for children with disabilities in rural areas, accessing an appropriate learning environment is fraught with difficulties.

These include the fact that most local Schools are not accessible for Children with Physical Disabilities (i.e. they do not have level paths, buildings and/or toilet and playground facilities) and do not cater for children with hearing or intellectual disabilities. There are also transport difficulties getting to school. As a result, many children with disabilities enter school long past the age of most other children. Further, the challenges associated with rural living including long distances (and high costs) in getting to facilities, and the need for collecting of water and firewood create additional burdens for these children with disabilities and their families. We have done a lot in a little time but a long way still to go with the Physical Impaired Children.