



# Mother Of Peace Communities **IllOVO**

**Special  
Edition**

## NEWSLETTER

Sept 09

We care for children who are orphaned, abandoned or vulnerable due to factors such as

- HIV, AIDS and sexual abuse.
- Our children are cared for by dedicated house mothers in family homes made up of six children per mother.

### **In these homes we provide:**

- Three nutritious meals per day
- Treatment for any illnesses
- Social and psychological care
- Education
- Clothing

### **Some Perspective**

KwaZulu-Natal is faced with the growing problem of children being orphaned or abandoned with no-one to care for them. Statistics estimate that there are 3.4 million orphans in South Africa. If these children held hands, they would form a line all the way from Durban to Cape Town and half-way back again. Just over a quarter of them live in KwaZulu-Natal. Communities are unable to cope with the growing number of uncared for children and government welfare organisations are buckling under the pressure.

### **Moving forward**

Here at Mother of Peace we are fortunate enough to have the infrastructure to take in children, who have nowhere else to go, and take care of them when nobody else can. We provide family homes, for children in

### **Thank you**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our unsung heroes who donate to our cause and welcome anyone who has read this and feels they are ready to make a difference. There are many good people out there with great intentions. It is those who act on their intentions that make all the difference in the lives of these children.

need, where they are provided the structure of a home and family. Language and culture are maintained as far as possible and children are brought up to be responsible members of society.

### **How we do it**

Not everyone can afford to foster a child in need. However, anyone CAN help. At Mother of Peace we survive solely on small donations from people like you who continue to help the children in our care. We currently have 54 children resident in family units made up of six children, a house mother and a care giver. All of these children need to be sheltered, fed, clothed, cared for medically and put through school. A number of them are either HIV positive or have AIDS.

### **Doing your part**

You can help by sponsoring a child or even by sponsoring an entire family home of six children. Sponsoring a child means that you will provide for their needs by donating a set amount of money each month. While the financial needs of each child vary according to their own individual set of circumstances, the average cost can be calculated at about R750 per child per month. This doesn't mean that if you can't afford R750 per month you can't help! We would be grateful for whatever contribution you can make, however small. Your donation will ensure part of the living costs - for food, clothing, schooling, medical care, electricity & water and house mother's salary - are covered. You can make a monthly, quarterly, annual or single once off payment.

**"Every good act is charity. A man's true wealth hereafter is the good that he does in this world to his fellows"**



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Please contact Heather should you want to sponsor a child - [heather@motherofpeace.org.za](mailto:heather@motherofpeace.org.za)

Bank details: Mother of Peace Illovo, First National Bank, Amanzimtoti 220127 Account Number: 62085504267 Swift Code: FIRNZAJJA659



**Nana's Story Continues.....**

First and foremost was getting Nana settled into a House with a Housemother to care for her as well as kit her out with clothing and toiletries. She rested for a few days while we tried to find a suitable school for her. She had a very difficult year in 2008 as she came to Mother of Peace in the first quarter, changed schools and the Grade 12 curriculum as well. Needless to say, due to no lack of hard work and trying on her part, she failed. She was very quiet and stayed in the house a lot. In 2009, due to an error at the school in not registering the grade 12's for the New Year as well as a 2% pass rate for Grade 12's at the specific school, it was decided to try and enroll her, after career counseling, at Coastal KZN FET College for an Administration Course. Unfortunately or maybe even fortunately, she is only able to start this course in 2010. In the meantime she is busy doing at Short Computer Course called ICDL (International Company Driving License). She is doing this via correspondence, with the help of Pierre, Maureen and Wilma, and is thoroughly committed to this course and enjoying it also. Nana started getting headaches soon after starting this computer course and our first step was to send her for an eye test where it was discovered that she was far sighted. She now wears glasses and the headaches have subsided.

Nana has also attended various other courses such as:

- Girls Empowerment Course – 5 lessons all dealing with subjects like self-esteem, knowing your own strengths, hopes and dreams and also the influence of the media
- Cell C/Nedbank 'Tank a Girl Child to Work Day' which was sponsored by Nedbank Weekend retreat at the Mariannhill Catholic Church Retreat House
- Surfing – she did so well that if she is interested in continuing Wilma will try to raise sponsorship for her.

Nana is so eager to learn that at night she even sits with a dictionary on her lap while watching TV so that she can find the meaning of words that she does not understand. Because she is now 18 years old she also goes out shopping with the volunteers and also to the airport to collect and drop off Dutch volunteers as they arrive and leave. Nana is generally very healthy and enjoys reading and braiding the hair of others at Mother of Peace.

She has become more outgoing, is very enquiring of everything, and talks a lot more than in the beginning and loves girl stuff. She has a beautiful singing voice as was discovered when a theatre night was held with all the children participating.

She has reported that her time at the Cell C/Nedbank 'take a girl child to work' day was a highlight as she met a lot of other young ladies with different circumstances and was free to share her story with them. They all listened to her and motivated her to strengthen herself and she found this a great support.

The retreat was also a wonderful time as she has made new friends from KZN as well as other provinces. Nana will probably inspire many others in the future as she continues to be determined to make the best of her circumstances and the life God has given her. We are all extremely proud of her and will continue to provide all the assistance that we can.



**A Child already sponsored**

One of the girls, aged 7 and a half, is sponsored by the Van Wijngaarden family. They have been sponsoring her since December 2008. They were fortunate enough to come to South Africa this year and visited Mother of Peace and met with this little girl in person. They send her postcards and she, with the help of a volunteer, writes and draws pictures to send back to them in the Netherlands. The sponsors are sent regular updates as to how she is doing at school, what she enjoys and other general news about her and her development. (In the photo you will see her sponsor painting her finger nails.)

**A Child not yet sponsored.**

(Names changed to ensure confidentiality)  
Princess is a 4 year old little girl who has been living at Mother of Peace since July 2006. She was abandoned at birth and spent her first months at a baby home before transferring to Mother of Peace. She has been placed with Housemother Joanna and 5 other children. She is on ARV treatment and is monitored by the HIV/AIDS Centre at McCord's Hospital. She is a special needs child and has been assessed and found to be border line in her development. She will need to attend a special education centre to ensure that she reaches her full potential. She is healthy at present and enjoys her meals even though she is always the last to finish. She enjoys curry and rice, playing with her dolls and the outdoors where she runs around or plays on the swings.