



“CHANGING THE DESTINY
OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
INFECTED AND AFFECTED
WITH HIV / AIDS”

1. INTRODUCTION

NorSA is a NGO and functions as a Section 21 company, with registration number: 2006/021925/08.

NorSA focuses on the development of community projects with specific focus on HIV/AIDS. The aim of our projects is to change the destiny of families and children affected and infected with HIV/AIDS.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION

HIV/AIDS is a reality and a huge problem in South Africa. The reality about this pandemic is that it has a huge impact on children as lots of children are infected/affected with HIV/AIDS.

This reality motivated us to start the organization, NorSA, which develops community based projects focusing on changing the destiny of these children infected/affected with HIV/AIDS.

3. FOCUS AREAS

NorSA is currently focusing on two areas, De Doorns and Carterville/Newrest in Wellington. For the purposes of this document, information will focus on the projects in Wellington.

We investigated the circumstances in this area and came to the realization that the establishment of our projects is of utmost importance.

The dynamics within these two areas are as follows:

- High prevalence of HIV/AIDS infection
- Unemployment and bad socio-economic circumstances
- Lots of children who are exposed to these bad circumstances
- Large numbers of pre-school children who do not receive any stimulation
- Large numbers of children infected/affected with HIV/AIDS and or TB
- Large numbers of children who are deprived from their most basic needs, like food.

These realities motivated us to start our projects immediately.

4. PROJECTS

NorSA would like to provide some information about the projects we are involved with.

- Cluster Care Programme

Families who are in need, or who are HIV infected/affected, are identified and registered in groups of 15. Such groups are called a cluster.

A Child Care Worker is appointed from the community, who becomes the “mom” of this cluster. We train these child care workers on a regular basis. They visit the families once a week to support them and also to provide the necessary guidance.

Once a month we provide a balanced food parcel to each of these families, to make sure they have at least one healthy meal per day.

Currently we have registered 5 clusters in Wellington. A total number of 75 families and approximately 200 children are currently part of the cluster care programme in Wellington.

It is important that families, who are registered in these clusters, must have pre-school children as our focus is to change the destiny of these children and we want to get involved with them from pre-school age.



To sustain the cluster care programme, we established a sponsorship programme.

We need R 600-00 per month per family to provide the following services:

- Stipend for the child care worker for her visits and monitoring of the families
- Providing of the monthly food parcel
- Caring for the pre-school children within the family in the day care centre
- Providing in the other needs of the family such as school necessities of the school going children in the family.

We try to find 6 sponsoring families/individuals that sponsor one cluster family with R100-00 per month per sponsoring family. One specific cluster family is allocated to these 6 sponsoring families. The sponsoring families receive a report on their cluster family's circumstances and feedback reports every 6 months.

The cluster care programme is highly effective, as it reaches the needs of the children and families on grass root level. Except the current 5 clusters we are involved with, there is urgent need to register more clusters to reach more children and families.

We can only expand this programme when the current clusters are fully



sponsored, as we need the financial support to provide the mentioned services.

- Day Care Centres



The development of a day care centre was of utmost importance. The pre-school children from our cluster care programme are underfed, emotionless, developmental not on par and they are in need of adequate care.

We received a piece of land from the local municipality for the purposes of our projects. We have developed a day care centre where we are caring for the pre-school children of the cluster

families on a daily basis. Currently we are caring for 82 children (0 – 5 years).

These pre-school children are deprived from their most basic needs. At the day care centre they receive nutritious food, love, adequate care as well as the necessary stimulation. The latter is very important as their development is not on par.

We have started the day care centre during April 2007. To see the change that took place in the children's functioning since they were admitted is such a motivation as it proves that the project has a positive impact on their lives. Emotionless children have smiles on their faces; children who were underfed, have gained weight; TB/HIV infected children are attended to and receive their medication on a regular basis at the centre. The children in this area are in dire need for our services to ensure maximum development as well as provision in their most basic needs.

All these children have the potential to make a success of their lives, but they need us to invest in their lives and to provide them with the necessary opportunities.



This little boy is 2 years old; he has to be fed through the pipe. In the beginning, he was emotionless, just lying. Just see the change in the picture on the right, full of emotion. He already recognizes our voices and reacts on it!

- Soupkitchen

One of the biggest needs in this area is food. We started a soup kitchen where we currently feed approximately 250 school going children and adults per day.

For some this cup of soup is their only food for the day!



- Foster Home: Abba Khaya

We became aware of a need for residential care for children infected with HIV/AIDS, TB, abandoned children, orphans and abused children.

We developed a foster home within the community. The aim of this home is to provide residential care where the children can be part of a family and where they can receive adequate care, medical care, love, attention and nutritious food.

The house is currently full with 16 children. The children we are currently accommodating in the house are HIV infected, TB infected, abandoned and abused. It is such a blessing to see the change this home brought in their lives. Our aim is to develop more homes where we can accommodate more children in need as the need for residential care is very big.



- Special events

We try to reach the children on emotional, developmental and social level; therefore we have different events throughout the year. The highlight of the year is normally the Christmas party where all the children receive presents from Christmas Father as well as nice food and entertainment. Each Christmas party is one big event which is thoroughly enjoyed by everyone!

5. CONCLUSION

NorSA became aware of the needs within this community and started to develop projects to the benefit of children and families in need. Due to the dire need, the project developed very quickly.

Our aim is to change the destiny of families and specific children in need and we committed ourselves to this community. Our aim is further to get involved in the lives of the children to break the circle of destructive lifestyles.

All these children have the potential to make a success of their lives. They however need us to provide the necessary opportunities to them.

To enable us to maintain quality service delivery, we need ongoing support.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



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