

WELCOME TO THE AMAZING GRACE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

• a safe, nurturing and educational environment for children. **Project Background**

The Amazing Grace Children's Centre started out as a grassroots organization in 1990 accepting donations, such as food and blankets, from local businesses and residents. Thousands of tireless hours from community volunteers helped to feed and house hundreds of children in need.

The founder of the project is Ms. Busisiwe Grace Mashaba who has stood the test of time with many challenges. But nevertheless she never gave up because it's the ideal she fought for throughout the years up to the present moment by getting involved with community projects in order to identify the needs of the community and more especially children on the street.

There are two centers operating under the project, the first one is in Mpumalanga province known as The Amazing Grace Children's Centre formerly known as the Malelane Care Center. In 2004, a lovely property in Eikenhof, just South of Johannesburg on Lenasia road, was donated by the New Apostolic Church and The Amazing Grace Children's Home came to life in Gauteng.

Years later, and thousands of successes later, we maintain that grassroots spirit for an increasing amount of children in need, supplying access to education, health care, safe living conditions and a healthy diet to roughly 150 children daily from the two main centres in Eikenhof and Malelane and those orphans of HIV/AIDS victims, living in the trusts with extended families in their home environment.

Our Programs/Beneficiaries

We dedicate projects to enhancing community-based responses to the needs of orphans and vulnerable children and their households.

The projects at the centre are available to families, children living without parent/guardian, children with HIV, children being abused sexually, physically or emotionally, and/or street-children. Projects are focused in three main categories:

Place of Safety

Short-term housing, food, clothing, health care, education and psychosocial support for street-children and/or children in abusive environments.

Family Preservation

The project is designed to enhance the capacity of families and communities to care (or continue to care) for children through:

Trainings

We train communities and families to recognize signs of abuse, for counselling, HIV/AIDS and effective communication techniques

Reintegration

We provide families with resources (food, training, counselling) to better allow children to be reunited with their families/communities

Life skills

The centre teaches community and family members skills that can translate into sustainable income and employment, which helps to create a better home environment for children

Orphanage

Supplies long-term housing, food, clothing, health care, education and psychosocial support for children with no parents/guardians and when all other options for extended family or community support have been exhausted.

How you can help...

• Volunteer

We need volunteers to help children with their homework, assist with administrative functions and/or trainings in the office, repairs and maintenance, cooking...and more. We encourage volunteers from South Africa and abroad. Volunteers from abroad may be provided with accommodation and meals in certain situations.

The organization provide short and long term accommodation facility to all volunteers, from abroad from 3 months to 2

years depending on each volunteers internship program. New volunteers are expected from Germany's University of Dusseldorf to perform their social work internship adding up to the number of other volunteers from the same institution during last year who have worked with the organization for short periods of 3-6 months.

If interested, contact Grace Mashaba at (013) 790-0423 inside SA and +27 13 790 0423 from outside SA.

• Donate

The organization survives from donations of all kinds. If you have any additional funds, clothing, toys, art/school supplies - please send them! For cash contributions, they can either be mailed or deposited directly into our account. Cash, debit/credit card and check transfers can all be made from your bank directly and safely to ours.

ABSA Bank

Malelane, South Africa

Account number: 405 002 0147

Branch code: 334552

• Foster/Adopt

If you live in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa and would like to foster or adopt a child, please contact us. If you live outside of South Africa, please contact your local Dept. of Social Services first for information, then contact us.

Let's care for all vulnerable children from various difficult life circumstances and promote the spirit of Batho Pele.