

*Themba lethu*



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(Association incorporated under Section 21 of Companies Act) 090-586-NPO PBO: 930042

**Project Name: Themba lethu Community Centre Association**

**Project: Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC)**

**OVC Team Leader: Truddy Thupana**

**FDP Team Leader: Johanna Mthombeni**

**OVC Centre Manager: Ernest Matsela**

**Subject: The Narrative Report**

**Reporting Period: February-March 2020**

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020**

What a superlative gratitude it is for our community to be graced with a resident presence of a Social Worker (just a stone's throw away from our Organization) in the name of Zanele Kabini, a true daughter of the soil!!! Resourcefully, she has been assigned by our Local KwaMhlanga Department of Social Development (DSD) to facilitate the Social Behavioural Change Programme in the Greater Themba lethu Community (Themba lethu/"Our Hope" proper; Belfast; Buhlebuzile/"Coming of Beauty"; Zenzele/"Do Things for Yourself"; Ma-16 and Ma-G, that is).

Against a backdrop of an absence of a Community Hall, she has brought to life a concept of an involvement of Community Participation into our Project in so far as we have allowed her a Venue (Harry and Joke Lukens Hall) to educate our community (mostly members of Community Work Programme) on Topical "Families Matter" (cutting across Violence; Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation; and Sexual & Gender-Based Violence).



Reciprocally so and circumstances permitting, they have, through their Team Leader, Nomsa Tlou, invested some of their Community Work Programme's time into consciously creating an enabling environment for children to meet safely from social ills after their long School Day in order to eat a nutritious Meal, play with their friends, do School Home Works/Projects (including an assistance to access Internet) and learn. **(From the beginning of this Reporting Period, an Extra One Hour (17H: 00-18H: 00) of Free Learning has been allocated to the Grades 7-12 Learners for Study and Revision of their Day's School Work so that they could have a stress-free time later to attend to their Home Chores (indeed, a bonus to Child-heading Families).**

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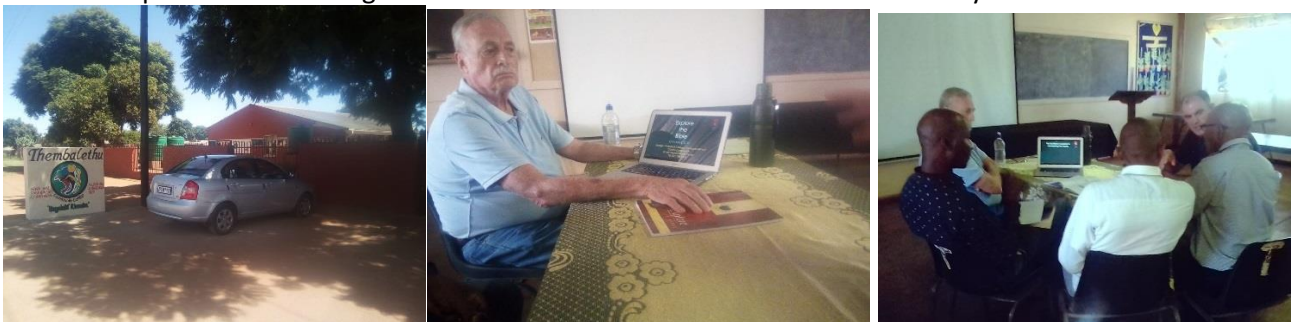
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(It should surely bring in some old memories to Harry and Piet because it was through their visit here that children got to get the “Marbles Gift” that they are playing with here)!!! Archive Material, February 2019.



Still on the Community Participation note and in our quest to address the needs of Local Pastors (who might otherwise not have had an opportunity to attend Theology Education) by way of empowering them to minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ better, Guy Stubbs was generous enough to invite Arthur Muskin in with the primary aim of introducing the **Explore the Bible Course** to Pastors Frank Sebina and Nyama Liberty (based at KwaMhlanga and Mukhanyo Theology College Graduates in their own right). Our Heavenly Father willing, both will be the Facilitators for this Course here. Preparations are already underway in that regard and details will be available post Covid-19. Perhaps most important is their undertaking to plant a Church here at our premises for willing members of the Greater Thembaletu Community.



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Neither should it be a wonder, therefore, that even Local Beauty Pageants would opt to come and do their Charity Work here, thus making sure that the environment is habitable and user-friendly...



Nor should it be unbecoming for our neighbouring Musa High School GBEM (Girls and Boys Education Movement) to be curious of what this Organization does, to intermingle of the children and to hand out an early Christmas Gift by way of a Clothing Donation/Contrary to books, their School Bags were actually carrying the clothes. **(Thanks indeed, Mr Principal Mahlangu, your School Governing Body and Ms Mkhonazi for your Leadership)!!!**



Meanwhile, our hearts-bottom **THANK YOU** goes to all of our Sponsors/Donors/Funders/Partners/Friends (be it Masibambisane Holland; Jars of Clay Foundation; Shoprite Siyabuswa; Foschini Phola Park Mall; Moloto SuperSpar; Local Department of Agriculture; MS Zodwa Masombuka; Mr Tshabalala and many more others) because your support (Prayers included) has enabled us to provide our target group with their basic needs.



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**(An Official (Martha) from the Local Department of Agriculture donating some needed Vegetable Seeds (Green Beans; Beetroot; Green Pepper; Butternut and Spinach) for our Caregivers' Vegetable Garden Project under the Supervision of our OVC Team Leader, Truddy Thupana). Government-Cooperation!!!**



Indeed, not only have we been seen and recognized (as we speedily approach our 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July this year/just on an eve of an iconic Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela International Day) as a Community Based Organization but, in the same breath, as a "Place of Hope" for the children where they can (as mentioned earlier on) meet, eat, play, make friends and learn. As this former deceased South African 1<sup>st</sup> Democratically elected State President is quoted from a Jabulani Trust Poster, "Education is the Greatest Engine of Personal Development. It is through education that the Daughter of a Peasant can become a Doctor, That a Son of a Mineworker can become the Head of the Mine, That a Child from a Farm Worker can Become the President of a Great Nation. It is What We Make Out of What We Have, Not What We Are

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Given, That Separates One Person From Another". What a better place from where this message ought to resonate!!! It is a partnership which we are in and should be forging with our neighbouring School Principals (our catchment area being **Lindokuhle**/"Awaiting the Best"; **Phuthumani**/"Hurry Up"; **Sibongimpumelelo**/"Greatful for Achievement"; **Siyaphambili**/"Going Forward" Primaries and **Elukhanyisweni**/"Place of Light" and **Musa**/"Compassion" High Schools) that would actualize this!!!



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At no stage were they ever found wanting when their duty called, mindful of the fact that their Schools' Final Year-End Examination is just around the corner!!!



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Hand in glove with our Objective of assisting children with their School Homeworks/Projects (In so far as we have a service of three/3 Teachers for Grades 1-3; 4-6; and 7-12, respectively; whom children can approach for Clarification of Questions and access to Resource Materials; Computer Centre and Homework Corner (where one can actually sit with peace and do the work) and in a situation in which no School Homeworks were assigned, we have a Weekly Activity Schedule whereby teenagers from Grades 4-12 are taught Peer Education and Teen Health on Mondays (whilst the rest of Grades does Mathematics). Meanwhile, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are Bible Study and English lesson days, respectively in that order whilst they do Computer Skills Training on Thursdays and indulge in Sporting Codes of their choice. Saturdays are earmarked for Craft (under the supervision of the local Mr Mampane from Ma-16 and for those who want to do their laundry (lest they have an excuse of starting their next School Week with dirty and unpresentable School Uniform because all of the necessary facilities are being provided for).



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Also important to highlight during this Reporting Period is a sterling offer by another local resident-Graduate by the name of Ms Mahlatsi Sithole (a blessing, too, that she is also a stone's throw away from us) to assist our children who experience some challenges with regard to their Geography; Mathematics and Natural Science Lessons. She has just obtained her Teaching Qualification from the University of Johannesburg (UJ) and is a former Principal Mr Mahlangu's Musa High School!!! Thanks that our only two Grade 12 Learner-beneficiaries this year, got to benefit from her thoughtfulness!!! What a plough-back!!!

By that it is meant that just like her during her last year at an aforementioned School, we have, as a Community Based Organization during this Reporting Period, allowed the 2020 Grade 12 Learners from there to use our premises in order to do their Evening Study Sessions from 18H: 00 to 20H: 00 (of course, in preparation for their Year-end Examination!!!)



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Again and whilst still on this Learning front, the deepest sense of appreciation be sent to our Centurion partners, the Amazing Graces through our Friend in Christ, Dr Hanneke Du Preez, for having found it befitting that she should mandate (and it has been for two/2 years now) our Pastor-friend also, Andrew Mwepu, to facilitate the Life Skills Programme (once per month on a Tuesday) for our teenagers.



On a different angle though, we would like to commend those Caregivers (parents and guardians of children attending here) who had attended our Caregivers Meeting during this Reporting Period, which was spearheaded by our OVC Team Leader and attended by the Centre Mangement Team. By way of example, the Scripture Reading was shared from the Book of Deuteronomy Chapter 28: 1-6. From there, we proceeded into a presentation about an Overall operation of the Project; the Recruitment Process and Creteria of children (both for full-time and from Field Families); and a Code of Conduct for Children.



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Furthermore, we would also like to congratulate them for the Sweet Potatoes harvest from their Vegetable Garden Project for our Feeding Scheme, some of which were exchanged with the local Mokhonjwa Spaza Shop for R80.00 for the Project.



As was the case during the previous Reporting Period, the purchasing and distribution of both the Food Food Parcels and Emergency Food Parcels did go well. Eight/8 Families had benefitted from the latter. From the Sponsor Family Programme (SFP), six/6 children between the ages of three/3 and five/5 were identified and enrolled for our newly established Early Childhood Development Programme (ECD), courtesy of the Jars of Clay Foundation.

It has been from this SFP that one/1 of our clients was assisted to access the Government's Disability Grant through the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) by way of a Transport Fare to our Local Department of Home Affairs at KwaMhlanga Legislature in order to apply for an Identity Document (ID). Equally, the client's spouse was also assisted with an acquisition of an ID, a means both to get a job and an income for the family. The results are pending after processing. **(That was a Mission well executed, our Care Worker, Yvonne Mnisi!!! Thanks for journeying and accompanying them in this endeavour)!!!**

As if not enough, our greatest gratitude, once more, goes to Social Worker Zanele Kabini for her offer in providing Counselling to three/3 of our clients during this Reporting Period.

Furthermore, we look forward with a sense of hope towards a continuation of Adult and Children's Support Group Meetings, respectively, post Covid-19.

As expected, let it end (because end it must) with an inauguration of an earlier alluded to ECD Programme, which is and must be a cherry on top for this Reporting Period!!! As a Project which takes care of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in this Greater Thembalethu Community (100 of them this year) of from Grade 1 to Grade 12 School-going age, we have had children of Crèche or Pre-School-going age who could not access those institutions because their caregivers could not afford the fees.

Thus, they would remain at home or with their neighbours whilst their older siblings went to their respective Schools but then join them later in the afternoon (after School) when they come to the Centre for their After School Programme. Whilst their siblings would move to their respective Classes after Lunch, they would then remain playing unattended with their Toys, Swings or Jungle Gyms. Our greatest gratitude therefore, goes to the Jars of Clay Foundation for having found it befitting to fund us to establish this Programme. As of this Reporting Period, 20 have been enrolled (thus bringing our all in all total enrolment to 120).

Whilst attendance started on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, an official inauguration was on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks, once more, to our caregivers for having graced us with their presence!!! Fortunately, it a beneficiary from an earlier referred to SFP (after an Interview Process) who was appointed a Teacher for this Programme, whilst one from the Field Families Programme was appointed a Cook, thus to be replaced from their previous status.

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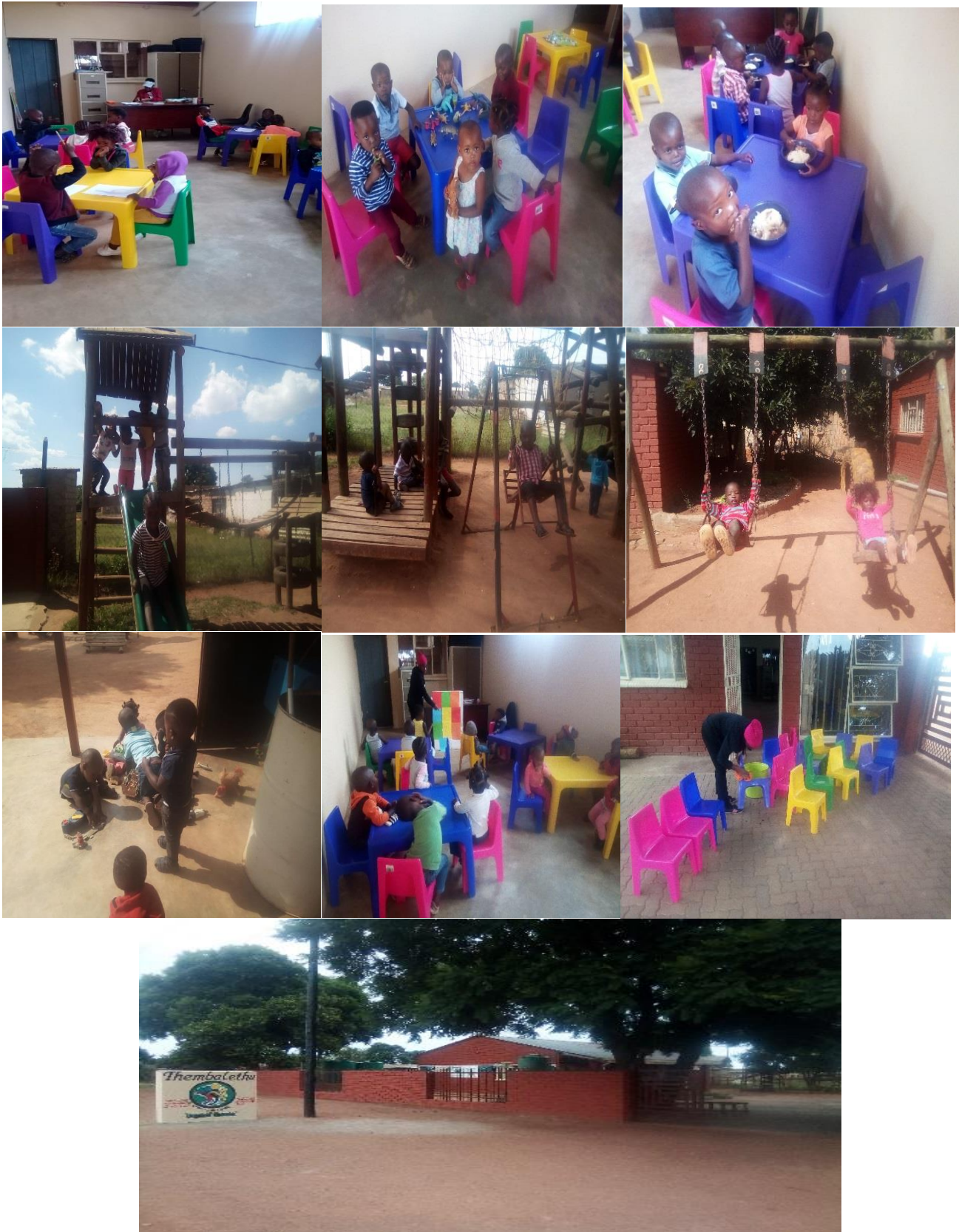
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