



A report about Baphumelele Children's home and the support of the Ellen Jane Rihoy Trust

Baphumelele is located in the township of Khayelitsha (meaning "new home"), located 20 kilometers southeast of Cape Town. Initially an informal settlement in the late 1970s, Khayelitsha has grown into a community of over one million residents.

Khayelitsha is one of the most marginalised and poverty-stricken townships in South Africa. Many residents live in self-constructed wooden or corrugated tin shacks, without access to clean water, electricity, or sanitation. Basic education and health care facilities are lacking. The unemployment rate in Khayelitsha officially stands at a staggering 60%; in reality, the figure is unfortunately higher. Khayelitsha has one of the highest incidences of HIV/Aids infection in all of Western Cape townships. It is estimated that there are about 14,000 orphans and majority of them are taking care of their siblings in their homes while some are being accommodated in places like Baphumelele and other caring facilities.

It was in 2002, the Ellen Jane Rihoy Trust came to our rescue, by helping us funding the nutritious food, salaries, facilitation of the registration as NPO, setting up the sponsorship programme, as well as empowerment to the staff and to the managing director by funding her to do a project management course at UCT.

The success of Baphumelele is credited to the Ellen Jane Rihoy Trust by helping to put everything in place since then until now. It was the first donor to come on board. The impact is visible from the children who were dying because of not getting balanced food, the malnourished children, the excellent service rendered by the staff and management of the entire staff (107 staff members and 13 volunteers to date).

The Guernsey funding has improved and renovated the two houses which were dilapidated due to massive number of inhabitants. The renovation of those houses and the furnishings has allowed us to be recognised by the government and receive the registration certificate to operate as Place of Safety in 2005.

The contribution has helped us to save young, innocent children, whose lives have all been impacted by the HIV/Aids pandemic rampaging in our country – they are orphans or they have been abandoned by dying parents, they have been dumped as little babies or they are HIV-positive themselves.

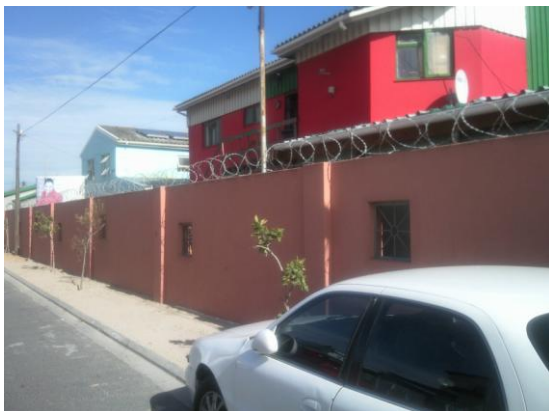
One way or another, they have all already experienced death, disease, abuse, neglect and hunger in their still so young lives.

It is people like those at the Ellen Jane Rihoy Trust, who help to give them back their childhood, their smiles, their trust in life and a future. We are very grateful for the support.

Rosalia "Rosie" Mashale

Managing director

The photos below show the buildings at Baphumelele and the children who are being cared for



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