



Sponsorship Program



Dear Friend of Baphumelele

Thank you for your expression of interest in supporting the **Baphumelele Childrens Home and Refuge** in Khayelitsha, South Africa. Your name has been passed to us by one of our international network of supporters as someone who may wish to make a difference in the lives of our children. We are writing to give you further information on our home: the children and the sponsorship scheme through which you can provide desperately needed support. Enclosed with this letter we are also sending you a brochure detailing the activities of the Baphumelele Association, of which the orphanage is one component, and a form to complete and return should you decide to sponsor a child.

A Brief Background: Rosie Mashale informally started the home in 1999 when she offered a home within the Baphumelele compound to several abandoned children in her neighborhood. This act of kindness resulted in an increasing number of children being brought to her over the next few years, to all of whom she offered a loving home and security at Baphumelele. By October 2003 Baphumelele was home to 30 children but the last 18 months has seen a huge increase in the number of children, such that as of September 2005 we now have nearly a 120 children. Most of these have been orphaned or abandoned as a result of the terrible AIDS/HIV pandemic, which is currently destroying the lives of millions of South Africans and pulling apart the economic and social fabric of

our society. Our children range in age from new-borns to 18 years, and whilst some are HIV positive, many are more fortunate as the disease is not always transmitted mother to child.

Until now the orphanage has been reliant for its survival on the generosity of the community in Khayelitsha - itself one of the poorest townships in Africa - and that of our neighbors in Cape Town, both of which have donated time, food and clothing. But with the increase in numbers of children that we are looking after we are no longer able to survive on the generosity of our neighbors alone. We are therefore seeking the assistance of our international friends and asking them to employ their personal networks of friends, relatives and business colleagues to help us to secure the future of our children through a sponsorship scheme.

The Sponsorship Scheme: We are searching for people who are prepared to provide sponsorship for each of our children (**Option A**). As those of you who are parents will know, supporting the costs of a child does not come cheaply, even in developing countries, and in the case of our children amounts to approximately R 4000.00 per child per year.

We recognize that this may be beyond the abilities of some people who would otherwise have liked to have helped our children. Therefore we have broken the annual costs per child down into two elements:

Education and Food	£200 / € 275 / \$ 375/ R 2000
Housing, personal care and health costs (not including anti-retrovirals) -	£200 / € 275 / \$ 375 / R 2000

If you would like to sponsor a child but are unable to cover the full cost, a second option (**option B**) is to support either of these elements, which would help tremendously in ensuring the Child's welfare.

If you are unable to sponsor a child but would like to make a one-off donation this would also be of great assistance (**Option C**). At any time the home has up to 20 children on a

temporary emergency basis but who still have to be cared for. Finding sponsors for these children is extremely difficult and any one-off donations will contribute towards meeting their costs.

Contact with your sponsored child: Should you decide to sponsor a child in part or whole, we will identify one particular child for you and you will receive all the available non-confidential details on this child. Assuming the child is of an appropriate age and is literate, they will want to write to you at least twice a year. In cases where it is not possible for your child to write to you, you will receive a report on their progress from the home. We would encourage you to write to your child as often as possible and have any other possible contact. All these children have been abandoned by their families, for them to know that there is someone who thinks about and cares for them as individuals is of tremendous value. A few photos and letters become their most cherished possessions. You are of course always welcome to pay a personal visit should you be in Cape Town.

Whilst the majority of the children in the home will be there until they are 18, there may be a few who for unforeseen reasons suddenly move elsewhere, eg. we may have managed to reunite them with family members. If this happens to the child you are sponsoring, you will be informed immediately and consulted as to what to do with any outstanding portion of your sponsorship.

Administration: Before turning to you for support we have undertaken a thorough overhaul of our internal management systems, including our financial management systems. We have done this so that we can guarantee sponsors that all donations will be used to maximum effect in meeting the children's needs and that 100% of all donations will go directly into supporting the home.

We know that you are inundated with requests for support for worthy causes. Why is this one different? By supporting one of our children you will be personally responsible for vastly improving the life and future prospects of an individual child. Every cent of your money will go into supporting the home. By keeping this sponsorship scheme small and targeted at specific individuals we are able to ensure that there will be no fundraising or administrative costs that siphon off money meant for the children. Whether or not this strategy will work depends on your response to this letter!

If you are interested in sponsoring a child, please complete and return the attached form. We very much look forward to hearing from you and thank you for taking the trouble to read this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact us on +27-21-4383276 or just send us an e-mail to sponsorship@baphumelele.org.za should you require any further information before making a decision.

Yours sincerely

Rosie Mashale

Director, Baphumelele Orphanage and Refuge

Peter Hugo

Treasurer, Board of Trustees

Kathrin Hoyos

Coordinator of Sponsorships