WE DARE TO CARE

Princess Alice Adoption Home (PAAH), more than anything, is a place of hope. Although babies enter our care when they have not had the ideal start in life, we are able to offer them the best possible second chance and ensure that they receive endless love and quality care, until they join their more permanent families.

The home cares for 30 babies and toddlers (aged newborn to two years old) in a healthy and homely nursery environment. As a temporary place of safety, we provide 24 hour residential care to babies who have been consented for adoption, abandoned or occasionally removed from family care.

We are a facility of Jo'burg Child Welfare (JCW) and the adoption and foster care processes are handled by their social workers.

PAAH is also a safe haven for up to four pregnant girls who are destitute or in crisis. While staying at the home, the birth moms are counselled and helped to decide whether to keep their baby or consent for adoption. PAAH ensures that they receive antenatal care and are supported throughout the birth experience.

We provide trainee caregivers and nannies with practical experience in professional baby care, as well as community service opportunities for learners and students.

The home is predominantly a donor funded organisation and coordinates a volunteer programme to assist us in providing for the emotional, physical and developmental needs of our young charges.

THE PAST

PAAH is situated in the leafy suburb of Westcliff, Johannesburg and was established in 1930. The home was opened by Princess Alice, one of Queen Victoria's grandchildren. Her husband, the Earl of Athlone, was Governor-General of the-then Union of South Africa between 1924 and 1931.

While in the country, Princess Alice was active in improving the welfare of Johannesburg's vulnerable children. PAAH's history is closely linked to the city's development. It was initially opened to serve the affluent mining community, but our services have evolved into the current form as the surrounding community and society at large have changed. Part of our proud history is that PAAH was one of the first home's to serve children of all racial and cultural backgrounds.

HOW WE OPERATE

PAAH operates within a very controlled budget. A Nursing Sister supervises the care of the babies. 14 nursery staff and three domestic staff (working in shifts) meet the babies' needs around the clock, seven days each week, 365 days of the year. To further ensure that our focus is on quality rather than routine care, we also coordinate an active volunteer programme to support the staff.

- **Volunteers and pro bono professional services**

Volunteers provide invaluable support to our formal child care programme. After a relatively stringent application and orientation process, individuals play a pivotal role in providing for the needs of the little ones, by playing with them, loving them, stimulating them and lending a much needed helping hand in feeding them. Some volunteers get involved in more structured activities, encouraging babies to meet developmental milestones.

Volunteers also help with fundraising, collecting and sorting donations and maintenance.

Thusanani Children's Foundation conducts developmental medical assessments on all our babies and also provides supportive occupational therapy to the little ones who are lagging. This is done to ensure that they reach their developmental milestones, increasing the chance of an early adoption.

OUR CORE SERVICES

- **Caring For Babies Who are Consented for Adoption or Abandoned**

We are a temporary place of safety providing 24 hour residential care to 30 abandoned or consented for adoption babies. The children in our care are aged 0 to two years old and stay with us until they leave with permanent families.

We are committed to providing the best possible care in a healthy and happy nursery environment. The intention is for babies to move into permanent families before the age of two, where they will grow up within a stable environment and a caring family unit.

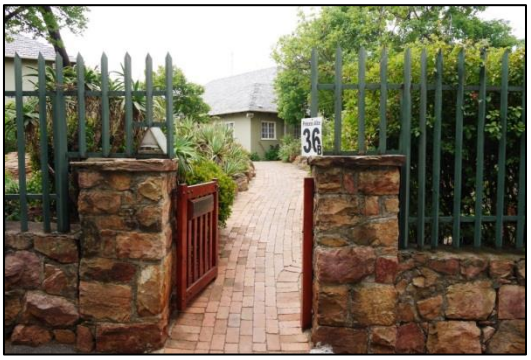
While in our care, the babies have the same needs that babies in family environments have: nutrition, medical care, therapeutic interventions, physical and emotional affection, as well as play and learning opportunities.

It is vitally important to create a solid foundation for development to ensure that the babies are able to meet their developmental milestones now and in the stages to follow. Poor early development can result in difficulties throughout their life. Babies in children's homes are particularly vulnerable to developmental delays if they do not receive appropriate stimulation and affection, as well as having their physical and nutritional needs met. By structuring our programme to meet all the babies' needs while they are in our care, we believe that a firm foundation will have been laid for future growth and development.

Auxiliary nurses and caregivers provide around the clock physical, health and emotional care to our babies, but we also encourage volunteers to bond with the children. It is well documented that early bonding is essential for an individual's ability to form attachments later in life.

Our focus is on the holistic well-being of the babies and this differentiates us from many other children's homes.

- **Birth Mom Programme**



Goal: To provide a place of safety with emotional support and a healthy lifestyle to young pregnant mothers.

PAAH is able to accommodate up to four pregnant girls who are in crisis or destitute. We ensure that they maintain a healthy lifestyle and receive

appropriate health care. The girls are placed in our care by a JCW social worker who continues to provide them with professional counselling as they make what are often difficult life choices. The birth moms get involved in the daily life of PAAH and usually stay for about three months or until their gestation period has ended. We do not receive any funding for the accommodation of the girls.

- **Community Service**

PAAH provides trainee caregivers and nannies with practical experience in professional baby care. We also host community service volunteers from numerous government and private schools, and universities.

GOVERNANCE

PAAH is a facility of Jo'burg Child Welfare and is a registered Non-Profit Organisation (000-566 NPO) and Public Benefits Organisation with Section 18A tax exemption (PBO No. 18/11/13/1110). The financial accounts are audited annually by KPMG.

We operate under the management of JCW's Board of Management.

The home is BEE compliant and supports at least 75% black and previously disadvantaged communities as per the BEE codes.

IMPACT IN 2012/2013

Statistics of beneficiaries 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013		
Number of babies cared for	62	
Number of new admissions	32	
Number of babies adopted	28	Local adoptions: 21 Inter-country adoptions: 7
Number of babies placed in unrelated foster care	3	
Number of babies reunited with birth mothers or placed in foster care with biological family	8	
Number of young moms in crisis assisted by PAAH	11	

OUR DONORS

Significant donors in 2012/2013 included:

Gamack Derivatives Trading	Landrover Sandton
Kirkness Charitable Trust	GlaxoSmithKlein
George Elkin Charitable Trust	Hollard Insurance
Absa/Barclays	Omnimed
TWP	The Davies Foundation

BUDGET AND SUSTAINABILITY

PAAH actively appeals for donations-in-kind on a monthly basis. The donations amount to a significant cost saving and include the nappies and basic toiletries required for both our babies and our birth moms.

Despite our cultivation of donations in kind and volunteer services, our full operating budget for 2012/2013 is R 1 854 462 (R1 476 920 are costs associated directly with 24 hour care of the babies).

A maximum of R726 000 will be received in the form of Place of Safety fees from the Department of Social Development during the year. Therefore, to sustain our programmes, we need to generate the balance from corporates, trusts & foundations, individuals and events.

CONCLUSION

Princess Alice Adoption Home has many happy stories to tell, as babies regularly leave us in the care of loving families. However, we face an ever increasing challenge to generate sufficient income to sustain the quality of our programme.

As a charitable organisation, we rely on the kindness and compassion of companies, trust funds, schools, clubs and individuals to keep our doors open. Those who contribute to our Home know they have played a significant part in making little lives count positively and keeping hope afloat.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope that our proposal will be given favourable consideration.

For further information regarding the Home, or to arrange a visit, please contact the Manager:
Jo-Anne Schermeier, on (011) 646-5641 or email princess_alice@mweb.co.za.

J. Schermeier
2013