



“We would not have fed the hungry stomachs if it was not for you.

We respect and appreciate what you are doing for the Masoyi Community, thank you”

Project Partner, Masoyi



“Starfish came to my rescue and again it was revealed to me that there is light at the end of the tunnel”

Chawita,19



Starfish®
GREATHEARTS FOUNDATION
TURNING THE TIDE ON AIDS

NEWS FROM THE TEAM - AUTUMN 2014

Our Work....

Starfish Greathearts Foundation

responds to the needs of children who have been orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV and poverty in South Africa.

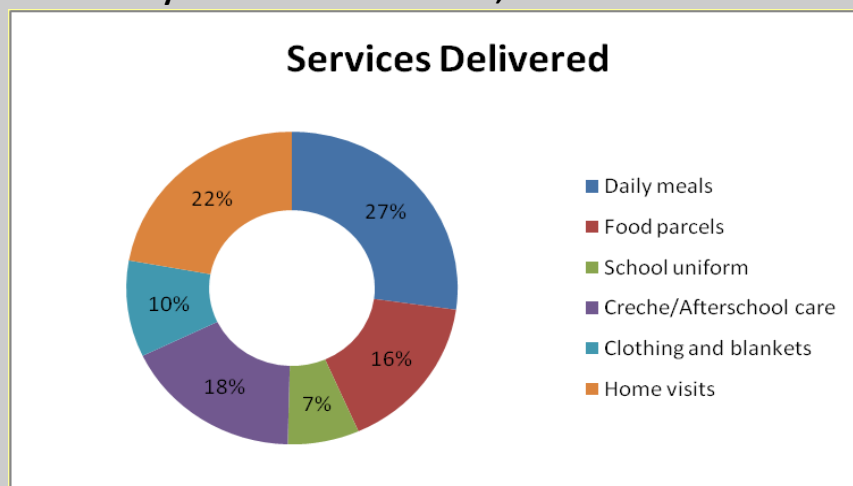


Starfish invests in the future of thousands of children, ensuring they have the tools needed to become independent young adults. By working with local community groups we can develop their capacity to deliver professional and sustainable services to children. We believe that by empowering grassroots organisations through the sharing of knowledge, financial resources and training these communities will be strengthened and children will receive the **life, hope and opportunities** that they deserve.

A breakdown of services delivered in our Centres ...

Our partners provide at least 3 types of services to children to ensure holistic care. Our programme staff provide training and mentoring to the children, as well as monitoring individual healthcare, education and child protection services.

In 2013 the key services delivered to 17, 547 children were:



How We Have Changed Lives This Year

- **10,372** Daily meals cooked for school children.
- **6,180** Food parcels given to vulnerable families.



- **2,674** School uniforms issued.
- **6,667** After school care sessions delivered.



- **3,789** Children supplied with clothes and blankets.
- Child protection services given to **8,460** children.

Zisize giving vulnerable children hope..

Recently the children at Mbalekelwa Primary alerted the school's care worker to a family in a terrible situation. The family consists of a mother and 6 children who do not attend school. They have recently come from Swaziland and settled in an isolated shelter away for the local community. The social worker could not provide care as they are not South Africa nor have they any official documentation.

Nevertheless after being prompted by the school children the social worker conducted a visit to the family and they were immediately referred to our partners, the Zisize Centre.

Zisize were able to provide school uniforms as well as a monthly food parcel. Furthermore, our food gardens supervisor, Bongani Mngomezulu, will be assisting them in starting a food garden of their own and soon they shall be self-sufficient.



Every day 450 children are orphaned by AIDS just in South Africa

Providing children with the services they need to flourish...

A 9 year old boy in Grade R at Mayaluka Primary was noticed by our social worker at the school. The boy would hardly speak and would use very few words when he did. His family and his teachers accepted that "he was born like this, there is nothing we can do."

Thankfully Zisize could help. The boy was taken to Mosvold Hospital by a Zisize nurse where he was diagnosed with a speech impediment. Immediately he was taken to see a speech therapist. The social worker subsequently found the child had been seriously neglected and recommended he be placed with caregivers. There is a widespread lack of awareness of the help available to children in dire need of expert attention.

The work of the Zisize Centre is a great example of a grassroots organisation helping to change lives.



Sowing the seeds of hope at Sethani..

Feeding seventeen mouths can be a daunting prospect, but this is a challenge Sbonbile Chama faces daily as she supports and cares for her five children, many stricken by TB and twelve grand-children.

Our local partners, Sethani, sent a community health worker to visit the family and found they were on the verge of starvation. In response Sethani gifted Sbonbile and her family with the garden tools and seeds which proved invaluable in providing a self-sustainable food source for the family.

Food security is a major problem within many of the communities that we serve. Having enough to eat is vital, especially for those living with HIV. Even if they are fortunate enough to have access to antiretroviral therapy, without the right nutrition, they cannot fully adhere to treatment programmes.

Through the support of Sethani, Sbonbile and her family have the means to produce their own food. This small, but fundamental assistance now means that the family are not only better fed and more financially stable; it affords the grandchildren the chance to go to school and the hope of a better future.



New for 2014—The Wellness Wagon

This summer sees the introduction of our new programme, the 'Wellness Wagon'. This is a mobile testing clinic which will care for children in rural communities, testing for HIV, TB and Malaria as well as monitoring their general health and development. The Wellness Wagon will target areas with a large amount of poverty where access to healthcare is scarce and HIV is prevalent. These are the areas where child-headed households are intolerably high and our support is needed.

The project will focus on children under 5 and partners with local health officials and schools to ensure the programme is as effective as possible.

Services offered by the Wellness Wagon:

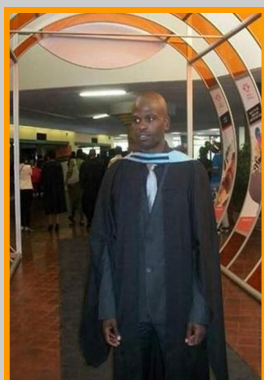
- To test children for TB, HIV and Malaria. Early diagnosis of HIV and TB can strengthen a child's ability to survive.
- To administer general health checkups and to follow these up on regular visits.
- To assess the key growth indicators and highlight any abnormalities to the carer.
- Test for malnutrition and ensure children receive daily meals and supplements.
- To provide immunizations and update children's Road to Health Card (RHC).
- Educate carers on the use and importance of the RHC, and increase awareness about HIV prevention and management.



Starfish support Children from Cradle to Career....



Here is a picture of children in the Vukukhanye centre using the early childhood development (EDC) packs provided by Starfish. EDC programmes instil a foundation for life-long learning and achievement of future goals by focusing on the early years, children aged 1—8. For many children Starfish has been the difference between having to leave school and care for younger members of their family and finishing their education and finding meaningful employment. We would not be able to provide this service without the generosity of our donors.



Thabo's story is proof of our success. Now that Starfish has been active for 13 years we are able to see the life-changing differences for the children we work with. Thabo's recent graduation from the University of Johannesburg is one such example. He came to one of our centres when he was 12 years old, head of a household caring for his sister, disabled brother and orphaned cousin. Thabo was facing a life of hardship and poverty, unable to complete his education. Our centre provided him with access to education, healthcare and counselling. Starfish also helped him to care for his younger siblings, allowing him to go on to University and giving him hope for the future.

"Knowing that his family's basic needs were provided for by Starfish gave him the opportunity to focus on his studies and push himself harder at school" Carol, Ikageng Director

Last year we provided support to over 17,000 orphaned and vulnerable children. Without the generous donations we received Starfish would have been unable to reach this number of children.

It is our hope that you will join Starfish and enable us to provide LIFE, HOPE and OPPORTUNITY to many more children in 2015.

For more information about Starfish please check out our website www.starfishcharity.org or contact us:

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