



Greetings from Cape Town

Happy Holidays from all of us in South Africa! It has been a busy year, with many reasons to be grateful as we close 2016.

Our dedicated partner organizations have demonstrated time and time again that a heart of compassion is the first and most important step in making a lasting change in the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children. This is particularly evident at **Abaphumeleli Place of Safety**, which is featured in our Photo Story. It is a privilege to partner with them, and each project, as we help passionate community members gain the skills needed to serve the children in their care with excellence.

We want each of our donors to know that it is your support that makes all of the stories you'll read in this newsletter possible. Your partnership encourages the pre-school teachers, children's home founders, and caretakers with whom we work to press on even in the midst of challenges. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

All the best & happy new year!

Zukie, Ondela, and Zanele, Cape Town Staff



Students of Blessings Educare Center and their teachers

An emergency grant gives preschool a new start

Thanks to our generous donors, CHOSA was recently able to award an emergency grant to one of our newest partners, Blessings Educare Center. Blessings provides free and low-cost childcare in Delft, a community plagued by high crime rates and unemployment. Centers like Blessings are key to sustainable community development for several reasons:

1. They offer educational enrichment opportunities for the community's youngest and most vulnerable members
2. They allow parents and guardians a safe place to leave their children, enabling them to work and earn income
3. They employ community members and impart job skills in early childhood development
4. Through the formation of committees, they engage the wider community in caring for the needs of the local children

In March, Blessings was suddenly evicted from the apartment they were renting to provide

care for 40 children. The municipality had designated a piece of land for their use, but they needed funds to build on it. In the meantime, dozens of children were left with nowhere to go, and their teachers were stressed and anxious. CHOSA provided a one-time grant, enabling Blessings to purchase a permanent structure, as well as two temporary structures used to separate the children according to age. They were also able to purchase poles and fencing to secure the property.

The center now serves 106 children and employs 7 community

members as staff. CHOSA staff members continue to work with Blessings' leadership to improve financial bookkeeping and community engagement. Specifically, Blessings has planned parent meetings to move toward electing a committee made up of community members to assist in governing the preschool. CHOSA staff are also planning to implement leadership training with the preschool's founder so that she can more effectively manage her teachers and staff. We are proud to have been a part of bringing greater stability to the lives of the children Blessings serves.



One of the structures purchased with emergency grant funds

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All donations to CHOSA are 100% tax-deductible! If you would like to contribute to CHOSA's work, please make checks or money orders payable to:
CHOSA, Inc
220 N Kenter Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90049

For online donations, visit:
www.chosa.org/donate

We are well on our way to a solid fundraising year. But we still need your help to raise the final \$52,000 to meet our annual goal.

Please help us reach our annual target for the kids!



Abaphumeleli Place of Safety: A Photo Story

Abaphumeleli was founded as a Place of Safety for vulnerable children in 2004. What began with a single act of compassion – founder Evelyn Makasi opening her home to just a few young children – has since grown into an expansive home housing 33 children. For years, CHOSA has supported the home through monthly grants and capacity-building services. The following photos tell the story of Abaphumeleli’s children and caretakers, with whom CHOSA is proud to partner.

BELOW: The children of “Abaps,” as it is affectionately known, come from difficult circumstances. Some have been abused or neglected, while others have suffered the loss of a parent. Many are malnourished, and some are HIV-positive. Thus, their routine is centered around having three nutritious meals per day, which helps them to recover from any illnesses and build the strength needed to take their ARVs (antiretroviral medication). Perhaps equally important, the food gives the children the strength to play, and play brings happiness.

RIGHT: Ondela, pictured here, is the CHOSA staff member who works directly with Abaps. She provides capacity-building services, and her major focus this year was fundraising. While CHOSA provides monthly funding to Abaps, our focus is always on sustainability, and Ondela has helped Abaps progress in that regard by diversifying their funding sources.





About the photographer: **Jesse Twum-Boafo** first learned of Abaps 5 years ago. "Manys years later," he says, "the heart-tugging story of how Evelyn Makasi grew this beacon of hope in Khayelitsha still gets me." Jesse, who works as a consultant at Vera Solutions, has a passion for development and a love for kids. Sports and photography are his favorite hobbies, with a particular interest in portraits, night photography, and positive images of marginalized communities.

During the week, every child goes to school. 17-year-old Mpho (not pictured) is grateful to attend one of the township's top high schools, where he is in 10th grade. Mpho has been at Abaps since he was 4 years old, when he and his 5 siblings were placed at Abaps after being abused and neglected by his mother. Like Mpho, each of the children carry their own difficult memories and trauma. The caring, nurturing environment they experience at the home helps them in their healing process.

That's where the women pictured above come in. A group of nine passionate caretakers makes sure that the children eat, bathe, go to school, get their medication, keep the house in order, do their homework, and more. They work on a rotating 24 hour shift to provide constant care.

The area surrounding Abaps consists largely of shacks, with many families lacking adequate access to water and electricity. Moreover, 90% of families cannot afford to sufficiently feed their families. In this context, Abaps is a beacon of hope for the children it houses.

Abaps just purchased a new building with 6 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathrooms, and an office. This has enabled them to expand and increase the number of children they are able to serve. CHOSA was able to provide additional assistance by funding beds and other furnishings for the new addition to the home. Monthly support from CHOSA ensures that Abaphumeleli Place of Safety can continue to feed the children in their care, send them to school, provide their medication, and even expand their reach to serve more children; their ultimate goal is to double the number of children housed. Abaps' founder and caretakers are grateful to each of our donors for their support!



Project founders and staff learn keys to effective leadership

CHOSA's quarterly networking events serve as an opportunity for our partners to come together and discuss a topic of interest, hear from experts, and share advice with one another. On August 13, CHOSA staff facilitated a workshop on Leadership and Governance, a topic selected by our partners. With the help of a guest speaker, the projects were able to share best practices with one another around effective leadership and relating to staff (teachers, caretakers, etc.)

This topic is especially crucial for our partners, because all of the projects we serve were founded by individuals and communities who saw a need in their neighborhoods and felt compelled to act. The training CHOSA is able to facilitate, both through networking events and more direct

weekly project visits, ensures that each founder is empowered and equipped to run his or her project well.

This event was also important for the caretakers and teachers at each project, as it helped them understand the leadership structures where they work, and how to address any grievances with their employers. All participants came away with an important lesson: that any organization or community project thrives on mutual respect and genuine two-way communication.

CHOSA's networking events also enable us to interact with community projects which may not be in a place to apply for funding from us, but can still benefit from the discussions. At this event, for example, a new

community preschool called Marikana Educare joined us. They are so eager to learn more

through these quarterly events that they offered to serve as host of the next one!



Attendees pose outside of Ubhle Babantwana, where the event was hosted

Ubuhle works to build bright futures for little ones

Ubuhle Babantwana Educare Center provides early childhood education to nearly 200 children in the township of Mfuleni. Research has shown that 90% of brain development happens by age 5, and the teachers of Ubuhle are passionate about maximizing these early years with the children in their community. CHOSA has partnered with Ubuhle for nearly a decade, providing capacity-building services as well as a monthly grant.

Following the departure of their founder last year, Ubuhle has been in a period of transition. However, with the support of CHOSA, they have been able to make significant progress in the midst of this change. Our new staff member, Zanele, has been training Ubuhle's leadership to apply for external funding and in-kind donations from corporations and grant-making bodies. They have also been working on saving money to reinvest into the preschool, to

aid in their self-sufficiency. To that end, Ubuhle has built a fully functioning kitchen to serve the children at mealtimes, and installed two new bathrooms. They were also able to purchase new mattresses and academic material for the kids.

The teachers are now gearing up for what promises to be a great new school year in January! They look forward to giving their youngest neighbors the gift of education.

A simple action can change a life:

Become a monthly sustainer!

Monthly sustainers are foundational to our work because of the stability they provide to our partners. Please consider signing up for a recurring donation. Not sure how much to pledge? **\$30 per month can fund housing, food, and school expenses for an entire month for one child** at one of our homes, like Abaphumeleli. **Use the enclosed reply form to sign up, or visit www.chosa.org/donate and select the Monthly option.** Thank you for your generosity!

Los Angeles donors gather for South African-style *braai* fundraiser

Each year, CHOSA's Los Angeles-based board members look forward to our annual silent auction benefit dinner, and this year was no different. Board member Dr. Jonathan Goldin and his family hosted the event, and more than 50 LA-area CHOSA supporters

gathered in support of our cause. Guests enjoyed an authentic South African *braai* (barbecue), complete with peri-peri chicken, *sosaties*, and *pap*. Even the desserts were South African, and sent many ex-pats down memory lane.

shared about the abject poverty they saw, and the incredible ways in which community members overcame it on a daily basis. Their words reminded many attendees why they began supporting CHOSA in the first place.

After the speeches, attendees got out of their seats and onto the dance floor, to the tune of live African drumming and dancing. Many picked up new moves! The night then ended with a lively auction, where bidders took home unique African artifacts, sports tickets, and products from local restaurants and businesses, with every bid benefitting the

work of CHOSA. It was a successful evening by all accounts!

If you're interested in hosting a fundraiser in your neighborhood or on your campus, please contact our Fundraising Coordinator Ellie Hunja at ellie@chosa.org.



Co-founder Jared speaks to attendees

CHOSA's co-founder, Jared, spoke to attendees about his vision for CHOSA and the way the idea was born 11 years ago. The event also featured stirring speeches from a group of friends, living in LA, who visited one of our projects in Cape Town and were deeply moved by what they witnessed and experienced. They



West African drummers were a highlight!