



# A Mother's Hope Program

TLC Children's Home

## What is A Mother's Hope?

### #TellHerStory

A Mother's Hope is exactly that - hope for a mother who has none. At TLC Children's Home we have seen our fair share of heartbreak from mothers who entrusted their children to our care, simply because they had no other choice.

What is often mistaken for abandonment or callous disregard for their babies is actually a mother's most difficult choice; to give her baby over to a life that will give them a chance at a future.

### The reality of the situation

As of September 2021, records showed that more than 23,000 girls in South Africa aged under 18 gave birth between April 2020 and March 2021 – of which 934 were under 14.

There is a lot more going on here than irresponsible family planning. Many of these girls are still children themselves, and this speaks to widespread gender based-violence and child abuse, poor education, and lack of access to adequate healthcare. In addition, anecdotal and surveyed evidence reveals that these girls are shamed and ridiculed, often within the very health and penal systems supposed to help them.

These young mothers aren't the problem: they are being failed by a system that is victimising the victims themselves, and perpetuating a destructive cycle.

### There is hope

This isn't the end of their story, it is the beginning. Leveraging almost three decades of experience with infant and childcare, and building relationships with the women in the communities most affected by high rates of unplanned pregnancy and child abandonment, TLC Children's Home has developed A Mother's Hope to break this cycle.

We have seen the impact of making intentional, evidence-backed interventions in harrowing circumstances, and we have over 900 babies placed in forever homes as a testament to that. Now we are expanding our assistance to the mothers themselves, in the hope that we can empower and support them through the first 1,000 days of their child's life, and give them options they didn't have before for them and their child.

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The Love of Christ Ministries trading as TLC Children's Home



# A Mother's Hope: How It Works

## #TellHerStory

A Mother's Hope is a program designed to provide financial, medical, and psychological support to a mother with an unplanned pregnancy who does not have the resources she needs. It commits to supporting the mother for 1,000 days, the critical period from conception that impacts so much of a child's future well-being.



### Food and Shelter

TLC will provide the mother with board and lodging for the duration of the program, at our facilities in Walkerville.



### Medical Care

TLC will fund and facilitate the necessary pre-natal, birth, and post-natal medical needs of the mother.



### Training

TLC will provide training and education in the mother's area of interest and aptitude to empower her for future employment.



### Trauma Counselling

TLC will counsel and train the mother using the Trauma Informed Caregiving methodology applied in the CYCC.



### Caregiving Training

TLC will train the mother as a caregiver to the CYCC babies, equipping her with mothering skills and paying a stipend for her work.



### Village of Mothers

The mother will live and work in a healthy, supportive 'village' along with two other women in the program who share her experience.

## Program Cost

The program will be funded by sponsors and donors, either in a corporate, organisational or individual capacity, who commit to a once-off donation or monthly investment into the mother's journey of 1,000 days. There will be three mothers in the program at any one time.



# Reviving The Village 3 Ways

## Our Thinking

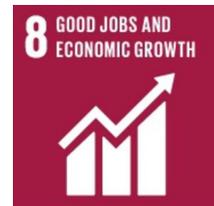
**OUR VISION** Community cohesion through leadership that inspires.

**OUR MISSION** To lead and inspire community cohesion which enables the rapid, responsible placement of every child in need of a permanent, loving family.

We aim to be part of the community, reweaving the damaged social fabric to strengthen its ability to support children in families so that ultimately every child can be raised in a loving home and never need care in an institutional environment.

## UN Sustainable Development Goals

We have 3 projects that work towards reviving the village, aligning with the vision above and specifically focusing on the UN Sustainable Development Goals regarding gender equality and women’s empowerment:



## The 3 ‘Village’ Projects

### MOTHER’S HOPE

A program committing 1,000 days of financial, medical and psychological support for three disadvantaged mothers from the community.

### VOLUNTEERING

Our long-term volunteer program gives young people the chance to learn essential caregiving and parenting skills and enmesh themselves with a cohesive community,

### SKILLS TRANSFER

Skills Transfer from our highly skilled caregivers to community members who are equipped to implement our nurture-model in the communities they return to.