



Breaking the  
cycle of poverty...

## Refilwe Community Project

AUGUST 2009



## ABOUT US

**Refilwe**, a Tswana word, means “Gift”. The Refilwe Community Project was formed in 1991 by Jean Stewart and Yvonne Jaques as a Christian community development initiative, focusing on primary health care and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Today Refilwe Community Project is a multi focused, registered Non Profit and Public Benefit Organization. It serves the disadvantaged communities of Lanseria, north of Johannesburg, by way of the following programmes:

- ❖ Child Care
  - God Parents Project
  - Hands of Hope School
- ❖ Community Care
  - Day Care Centre
  - Health and Welfare Program
  - ACAT Life & Entrepreneurial Skills
  - Skills Training and Development
- ❖ Enterprise Development
  - Indigenous Tree Nursery
  - Organic Fruit Orchard
  - Carpentry Project
  - Wormcycle

Refilwe is situated on 18 Ha of beautiful land in the Crocodile River Valley in the vicinity of Lanseria Airport. Other than providing a stunning natural playground for the children, the farm and resort-like site also serves as the base for all the organization’s programmes. Facilities, such as the Community Hall, Day Care Centre, playground and river-front park, serve a practical purpose for the children and the public also can utilise these venues in support of the work at Refilwe.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to design and implement care, support, education, training and mentoring programmes aimed to equip people to become sustainable in every aspect of their lives and to influence, motivate and assist others to achieve the same.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is to assist and guide the poor and needy who come into the sphere of influence of Refilwe to become regenerated in God’s sight and to be empowered to achieve sustainability in the spiritual, mental, physical and material aspects of their lives.

## OUR TARGET COMMUNITIES

It is the goal of Refilwe to reach the orphaned and vulnerable children and adults in informal settlements north of Johannesburg. In excess of 120 000 poverty affected people live in these communities. Target areas include:

Zandspruit	Thabo Mbeki
Video Town	Malatji
Joe Slovo	Rhinos
ESKOM	Mzala / Sunnyside

## OUR PROGRAMMES

Throughout the programmes the senior leadership at Refilwe strives at all times to live by example and encourage all children and staff to develop good character and excellence in their daily walk and labour.

### CHILD CARE

#### *God Parent Project*

**Goal: To create a safe environment for children whereby they can be cared for on all levels of human development.**

The project provides a loving, caring environment for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). Through the intervention of the Department of Social Development the children are placed with foster parents within a family unit called a God Parent family. The parents are the legal guardians and thus primarily responsible for the upbringing and education of the children. Refilwe chose to come alongside the families with housing, education, psycho-social and nutritional support. The parents have the heart but not the material means or professional qualification to provide sufficiently for the children and therefore Refilwe solicits and facilitates support for the families.

The God Parent Project makes it possible for children to grow up in a house and family that they can call home and where they have the opportunity to realize their potential. The programme manager, together with other parents and volunteers, facilitates an aftercare programme where children receive assistance with homework, literacy and numeracy through educational games and activities.

Refilwe provides a safe home to 44 children in 10 God Parent families. Each family lives in a homely cottage and has 4 to 6 children.

#### *Hands of Hope School / Multi-purpose Education Centre*

**Goal: To provide each learner with a diverse education in a supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation and excellence in learning. This is achieved by bringing together parents and community members to assist the students to become independent and responsible adults who will contribute positively in a global community.**

The school started with seven Grade 8 learners in 2008. Currently 24 children from Grade 6 to Grade 9 are enrolled as learners. The majority of children who attend the school had irregular exposure to education in the past, resulting in their having “bridging” and remedial educational needs. The secondary schools in the area do not cater for these learning challenges and the Hands of Hope School was established to address this need.

The Richmond Sunset Rotary Club has partnered with Refilwe to build a school over the next 5 years that will host 240 learners. The majority of the learners will come from the informal communities. This school also will be utilized as a multipurpose education centre to provide vocational training, adult literacy and training for unskilled adults after school hours.

Rotary has been involved with Refilwe for several years and during July 2009, after the first science fair that the school held, **Dean Rohrs** past District Governor for Rotary International in British Columbia, remarked: *“to have seen today the science projects that the children had built, authenticates for me why Rotary is involved with Refilwe”* - 24 July 2009

## **COMMUNITY CARE**

### ***Day Care Centre***

**Goal: To provide a safe, stimulating environment for children aged 3 months to 6 years enabling them to become school ready.**

The Day Care program provides day care facilities for 61 children who live in the informal communities. Refilwe believes that the future of South Africa depends on the kind of citizens our children will grow up to be. It is therefore important to ensure that the children receive good opportunities to develop from sound foundations. The children are kept occupied and stimulated in an environment where they have access to early childhood development activities and 2 nutritious meals.

Through this programme the day care workers, who reside in the local communities, receive in-service training in Early Childhood Development and Care.

### ***Health and Welfare Programme***

**Goal: To increase accessibility to health and welfare services for people who live in rural communities.**

The Home Based Care Project assists orphans and vulnerable children as well as families residing in the target communities through a combined social relief, health and care programme. This currently serves 100 children and 100 adults by providing:

- ❖ Quality care and support to HIV/AIDS infected and affected persons.
- ❖ Psychological support services (counseling services, support groups for children and adults, aftercare programmes).
- ❖ Nutrition support and material assistance.
- ❖ Links for the affected and infected children with government resources such as social security grants, care for abandoned and orphaned children and home affairs services.
- ❖ Facilitating and implementing income generating activities and food gardens.

## ***ACAT Life and Entrepreneurial Skills***

**Goal: To equip individuals with tools that will enable them to sustain themselves and their families and to invest back into their communities.**

This programme focuses on sustainable human development and improvement in the quality of lives of the poor in the rural and peri-urban areas. The emphasis is on the development of the whole person – body, mind and spirit. The programme directly offers a solution to poverty affected persons through mentoring individuals to become self reliant. The core objectives of this project are entrepreneurial and life skills training by using the ACAT model.

Individuals are encouraged to form groups of 5 (G5s) who are trained and supported in starting and sustaining small businesses. The G5s are monitored by extension officers for up to 6 years to assist them with the implementation of the business practices they have been taught until they are able to run their businesses independently and successfully.

## ***Skills Training & Development Programme***

**Goal: To ensure individuals have access to information and expertise that will contribute to their long term personal and professional development.**

The Training and Development Programme was created in response to the growing need for training in the communities surrounding Refilwe. It focuses on offering a variety of courses in a variety of formats. Training modules have been created to structure the topics and are offered to Refilwe employees, community members and local businesses. Via this structure participants are exposed to accessible and relevant training opportunities.

Training is offered to build English literacy, numeracy, computer skills, basic life skills, HIV Aids and recycling. The Training and Development Programme continually strives to identify new training subjects that address needs in the community and build capacity for higher levels of education. It networks to offer courses in welding, carpentry, wire work, sewing, beadwork, cooking, vegetable gardening and small animal husbandry.



*Students and teachers from Hands of Hope School*

## **REFILWE ENTERPRISES**

Refilwe established this program during 2008 to generate income for Refilwe, to contribute towards overall programme and site sustainability and to show donors that the Refilwe Board of Directors and Management are serious about sustainable development, job creation and specific skills training.

### **Indigenous Tree Nursery**

Refilwe grows indigenous trees from seed or sapling stage to various phases ready for sale. The species are mainly determined by demand in the landscaping market. The shade-net covered nursery is situated on a 1500 square meter area that will be large enough to grow trees up to five years old and is fitted with an overhead irrigation system for watering, fertilizing and organic pest/fungus control. Growth medium will be obtained from the Refilwe earthworm farms and the composting site.

### **Organic Fruit Orchard**

This project was started in 2008. The Organic Fruit Orchard contains 20 peach trees, 20 apricot trees and 10 plum trees. Herbs planted amongst the trees serve as pest control and companion plants. Herbal and organic fruit products like chutneys and jams will be developed to generate income.

### **Carpentry Project**

With the help of a skilled carpenter the carpentry project will teach woodwork skills to individuals from the local community. A simple product line is being developed to generate income.

### **Wormcylce**

Refilwe started the Wormcylce project during February 2009. The earthworms produce a liquid that acts as fertilizer/ pesticide and solid compost. Refilwe will use these products for the site, the tree nursery, the fruit orchard and to generate income. Products on sale to the public are: wooden household wormeries, Vermitea and Vermicast. Please visit the Wormcylce website for more info at [www.wormcycle.co.za](http://www.wormcycle.co.za)

## **INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

Recently many people have been discouraged by the rate of return in investment markets around the world. The Global Financial Crisis has caused shares to plummet as the world economy has slowed to grinding halt.

Are there any investments that are showing positive growth?

Despite difficult economic times Refilwe Community Project continues to invest and has structured an investment portfolio that is outperforming today's markets.

Here are 4 investments Refilwe makes on a daily basis.

### **1. Investment in People**

In addition to a variety of community based programs and initiatives Refilwe is unique in that many of the organisations staff positions are filled by members of the informal settlements in which they serve. Other positions have been filled by people who have the unique qualities and personality required for community development work, but benefit from more job specific training. Personal and professional development are core components to how Refilwe plans to grow their organisation and their community.

### **2. Investment in the Future**

The impact of education cannot be underestimated in the work of community development. In South Africa there is a great burden placed on schools resulting in a poor education system. In response to this need Refilwe has started the Hands of Hope School and also operates a daycare. Every weekday Refilwe is involved in educating over 80 young people and children through these programs. These children represent the future of South African business, government and

### **3. Investment in Breaking Social Barriers**

Nothing hinders a community's development more than division among its members. As a result of the history of apartheid in South Africa this is an issue that continually invades daily life. Division by race, country, tribe and socio-economic status continue to undermine sustainable growth. Refilwe's approach addresses misconceptions and stereotypes and has resulted in the creation of a place where individuals of all backgrounds share ideas and work together.

### **4. Investment in the Kingdom of God**

Refilwe believes that all sustainability, economic, social or otherwise is not a realistic outcome without spiritual sustainability. Because of this the importance of a relationship with God is presented in every program and project. Ultimately it is the community of believers that Refilwe is committed to developing and that work will be sustainable for eternity.

These investments pay huge dividends, are low risk and have incredible growth forecasts in all economic conditions. Furthermore, these investments are still unidentified by a majority of investment firms and traders.

We want to offer you an opportunity to invest in our portfolio. We are giving you exclusive information to this unique and proven strategy. Don't delay, act now.

#### **Practical ideas to help us:**

- All our programmes need financial support. Please contact us to find out about programme specific budgets and related activities
- Donations of food, toiletries, clothes, furniture, stationery and educational items
- Volunteering time and skills – we are in great need of teachers to teach at the school, but also volunteers to help at aftercare, the day care centre, with site work, etc
- Mentoring of a staff member(s)
- "Adopt" a family as Psycho-Social support initiative for the parents
- Direct support to a God Parent(s)
- Assist with fundraising
- Sponsor a child
- Support our School Building Project
- Come for a tour of Refilwe and decide where you could get involved

## IMPORTANT DETAILS

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### BANKING DETAILS

Account name: Christian Clinic t/a Refilwe Community Project  
Account #: 611 440 440 23  
Bank: First National Bank  
Branch: Cresta  
Branch Code: 254905  
SWIFT code: FIRNZAJJ768 (For international transfers)



*Skills Project: Blessed Hands Products*



*Entrepreneurial Skills Training through ACAT*