

We help South African children by offering development in education, providing suitable home environments and safeguarding futures. We have a full-time residential facility for those at risk, orphaned, previously on the streets or affected by long-term illness. We are registered with the Charity Commission in the UK (Registration No: 113 9344) and adhere to all of their expectations.

Our primary project is the (residential) Maranatha-Siyakatala Child & Youth Care Centre in Port Elizabeth / Gqeberha. Here we provide intensive long-term support to the young people in our care. We also support a local primary school and community outreach project in a rural township in the Eastern Cape.

## **Residential Care**

Currently we have 34 young people attending a number of 12 educational establishments through our work at Maranatha-Siyakatala (meaning "we really care" in isiXhosa). The ages start from 2 (which is where we cater for Early Childhood Development) and incorporates our independent living project for 16-21 year olds transitioning as young adults, as well as after-care currently extending to 24 years. Here we also look at higher education and vocational training opportunities for those post-18 that have completed schooling. It is inclusive of young people with special educational needs where arrangements need to be made for them to receive the right targeted support. An individual development plan is designed and implemented for every beneficiary, tailored to the age of the child or young person.

We have the most active independent living program within the Eastern Cape Province at this stage. This is where children identified as long-term cases, due to a lack of support network in the community, can reside at the centre with services provided to help them become self-sufficient adults.

Alongside this we are the only residential facility that provides an after-care component to our work where we have given continued support to young people between the ages of 21-24 at our centre where there is still a need to help them with work and training options in further preparing them for independence in society. This is also so crucial as the most recent survey from Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) found that more than half of all people of working age in the Eastern Cape Province where the youth centre is situated were unemployed during the fourth quarter of 2020.

## Services Offered

Alongside education, every child and young person is provided full therapeutic support under the oversight of the social work team based at the facility. We also open doors for recreational activities and investment in areas such as sports development and suitable activities that can nurture talent and allow children to regain the sense of happiness often lacking in their lives to date. Through this we have also had children go on to compete and take part in events at a national level with success. The services we provide assist in rebuilding lives and empowering children through to adulthood and re-integration into society and independence.

## **Independent Living Beneficiaries Statistics**

## **CURRENT YOUNG PEOPLE**

- 11 young people within the residential houses of independent living 7 males and 4 females
- Of these young people:
  - 4 of them are orphaned (36%)
  - 10 of them have lost at least one parent (91%)
  - o 6 of them were previously classified as street children (55%) when admitted at a young age
- We also supported an orphaned young male to achieve his matric (A Level Equivalent age 18) last year who subsequently started an apprenticeship at a racecourse with accommodation

## AFTER CARE COMMITMENT

- Whilst independent living programs is designed to cater for ages 16-21 we currently support **4** additional young people over 21 at the project (between ages 21-24)
- These young people were all previously in care at our youth centre
- They have been given an opportunity to be supported at the centre due to limited family support in the community and so they can have better work and study opportunities and prospects
- 2 of these young people are also orphaned

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

- We have had 7 young people achieve matric (diploma pass or higher) in the last 5 years
- We therefore have had an 100% Grade 12 (final year) pass rate of our young people in mainstream high schools within the last 5 years
- Included in this is a young person from Joubertina (rural community) who commenced diploma studies at the local Nelson Mandela University in Sports Management
- One young person is also busy with a Film & Television production Level 5 Learnership
- We have one young person with a bursary doing a Diploma in Logistics Management whilst utilizing his business experience at our organisation to assist with income generating projects
- One of our current beneficiaries age 19 started studying Bachelor of Laws at UNISA (University of South Africa) this year after achieving very high pass results and remains at the youth centre
- One of our current beneficiaries age 21 proceeded to her Level 4 studies in Hospitality & Catering after successfully completing a qualification in Professional Cooking
- Of the 11 young people age 16-24 we support residentially at this stage:
  - 18% are in high school
  - 36% are in full-time employment

- 36% are in higher education or university
- 10% are in vocational training
- We also track the young people who left the organisation and have been integrated into society in
  order to offer support where required and ensure their studies / training continues. One young
  person working for a national company previously on the streets also came back to speak to our
  children recently and remains in close contact with us.

# **Affiliate Organisations**

Maranatha Care Children also provides support to the following projects where possible:

- **Protea Primary School** a school joined to a 'place of safety' that can also refer beneficiaries to Maranatha-Siyakatala for a longer term placement as a residential facility. The school currently caters for 100 students including certain primary school scholars from Maranatha-Siyakatala
- Maranatha-Nieu Bethesda a rural community project providing upliftment for the residents of the Pienaarsig Township with various social-economic problems and a population of 1800 where we are specifically assisting children, teenagers, young adults, parents and family units (family preservation)

The youth centre we support was the first in the city to specifically take in young girls off the street.

Maranatha Care Children also works closely with the following local organizations in the region in terms of collaboration and assistance with resources available to us:

- Khayalethu Youth Centre providing care for 25 boys off the street age 8-18 with an additional house for 18-21 year olds
- Lukhanyiso Child & Youth Care Centre providing residential care for 25 children & teenagers
- 12 educational establishments we work closely with in terms of placing our children & young people

## **Important Information**

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