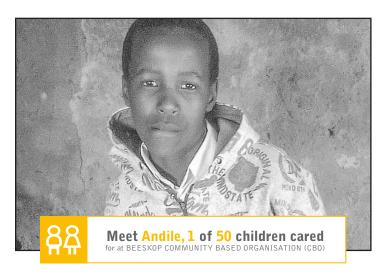
UPDATE FROM BEESKOP COMMUNITY | SOUTH AFRICA



October 2023

Three dedicated local volunteer Care Workers, coordinated by Ncamsile, support the most vulnerable children in the community of Beeskop. The love and care they provide ensure that each child is physically, emotionally and spiritually cared for.



13-year-old Andile* wants nothing more than to know who his biological father is and whether or not he is still alive. The only things he knows are that his dad was a South African national and his absence leaves a massive void. Andile and his mother live together with his three siblings in a two-bedroom house. Originally from Eswatini, they have no identification documentation, meaning they are unable to access any government assistance. Though his mother tries to provide for her children, it is rarely sufficient in providing for all their needs. Not only that, but she still carries deep wounds and wants nothing to do with the father's side of the family, causing Andile to live with a sense of frustration. Care Worker Ncamcile recalls how angry and disrespectful Andile was when he began coming to the Care Point. But she is grateful, because over time she has seen him mature, as well as receive healing and guidance through the teachings and activities at the Care Point.

Community Update

This year, the Beeskop CBO has faced significant challenges. Over the last year, the Care Workers' personal relationships were fractured, limiting the effectiveness of their weekly Relationship Group which is designed to be a safe place to share challenges and hear from God's word. This disunity resulted in the number of Care Workers declining, until only one committed Care Worker remained. This, unfortunately, had an effect on the children, who felt the disunity and many even stopped coming to the Care Point. But God is not done in Beeskop. When the local Hands at Work team in Oshoek intervened, they mobilised two Primary Caregivers to become Care Workers. The Oshoek team reminded them of Jesus and the importance of making Him the foundation. Since then, the children who were impacted by the disunity have returned and there is new life happening at the Care Point.



Activities and Projects

A highlight from this year was the Foundations Training for the Care Workers. During the training, they worked through the vision, core values, and fundamental principles of the Hands at Work model, while encouraging and growing the capacity of the Care Workers to care for the most vulnerable in their community. There was a great response from those who attended. The Care Workers were invited to participate in a Care Worker revival, together with Care Workers from across the seven communities that Hands at Work is supporting in the Oshoek region. During this time, the Oshoek team invested into their lives, physically and spiritually, releasing them from the pressures and expectations of their everyday lives and giving them the opportunity to simply be loved and appreciated. This year, the new storage containers were secured with air ventilators and a new steel door, increasing the security of their food (pictured left). A great example of local community ownership is when community members come and help chop firewood at the Care Point.

www.handsatwork.org *name has been changed