



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



**Meet Sibongile, one of the children cared**  
for by HOUTBOS COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION (CBO)

Nine-year-old Sibongile\* and her brother Maza\* have been living with their father in a small mud house since their mother left them, taking the government assistance card and leaving them with nothing. Her father has given up finding odd jobs in the community so he can stay home to look after his children. He tries his best to be a good father. Thankfully, he managed to get a new government card for his children, however it's still not enough to meet all their needs. Compounding these challenges is Sibongile's learning and communication struggles, which require extra assistance in school. Thankfully, the family is not alone in their challenges. Regularly, Care Worker Nelly visits them, offering Christ's compassion and hope. Together with the local Hands at Work team in Oshoek, the Care Workers have been supporting Sibongile with her educational and emotional needs, as well as encouraging her father to be faithful in his role. The Care Workers, in particular Nelly, have become mother figures in Sibongile's life, something that she was previously missing out on.

### Community Update

At the Care Point, the young people are taking ownership of their youth groups, showing leadership and initiative. They've built strong bonds with the Care Workers who are committed to walking alongside them.

Their attendance is remarkable, as they rarely miss a chance to join the activities and learn from anyone willing to invest into them. The Care Workers, however, face many daily challenges. One is regularly attending their weekly Relationship Group, where they can share challenges and lean on each other. They understand the importance of meeting together for their personal and spiritual growth, but it is difficult for them to find time for it. With most of the families and Care Workers coming from Eswatini, being undocumented is a reality for them, adding to the pressures of having to find odd jobs to make ends meet, and therefore limiting their ability to meet at the Care Point.



### Activities and Projects

It has been a busy and fruitful season at the Care Point with the Oshoek team facilitating a Foundations Training, a Maranatha Workshop and a Care Worker Revival to equip and encourage the Care Workers and share more about Jesus. There were school uniforms distributed to those in need and plans to deworm the children, ensuring they are receiving the proper nutrients from their daily meal. Some improvements to the Care Point facilities have happened, like the construction of a youth shelter, the plastering of the Care Point building and the installation of a steel door and ventilation for the storage rooms (pictured left). Hands at Work volunteers from the base in South Africa came and inspired the Care Workers to play more with the children and be increasingly attentive to their needs. The Oshoek team and Care Workers are grateful for the support of local pastors like Pastor Nkosi, who shared at a Community Prayer earlier this year.

