

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

OSHOEK COMMUNITY

SOUTH AFRICA | OSHOEK REGION

In 2009, George Snyman, the co-founder of Hands at Work, stood overlooking the Oshoek Community with a pastor friend, who said, "It's the worst community I've ever seen". Later, George met a local principal who said, "So many of the orphans are disorientated. They don't even know what day it is". Hands at Work began building a relationship with Bamabanani Community Based Organisation (CBO), and partnered to care for the most vulnerable children in the area.

Oshoek is located on the border of South Africa and Eswatini. It is a major trucking route, making the women extremely vulnerable, but also exposing the community to drug use. There are few opportunities for employment. Other challenges in Oshoek include the high number of people from Eswatini who come to South Africa in search of a better life but without identification documents. Without ID, they struggle to find work and earn a living for their families.

In addition to providing the most vulnerable children with food security and support with education and basic health care, the Care Workers from the Bamabanani CBO visit the children in their homes, building strong relationships of love and trust. These Holy Home Visits enable the Care Workers to support each child's physical, emotional and spiritual needs on an individual basis. Additionally, it helps to accurately assess each child's practical needs and make a plan for how to best care for them.

In the beginning of 2016, toilets were constructed and a fence was put up at the Care Point, increasing the health and safety of the children. Later, a Care Point building was constructed and eventually painted by the Care Workers and children. These bright and vibrant colours are a beautiful representation of the new life happening in Oshoek.



Number of Care Workers **4**
 Coordinator Name **Sylvia**
 Distance from Local Office **1km**
 Basic Services Started In **2012**