

# HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

## STHOBELA A COMMUNITY

### SOUTH AFRICA | OSHOEK REGION

The community of Sthobela is nestled in the hills of the Oshoek area, situated alongside the border of South Africa and Eswatini. It is made up of people from Eswatini who often do not have documentation and also people from a nearby province, KwaZulu-Natal, who come looking for opportunities to provide for their families through farming. Within these beautiful, grassy, rolling hills, it is frequently cold and windy, which creates unique practical challenges for the community.

In 2014, Hands at Work recognised that Sthobela was a vulnerable community and there was a need to expand our care to this area. After walking in the community, Hands at Work mobilised volunteers from the local church to help identify the 'poorest of the poor' children in their community. Sthobela A Community Based Organisation (CBO) started operating out of a small metal shack that they built themselves.

Today, Lilly is the coordinator of the Sthobela A CBO and helps to encourage and support the other Care Workers as they sacrifice their time and energy to bring parental love and care to the children. Coming to the Care Point, the most vulnerable children are supported with the three essential services of a hot, nutritious meal daily, education and basic health care. Additionally, they receive love and support from the Care Workers who take time to regularly visit the children in their own homes, bringing Christ-like love.

The Care Workers have recognised the support and healing that has come through their weekly Relationship Group.

In 2016, the Chief in Sthobela officially gave Hands at Work ownership of a piece of land for the Sthobela A CBO. This was a huge encouragement, providing stability for the CBO and also exempling the local community ownership of the care for the children.

Over the past few years, the shack previously used at the Care Point for cooking has been turned into a proper building, complete with toilets and benches for the children to sit on. In 2019, playground equipment was donated to the Care Point, giving the children a safe place to play and freedom from the burdens and responsibilities at home. Additionally, the exterior of the building has been painted with bright and vibrant colours representing new life and creating a sense of ownership among the Care Workers and children.



Number of Care Workers **2**  
 Coordinator Name **Lilly**  
 Distance from Local Office **15km**  
 Basic Services Started In **2014**