

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



Meet Naomi, one of the children cared
for by STHOBELA A COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION (CBO)

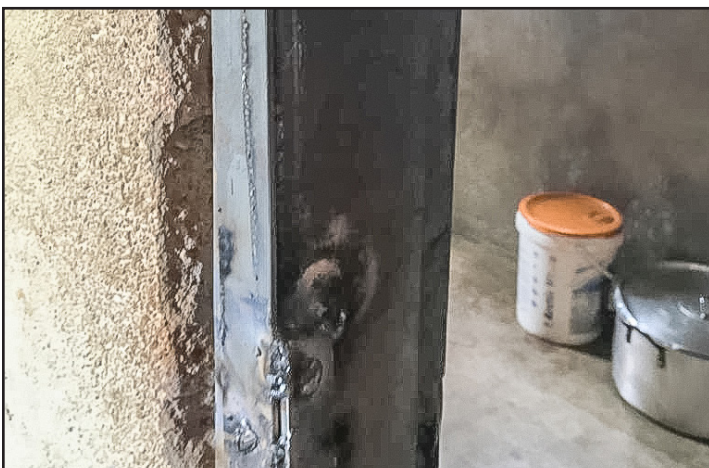
Naomi* is a strong and resilient girl, who dreams of a better future for herself and her family. Having lost both of her parents, 18-year-old Naomi lives with her elderly grandmother, Maureen*, who has tried her best to ensure her granddaughter receives an education. In July 2022, Naomi gave birth to a baby boy, who lives with another relative when Naomi is in school because Maureen is unable to care for him alone. Unfortunately, coming from Eswatini and being undocumented, this means they have no access to government assistance and there is no guarantee that Naomi will get a diploma or job after school. With no income, they depend on gifts from relatives in Eswatini and the support of the Sthobela A CBO. At the Care Point, Naomi is physically, emotionally and spiritually cared for by the Care Workers, who share that Naomi is happy to be part of the Care Point and is rarely absent.

Community Update

Throughout the year, the local Hands at Work team in Oshoek have been walking with the local pastors and community leaders trying address the shortage of Care Workers. While there have been no immediate results, please pray that God will stir in the hearts of more people to become Care Workers. Thank God for the two Care Workers who have persevered and remained faithful in their calling. For these two Care Workers, meeting together for their Relationship Group has been a challenge as they have to prepare the food and do Holy Home Visits before the children return from school. With a lack of job opportunities in the surrounding areas, young people search for work in distant cities, leaving their little children under the care of their elderly grandmothers. Currently, the Oshoek team and the South Africa Regional Support Team are prayerfully seeking ways to care for these two distinct age groups, as the children can't walk on their own to the Care Point and the grandmothers are too elderly to bring them.



Activities and Projects



In the past few months, the Oshoek team have facilitated a Foundations Training and a Care Worker revival for the Care Workers from across the seven communities in the area that the Oshoek team supports. These events have helped to connect the Care Workers and the community members, all while sharing the Hands at Work vision and the heart of the gospel. This year a new door frame was installed on the food storage room, ensuring that food for the children stays safe and secure (pictured left). The Oshoek team and Care Workers are grateful for the international teams who have visited them. They have made a positive impact on the Care Point and the community. The Care Workers felt encouraged and uplifted by their presence and encouraging words; a reminder that they are not alone. A few of the community leaders have been more involved in helping with the problems that the children face, like Pastor Kubheka, who visits the Care Point and children's homes, offering spiritual guidance and counseling.