

UPDATE FROM STHOBELA B COMMUNITY | SOUTH AFRICA



Hands at Work
AFRICA

October 2023

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



Meet **Bafana**, 1 of 50 children cared for
by STHOBELA B COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION (CBO)

Bafana* is a young boy who lives with his mother, Freya*, in a Rural Developmental Project House built by the government. They have a difficult life as they depend on Bafana's child support allowance from government and his mother finding odd jobs in the community. Bafana also has a brother who is in grade 12, but he lives away to be near his school. They still have to support him as well. Bafana's father has left the family and does not support them. In 2018, Bafana started coming to the Care Point, and since then he has experienced a lot of positive changes. The Care Point provides him with food, which is a great relief for his family, as they can only afford to cook once a day. He has also learned to socialize with other kids and overcome his shyness. He has become more confident and happy. The Sthobela B CBO is a blessing for Bafana and his family.

Bafana didn't want to have his photo taken. The photo that is included is a general scenery photo.

Community Update

The situation in Sthobela B is challenging, as many Care Workers have left their duties and only one of the three remaining, Mama Zanele, is consistently looking after the children with the help of the local Hands at Work team in Oshoek. However, the harvest season (January through March) also makes it difficult for her to visit the homes and run the Relationship Group, as most people, including children, are busy working in the farms. Another obstacle is the cultural and religious beliefs of some families, who rely on ancestor worship and avoid going to clinics. Many of the children are under the care of their grandparents, who struggle to provide for them. Despite these seemingly immense challenges, Mama Zanele's dedication and compassion has inspired two Primary Caregivers to help her a couple days a week at the Care Point. This has been a source of encouragement and hope for Mama Zanele and the Oshoek team.



Activities and Projects

Regularly, the Oshoek team invite the Primary Caregivers to the Care Point, encouraging them to become more involved in the day-to-day activities of the Care Point. Additionally, the South African Regional Support Team hosted a Foundation Training for the Care Workers from across the seven communities in the area that the Oshoek team is supporting, to remind them of the biblical mandate to serve the most vulnerable. They also hosted a Care Worker revival to rekindle their commitment to caring for the children in their community (pictured left). Two local government organisations have visited the Sthobela B CBO, expressing their admiration for the Care Workers' efforts. They also donated some equipment to the Sthobela B CBO, which will be used to help maintain the Care Point so the children can have a safe space to come and enjoy a hot, nutritious meal daily.

