

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



Meet **Naledi**, one of the children cared for by STHOBELA C COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION (CBO)

Naledi* is a second grader at Madzanga Primary School. She lives with her grandmother, Mama Nelly, who is one of the Care Workers in Stobela C. Naledi's father suffers from epilepsy and her mother struggles with a mental disability, so it is Mama Nelly who provides a stable and loving home for Naledi.

Naledi began coming to the Care Point in 2022, when it started operating in her area. She loves coming to the Care Point and playing with other children her age. Her grandmother says that she used to be very quiet and withdrawn, but after coming to the Care Point, has become more cheerful and lively. Not only is Naledi cared for emotionally, but she is supported with the provision of a hot, nutritious meal daily and a school uniform. Naledi enjoys learning at school and dreams of becoming a doctor someday because she wants to change her situation and help others.

Community Update

The youth and children aged 6-12 collaborate on various activities that unify them and foster their physical and spiritual growth. They enjoy performing skits that teach valuable lessons to others. They have strong relationships with the Care Workers who help in the preparation of these skits. Unfortunately, the Care Workers are struggling with their Relationship Group, as they have lost some momentum and some Care Workers have stopped coming. In response, the local Hands at Work team in Oshoek are trying to rekindle the passion of the Care Workers through gatherings aimed at motivating and supporting them to interact with the children and continue building relationships. Sthobela C Community values "Initiation School" and other traditional practices and cultural ceremonies.

This often puts a lot of pressure on young people to engage in unhealthy behaviour. One way to support the youth is through hosting Youth Camps where healthy, supportive relationships are cultivated and empowering life skills are taught.



Activities and Projects

It has been a busy year for the Sthobela C CBO. There was a Foundations training, a Care Worker revival and a Maranatha Workshop for the Care Workers and Primary Caregivers, to encourage and motivate them in caring for the most vulnerable children in their communities. School uniforms were distributed to the children who needed them. A new Care Point was built and some of the homes of the families that we serve were repaired. Additionally, a new lock was put on the food storage container, ensuring the food stays secure (pictured left). Jacob, from the Germany International Office who volunteered with Hands at Work for a year and closely supported communities in Oshoek like Sthobela C, visited the Care Workers and inspired some who had lost motivation. He was encouraged by the Care Point and the hard work of the Care Workers in cooking for the children. This year, a community member donated cabbages to the Sthobela C CBO, a beautiful example of local community ownership.

