



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



Meet **Shani**, 1 of 50 children cared for
by ZWELISHA COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION (CBO)

Despite the many challenges in her life, Shani* is a hopeful seven-year-old girl. She lives with her sister and their mother who is from Mozambique and has additional needs that affect her speech and ability to work. Furthermore, Shani's mother doesn't have South African documentation, meaning she can't access government assistance. She does odd jobs in the community, like ploughing, but often gets exploited by people who do not pay her fairly or even at all. The Care Point is a blessing for them. The children receive food, clothes, soap and medical care there. Care Worker Julia treats them like family and supports them in every way. Shani enjoys playing with her friends at the Care Point. She does not let the teasing of other children in the community affect her, because she knows that she and her family are loved and respected at the Care Point.

Community Update

The Care Point stands as a shining beam of light for the community of Zwelisha. The Care Workers have a garden project that fosters teamwork and spirituality among them. They've invited a local pastor to join them, Mama Skosana, who is a personal mentor to the Care Workers and is learning more about the Hands at Work model. One of the challenges is that many of the pastors leading the local churches do not live in Zwelisha. They live in towns or other communities, so are not entirely invested in the community itself. The CBO faces some difficulties, such as not having enough Care Workers, dealing with sexual abuse, crime, and harmful cultural practices that affect the children. The Care Point, however, has improved in the last year, as the Care Workers have become more empowered and proactive in facilitating their Relationship Group. The youth have also shown more participation and accountability in their weekly youth group meetings.



Activities and Projects

In 2022, there were three projects that were completed: a playground, a youth shelter, and a water harvesting system using a "Jojo" water tank. This year, a Care Worker garden was started to encourage the Care Workers, who are committed to caring for the most vulnerable children in Zwelisha. To help with the health of the children and ensure that they can attend school, washing powder and school uniforms were purchased and distributed to those in need. In September, the local Hands at Work team in Hazyview arranged a day of community prayer where Mama Skosana shared. The support and prayers from the Zwelisha CBO's international church friends and partners have been a source of great encouragement to the Care Workers.



UPDATE FROM ZWELISHA COMMUNITY | SOUTH AFRICA



Hands at Work
AFRICA

Graduation Update

From the beginning, Hands at Work has been focused on serving in the most vulnerable communities. As the Community Based Organisation (CBO) and the local church mature and develop in their understanding and capacity to care for the most vulnerable, there comes a time when they are ready to take the next step and take ownership to care for vulnerable people. This step is called graduation and this is where we find the community of Zwelisha.

Zwelisha is developing, and the CBO with it. With strong leadership from Nikiwe and Julia, many support organisations exist in the community and these leaders know how to access them when needed for the most vulnerable children. They have secured funding from the government and have a good relationship with the local clinic, which sends representatives to check in and support. Though there are still many vulnerable families and challenges, much has been done to prepare this CBO to graduate and still support families well. Please pray as Hands at Work leaders continue to work to meet with more local pastors and connect them into the work.



- Pray for more Care Workers to be involved, and for unity, strength and confidence for the existing Care Workers
- Pray for wisdom for Nikiwe and Julia as they navigate difficult situations with families and continue in faithfulness to their calling

