



***iKhaya le Themba – Quality Educational and Holistic Support in a Safe Environment for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children of Imizamo Yethu.***

Translated, the isiXhosa name of the community in English means “our combined efforts.” iKhaya le Themba – the “Home of Hope” provides a platform where the above is not only evidenced on site; there is actually a global platform of these “combined efforts” in effect. Nine of the Eleven staff are from the immediate community – the informal settlement of Imizamo Yethu, two others live in the remote area surrounding the village in Hout Bay.

**The Home of Hope empowers its beneficiaries through educational support and skills development. Children benefit from an environment where they feel safe, nurtured and loved; where they learn, play and grow and are encouraged to nurture a hope for a future. A hot meal is served daily and the children take home a sandwich with a piece of fruit at the end of every day.**

**OBJECTIVES**

- Provide comprehensive after school care & remedial teaching to vulnerable children in the township, aged 6-14 years
- Support families who care for vulnerable children and orphans through our Parent Centre providing holistic education to adults
- Build a sustainable organisation with a diverse donor base including a fundraising initiative from our community
- Measure the Impact of our work to increase the support to the sector
- Network with like-minded organisations to encourage replication of the model in other communities

## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ikhaya children dream of becoming doctors, pilots, teachers, engineers and lawyers... Our "reinforce learning" curriculum works alongside the current government education system and is designed to help the learners fulfil these hopes and dreams. Children learn to read and write their home language (isiXhosa), study English, Maths, Literacy ( Reading English and isiXhosa) Environmental Awareness and Life Skills through a variety of hands-on methods. We monitor and evaluate students regularly, advocate with families and teachers, and follow up with testing and students' school reports.

According to World Bank Group statistics, millions of young children are not reaching their full potential because of inadequate nutrition, lack of early stimulation; learning, nurturing care and poverty exposes them to stress that stunts their development.

Education is a human right and can be a powerful driver of development in reducing poverty. An educated adult is more likely to have access to health, secure employment and earned income. Recent data indicates that 53% of all children in low- and middle-income countries cannot read or understand a short story by the time they complete primary school. Since COVID lockdown this rate of learning poverty has increased by at least 10%.





At iKhaya le Themba we long for a world where every child has hope and a future. Eliminating learning poverty, hunger and extreme poverty has been at the core of our mission for the last 17 years. Founder Liesl Eliastam dreamed of building an orphanage in answer to the AIDS pandemic. However, through numerous conversations with the community, the unanimous cry was for a safe place for kids, where they could get help with their homework, structural support, play groups, be loved, nurtured and fed a hot meal each day while their home caregivers were at work.

Homework help revealed a need for educational coaching and holistic support for the families. iKhaya provides a partnership with parents and caregivers, advocating with schools and providing practical help in basic learning, combined with therapeutic play and sport; all in an after-school, family focused context.

Threatened by the COVID lockdown, education and economic development has spiraled further into crisis. iKhaya immediately responded with fresh fish and vegetables distributed weekly for each family of our 108 students. Education packets accompanied the food with instructions to return the work at collection of the next week's food distribution. iKhaya created a WhatsApp group to advise our families of COVID protocol and included these in education packets to the students. During hard lockdown, our dedicated staff answered the cry of help from our community from March through July of 2020. We then began integrating the students back into a weekly routine. These actions resulted in closer relations-with parents as partners in education and skills development. We hosted Gender Based Violence Workshops, and other outdoor gatherings thereafter to keep our parents informed.





January 2021, with the help of five of our mothers, iKhaya Gardens of Hope were established through hard tilling of ground, laying on of composting and seedlings which required watering, weeding and resulted in the creation of 5 circular veggie gardens aimed at improved Food Security. The largest cabbages in the valley were recently harvested and served on the tables of all 108 children of iKhaya, including the meals provided at iKhaya daily. Thanks to the hard work, devotion and dedication of these lovely mothers who were not paid any stipend, doing it all for the love of the children and the community, in exchange for vital skills development.

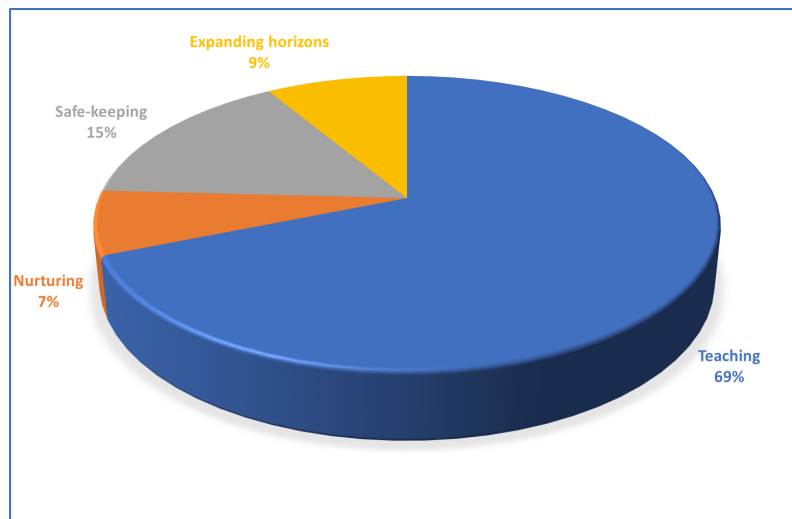
Throughout 2020 iKhaya undertook to inspect its program offering for relevancy that sustains a child through the primary school years and prepares them for high school. An identified challenge revealed students were not developing emotionally or socially sufficiently for their age group. As an outcome of not attending school, a deficiency revealed the need to ready them for high school entrance. Accordingly, iKhaya expanded its program for Grade 7 students offering courses in leadership, community development, the Arts, public speaking and career counseling. Passing the six-month mark of the program we are conducting an impact study involving the students, parents and facilitators to determine what was most impactful; who is ready and who still needs extra shoring-up.

The greatest threat to iKhaya from COVID has been **the loss of funding**. Many Cape Town businesses depend on tourism for the economy to thrive and most of our sponsors/donors hail from the tourism industry or service it. This has resulted in diminished funding threatening our future.

iKhaya le Themba Project was established by a local church which grew into many other churches and instilled in our DNA is Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you; plans to prosper you, not to harm you, to give you hope and a future."* God will never forsake us, this we are sure of, and many times at the very midnight hour provision from our Father arrives. Our prayer is that those who read this will realize their commission of being blessed to be a blessing, so that iKhaya can continue to bless many more children in Imizamo Yethu and beyond.

The most pressing, practical need: Child sponsorship of R750per month per child. There are 108 iKhaya students enrolled in 2021.

### ***Measuring Impact at iKhaya***





REGISTRATION:  
NPO: 034738 PBO: 93/0017701

### **What's the return on your investment?**

**iKhaya believes learning occurs everywhere. We are all blessed to be a blessing therefore investing in iKhaya le Themba provides the opportunity for each of us to be catalysts – Being the Change We Wish to See – Transforming Education in South Africa! Please see our Program Objectives outlined above.**

It is our mission to inspire hope and a future for all of our students to thrive. Our programs collaborate in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11

### **“The Proof is in the Pudding” – Real Stories of Hope**

- ✓ **Students in Matric, - Head Girl Silikamva High School 2020**
- ✓ **Staff as Community Leaders Raising up the next generation of leaders of South Africa, Job Creation, Gender Equality, Entrepreneurship**
- ✓ **iKhaya Gardens of Hope – iKhaya Mama Volunteers**
- ✓ **Sakhisizwe – Mhinti Pato and 1<sup>st</sup> iKhaya Students Create NGO for High Schoolers**
- ✓ **Neliswa Mvumvu - from Volunteer to Facilitator, to Program Manager, to Social Worker**
- ✓ **Susan Hill – ILT Director and Winner of the Business Woman of the Year Award - Entrepreneurship, President-Elect Soroptimist International Cape of Good Hope**

iKhaya staff have grown exceptionally during COVID becoming an even more united team, passionately devoted to the core of the program – raising up students to become the next generation of leaders of South Africa.

Our Community Worker has doubled her efforts working alongside the mothers in the gardens in the morning, and as a facilitator for Grades 3 & 4 in the afternoon along with visiting the homes of the students. All staff have taken on the task of facilitating Grade 7 – so in effect, everyone has taken on expanded duties in some capacity. We've all committed to give our best to all of iKhaya and to polish the finishing touches that Grade 7 required. It has been a gargantuan task at times, stretching and revealing; so much more can come from and be deposited into our youth and our families to help them thrive.

To Oslo Vineyard, PwC, Duracell, Mike Nightingale Fellowship, Soroptimist International Cape of Good Hope, Christian Life Camps Bay Church, City Sightseeing, Omega Air, Fan Engineering, Marlis Schaper, Gudula Meisterjahn, SEEDS Trust, Tienie Steven, Brian Dagnel, Mercy Vineyard, Gordon Aeshilman, Hout Bay CAN, Courage and numerous individual volunteers and supporters – Thank you!

***"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." - Nelson Mandela***

**BELIEVING IN HOPES AND DREAMS OF ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN IMIZAMO YETHU, HOUT BAY**  
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