



THE
THEMBISA
TRUST

THEMBISA (to hold out hope) supports grassroots development projects in Southern Africa

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Make poverty history – Thembisa's role

This year the wake-up call '*Make Poverty History*' has gone out globally with the aim of alerting everyone – governments, corporate bodies and individuals like you and me – to the growing crisis that together we can help to solve. As we know, this crisis is about millions of real people in circumstances beyond their making or control. They have real families, and real desires to escape the poverty trap. They too want to live lives where they can support and sustain themselves with dignity.

Since 1988 Thembisa has been helping some of these people to help themselves in South Africa – a significant country at the tip of the African continent that forms 1/5 of the landmass of the world. We acknowledge the enormous scale of the problem. We know we can never hope to solve it all. But we know we can, and do, make a contribution. There is mounting evidence that our widow's mite has helped propel some out of the poverty trap and into a vibrant world where their efforts in turn are providing stepping-stones for others. Philani is one example.

Philani started as a nutrition and development project in the 'illegal' squatter settlement at Crossroads, Western Cape in 1979. In the mid 1990s, when for Philani funding was hard to come by, Thembisa made some small contributions. Today Philani, some 25 years old, operates child health and nutrition programs in 9 informal settlements, runs 7 pre-schools, 7 skills training centres, a craft centre with income generating projects based on silk screen printing, weaving and beadwork, and is involved in HIV/AIDS education, etc. (www.philani.org.za). Although still in need of funding, Philani is able to attract this from a number of sources, while Thembisa supports other grassroots projects trying to get started or those with ongoing costs like orphanages. We try to strike a balance between funding projects helping people to help themselves and helping the helpless now.

The Barbara Barrett Bequest

Midyear brought sorrow to Thembisa as one of our most loyal, longstanding and enthusiastic supporters died. South Africans Barbara and David Barrett frequently attended Thembisa events. In her closing days Barbara asked for donations to be made to Thembisa instead of giving flowers. To date over £1000 has been received. We pay tribute to the vibrant, talented and generous Barbara and offer our condolences to David. Thank you from Thembisa.

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Another memorial gift

We also recently received a donation from Margaret Thomas, a Thembisa member, who wrote: “This is in memory of Fidela Fouché, who died in Pietermaritzburg in April. Fidela was a courageous defender of human rights in SA and a generous supporter of the poor.” It is a lovely idea to pay tribute in this way to those who had a heart for the poor.



TONIA COPE BOWLEY
Trustee

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Thembisa website

Don't forget that you can consult our website at www.thembisatrust.org
It's updated from time to time (not always immediately, as we are all volunteers with busy lives!).



Projects funded since the last newsletter ^a		
Project	Location	Amount
Gauteng Peace and Development Foundation – empowerment and training	Gauteng	£2300
African Leadership Development Institute (ALDI) – leadership training	Pietermaritzburg	£1600
Bethesda Foundation – centre for arts education and health	Nieu Bethesda, Eastern Cape	£1600
Masikhulisane Trust	King William's Town	£600
Sakhumzi – orphanage	Cape Town	£600
AE Bonginkosi	Edendale	£600
WARMTH – War Against Malnutrition, TB and Hunger	Country wide	£600
Oaklands – rural creche	Van Reenen	£600
Total		£8,500

^a Includes sums designated for the specific project by the donors.

Art auction and wine tasting, huge success



Some of the donated artworks being auctioned.

The Thembisa Trust fundraising event, hosted by Waterperry Gardens Art-in-Action Gallery on 5 February, was a delight. We were honoured to have the South African High Commissioner, Ms Lindiwe Mabuza, as guest of honour. Her speech painted a realistic and sober picture of the needs of the disadvantaged peoples in South Africa today. It was especially good to have her with us as she came after a full program including hosting President Mandela during his visit to London.

The evening increased the Trust's exposure, thereby further spreading the word about the great needs that still exist in South Africa, and gained the Trust new members. Those present had a wonderful evening.

The gallery manager, Wendy Farha, auctioned the artworks, generously donated by some 20 artists associated with the Gallery. Archbishop Desmond Tutu's book *God has a Dream* was auctioned, with a closing price of £55. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission book, also donated by the Archbishop, raised £45. So, in South African terms, these two items alone raised over R1000. Wonderful! In total, the evening's takings amounted to over £3000.

Credits and thanks to Wendy Farha and the Waterperry team; the artists who donated pieces; the companies who donated wine and soft drinks; the many Thembisa volunteers; and last but not least to those who bought artworks! We hope to have a similar event in 2006.

Thembisa Charity walk

Our annual fund-raising walk was held on 12 June 2005, in perfect weather. We had a good age range, from 3 to over 80 years old. Once again walkers had the choice of a 10-mile or 2-mile route through varied countryside. Both groups ended up in Tiddington for afternoon tea and a chance to hear about the Bonginkosi child-feeding scheme. The walk raised approximately £800; thank you to all who took part or sent donations.

The photo includes Frank Adam, newsletter editor (second from left), and Jenny Camons, newsletter designer (third from left).



Diploma in Social Empowerment

African Enterprise runs the Diploma Programme in Social Empowerment and Development (DSE). They train disadvantaged people in a range of development skills, and encourage them to multiply those skills throughout their own communities.



Above: DSE students in group discussions



Above: DSE 2002 graduate, Thandi Majola runs a successful business making gas stoves. Here she is seen with assistants.



Below: KwaMgayi Community Garden at Umzinto near Durban run by 2004 third year students Londekile Ngubane, Nokulunga Duma, Zilungile Msane, Busi Mkhize, Zodwa Shezi and Thuli Lungwase. This season's crops are cabbages, spinach and carrots.





Above: DSE students making bricks

Left: The handcraft and fabric painting project initiated by Mdu Gumede and Nathi Hlongwane, DSE graduates from Hammersdale, KZN. They meet together at the community hall in the township to work on this project. There are 9 women and 3 men involved in this project.

Below: Francis Gwala, a 2002 DSE graduate, runs the Zamela Amonadi creche which is in Inadi. He employs 3 teachers and there are 68 learners. Mbulelo Hina, the Director of the DSE programme, is seen here with some of the teachers and visitors.



GPDF – helping people become entrepreneurs

The Gauteng Peace and Development Foundation (GPDF) has continued to provide its Basic Orientation in Community Development and micro-MBA courses when possible, to equip people in Gauteng (Johannesburg and surrounding areas) to work together on community projects and to run their own businesses. These courses are hugely appreciated and can help lift people out of a state of dependence, but lack of funds limits the number of courses. Thembisa's grants to the GPDF have been a lifeline.

NICRO (The National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders) contacted GPDF with 30 names of potential students for the courses, and another 30 in reserve; clearly demand is high.

Daniel Ntanzi of GPDF attended a function at which graduates of the BOC and micro-MBA courses received a donation towards their business from Japanese donors of sewing machines, cutting tables, and a car.

Bonginkosi – gateway to the world.

As a result of the HIV/Aids pandemic in South Africa in general, and in KwaZulu-Natal in particular, traditional family and wider community structures are failing, leaving children with little or no adult support systems. One estimate of the number of children already orphaned in the Pietermaritzburg area alone is up to 15 000.

Thembisa funds the Bonginkosi Preschool in Edendale, a very poor area. The preschool forms part of the Bonginkosi Support Programme for Children at Risk. Bonginkosi was founded in the late 1970s as a children's feeding scheme by a concerned housewife who decided to act after throwing a crust of bread towards a starving dog one day and seeing a child snatch it before it reached the dog. Bonginkosi operated as a feeding scheme partnership between schools where there were hungry children and church groups who had the means to respond, but the partnership network collapsed when the state took responsibility for school feeding in the mid-nineties.

The gates that open into Bonginkosi Preschool in the township of Edendale immediately stand out as they are brightly painted in red, white and blue. These gates open into a yard in front of the school where there are some swings and other modest outdoor equipment for the children to play on. Yet, for the children who attend this preschool, they are more than this. They are the

gateway into the world of education, the world of opportunity.

28 local children aged between 2 and 5 years old attend school from 7.00 am to 3.00 pm. They have breakfast and lunch provided. The children are well fed and happy.

Bonginkosi's walls are decorated with posters, many of which the teacher, Zodwa Nkandi, has made herself. She has also used her creativity to divide the building into different areas, including a fantasy area for imaginative play and a creative art area. This job is a calling for her, as 28 small children to one teacher would be a daunting task even in a school with modern resources. A local person, she says she loves the children and her commitment and constancy are obvious.

The resources are indeed limited in Bonginkosi. The health authorities have condemned the building. Large cracks are visible in the walls and the roof leaks letting in water when it rains heavily. A new building is a must – but fundraising is difficult, as buildings do not have an emotional appeal.

“This is a poor place,” said Victoria Nkolombe, the Director of the School Governing Body. It is good to have a crèche locally. Bonginkosi is the cheapest available with the parents paying R60 (about £5). All the children are local – most come from families where there are single parents. Grannies are looking after some of the children whose parents have died of AIDS.



Oaklands creche

The Oaklands rural crèche in Van Reenen, Free State, was one of the original projects funded by Thembisa and recently they appealed to us again as, sadly, the need for funding is still critical. The crèche cares for 20 pre-school children; it is totally funded by a local family and any donations given by guests at their hotel. Applications for funds from the government have been unsuccessful so far. The biggest outlay is the teachers' monthly salaries. Anna Bruce sent us the following report:

Nonkle lives in a relatively undiscovered corner of the Free State in the mountains 7 km away from the main highway running between Johannesburg and Durban. She is taken to a little farm crèche called Oaklands by her grandfather, George, every morning. She walks with a little brood of other similar aged children from the local farms, they dawdle and kick lazily at the dusty potholed road. There is no time like African time and nobody is chasing their tails today or any day – George just keeps the crocodile of infants moving along steadily.

The 24 children are dressed proudly in their 'Oaklands' T shirts and, with their 2 teachers, Alzina and Idah, they sing and dance, paint and scribble on the blackboard, and say their sincere prayers each morning before lunch. Oaklands Country Manor, at



Nonkle (left) and a friend with her grandfather .

the end of the road, provides hot lunches of mealie meal and meat, fruit and juice daily – this is the children's main sustenance of the day. At noon with comfortably bulging tummies the children amble back to their homes, again George leads the way.

Nonkle is lucky to only walk 500 metres to her school each morning; some of her peers cross the open veldt and leave at sunrise to arrive at the guessed notion of 'on time'. She is lucky to have a grandfather and a cheerful optimistic grandma who works tirelessly cooking, cleaning and maintaining the huts or 'ikayas'. She is unlucky to have lost her mum, Maggie 2 years ago when she was only just 2. She died very suddenly with no forewarning leaving behind her precious little girl.

Thembisa Christmas cards

We still have a limited supply of last years Christmas cards. They are black and white, measure 10.5 x 14.8 cm, and the caption inside says 'Wishing you joy and peace at Christmas'. The cost is £3 per pack of six cards and envelopes (two of each of the three designs). PLEASE add £1.50 for postage and packing on to your order.



All the profit will be used to fund projects. Please make cheques payable to the Thembisa Trust.

Bethesda Arts Centre

The Bethesda Arts Centre provides training in the arts and in life skills to the community of Nieu Bethesda in the Karoo. Apart from the Centre, there are few possibilities for local people to earn an income. We received the following report from Jeni Couzyn.

Workshops in Fine Art, including drawing and printmaking, have continued this year. A new group of very talented boys became involved with the classes, and the old group is working steadily.

Sizakela Ngobeni ran a two and a half month workshop in ceramics from Kwa Zulu Natal. Centre artist James Hartliet has begun to make wonderful South African nativity sets that we expect to be very successful in season

In the Performing Arts, daily rehearsals and acting classes focused on the play, *The Conference of Birds*. It was performed in Graaff-Reinet, at a local school, at the Grahamstown Festival, and at the September Festival in New Bethesda.

The Textiles programme has been one of our most successful so far (launched by Julia Chamberlain). We have launched our own designer label *Pomegranate*, supplying a designer clothes shop in Johannesburg as well as making to commission and selling through the Centre's gallery. Examples are beautiful wall-hangings, skirts, bags and quilts, see www.bethesdafoundation.org/pomegranate.

If we can build up a good market for the products, particularly in the UK, this



programme may have the capacity to become self-sustaining.

The Education programme was launched with the establishment of a library and resource room at the Centre. The library houses books, tapes, videos, and 3 computers, a study area, and a comfortable reading area. In its first six months, 22 young people had computer lessons and 6 are enrolled on distance learning courses.

The gallery has taken a leap forward this year, looking more and more professional. Visitor numbers have risen dramatically, with a total of 1692 in the last financial year. 538 pieces of art were sold from the gallery last year, totalling R41,080 (about £3,420).

We opened the Tower Accommodation in December 04. Although it has been a relatively slow start it is low maintenance with a very good return, and looks like it will be an excellent income generator for the Centre in the future.



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Thembisa has
no political affiliation

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