



Ons Plek Projects

providing hope instead of street life



Beautiful bangles, baubles and beads.

2015 Annual Report

Do you remember the last AGM?

I definitely do. The excitement of celebrating our diversity of cultures was captivating: beautiful traditional outfits, wonderful stage performances of dancing, singing and explaining traditions. And don't forget the foods from different cultures we had the pleasure to experience. I won't forget the excitement of our children and their enthusiasm either!

The vision of a new house has come true! A good reason to be appreciative and celebrate!

Come and celebrate with us, join us and be part of the Ons Plek family! Be a parent for a day to our children when they present in singing, dancing and showing their favourite school work.

Gina Jagers : Deputy Director

Ons Plek Projects

Director:

PAM JACKSON

Deputy Director:

REGINA JAGERS

Our assessment centre and intake shelter
ONS PLEK and our OFFICES, are situated
at 4 Albertus Street, Cape Town.

Tel: 021 465-4829

Fax: 021 461-0530

NEW EMAIL: onsplek@onsplek.org.za

website: www.onsplek.org.za

NPO No. 009-578 * PBO No. 930-001-457

Our second-stage shelter SIVIWE,
is situated at 7 York Road, Woodstock.
Tel: 021 448-6529

Our Community Development Programs:

UKONDLA 1 is situated at City Council
Community Hall, Browns Farm, Philippi, Cape Town

UKONDLA 2 and 3 are situated on the premises
of Sizakuyenza Safe House,
cnr Eisleben and Phumelele Roads, Philippi,
Cape Town.

~ 2015 Annual General Meeting ~

DATE: Thursday 17th September 2015

VENUE: Rosebank Methodist Church Hall

TIME: 17:30

RSVP: Tel 021 465-4829 or Fax 021 461-0530

Please help us cater
for everybody by
bringing a
plate of eats

Nominations for the Management Committee of Ons Plek Projects

Nominations for election to the Management Committee must be received at our office by 5th September 2015 at 17h00.

Nominations must be in writing and must have been seconded. Your nomination form is on the back page. If you are in need of more nomination forms, they are available from Sharon at our office.

ONLY MEMBERS of Ons Plek Projects are entitled to nominate and second persons for election.

(Member's list appears on page 4)

We thank the following current Committee Members who are willing to stand for re-election:

* Roland Hudson-Bennett

* Christiana Nel

* Allerease Olanrewaju

* Monica Pike

* Leslie Witz

Ons Plek ❀ Siviwe ❀ Ukondla

Ons Plek Projects consist of:

- * **Ons Plek** intake shelter for girls doing comprehensive assessment and development care with reunification as a priority.
- * **Siviwe** second-phase shelter for girls focusing on therapeutic and developmental children's home with reunification as a priority.
- * **Ukondla** — Community Project with prevention as a priority run at three venues in Philippi for boys and girls at risk of becoming street children.

~ Mission Statement ~

Ons Plek Projects has a simple and passionate mission:

To make a substantive improvement in the lives of female street children and to prevent children at risk of becoming street children from doing so.

Ons Plek Projects provides places where children find opportunities to build their lives and their self-esteem. Places where a sense of belonging helps them to take responsibility for themselves and for others.

The preparation for the future lives of each child takes into account the innate potential of the individual within the realities of her life circumstances.

These realities are mirrored in all aspects of our projects which enables us to model coping mechanisms; children participate fully in decisions about their lives; residential staff members share the lives of the girls; office staff members make do in cramped quarters with only the essentials for the job; and our community projects model how a lot can be done by dedicated staff members with few resources.

Ons Plek is not an escape — it is a real home in a rough life

Ons Plek's Vision ...

That female street children will be successfully re-united with their families and that failing that, they will be sufficiently empowered at Ons Plek Projects to grow into healthy, independent functioning members of society.

The children at risk of becoming street children will use our interventions to keep them as constructive members of society.

That children living in communities with their parents who are at risk of becoming street children will be enabled to remain in school and with their families.

Key Information with regard to the Work, and the Context of the Work, of Ons Plek Projects

- Ons Plek is the only comprehensive program for girls on the streets in the Unicity of Cape Town.
- Our intake shelter is situated in the CBD of Cape Town, because it is central and is where children and youth run to for relative safety if city security systems allow them.
- The sources of the children's problems are not easily solved – deepening poverty, abuse, lack of affordable safe housing, unemployment, crime, family instability, alcohol abuse, family violence, etc.
- Girls come or are referred to us from different areas. Some girls roam around their home community with inappropriate friends, often hanging around cheap local liquor and entertainment centres, before seeking help further afield.
- Girls who seek help are often teenagers, but also younger girls, sometimes girls with babies.
- Children tend to cope with an inordinate amount of trauma before leaving their home environments. These psychological scars may take a long time to heal for many of the girls.
- Those girls who find it the most difficult to reintegrate with mainstream society are often also living with learning difficulties and even severe mental health problems.
- Unaccompanied foreign minors are very vulnerable, and are ending up in the 'street children' sector.
- Ons Plek works with an average – 100 to 150 girls per year.
- Our community based prevention programs successfully keep 'at risk' children from running to the streets. They provide a support structure in community for children from the shelters when re-unified with their families.
- The work of our three main facilities is all interlinked. The three programs integrate to form a whole.

Are YOU a MEMBER of Ons Plek Projects?

Current Membership Register:

In order for our membership to be accessible to everyone, we consider any donations in cash or kind from INDIVIDUALS in the course of the year as sufficient to cover our annual membership subscription. You may also become a member by paying a specific subscription of R5 per annum. If you have donated and your name is not listed below, please contact Sharon at Ons Plek immediately in connection with your membership before the AGM. You will also have the opportunity to sign up as a member at the AGM on **Thursday, 17th September 2015**.

MEMBERS ON RECORD:

- A:** Abekwe C, Abreu I, Ackermann S, Adams F, Adams F R, Adonis N, Akumba J, Albertyn Z, Allers C, Alor M, Andrews L, Andrews R, Angelucci F, Anthony B, Anyamene H, Arendze Mr, Arendze Mrs, Ascott C, Ascott T, August C, Auld K G, Aunty Roxanne, Aunty Theresa, Ausley S.
- B:** Baird I, Baird M, Banjoko J, Bartman L, Bassier L, Bassier S, Belman L, Berman G, Bertels S, Bianca & Warren, Block R, Blume M, Bosch L, Bosch A, Botha F, Botha S, Botha S R, Bowen C, Braithwait N, Brandstater S, Britz F, Broekmann T, Broumels M, Brown M, Brown P, Brown R, Brown Y, Brunner H, Bruns H, Bryant D, Bubi D, Buckley J (UK).
- C:** Cagnazzo N, Camming A, Campbell R, Carpenter D, Carter V, Cerqueira T, Chiat A, Chidebela P, Chinagorom U P, Chloe, Chukwuemeka C, Chukwunenye E, Clarke L, Classen C, Coetzee B, Coetzee J, Colling E, Conradie G F, Cornell C, Cornish W R, Court R, Cowling S.
- D:** Daniel I, De Castro A, De Chazal J, De Jager C, De Jager N, De Pao C, Dhankhau K, Dos Santos N, Dower J K, Downey R, Duggen J, Dullaart A, Dullaart G, Dumbutshena R, Duncan C, Dwebi M, Dyasi N, Dyson C.
- E:** Ebdon C, Ebeadum M, Elochukwu O, Emore P & R, Engel V, Engelbrecht L, Engwe A, Esau S, Essack M, Evans C, Ezeibekwe E, Ezezue A.
- F:** Fagroedien R, Fairbridges, Faith47, Farrell L J, Fatima, Feldman T, Feldmann L, Fells R, Filippi M J, Fisher S, Forgas D, Frater S M A H, Fredericks W, Fredman S, Freedman R, Fresen L, Fusoa Mrs.
- G:** Gardner M, Gaye C, Godelein P (CPUT Group), Goodwin R, Goulden C, Gouws H, Gouws J M, Gram C (Norway), Greyling B, Groenewald C, Gross P, Grothoff M, Guile S, Gurtschmann N, Guy A, Guyeu J.
- H:** Haalck J, Hardy Dr. B, Hare E, Harris-Schenz Dr. B M (USA), Hawkes R & G, Hendricks Mrs, Hendricks Z, Hendriks family, Henwood D, N, A, Hering J & K, Herselman M, Hetreed N, Hey B, Hicks M, Hill P, Hirschsohn C, Holditch Mr & Mrs (UK), Home family, Hudson-Bennett R, Huebert L, Hughes J, Humphries C, Hurt E.
- I:** Isaacs O, Isaacs S, Isheunesu M, Ismail A, Ismail F.
- J:** Jackson P, Jacobs L, Jacobs R, Janse Van Rensburg M, Jearey D, Jennings R, Joemat C, Johnson P, Johnstone M, Jones I, Jordan P, Juhaid Mrs, Juhele S, Juli.
- K:** Kahn M, Kanguru M, Karjiker Dr. M, Keel J, Keen J, Keet K, Kenana K, Khan M, Konjwa A, Korff J, Kriek M, Krige S, Kruger A, Kruger L, Kruger N, Kumeke C.
- L:** Laakman H, Labia Count & Countess, Laila, Lambrechts R, Latimer N A, Lawrence M, Le Roux D, Le Sueur Ms. A, Leah, Lioba Ms E, Logan P, Longden-Thurgood C, Loots S, Luaba D, Lucas B, Luyindula P.
- M:** MacDonald G, Majiet N, Makandula L, Manuel C, Mapasa K, Mapholo N, Marais Mrs, Marizu O, Marks S, Martin Y, Mashaba L, Masopa K, Mbekela Y, Mbwekeshia V, McHenry C, McHenry R, McKenzie P, Megan, Menneghin C, Meyer A, Meyer B, Meyer family, Mgbojike Mr & Mrs, Mhlongo O, Mika, Miller Dr. D, Minnaar A, Mitford L, Mohammed, Molteno R, Mompoti B, Moore Dr. D, Moosa M, Moosajee F, Morara S, Moreira S, Morrell P, Morrell T, Mudyirwa C, Mulders R, Muller Rev B, Mutch D, Mwachurwa J.
- N:** Nabo Mrs, Naicker C, Naicker N, Naledi T T, Ndzuta J, Nel C, Nel D, Nel N, Newman M, Ngobeni S, Nizam N, Nombibo B, Nondumiso P, Nothnagel U, Notwala M, Nunes S, Nwachukwu J.
- O:** Oberhauer P, Oberhauer B, Ojukwy C, Okafor E, Okafor F, Okeke A, Okeke M, Okoli P, Okoye E, Okpala K, Olanrewaju A, Olive, Onwuka I.
- P:** Pedro E, Penhale B, Peregrino S, Pereira Z, Petter S, Pike M, Plasberg J, Polley M, Ponto S, Price S.
- R:** Rabinowitz B P, Renecke S, Retief R, Ries R, Rifamole L, Robertson G M, Romanees O, Roodbol A, Rosenmann J P, Ross J, Rossouw A, Rouch H, Ruch Mrs, Ruth.
- S:** Salie M, Salie S, Samakasky D, Samuels R, Sarah, Saunders J, Scello I, Scheepers A, Scher T, Schmidt C, Schmidt E C, Schneider L, Schou S, Schumann G, Schuurman-Stekhoven A P, Schwarz U, Sebastian V, Seeley N, Seibert family, Sena D, Shapiro Y, Shikemeni N, Sickle T, Sifa B, Silverman S, Sirkhotte M, Sirkhotte S, Skotnes A, Smith J, Soal K, Soutschka I, Stanfield D, Stapley M, Steenkamp R, Stichting O & A, Stott B J, Strong G, Strybis A.
- T:** Taliep A, Toefy Mrs, Tough J, Trew E, Tyrrell C.
- U:** Uchedu I, Uchendu C, Uncle Zimboy.
- V:** Van Angeren T, Van Aswegan, Van Breda Z, Van Corler A, Van Den Burg D, Van Der Merwe H, Van der Merwe L, Van Der Merwe S, Van der Schyff M F, Van der Westhuizen M, Van Enter C, Van Niekerk C, Van Niekerk J, Van Niekerk L, Van Rensburg C, Van Tonder T, Van Vuuren K, Van Zyl A, Vandevorst B, Vernon N, Viviers Mrs, Vos Dr. & Mrs, Vucurevic M.
- W:** Wang E, Ward T, Ware G, William B, William M, William R, Williams L, Williams M, Williams Mrs, Wilson K, Winkler family, Winstanley C, Witte A, Witz L, Wolmarans M, Wood K, Worthmann U, Wyatt H.
- Z:** Zinman L, Zonoh L.





Gina Jagers, our Deputy Director, writes this section on behalf of the Director

Annual Report

When changes happen, it is a good time to reassess where we are standing.

This is now such a time.

Ons Plek is soon to move to a new house and it is an appropriate time to look at who we are, how we operate and what we want to continue with in the near future.

Where Ons Plek is at, and what we want to continue with

For almost 30 years Ons Plek has been assisting children and their families to rebuild their lives. This always starts at the intake residence in Albertus Street in Cape Town when a child is admitted.

So it happens when Marion (14 years) comes to Ons Plek on 15 September 2014. She lived with her maternal aunt since her mother had passed away when Marion was 6 years old. Marion is the only child of her mother. She doesn't know her father and she doesn't know which illness her mother died of. In weekly counselling sessions at Ons Plek the child expresses the wish to know what the reason for her mother's passing is. She worries because nobody in the family wants to tell her. This makes her sometimes very angry and she feels unwanted.



The Difficulty of Raising a Teenager

As usual child care workers do home visits to the family and meet with aunt and granny. Our social worker investigates home circumstances and talks to family members to establish what the problem at home is. This has already been done by the referring social worker and a contract stating the grounds for admittal, the particular treatment programs envisaged and who is responsible for which aspect of treatment signed. The time the child spends with us gives us time to confirm and expand on the information the referring social worker has given us. It also enables us to engage the parents in a joint program with us to work towards the child's return home. (see **Family Reunification, Stabilization Programs**)

The maternal aunt explains that she raised her sisters' child like her own. In the beginning there was no problem. But later on, when Marion became a teenager she started becoming "difficult"; she is often withdrawn, doesn't want to talk, starts coming home late from school and visits unfavourable friends. When confronted, Marion shuts her aunt out of her feelings and does not listen to her any more. Things get worse when Marion starts sleeping out and bunking school. Aunt doesn't know what to do as the child would not listen to her. Asked about her biological

mother, aunt doesn't know how to explain to the child that mom had TB and Aids.

Parenting Skills are needed

Child care worker and social worker sit down with the family and the child to discuss listening skills and implementing rules and consequences. In special follow up family meetings child care workers assist aunt how to use these parenting skills. (see **Family Reunification, Stabilization Programs**)

Learning Life Skills

Marion is first very upset and continues to misbehave. In our bridging school, our educator and her team, assess her level of education and pick up behaviour issues. Marion learns that she needs to respect others. In the beginning she often copies behaviours from other girls such as being disruptive and not completing tasks. At the same time Marion wants to go back to a main stream school. Soon she learns that she must behave in socially acceptable ways and maintain these for staff to assess her as being ready to return to formal schooling. It will not help Marion to return to school and fail to cope again. (see **Education Program**)



The same applies with learning other life skills like cooking, cleaning, washing and shopping under supervision of a child care worker. Marion has never done any house chores and is first unwilling to do them. Child care workers show her repeatedly and encourage her to become independent with much love and patience. Now Marion can show her aunt how she cooks when she goes for home visits



on weekends. Today Marion is proud of what she can do and feels appreciated when aunt praises her for her newly gained skills. **(Life Skills and Exit/Graduation Program)**



Rebuilding a Relationship

Marion and her aunt have started to rebuild their relationship. They both learn in family meetings, and Marion in additional individual counselling sessions, how to treat one another and how to express their feelings and to listen to one another. Soon Marion will be ready to ask her aunt again about her mother's passing. **(Family Reunification, Counselling Program)**

Progress at Siviwe

Since the beginning of this year Marion attends a local Primary School. After school she goes to our second stage home Siviwe in Woodstock. There she attends our homework program where our educator and her team of volunteers assist the girls with their homework and teaches them how to study independently. **(Education Program)**



At Siviwe we work in the same way as at the Ons Plek house. Our treatment is just more in depth and more focused on long term developmental and therapeutic concerns whereas Ons Plek is focused on stabilization of unsettled behaviour. The girls at Siviwe are more settled and more used to a daily routine. They receive weekly in-depth counselling sessions and have volunteers in group sessions in which they learn, for example, how to present themselves in a work environment. **(Long-term Treatment Centre)**



Marion gets very excited when she first notices the vegetable garden at the back of Siviwe house. She mentions to her aunt she would like to take this idea home and grow her own vegetables. In the meantime Siviwe harvested a watermelon, potatoes, and spinach and

regularly has parsley at hand. Some of the carrot plants are still waiting to get ready for consumption.

We are currently looking for seeds to fill up the crates so that we can harvest more vegetables in Spring and Summer!



A New House for Ons Plek!

For a long time all Ons Plek staff and board members have been aware that the Stabilization Residence is in need of more space for children to play and a secure court yard away from the bad influence of street life at the gate. And don't forget staff working in cramped quarters, sharing offices and sometimes even a desk.

Moving on is easier said than done! Although Ons Plek was overdue for a move, the way of getting there was paved with many financial obstacles (see the last Newsletter). Our Director Pam Jackson pursued this goal so persistently that we finally reached it! Of course this was achieved with much support from donors and funders and with board members who believe in the good course Ons Plek is sailing.



When Marion visits Ons Plek in town she mentions the difference between the two houses. She says, what is different is not that Siviwe children are treated differently, that is the same. It is the behaviour of some children and the lack of space at Ons Plek that is sometimes making the difference. She remembers the noise in the bridging school class room when a girl didn't want to cooperate and just screamed at the educator so that a child care worker had to assist. In the meantime the telephone would be ringing and at the same time a donor knocking at the gate.

Marion misses a court yard, preferably with grass and trees where children could spend some time outside. Hearing of the new house, Marion becomes excited. She

says, “And then Ons Plek can have it’s own vegetable garden!” She also is happy there will be less bad influences from street boys who just walk past Ons Plek gate and talk to the girls despite constantly being chased away from the gate by staff. A major factor in our choice of new premises has been that the courtyard had to be in the middle of the house, safe from outside influences and under the watchful eye of staff. **(Stablization, Rules and Consequences Program)**

Sharing and Caring

Marion says she likes the way Ons Plek staff is treating children. She especially found the session staff and children had together around xenophobia very interesting. First she was anxious sitting in the meeting with staff. But soon she realized that this was a good opportunity to share and respond. She was part of the group that wrote a letter to the president to express her discontent of what is happening in our country. She says “We must think of what is happening to others as well. I don’t like it when people are being chased away or beaten because they are not from this country. This can happen to us too, when people mistake us for foreigners because we don’t understand what they are saying. This is not right.” **(Human Rights Program)**



Looking Ahead

■ For Marion:

The plan for Marion is, to be reunited with her family end of this year and start High School in aunt’s house. When Ons Plek’s stabilization program moves to the new house next year, the intake will be able to offer the same opportunities to new admissions to follow in Marion’s footsteps.

■ For Ons Plek:

Before we can move into the new house it needs to be made secure and fireproofed.

We need to replace the funds for our reserve we used to purchase the new house.

We will need financial support for the running costs of the new house for next year.

Our ongoing staff training is a priority!

■ The Three Ukondla Community Early Intervention Programs:

Our community project in Philippi also has its own vegetable patch which is growing much to the delight of the staff and children. For some staff members it was difficult to accept in the beginning what the need and joy of growing own vegetables are. But now that everybody can see and taste the benefits, the enthusiasm is great.



At the moment staff is dealing with a high demand of children in need of our support in homework, assisting with family issues and/or school problems. This can be very challenging but is at the same time rewarding when looking at the academic success of our children and the progress in families and schools visited. We find that schools are more and more responding to our program offered. Principals and teachers alike challenge our expertise.



Our parenting skills’ training is growing in leaps and bounds with very enthusiastic parents. This is positive! We have something very special to offer our communities! **(Ukondla Early Intervention Program)** ❀

“As children we always had chickens in our yard. When a hawk or eagle flew overhead, we had to run and put a basket or bowl over the baby chickens to protect them. That is how I see Ons Plek, like a basket protecting the children from the dangers of life.”

— Nontobeko Moni

(previous homework support teacher)

We dedicate this page to all our donors and
thank you for your continued and valued support

*This list includes financial and other contributions received
from April to June 2015*



INDIVIDUALS:

A.

Abreu I
Adams F
Allers C
Ascott T
August C
Aunty Theresa

B.

Bartman L
Berman G
Bertels S
Bianca & Warren
Block R
Blume M
Botha S
Botha S R
Brandstater S
Britz F
Buckley J (UK)

C.

Cagnazzo N
Carpenter D
Carter V
Chukwunenye E
Coetzee J
Conradie G F
Court R
Cowling S

D.

Daniel I
De Castro A
De Pao C
Dos Santos N
Downey R
Dullaart A
Dumbutshena R
Duncan C
Du Plessis R

E.

Ebeadum M
Emore P & R
Engel V
Essack Family
Ezeibekwe E
Ezezue A

F.

Feldmann L
Filippi M J
Fredericks W

Fredman S

Freedman R

G.

Gaye C
Godelein P
(CPUT Group)
Gram C
Greyling B

Groenewald C

Gross P
Grothoff M
Guile S
Gurtschmann N
Guy A
Guyeu J

H.

Haalck J
Hare E
Hendriks Family
Henwood Mr &
Mrs D
Herselman M
Hicks M
Hill P
Hudson-Bennett R
Huebert L
Humphries C

I.

Isheunesu M

J.

Jacobs L
Janse Van
Rensburg M
Joemat C
Johnstone M
Jordan P
Juhaid Mrs
Juhel S

K.

Khan M
Kriek M
Kruger A
Kruger N

L.

Laakman H
Lambrechts R
Lawrence M
Le Sueur Ms A
Lioba Ms E
Logan P

Longden-

Thurgood C

Loots S

M.

MacDonald G
Majiet N
Makandula L
Marizu O
Martin Y
Mashaba L
Masopa K
Mbwekesha V

McHenry C & R

Minnaar A

Mitford L

Morara S

Morrell T

N.

Nabo Mrs
Nel C
Ngobeni S
Nizam N
Nombibo B
Nondumiso P
Notwala M
Nunes S

O.

Oberhauer P & B
Okeke A
Okoli P
Olanrewaju A

P.

Pedro E
Pike M
Ponto S

R.

Rabinowitz B P
Renecke S
Retief R
Ries R
Rifamole L
Robertson G
Robins E
Roodbol A
Rouch H

S.

Salie M
Scheepers A
Scher T
Schmidt C

Schmitt C

Schneider L

Schou S

Shapiro Y

Sickle T

Sifa B

Silverman S

Skotnes A

Soutschka I

Stanfield D

Stott B J

T.

Tough J
Trew E

U.

Uchedu I

V.

Van Corler A
Van der Westhuizen M
Van Enter C
Van Niekerk C
van Tonder T
Vandevorst B
Viviers Mrs
Vos M
Vos P
Vucurevic M

W.

William R
Wilson K
Witz L
Wright Mr & Mrs
Wyatt H

Z.

Ziegler M
Zinman L

**ORGANISATIONS,
SCHOOLS, ETC:**

Admakers
Art of Living
Beljan Trust
Blue Planet Renewable
Butler Blanckenberg
Attorneys
Camelot International
Carter Family Charitable
Trust
CCID
Clothing Exchange

CT Sewing Centre

District Six Museum

Dress for Glory (Australia)

Edward Daniel Trust

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Rotary Wynberg

Shimmy Beach Club

Solution Ground

Molo Songololo

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TNCIS

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Woolworths

CHURCHES:

Bellville Congregational
Church of Christ Eastridge
St. George's Cathedral
St. John's Wynberg
Methodist Churches:
Salt River

UNKNOWN:

Please do contact us if your
name has been omitted. We
have a number of donors'
details whom we are unable
to identify.



Pam Jackson : Director

A Brief Description of Ons Plek's Programs

A summary of the programs is presented for those not familiar with our work. More detailed information on these programs can be found in previous Annual Reports or on our website. Implementation of the programs is illustrated by a case in our Deputy Director's Report.

Family Reunification Program

Family reunification is one of the core functions of the work at Ons Plek. In some cases it requires months or even years of painstaking work to make a home placement possible. It takes place in our Stabilization and our Long-Term Treatment Program.

■ First Stage of Reunification

24-hour Accessible Early Intervention Stabilization Program. Treatment Residence is Ons Plek

Up to 15 years ago the first stage of reunification often began with the process of weaning the child off the street. For many years we have also specialised in early intervention to prevent children from becoming street children in the first place. These children are candidates for street life. Increasingly they spend nights out of their houses and days out of school mixing in the wrong company, drinking, using drugs, sexually active in dangerous ways. Very often they are not only from neglectful parents but also from very caring families. 'On-street' girls are still referred to Ons Plek Intake Shelter within hours or a few days of arriving in the Cape Town CBD, but the proportion of girls arriving in this way is greatly reduced. This is because over the years we have reduced the number of girls living on the streets of Cape Town to an average of 4 girls; we are better known and we act immediately on being approached. **Every child on the street or at risk of being on the street is an emergency for us.** The girls may be running away from abuse or neglect at home or be influenced by the wrong friends. Her circumstances are assessed immediately on arrival. The girl is then referred to our family preservation or family reunification programs.

■ Second Stage of Reunification

Long-term Treatment. Treatment Residence is Siviwe

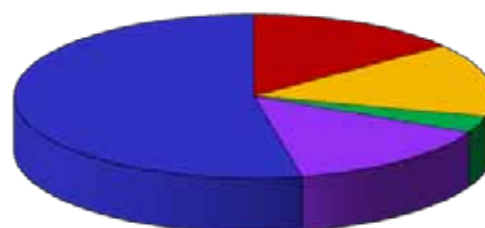
Siviwe, meaning God has heard us, provides the second phase of treatment. Once the girls have weaned themselves from street life at Ons Plek, or are more stable, they leave to be accommodated at Siviwe for the next phase of treatment. Separated from the girls at Ons Plek, who are still making the transition to a structured life, girls at the Siviwe shelter can focus more intensively on building their lives.

Two years ago the children became far more difficult than usual, their acting out increased when external social workers interfered with treatment allowing themselves to be swayed only by the children's version of events without listening to staff viewpoint of events. We again maintained our achievement of last year when, as a result of very firm action on our part in terms of drawing up a detailed contract

for treatment, the bad behaviour has been more manageable. The contract essentially limits the ability of the external social worker to undermine our treatment. It allows us to use our considerable experience in this work and we have been able to educate external social workers whose experience of this kind of child is limited. We spend considerable time clarifying our role with other service providers such as schools, resulting in different intake procedure to meet new challenges. It is our core aim to reunify children with their families.

9 Children refused help, running away to family members. After considering the family situations they were left at home in their best interests.

The use of drugs and an attitude of 'we have rights' without an understanding of responsibilities to balance this is the reason many children are refusing any authority, running away from home and from us. This was the case with 9 children this year.



- 9 Reunified home
 - 9 Transferred to other long-term care
 - 2 Placed in foster care
 - 9 Refused help
 - 33 In care as at 31 March 2015
- * The 9 who refused help, returned home without our blessing. Designated social workers were informed.
- * Of the 33 in our care, 13 were in Long-Term Care Program and 20 in the Stabilization Program.
- * Out of the year's total of 62, we had 18 in Long-Term Care Program and 44 in Stabilization Program.

■ Reunification and Preservation Program

In both programs, family interviews are held as soon as possible to resolve the breakdown in the family if possible.

While the girls adjust to a structured environment, our Social Worker and Child Care staff members contact and interview families and investigate home circumstances before the child can live successfully with family. Those children whose families and/or themselves require intensive therapeutic interventions will be allocated to the Reunification Program. See the following programs which are part of the Reunification Program.

Children who have only been away from the family for a day or two weeks, would fall under the preservation program. If the family bonds are still sufficiently intact for the child to return home while the problems are worked on, it is called family preservation. Staff members hold family meetings and family building sessions with families. Our Ukondla Program focuses primarily on preservation (see below).

■ **Home Visits — local and rural**

Home visits are important in making family reunification possible. We have done very few long distance visits to the Eastern Cape again due to fewer Eastern Cape children this year.

■ **Intervention Programs, Life Skills and Skills Training as related to Reunification**

A healthy self image and feeling of belonging and mastery is crucial to the girls' willingness to engage in problem solving with their families and their communities.

If re-unification fails, the same process enables them to engage constructively in society.

A range of skills training and development programs are provided while the reunification process proceeds, however long that may take. Every activity we offer has a goal and purpose in the children's lives.

■ **Social and Practical Skills — Household Duties**

On a daily basis the girls do individual cleaning duties as decided by the Child Care Worker. The girls are responsible for making their beds, cleaning the rooms and the house in general, school uniforms are washed and ironed in the afternoon. The girls prepare a weekly shopping list and actively do the shopping as well as cooking the meals for the household.

Counselling Program

- **Trauma counselling**
- **Life Story sessions to root the child in her history**
- **Family Therapy sessions**

Social Skills Program

■ **House Meetings**

House meetings take place as determined by household needs. During meetings the girls learn to practice listening skills, respect each other's opinion and share ideas in an accepting and non-judgmental way.

■ **Church/Mosque/Youth Attendance**

Most girls attend the local Methodist Church on Sundays where they interact with the community and experience a sense of inclusion and acceptance.

■ **Cultural and Traditional Activities**

■ **Groups on Relationships, Friendships, Sexuality**

■ **Relationships and Body Care**

The purpose and content of the groups is to educate the girls on positive ways to deal with people in their lives and to gain self respect. Topics include body change and growth, good/bad relationships, teen pregnancy, contraceptives and HIV/AIDS.

■ **Preparation to Graduate**

CV preparation, job interview, skills, budgeting. Our whole program is preparing children to graduate in

that they learn everything they would learn at home re shopping, cooking etc which is very unusual for a Childrens' Home. Usually Homes have food delivered by truck, they have a cook and dishwasher. The children live in the equivalent of a hotel.

Education Program

43 in Informal Bridging School

19 in Formal Schooling

■ **Formal Attendance at Formal Schools**

If the children can cope at school it greatly increases their chances of fitting in and being accepted by their family and their community. Girls attend formal schools after attending our own 'Bridging School'. In Bridging School their education abilities are assessed and they learn to re-adapt to routine and structure and gain confidence in their abilities.

■ **School Assessment and Bridging Program for girls not yet ready to return to school**

The school runs from Mondays to Thursdays 09:30 to 12:00, with art and other creative programs on Fridays from 08:00 to 12:00. We had 43 girls in the Bridging Program.

■ **Homework Sessions**

The girls at formal schools attend our home-work program every afternoon from Mondays to Thursdays. There were 19 girls in school.

Prevention Project

■ **Ukondla Program in Philippi (Browns Farm) Community**

In addition to our overall strategy for dealing with girls vulnerable enough to dwell on the streets rather than in their homes, we are running 3 preventative programs in Philippi community to preserve families. As children drop out of school before they drop out of home, a homework support program coupled with counselling to parents and children, helps them stay in school.

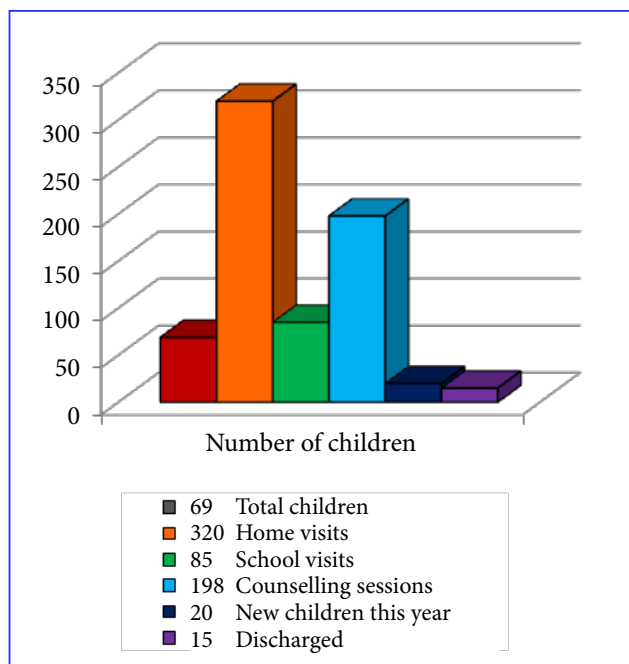
The highlight of the year has been the enthusiastic participation of the parents in our Parenting meetings. Assah and Zanele attended a parenting course and then rolled one out for the parents.

At Ukondla 1, 2 and 3 a group of ±24 children at each Ukondla attend homework support, enrichment programs and weekly counselling sessions. The program runs on Mondays to Fridays and is similar to the in-house support program at Ons Plek, except that the children live in their own homes. Staff members regularly visit all the children's family homes and their parents are now very supportive of the program.

The response to Ukondla's work from teachers, parents and children has been amazing. Teachers beg us to open a centre in their schools because Ukondla's children's school performance improves so markedly. The parents

notice the change in their children's behaviour and several have changed their parenting techniques after discussions with our staff who are trained in parenting techniques. The children themselves are enthusiastic about the activities. Several reveal very traumatic stories in their counselling sessions and healing can begin to take place.

A partnership with Sizakuyenza has been fruitful where we have two venues on their property.



■ Holiday Program for Residences and Philippi

As with all other programs at Ons Plek, the Holiday Program's aim is to include preparing the girls for life in their homes and communities, and to give them opportunities for development — intellectually, socially and emotionally. The aim is never to lure them away from the streets with elaborate treats. This would be counter-productive, maintaining the pattern of alternating over-excitement and apathy which can trap children in street life.

Most vacation days at Ons Plek are spent at home — playing games, doing puzzles, playing “poppie huis”, chatting, walking to the local park, and just being children. Education visits such as museum, art gallery, Jewish Museum.

Volunteer Program for Residences and Philippi

■ Recruitment, Orientation, Supervision

This year we continued to make intensive use of local and international volunteers (11) and student interns (5) who work part-time or full-time for Ons Plek for periods ranging between 3 and 10 months. They provided a range of activities, including computer skills training, reading, art, drama, education, leadership training, swimming and baking. As we had many girls in formal and bridging school this year, the volunteers had to work hard at supporting the girls in these programs. ❀

*We acknowledge with gratitude
the valuable support of our
MAJOR DONORS:*

- * CENTRAL METHODIST MISSION —in the form of a very reasonable rental
- * DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION — WESTERN CAPE
- * GLOBAL MINISTRIES (Indianapolis) — Africa & United Church of Christ
- * GLOBAL MINISTRIES (Institutional and Women's Division) — USA
- * INTOMBI
- * NATIONAL LOTTERY
- * SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG
- * STICHTING STRAATMEIDEN KAAPSTAD
- * STREETSMART
- * THE COMMUNITY CHEST
- * UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Our Wish List ...

FINANCIAL DONATIONS FOR:

- Transport costs for the girls for school (bus/train tickets) AND for educational outing/camps.
- Medical expenses e.g. Eye Tests for the girls.
- Ukondla photocopy costs of educational exercises (cheaper than buying books for each — only need certain pages from each book depending on child's abilities).
- Mats, carpet, plastic chairs, 20 lap desks for Ukondla (please contact us first).
- Kettles and irons.
- Workbooks and educational books for bridging school (list available).
- Washing line and poles for Siviwe (please contact us first).
- External safety gate for Siviwe.
- **We have secured a new premises but will be needing some building work, fire system, alarm and transport costs for the move.**

TOILETRIES: Roll-on deodorant, body lotion, shampoo and conditioner, toilet paper, Vaseline, hair straightener (**must be mild**), black shoe polish, shoe brush, Nitagon lice shampoo (clinics no longer supply this), sanitary towels (pads), flannel nappies.

SCHOOL CLOTHES: School tracksuits, grey pants/skirts, white shirts, jerseys (school colours).

UNDERWEAR (Brand New Please!): Panties and bras for young girls aged 5-18 years, briefs for boys aged 2-5 years.

STATIONERY: White photocopy paper, plastic sleeves, A4 coloured project paper, Flip files, A4 hard cover books (288 & 192 pgs), scientific calculators, Pritt Sticks (large), project board, examination pads; , Ponal wood glue.

School Stationery: Pritt (40gr), pencil cases, ballpoint pens (black, blue and red), homework diaries, Oxford dictionaries (English ONLY).

FIRST AID KITS: Panado, cough syrup, flu packs, plasters, bandages.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Globes — energy saving/rechargeables

Geyser Timer for Siviwe (± R850)

DVD/CD player

Dustbin (large plastic) for kitchen

Power Point Projector (please contact us first)

Plastic chairs (sturdy catering type)

Saucepans

Plastic cups, plates and bowls

Forks and spoons

Mops and brooms

Fax machine with telephone handset

2 x carpets/mats (3.40m x 3.75m)
must be able to roll up

Keeping track of your donation

If you are depositing money straight into Ons Plek Projects' bank account, please enter your surname AND initials, or your company's name, or Anonymous (if you prefer) in the REFERENCE BLOCKS on the DEPOSIT SLIP.

This information then appears on the bank statement and identifies who we need to receipt and thank for the donation.

OUR BANKING DETAILS:

Bank: FIRST NATIONAL BANK

Account No: 620-529-16908

Branch: ADDERLEY STREET

Branch Code: 201-409

In name of: ONS PLEK PROJECTS

Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

Monies being deposited from overseas (telegraphic transfer) must please reflect the swift code.

PLEASE NOTE:

First National Bank has advised that cheques **will not be accepted** if the full name i.e. '**Ons Plek Projects**' is not reflected on the cheque ... and we would be so sorry to have to return any cheques!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Henk Blom (Zeplin Productions 082 667 1688), **Kent Lingeveltdt** (Kent Lingeveltdt Photography 072 982 1312)

and **Renée Rossouw** for our Website and FaceBook page.

Salty Print (021 448-5620) for printing. **Wendy Wilkinson** (The Write Setting 021 850-0684) for typesetting our Newsletters and AGM Reports.

Please cut along the dotted line and forward completed Nomination Form to Ons Plek Projects by **5th September 2015**



NOMINATIONS FOR THE ONS PLEK PROJECTS' BOARD

I, hereby propose

for the Board of Ons Plek Projects for the term of office.

Seconded by

I, hereby accept the above proposal.

Signed

Date