Ons Plek Projects

Providing hope instead of street life

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

We extend a warm invitation to everyone in the area to attend our:

2025 Annual General Meeting

DATE: Tuesday 29th September 2026

VENUE: St Peter's , Church Street, Mowbray 7700

TIME: 16:30 for 17:00

RSVP: Tel: 021 685-4052/49 or Email: onsplek@onsplek.org.za

Ons Plek Projects

Ons Plek children want YOU at our AGM. So do the staff! But for the children it is more than an AGM. Remember parent's days at school? And concerts, sports days etc. Where every child wanted a parent to "see" them perform. Our children prepare for this day. And their parents are seldom there. Be a parent for 10 minutes to our children when they present in singing or dancing. But especially when each one is paired off with an AGM attendee for 10 minutes to show their favourite school work person to person.
Our AGM's are full of life and fun.
Please bring a plate of eats towards our celebration!

OUR DETAILS

Ons Plek Projects

Director: INGRID JACOBS

Deputy Director: LEE-ANNE DOLLEY

Our assessment centre and intake shelter **ONS PLEK** and our OFFICES, are situated at 7 Malleson Road, Mowbray, 7705.

Tel: 021 685 4052/49

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, 7925.
Tel: 021 448-6529

OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:

UKONDLA is situated on the premises of Sizakuyenza Safe House, Cnr Eisleben and Phumelele Roads, Philippi, Cape Town 7750

NOMINATIONS for the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of Ons Plek Projects

Nominations for election to the Management Committee must be received at our office by **18th September 2026.**

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 **Adele** and **Nicolette** at our office. **ONLY MEMBERS of Ons Plek Projects** are entitled to nominate and second persons for election.

Anyone who has donated to Ons Plek in **any** way is considered a member.

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

* Greg Becker
* Fiona Ronquest-Ross
* Cabangile Mduli
* Hannes Noval
* Monica Pike
* Melvin Dirkse

INGRID JACOBS

Takes the Helm at

Ons Plek Projects

Transforming Young Lives Through Care, Support and Opportunity

Ingrid Jacobs has been appointed as the new director of **Ons Plek Projects**, a Mowbray-based organisation dedicated to supporting homeless girls and vulnerable youth. She succeeds long-serving director Pam Jackson, who retired after many years of service.

With **43 years of experience in social work**, including five years at Ons Plek, Jacobs is passionate about helping young people overcome difficult circumstances and build positive futures.

Supporting Vulnerable Youth

Ons Plek provides care through three key programmes:

- **Mowbray Home:** Provides shelter and support for 20 homeless and at-risk girls, including education and preparation for mainstream schooling.
- **Siviwe House:** Supports young people as they transition into education, independence and mainstream society.
- **Ukondla – Philippi:** Works to prevent children from ending up on the streets. Its Drop-In Centre currently supports **50 vulnerable children**, while the Prevention and Early Intervention programme assists a further **40 young people** with academic support and life skills.

Jacobs believes the organisation's role is to help rebuild children's lives and give them the confidence and skills to become productive members of society.

> **"We pick up the pieces of their lives and build each child up to a point where they can take their rightful place in society."**

A Passion for Service

Before joining Ons Plek, Jacobs spent 20 years with the Cape Peninsula Organisation for the Aged (CPOA) and previously worked for the provincial Department of Social Development.

Ons Plek relies on government funding, fundraising, churches, private donors and community support. Donations of **toiletries, school clothing, bedding, kitchen supplies and other essentials** are always welcomed.

Despite more than four decades in social work, Jacobs says she has no plans to retire.

> **"I don't think I will retire. I am simply a servant."**

Ons Plek Projects
📞 021 685 4052 / 021 685 4049
🌐https://www.onsplek.org.za

Ons Plek ✿ Siviwe ✿ Ukondla

Ons Plek Projects consists of:

- **Ons Plek**, an intake shelter for girls doing comprehensive assessment and development care with reunification as a priority.
- **Siviwe**, a second-phase shelter for girls focusing on therapeutic and developmental children's home with reunification as a priority.
- **Ukondla**, a 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.
- 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.

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. Due to Covid we were unable to send children out for any activities.

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 22 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 who are candidates for street life from actually becoming street children. 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. **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 and 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.It is our core aim to reunify children with their families.

Reunification and Preservation 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 Ukondla Program below).

Reunification of Children — Statistics

50 Total number of children for the year.

4 babies

12 reunified home

3 in the community refusing services

33 long term children

14 stabilised children

Home Visits — local and rural

Home visits are important in making family reunification possible. We have done no 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.

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.

If reunification fails, the same process enables them to engage constructively in society.

- **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, Sexual 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 relationships/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 Children's Home. Usually Homes have food delivered, they have a cook and dishwasher. The children live in the equivalent of a hotel.

Education Program

9 In Informal Bridging School
18 In Mainstream Schools

Once settled the children return home and attend their own schools better equipped to cope there. Those children who are long-term with us attend formal schooling. Children stay in the Stabilization Program for 3-6 months.

- **School Assessment and Bridging Program for girls not yet ready to return to school**
  Our 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. Their education abilities are assessed and they learn to re-adapt to routine and structure and gain confidence in their abilities.
- **Formal Attendance at Formal Schools**
  As soon as possible children attend formal schooling.
- **Homework Sessions**
  The girls at formal schools attend our homework program every afternoon from Mondays to Thursdays.

Prevention Project

- **Ukondla Projects in Philippi:**

The highlight of the year has been moving into our brand-new building in May 2026.

The program runs from Monday to Friday. We service the areas of Siyangena, Better Life, Browns Farm, Gugulethu, Mitchell's Plain. We have 3 programs running currently, the DIC (Drop-in center) under 6 years old program, (this form part of the DIC program) PEI (Prevention and early intervention)

The programs are attended by both girls and boys and we give support with homework. These children are still living at home but at risk of dropping out of school.

Our DIC is a RISIHA site and we render services on the 7 domains. Childcare and Child Protection, Psychosocial support, HIV and AIDS, Health Domain, Food Provision, Economic Strengthening and Education Support. We also run programs with the parents with the aim to enhance the parent child relationship. Quarterly meetings with the community is held to discuss prevalent issues.

Home Visits:
Staff regularly visit the homes of the children, the school that they attend and have consultations with both the child and the parent. Parents are supportive of the program as they notice a positive improvement in their children's performance at school and also their behavior.
Parenting Courses and Domestic awareness
With our parent engagement programs, we reached 60 parents. This proved highly successful, with parents reporting that they feel better equipped to manage the challenges and that their relationships with their children have improved.
Over a 12-month period, our community engagement initiative successfully reached 80 community members. The session empowered and educated participants on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), child Trafficking, children's rights and crime prevention.

- **Home Visits**
  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 to beg us to open a centre in their schools as Ukondla's children's school performance improves so markedly.

- **Parenting Course and Domestic Awareness Courses**
  These Courses have reached 20 community members this year. (This figure has been greatly reduced due to lockdown). 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.

Prevention Project — Statistics

1252 - Counselling
577 - Homevisits
266 - School visits
40 - Prevention Project
50 - Drop in Center (9 u6 included)
11 - New admissions
8 - Graduated from the program

Holiday Program for Residences and Philippi

- **Our holiday program is open to all children, not only beneficiaries. The main aim is to keep children meaningfully occupied and off the streets. We have lots of fun through games and crafts while giving children the opportunity to connect and get to know each other better.**

Volunteer Program for Residences and Philippi

- **Recruitment, Orientation, Supervision**
  This year we continued to make intensive use of local and international volunteers (2) and student interns (6) 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.

List of Major donors 2026 AGM REPORT – Over R20 000

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE THE VALUABLE SUPPORT OF OUR MAJOR DONORS

*AFD OM Golf Day
*ANDREW MINNAAR
*ARTSEN ZONDER GRENZEN (MEDECI
*Bruce Wilson Architects (Pty) Ltd
*DIV OF OVERSEAS MINISTRIES
*ER TONNESEN TRUST
*FD VAN ZYL / UKONDLA LITTLE FVZ
*FH Baumann St Olas Trust
*INVESTEC
*Jh Richards Testamen
*Macfarlane Family Foundation
*Menzies Avi/Donation
*NICHOLAS HALES
*Nicolaas Middelmann
*OTI PETROSMART
*Percy Fox Foundation
*Rolf Bolleter
*SOROPTIMIST MAID
*Southern African Assoc of Hong Kong
*The Owl Club
*Vision Decor & Event Solut/006
*WP PREP SCHOOL

We dedicate this page to all our donors and thank you for your continued and valued support! Every donation no matter what size, is important to us and enables us to continue our work.

UKONDLA PHILIPPI LAUNCHES THEIR FRESH NEW BUILDING

Our Wish List ...

All donations are dropped off at our house in Mowbray and the address ~~is~~ 7 Malleson Road, Mowbray.
We currently have 35 girls in our care and you can donate the following items listed below:

TOILETRIES FOR GIRLS:
Spray, Roll On, Vaseline, Body Lotion, Toothpaste, Hairfood, Conditioner, Shampoo, Oil Moisturiser, Relaxer and Neutralising Shampoo

CLEANING PRODUCTS:
Toilet Paper, 3kg Auto Washing Powder, Sunlight Dishwashing Liquid, Thick Bleach, Sunlight Laundry Green Bar Soap, Handy Andy, Black Bags, Steelwool, Potscrapers, Jeyes Fluid, Caustic Soda.

BABY GOODS:
Baby Powder, Nappies, Gripe Water, Baby Bottles and Bottle Brush, Bottle Warmer, Wet Wipes, Cotton Buds, Aqueous Cream, Cotton Wool, Baby Towel and Facecloth, Baby Shampoo, Baby Soup, Baby Oil, Panado Syryp, Baby Formula, Baby Dummy, Telament Pediatric Colic Drops, Ashton and Parsons Teething Powder or Teejel, Baby Clothing 3-6 months and 6-12 months, Baby Blankets, 2nd Hand Car Seat, 2nd Hand Pram, 2nd Hand Baby Cot, Nail Clippers and Baby Scissor

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:
Kettles, Ironing Boards, Brooms, Mops, Dustpan, Cups, Plates, Side Plates, Plastic Glasses, Table Spoons & Teaspoons, Forks, Can opener, Potato Peeler, Egg Lifter

MAINTENANCE:
Roof needs waterproofing, Painting exterior of house and roof, Spikes needs to be replaced on wall, Main Gate to be sanded and varnished Counter Tops in both kitchens Woodstock and Mowbray needs to be sealed. Courtyard – Mowbray House - Paving needs to be done.

Please do not hesitate to contact Nicky at Ons Plek
at 021 685-4052/49, if you require any further information.

ONS PLEK PROJECTS' ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:
Lead Print Finishing (for printing) and Dale Narsi (Design Layout 072 288 6248) for typesetting our Newsletters and AGM Reports.

*↙ Please cut along the dotted line and forward completed Nomination Form to Ons Plek Projects by **18th September 2026**↘*

NOMINATIONS FOR 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 .....

To the various individuals, families and Trusts, a huge "Thank You" for your continuous financial and material support.

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).
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: WOODSTOCK
Branch Code: 255005
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!

Corporate Social Responsibility

Pay less estate duty:
Being a Section 18A Tax Benefit company means that your family will save on estate duties i.e. exempt from payment of estate duties.

Tax Deductible Benefits:
We are registered as a Public Benefit Organisation and thus all donations to us are tax deductible under Section 18A of the Income Tax Act.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please advise us of your change of address if you have moved home or off ice … it's so disappointing when the 'thank you' letters that the girls have written, or our newsletters, are returned to us!