



Ons Plek Projects

providing hope instead of street life

Our Annual General Meetings
showcase the actual work we do
and are fun and informative



- *Every child needs parents to attend parents' day — for one evening please come and be that parent*
- *Interact personally with a child*
- *Experience a small window into the world of case management in a live interactive discussion*

~ See details inside ~

Thursday
19th September 2013
Rosebank Methodist Church Hall
from 17h00 - 19h30



A section of Ons Plek Project's front wall façade in Albert Street

The strength of a tiger ...

AGM Information

Please come and join us ...

Come prepared to celebrate the children in our projects. Again this year by popular demand our AGM gives an opportunity for supporters to hear, not only from staff members, but from our children.

The children want to show you their school work. We need supportive adults to look at the work each child has prepared to share. They are torn between wanting the attention and nervous of being judged. Your interaction with them will be valued.

Complex case discussions are a core activity of our work. We will present a case for which we would like you to help plan treatment.

... from Committee Members and Staff of Ons Plek Projects

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

RSVP:
Tel 021 465-4829/72 or
Fax 021 461-0530



Nominations *for the* Management Committee *of* Ons Plek Projects

Nominations for election to the Management Committee must be received at our office by

12th September 2013 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 6)

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

Rutendo Chiweshe, Roland Hudson-Bennett,
Christiana Nel, Monica Pike,
Fiona Ross and Leslie Witz.

Ons Plek Projects

Director:
PAM JACKSON

Unit Manager:
YUMNA VAN DER SCHYFF

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

email: onsplek@new.co.za

website: www.onsplek.org.za

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

Affiliated to Cape Town Child Welfare Society

Our second-stage shelter SIVIWE,
is situated at 7 York Road, Woodstock.

Tel: 021 448-6529

**Our Prevention Programs
in Community:**

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

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

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-united with their families.
- The work of our three main facilities is all interlinked. The three programs integrate to form a whole.

~ Our Director's Annual Report ~



Pam Jackson : Director

Introduction to Contents

In order to show how programs are actually interfaced in the lives of the children, our Annual Reports traditionally go deeper than a presentation of our aims, objectives, methods and achievements. We hope some of the flavour of our working with real people in a real world is conveyed as well as some of our passion, the joys, the sorrows, the commitment and the laughter, which the work engenders in staff members.

We use a somewhat unorthodox presentation method to convey our message this year. We present excerpts from our working agreement with referring social workers.

These excerpts tell you who we are, how we operate and reading between the lines you may see what we are doing to overcome our new challenges.

But first we tell you a story ...

Case Presentation

Shona W (14 years old) placed by Department of Social Development Athlone on 19/08/2011

Shona was in foster care with a maternal aunt which broke down due to her sleeping out without permission, bunking school, smoking dagga and not adhering to discipline. In the pre-admission interview the family and external social worker agreed with Ons Plek's assessment, the treatment plan and our rules. The child needed to go through a process of change with support that included counseling and limit setting to modify behaviour. However the child was manipulative and soon started making complaints to her family about how unhappy she was at Ons Plek. She also continued to sleep out without permission as she had at home. The family blamed Ons Plek staff for not being able to control her! Meetings were held with Ons Plek, external social worker, child and family to discuss how best to assist the child and investigate any complaint made by child. The child's complaints were that she was not allowed to help herself from the fridge, she had to share a room, she had to complete homework. They were found to be manipulative and unreasonable. The possibility of the complaints masking deep unhappiness or a need for attention was kept in mind in her therapy sessions. However it was clear that this child did not want any control over her and was used to getting her own way. The family was contracted with to not undermine Ons Plek rules and authority as all our efforts were in the best interests of the child. These contracts were signed with the external social worker present. However the child's behaviour deteriorated because the family always allowed her to get her way. Despite all the discussions around the need for some discipline over the child if she was ever to change her very risky behavior, they started having conflict with Ons Plek for not allowing the child to have her way. The child then vandalized Ons Plek property in her efforts to put pressure on the family to remove her. The external social worker bowed to family pressure and began looking for alternative placement for the child, in the hope that

she would be happier (and less troublesome) in another home — although she had removed the child for precisely this uncontrollable willful and self destructive behavior. In spite of Ons Plek recommendations against it, the child was removed to another home. Only the external social worker's arguments were presented to court which meant the magistrate did not have all the relevant factors before him.

Our opinion was that admission of the child to another placement would not be more effective because the child was refusing to work on her issues and, the family protected her from the enforcing of normal societal standards. After a short while the same child was found in the streets of Cape Town having absconded from the other home.

Comment

From child and parents' viewpoint change is difficult for anyone and a child who is accustomed to doing as she pleases is going to make it difficult for her carers. It is equally difficult for parents to become more firm with the child and a lot of counseling is required.

From the professional viewpoint

The opposition of parents to social workers is not new. In this case the child is in care both because she is a risk to herself and because her parents' spoiling of her means they are unable to control her. Both must change before the law can release her from protection in her best interests.

This social worker clearly did not have enough faith in us to stay the course. Was this because she thought the child really was being unfairly treated by us; or that she buys into the current belief touted that children must not be unhappy and therefore another home would be better for this child or she simply didn't have the energy to withstand the parents.

Whatever the reasons we now no longer admit children very easily. The kind of children we are dedicated to are often difficult, abusive and dangerous. We need commitment from social workers to help them. Hence our working agreement which follows!

New Children's Act has an effect on how we help children like Shona

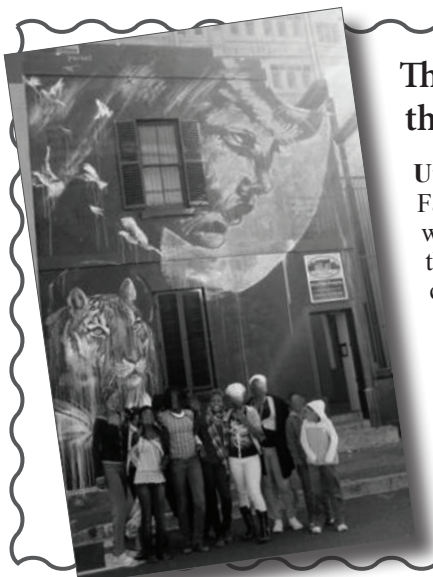
The Act meant children could no longer refer themselves for help by arriving at our doorstep and we can no longer speedily investigate their circumstances, treat and re-unify them with families. We now have to depend on external social workers to refer children to us for admission. This means the external social worker goes to court to place the child officially in our care and it is her decision to vary the placement to another "Home", foster placement or "back with the family". She only has to convince the court of this. It means she can intervene in the child's program at any time. The effect is the same as a child whose parents do not stand together in the house rules for a child. The child will play one off against the other to the child's best — so they think — advantage. This power of the external social worker, who seldom sees the child, over the child's daily caregivers is nothing new for most "children's homes" but for us who used to be a one stop shop it is very new. Our previous criteria to accept

children was whether the children were on the street or about to become street children. Many of the social workers will agree to conditions we set for admission to get a quick placement of a child, but just as quickly remove the child from us irrespective of the progress of treatment or appropriateness of returning the child at home. Seventy percent of our admissions over 5 months were removed from our care by external social workers prematurely. Thus we have had to set conditions for placement at Ons Plek. Hence the working agreement.

We do the same work we always did but we negotiate admissions thoroughly for maximum success.

The process is designed to get the co-operation of the external social worker starting with the realization that Child and Youth Care Centres (new word for Children's Home) are not mere boarding houses. They are staffed by professionals and they offer specific treatment programs. Treatment cannot be successful if contradicted by the external social worker.

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The powerful component of our work: the tears; the darkness becomes light; the strength of a tiger.

Ute-Force Mission 5: Ons Plek's Transformation

Faith47 completely transformed the façade of Ons Plek shelter in Cape Town, with this stunning new mural, highlighting the building as the incredible safe haven that it is. The courtyard inside the shelter was 'fixed up' to create an awesome communal

We celebrate our new look!

Created courtesy of:

- * Aidan Bennetts Design
- * Faith 47 well known graffiti artist
- * Adam of Native Digital Agency
- * General Motors-Chevrolet Ute Force
- * Builders Warehouse Aidan Bennetts Design



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

- * CENTRAL METHODIST MISSION (in the form of a very reasonable rental)
- * CITY OF CAPE TOWN
- * DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION — WESTERN CAPE
- * D G MURRAY TRUST
- * EDUCOMPASS-UNION AID ABROAD (Australia)
- * GLOBAL MINISTRIES (Indianapolis) — Africa & United Church of Christ
- * GLOBAL MINISTRIES (Institutional & Women's Division) — USA
- * GOLDMAN SACKS GIVES (England)
- * INTOMBI
- * NATIONAL LOTTERY
- * ROPE OF HOPE (Holland)
- * SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG
- * STICHTING STRAATMEIDEN KAAPSTAD
- * STICHTING 10%
- * STREETSMART
- * THE COMMUNITY CHEST



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, 19 September 2013**.

MEMBERS ON RECORD:

- A:** Abed Z, Abrahams P, Abreu I, Adams F, Adnel M, Ahmed Mrs, Akoh P, Albertus S, Albertyn Z, Alexander R, Allen L, Allie M, Alor M, Alor Mr & Mrs M, Amecke E (Germany), Amelia, Anaeto J, Anigbogu Mr & Mrs U, Anpesella C, Antule N, Anyamene H, Anyamene M, Arendse A, Arendze Mr & Mrs M, Aunty Theresa, Aziza.
- B:** Badianishi P, Bailey A, Bamford C, Bamford M, Barfield S (England), Barthig G, Bassa Mr, Basson A, Bauer A (Germany), Bayda A, Bedford E, Bedford N, Benjamin F, Benjamin R, Beyers Mrs, Biggs G, Bond G, Boniface S, Booley Y, Boon S, Botha S, Bowen C, Brain R, Bretscher J, Bretscher K, Brickner S, Brink C, Briony & Gouni, Broekmann, T, Broumels M, Broumels K, Brown P, Brunner H, Buchhorn B, Buckley J (England), Burkland A, Byliefeldt P.
- C:** Cain V, Ceccarini L (USA), Charles C, Chase Mr & Mrs A (USA), Chiderelu P, Chisholm B, Chiweshe R, Chorley P (England), Chucks M, Chukwunye E, Cilliers H, Claasen H I N (Netherlands), Clark Mrs, Clarke L, Clay R, Conradie F, Conradie G, Conradie Z, Cornish J & L, Court R, Creighton Z, Croteau A, Cruywagen M, Cyrielle P.
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- E:** Eagar, Eastwood J, Eisen C, Ejike E U, Emdin Dr L, Engel V, Erasmus M, Esau S, Ezeka J, Ezenkane K.
- F:** Faith47, Fakier F, Farrell L, Featherstone D, Fells R, Fernandes N, Fernandez R, Field B, Field S, Field K, Filippi M, Fisher R, Fisher S, Forbes J, Fountain Mr & Mrs (England), Foyt T, Franco R, Frater A, Fredericks T, Freedman R, Fresen L, Fritz R, Frost A & H.
- G:** Gasant Mrs, Geldenhuys W, Geldenhuys D, Goldsmith G, Goliath Z, Goud A, Gram C (Norway), Grant and Rochelle, Grelsdafe C, Groenewald H, Guy A, Guyeu J.
- H:** Hading J, Hamilton F, Hampton M, Hampton R, Hanise Z, Hare E, Harris-Schenz B (USA), Hart Y, Hassan, Hawkes R, Hayes K, Heaney R, Hendrick Y, Hendricks E, Hendricks K, Hendricks L, Hendricks Mr & Mrs M, Hendricks R, Hennessy K, Herma Mr & Mrs, Heuvel S, Hey B, Hicks M (England), Hill P, Hindle K, Hitzeroth I, Hollemann A, Holmes G, Horwood T, Hostetler Mr & Mrs (USA), Hubert A (Germany), Hudson-Bennett R, Huson Mrs E.
- I:** Immanuel C Uzoka, Isaacs Mrs H, Isabella, Isralls A, Izuakor K & J.
- J:** Jack N, Jacky Ms, Jacobs I, Jacobs N, Jacobs S, Jacobs T, Jagers J, Jatoonah S, Jay, Johaar N, Johnson C, Johnson P, Johnston J, Jonathan M, Jones O, Jongens N, Joubert C, Joubert E, Joy, Jules-Marquet R.
- K:** Kanguru M, Kapri Mr, Karjiker Dr, Karpas Y, Keen J, Kelly, Kershia, Kilani A, Kirkman A, Kolane T, Krige S, Krober S, Kroeber I (Germany), Kruger A, Kruger M, Kupper I.
- L:** Lambrechts R, Luthy P (Switzerland), Luyindula P.
- M:** Mafa N, Magnus Mrs (England), Maharaj A, Malan G, Mancazela Y, Marais H, Margereth, Marizu O, Marks B, Maskell N, Matthysen A, Maya M, Mayeng P, Maziarz K (England), Mbegbu C, Mcquire J, McSharry G, Mendes S, Meyer L, Mgbokwe Mr & Mrs H, Mgbeni S, Miller Dr D, Minchener P, Mitford L, Mlambo S, Mlawuza L, Mohamed F, Monique, Montgomery G, Moore D, Morrell P, Morrell T, Morris M, Mubeezi R, Mukaddam N, Mukaz A, Mukwayanzo M, Muls T, Mutitu B.
- N:** Nakamura Mr & Mrs N (USA), Natasha, Nawaal, Neethling M, Nel C, Nicole & Brittani & Shelley & Lyndsey, Nielsen C, Nivens B, Nizam N, Njengele A, Njengele K, Nkooz C, Notwala M, Novel Mrs, Nykadzino S.
- O:** Obadigbo S, Oberholster L, Obinna M, Ofornta S, Okafor E, Okeke A, Okpala Mrs I, Olisadum J, Omar S, Oppenheimer M.
- P:** Paisley W, Panga L, Parenti A, Pascoe B (England), Pearce P, Phillip L, Phillip Mrs, Phillips A, Phillips W, Pick-Cornelius M, Pienaar J, Pike M, Poliwooda M, Poole C, Porquet C, Price Mr, Puggan J.
- Q:** Qhuma S.
- R:** Rabinowitz B P, Rafeeqah G, Raphael I, Rautenbach J, Rautenbach T, Reissenhauer K, Retief R, Richter J, Ries R, Roberts C, Roberts P, Robertson G, Robins E, Ronelle & Natasha, Ronquest-Ross, Roodbol A, Rosa M, Rosenbaum L, Rosenmann P, Ross L, Rossouw R, Ross-Ronquest F, Rowston D, Ruherendi J, Rummens K, Rusti, Rynhoud J.
- S:** Sabo T, Salie R, Salie S, Samsodien N, Samuels F, Samuels J, Saunders J, Scelho M, Scello F, Scello M, Schaeffer C, Schider F, Schmidt A, Schmitt C, Scholtz C, Schou S, Schwarz U, Scott J, Searll L, Seibert S (USA), Selao B, Serra D, Sethu, Shapiro R (Australia), Shapiro Y, Shikemeni N, Shilewambane S, Silverman Mrs, Singh N, Sirkhotte F, Sirkhotte M, Sirkhotte S, Sithole P, Slabbert L, Smit E & D, Smith C, Smith L, Smith M, Smith R, Smuts S, Snoque Fernando Bento Mendes, Snyman F, Sobekwa S, Solomon N, Spencer M, Stark P, Stein L, Steve & Cammy, Steward Mrs G, Stone L, Strong G, Strybis M, Strydom D.
- T:** Talent, Talias, Temple P, Thompson N, Tongco T, Tough J, Trew E.
- U:** Ulochukwu O, Umeokoli E, Uzoka E.
- V:** Vallabh M, van Aswegen S, van Aswegen J, van der Merwe E, van der Merwe H, van der Schyff Mr & Mrs W & FM, van der Schyff Y, van der Spuy L, van der Westhuizen, van der Westhuizen Mrs, van Jaarsveld M, van Niekerk L, van Niekerk R, van Rensburg C, van Tonder T, van Zyl L, van Zyl M, Viljoen R, Visser M, Vlok-Barnard M, Vos Mr & Mrs P.
- W:** Wagenaar C, Wenman R, Wertheimer K, Westenraad C, Wigglesworth K, Williams L, Williams M, Wilson K, Wilson Mrs M, Winkler H, Winkler J, Witz L, Wright G, Wunderlich A, Wyatt H.
- Y:** Yvette.

WORKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN ONS PLEK PROJECTS
AND _____ (SUPERVISOR OR CASE MANAGER)
ON BEHALF OF _____ (NAME OF AGENCY)

This agreement is binding on the referring NPO and therefore on both current and subsequent staff.

This contract confirms what specific services we will render and what is expected from the external Agency.

INTRODUCTION TO OUR APPROACH

Ons Plek is a residential treatment program which uses the daily routine practices and rules of the House to implement individual treatment plans. Each aspect of every program is designed to achieve long-term healthy functioning of each child. E.g. eating is not just merely eating, through the way food is prepared involving all the children deepens their sense of belonging, of responsibility and learning hygiene, and preparing healthy but affordable eating etc. The treatment program, to be effective, must be implemented holistically.

Therefore when a child is placed here the external agency is agreeing to our using our expertise in implementing the treatment plan and to our rules. The stabilization period will last for a period of 90 days.

On conclusion of this period an extended period of treatment will be considered if the panel discussion recommends this. External social workers are to sign agreement to our rules as their commitment to our program.

At the conclusion of the stabilization phase of 90 days we may agree to admit a child to longer term treatment and maintenance program. This will depend on the circumstances and may last until re-unification is possible. A new contract will then be drawn up.

INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAM

Ons Plek is a Child and Youth Care Centre delivering two phases of treatment and care.

Phase 1: Assessment, Observation and Stabilization (short term/90 days) at Ons Plek

Phase 2: Treatment and Care (long term) at Siviwe

Intake Procedure to Phase 1

Not included here

Phase II

At the conclusion of the stabilization phase we may agree to admit a child to our longer term treatment and maintenance program. This will depend on the circumstances and may last until re-unification is possible. A separate contract will be drawn up for that.

CRITERIA FOR PLACING CHILD _____ (Name of child) IN CARE

Section 150 (1) of the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005 requires the Social worker to stipulate which criteria she is using to remove the child from the parents care.

Please circle/highlight one or more categories you will motivate in court.

Programs offered for treatment of child. (Child Act No. 38 of 2005, Section 191(2))

A child and youth care centre must offer a therapeutic program designed for the residential care of children outside of the family environment, which may include a program designed for —

- a. The reception, care and development of children other than in their family environment;
- b. The reception and temporary safe care of children to protect them from abuse and neglect;
- c. The reception and temporary safe care of trafficked or commercially sexually exploited children;
- d. The reception and temporary safe care of children for the purpose of
 - (i) Observing and assessing those children;
 - (ii) Providing counselling and other treatment for them; or
 - (iii) Assisting them to reintegrate with their families and the community;
- e. The reception, development and secure care of children awaiting trial or sentence;
- f. The reception, development and secure care of children with behavioural, psychological and emotional difficulties;
- g. The reception and care of street children; or
- h. The reception and care of children for any other purpose that may be prescribed by regulation.

Provision of care of street children or children at risk of becoming street children takes precedence.

The criteria and programs above have implications for the individual treatment we give.

After the intake meeting Ons Plek will give feedback on our assessment, the appropriateness of the placement and the treatment program our expertise tells us is necessary for effective treatment.

*Please attach referral information, reports etc.

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STABILIZATION PHASE:

Each child's treatment plan is based on the individual child's needs, strengths and weaknesses;

Stabilization Phase of Treatment – Basic Treatment for All Children

Counselling on individual and group basis to assist child resolve emotions which underlie behaviour	Social Workers/Gestalt Therapist
Involving the child in her own treatment program	Social Workers
Monitoring by childcare workers in daily norms and standards of society i.e. interaction and negotiating with peers and adults	Child Care Workers
Monitoring by childcare workers of skills for daily living including household duties, cooking, cleaning, shopping all on the shared age appropriate duty roster	Team
Facilitating the child's learning to contain and discipline themselves through application of the "natural and logical consequences" methods of facilitating the child's ability to think ahead, take into account the consequences of their actions	Team
Obtain medical assessment and treatment for underlying physiological causes of erratic behaviour	Team
Provide bridging schooling for those children who are at risk of running away after school (not available at any other CYCC)	In-house Teacher
Send children to formal school where appropriate	Team
Contract or maintain contract, try to involve parents/family/significant other in program in family therapy, parenting skills, home visits/office interviews	Team/External Social Worker

Specific to Child by Agreement

Ons Plek undertakes to:

- Assess/Interview the children to obtain collateral information to confirm external social workers investigation through telephonic contact and interviews with family, school, other significant persons. Home visits to assess the home circumstances and/or to ensure that the child/ren have contact with family.
- Investigate any allegations, offer the necessary support, take action against staff or other children if necessary in the interests of a safe placement, undertake to protect the child from an accused staff member while such investigation is taking place. Report to external social worker.
- Counselling and behavioural therapy.
- Educational support – School/Bridging school.

The external social worker undertakes to:

- ensure that we receive updated Detention Orders. All statutory work to be done.
- discuss the child's progress telephonically each week having read our Progress Reports. Our understanding of the child and her family situation grows in each week's evaluation session. In order for your understanding to grow and your support of her treatment as it develops you as a team member need to hold these discussions.
- have respect for our expertise in stabilization and reunification and our care for the children and support us in it.
- hold in balance the child's rights with her duty and responsibility to equip herself with skills to become self-sufficient with the rights of society members, staff and family to be treated with respect.
- to immediately raise with us any complaints or allegations of abuse made by the child so management can investigate them. The social worker also undertakes to discuss with the child the seriousness of making false allegations if it is later found that the allegations are more an effort to avoid the child's responsibilities than is experiencing genuine abuse.

Before a child is removed from Ons Plek a family conference will have to be conducted, court proceedings held and an official discharge given by the magistrate of the Children's Court.

Thanking you,

_____ (Ons Plek Social Worker/Child Care Worker).

Ons Plek Projects hereby confirm the admission of _____ (name of child) on _____ (date).

_____ (External Social Worker)

_____ (Supervisor of External Social Worker)

_____ (Parent)



INDIVIDUALS:

This list includes financial and other contributions received from March 2013 to July 2013

INDIVIDUALS:

Montgomery G
Moore D
Morrell T
Mukaddam N
Mukwayanzo M
Muls T
Mutitu B
Nawaal
Nielsen C
Njengele A
Nkazor C
Notwala M
Obadigbo S
Oberholster L
Ofornta S
Okafor E
Okeke A
Olisadum J
Oppenheimer M
Paisley W
Panga L
Phillip L
Phillips A
Phillips W
Pick-Cornelius M
Pienaar J
Poole C
Porquet C
Qhuma S
Rabinowitz B P
Raphael I
Reissenhauer K
Retief R
Richter J
Ries R
Roberts C
Roberts P
Robertson G
Robins E
Roodbol A
Rosa M
Rosenbaum L
Rosenmann P
Rummens K
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Salie S
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Scelho M
Schmitt C
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Searll L
Seibert Family
(USA)
Shapiro R
(Australia)

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We apologise for omissions from our 2013 Newsletter of the following donors:

du Preez W
Robins E
Ruherendi J



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 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.

■ 24-hour Accessible Early Intervention Intake Program. This is increasingly the responsibility of the external social worker.

The first stage of reunification begins with the process of weaning the child off the street. Girls are referred to Ons Plek Intake Shelter within hours or a few days of arriving in the Cape Town CBD. Usually they are running away from abuse or neglect at home. Most of the time they are running around their own communities returning home every few days. We are able to intervene before they become permanent street children. It's largely unknown but many Child and Youth Care Centres for street children also specialise in intervention in preventing children from becoming street children. These children spend nights out of their houses and days out of school. They are clearly mixing in the wrong company, drinking, using drugs, sexually active in dangerous ways, very often not only from neglectful parents but also from very caring families. These children are candidates for street life. The girl's circumstances are assessed immediately on arrival. The girl is then referred to our family preservation or family reunification programs. Statutory services are provided by our social work staff members.

■ Siviwe — Second Stage Residential Care

Siviwe, meaning God has heard us, provides the 2nd phase of treatment. Once the girls have weaned themselves from street life at Ons Plek, they leave to be accommodated at Siviwe for the next phase of treatment. Not all girls have been on the street. Some girls who are with us due to family circumstances which have put them in danger or if their behaviour is settled they too move to Siviwe as soon as possible. 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.

Our statistics for this year are an interesting reflection of what is happening in society as well as how effective our treatment is.

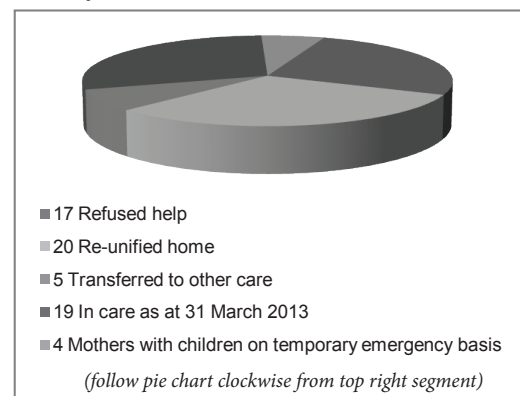
Usually we have approximately 130 girls in care at Intake (Ons Plek) and Second Stage Shelter (Siviwe).

In 2012/2013 we had 61 children (although it seemed much more, each child with their own daily concerns and crises). The children were far more difficult than usual, acting out increased when external social workers interfered with treatment allowing themselves to be swayed only by the childrens' version of events without listening to staff viewpoint of events. Firm and consistent action from us relieved the problem. We had to admit fewer children to stabilize the house. We also spent considerable time clarifying our role with other service providers such as schools resulting in different intake procedure to meet new challenges. We helped a number of adults who were homeless with young children who had just been forced to leave abusive homes

and needed a few nights shelter while we found facilities for them.

It is our core aim to reunify children with their families. The number of children we were able to do this with this year was 8, the same proportionately as last year. Five children were transferred to other Child and Youth Care Centres. Nineteen children were in care with us at the year end. Of these 9 are long term residents many of whom we ensure maintain family contact but due to family circumstances they are unlikely to ever return home. Seventeen 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 17 children this year.



■ 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 Childcare 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 re-unification program. See the following programs which are part of the Re-Unification 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 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 Childcare 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, budgetting.

Education Program

■ 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 and informal schools after attending our own bridging program 'Morning School' while their education abilities are assessed and they learn to re-adapt to routine and structure and gain confidence in their abilities.

■ Morning 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.

■ Homework Sessions

The girls at formal schools attend our home-work program every afternoon from Mondays to Thursdays.

■ Holiday Program

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 "popple huis", chatting, walking to the local park, and just being children. Education visits such as museum, art gallery, Jewish Museum.

Volunteer Program

■ Recruitment, Orientation, Supervision

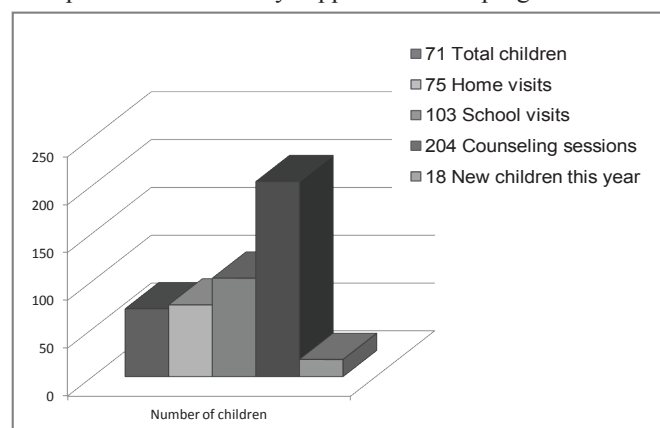
This year we continued to make intensive use of local and international volunteers (27) and student interns (6) (33 in total) who work part-time or full-time for Ons Plek for periods ranging between 3 and 10 months. They provided a range of activities, including computer skills training, reading, art, drama, education, leadership training, swimming and baking. As we had many girls in formal and informal school this year, the volunteers had to work hard at supporting the girls in these programs.

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 helps them stay in school.

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 counseling sessions and healing can begin to take place.

A partnership with Sizakuyenza has been fruitful where we have two venues on their property. We hope to build more Ukondla projects with them. ❀

Our Wish List ...

FINANCIAL DONATIONS FOR:

- Transport costs for the girls for school.
- Transport costs for the girls for educational outings/camps.
- Medical expenses for the girls eg. eye tests.

TOILETRIES:

Roll-on deodorant, body spray, body lotion, bath soap, toilet paper, Vaseline, hair straightener (**must be mild**), toothpaste, shoe polish (black), shoe brush, Nitagon lice shampoo (clinics no longer supply this), flannel nappies.

UNDERWEAR (Brand New Please!):

Panties and bras for young girls aged 5-18 yrs, panties for teenagers, socks for winter.

STATIONERY:

Photocopy paper (white), A4 coloured paper, Pritt Sticks (large), plastic sleeves, Flip Files, examination pads; A4 hard cover books, calculators (scientific).

SCHOOL STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS:

Pritt (40gm), pencil cases, ballpoint pens (black, blue and red), homework diaries, Oxford dictionaries (English, Afrikaans and Xhosa).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

2-PLATE STOVE with OVEN (for Ukondla)

CARPET (for Ukondla)

DIGITAL CAMERA

GLOBES (energy-saving)

KIDDIES/TEEN DVDs

POWERPOINT PROJECTOR
— *please contact us first regarding this item*



Keeping track of your donation

If you are depositing money straight into Ons Plek Project's 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: FIRZAJJ 461

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

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.

Pay less estate duty:

Being a Section 18A Tax Benefit company means that your family will save from payment of estate duties.

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/AGM Reports.

Please cut along the dotted line and forward completed Nomination Form to Ons Plek Projects by **12th September 2013**



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