



# Ons Plek Projects

*Providing hope instead of street life*

## 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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

### **2025 Annual General Meeting**

**DATE:** Thursday 18th September 2025

**VENUE:** Rosebank Methodist Church, 2 Chapel Road, Rosebank 7700

**TIME:** 17:30

**RSVP:** Tel 021 685-4052/49 or Email [onsplek@onsplek.org.za](mailto: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: PAM JACKSON

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](mailto:onsplek@onsplek.org.za)

website: [www.onsplek.org.za](http://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 1, 2 and 3** are 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 **6th September 2025 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 **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         | * Hannes Noval  |
| * Fiona Ronquest-Ross | * Monica Pike   |
| * Cabangile Mduli     | * Melvin Dirkse |



# DIRECTORS REPORT

**Pam Jackson**  
*Director*

**Lee-Anne Dolley**  
*Deputy Director / Unit manager*



**We receive children in need of care with many different stories. From the beginning Ons Plek has been committed to take children whose different needs cross the conventional boundaries and categories of specializations. No matter how inconvenient or challenging that is. We are not here for a comfortable life for staff! So we have children of many different abilities, scholastic capabilities and potential. It's our bottom line!**

**All need acceptance and care.**

## **The story of B**

### **Application information**

We received a referral for a 16 year old who had been in hospital for several months pending a placement. She could not return home to her biological mother and there was no other family to explore.

### **Screening information received before arrival:**

B had a confirmed diagnosis of schizophrenia and was on medication. She was residing in a farming community with her mother and sister. Her mother was not ensuring that B took her medication. This resulted in her displaying symptoms of delusions and hallucinations. Drs at the hospital reported that there were no behaviour concerns whilst in hospital. She was stable on her medication. She had not been in school for several years. Her behaviour and vulnerability placed her at risk in the community.

### **Admission process our first priority is to relax the child while gathering information for the treatment program. And beginning to orient her to house procedures**

B arrived with her External Social Worker. She sat quietly in the reception room with a big smile. She was polite and shy. Very quickly we observed that it was not only a mental health concern but a special needs concern too.

Her answers to the admission questions provided a smile to staff when she replied her siblings were "Adam and Eve" or her last school attended was "High School Musical"

Child Care workers on duty checked and recorded the few items she had and completed a requisition for items of clothing and toiletries needed.

The girls welcomed her and showed her around the facility and staff allowed her time to settle in. Girls tried to engage in conversations with her but found her random answers funny.

Later the same day the Child Care Worker on duty went over the rules and procedures of the house.

## **Bridging School**

B joined our Bridging School programme. Her last known grade according to the External Social Worker was grade 4 at a farm school. B could not read, write or count to 10. She enjoyed going into class but could only complete grade R school work. It was evident that she had missed a significant amount of school work. Furthermore she would not be able to be reintegrated back into a community school and her functioning was too low for a school of skills. B enjoyed bridging school and was proud of her work.

## **Therapy**

Initially B didn't know how to engage in counselling. Her vocabulary was limited as well as her understanding. She often just nodded and smiled no matter what question you asked. Or would give a completely random answer to a question. She was always polite and would often just come and sit in the office not wanting to talk. She would come in, give a hug and walk off.

The longer she stayed the more stable she became. She started to have more conversations although still very limited. The psychiatrist at DCAP noticed a significant change in her ability to communicate once she was settled into the programme. He had known her some time and was surprised at how much her communication had improved.

Later on during her stay the Social worker helped her process the news that her mother had passed on suddenly. Her sadness was evident and several sessions to explore her emotions were held.

## **Life skills programme**

B was slow to learn new skills. Daily repetitions were required before she mastered the tasks but she was always eager to do her duties. Child Care Workers would supervise her cooking to ensure she could cut vegetables safely, and advised her on the next steps to cook her meal.

B was always first to request to bath and was very conscious of her personal hygiene. Child Care Workers taught her how to use the washing machine and she enjoyed the Friday shopping to the local shop to buy groceries for the week. She had no idea how to manage larger sums of money or the value of items but was quick to share that with her R2 she could get 2 packets of R1 chips, which she loved buying with her pocket money

## **Lack of resources- what long term plans could be made?**

B did not fit into any conventional societal constructions. She had turned 18, she was not in a formal school. This meant she did not meet the criteria for an extension to her court order. Officially she would have to leave us because she was over eighteen. Court orders could be extended while she was at school. Neither was she able to be employed in normal employment. Court can extend only when children still attend school.

There was no information on an extended family to explore placement back home, no External Social Worker allocated to help us. Normally, while in care, an external social worker is responsible for contacting family and placing the child back home. But at eighteen B no longer fell under the Child Care Act.

Ons Plek was now assisting her illegally. Would we be told to put her out on the street as we had once experienced before? There are times when human values do not fit into societal regulations. Child and Youth Care facilities are often called upon to go the extra mile because of a lack of resources in the community. Fortunately this is not even a question for Ons Plek committee or staff and never has been. The fact remains however that we are a facility for children and we cannot have adults long term. Thinking out of the box is a skill we have often faced in the past, however the fact remains that some places catered for the mental health aspect but not the learning disability and vice versa.

## **Independent Living Programme**

Our social work staff had made several referrals to adult facilities. The combination of having schizophrenia and a learning disability created a challenge. Some places would accept the mental health but no learning disability and some the learning disability without the mental health. Despite the skills B had acquired they were limited which meant she required lifelong care. We referred her to skills workshop focussing on young adults with learning disabilities but this required her to travel independently. She could not do that. One treatment belief we hold dearly is that we are preparing children for independence not for permanent dependence on institutional care. Therefore we do not drive children to school or medical care. Everyone uses public transport. There was no older responsible teenager or staff member to travel with her, which we do for our younger children. We were at a dead end.



## **Reunification**

Having watched many girls in the facility have home visits and then visiting family over weekends, B started asking about when she was going to have a home visit. We had had no contact details for extended family from her mother. Her mother had presented with some learning needs herself on the two visits she had managed before she passed. Our considerable skills in tracing other family members had not yielded anything.

One day, a surprise visit to the facility revealed that B had an older brother in Cape Town. He came with the sad news that the mother had died and requested to take her to the funeral.

The brother returned B after the funeral and explained how happy the family had been to see her. This gave us the opportunity to explore the extended family. We connected with Maternal Aunt who stayed in Eastern Cape. The Aunt explained that B had stayed with them since birth with her mother, she shared pictures of them all being together when B was younger. One day the biological mother had taken B and never told them she was moving to Cape Town. Occasionally they would hear from the mother who explained that B was in a “boarding school”.

The Aunt was eager to have B in her care. She came to Cape Town to meet staff. We explained the importance of B being on her medication and what her diagnosis meant. The aunt was aware that her grant was in place. The Aunt had no children and lived with one of her sisters, and the sisters children. She was committed to caring for B and explained there was space for B to move in with them.

We bid farewell to B after 2 years of being in our care. B was so happy to be moving back to family, she could not stop telling us that she was moving to Eastern Cape forever.

## **Follow up**

B quickly settled back into life with her extended family. Her Aunt went to the hospital to get her file transferred so that she had access to her medication. She also completed the paperwork to renew her grant. Staff called the aunt weekly for 3 months to find out if they needed any support. And sporadically we receive an emoji and a short voice note from B herself to say hi.

## **Miracles prevail!**

We have several miracles to recount. When every door seems to be closed and we do not know where else to turn to help secure a future for a child. For B new hope was found through a significant loss, which nevertheless created a future with her family instead of a life in a facility.

# 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-united 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**

*43 Total number of children for the year.*

2 - Babies

11 - Reunified home

2 - In the community refusing services

27 - Including 2 babies in stabilization

16 - Long term

### ■ 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

8 In Informal Bridging School

33 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 Program in Philippi (Browns Farm) Community**

*The highlight of the year has been the enthusiastic participation of the parents in our Parenting meetings.*

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.** 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.**

### ■ 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

- 1236 - Counselling
- 557 - Homevisits
- 243 - School visits
- 40 - Prevention Project
- 50 - Drop in Center (9 u6 included)
- 33 - New admissions
- 25 - Graduated from the program

## 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 to engage the children in activities that they will be able to afford for their own children one day. We allow for some unusual activities to enrich their lives, such as ice skating, but take care not to over-spoil. 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. Also educational 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 (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 2025 AGM REPORT – Over R20 000

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE THE VALUABLE SUPPORT OF OUR MAJOR DONORS

- \*ACCENTURE SONG BRAND
- \*ROLF BOLLETER
- \*PATRICK D'HUART
- \*INVESTPCB  
62052916908
- \*KAREN KING / SHARI
- \*Macfarlane Family Foundation
- \*MENZIES AVI DONATION
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- \*Percy Fox Foundation
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- \*St Olas Trust
- \*ER TONNESEN TRUST
- \*UKONDLA LITTLE FVZ
- \*Bruce Wilson Architects (Pty) Ltd



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.

## Bridging School \_ weekly lessons



## Department of Infrastructure ( Western Cape Government) delivery of sandwiches for girls on Mandela Day 2025



# 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, Potscrappers, 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 **2nd September 2025**

## 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 office ... it's so disappointing when the 'thank you' letters that the girls have written, or our newsletters, are returned to us!