

Rows and Rows of Patients = Rows and Rows of Patience

For most of us, a trip to the doctor requires an appointment and a 10-minute wait in the doctor's office. Unfortunately, for our residents, a one-time clinic visit can translate into two full days of patiently waiting to be seen by a nurse or doctor to receive treatment.

The need for doctors and nurses far outweighs the number of qualified medical professionals available. Smiling faces in the waiting rooms of health clinics in Port Elizabeth conceal the tragic reality behind the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

"Our communities face an HIV prevalence rate of almost 40%," explains Ubuntu Nurse, Zanele Foley. "Each day hundreds of patients wait up to six hours to see a nurse or doctor, and our case loads are staggeringly overloaded."

Every patient that walks into the clinic is highly encouraged to be tested for HIV. The 10 – 15 minute wait for the results can be the most agonising wait they will ever face.

Despite the long lines, Ubuntu's Clinical Services programme has made great strides over the last few years in building the capacity of overburdened clinics in the Eastern Cape. In



The key to keeping a child safe and progressing through school is ensuring we can keep their parents alive through HIV testing and treatment.

2005, Ubuntu implemented a pilot programme at KwaZakhele Day Hospital and as a result, KwaZakhele Day Hospital now has the highest testing rate in the region. This year, we have provided 3,171 people with HIV Counselling and Testing and 1,400 of our patients are currently enrolled on Antiretroviral Therapy. However, as the lines at the clinics become longer and the rows of people forced to patiently wait grows, there is a pressing need for us to further expand our clinic services.



UBUNTU

UPDATE

Fall 2008, Issue #20



Camp Ubuntu: Where Children Can Be Children

School holidays should be a time of endless carefree days. However, for the 50,000 orphaned and vulnerable children in our communities, time away from the school environment is a time of extreme risk, where the dangers of HIV/AIDS, abuse, rape and malnutrition are rife.

As part of our Care and Support programme, Camp Ubuntu was formed to provide our children with a safe environment outside of school, where they are able to shed the burdens of everyday life and concentrate on being children again. This year, Ubuntu held week-long over-night camps during the September and December school holidays and a week-long day-camp in April for over 300 children.

Most recently, our winter holiday day-camp took place for two weeks this July, reaching more than 200 children between grade 1 and grade 12. Partnering with Broadway actors from New York, we provided classes in art, drama, dance and business studies with a focus on HIV/AIDS education and prevention. Ubuntu care workers encouraged both teamwork and self-expression from the students, while Ubuntu counsellors provided one-on-one counselling sessions. Two nutritious meals of vegetable stew and rice, prepared in shipping containers decorated by camp students, were also provided each day.



Camp Ubuntu provided over 300 vulnerable children with a safe environment, creative activities and daily lunches.

Each week of camp culminated in a proud performance from the children, enabling them to showcase their new-found talents to their families and other camp participants. For these two weeks in July, Camp Ubuntu gave our children the opportunity to lead a child's life — and they flourished doing so.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu Launches London Office



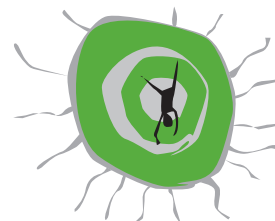
Our Patron, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, addressing a small luncheon on September 5th, to launch our new London office:

"Ubuntu is doing powerful work. It's run by a very special group of people who truly are changing the future of the children of South Africa. Ubuntu has shown us what can be done, by never giving up on a child, by showing them support and guidance. They are saying to the world that Africa's children truly do matter — Ubuntu, thank you."

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

32 Broadway, Suite 414
New York, NY 10004 USA

UBUNTU



NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
NEW YORK NY
PERMIT # 901

An Ubuntu Journey

It was one of those cold, rainy, South African winter nights when I first met Banks. It was 1997 and I found myself standing in middle of Junior Jazz Tavern in New Brighton Township. As the first white man to have ever entered the bar, you can imagine how the place fell silent. Banks approached me, put his arm around me and with that small gesture, showed me for the first time what *ubuntu* was all about — he exuded selflessness. Over a few beers our conversation turned to education and by the end of the evening I had agreed to move in with his family. This was the beginning of a journey for Banks, myself and Ubuntu Education Fund.



Ubuntu Education Fund Co-Founder Banks Gwaxula is transitioning into a new leadership role.

Without a formal education, his knowledge is not something that can be learned through higher education. Banks had been running various community projects long before I had ever met him. He is a man of the people, most comfortable when he is walking amongst the shacks of Zwide, kicking a ball around with children, or having a few beers with his neighbours.

Banks and I had a vision in 1998 when we first started Ubuntu. Over the last ten years he has worked every day to build Ubuntu into the international development organisation it is today. I am proud to have Banks as a Co-Founder and partner in Presidency, and I am even prouder to announce Banks' transition to a new role, as Co-Founder and Senior Advisor.

Banks is one of the most incredible leaders I have ever met.

"I am removing myself from day-to-day operations to focus more on the general health of our staff and our relationships with the community at large. I am the guardian of Ubuntu's values and I look forward to ensuring that they, and the integrity of Ubuntu, remain as true to our community's needs as they were when we first started Ubuntu in 1998. For Ubuntu to continue to grow in a sustainable manner we must allow for the emergence of new leadership."

La'ita Voices

Ubuntu is continually inspired by the voices of our La'ita Peer Educators, a component of our youth outreach initiative that has trained 39 grade 12 students and reaches almost 10,000 youth with HIV/AIDS prevention education.

My name is Siyabulela Roshinamba and I am 16 years old. I was raised by two parents, but my father was very abusive to my mother. Often I would see him hit my mother with his fists and even sometimes with a stick, always leaving bruises and calling her horrible names. My dream has always been to become a better man than that, to become the best person I can be and bring change to my family.

HIV/AIDS is affecting more and more of my friends. As a teen, you must have goals so you can achieve all life has to offer you, but HIV is

preventing this in my home. Some of my peers are giving birth without growing up first, others are simply dying from a virus they can't even name and others have even stopped dreaming.

When Ubuntu Outreach Worker, Sis Phush, told me that I can make a difference by becoming a La'ita Peer Educator, I added this to my list of things to accomplish in my life. As a La'ita, I am proud to educate my peers about the dos and don'ts of life and how to solve the problems we all face. It has been eye-opening. My aim is to help others learn to love one another and show humanity to all. I want to uplift my peers and give hope to every soul I meet along the way: this is how I will make a difference to my friends and family.



La'ita Peer Educator, Siyabulela Roshinamba, is a crucial voice of hope in the struggle to change the course of our community's history.

The Ubuntu Centre



"The Ubuntu Centre is a statement that access to state-of-the art education and health should be a child's right and not a privilege. The Ubuntu Centre was designed to serve our communities and when it opens it will change our communities forever."

~Ubuntu Education Fund Co-Founder and President, Jacob Lief

Amongst the poverty and unemployment in the townships of Port Elizabeth, there are no buildings where individuals can gather as a community, no buildings in which people can take pride. Ubuntu is determined to change Port Elizabeth forever: we broke ground on *The Ubuntu Centre* on March 25th. Walls have begun to spring up and construction is truly underway. *The Ubuntu Centre* is set to be the first world community centre in the townships of Port Elizabeth. A \$5.5 million health and education complex, the centre will host educational services, a HIV/TB clinic, a community theatre and office space for our 75 full time employees.

Thanks to your generosity, we have raised \$4.1 million to date. **But the hard work is not over: \$1.4 million remains to complete the construction of this vital community project.** To help us reach our goal, please email us at capital@ubuntufund.org.

Green fingers in Port Elizabeth



Ubuntu's organic community gardens provide 1,900 nutritious, daily lunches for vulnerable children at Ubuntu's partner schools.

Beetroot, carrots and spinach. These are the fruits, or more literally, vegetables, of Ubuntu's gardening team's labour this month. At BJ Mnyanda Primary School in particular, it is not just the vegetable patches that have been bearing fruits: 30 students aged 12 –13 years old have become blossoming gardeners.

Personally invested in the growth of the garden since its inception, grade 6 students have taken great pride in their green fingers and resulting leadership roles. These vulnerable youths now educate and mentor the younger students in garden maintenance. "I'm so proud to see how these students have taken ownership of this project," says Mava Dlepu, Ubuntu Garden Manager.

As part of our Care and Support programme, Ubuntu's community garden initiative has established a total of nine organic community gardens located at six primary schools, two clinics and a one backyard since it was launched in 2005. The school gardens provide nutritious daily lunches for 1,900 vulnerable children at Ubuntu's partner schools, holiday camps and support groups. The community gardens generate income and weekly vegetable parcels for a co-op of previously unemployed parents who have been trained to maintain the gardens.

Ubuntu's feeding programme was recently awarded a soup and bread tender from the Eastern Cape Provincial Government to provide nutritional meals for 250 immune-compromised tuberculosis patients at four health clinics within our communities. This tender is a testament to the strength of Ubuntu's comprehensive and holistic feeding model.

Visit Ubuntu

info@ubuntufund.org • www.ubuntufund.org

United States 32 Broadway, Suite 414 New York, NY 10004 USA Phone: (646) 827-1190	South Africa 5 Qe Qe Street Zwide Township Port Elizabeth South Africa Phone: (041) 459-0627	United Kingdom 7 Cavendish Square London, W1G 0PE United Kingdom Phone: (0) 207 612-7610
--	--	---