

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA



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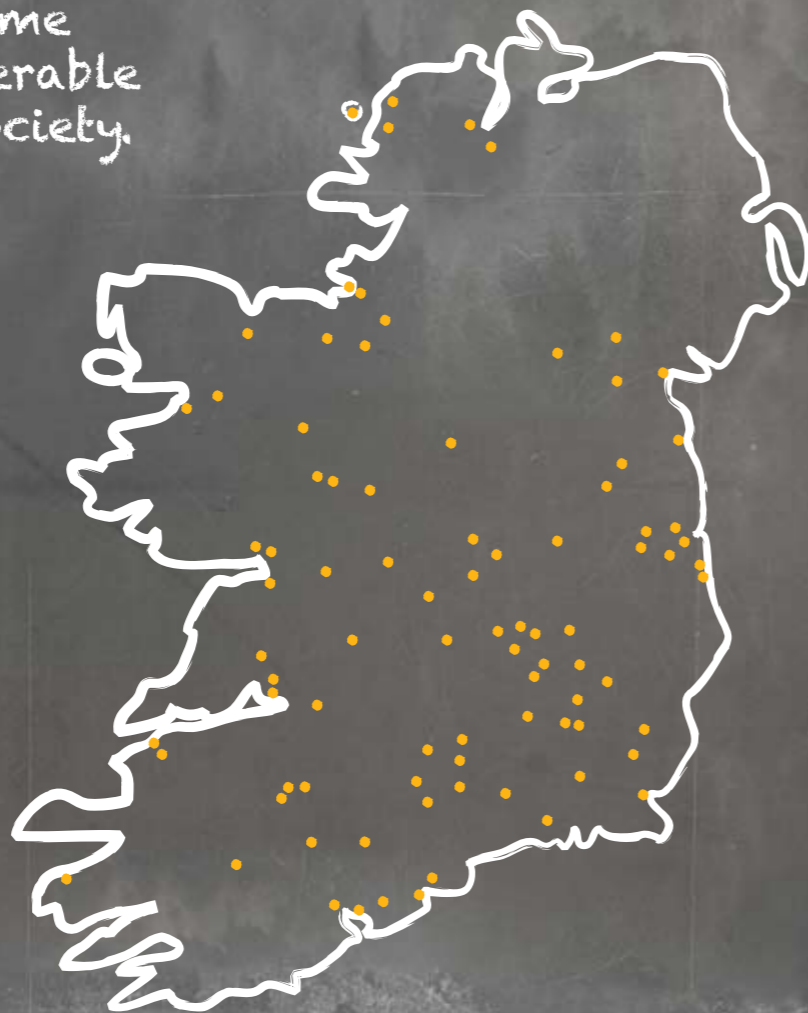
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Since 1982 Respond! has built more than 5,000 homes in Ireland for some of the most vulnerable groups in Irish society.



RESPOND! HOUSING ASSOCIATION - AN INTRODUCTION

Respond! Housing Association was founded in Waterford in 1982 and has grown to become Ireland's largest provider of social housing. We seek to create a positive future for people by alleviating poverty and creating vibrant, socially integrated communities. We do this through providing access to education, childcare, community development programmes, housing and other supports.

First established as a company limited by guarantee with charitable status, Respond! Housing Association was approved as a Housing Association by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 1984.

WHO WE PROVIDE HOUSE FOR

We provide housing for some of the most vulnerable groups in Irish society including those who have lived for long periods in temporary and insecure accommodation. We accommodate different size households, as well as households at different stages of the life cycle, from young to old. We provide housing for people with general needs as well as providing housing for people with special needs, for example older people or people with disabilities. We have constructed homes for traditional families, lone-parent families, older persons, homeless and disabled people. With

the assistance of Local Authorities, we have also provided housing units and several group homes for other local charitable groups.

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED IN IRELAND

To date Respond! Housing Association has built more than 5,000 homes nationwide with a further 350 under construction. All our estates are designed, developed and maintained to the highest architectural and environment standards and include community facilities. We aim to create homes where people want to live and settle.

We have worked with over 40 Local Authorities and use their housing waiting lists to allocate homes. Respond! Housing Association has also assisted some Local Authorities in laying out sites for general social housing. In addition, we have successfully worked with various government departments and state agencies.



RESPOND! HOUSING ASSOCIATION LAYING DOWN ROOTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

In late Summer 2005, Respond! Housing Association was invited to South Africa by the Diocese of Kokstad (KwaZulu Natal Province) to assist them in developing supports and services for those in need in its area.

Following extensive research and consultation, Respond! Housing Association identified key facilities and supports that needed to be provided, including:

- ✦ housing
- ✦ training and educational facilities
- ✦ recreational and sporting facilities
- ✦ crèches
- ✦ day care centres
- ✦ medical facilities

Working with the Provincial Government, the local community, specialist consultants and Respond! Housing Association staff based in South Africa, we have focussed our building, training and development work on delivering much needed services to the communities we are involved in. Central to all our work in South Africa is the objective of sustainability.

To assist us with these projects, Respond! Housing Association works in partnership with **YONDLABANTU, AMAWELE, FRIENDS IN IRELAND, THE DIOCESE OF KOKSTAD, THE GREATER KOKSTAD MUNICIPALITY** and other local groups. We have included details of the great work being carried out by some of these groups in this booklet. To help us carry out our work in South Africa, we established Sivile! as a local housing association that carries out many of our projects. Established in December 2008, Sivile! is the South African branch of Respond! Housing Association that works with the local community on our behalf.



Pat Cogan, ofm (CEO of Respond! Housing Association) with students taking part in the Construction Training Course.



OUR PARTNERS: CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KOKSTAD

Since Respond! Housing Association was first invited to South Africa by Bishop William Slattery and the Diocese of Kokstad in 2005, we have maintained a close relationship with the Diocese through our sister association Sivile!.

The diocese of Kokstad comprises the magisterial districts of Bizana, Flagstaff, Lusikisiki, Port St John on the left bank of the Umzimvubu River, Mount Ayliff, Mount Frere, Tabankulu, Mount Currie and Matatiele south of the Kenegha River. Covering an area of more than 17,000 square kilometres, the diocese reaches a population of more than 1.6 million people. Even though the Catholic Population is only 81,000, the work of the 23 priests and many organisations within the diocese cater for many more people.

Former Bishop, Right Reverend Bishop William Slattery, ofm, ran the diocese until he was appointed Archbishop of Pretoria on December 23, 2010. Bishop Slattery was responsible for bringing many organisations to the diocese to respond to the needs of people in the community. Respond! Housing Association from Ireland was one such organisation. He wanted Respond! Housing Association to provide training facilities at Shayamoya to help develop opportunities to the under-

and unemployed and poorly skilled people. The Bishop also hoped Respond! Housing Association would manage the provision of essential health as well as welfare support services to destitute, chronically ill, orphaned and vulnerable people in the Greater Kokstad communities.

Right Reverend Bishop Stanislaw Jan Dziuba, Bishop of Umzimkulu was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as Apostolic Administrator of the diocese on January 31, 2011.



OUR PARTNERS: GREATER KOKSTAD MUNICIPALITY

The majority of the work being carried out by Respond! Housing Association is in the Greater Kokstad Municipality (GKM).

The Greater Kokstad Municipality is located at the south western tip of the KwaZulu Natal Province. The municipality is bordered by Matatiele Local Municipality and Lesotho to the west, KwaSani Local Municipality to the north, Umziwabantu Local Municipality to the south east and Eastern Cape to the east.

Working with the Greater Kokstad Municipality, Respond! Housing Association hopes to render community driven, economically viable and sustainable services. The aim is for the municipality to be the most effective in providing sustainable developmental services to all of the communities in the municipality.

The GKM have provided much assistance to Respond! Housing Association during our time in South Africa. Specifically, the GKM (along with the Catholic Diocese of Kokstad) have leased the land which the Respond! Training Centre is built on, as well as providing funding for street lighting and outside footpaths. The help of GKM is greatly appreciated by Respond! Housing Association and Sivile!.



OUR PARTNERS: ST NARDINI CATHOLIC CHURCH

The St Nardini Church is a new church that was built on the land kindly leased by the GKM and the Catholic Diocese of Kokstad to Respond! Housing Association and Sivile!.

On this land, the majority of the iThembalabantu Centre is built that houses many of the services and organisations contained in this booklet. The site is home to the Tender Loving Care Hospice, Sakhisizwe Pre-School, the Respond! Training Centre and the St Nardini Church amongst others.

The Catholic Diocese of Kokstad wanted to help solve some of the biggest needs of the people of the area and the St Nardini Church has become a centre of hope for the people during their time of suffering. The St Nardini church is named after St Paul Josef Nardini, a holy man who spent much of his life working for the poor. Nardini was deeply concerned about the conditions of neglected children and the elderly. He founded the "Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Family" that have worked for many years in the area.

THE SHAYAMOYA SITE

The site built by Respond! Housing Association and Sivile! on lands kindly leased by the Shayamoya Catholic Church and the GKM





RESPOND! HOUSING
ASSOCIATION
& SIVILE! ARE
WORKING TO
RESTORE DIGNITY
TO MARGINALISED
PEOPLE IN NEED.

OUR WORK WITH THE YONDLABANTU FOUNDATION

Respond! Housing Association and Sivile! work closely with Yondlabantu on many of our projects in South Africa. Yondlabantu's vision is to restore dignity to marginalised people in situations of desperate need in isolated rural communities, by supporting the needs of the 'whole person'.

Yondlabantu's mission is to build the knowledge and expertise of individuals to work as Community Health Workers (CHWs) within isolated and institutionally marginalised rural communities. Yondlabantu manages the provision of essential health and welfare support services to destitute, sick, orphaned and vulnerable people in these communities. This is achieved through home-based care services, by facilitating access to formal health and welfare programmes and through preventative education and training programmes.

The philosophy of Yondlabantu is encapsulated in the following core services that they provide:

Giving Marginalised People a CHANCE (Caring, Health, Access, Nutrition, Counselling and Education).

- ★ **CARING** for the needs of the 'whole person' in respect of mind, body, family, environment and spirit. Yondlabantu operate from the

philosophy that the poor and sick, however marginalised, are our brothers and sisters and need our support.

- ★ Providing essential home-based **HEALTHCARE** and welfare support services to individuals within disenfranchised communities who would otherwise be unable to access these.
- ★ Facilitating **ACCESS** of vulnerable individuals to formal institutions and support programmes.
- ★ **NOURISHMENT** as a basic requirement of life and overcoming HIV-Aids, TB and other opportunistic infections.
- ★ **COUNSELLING** and assistance before, during and after the identification of life-changing illness or events.
- ★ **EDUCATION** and training focused on encouraging disease prevention and management, building essential knowledge and capacity and facilitating employment opportunities within targeted communities.

Yondlabantu provides many supports to local communities, including the following:

HOME-BASED CARE PROGRAMME (HBC)

The HBC programme identifies, trains and supports Community Health Workers undertaking home-based care activities.

This means:

- ★ Identifying, training and accrediting CHW's to implement Yondlabantu's programmes within identified communities.
- ★ Providing basic employment/monetary stipends to those providing services through the programme.
- ★ Providing institutional, practical and monetary support to CHW's to fulfil their objectives in targeted communities.

The HBC programme identifies people and households in need, and sets up a schedule of regular visits, counselling and assisted access to treatment for sick and vulnerable people who are unable to help themselves. HBC includes the following activities:

- ★ Identifying those in situations of dire need in isolated and neglected villages.
- ★ Offering a human face of compassion through counselling, supporting and caring for the 'whole person'.
- ★ Nutrition support if required.
- ★ Providing basic shelter assistance, hygiene, cleansing and bathing support.

- ★ Basic household management and child-care support.
- ★ Providing a minimal level of basic medical support.
- ★ Facilitating access to HCT programmes and treatment of dread disease through state healthcare programme.
- ★ Facilitating registration for and regular access to prescribed treatment and access to necessary formal healthcare services.
- ★ Monitoring use of and efficacy of drug regimens.
- ★ Facilitating access to health and welfare grants (childcare grants, HIV/AIDS grants and pensions) and support programmes for members of the household where needed.

Children who benefit from the work of the Yondlabantu Foundation. →



ORPHANS & VULNERABLE CHILDREN SUPPORT PROGRAMME (OVC)

Community Health Workers provide counselling, assistance and support services to orphans and vulnerable children identified within target communities. This process involves:

- ✦ Identifying orphans, vulnerable children and child-headed households.
- ✦ Counselling and psychological support for those suffering trauma.
- ✦ Registration of births, confirmation of orphan status and facilitation of access to orphan grants from the Department of Social Development.
- ✦ Facilitating access to welfare supports for orphans and vulnerable children (specifically Childcare grants and orphan grants).
- ✦ Facilitating access to testing and treatment for OVC's.
- ✦ Supervision of appropriate living arrangements for OVC's within their home and village environments.
- ✦ After-school care.
- ✦ Facilitating contact with paralegal, legal and social welfare support (eg. for abused women and children).
- ✦ Peripheral activities including development of gardens to supplement nutrition, provision of school uniforms, clothing, nutrition blankets, emergency support and stationery on an ad-hoc basis.

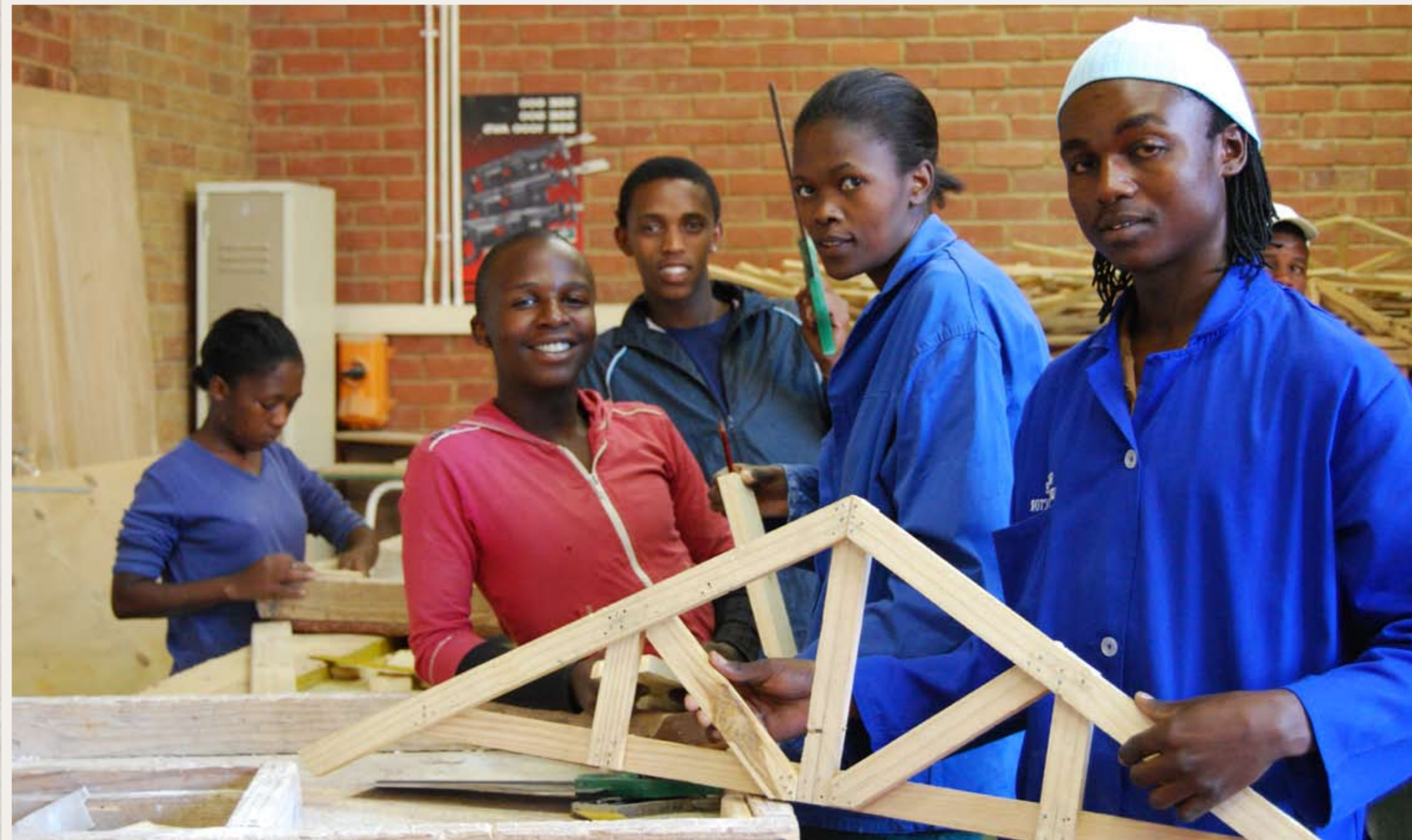
OTHER PROGRAMMES CARRIED OUT BY YONDLABANTU IN THE COMMUNITY INCLUDE:

- ✦ Awareness campaigns conducted by Community Health Workers.
- ✦ Job opportunity programmes funded by EPWP.
- ✦ Provision of community facilities such as the jungle gym.
- ✦ Provision of school uniforms for local children.



CARING
HEALTH
ACCESS
NUTRITION
COUNSELLING
EDUCATION

THE RESPOND!
HOUSING ASSOCIATION
TRAINING CENTRE WILL
OFFER UNEMPLOYED
AND UNSKILLED PEOPLE
THE OPPORTUNITY TO
LEARN TRADES WHICH
WILL TRANSFORM THEIR
FUTURE PROSPECTS.



RESPOND! HOUSING ASSOCIATION TRAINING CENTRE

The main objective of the Respond! Housing Association Training Centre will be to progressively make education available and accessible in the Greater Kokstad area. Respond! Housing Association will strive to offer high-quality education in order to empower the community with qualifications, skills and competencies.

The tenets of this quality education include, amongst others, the following:

- ✦ Excellence
- ✦ Setting and maintenance of standards
- ✦ Consistency
- ✦ Customer satisfaction

The Respond! Housing Association Training Centre will offer courses and career paths for unemployed and unskilled people to learn trades and skills that will offer them concrete chances of entering the economy, either as employees, or by adding to their self-sufficiency, or through encouraging the development of entrepreneurship.

Courses will either be developed in-house, or we will utilize quality courseware from external service providers. All courses will be SAQA accredited, offering a range of unit standards, and based on extensive practical experience.

We intend to develop and operate a range of short skills courses (between five and fifteen days), and develop a full artisan training programme for implementation parallel with these courses.



One of the first programmes developed by Respond! Housing Association was a Construction Course for local men in the area.

The following courses will be delivered in the Respond! Housing Association Training Centre:

EDUCATION FOR LIFE (EFL)

This youth training course offered to school learners has been under way for a few years. We aim to upgrade the training materials and extend the programme in the future.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION & TRAINING (ABET)

Existing, accredited and successful courseware to be contracted in.

COMPUTER LITERACY COURSE

Courseware to be contracted in.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Yondlabantu is hosting nine Office Administration students for six to nine months, in order to expose these students to the world of work.

COMMUNITY CAREWORKER COURSE

This will be offered on a modular basis to Yondlabantu's careworkers. This will initially be offered in collaboration with TLC Home Services staff who have qualified trainers, assessors and moderators.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT COURSE

A Childcare Short Course and a nutrition training course have been developed that will form components of this course.

BASIC GARDENING & VEGETABLE CULTIVATION COURSE

This course was developed and run during 2010 in collaboration with Scientific Roets. Ten students have been trained and certified, and are now producing vegetable gardens at the homes of HIV-Aids patients in Shayamoya.

CONSTRUCTION WOODWORKING COURSE

Course to be developed or contracted.

FARMWORKER SKILLS COURSE

Respond! Housing Association aims to establish a general farmworker skills programme to support the agricultural sector in the surrounding areas.

CAREERS / RECRUITMENT CENTRE

Respond! Housing Association is considering the establishment of a basic careers centre to assist people with preparing CVs, sourcing and applying for employment opportunities. This may be run in collaboration with Scientific Roets.

BASIC WELDING

Course to be developed or contracted.

BASIC ELECTRICAL

Course to be developed or contracted.



THANKS TO RESPOND!
HOUSING ASSOCIATION
AND SIVILE!, TLC HOME
SERVICES WILL BE ABLE
TO PROVIDE PALLIATIVE
CARE IN THE HOME
FOR DOUBLE THE
NUMBER OF PATIENTS.

OUR WORK WITH THE TENDER LOVING CARE HOSPICE

Respond! Housing Association is delighted to work with Tender Loving Care (TLC) Hospice in Shayamoya who now occupy the community centre we recently constructed.

TLC Home Services was founded in May 2006 by professional nurses, Teresa Olivier and Di Penny. TLC Home Services work with patients who were adversely affected by HIV/Aids. Being situated in rural KwaZulu Natal, HIV/Aids was rampant and there was a huge need to provide these patients with palliative care services in the home environment.

TLC Home Services comes from humble beginnings with an initial budget of R200 (approximately €200). Teresa and Di used their personal vehicles and under took to care for these patients on their own. Soon thereafter, TLC Hospice offered the “Train the Trainer in Home Based Care” course and Teresa and Di were able to train 30 community workers from Kokstad in the 59 Day Palliative Care Course. Of these, 10 community workers joined TLC Home Services as unpaid volunteers. Together with the 10 care workers, the two Professional Nurses developed a Home Based Care Programme for a small patient base of 5 HIV patients.

Initially, the organisation operated from a small home office. A local church offered TLC

Home Services the use of an office which allowed the organisation to expand to a certain degree. After two years in this environment, TLC Home Services realised more suitable space was needed from which to operate from. In 2008, TLC Home Services were approached by Respond! Housing Association and Sivile! who valued their success as a well established NGO. They offered TLC Home Services the use of the facility at Shayamoya, in order to more effectively provide for the needs of the community. The establishment of the community centre in Shayamoya and the resultant partnership with Respond! Housing Association and Sivile! has provided TLC Home Services with a much needed boost, as they now have a world class community centre to reach out to those people in the community who desperately need palliative care and support.

From an initial patient base of 5, the community has realised the value of TLC Home Services and the patient base has grown to 350 patients who are actively being cared for.

TLC Home Services has assisted over 1000 patients to date. TLC Home Services assists those patients who suffer from HIV/Aids, TB, Cancer, Diabetes and other advanced life-threatening diseases. They are also able to care for children who have life limiting illnesses.

Over the past 5 years, the professional team has continued to grow and update their skills through various training courses and Respond! Housing Association is proud that TLC Home Services functions in such a professional manner in the community.

TLC HOME SERVICES OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES AND PROGRAMMES:

- ★ Home Based Palliative Care.
- ★ Healthcare Awareness and Training.
- ★ Orphaned and Vulnerable Children Programme.
- ★ A Food Distribution Programme with funding from NLDT Fund and the Department of Social Development.
- ★ Support for and interaction with the aged community.
- ★ Support groups for patients.

Thanks to the partnership with Respond! Housing Association and Sivile! and the establishment of the Community Centre in Shayamoya, TLC Home Services aims to meet the following objectives:

- ★ Double the number of patients to between 800 and 1000 patients. This will also be facilitated by networking partners such as TB/HIV Care.
- ★ Extend the provision of regular training and awareness to care givers and the community.
- ★ Increase the food distribution programme by increasing the number of food parcels distributed as well as the provision of nutritious meals to support groups and patients.
- ★ Enable the operation of the Centre for the Aged, which provides a meeting place for the aged members of the community who are in many cases, the primary caregivers for ill children and their parents.
- ★ In conjunction with this, TLC Home Services will extend their Support Group Programme for patients at the centre, where there will be regular contact with other patients and TLC Home Services staff.
- ★ TLC Home Services aims to grow the OVC programme to include trained paediatric care givers.
- ★ TLC Home Services aims to increase the staff complement by recruiting an additional Professional Nurse and a dedicated Social Worker.

T.L.C. Home Services

A PO No: 052-E44-MPU



RESPOND! HOUSING
ASSOCIATION & SIVILE!,
BUILT A FACILITY
FOR THE SAKHISIZWE
PRE-SCHOOL ALLOWING
LARGER NUMBERS OF
VULNERABLE CHILDREN
TO ACCESS HIGH QUALITY
CARE AND EDUCATION.



OUR WORK WITH SAKHISIZWE PRE-SCHOOL

Respond! Housing Association recently constructed a pre-school which is operated by Sakhisizwe Pre-school.

The original school was started in 2001 by a former teacher, Ms NI Nqwenyana (Saslangwe), who had just retired from teaching. There were almost no pre-schools then in the area and it started with 10 children. She paid for rent food for the children, most of whom came from very poor backgrounds. Due to the increase of numbers, the school became successfully registered as a place of care in 2006. Support was given by the Roman Catholic Church and enrolment increased to 80 children. Respond! Housing Association and Sivile! assisted Sakhisizwe Pre-school by building their current facility. This has allowed the group to increase the capacity and quality of care to vulnerable children in the area.

Sakhisizwe Pre-school was set up with a view to supporting parents/guardians with their child care needs. Their vision is to be one of the most successful Pre-schools in the area. They are committed to the best interest of every child as an individual and encourage each child to develop to their full potential.

AIM:

The aim of Sakhisizwe Pre-school is to provide an integrated, safe, stimulating environment which helps develop children in every aspect of their development physically, intellectually, spiritually and socially.

OBJECTIVES:

- ✦ To value parents and carers as primary educators of the child
- ✦ To ensure that the staff receive appropriate training and maintain quality practice
- ✦ To prepare children for formal education
- ✦ To work in collaboration with the departments of social welfare, health and education

