

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 3

ABOUT

# Makaphutu Children's Village

A loving community raising children to wholeness

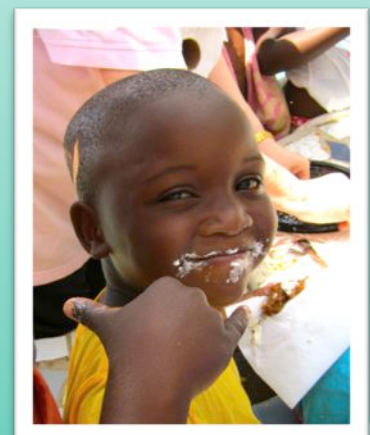


## Who we are:

MAKAPHUTU is an NGO started in 1990 to care for abandoned and abused children in the Valley of a Thousand Hills. As the AIDS pandemic exploded, the number of children grew and so Makaphutu expanded. Today, it is a Village of 48 children between the ages of 2 and 18 years old who have been through unbelievable abuse, trauma, neglect and loss and have come to Makaphutu to heal and be loved, most of all to find a home. It is here that they are clothed, fed, housed, and educated, but above and beyond that, they receive care, counseling, opportunities, and a family. We look holistically at each child's needs and dreams and use all our resources to fulfill them to the best of our ability.

**Get involved!**  
**Make a difference!**  
**Invest in a child!**

There are so many ways in which you can use your special skills and resources to touch the life of a vulnerable child in desperate need of your investment. Volunteer in our tutoring or homework club, teach music, do sports with the kids on weekends, be a holiday foster parent, work in the office for a morning, bring clothes or toys, do some gardening on our property, invest financially, the list goes on and on! You are welcome to call us, tell us what you have to give, and we will let you know how it can be used. We appreciate it all!  
**Dream up a way you can be a part of the change!**



### Date started

**1990**

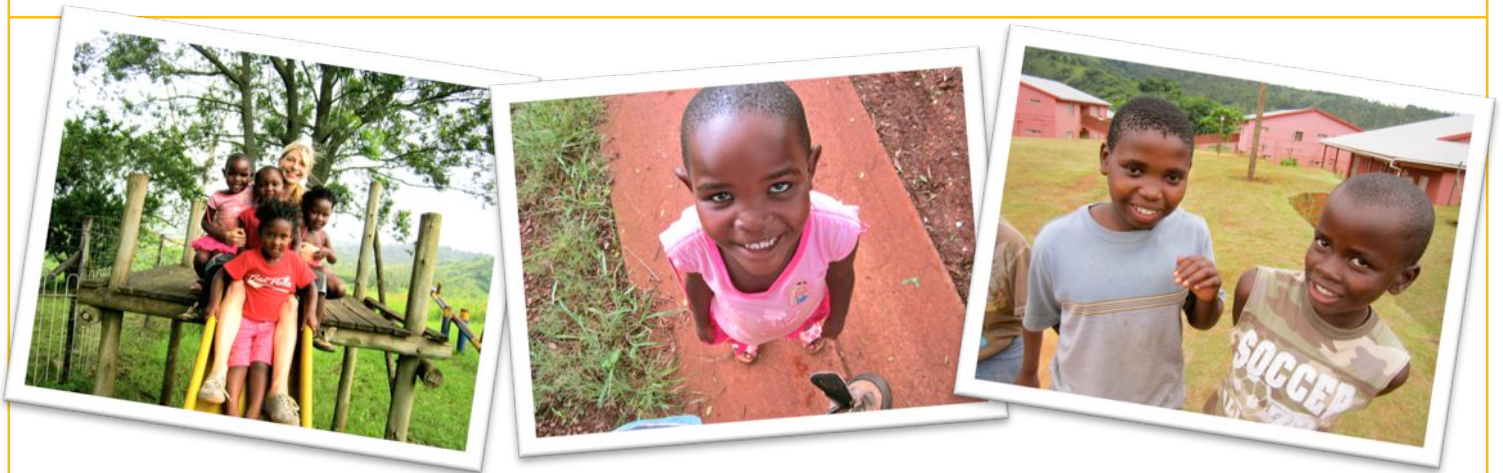
Started by Mrs. June Van Vuuren whose Zulu name was "Makaphutu."

### Registered as NPO 2001

Simultaneously, Makaphutu was registered as a Section 21 Company.

### Lily of the Valley Partnership 2006

Makaphutu and Lily establish an operational partnership.



## How the Healing Journey Begins...

When a child arrives at Makaphutu, they come with a story, a history that is often more traumatic and full of sorrow that most of us will experience in a lifetime. And so the healing process begins the day the child arrives at Makaphutu. One of the first things that a young child must learn is that now they are safe. Many children have had to fend for themselves for as long as they can remember, living in a constant state of alertness as they use every coping skill possible to survive.

It can be a big change to be cared for, to be allowed to be a kid. And for many children, believing they are really loved takes some real convincing after so much disappointment and

abuse.

But we believe the recipe for healing, although different for each child, involves unconditional love, the chance to play and learn, a sense of safety and stability, and a family atmosphere of loyalty and trust. We build towards this daily with a team of committed staff and housemothers. We also look for opportunities for our kids that show them new possibilities that help them dream. Whether it's taking them to see a live production, having a water balloon fight on a hot day, or reading with them under a tree, we do everything within our power to encourage the healing process in each precious child.

## How To Visit Us:

**We know that seeing a place can speak volumes more than we can! So call our office and schedule a visit.**

*We are about a 5 minute drive past Kearsney Highschool on Old Main Road in Botha's Hill. When coming from Hillcrest, drive all the way past Kearsney, through Botha's Hill, and take a right 1 km later at the signs for Valley Trust and the View (there is a big sign for Makaphutu too!). Stick on this windy road for 1km and you will come to a right hand turn with another big sign for Makaphutu and Lahla Kahle Cemetery. Turn right on this driveway and follow it all the way down the hill until you see the cluster of pink buildings. Pull in and we'll show you around!*





## Our Core Activities:

### Homework Club

Many of our children have not had consistent or comprehensive schooling for much of their lives. Thus, in order to set them up for success, we have special tutoring and homework help offered every day of the week from 3:30pm- 5pm. Volunteers welcome! Choose one day of the week to regularly come help. This is an incredible time of one on one attention for the kids.



### The Sewing Room

About a year ago a beautiful Canadian young woman showed up at Makaphutu right before Christmas to volunteer for 6 months. By the time she was gone she had helped teach all our older girls to sew beautiful purses they have been able to sell for 100% profit they can put towards saving for their futures! Buy a Makaphutu purse at our offices!

### Sports Facilities

We have a lovely soccer field that is very popular with all the local kids as well as our village children. Soccer training happens throughout the week and the team gives the children a sense of structure and teamwork while teaching good sportsmanship.



### Resident Longer Term Volunteer

We provide housing for full time volunteers that would like to commit to working with our kids for an extended period of time. There is an application process which one can look at on our website here

(<http://volunteermakaphutu.wordpress.com/>).

## Nkosi's Story

When we first met Nkosi (name changed for privacy) he was a little boy of 5 years old who had grown up on the street being cared for by his siblings just a few years older than himself. He had learned how to lie and steal as a matter of survival and used to nearly compulsively look for something to slip into his pocket while he thought we weren't looking.

But he was desperate for attention and it was often the very things he stole that he would later try to give to us as "gifts" to win our affection. We told him how much we loved him every day but it was going to take a while for that to sink in. When confronted about a lie or something he stole, Nkosi would cover his face in fear and shame and refuse to make eye contact.

Weeks and months went into making Nkosi feel special, building trust, and letting him know we loved him no matter what. Simultaneously we confronted his bad habits with gentle talks that explained clearly and simply why he didn't have to steal and lie anymore. We told him that we would take care of him and he never needed to be afraid to tell us the truth.

One day Nkosi came to us and told us he was sorry for a lie he had told. We were so happy he was learning to be honest we practically threw him a party...only to find out he had lied about lying in the first place in order to get attention. We knew we had a long way to go but we were so encouraged that he was even reaching out for our love.

More weeks and months passed. Nkosi began slowly but surely returning trinkets he had pocketed and being remarkably honest with us.

When I would walk over the hill and he caught sight of me, he was always the first to come running. With reckless abandon he would throw his small little frame into my arms and hug me with every ounce of his strength. With a radiant smile he would then greet me.

One day I looked at the now 7 year old Nkosi, one of the most honest and kind hearted little boys I had ever met, and I asked him, "Who loves you Nkosi?" He responded without missing a beat. "YOU! You love me. You all love me at Makaphutu." And he was right. His confidence in our love had given him the courage to learn he no longer needed to fend for himself using petty crime and dishonesty. He had a family that would look after him.

Nkosi is just one child that went from a life of abuse and neglect to a child that feels loved and secure. Instead of having to worry about his next meal, he can dream about his future. For children like Nkosi, Makaphutu offers itself as a home of healing where hope can grow.







## What we do in our community!

**While the children at Makaphutu are our first priority, we also believe in reaching out to our community, the surrounding townships that are the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS pandemic worldwide.**

### Preschool/Crèche

Currently we teach 75 children aged 3-6 years old. This includes a full school readiness program (Grade R). All our children are fed two healthy meals a day to ensure their healthy development.

### Food/Clothing Parcel Distribution

We distribute food for 6,500 meals a month throughout the community and to our local ARV clinic, schools, and various community projects. Food parcels are also taken into the community and given to those in need along with clothing and blanket distribution.

### Soup Kitchens

The Tuberculosis Clinic down the road from us is full of many patients with HIV/AIDS that need nutritious meals! So we send them soup made at Makaphutu, using many of the fresh veggies from our very own gardens.

### Community Gardens

Our community gardens are part of our community empowerment program. They provide organic fresh produce for both the community and our children's village.





## Resource for Child-Headed Households

In KwaZulu Natal the number of child-headed households is growing exponentially! AIDS has devastated the family structure. And although we cannot take in all these children, we can provide support and resources for them that better help their household stay fed, clothed, and in school.



## Skills Development Center

We offer accredited courses for community empowerment and education. These courses include entrepreneurship business practice, computer training, and hospitality entrance courses. We also offer parenting training.

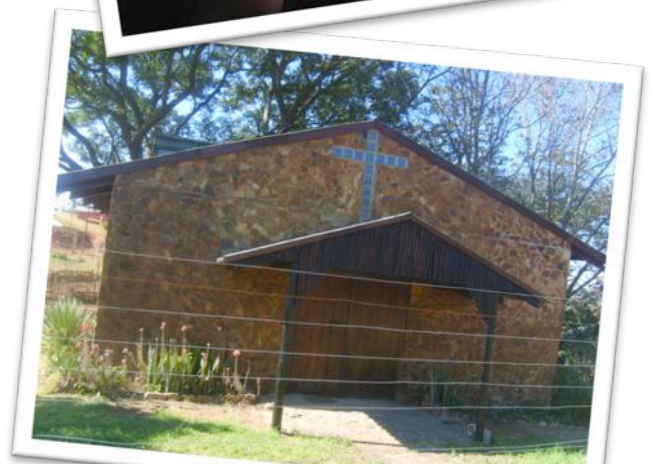
## Community Prayer

Tucked away in the hills of this valley are countless people in pain, many of whom feel forgotten and uncared for. We go and find these people, lying sick inside their huts, children wandering aimless through the township, and offer prayer and conversation. All the while we see if there are needs we can meet and if so, we come back later with the necessary supplies.



## Community Gatherings

Makaphutu has become a gathering place in the community. Whether it be for NGO's to join hands and help one another, for handing out food and toys, or for churches gathering across denominations to pray and strategize for change in the community, people in the Valley of a Thousand Hills can come to Makaphutu for resources, help, and training.







## Ready, set, GIVE!!

It's time to consider what you will give to the work being done! How much can you give? How much can you invest in these children? Ask yourself these questions. They are the very questions we ask ourselves every day.

For details on giving, see our banking details below or contact us using the details listed at the bottom of this page.

### MAKAPHUTU BANKING DETAILS

Account name: Makaphutu Children's Village

Bank: Nedbank

Branch: Hillcrest, KwaZulu Natal, RSA

Account Number: 1338047213

Branch Code: 133826

Swift Code: NEDSZAJJ (If required- oversees donation)

\*\* We are fully transparent and accountable in how we spend all of our funds, are 100% rated for BBBEE, fully audited, and are properly accredited as a Section 21 Company, PBO and NPO. We would love to answer any further questions or offer any information you may require.

Thank you. 😊



### Makaphutu Children's Village

P.O. Box 689

Botha's Hill, 3660

South Africa

EMAIL: [nic@makaphutu.org.za](mailto:nic@makaphutu.org.za)

PHONE: +27 31 777 1239