



11 June 2024

Dear Mrs Stamm, teachers, pupils, parents and friends of St Ursula Gymnasium

For many years now St. Ursula's has supported the work of Sizanani Outreach Programme(SOP) through generous donations. On behalf of Dr Maria Lindner (Sr. M. Ellen) SOP Director, I express heartfelt thanks to you, for your very welcome donation of 2500€ which we recently received.



A typical Zulu House made from mud

The past years have been extremely challenging for people living in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal where we are situated. In 2020 the world went into lockdown because of Covid-19 and the negative effects of the pandemic are still being felt in the economies and lives of people all over the world.

In July 2021 South Africa faced a crisis when protest action in KwaZulu-Natal turned into rampant chaos as shopping malls and businesses across the province were looted and then burnt. The damage caused by these riots is estimated at R20 Billion.

Nine months later the province was hit by another disaster. On 12 April 2022 more than 300mm of rain fell in 24 hours, along the coastal areas, resulting in roof high flood waters and catastrophic landslides that caused widespread destruction and killed at least 435 people.

Countless people, rich and poor alike, were affected as roads collapsed, bridges washed away, and buildings, industrial sites and major infrastructure were left in tatters. More than 40000 people lost their homes and their possessions that night as 12000 houses were damaged/ destroyed. The cost of the damage caused by the April floods alone is estimated at R25 Billion (1.4 Billion Euro).

Many people lost their jobs as a result of the looting and the floods and were forced to return home to the rural areas no longer able to support their families financially.

Practically this has meant more people have become dependent on Social Grants, more people are living in poverty and more children are exposed to neglect, lack of food, and other opportunities. This is also a disaster for humanitarian organisations like Sizanani Outreach Programme (SOP) which seek to provide aid and support to the



poor, but face dwindling sources of funding. In 2022 SOP spent nearly R 2.3 Million providing food aid to those in need.



Queues for Social Support grants

The wars in the Ukraine and Gaza have had a negative impact on our sources of funding as Donors send their donations elsewhere or people find themselves pressed by the economic situations in their countries. As a result of dwindling income SOP faced a crisis in May last year where we did not know if we would be able to continue our work. Dr Maria Lindner's priority at this time was to save the jobs of nearly 80 employees and secure funding for the children's home (Sizanani Child and Youth Care Centre). Food distribution as one of our biggest expenses had to be stopped all together for a time and thereafter only to those in absolute need. Through the efforts of the Nardini Sisters and Sizanani staff we were able to secure some funding to help us continue our work of assisting the poor and vulnerable people of Nkandla. Some of the services we provide are listed below.

Our health support services are an important aspect of our work. These services include health education, screening for certain diseases, referrals to clinics, treatment adherence and counselling.



We run educational playgroups to help children develop very important cognitive, physical, social and psychological skills.



Franciscan Nardini Welfare t/a Sizanani Outreach Programme
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We encourage clients to start food gardens and grow their own vegetables to provide food for their families. SOP provides mentoring, garden tools, fencing and seedlings.

We send young men and women from our community to a basic training project which offers courses in Building, Plumbing and Welding to young people (16 –21yrs) from disadvantaged and vulnerable backgrounds.



SOP in collaboration with Rotary Mainz started the home-based chicken rearing project which gives families the opportunity to strengthen their resources, develop new skills, provide themselves with necessary nutrition as well as supplement their income.



Through the Sizanani Huts project, community members are offered training in handcrafts, e.g. sewing, Ilala (grass work), basket-weaving and beadwork, as well as the opportunity to sell their products and earn income to support their families.





83% of people in Nkandla live in mud houses. These mud houses are easily damaged in bad weather and liable to collapse in heavy rains. SOP either assists with repairs to the shelter e.g. cement to re-inforce the mud walls or corrugated iron for the roof or if there is funding we build a brick house for the family.



Since 2016 SOP has installed more than 200 JOJO 2200l water tanks to harvest rainwater from rooftops. The tanks can also be filled up from the water tankers that service various areas. Thus households will at least have easy access to water for washing and cleaning as well as boiled water for drinking when there is no other water available. Having a water tank also opens up the possibility for families to begin food gardens and animal rearing.

Malnutrition has been described as “Slow Violence”, because it systematically destroys a child: it damages their chances of survival, their cognitive development, their immune system, their bones and muscles and their livelihood prospects. In September 2020, 1.8 Million people in KwaZulu-Natal did not have enough to eat, and 28.5% of children in the Province demonstrated stunted growth. This is an indication of chronic malnutrition. SOP provides food parcels to those families in need.





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Currently SCYCC provides residential care to up to 35 children placed by Court Order. The children range in age from birth up to 18 years, and each child has a story to tell of trauma in their young life, which has left deep emotional, psychological and physical scars. The traumas include physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Some of the children have also been the victims of severe neglect by their parents or guardians, while some of the babies were found abandoned, left in a toilet or on the side of the road.

We thank Mrs Susanne Lemmer for all her efforts to promote the work of SOP. Mrs Stamm, teachers, pupils, parents and friends of St Ursula Gymnasium thank you once again for your support, your fundraising efforts, your concern and compassion for the poor and vulnerable and for your financial contribution towards our work. We wish you God's blessings and everything of the best for this year that is unfolding

Kind regards.

Debra Buckham
Finance Administration
Sizanani Outreach Programme

