



# Shiselweni Reformed Home-Based Care



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Shiselweni Home-Based Care (SHBC) is an NGO based in the southern (Shiselweni) region of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland). The aim is to provide basic care to communities in the deep rural areas of Shiselweni. These people would otherwise be forced to rely on their own resources which, in many cases, would inevitably lead to impoverishment and starvation. SHBC trains volunteers in these communities in the skills needed to give holistic care to people in need. It specializes in the care of people living with HIV and AIDS, bringing hope into their lives by addressing stigma, referring people to go for testing, and helping them to adhere to HIV and TB treatment.

The CEO of the organization is Dr Arnau van Wyngaard.

The Chief Operating Officer is Ms Mildred Khumalo.

The CFO is Dr Neville Curle (CA SA)

## Five Focus Areas

The statistics below were retrieved from SHBC's reports at the end of February 2019.

### HOME-BASED CARE

- A total of 2078 community members in Shiselweni have been well-trained as home-based caregivers of whom 1525 are serving as volunteers in 49 different communities in Shiselweni
- The caregivers visit more than 6000 clients in their homes, from once per month to several times per week, depending on the need of the client
- Since 2008 the death rate among SHBC's clients have fallen twice as fast as in the rest of Eswatini
- SHBC is committed to holistic care: the physical, social, psychological, and spiritual care of clients
- In 2008 the organization received the prestigious *Courageous Leadership Award* from World Vision "for its tremendous compassion and resourcefulness in taking care of people with HIV."

### PRESCHOOLS

- Only 10% of children in Swaziland having access to preschools, SHBC realized that there is a need for high-quality Early Childhood Development and partnered with MTN in 2011 to establish the Hand-in-Hand preschool at Dwaleni

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Registered in Swaziland as a Section 21 Company: RT/12828

**Vision:** To become the hands and feet of Christ in this community.

**Mission Statement:** In a community devastated by poverty, sickness, broken families and death, we want to bring back true Christian hope, not only through our words but also - following the perfect example of our Lord, Jesus Christ - by reaching out in love to those in need, comforting and supporting them by all means available to us.

- During 2016 the preschool was identified by Ngwane Teacher’s Training College as a venue for students training to become preschool teachers to do their practical training.
- During July 2016 a group of professional occupation therapists from Cape Town visited Hand-in-Hand Preschool, as well as other preschools (not associated with SHBC) in the surrounding area, to assist with the evaluation of children to identify special needs. They expressed their amazement at the quality of education at Hand-in-Hand Preschool which, according to them, surpassed that given by the other preschools they had visited. In their written feedback, they noted the following:
  - Children are well disciplined and obedient
  - Teachers are eager to learn and have a positive attitude towards their work
  - The preschool program is well planned and the teachers are supported by management
  - Children participate in activities of daily living, e.g., washing their own plate after breakfast and lunch
  - There are well-resourced classrooms and playground
  - Children are appropriately split into classes according to age, and class sizes are manageable
- At the moment SHBC is involved in three different preschools in different areas of Shiselweni where children are being better prepared for school

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD CARE POINTS (NCPs)**

- Due to the high number of orphaned or vulnerable children, a need was identified to provide nutritious meals to children who would otherwise not be able to get access to food
- A partnership was established with Taiwan Fund for Children and Families to assist with this program.
- In 2018, more than 500 children receive well-prepared meals daily at five different NCPs.
- Due to continued pressure upon TFCF to assist in other countries as well, they started to decrease their financial assistance to the children in Swaziland making it extremely difficult to continue supplying meals to these undernourished children.
- Despite the financial challenge facing SHBC regarding the feeding program, not a single child has ever been turned away by the church nor a day skipped in provision of hot and nutritious meals.

#### **WHEELCHAIR PROGRAM**

- Through a partnership with two American organizations, Free Wheelchair Mission and Project Glory, SHBC has been able to import new wheelchairs into Swaziland free of charge.
- So far 800 wheelchairs have been distributed to invalids who were formerly restricted to their homesteads. This service is provided free to recipients.

#### **TRAINING**

In December 2016 the SHBC board decided to include Training as a fifth focus point. The reasons were:

- Equipping community members with caregiving skills is a far-reaching activity which has long-term value because these skills will remain in the community.
- Training community members in caregiving uplifts them and it has a positive impact on the community: it improves the way the community sees people living with HIV/AIDS; it gives them the skills to support PLWHA in a way that honors people’s dignity.

- The community members are equipped with care support skills, given tools to use, processes to do the work, and they are helped to become organized, with a Coordinator and a Committee. This means everything that they need to do caregiving is established during the training.
- The training is therefore the single biggest enabler of the core work of SHBC.
- Caregiver training needs financial resources, and including it in our focus areas draw attention to the excellent work done through the training.
- The training itself is a means to destigmatize and to demonstrate how to act towards PLWHA.

## BUDGET

Through making use exclusively of volunteers, SHBC is able to work with an extremely low budget (1.5 million Emalangen = \$107,000 for 2018), in order to reach its goals. After thirteen years SHBC is still growing from strength to strength. However, money is essential for certain of the services rendered. By far the greatest need of finances is for food.

SHBC is funded primarily through individuals sharing the vision of the organization, together with three larger donor partners, Mergon Foundation, Taiwan Fund for Children and Families, and MTN.

Following is a breakdown of expenses (in USD) for 2018:

Training	\$14,470
Preschool	\$14,390
Admin & Advocacy	\$2,300
Other	\$2,990
<b>Food:</b>	
Caregivers	\$33,780
Preschool	\$4,290
NCPs	\$34,740
<b>Total</b>	\$106,960

After one of the larger donor foundations indicated, after ten years, that they will be terminating their support as from 2020, two items in the budget are in jeopardy, i.e., the food given to the caregivers in order to enable them to help their sick clients as well as the food for the children attending the preschool. This amounts to \$36,000 which SHBC needs to find through other donors.

Further information on SHBC is available at [www.shbcare.org](http://www.shbcare.org) or alternatively by contacting the CEO of SHBC directly:

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