

## Yomelela Report October 2015 (written by Zoleka Sauli)



Yomelela has been doing wonderful work in the community to change the lives of the people. The vegetable garden is a great success and the people in the community are deeply impressed.

Our Yomelela facilitators have been supporting the learners by visiting them at schools and identify the needy children. They refer the cases that need follow ups to the home-based caregivers to assess the home situation of those children. We call our teachers at the centre “facilitators” because they do not have formal teacher’s training. But they do a lot of story-telling and perform activities with the children at the centre. They also are in contact with the teachers at school. The teachers are very grateful that they can send needy and neglected children to our centre.

Yomelela plans to have “neighbourhood workshops” to empower the families to change their living conditions, and we want to encourage the guardians of the vulnerable children to help in our centre garden. If they help in the centre garden, they can get vegies as “thank you” present. They do not have their own garden because they do not have a fence.

The centre-garden is doing well as we have a young man who lives in the community to work with the children in the garden. He comes from Limpopo where he learnt about gardening. He came to our area because his relatives live here. He heard about Yomelela and wanted to help. He has “green finger” and he is indeed a great help. He is educating our children, explaining to them the importance of having your own vegetable garden. He is also a role-model for our boys.

Our facilitator, Nombulelo, has identified many children at schools as needy children. Some feel ashamed and often do not attend school. We also noticed that they haven’t got a school uniform especially shoes because they wear different shoes and the winter season is very cold and they are not wearing shoes for the winter.

### MORE AND BETTER FOOD FROM THE GARDEN

The gardner is the one who wears the blue jean and the blue T-shirt: He is showing the children how to plant the seeds after they have cleaned the plots to plant the winter vegies. The guardians of the orphans are cleaning another part of the garden to extend the garden so that we can plant more vegies in summer. The challenge is the water as it is a winter season the water is scarce . The children have to carry the water from the mountains using the buckets for irrigation,as we don’t have enough water tanks.



## OUR STRENGTH AND MOTIVATIONAL BOOK



We have received from Renate Cochrane this book:

### **More and Better Food.**

Published by the Programme: "Called to Care" from Strategies for Hope.

It is such a wonderful help. This book helped us to establish the food garden. It is easy to read and we can follow step by step everything about planting and harvesting.

This is a highly educational book, it is a treasure for us. It is a real **strategy for hope.**

The photo shows Zoleka and our Gardener with two orphaned sisters. The centre is in the background. Zoleka has been trained in household food security by the University of South Africa. She is a qualified nutritional worker.

### PERFORMING TO HEAL OURSELVES

We can see the difference in our children. When they do gardening, they feel happy. They also feel that their (late) parents would be proud of them. Gardening and seeing things grow can help to heal the soul.

They also lose their fear of hunger. The children build trust that they will have enough food.

When we see the smile in the children's faces, we feel rewarded.



### Activities in the Centre.

It is cold in winter but the new vinyl-floor makes it possible that we can perform plays and activities.

The children are entertaining the group by doing different performances to regain their confidence and build self-esteem. The first child is telling the story, the group is doing cultural dance and the older one is the comedian. This activity makes the children get used to be on stage and perform in public and not being shy to stand in front of the audience.

The centre is a safe place for the children to enjoy their childhood.



We have 80 children at the centre. It is like a home for them. They learn many life-skills and they feel protected. We also teach them about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Biblical stories teach them empathy and caring for others. We teach them the difference between right and wrong and lifeskills. Our main aim is to equip our children with resilience because life is not easy.

Yomelela has 6 helpers:

2 facilitators

2 home-based caregivers (who visit the children in their homes)

1 Gardener

1 Cook

and Zoleka Sauli, the director of the Centre.

WE THANK OUR DONORS –

MAY GOD BLESS YOU