

## YOMELELA Report, January 2016 (Zoleka Sauli)

Dear Friends of Yomelela,

May God bless you in the new Year. We say SIYABONGA (Zulu) Siyabulela (Xhosa) und Teboho (Sesotho) – we are blessed. You will hear a mixture of these languages in our Centre. Many children speak Sesotho, others Xhosa and others speak Hlubi – a dialect closer to Zulu. The Lesotho border is only a few km away from our centre and we have an increasing number of children from Lesotho. Their mothers came to look for work in South Africa. When the children become orphaned, no-one receives child support grant because they are not South Africans. These children are often desperate. Thankfully we managed to find school-principals who feel sorry for these foreign children and allow them to attend school.

Thanks to our donors for donations for our Kesimusi (Christmas) celebration. Our helpers were overjoyed about their green T-shirts.

Many grandmothers came to thank the staff at the Centre. They also have lots of worries but they can come in the morning to the centre and talk about their problems. Orphaned children are often disobedient and the grandmothers cannot cope. Yomelela workers offer workshops for grannies to understand that grief and loss can turn into deep anger.



The nice thing about our children is the fact that they lose their shyness and come up with many ideas. They also like music and the older children often perform dance and theatre for the younger ones.

