

Keep Them Safe

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

Improving the lives of orphans and vulnerable children of child-headed households in communities devastated by HIV/AIDS through programs that work to heal, educate, feed, empower and nurture.



Let's Stand Together

The right to be safe is as basic as the right to breathe. And yet it is not part of the day-to-day existence of many marginalized people in the world. If a child is well fed and educated, yet is subject to abuse and violation, the quality of that child's life is negligible. Poverty is a great driver of abuse. Children who have nothing, offer themselves as currency for the necessities of life. SOHO is developing a model program that we hope will demonstrate the limitless potential of children who otherwise may be considered worthless. Together we can make change.

Watch the video! Let's Stand Together - Victor Masando

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHWROkpO15o&feature=youtu.be>



Mbali was an abandoned child

The Runaway

I saw her first at a Marekamp event where over a hundred children had shown up for a SOHO Outreach event.

The children sang and danced at the arrival of Pastor Malvin Moyo in the familiar SOHO van - because that meant snacks, fun activities, encouragement, and love for the entire community.

She was unwashed and unkempt, and her eyes got to me.

They had a haunted look. In a whisper, she said that her name was Mbali.

Pastor Moyo asked about her caregivers and no one seemed to know. Someone mentioned that she slept at the roadside sometimes.

When he finally tracked her down and learned her story, it reminded us how many children like Mbali live a life of abandonment and abuse.

It is our goal to make life hopeful for as many children as we possibly can.

We are all the proverbial village that can help to raise a new generation of children who otherwise will have no future.

MBALI'S STORY (Continued from [The Runaway](#) on Page 1)

Nomsa Mbali Matsabela is 7 or 8 years old. It's hard to tell. She's small for her age.

After losing the grandmother who took care of her, she stayed in the home of her father and an abusive stepmother. When her father received a three-year prison sentence for injuring his sister, Mbali fell into the hands of the stepmother who neglected and abused her until she fled from the home.

Mbali would hide in bushes to prevent discovery and scrounge for food wherever she could find it. That was how she walked to Marekamp the day I first saw her. Then she disappeared.

Mbali was hiding in the bushes the day that Sindi Ngcamphala was heading to her homestead after a hard day trying to sell peanuts by the roadside to feed her family.

Mother of two boys, Khumbulani Khumalo and Mancoba Zwane, she and her husband, Vusi Khumalo, took turns selling peanuts.



Mbali with Malvin Moyo, Sandi and Family

Instinctively, Mbali felt she could trust this kind Gogo.

She followed the woman to her home, a broken-down structure that was a latticework of stones, and sticks and mud. Here is where Mbali found what she had been looking for. She found love.

This is where the broken became a blessing as Sindi took Mbali into her rickety homestead and began to nurture and care for her along with her own two children.

When Malvin Moyo, SOHO Outreach Coordinator arrived there, he saw before him the

touching picture of a family without resources sharing the very little they had.

A SOHO Board member took an interest when the case was brought to his attention and provided funds for Mbali to receive a medical evaluation.

The scars of abuse and neglect were there. She was jaundiced, malnourished and had several other health issues. It was arranged that the physician would monitor her over a six-month period and help her on a path to good health. The Board member provided funds for food and for changes of clothing.

Mbali and her new family need a safe home. She is now sponsored to attend Hope Discovery Learning Center and the boys in the household now have education sponsors as well.

Your prayers and support are needed to enable SOHO to help children like Mbali and families like Sindi's. Please keep them in your prayers.



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Gogo Sandi's house



Gogo Sandi's kitchen

They Call It The "Suicide Road"

They jokingly refer to it as the "Suicide Road," but there is always an undertone of seriousness. The road to the INTSABA Valley where the macadamia nuts grow, and where the soil is fertile for the planting of fruit trees and vegetables, is chiseled out of the mountainside. It is just wide enough for the tractor, with twists and hairpin turns, and a steep drop to one side. The INTSABA team and workers have no other route to get their work done .



It is spring now in eSwatini, and the summer rains will begin to fall in torrents by the end of October or the beginning of November. As the soil is red clay, the road will then be impassable.

A one-mile-long road with proper drainage and wide enough for two large vehicles must be built. It will be developed on soil rather than stone and the steep ascent and descent will be replaced by a safe, comfortable road surface. The path is already mapped out and a capable contractor identified. The cost to complete the entire process including clearing trees from acreage that needs to be prepared, is \$60,000.

We have raised one half the cost of the road, and cannot begin construction until all the funds are in. The road will take about three weeks to be completed; so, construction must begin by early October.

TOTAL COST: \$60,000

DISTANCE: One mile or 1760 yards

Raised already: \$30,000 or 880 yards

FUNDING GOAL: \$30,000 to cover 880 yards

Cost per yard: \$35

To construct 5 yards of road, the cost is: \$175

To construct 10 yards of road, the cost is: \$350

To construct 50 yards, the cost is: \$1,750

To construct 100 yards, the cost is: \$3,500

We need your help to raise the additional \$30,000 for this project before the rainy season begins



Help us keep them safe with your prayers and your tax-deductible gifts. Thank you.

INTSABA farm enjoys adequate rainfall for most crops from November to April, yet May through October are dry.

Macadamia trees, the farms main crop at the moment, begins to flower in late July, when soil moisture is very low. The farm is blessed with several springs that flow faithfully throughout the year. Many springs combine on the hillside to produce a stream of water cascading down the hill. This provides an opportunity to capture water for irrigation of the macadamias.

The soil is porous making an earthen reservoir impractical since water escapes into the ground.



Dr. Tom Chittick

INTSABA UPDATE

New Reservoir Built



Building the Irrigation System

Searching the internet for water storage units we found a plastic lined tank that would hold enough water for irrigating the 1100 macadamia trees.

The water from the stream will be diverted to the storage tank allowing us to irrigate the orchard once a week.

The best thing about this project is that it requires no pumps. The water flows into the reservoir by gravity and then by gravity to the trees. God provides the best solutions to our needs.

Thank you Dr. Chittick for contributing the reservoir and 500 macadamia nut trees.

Hope Discovery Learning Center Receives Grant

A R1.6 million grant (approximately \$106,000) from Kirsh Foundation, will pave the way for construction of a Primary School at Nhlambeni.

As one of few places serving children with disabilities, HDLC has been working with children who are primary school age and who are slow learners.

The Ministry of Education required construction of a building separate from the pre-school.

A plot of land adjacent to the school has been acquired which will be the site of the Primary School.

Preparing for a new level of growth, a Building Committee and an Education Committee has been formed to provide guidance both in the physical structure and the academic program.

The Committees will soon release new plans for HDLC.



BLESSINGS FROM THE FARM



Everyone participates at INTSABA Farm



The blessings of abundant food are not lost on these children

Being asked to join the INTSABA team was definitely a call from God. Having lived in Swaziland 45 years ago, it immediately felt like a homecoming.

In the 7 months I have been here, I see poverty, hunger and despair every day. The nation is in distress and it has spurred me to do things I never would have thought myself capable of; including, growing a few acres of vegetables.

I learned about irrigation and soil quality, yet the greatest thrill was to be able to take our produce to feed hungry children and families.

We will never be able to do enough as the need is great; however, with the assistance of generous hearts we can help many.

With Covid-19 closing schools and food becoming a challenge for orphans and vulnerable children, produce from INTSABA farm has been a blessing.

It is an hour's drive from the farm to Marekamp in Sidvokodvo, but the smiling faces there were a great reward.

Our food distribution is apart from the food parcels provided as part of the SOHO Food Program.



Pamela Cominetti, GM

COVID INTERVENTION AT MHLOSHENI

Every day of the week, 150 children line up outside the gate of Mhlosheni Welcome Place. They cannot attend preschool or enjoy the activities that they typically would if there was no Covid-19 pandemic, yet they are being fed. Hlobisile Makhanya supervises cooks and care givers who run the feeding program in such a way that it keeps everyone safe.

In shifts of 20, the children enter. Care givers assist with social distancing. Upon entering, the children wash their hands and provide the masked cooks with their plastic containers for food.

After being served, they return to their homes with full bellies. If it were not for the feeding program many would spend the entire day with an empty stomach.



Our Mission

Saving Orphans through Healthcare and Outreach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that exists to improve the quality of life and life expectancy of orphans and vulnerable children, especially child-headed households in communities deeply affected by HIV/AIDS.

Growing hope • Changing the future



FOOD PARCELS FOR FAMILIES

Gogo Grace has 17 children in her care. Gogo Emilina has 13. In the wake of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, many grandmothers or elderly care givers are pressed into parenting large numbers of children because their parents have died or abandoned them.

SOHO seeks to get sponsors for children in such a situation and their financial assistance allows us to support with monthly food parcels.

Deliveries are being made to vulnerable families in the Piggs Peak Region, and the Manzini Region, where HDLC and Marekamp are located.



THE VISION FOR INTSABA

SOHO's (HOSA's) vision is to establish a self-sustaining, safe, nurturing model and environment where children at risk can thrive. Our holistic approach will focus on health of body, mind, and spirit. We will maximize opportunities for learning while instilling a sense of purpose and God-given value.

While the children are our focal point, social enterprises will help alleviate poverty in the community, and create opportunities to provide youth with skills training. INTSABA is a place where lives will be changed for the better. The Vision for this mountain farm is God-sized and it will take engagement of compatible partners, collaboration with academic institutions, and developing a community of professionals and skilled volunteers who will engage to make the dream of INTSABA, a reality. We are ready to begin Phase One.



Architectural renderings courtesy of Andrews University

PHASE ONE

Preliminary Activity:

- A. Build a new road to the agriculture site to replace current existing hazardous mountain road.
 - 1. Estimated length of road: One mile
 - 2. Construction team already identified
 - 3. Timing: Immediate.
- B. Irrigation Well/ Bore Hole at Lower Farm

Children's Village

- A. Build Guard House for security.
- B. Tented Accommodations- six to eight (6- 8) units with single and double occupancy

Staff/ Volunteer Housing:

- A. Build two (2) houses near the current farmhouse.
- B. Each building to include four (4) separate rooms about 400 sq ft each.

Multi-purpose Building with Cafeteria:

- A. Assembly space (usable as temporary classrooms, worship use etc.)
- B. Cafeteria with large kitchen needs to accommodate (30) people

Children's Housing:

- A. Pod structure (Comprised of three homes and a Granny's accommodation) as well as a communal kitchen. Will serve 6- 8 children
- B. Build 2 pods (Total of six homes accommodating 36 to 40 children and their care givers.



THEY CAN SUCCEED IF ONLY THEY HAVE A CHANCE

With a population of over 100,000 orphaned and vulnerable children living in eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), and ten to fifteen percent of households headed by children, the challenge of providing for the needs of this population is virtually unmanageable for a struggling economy.

Covid-19 has resulted in greater need and fewer resources. At this critical time, SOHO seeks to develop a model community where children without hope and opportunity can have an equal place at the table of life. They can experience God's love through your tangible expression of compassion.

Help us change the future for these children by sending your tax-deductible contribution today. Your support is deeply appreciated.

TO DONATE, GO TO
[saving-orphans.org](https://www.saving-orphans.org)



Safe homes • Education • Healthcare • Nutrition • Skills



SAVING ORPHANS THROUGH HEALTHCARE AND OUTREACH

Growing Hope • Changing the Future

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