



**eThembeni**  
PLACE OF HOPE

# Annual Report 2016



## NHLALAKAHLE WOMEN

Soy in Food Security training focuses on producing soy base, soy yogurt, okra chips and soy nuts in the **women's kitchen**. Facilitators also inform of the benefits of soy in eating and planting.

In August, over 180 women from the Nhlalakahle community were trained to make different soy-based products such as chips and yogurt. This includes soaking, grinding, cooking, filtering, cooling and culturing the different products. The women also learned how to market their products: soy is an excellent cash crop, generating more income for families who previously survived on the guaranteed income from farming illegal marijuana/dagga.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In the 1980s the Afrikaans Christelike Maatskaplike Dienste (CMD) - Christian Social Services - and Usizo **(the Zulu Church's arm of compassion)** took hands to serve their communities under the name eThembeni, which means **"place of hope"** in the Zulu language.

At eThembeni we live out our one humanity at the foothills of uKhahlamba, the beautiful Drakensberg world heritage site and we strive to **carry each other's burdens**.

Today eThembeni is a place where black and white stand together to make their communities a better place for all. We are all intertwined, part of a bigger and very diverse community. A poor

child, a destitute woman, unemployed fathers, vulnerable youth, prospering business people, individuals with **hard-won tertiary qualifications...** Rich and poor, black and white, we are all family.

There is a common brotherly humanity that ties us together, sharing each **other's joy, embracing each other's** culture and language, listening to each other, serving each other, helping each other to live a life of meaning and purpose so that we reach our God-given potential.

Together we make our people whole.

This is our calling.

Lourens Schoeman

Chairman

## CMD USIZO AIDS TRUST, TRADING AS ETHEMBENI

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# ABOUT ETHEMBENI

eThembeni works in marginalised communities in rural KwaZulu-Natal to bring wholeness, health and hope to all generations.

## MISSION & VISION

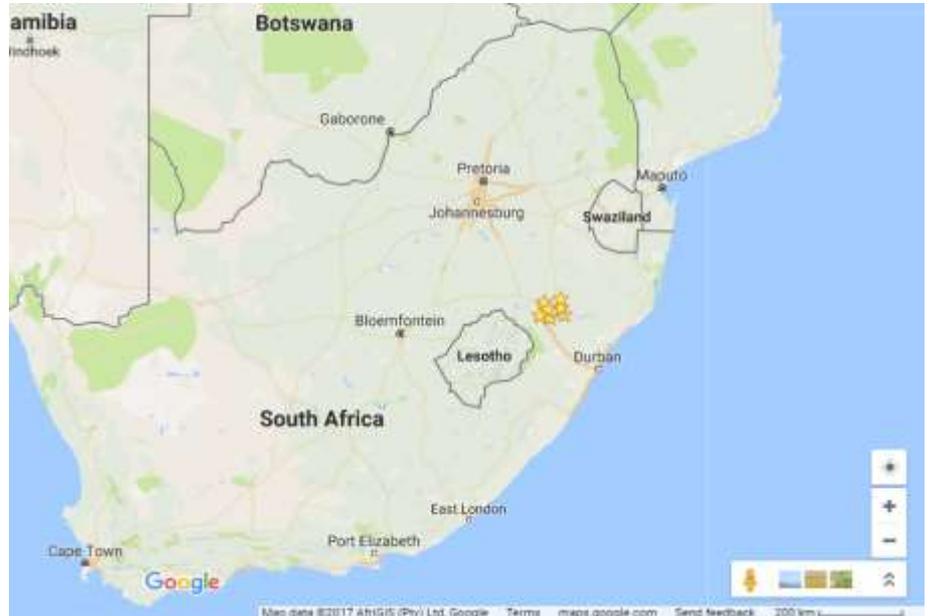
OUR VISION is hope-filled, whole and healthy communities.

*We dream of healthy, supportive and Godly lifestyles established in the broken and fractured communities of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.*

OUR MISSION is to strengthen and equip marginalised rural women and youth so that they are empowered to become active contributing participants in their communities and are dignified through their contribution.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO...

- ◆ Forming close collaborative partnerships with organisations that specialise in training materials.
- ◆ Obtaining and managing two well established training centers in Ladysmith, one being a youth camp and the other an agricultural training center.
- ◆ Training local people as trainers who can train their own communities.
- ◆ Fundraising to financially underwrite the costs of our training courses for volunteers.
- ◆ Forming viable networks and alliances both local and internationally.
- ◆ Establishing good stewardship in management.
- ◆ Establishing accountable mentoring and evaluation programmes.



## ETHEMBENI'S HISTORY

In the 1980s HIV and Aids caused many deaths, family disruptions and orphaned children in South Africa, with sick people coming home from the cities. This was particularly prominent in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Aids was soon seen as a poverty-related social crisis that needed holistic intervention.

In the uThukela District (which includes Mnambithi, uKhahlamba, Mtshezi, Mpofana and Ndaka) and the Msinga municipality the Christelike Maatskaplike Dienste, the Christian Social Services arm of the Dutch Reformed Church and Usizo, the Zulu **Church's arm of compassion, partnered** together in order to address the pandemic impact of HIV and Aids in a more "holistic" way, i.e. addressing the whole person in the context of their family and community.

The CMD Usizo Aids Trust, serving as eThembeni, was formally started. Multiple partners came on board, including organisations like the Red Cross, churches from the Western Cape, Tygerberg Medical **Students, Scripture Union, Farming God's Way (Foundations for Farming), ACAT, Sinamandla, Bijzondere Noden** from the Netherlands as well as local businesses.

Today CMD Usizo Aids Trust is known locally as "eThembeni", which means "Place of Hope" in the local Zulu language. This partnership of churches, government, hospitals and organisations has grown to be a strong community-based structure which strengthens the weak and the affected.

eThembeni continues to contribute to a strong arm of community empowerment, where communities are empowered to look after themselves and find hope.

## MAKOSAZANE'S STORY

Makhosazane is a member of Sahlumbe women's group, started next to the Tukela river in 2009. She is a single parent raising 11 children of whom only 3 qualify for a child grant. After joining her group, she borrowed R700 to buy goats. She repaid the money and today is the proud owner of 20 goats! She later borrowed R400 with which she started a little nursery, selling seedlings to other farmers in the area. This generates a good income during the planting season. From her own garden she sells onions, spinach and cabbages and also produces enough food for her own family. Makhosazane is a proud woman who works hard to bring her children up, all with the support of a group of women in the community who are not afraid of the future.

# AREAS OF SERVICE

eThebeni has six major capacity-building programmes, each addressing the needs of different communities.

Transformers Youth  
Umazisize Rural Women Development  
Family Strengthening  
Capacity Building of community-based organizations  
Family Preservation and Statutory Work by social workers

**eThebeni's projects reach out to the municipalities of Mnambithi, Ndaka and Msinga and their associated communities.**

## MNAMBITHI - LADYSMITH

Emnambithi-Ladysmith, now Alfred Duma municipality, forms part of the Uthukela District Municipality, with Ladysmith, Ezakheni, Steadville and Colenso/Nkanyezi as main urban areas. Ladysmith is the primary urban area, located along the N11 national route, 20 kilometres off the N3 national route.

The municipality was recently renamed after Mr. Alfred Duma, a trade unionist and activist against forced land removal of black people by the previous white apartheid government.



### QUICK STATS:

- ◆ The total local community numbers almost 250 000.
- ◆ More than 80% are Zulu speaking.
- ◆ 30% of the community stays in rural tribal traditional communities, while 53% are urbanized and 16% work on farms. The previous three extreme dry seasons were devastating for rural and farming communities.
- ◆ 30% of the community older than 20 years of age completed matric, 9% have a tertiary education and 8% have had no schooling.
- ◆ Only 72 000 people are employed or economically active.
- ◆ Only 43% of the employable youth (15-34 years old) are employed or economically active.





## NDAKA MUNICIPALITY

The Ndaka municipality is now incorporated with the Mnambithi municipality. This is a very prominent poverty pocket in the area with few opportunities for economic development and employment. The municipality shares borders with Emnambithi, Endumeni, Msinga and Umtshezi municipalities and is situated 49 km east of Ladysmith.

### QUICK STATS:

- ◆ The community numbers 103 000.
- ◆ Almost 100% are Zulu speaking..
- ◆ More than 60% of households are run by females.
- ◆ The unemployment rate is 60%.
- ◆ 67% of employable youth are unemployed.
- ◆ Most households survive on grants and subsistence farming.



Located in the Umzinyathi District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal, Msinga Local Municipality comprises a rural-based subsistence economy with cultural heritage areas that attract some tourists, but which still needs to be substantially developed.

**Owing to its rugged terrain, Msinga's population is relatively dispersed.** Where services exist, they are concentrated along road infrastructure and water sources such as the Tugela River.

The municipality is predominantly rural, with 99,1% of the population living in non-urban areas. The small urban town of **Pomeroy is home to only 0,9% of the municipality's population.**

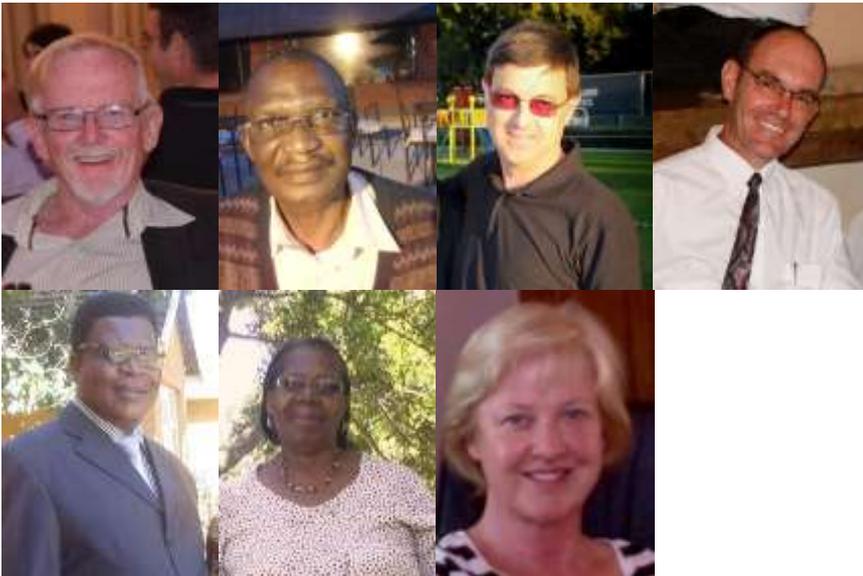
### QUICK STATS

- ◆ 99,6% of the 177 577 residents of Msinga Local Municipality are black African.
- ◆ Of those aged 20 years and above, 2 out of every 5 individuals (41,2%) do not have any form of formal schooling.
- ◆ Only 17,0% have completed matric, and just 3,2% have some form of higher education.
- ◆ There are 37 724 households in Msinga, with an average household size of 4,6 persons per household.
- ◆ 66,7% of all households are headed by females.
- ◆ Only 3,7% of households have access to piped water within the dwelling.
- ◆ 1 in 4 households (25,1%) have access to electricity for lighting, and only 1,3% have their refuse removed weekly by the local municipality.
- ◆ 49,5% of the 17 109 economically active individuals (i.e. those who are employed or unemployed but looking for work) are unemployed.
- ◆ 58,2% of the 9 650 economically active youth are unemployed.

# GOVERNANCE

eThembeni relies on the input and wisdom of its Board of Directors. Each programme is headed up by a team leader or programme manager, reporting directly to the Chairman of the Board. In all things prayer, transparency and interdependency are emphasized.

## ETHEMBENI'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



TOP (left to right):  
Ds. Lourens Schoeman - Chairman  
Rev. Simon Mnisi - Board member  
Ds. Gerhard Botha - Director of KZN CMD & Board member  
Ds. Gerhard de Lange - Board member

BOTTOM (left to right):  
Rev. Isaac Ngema - Board member  
Mrs Constance Moloi - Board member  
Mrs Alta Pollard - Finance

***“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” - Nelson Mandela, 2002***

## THE ETHEMBENI TEAM



TOP (left to right): Maureen Makhaya - Umazisize Women's Groups; Nancy Khumalo - Family Preservation & Counselling; Sanet van Niekerk - Administrator; Constance Moloi - Monitoring & Evaluation; Smangele Siwela - Office Manager; Masesi Hadebe - Administrator

BOTTOM (left to right): Nkanyiso Dlamini - Ladysmith Youth Coordinator; Sihle Madonsela - Msinga Youth Coordinator; Sthembiso Mdakane - Ndaka Youth Coordinator; Rev. BT Sithole - CABSAs Facilitator; Rev. ST Zuma - CABSAs Facilitator; Nkosikhona Masondo - Capacity Building (Community Based Organisations)

# TRANSFORMERS YOUTH

The Transformers Youth Programme seeks to transform young people (youth) of school-going age into self-assertive young individuals who make wise decisions in their lives, growing into adulthood safeguarded against unwise decisions regarding sexual health, substance abuse and self esteem.

## KEY LEARNING AND EQUIPPING FOCI

- ◆ Initial conversations on deepening our understanding of leadership and change agents in youth communities
- ◆ Involving families in choice making
- ◆ Grass Roots Soccer, an interactive playful learning session on healthy sexuality
- ◆ Brothers for Life, assisting young men to speak out on sexuality and gender
- ◆ **Zazi, a women's empowerment project**
- ◆ Narrative Counselling skills by Dr Welli den Hollander, in cooperation with Coram Deo
- ◆ Talking to Subz pads, availing re-useable sanitary pads, assisting girls not to skip school
- ◆ Looking at training in diversity, multi-culturalism and tolerance
- ◆ Coaching for Excellence, honing leadership skills
- ◆ Volunteers are also trained in employability skills, for example, **obtaining drivers' licenses**

## TEAMS AND TRAINING

There is a team leader for each area, assisted by many volunteers who are trained in raising change agents and supported regularly with skills development.

**THE DREAM?** To see young people who have challenging backgrounds learning to stand up, find their healing from wounds and become change agents in their communities.

## TRANSFORMERS WORKS ON A PROJECT-BY-PROJECT BASIS

- ◆ **Ten week's of school visits, with focus on life choices, using Scripture Union's material "Jika Generations".**
- ◆ Followed up with a weekend camp with learners, where, in an island situation, friendship, sport, fun, group work and lectures assist in making good choices about life.
- ◆ Big youth gatherings in the communities for a week, over school holidays.
- ◆ Forming positive peer change agents in the schools, who can assist the newer intakes to have good role models and support systems within the student corps.
- ◆ Follow up and mentoring of change agents.

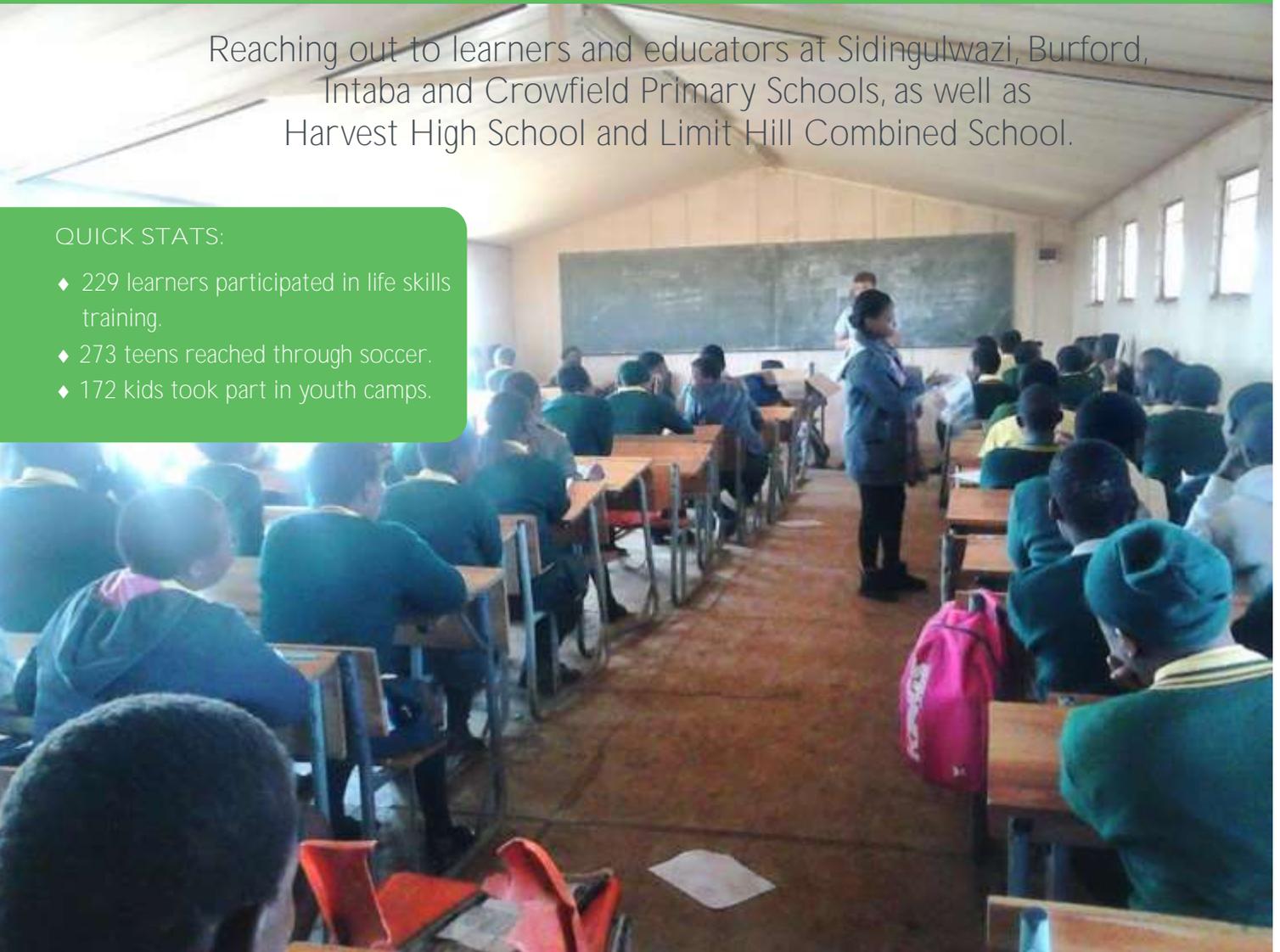


# TRANSFORMERS MNAMBITHI-LADYSMITH

Reaching out to learners and educators at Sidingulwazi, Burford, Intaba and Crowfield Primary Schools, as well as Harvest High School and Limit Hill Combined School.

## QUICK STATS:

- ◆ 229 learners participated in life skills training.
- ◆ 273 teens reached through soccer.
- ◆ 172 kids took part in youth camps.



SCHOOL CHRISTIAN GROUPS were started in the schools, with the aim of providing teens with support groups which can motivate them to live a healthy God-fearing lifestyle.

Support groups face the challenges of limited time, exams and transport, but students shared how being part of the group makes a huge difference to them.

*A school group leader shares: "I myself grew spiritually from their meetings, because most of **the time it's not me teaching them.** What they shared was an eye opener for my life."*

THREE CAMPS were held at Jabulani Camp, attended by learners from Sidingulwazi and Burford Primary Schools.

***"Young men on the team proved, as role models, to be very successful in talking about being an AFRICAN MAN ... living a positive life and facing fears in a way that God will be glorified."***

At Harvest High School 41 young people went through PREFECT TRAINING to learn how to be leaders and mentors, and at Sidingulwazi Primary School 17 young people were motivated and equipped to be positive change agents in their schools.

The Mnambithi team taught LIFE SKILLS at Burford, Crowfield, and Intaba Primary Schools, Limit Hill Combined School and Harvest High, focusing on Grades 7-9.

***"The work done by the Transformers team was brilliant in showing the future to the community through the school and letting young people realize the potential they have to avoid risks in life, and for them to identify their future and the potential they have to make the community a better one to live in."***  
- Burford teacher



## TRANSFORMERS MNAMBITHI: TEACHING YOUNG PEOPLE HOW TO WALK WITH GOD IN THEIR LIVES, WITH ROLE-MODELLING AS A KEY FOCUS

The MENTORING PROGRAMME seeks to establish change agents in schools as mentors to younger teenagers and learners. A pilot was run at Harvest High School and Grade 11 learners were trained in being mentors to younger teenagers. The feedback was positive and a full programme will be run in 2017.

Through GRASS ROOTS SOCCER we teach teenagers how to look out for temptations and high risk situations that can lead to HIV infection and other risks in sexual health care. They are assisted in finding solid foundations for healthy decision making.



Peer pressure (positive and negative) is discussed and teens are given ways to apply the skills given to them in their own life. Training sessions provide a safe space to ask questions and build friendships. Teens often make appointments to see the coaches and Grass Roots Soccer team leaders after school.

*"The program really assists young people to actually come out of their shells and have strong faith in what they want in life in a positive way."  
- Intaba Primary teacher*



During the June holidays a church group from the Western Cape held a HOLIDAY CLUB for 67 young people, encouraging them to become people of faith who live a focused (and different) life, especially during holidays when there are many temptations.

### TEAM LEADER FEEDBACK

"Transformers has really taken off in Mnabithi. We have committed volunteers and solid support from schools, the community and churches.

A key need is to get more churches on board who can continue mentoring the youth in their communities. When a teenager decides to live a Godly life, s/he needs a lot of support and strong mentors.

Limited finances have also held us back from spreading our wings **and starting a movement amongst the youth; we're praying for more finances** which will give us more capacity and greater reach, and most importantly, strengthen the many unemployed youth who volunteer in this project. They are such committed people and need a fair chance to get somewhere in life."

- Nkanyiso Dlamini

# TRANSFORMERS NDAKA

Reaching out to Wittekleifontein, Zimisele, Wasbank, Mhlumayo, Mfanelo and Hlonipha Primary Schools and Bhande, Ladysmith and Mngabathi High Schools.



## QUICK STATS:

- ◆ 51 learners participated in Life Skills training.
- ◆ 530 kids took part in youth camps.
- ◆ 350 children attended holiday club.

LIFE SKILLS are received well at the three primary schools we were able to serve. The programme ran for Grades 7 and 8 and in all, reached 151 teens.

WEEKEND CAMPS saw 530 teenagers in grades 7 to 12 participating in our fun programmes. Many of the youth made decisions to follow Jesus and in total 522 Bibles were handed out to learners.

TRAINING TIMES in leadership were held at the Jabulane Camp site. Focus was placed on change agents, mentoring and value systems.

A well attended MOTIVATIONAL CAMP was held for matrics from Mqambathi High School. Values, decision making and options in career planning were amongst the topics discussed.

HOLIDAY CLUB took place during the June holidays. We had a week long session with teenagers from Nhlalakahle. It was attended by more than 350 teenagers, many of whom chose to follow Christ and made good life decisions.

This session was presented together with congregations from the Western Cape, who assisted with their own youth as volunteers.

***“We thank the staff who has rendered different types of activities. Sihle Madonsela, Sthembiso Mdakane and Nkanyiso Dlamini, we thank you for your motivation and words of encouragement and the rest of the leaders for their support and words of wisdom and lessons which have really marked our hearts as teachers and kids... The management who has introduced this camp, may the Almighty bless you.***

***Hoping we will be invited again!”***

*- Mr Miya, a teacher at Mfanelo Primary School after the Life Skills weekend camp*

## TEAM LEADER FEEDBACK

***“When we have camps we do everything interactively in groups. The island situation, under guidance of solid mentors - in an atmosphere of fun and games with friends - contributes to a high rate of teenagers getting to a cross in the road, deciding to choose a Godly life style with God in their lives, and committing themselves to a new life under the guidance of God’s Spirit.***

*Handing Bibles to teenagers also greatly encourages them to choose life.*

***Volunteers themselves made fresh healthy life style choices.”***

*- Sthembiso Mdakane*

**VISION?** To raise up Christ-centered leaders in relational youth ministry

**MISSION!** Leading young people to know and walk with God

## TEAM LEADER FEEDBACK

“One of the things that excites me about my work is when some of the teachers see the impact that the programme has on the children. One principal talked about putting us on a school calendar! They don’t see us as outsiders but as part of the team.

I also love seeing the excitement of children when they come to camp. We invite 60 children and 80 will show up on our doorstep! Nobody wants to be left behind.

I have a great team of leaders for Transformers Msinga. This makes all the difference as we plan and serve together.”

- Sihle Madonsela



Team leader Sihle Madonsela reports:

My area of service is in Msinga between Greytown and Dundee. In 2016 we worked with the following schools teaching LIFE SKILLS:

- ◆ Lotto Primary, reaching 31 children
- ◆ Pomeroy State-aided Primary School, reaching 58 children
- ◆ Msimbithi High School, reaching 68 children

We held a BROTHERS FOR LIFE CAMP where we invited young men between the ages of 15-20. We talked as brothers about love, sexuality, abuse and the role that we can play as young men in our families and in our community. Thirty young men attended the camp.

KIDS CAMP was a highlight for the Transformers Msinga team. We invited kids from the community to come and spend the weekend with us. and we had 85 children jumping, running, laughing, singing and learning about God and the Bible.

Our thanks to the Stellenbosch students who sponsored the camp and made it possible!

HOLIDAY CLUB took off again this year, with over 100 children attending during the school holidays.

We invited local children to come and spend time with us; at holiday club they got a chance to play, learn new skills and enjoy fun things to do instead of sitting at home or getting into mischief back home in their communities.

Every year we hold a LIFE SKILLS CAMP to which we invite schools that we work with for life skills. Our time at the schools is always limited, so at the camp we can fully engage with the children and camp becomes a safe space to talk about deeper things.

**At this year’s camp we talked about many issues children face at school and at home.** It was encouraging to see the 80 children who came grow in their faith and personal self worth.

We also assist local churches to run their youth outreach camps, helping them with our skills and knowledge. The SUNDAY SCHOOL CAMPS reached over 75 children from local churches and it was a privilege to serve the churches that came.

# TRANSFORMERS IN ACTION



# UMAZISIZE WOMEN'S GROUPS

Empowering rural women to support their own families, build good support systems in their communities and become politically relevant role players within their regions.



All over the uThukela District and Msinga, in the most remote rural communities, women meet in groups.

Weekly they save R2.00 (i-pondo) each, building up a little banking system where they can loan, grow capital, access funding and become financial independent. Almost 2000 women meet in this way in 94 different groups. To date the total amount gathered into these saving clubs is R1 859 572. The capital rotates in loan schemes, with a total turnover of R3 415 910 in almost 2000 loan transactions. Loans already repaid by members total R2 201 396. Most of the outstanding amount is still in circulation amongst members, with an exceptional high repayment rate.

Through this project rural women, traditionally excluded from the economy and depending on “loan sharks” for immediate cash, now can form their own little banks. They are well trained in the administration of loans. The book keeping system is user-friendly and effective.

Women now have a say in their future, becoming independent entrepreneurs, proud spouses standing next to their husbands, taking dual responsibility for domestic expenses.

**The women groups call themselves “Umazisize” which means “the one helping herself”.**

**But these women’s groups are not just about money. Umazisize is also about coming together, supporting each other socially and emotionally as rural women in their communities.**

In the groups the women also learn skills, making life better for themselves and their families. In total these single parent mothers and grandmothers care for more than 8 000 children in their homes, many of whom are orphaned.

The Umazisize project, under the management of Mrs. Maureen Makhaya, helps these ladies to help themselves.

## COURSES RUN IN 2016 INCLUDED:

- ◆ Basic book keeping
- ◆ Conflict management in groups
- ◆ Marriage enriching courses
- ◆ Parenting teens
- ◆ Micro Business skills
- ◆ Planting vegetables without ploughing, making small plant stations, making own compost and doing mulching
- ◆ Planting and processing soy as alternative source of protein and income

# EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN

## SIZAKANCANE GROUP, EZIMBOMVU (BERGVILLE)



### ASSET MAPPING THEIR COMMUNITY

Sizakancane group spent time in February discussing their community's inner and outer resources, as well as its protective and risk factors. Some of the inner resources the women identified were land, crèche, schools, cattle and a ruling system. Outside resources included teachers, traders and burial societies.

Ezibomvu suffers from a lack of water. Even though there is a dam in the community, the community does not benefit as the water comes from the mountains to be transported to Johannesburg for urban use. The community has to collect water from the local wells and their cattle are dying due to drought. Additionally, they have lost children to the dam as some children go to swim in the waters and drown.

Taking the initiative, this women's group created an action plan to build the community and to maintain its resilience.

## VIBRANT AND COLOURFUL, THE HLATHI LADIES CELEBRATE YEAR-END



## BEADWORK & ART

Beadwork is a natural skill, with many bracelets supplied to our Dutch partner, Bijzondere Noden. Some bracelets are also used to communicate the Good News of the Bible to seafarers arriving at KZN ports.



## FAITH AND HOPE

The women are also a very important religious support group to one another. Although they all belong to different churches, they pray together, do Bible studies together and support those in need.

Through a donor the ladies were supplied with their own Bibles. A supply of audio Bibles also assists the illiterate to hear the Word of God.



## FUTURE PLANS

Umazisize has a definite out-phasing agenda. As clusters are formed and start to successfully function, they take ownership of the project from eThembeni.

At the end of 2016 five clusters were established functioning, and will in time take the project over from eThembeni, forming bigger regional associations.

## SOYA CROPS

We are so excited about the new soy processing machine, to be installed by Eden Foundation. It will be installed on the farm at the youth camp.

Groups mastering the processing will then be able to access funding to get their own processing plants going.

## FARMING SKILLS

We ran several training sessions teaching ladies how to farm more productively. Learning how to make your own compost is essential when starting up community gardens. For many families these gardens provide the only fresh fruit and vegetables they get. Excess crops are also sold to bring in an income for the family.



## BOREHOLES = WATER

Through Wells for Africa we applied for assistance to drill bore holes to supply sufficient water to community gardens.



## CHANGING THEIR COMMUNITIES

The women groups become visible when they form clusters in communities. These clusters start communicating with local authorities and lobby for basic services to the community.

The women have successfully lobbied for water, electricity, pre-schools and school services.

### BERGVILLE WOMEN

The Bergville ladies saw the need for early childhood development interventions for their children. They formed a crèche, applied for funding and saw the completion of their own ECD centre in the rural mountainous area where they stay.



## ISU ELIHLE WOMEN'S CLUSTER

This community is in a very remote area with very few services rendered by local authorities. It is a common cultural practice for young girls to undergo virginity testing when they reach a certain age in this community – but the community had no facility where this testing could be done in a discreet way. After long negotiations and the input of the Isu elihle women's cluster group, a community hall was built. Now the girls can go through the traditional processes in a dignified way. The women also use the hall to do HIV and sexual health awareness sessions. Local tribal authorities have expressed their thanks to this group of women care for the needs of the community and youth.

# ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

***“We have discovered that there are many resources within our community that can be used for the better of all.”***

## UBUHLE BEMBOKODO WOMEN'S CLUSTER

This cluster was started in October 201 in the community of Nazaretha, in the Limehill complex. These women were upset about the high levels of pollution in their community: **babies' disposable nappies thrown anywhere as well as other domestic waste, which ended up in rivers after floods, polluting drinking water for people and animals.**

Together with the local authorities the cluster women started a clean-up campaign and educated families about the hygienic disposal of domestic waste.

Today the women also assist the community in getting identity documents, undertaking school registration, voting and helping families and individuals with grant applications.



***“Being part of this group gave me access to funding to buy cement, sand and stone, with which I can form my own blocks.***

***I have now started building my own house that will stand against the storms, and not be eaten by Umuhlwa (white ants).***

***My children will sleep safe at night.”***

***- Masithandane woman***

## MASITHANDANE (“LET US LOVE ANOTHER”)

The group was formed in 2013 with 16 women in the KwaHlathi / Mngceleni area. Currently the group has 20 members. The group was trained in making polish, which they manufacture and sell to the community.

They also started their own Early Childhood Development center, called Icebolethu Day Care Center. They started with 20 children and today have 27 children in the Center. The teachers were given formal training, with support from the parents. Durban Overall, a local business in Ladysmith, supplied them with material, utensils and toys.



The group members tell how being part of the group has changed their lives:

***“As women gathered in this group, we can develop ourselves as women and also our families.”***

***“We can now work with a budget and spend our little money more wisely.”***

***“We now realize that discrimination and looking down on others only divide and drain strengths. By being united as women we can bring life to our families and communities.”***

***“Problems do not overwhelm us. We know that we can sit together and discuss it. By doing so we can come up with very good solutions... much better than when an individual sat and stressed about things!”***

***“We have learnt the strength of perseverance.”***

## SCEBILE WOMEN'S GROUP

Bongekile Khumalo is 44 years old and stays in KwaHlathi. She has eight children, who are all at school. **When she joined the women's group she was running a little day care centre, with little motivation and success.**

When she joined the women group, they motivated her to get qualifications and to take the lead in the community's new Early Childhood Development Centre. **The educational fees were too high.**

Bongekile managed to make a loan from the group of R7 630. With this she completed her studies. At the end of 2016 Bongekile graduated with a Level 4 National Certificate. Today her crèche is vibrant with 32 children, who are prepared for school.



## MY NAME IS SMANGELE SHEZI...

I live in Hlathi no 2. I have seven children. Celiwe Langa is the community facilitator in our community. Our Self Help Group started in 2014 and we have 20 members.

I gained a positive self esteem in the women group. I became a person with confidence. I learnt that I can do things for myself, without being dependent on my husband, political grants or the good will of our tribal leaders. I now have access to money to assist my **children's** education. You will not recognize my children as more needy than the others in our community. They are well cared for.

As a group we were taught skills to lobby and advocate. As a result of us women in the area we now have electricity. No more gathering fire wood with thorn pricked hands. The children iron the clothes without leaving dirt iron marks on it!

**With a loan from the group I could pay for the cost of one of my children's wedding arrangements.**

I process soya beans, making yoghurt and snacks which I sell. As a group we do Bible studies, encourage others in distress. We can plant our own vegetables, without using tractors; we just make plant stations with hand instruments. We do not need to buy expensive fertilizer, but use kraal manure. We also make our own compost.

Being a member of this group has really added value to me as a person.



## I AM NKOKO SOPHY MATJILE, A SEPEDI GIRL MARRIED TO A ZULU MAN



We stay in the Hlathi rural area. In the women groups the other Zulu women taught me a lot about the Zulu culture. They helped me to find a home in a strange culture. As women we support each other whenever the need be. Our group lobbied for electricity. The community likes us and respects us.

I started a little bakery with which I earn an extra income. No more looking for temporary employment. We live like humans. Poverty has no sting in my life any more. We live a good life.

We were assisted to be wise wives to our husbands. We now work together as a team,

## MAMA THABISILE'S STORY

Once labelled a "poor, young irrelevant statistical nobody" in a poverty pocket in KZN, Mama Thabisile Sithebe is today a woman of dignity and resources who is a change agent in her community.

Thabisile joined the Umazisize Women's Groups in 2010 and found support as a single mom with small children. Since then she has led a support group for people who are HIV-positive in her community and is now the Community Facilitator of a women's group at KwaNomoya, Sahlumbe.



# FUNDRAISING

A few exciting fundraising projects were launched in 2016 and brought in welcome income. Our committed staff played a huge role in making these fundraising events a great success.



The gruelling Grindrod Bank Berg & Bush takes mountain bikers from the top of the Drakensberg escarpment near Harrismith and drops down into Kwazulu-Natal, negotiating technical world-famous single track down to the bushveld below and into Winterton.

It has been eThembeni's privilege to be associated with the race for several years, and our staff and volunteers play a vital support role in ferrying competitors' vehicles from Little Switzerland Hotel to the Emseni Camp site close to Spioenkop. A whopping R60 000 was generated from this support service. Thank you to Petre Theron from Drakensville ATKV Resort for giving us this wonderful opportunity.



## HONEY PROJECT

The Honey Project started two years ago with 50 hives on Sun Valley orange farm near Weenen, close to the Drakensberg ATKV Berg Resort. Local honey producer Zam Paulik took on the mentorship of the new honey farmers and helped set up the project.

To date one hundred 500g bottles of honey have been harvested.

The honey is sold locally and given as tokens of appreciation to donors.

South Africa has been experiencing a severe drought which has greatly affected the honey yields to date. However, the estimated income in good rainfall years is R50,000 annually.

*“eThembeni markets and sells the raw honey for the farmers who now have a source of income.*

*In addition, the bees play a valuable role in pollinating local crops.”*

## GOLF DAY 2016

For the second year, eThembeni hosted a Golf Day at the local Country Club. This year's event was a great success and was well supported by local golfers and local businesses.

A special thanks to Retief Marais who took the lead on this fundraiser with enthusiasm and lots of hard work.



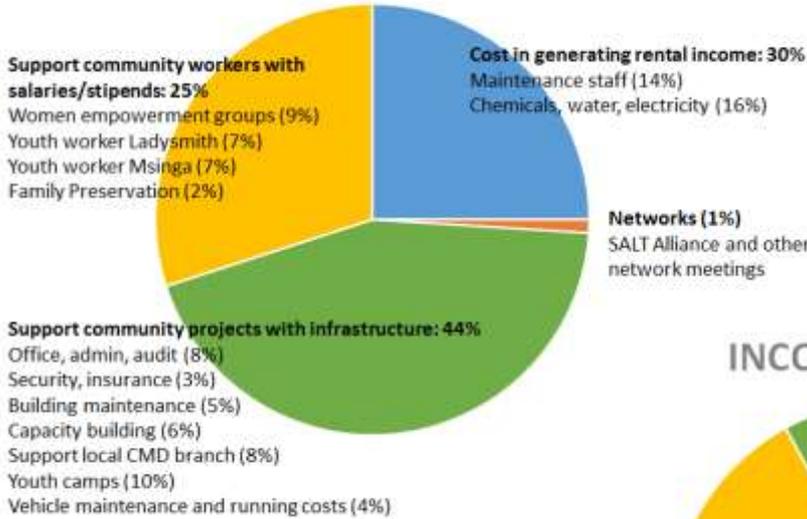
## ANNUAL INCOME VS EXPENDITURE

### QUICK SUMMARY

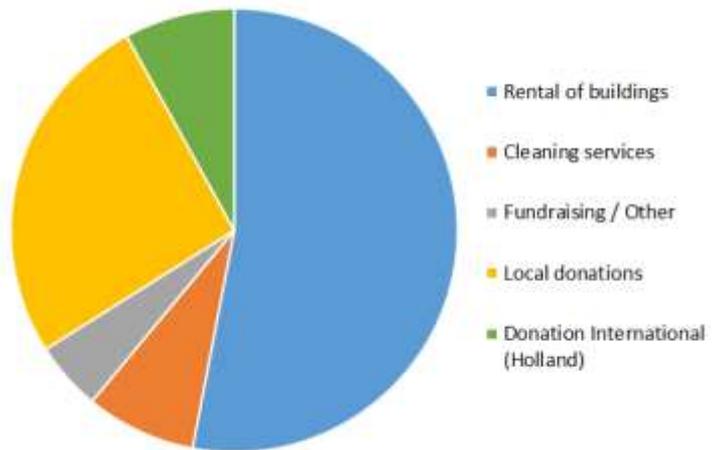
Total expenditure: R1 960 001

Total income: R1 960 001

### EXPENDITURE



### INCOME STREAMS



## FINANCIAL STRATEGY

eThembeni's key strategy is to build self-supporting projects that are fully sustainable into the future.

Donor income represents 34% of our income: we welcome the visits of our donors to see what we have done with the moneys entrusted to us. As in the parable of the servants entrusted with differing talents (amounts of money), eThembeni invests all donations where they will reap the most return.

Audited financial statements are available upon request.

*"And we know that in all things, God is able to do immeasurably more than we can dream or imagine."*

*We have so often seen the "loaves and fishes" given with love multiplied.*

*Can we invite you to be part of our story and adventure with us?*

*- Lourens Schoeman*

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

GIVE A GIFT of money, either once off or on an ongoing basis, to fund a project

VOLUNTEER the gift of your time and skills

PARTNER with us uplifting these communities

BE A FRIEND and receive our newsletters or follow us on Facebook

PRAY FOR OUR WORK and for God's protection, provision, for favour and especially for the communities we work in

**CASH DONATIONS CAN BE EFT'D TO:  
 CMD USIZO AIDS TRUST  
 ABSA LADYSMITH  
 CHEQUE ACCOUNT : 407 444 2648**

# THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank each and every partner who journeyed with us, making 2016 a year filled with grace and hope to our people. Your contribution is immense and its impact so meaningful.

## INTERNATIONAL

ADEN: women empowerment  
American Peace Corp: training in Base Roots Soccer, Brothers for Life and Zazi Women Empowerment  
Bijzondere Noden  
Prisma  
CEDPA: Women Empowerment

## NATIONAL

Family Impact  
Msinga Partnership  
Kommissie vir Getuienisaksie  
SALT Alliance  
Tygerberg medical students

## PROVINCIAL

ACAT KZN  
Edamame  
Eden Social Development Foundation  
Foundations for Farming  
Gloucester Trust  
Jabulani Trust  
KZNCMD  
Scripture Union Pietermaritzburg  
Sinamandla  
TransWorld Radio, Bothas Hill, KZN  
Usizo: URCSA diaconal services in KZN

## LOCAL

CMD uThukela  
Durban Overall, Ladysmith  
Harvest Combined School  
Ladysmith Construction  
Lourens Elektries  
Paradise Gas  
Qhakaza Mbokodo HIV/Aids Research Clinic in Ladysmith  
Local churches

We formed several new partnerships in 2016 and look forward to working with the South African Theological Seminary (SATS), Coram Deo who assist with training in narrative listening, local schools, local churches, Heartlines, Coaching for Excellence and the Maurice Webb Memorial Trust.



**To find out more or become part of our story...**

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