



# Villa of Hope

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## Background

2003, Twenty-two years ago, the Villa of Hope, a social development and upliftment program was born. This project has transformed a tract of development land into a children's home facility for those children who require alternative care due to a variety of reasons.

Identified as one of the most violent communities in South Africa, Eldorado Park – has with very few exceptions – no programs nor facilities that would promote the positive development of children, youth or families. Most of the NGO's, who serviced the community, have since been forced to close their doors due to lack of donor funding and the re-prioritization of donor funds. The current statistics show that approximately 40% of the community of Eldorado Park is unemployed, 20% is illiterate and 30% falls the below the R2500.00 per month bracket.

## Vision

We aim to reduce child abuse and neglect within our surrounding communities by promoting family values.

## Mission

To provide superior care to children who have been orphaned or require alternative care due to abuse, neglect, abandonment and children that have been affected or infected by HIV & AIDS or other ill circumstances, thus creating a loving and attentive environment that will allow children to develop as well balanced and wholesome individuals, who are capable of a worthy contribution to society. Our primary objective is to take care of children, from birth to an age of accountability: Spiritually - Physically – Emotionally - Psychologically & Financially.

## The Concept

The initiators of this project became aware of an increase in abuse and neglect involving children in the community of Eldorado Park and its surrounding areas. They felt a need to provide a service that would help alleviate the effects on the victims, their families and the society. We have since expanded the scope of assistance into other areas. The property is domiciled on Cavendish Road, Olifantsvlei, Nancefield. It has 25 houses, which were previously the dwellings of the employees of the JHB Water Board. The property and most of the buildings were in a state of disrepair and the majority were uninhabitable. In 2005 we completed the work on the first 2 homes. We have since renovated 20 houses, converting them into homes for children and two office blocks, the Social Services Office occupied by a qualified resident social worker, rooms for therapy, a learning centre and library. A soccer field, netball field as well as play area has been completed. We presently provide shelter for children between the ages of 1 and 18; who were placed by organizations such as Childline, CPU, SAP and Child welfare Departments.

## Our Family

The Villa of Hope has a board of directors overseeing the project. The project manager takes care of the day-to-day running of the centre. In our employment we have a residential social worker and auxiliary social worker providing therapeutic, developmental and recreational therapy. Caregivers are employed to live in the houses with the children while relief care workers allow our caregivers to enjoy 5-day breaks. Maintenance staff x 3, Veggie Gardener, helpers x 4 to assist with housework & laundry, driver and office support staff are also employed. Our children attend; Primary, Secondary and Remedial schools in the nearby community and use the government clinics, hospitals, dentists and psychologists at the Rahima Moosa children's hospital. They attend church and youth gatherings in the community as well.

## Governance

A board of directors is responsible for overseeing the organisation's governance, strategic direction, and financial health, ensuring that it operates in the best interests of its stakeholders.

## Our Offerings

List of programs offered at The Villa of Hope

### 1. Residential Programme

### 2. Therapeutic Programme

### 3. Developmental Programme

### 4. Recreational Programme

### 5. Family Reunification / Re-Construction Programmes

### 6. Independent Living (Exit) Programme

#### 1. Residential Programme

The residential program provides medium-to-long term care to children who have been orphaned or require alternative care due to abuse, neglect, abandonment or other ill circumstances. We are creating a loving and attentive environment that will allow children to develop and be well balanced, wholesome individuals, who are capable of a worthy contribution in society. In each house we have are six children of different age groups, gender and race living with one caregiver. We have a fully equipped library, learning centre, and recreation area on the premises which are easily accessible to all children.

#### Aims & Objectives of The Residential Program

- To ensure basic and physical needs are met
- To protect and uphold the rights of the children in our care
- To provide education, recreational activities and spiritual guidance
- To provide appropriate medication
- Empower each child to reach their full potential
- Encourage ongoing parental involvement
- Working towards family reunification

#### 2. Therapeutic Programme

Therapeutic programs are services that are rendered to the children who are in our residential care and their families. The social worker renders these. The children are placed into our care for different reasons. The children have experienced various issues related to their removal from existing environments. Villa of Hope wants to promote the development of the children in our care into well- adjusted members of society. This goal entails early intervention into the development and emotional concerns that children may present. The Villa of Hope aims to assist children with issues that they are experiencing through continued consistent counseling.

## Activities

Individual counseling is done on a one-on-one basis with the child or the parent. Individual counseling is conducted with children manifesting specific therapeutic needs. Group counseling is conducted in situations where similar needs or collective concerns are identified among children and relatives. Family counseling is available in order to assist in the reconstruction and reunification of family's.

- Assessment and Intervention
- Emotional Support
- Parental guidance
- Relationship Counseling

## 3. Developmental Programme

The Developmental Program promotes the child's acquisition of life skills, in formal and informal settings, related to enhancing the skill development to enable the child to attain maximum functional level. These activities are coordinated with all other services in the plan and provide assistance with acquisition, or improvement in skills related to activities of daily living such as etiquette, dressing, communicating with caregivers and support staff, and the social adaptive skills to enable the child to reside in a non-institutional community setting or in their homes. This development is overseen by the social worker who monitors the growth or improvement of the child.

### Some of the Developmental Areas That Are Being Focused on are:

- Crime prevention
- Prevention of substance abuse
- Health programs
- Awareness programs
- HIV & AIDS
- Teenage pregnancies
- Anti-bullying
- Anger management
- Behavior modification
- Peer Education
- Career Guidance

### Developmental Programs for Caregivers

- Parental skills
- Communication
- Roles and responsibilities
- Discipline and punishment
- Stress Management
- Basic Computer skills
- Trauma
- HIV/AIDS Training
- Basic counseling

## 4. Recreational Programme

Recreational programs play an important role in our lives. In the child and youth care centre, it is imperative that we allow our children to relax and exercise in a secure environment. Since the children come from different backgrounds and were exposed to different ill circumstances, we provide adequate play time in a free and relaxed atmosphere which will nurture them spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically. We also provide opportunities for the children to go on outings and excursions.

## 5. Family Reunification/ Re-Construction Programmes

Our aim as a children's home is to offer a holistic approach to the development of the children in our care. Therefore it is imperative that the children and youth have a sense of belonging so we strive towards contact with the family. The Child and youth care centre is ideally a temporary placement for a child who has been abused, neglected or abandoned; we continuously work towards the strengthening of the child's placement within their family circle. At times the family situation is beyond repair this is when un-related foster care and adoption placement is an alternative. The children are placed with family of origin during weekends and school holidays. Network with the child's family Events like family day

## 6. Independent Living 'Exit' Programme

This program provides 2-to-5 year residential care to youths who could be reunited with their families, placed within the extended family network, fostered nor adopted before they reached the age of 18 or completed Grade 12. This program focuses on providing youth with life skills, tertiary education, and training in preparation for independent living. The centre supports these young people until they are qualified, either at university, FET colleges or at a desired skill. They are then ready to exit the organisation capable of a worthy contribution within society.

## Strengths of the organisation regarding programs

Our principal strength is that we have a huge complex with separate houses and big yards to allow the children to roam freely. In terms of therapeutic programs, our resident social workers have continuous counseling with all the children because they live on the premises. We have a separate library and learning centre as well as a soccer/rugby field. Our centre supports young people until they have qualified, either at university or a skill. They are then ready to exit the Child & Youth Care Centre, capable of a worthy contribution within society.

## Challenges of the organisation regarding programs

Since the buildings on the premises are rather old, constant electrical & plumbing maintenance is required. Due to time, financial constraints and priorities, we cannot run effective community programs, since we concentrate on our residential care and the protection of our children. Financial assistance with community programs is needed, we hereby request that you consider partnering with us to impact our society.

Our home provides sheltered care for more than 50 children at any given time. For us to become sustainable, we need your help.

## Children's Home Compliance

Over the past two decades, we have consistently demonstrated sound governance, transparency, and a child-centered approach to care. Registered with the Department of Social Development as well as relevant authorities in the Sector. The Villa of hope has 24-hour gate security, a night watchman, quarterly visits from Fumigation Worx pest control; annual visits from Northrand fire to service our fire equipment. The Villa of Hope enjoys monthly inspection visits from the Environmental Health Department. We are certified and this permit is renewed annually. Our Children are safe and protected.

Villa of Hope is a registered Public Benefit Organization (PBO) with the South African Revenue Service (SARS), donations made to our organisation are eligible for tax benefits. This means that your donation not only has a positive impact on the lives of children but also provides you with potential tax deductions under SARS regulations. We will issue a SARS 18A certificate to include in your annual tax returns for full rebate. Villa of Hope has a Black Beneficiary Base percentage of 97%; a B-BBEE, SED recognition percentage of 100% and a B-BBEE Level 1.

## How you can make a Difference

It is imperative that the Villa of Hope must seek donor assistance from companies to survive under the current economic climate, we appeal to your company to assist in an area of your choice as part of your CSI contribution. A donation of any amount would add value and be appreciated. Should you require reports on how funds were spent, these will be provided. Kindly assist in keeping our doors open.

## Value Add:

Any assistance would be appreciated. We look forward to a favorable response and a mutually beneficial relationship.

With your support and commitment to the well-being of our nation's children, we remain hopeful that, together, we can change lives—one child at a time.

The Villa of Hope would like to extend an invitation to you and your team to visit our home at any time convenient.

What you will find is a dedicated team, a home filled with warmth and discipline, and children whose lives continue to be transformed.

