

Actionpact

Newsletter for friends of Mfesane



Thank you for your gift of 'health and life'

It's said that Christmas gives people bigger hearts. The hearts of Mfesane friends like you have always been big, and then they grew even bigger last Christmas.

In November we shared with you how children in the Eastern Cape were going hungry every day. Twelve-year-old Ntombomzi, and five-year-old Likhona were just two of them. In telling their stories, we asked for your support, because our feeding programme was really struggling to cope with the ever growing number of malnourished

children.

The big 'Mfesane hearts' responded with donations that allowed every child who came knocking on our door to be fed . . . like the Mfihlo siblings.

Life was hard enough for the Mfihlo family – three children and a chronically sick unemployed mother.

Then their home in Marikana near Port Elizabeth burnt down, and they were left with nothing. The children came to our Home-Based Care Centre one day to ask for food, and we gave them the meal of the day. They kept

coming back in the days that followed, and now, thanks to kindness like yours, they've been enrolled in our regular nutrition programme.

Our gratitude overflows.

Food is a basic essential of life, especially in childhood when all the important physical and mental development takes place. So you can imagine how much your support of our emergency feeding programme means, and what a difference you make – even for just one family like the three Mfihlo children. Your kindness is a true blessing. Thank you.

This is your last chance to donate and possibly receive tax benefits for this financial year. So please donate today – your tax certificate will be in the mail in May.

It costs you nothing now . . . but a promised bequest to Mfesane will continue your wonderful work in changing lives into the future. Please talk to us in confidence if you might be considering this special act of generosity.

Message from Nomvuyo



It's a pleasure to be able to send you greetings and warm wishes for this year of 2017. I'd like to thank you most sincerely for your loyal support. Your donations strengthen families by means of our workshops teaching parenting skills and life skills. Family food gardens are also encouraged. And promoting health care is another important aspect. Then every family needs income to survive – you help us teach the practical skills which can turn an unemployed parent into a breadwinner.

Your generosity helps us support learners, and provide safe parks as a place where children can be helped with their homework – especially the many orphans.

Your compassion is also ever present. It's in our home care programme for the sick; it's in our feeding projects. And it's in your help to meet crises like the loss of homes to runaway fires, and winter flooding.

The most important thing is that in whatever we do, you are with us every step of the way . . . something for which I can never show enough appreciation. Thank you.

Protecting our future

In poor communities, our young people are in desperate danger.

The danger that grows from child neglect, low self-esteem, dropping out of school, lack of any support system, pressure to abuse substances and take part in criminal activities, and for girls the lure of prostitution and childhood pregnancy (as early as the age of 12). We know there is more to life than this, which has prompted us to start a new programme, named Khusela Ikamva (protecting our future).

By using Mfesane's family



approach, our aim is to provide a framework of self-development to youth and their families.

Please will you add your support and encouragement to this new project, to give our youth positive and productive futures.

No ID = No help and no future

There are many obvious ways in which your donations make big differences in the lives of people living in poverty.

And then there are some hidden ways in which you also help to change a life.

Siyasanga Posi is five-years-old. She lives with her unemployed mother, Busiswe, who was without work and unable to apply for a child grant because Siyasanga had no birth

certificate and carried her father's surname which was different from her mother's.

Your support of Mfesane's Child and Youth Care Service meant that one of our child care workers could solve the problem.

By taking mother and child to the hospital and helping Busiswe to get a maternity certificate, the birth certificate followed, and then also the child grant. Siyasanga will now also be able to get her ID which she'll need for the rest of her life.

Food parcels will be supplied for a period whilst Busiswe looks for work. And in addition, Siyasanga has received a school uniform so that she could go into Grade R this year. Home visits will continue, and Siyasanga will also attend the safe park when the school day finishes.

Thank you for influencing the change in this small girl's life.

