

Our Children

Our children often arrive at the Home malnourished, sick and traumatized. Basic care, medical attention, improved diet, and love can make a huge difference.

As children of parents who have died from AIDS, many carry the virus themselves. Since May 2004, we have gained access to anti-retroviral treatment (ARVs) through an overseas funded government programme.



Caroline, upon arrival in May 2008



Caroline, today

Costs and Funding

The Home is funded solely on donations.

The total cost of running the home is between \$4000-5000 US per month. This includes all expenses, including staff salaries and school fees. This money is raised through private donations and co-sponsoring of individual children.



Ethandweni Children's Home is situated on sixteen hectares of communal land at White Water, Matopo District, Matebeleland South, 65 km from Bulawayo.

Contact Us

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Registered as a
Private Volunteer Organization
(PVO 21/96) with the Ministry of Social
Welfare

Please consider a donation or sponsorship today. Your annual commitment of \$33.00 US/month will help provide a child food, clothing, schooling, and a loving home for an entire year.



Ethandweni Children's Home

**A community-based
orphan programme
in Matopo District,
Zimbabwe**

Ethandweni means “Place of Love” in Ndebele

Overview

Ethandweni Children’s Home is a **community-based orphanage**, providing care for orphaned children with no other available support. Many have been orphaned by AIDS and carry the virus themselves.

The Home was **opened in 1997**. Now, 14 years later, the home is still operational, with **36 children** resident, and 10 local staff members from nearby villages.

Our children attend local government schools, and 70 local children attend the Ethandweni pre-school. These links ensure our children **maintain close ties** within their own community.

We raise our children in a caring, holistic, homey, **spiritually based environment**, aiming to bring out their fullest potential. The Home is also designed to have minimal environment needs and impact.

Our target group are children in desperate situations from the Matopo District, typically having lost both parents and left with **no alternative place to go**. Our children range from newborns up to 19 years of age.



Background

More than 80% of the local population live below the **poverty line** as defined by the U.N. People are mainly involved in small-scale farming, often with women as the head of household. Many men are working away from home, many in South Africa.

Recurring **drought conditions** since 1991 have badly affected the district.

With more than 1 million orphans in the country, and about 25% of the population HIV positive, Zimbabwe has been hit hard by the **AIDS pandemic**. This has had a major effect on the active workforce. The country is in a state of social disaster, losing much of the past development achieved.

At present, the health system and the Social Welfare Department have all but collapsed. Extended family systems have already been weakened by drought, poverty, and death.

Recognising that homes like Ethandweni can’t meet all those needs, we support activities which **strengthen existing social networks**, helping people help themselves and orphans in their villages.

We **coordinate our activities** by working closely with the Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, local leaders, and other organizations working in the area.

Objectives

- * To provide care for orphans until a family home can be re-established, if this is at all possible.
- * To implement spiritual development as part of a holistic approach of upbringing children, anchored in five basic human values: Truth, Love, Peace, Right Conduct, and Nonviolence.
- * To provide appropriate counselling to families who care for orphans, so as to strengthen extended family systems; and,
- * To raise awareness among local people, so they take on more responsibility for caring for orphans within the village community.

