

# Siyakhulisa Abantwana

We are Nurturing the Children

PO Box 344 Somerset East 5850  
Tel: 042 243 3630 Fax: 086 519 1471  
Email: [lyrns@siyakhulisa.com](mailto:lyrns@siyakhulisa.com)



27 May 2010

Dear Friends



This is not so much a newsletter as a letter of appeal. We did promise to hold back on the requests for donations while we're all trying to clamour out of the abyss that the economic climate has created. However after a sad event at the Mary Coetzee Foster Homes recently we felt it imperative to let you know how this has affected our thinking and what we have in mind.

Meet Cedric, a 2 year old who was entrusted to the Home in February, with a dismal history and prognosis. He had full-blown AIDS, weighed just over 4kg, looked no bigger than a 6 month old baby, had never learnt to walk or talk and was chronically ill and

totally disinterested in life and living.



This photo was taken at the end of February soon after he arrived. Holding him is Carolyn Burns, visiting us from Pietermaritzburg.



Cedric was immediately placed on ARVs (a few months too late of course) and slowly but surely began to show some interest in life around him. The other children at the Home grew to adore him, even though he was too weak to properly respond to their attentions and affection. This photo was taken in March with Lisa van Zyl, a social worker at Child Welfare.

This was taken in April by which time Cedric had crept into everyone's hearts. He was enjoying the company of the children and even managed a delightful little chuckle now and then. We became optimistic that he might well pull through and enjoy a few quality years as a child.

Unfortunately this was not to be because Cedric also had TB and, before the month was up, he gave up the fight and passed away suddenly in hospital.

The day after Cedric died Child Welfare was asked to take in another child of the same age and with the same symptoms and prognosis. They had to turn the request down for the sake of the other children in the Home, some of whom were so traumatized by Cedric's death they had to undergo counseling. It would have been very unfair to bring them another "Cedric" so soon.

That's the background: now to the real purpose of this email.

The very fact that the second child had to be turned away and sent to heaven-only-knows-where, has got us thinking that we need to ensure that little Cedric did not die in vain. Because there are so many other AIDS babies and the numbers are increasing by the day, there is a definite need for a place where these babies can be properly cared for even though they may be destined to die. Can we not give them a destiny of hope and add some quality of life to their last days on earth as happened to Cedric? What would this require?

To start we would need an average-sized house and well-trained staff, specifically trained to care for babies with AIDS. The former is not out of our reach. Only last week a suitable house came on the market in one of the townships of Somerset East but although the Siyakhulisa Trust has sufficient funds to purchase such a house, we cannot consider it until we can be sure that the project we envisage is sustainable. We need to know we can continue to afford the month to month running costs of such an establishment.

This is why we're appealing to you as a Friend of Siyakhulisa because if we are to succeed we need all the help we can get. If you are not in a position to make a contribution yourself perhaps you know of someone or some organization that may be interested in assisting. Just by forwarding this email you may be helping in a big way. Debit orders would be first prize of course because then we would know how much is available to us on a monthly basis, however any contribution, no matter how small will be greatly appreciated. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on this idea.

If required the bank details are:

**ABSA Bank Somerset East**  
Branch Code No: **334418**  
Swift Code: **ABSAZAJJ**  
Acc Name: **Siyakhulisa Trust**  
Acc No: **9197835105**

With our eyes and ears to the ground, we will continue to look out for opportunities where caring people like you can make a difference.

Our best regards and grateful thanks,

*Lynne, Alan and Rosalee*  
*Siyakhulisa Abantwana Trustees*