

T.K.C.C

SEDIBENG S T E R

From dumping area to drop-in centre

Fatima Phiri

EVATON. - "It takes a community to raise a child". These are the words of Thandi Khanyile, founder of the 'Thy Kingdom' care centre in Zone 3. Khanyile transformed a dumping area into a drop-in centre last year after she observed that there was a need for a centre or orphanage in the community to accommodate children who have lost parents to the HIV/Aids virus. According to Khanyile most of the kids stay with grandparents who are unable to take care of them, so they decided to do something.

"Children come to the centre after school to eat and do their homework," Khanyile says. Khanyile is a kind-hearted woman who caters for orphans and vulnerable parents and also helps the kids with their homework. "I involve my kids in Drama, Dance and Art so that they can acquire skills," Khanyile says. 'Thy Kingdom' centre consists of 42 volun-

teers who help elderly people who are unable to take care of themselves due to the virus. They also help the children with their homework assignments. According to Khanyile, 'Thy Kingdom' centre is just a year old but has already helped a lot of children and elderly people, even though they don't have funds and she has to use her own money. "It is challenging to invite kids to the centre because we need proof that they are orphans and their guardians are skeptical, thinking we are after their money."

Adding that she feels helpless when kids come to her with no clothes and shoes and she hopes community members and businesses can assist her with clothes and food for the children. Khanyile says that she does not want her centre to be involved in feeding only, but in other needs as well. "If people can have a heart for children who are poor and hungry, then a difference can be made," she ends.



Thandi Khanyile (middle) alongside her volunteers at her 'Thy Kingdom' care centre in zone 3 Photo: Fatima Phiri.

DATE: 22-26 MAY 2013

TKCC - 16 June 2015 Event



Uniforms handed over to needy kids



Above: Some of the caregivers working at Thy-Kingdom Drop-in Centre for children took time out to take a picture with some of the beneficiaries who handed over brand new winter school uniforms. Over 80 uniforms were handed over to needy children coming from the Evaton area, the centre also celebrated June 16 in style with many festivities.

Left: Thandi Khanyile, founder of Thy-Kingdom Drop-in Centre thanked Starfish - Great Hearts Foundation for the winter uniforms donated to her centre. Khanyile said that she was worried that the needy kids would be cold over the winter and now all her worries are gone. Photos: Moleboheng Chaha.

THY Kingdom CARE CENTRE

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From Dumpsite to Hopeville

By Mlungisi Selami

In these hard times of man for himself, Thandi Khanyile a Management Accountant at Prasa not only does she dedicate her time and effort for others, by establishing and running the "Thy Kingdom Come Center" in Zone 3 Sebokeng. Thandi also commits half her salary to the center!

The Center focuses on vulnerable children and orphans, especially those still in primary school, at the center homework assistance is provide to all kids, secondary school kids included. Clothes are given to kids in need.

There center is also a base for extra mural activities including song and dance, kids are furthermore provide with afternoon meals through the center's feeding scheme program. The center has 80 kids from around the community and 20 voluntary staff members, it is a registered NGO, disappointing though to note that it does not receive any form of assistance from authorities, however this may be

attributed to the fact that operations in the center are less than a month old. Thandi has grand plans for the center, including much needed skills advancement programs in the future that will include a computer lab and sewing center.

Thandi's love for the kids, her passion for changing lives of others for the better coupled with the need for the community drove the opening of the center as she explained to Loxion News. The center's site was once a notorious dumpsite where all sorts of crimes happened in the disguise offered by the refuse, today one is welcome by joyous voices of kids singing, and who otherwise would be in streets. The crime in the area no longer has a dumpsite to hide behind. It is important to note that all structures that are standing in the area have been self-funded by the center. They also raise funds through activities and Thandi herself takes breaks to groom administrators for the center.



Members of the Thy Kingdom Come Centre standing outside one of their activity rooms in Evaton. **Picture By Fanelo Maseko**