

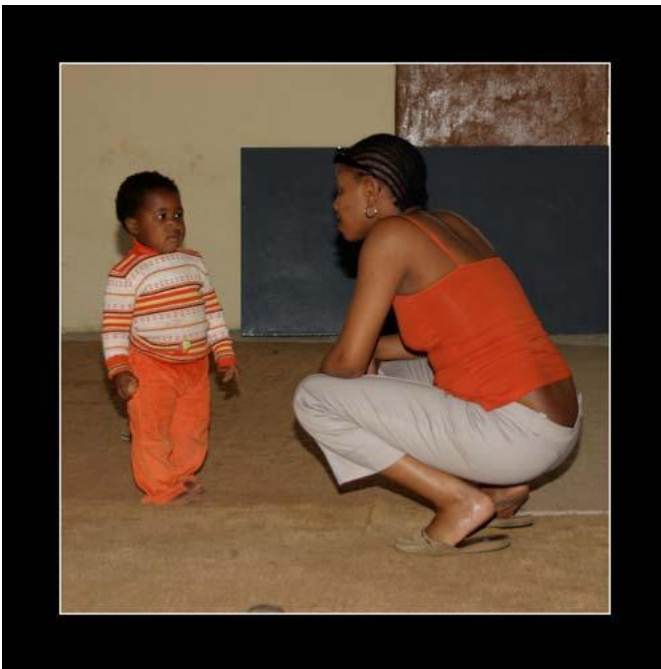
A Rainbow for every Flood

Barloworld goes onboard Noah's Ark to explore what interventions we have partnered with to improve the conditions of children impacted by HIV/AIDS.

The challenge we face

In 2000, plastic and reconstructive surgeon Dr Greg Ash began to investigate the severity of the "epidemic of orphaning" that the AIDS virus has inflicted and will continue to inflict on South African children.

Currently, South Africa holds the title of the country with highest number of AIDS infections. As HIV/AIDS infects mainly heterosexual, sexually active young adults, the people who are dying are primarily the young parents of our country. In 2007, it was estimated that 1 000 people a day died, thus creating approximately 450 new orphans daily. This is in addition to the 1.8 million orphaned children under the age of 15 in South Africa already.



Birth of a haven

To make a contribution toward this enormous challenge in a tangible and meaningful way, Dr Ash and his co-founders such as Tony Phillips, previous CEO of Barloworld, formed an NGO they named Noah (Nurturing Orphans of AIDS for Humanity) in 2002. The foundation of Noah was the development of a model of support for orphans based on supporting communities, thus encouraging extended families to care for their own orphan children within these individual communities.

This method, from both a psychological and cultural perspective, has proven to be the most sound way to care for orphaned children and is also the only way that support can be given to such a vast number, remain affordable and most importantly, sustainable.

The model is comprised of three elements:

- 1) A committee of community leaders.
- 2) A group of volunteers.
- 3) A resource centre offering day care to children under 7 and after care to school going children.

Noah is currently operational in 101 communities and supports over 30 000 children on a 2010 budget of R50-million. The key to Noah's longevity is that it is run in a business-like manner and includes on its board members such as the CEO of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, Russel Loubser and the founder of iBurst, Alan Knott Craig.

Abundant rewards

The results of such a nurturing and encouraging environment for children speak for themselves. Eighteen-year-old matriculant Nokwazi Nzuzwa, who attended the Siyawela Noah for five years and finished her Grade 12 final exams with an astounding seven distinctions, was recently granted a scholarship to study medicine overseas. Together with her perseverance and despite painful struggles, the support of the Noah organisation has enabled this extraordinary young girl to reach the very pinnacle of her potential and way beyond.

Aside from a child's most fundamental needs such as food, shelter and the sanctuary of family, one of the key missions at Noah is the development of children and Nokwazi is not alone in her triumph. Noah receives feedback everyday of children who, under the care of the organization, have succeeded in the face of the staggering obstacles with which the HI-virus presents them.

How to help

The ways to support Noah are endless: adopting an Ark, helping make wish lists come true, painting walls, helping with the planting of a food garden or taking the children on an outing. Visit www.noahorphans.org.za, e-mail Joslyn Walker on joslyn@noahorphans.org.za or call on 031 566-5395 or 011 234 2270.

Our wish list includes:

- School uniforms
- School shoes
- Arts & Craft materials
- School books (exercise books)
- Outdoor Play equipment
- Sewing machines
- Educational toys such as puzzles

