

making dreams come true

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NOAH currently provides support and care for more than 30 000 AIDS orphans in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

It is estimated that there are 1.8 million orphans under the age of 15 in South Africa and this number is predicted to rise to over 2.5 million by 2015. As HIV/AIDS mainly infects sexually active young adults, the people who are dying are primarily the parents of young children. Approximately 1 000 people die each day of HIV/AIDS-related illnesses, thus creating approximately 450 new orphans daily. South Africa currently holds the title of the country with the highest number of AIDS cases. If more children are orphaned by AIDS, it will create a humanitarian challenge on a scale that no nation has ever faced.

NURTURING ORPHANS OF AIDS FOR HUMANITY (NOAH)

NOAH is a registered non-profit organisation that was created in 2000 in response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the country. NOAH helps and enables communities to care for their orphaned and vulnerable children by building 'Arks' and empowering people through training, improving opportunities for education and ensuring food security for better nutrition. The Arks are led by a dedicated committee of community leaders who mobilise volunteers to care for the children in need around them. This group of volunteers is first trained and then finds and registers orphans in their community. They help these children to obtain birth certificates and to apply for child-support grants. "Not only does NOAH provide for these essential services, we also provide children with the opportunity to dream. Affording children the opportunity to dream of a better future is essential to building communities in South Africa," says Joslyn Walker, a fundraiser for Noah.

YOUR HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED

The public can help NOAH to give children a chance to dream about a better future and to give them the opportunity to achieve those

dreams by volunteering their time, collecting toys, clothes and fabrics, and making donations to NOAH. There are endless ways to support NOAH: you can adopt an Ark, help to make wish lists come true, paint walls, help with the planting of a food garden or take the children on an outing.

For more information, visit www.noahorphans.org.za or email Joslyn Walker on joslyn@noahorphans.org.za. Alternatively, call 011 234 2270 or 083 413 5514.

NOAH's wish list

- School uniforms
- School shoes
- School books (exercise books)
- School equipment (pens, pencils, crayons)
- Educational toys such as puzzles
- Computers
- Art- and craft materials
- Outdoor play equipment (jungle gyms)
- Sewing machines
- Food parcels
- Clothes
- Fridges/Freezers
- Gas stoves

Joslyn Walker says NOAH brings together partners from all walks of life to provide inspiration and support to orphaned children. "We are proud of our record of partnership with government, private businesses and leaders in the community. Most importantly, we celebrate the volunteers who are the driving force behind our success, and we invite people to become a part of this by volunteering their time, resources and knowledge." ℓ

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