



To be a Safe Place for kids who DON'T have ONE

NPO 155-039

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025

*“To help the child is to help the family and through this, the community”.*



# Ikhaya Lothando crisis home

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## **Chairlady's Report:**

### **Ikhaya Lothando: Description of all activities of the trust.**

#### **Mission Statement**

Ikhaya Lothando means beloved home or home of love. The mission statement is that we want to help and support children to find them a loving home and provide a safe place for children who don't have one. Our main focus is to provide a safe place for young (abused) little girls from 1-8. As a crisis home, Ikhaya Lothando will serve both children and the community. To help the child is to help the family and through this, the community.

#### **Vision**

To help young abused little girls who don't have a safe place, for a period up to 6 months or long term if the situation asks for it. We want to work with police, local hospitals and social work. As Ikhaya Lothando we will go out into the community to build trust and find those who need help and assistance. Through this, kids in need will find their way to our home.

*"Again we are so grateful to all our national and international friends and partners, who helped us wherever help was needed. Mostly with food and finances and this year, to make our new home into a real 'Ikhaya Lothando' and for us to be able to grow, so we can help even more of those in need. We appreciate their warm and compassionate heart for those in need".*

In the last year we have put our focus on the main goals and objectives of Ikhaya Lothando.

- The rescue and care of persons in distress
- The provision of poverty relief
- The provision of community service
- Help, development, and support of children, more particularly (without limiting the generality thereof), children in need of care. (Based on Cristian principles and belief)

Those 4 pillars are the main tools to build trust and relationships between us as Ikhaya Lothando and the communities in the rural area of Matatiele. We are grateful that after a time of finding our feet in Matatiele and getting to know the people around us, we have been able to really start working to help the children in need in the community around us. After we learned that we better do it ourselves instead of working with people who want to use us, rather than working together to help more people and children, God has blessed us with more than enough.

Where some doors closed, God surely opened other windows. The soupkitchen has grown from 40 to 200 children. God blessed us to be able to help the whole school in a poor community closer to Lesotho and we have now 3 little girls living (full time) in Ikhaya Lothando. We have been able to help with provision of poverty relief, community service and help in the development and support of children in ways we never thought we could.

Instead of waiting for the social workers and police to come back to us, God opened the door to bring children to us from Ntuzuma. Children who have been in very abusive homes. Whose mom we worked with for so many years but never able to take her out of it. Now the new generation has been trusted to us, to break the circle of abuse and provide a new future, in which God can restore what has been broken.

It feels like its full circle for us. Never had we expected to have the kids in Ikhaya Lothando from Ntuzuma where we worked for so many years. Only because trust has been built, the moms want our help and by doing so, want there children to have a better future.

We are so thankful that we are finally up and running and it goes well. We will always be open for social work to work with us but we no longer wait for that to happen. God has provided all we need through prayers and faithfulness. Slow but steady we ll go forward and build better futures for these little girls

that will come to live with us. Together we are a family that will help each other to heal and live life in a safe home

We also have continued the soupkitchen for children in area C, just outside town. The group of children who really need a healthy meal grew fast from 40 to 125 to 200. We now work together with focussed high school so we can use their school hall and the older kids who can help and volunteer. As we now have 3 little girls living with us long term, the principal helped us financially as well to make it cheaper for 4 girls. I am so thankful to be able to send our girls to better and especially safer education after everything they went through in their young lives. I am amazed how God has provided in everything we needed and in people, along the way, to join us in what we're doing.

The school where we started to help with providing school uniforms for those who needed it most, had about 250 children at that school. Not only were we able to help those we came for at first, the need for all the others to get new school sweaters, pants and even underwear has also been provided for. Together with visitors from the Netherlands we could bless the kids with toothbrushes, new underwear and sanitation pads for the girls. It's been great to show them the need and what we're doing and why. This way also the connection to our supporters from the Netherlands and Church grew much stronger.

Food parcels for families slowed down a bit. This is because we rather wanted to feed the kids and give them a great day out with fun and something to take home. Like this we know that the kids get what we want them to get, and no parent can take it away or sell it for drugs or alcohol.

It's been a year full of blessings and visits, in which I can finally say that we are now really doing what we supposed to do. Slowly but surely, we are moving forward. Even though the plan was to have girls in short term, we now have little girls in who simply can't go back. We are still in contact with the mom(s) and will keep encouraging them to change their lives and make better choices. We also encourage them to be faithful in any contact there is between them and their little girls. We respect the moms for trusting us enough and to be brave enough to take their girls out of the very abusive situations, that sadly often continues. But this is why Ikhaya Lothando started, to get away from it to be able to rebuild...as now shows us, a new generation.

We are reaching out to the community focusing on the following:

- A monthly soupkitchen/ foodparcels
- We support and help the sick.
- Provide clothing/ schoolclothing
- Provide a safe place for girls
- Provide good schooling for the girls living with us
- Celebration of culture.
- Christmas celebration
- We started a carwash for the youth to earn an honest living, do a bit of fundraising for the NPO and a way out of drugs etc.

It's been another year of challenges but we are moving forward in a very positive way. There will always be challenges but we have our feet on the ground and are reaching out to those people and children who need help the most.

We are excited about the progress we were able to make this year. We did what we wanted to do and started to bring the kids from the community here at our house for a warm meal and support where needed. We are blessed that it was such a huge success that we needed to find a bigger place to feed more children and allow more to join us. We are looking forward to the new year and to see how we can keep building on the foundation that God has built.

To everyone who has contributed in so many ways and enabled us to help, feed and provide clothing for so many children this year in Matatiele and rural area of Eastern Cape, thank you so much.

Jozien Koelewijn

Chairlady – Ikhaya Lothando

## **2. Identifying details of the Organization**

### **Title and registration details:**

Ikhaya Lothando, a home for children.

### **Registration**

Its a faith based welfare organization registered as follows:

- As Ikhaya Lothando Charible Trust IT020141/2014
- Non profit Organisation 155-039

## **3. Area of operation**

For about 11 years we worked in Ntuzuma in Durban, KwaZulu Natal. This province carries the heaviest burden with the most children and adults affected by HIV/AIDS. Thousands of children are being left orphaned every month without any adult care whatsoever.

Ntuzuma township. Its home for about 500.000 people, connected to KwaMashu and Inanda, two other big townships with a high crime rate.

HIV/AIDS is high in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. Statistics show it is even higher than anywhere else in the country. Especially the rural area is hit hard by the epidemic. Social problems, such as extreme poverty, abuse of women and children, unemployment, and the consequences of HIV/AIDS characterise life in many townships. While the need is high, there is no help. Most homes are already full, while more and more children end up alone or in an abusive situation.

Almost the same can be said about Eastern Cape. Even though poverty, abuse and children growing up with only a gogo, a teen mom or even alone, seem to be a bigger problem here. Drug and alcohol abuse by parents seems to get out of control in so many places in South Africa and its no difference here in Matatiele. Through the years we found ourselves going up and down to Tinana and Matatiele, about 4 hour drive from Durban. After 11 years in Ntuzuma, this is the place where we were able to buy a beautiful property which a nice big garden. As there is nothing like a crisis home around, we thought that is will be full soon, as many kids go to bed hungry as many parents are unemployed.

We have been here now for 4 years and had to find our feet in a new place. The social workers came with their own agenda, wanting us to become something under government, which we never asked for. They came running for a job they thought we would have for them but never came running for a child to be placed here. We know that it all takes time, and we do learn most through the things that go different, going through problems we find along the way. All the years in Ntuzuma helped us not to panic if things go different and not to force things. We are thankful that that's exactly what made us strong, together and with the children who are now with us. Social work would never have known the situation of the girls the way we got to know it, through all the years in Ntuzuma.

Trust and faithfulness is what brought the moms to bring their kids to us. They even trusted us with the grand cards which often keeps the children who need help most a prisoner of the situation. We do go to social work once all the forms and affidavit are signed but we are not depended on them to bring anyone. We will remain going out into the community, building the trust that is so needed to feel safe enough to open up and admit help is needed.

## **We want to be a safe home for those who don't have one.**

Ikhaya lothando wants to be that place, a home, where children can be child again. As we will be a crishome and mostly work with abused children in the age of 1- 8, we had to choose between boys or girls. As we have little girls living with us, we choose to focus on the girls. It also fits with the huge and growing problem in South Africa of abuse to women in children. We hope to be able to make a difference by offering a place of safety for little girls.

### **4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES (the Goal)**

- The rescue and care of persons in distress
- The provision of poverty relief
- The provision of community service
- Help, development, and support of children, more particularly (without limiting the generality thereof), children in need of care.

Based on Cristian principles and belief

### **5. Ikhaya Lothando – bridging the gap**

**Ikhaya Lothando** functions in many ways as a bridge, bringing people and organisations from different cultures, countries and socio-economic backgrounds together

We cannot do the work alone. Ikhaya Lothando always strives to network with as many organisations and people who work in the same area as possible. As we did for 11 years in Durban, we will also do the same in Matatiele. Sadly, most of the time doesn't work out. People will either try to use us or want something for themselves rather than helping those that they say they want to help.

In our first year in Matatiele we have visited and shared the vision with the hospital, police, social workers, caregivers and churches in and around the area Matatiele and Mount Fletcher. We will keep spreading the story and our vision but will now focus on our work with the children we are able to help.

I think what sets us apart from other safe houses is that we love to help the child but also the community. It goes hand in hand with us. We want to help kids if possible and work with the family so the child can remain as a part of a community and not grow up as an orphan, as many kids do have family. Only together we can really make a difference towards a better future and awareness. We do however become a family to the little girls who end up staying with us full time and have no way of going back, just because the situation is too abusive.

## 6. Beneficiaries

For the duration of the 2024-2025 financial year, Ikhaya lothando attended this year to many people and children in the communities around Matatiele by giving out food and school uniforms.

We also focussed this year on getting the 3 little girls out of an abusive situation into our crisis home.

The house was first mainly used to prepare the food and parcels for those in need but is now up and running as a crisis home where our little girls will grow up and found their new home.

- We were able to take 4 little girls to a good and safe (private) focussed high school here in Matatiele.
- Another little girl we support with school uniforms in Durban and comes to stay with us in the holidays.
- We provided 250 school uniforms to a poverty-stricken community/school
- We have been able to feed around 300 schoolchildren and parents with a warm meal
- We fed around 250 kids with a Christmas meal and present
- We helped 5 families with a monthly food parcel
- We provided 250 toothbrushes, underwear's and sanity pads for the girls
- We feed around 200 children in our monthly soup kitchen
- We are providing a safe place for 3 young girls age 3, 5 and 6
- We are working toward the 4<sup>th</sup> little girl of 7 who is sick and the mom can't do it and is afraid her girl might end up being abused.
- We have an extra mom working with us who is now having a small income and a purpose in life
- 2/3 boys are doing the carwash and are now staying away from trouble and drugs. They also are a great help with the soup kitchen and going out to the community.

## 7. Renovations done are the following:

Inside:

- We had the security camera's upgraded and placed extra burglar guards.

Outside:

- We placed a new gate motor and a new geyser

## A. Transport

### **Transport for groceries**

- We bought groceries on a weekly, sometimes daily basis. Mainly for in the house for the kids who stay with us and for the soup kitchen. Also when other guests are staying with us and for the people we support in the different areas around us in Matatiele and rural area.

### **schooltransport**

I am using the car as school transport for the 4 girls who go to school here in Matatiele, which is daily

## **Ntuzuma**

- Fundy has been going up and down a lot. Sometimes to help some in Durban but also for the gogo soccer team from Kwamashu that she is still involved with and support. She also had to go to Ntuzuma to talk to the mom of the girls and get everything ready so they could come with us at the end of 2024. I think she went up and down maybe about 10 times during the year 2024-2025.

## **Car in Matatiele**

- Fundy has her driving licence and is helping with driving when she can.
- The main driver is Jozien, and we are using the ISUZU double cap 300KB.

## **8. Poor Relief**

### **Food, clothing and household articles in crisis situations**

- We've continued the soup kitchen for only the children this year. We started in the garden of Ikhaya Lothando but are now using a school hall as we had too many kids coming.
- We've still been able to help several families in the community with food parcels. The challenge is that we don't want people to sell it for alcohol or drugs or use it other than feeding the kids. So we will watch and see how best we can go about this in the coming year.
- We got blankets and beddings donated to us and will give it out where needed.

## **9. Administration Aspect**

Ikhaya Lothando is a small project that through the years, build the trust of the people, to be able to do what we want to do.

- Founder Fundy Shangase does most of the hands-on work with the youth as well as the little children. Like the coaching and cooking. She is an experienced childcare worker (with certificates) and is easy going for the youth. She is a volunteer and only receives a stipend.
- Jozien is a full-time volunteer from the Netherlands. She takes care of all the transport, administration and fundraising.
- Other locals and youth have been helping on certain occasions with practical work.
- We have an extra mama for the kids in Ikhaya Lothando house who receives a stipend
- We are working together with Focussed high school. The youth can volunteer, our kids go to their school and we can use the hall for our feeding.
- The carwash is also working as a bridge to the local businesses who are very positive about the work the boys are doing and how we help out children in the community.
- The church that Jozien had been send out from in the Netherlands is very positive and financially a great support. We hope this will keep growing so they will (financially) adopt Ikhaya Lothando as a local NPO for many years to come!



- logo for Matatiele.



## 10. Fundraising

- Ikhaya Lothando depends entirely on financial support and donations from supporters/donors and Partners
- Overseas fundraising done by: Jozien Koelewijn
- South Africa fundraising and donations done by: Fundy Shangase and Jozien Koelewijn

## 11. Finances

As Ikhaya Lothando has been registered in 2015, we have 8 official financial reports.

The Dutch reform Church in the Netherlands, from which Jozien has been sent out from as a missionary, has been a great financial support this year. This support has been growing through the years. We hope and pray that they will be able to adopt our project financially long term. That way we will have a more stable foundation we can work from, to be able to provide more help in the community and for the children in our home.

## **12. Banking details**

**First National Bank**

**Account name: Ikhaya Lothando Charitable Trust**

**Account Number: 62543566189**

**Branch 79, Durban North**

**Ikhaya Lothando is a non-profit organization**

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**Fundy Shangase ( Founder and Director)**

**Date: 20 May 2025**

