

Dear Reader,

Smutsville, South Africa, is not the best place to live and certainly not the best place to spend a holiday despite it being situated in the picturesque Garden Route along the beautiful Indian Ocean. But it is a town that has deeply touched my husband and myself. We have made it our mission to help the people that live there to find a way to a successful and happy life, despite a severe lack of money. Especially we want to help the children of Smutsville who are growing up in utter poverty and in circumstances that for most Europeans are impossible to imagine or comprehend: alcohol and drug dependent parents, unhygienic environment, ignorance, brutality, fighting, Aids and rape. During our last stay two 4-year-old girls were brutally raped because of a persistent belief that having sex with a virgin will cure Aids.

It is very difficult to teach the adults self-belief and the setting of goals toward a better future. But it is of crucial importance to give the children a chance in life.

They are Africa's future!

Like everywhere in Africa, the children of Smutsville are suffering. Be it the inadequate life style of their parents, who have never learnt, that they are human beings like everybody else despite race or colour or because these children are orphans without examples or perspectives.

We first learned about Lydia Makombe, a trained nurse and mother of 10 children, from a newspaper article in 2003. For the last ten years she has given her time and resources to care for Aids orphans and people who are suffering from HIV/Aids and tuberculosis.

At first she took in Aids orphans to care for them. Then she hired a building, a type of beer hall, to prepare and to give children at least one hot meal a day. When we first met Lydia she was feeding about 75 children every day. This number has now doubled.

The building is desolate and in dire need of fixing up. Any health inspector in Europe would immediately close down the so-called 'kitchen', but Africa is different. The church has recently bought the building. Henry Makombe, Lydia's son and pastor of the Agape Congregation of Smutsville and also a councilor in Knysna has permitted continuous and, most importantly, rent-free use of the building by his mother.

Lydia says: " These children are our future. It is our responsibility to instill in them values and to show them the importance of learning to achieve a better future. God continues to send people to me who believe in us."

Every year, my husband and myself, collect money in Germany for Smutsville. We then travel to Africa to help directly where it is needed. Be it to buy a second hand stove or fridge for the soup kitchen, to repair things or to be there for the children who crave love, attention and warmth. To cook for the old and sick people, to draw and play with the children, or simply put, to do things for people who had never been given a chance in life.

We have organized an account at the local SPAR supermarket for Lydia to be able to shop for the children when we are not there. And as always we are looking for more sponsors to help us make a difference in Smutsville.

We really want to make a huge difference and for that we need money!

A lot of money!

This money goes directly to where it is most needed!

No disappearing in other channels, as is so often the case!

We are aiming at Euro 100,000,00:

- 1. To renovate the building and install a proper soup kitchen!**
- 2. To install a daycare center to get abandoned children off the streets!**
- 3. To employ qualified personnel – who need to be paid- to care for these children during the day!**
- 4. To open a help center for the victims of rape!**
- 5. To build a hospital to care for people suffering from HIV/Aids and tuberculosis!**

We are hoping for your donation!

**Children should never go without food and love!
Children are the future for a better world!**

**The project ‘Soup Kitchen’ got a new and fitting Xhosa name at the beginning of 2005.
“I KAYA LOTHANDO”
 (“HOME OF LOVE”)**

Together with Lydia and the children we are hoping for your help.

Bank: **Volksbank im Märkischen Kreis eG., Germany**
Bankcode: **447 615 34**
Account no: **1151149807**
Account name : **I KAYA LOTHANDO**

We thank our regular sponsors!

Among them :

The company “Scotmarine Shipping”, Rotterdam, NL
The patients of the cancer clinic „Kloster Paradies“, Soest
The members of the tennis club „TC Sundern“, Sundern
Internationaler Club der Schlitzohren eV. Mühlheim an der Ruhr.
The company „Alles Werbung“, Neuenrade
And the many friends and acquaintances!

We are thanking you today for taking the time to read this letter. Please forward it to your friends and family.

Nkosi Sikeleli Africa! (God protect Africa)

Angelika und Olaf Freiwald