

1. General Information

Smutsville, South Africa, as well as other townships in 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.

This is, however, a town that has deeply touched my husband and me. 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. We especially 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 and therefore it is of crucial importance to give the children a chance in life. These people are in dire need of help if the situation in Africa is to improve.

Like everywhere in Africa, the children of Smutsville are the ones who suffer. 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 role models or perspectives.

We first learned about Lydia Makombe, a trained nurse and mother of 10 children, from a newspaper article in 2004. 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 Aids orphans into her home to care for them. Then she hired a building, a type of hall, to prepare and give more 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 was in a desolate state and in dire need of renovation. Any health inspector in Europe would immediately close down the so-called 'kitchen', but it is commonly known that things work differently in Africa. The church had in the interim purchased the building and renovated it. This is where I KAYA LOTHANDO and the soup kitchen are now situated. 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 I collect money in Germany for Smutsville. We then travel to Africa to assist directly where help is required. 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 organized an account at the local SPAR supermarket for Lydia to be able to shop for the children when we are not there. We offer the children jigsaw and other wood-working courses. With each of our visits, the requests of those needing our help increases. The donations have thus far not been of significant value, but also this is increasing annually. We appreciate that this is improving and are proud that we have achieved so much with so little. Most importantly we help on location to ensure the funds are used where they are needed.

We are continually looking out for donors, sponsors or even investors who want to support our cause. Also on this front, there is remarkable growth. Some examples being the shipping company

in Rotterdam, “*ScotMarine Logistics*” Rotterdam, NL, which transported, free of charge, the donated clothing and other goods for the orphanage and work-shop project. They vowed to continue assisting us in future.

Then there are our DIY stores in Neuenrade and Sundern, which supplied us with wood for the jigsaw courses and the wholesale hardware store, “*Becker-Joste*” in Sundern which donated jig saws and saw blades.

Also the many people who donated toys, etc. for the Christmas party as well as teaching aids for the play school. Not be forgotten are the dear people who visited us for a short while during their holiday in South Africa to assist with the project.

Last but not least, the company advertising agency of Gummersbach, “*Terra Personal*”, a subgroup of the “*Kienbaum*” group. Last year they initiated a huge campaign for our project, together with a personal website, www.terraafrika.de and this resulted in an increase in sponsorship volumes for our next assignment.

**We really want to make a huge difference and for that we need money!
A lot of money!!!**

What do we want to do with this money?

To build a home for AIDS-orphans in which they can live as a family. To equip a daycare centre/ play school to get abandoned children off the streets and where they can be looked after. To erect a ward for those suffering from AIDS and Tuberculosis. To employ and train skilled personnel who will take care of the children during the day. To provide counsellors for rape victims. To erect workshops which produce products to enable the project to become self-supporting. To cultivate gardens which will supply healthy fruit and vegetables for own needs, with the surplus being sold at the markets.

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

I KAYA LOTHANDO is a Xhosa term meaning, “Home of Love”. This is the name Lydia Makombe gave the first play school.

Presently our account for donations is held with:

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

We would like to thank all those who show interest in our project and for having taken the time to read this information. Please also canvas amongst friends and acquaintances to support I KAYA LOTHANDO. Africa needs our help!

Nkosi Sikeleli Afrika (God bless Africa)

Angelika and Olaf Freiwald, Zoe Harrison