

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016



play and be well.



dalanathi

hope and healing for children affected by loss.



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Coming back to be part of dlalanathi (I was last part of the team in 2009) reminds me of the early days and dlalanathi's first children's bereavement groups run in Swayimane. It feels like the organization has travelled full circle because in 2013 -2015 dlalanathi implemented a comprehensive program in 5 wards of Swayimane, serving children, youth and families to strengthen circles of support within the community. Bereavement groups for children and families are still a vital feature, however, they are but one piece of a wider and deeper set of dlalanathi's work. The impact of that work in Swayimane is reflected in the evaluations which took place during 2016.

dlalanathi is empowering communities through asking critical questions which when honestly answered, supports participants to find their own solutions to their own challenges in their own lives. In 2016 dlalanathi has successfully delivered its work to Swayimane and Mpumuza communities, and several Strategic Partner Organisations. It is not only about the numbers, though numerous families, children and youth were reached. It is about the quality of work and the effectiveness of the process to help each community find solutions that are for that specific individual within the larger community, to the benefit of both.

Such work does not come without challenges and going the extra mile by the dlalanathi team, as they work alongside each community, implementing each programme. Yet, for many years now, dlalanathi has continued to broaden its purpose through seeking the essence of humanitarian work.

Looking forward, new possibilities exist for the organisation, the staff and the communities. Hope exists as there are people readily available and committed from dlalanathi to forge new relationships and partnerships through research, programme development and implementation, to bring about hope and healing through play.

Sincerely yours

Lulu Ncgobo

Board Chairperson





Life is very difficult for many South African families who face unemployment, poverty, a very high burden of illness due to HIV and TB. In our Province KZN, almost 1 in 3 children¹ has lost one or both of their parents, and in an already stretched environment children face increased risk of neglect, abuse and compromised development.

In Mpumzuza (Ward 1) in 2016 our work has supported parents and caregivers to use the tools readily available to them, daily play and communication with their children to strengthen relationships and find solutions together for child protection and development. Youth have been awakened, challenged and encouraged to envision a goal and take small doable steps towards change.

During 2016 we have been looking back to learn, coming to know a new Community, Mpumzuza, and looking ahead at what children, youth and families face that requires a new response from us.

Looking back..... we had an external evaluation of our work in Swayimane² and the executive summary of this evaluation is included in this Annual Report. We also conducted a Follow-up Evaluation³ of the Youth Process looking at what youth have been able to sustain one full year after dlalanathi's exit.

Coming to know a new community..... our learning from these evaluations has been applied in Mpumzuza with greater emphasis on awareness and relationship building at entry into the community; introducing Play, Parenting and Child Protection at the same time; and greatly expanding work with youth.

Looking ahead into 2017 and beyond we are excited about research into the feasibility of the roll out of Ibhayi Lengane (the babies blanket) as an add-on to home visits by Community Care Givers (CCG's) connected to Department of Health (DOH). This program aims to strengthen care to mothers and their baby's in the first 1000 days of the child's life.

My thanks to an exceptional team who have worked so hard to care for and get to know the community of Mpumzuza, our donors who provide resources to make this work happen and mostly to the community members who have participated in our activities and changed the lives of children through their action. We look forward to our mutual achievements in this community over the next few years.

With deep gratitude to the One in whom we live and breathe and have our being.

Rachel Rozentals-Thresher

1 27,3% children in South Africa have lost 1 or both parents Children's Gauge 2012
2 Evaluation Conducted October – December 2015; Report compiled February 2016 Liz Clarke
3 Evaluation Conducted December 2016; Report available after March 2017; Claire Kerry (report available on request)



Project Report



dlalanathi began work in 2016, in Mpumuza, a peri-urban community in Pietermaritzburg. Currently we are working in Ward 1 which is made up of 3 subsections called Phayphini, Mvubukazi and Zayeka.

dlalanathi also supported independent work with children in Swayimane and Mfakathini and trained partner organisations in Pietermaritzburg and other parts of the country.

We have 3 main areas of Work: Community Based work with Families and Children; Community Based Work with Youth; Research & Program Development and training of Strategic Partner Organisations.



Overall Reach of Beneficiaries:

Total Children:	3351
Total Adults:	984
Total Youth:	1605 (Mpumuza only)



In Mpumuza the year began with Awareness and Relationship Building with 300 participants to achieve the following:

- ***Building support Networks*** - Examples (Relationships with CCG's; SANCA; Thandanani Children's Foundation; Traditional Council; TAC; Red Cross and the local Primary and High Schools)
- ***Becoming known*** by community leadership (Permission to work, leadership sanction)
- ***Understanding what the community has and how the existing Networks operate*** so that we are useful
- ***Identifying vulnerable*** families who could benefit from our services and key structures through whom we build capacity means we optimally strengthen the resources available within the community
- ***Understanding the issues families*** face means we can serve them better

Our services and activities are all working towards supporting a sustainable community response over the 3 years we intend to be here.

Community Project – Creating circles of support for child development:



The project aims to create circles of support around vulnerable families who are affected by trauma and loss. Our programs reduce their isolation, provide psycho-social support on their journey of healing, and key knowledge and skill to strengthen relationships within families. This includes play, strengthened parenting and communication between children and families AND skill and practice to improve safeguarding and protection for children in the home and community.

During 2016 children and families were served as follows:

- 265 bereaved children through 22 bereavement support groups (12 in Mpumuza; 6 in Swayimane; 4 in Mfakathini). Bereavement Groups run weekly over 3 months.
- 237 Caregivers and 733 of their children through family based bereavement support groups (22 groups in total - 12 Mpumuza, 6 Swayimane; 4 Mfakathini).
- 959 children participated in Holiday Programs (750 in Swayimane & 209 in Mpumuza).
- 120 children participated in a weekly kids club established in Mpumuza.

Community based training took place in Mpumuza as follows:

- 131 participants in 10 x 3 day Play for Communication workshops; 8 x Play for Communication feedbacks participants reported reaching out to 494 children.
- 79 of the above adults participated in further training
 - 19 participants in Kids Club training (5 days)
 - 29 participants in 2 x 4 day Foundation Play Skills Training
 - 31 Participants in 4 x 2 day Child Protection Training Workshops



Community Project – Creating circles of support for child development:

Changes reported by participants in Mpumza:

Children's Groups – Teachers who referred children note reduced absenteeism from school; better behavior (less fighting and aggression); increased participation in school (less withdrawn in class) and children developing friends.

Family Support – Relationships built with families, and between families begins to mobilise community based action within neighborhoods. Increased play in households and the neighborhood, and children have a wider circle of support, where neighbors look out for each other and their children.

"I used to shout at my children and call them names. I never had time to play as a child and my mother died when I was young, I didn't have a role model to look up to and show me how to be a good parent. This program has helped me a lot, I am not shouting and my relationships with my children have improved" – Family Support Participant



Dollmaking process facilitated with a group of women in Mpumza

Youth Project – Youth in Action



Young leaders from Mpumuza join the dlalanathi staff at the Global Leadership Summit

This project aims to support Youth to take action in their own lives to improve them, support other youth, have fun and make a contribution to the community. We support, train and guide, however all action taken is completely youth led!

In our process young people create their vision or goal as a motivation to drive their personal investment of energy in personal development and healthy behaviour. In youth groups, youth support each other to have fun, develop and use their talents and explore ways to make a difference to their families and other youth in the community.

In 2016 in Mpumuza:

171 youth (82M; 89F) joined the youth process:

- 70% of total youth 122 participants (60M;62F) set vision and personal goals and attended a 3 day residential camp called **Me-Power**
- 87% of those who set goals 107 (55M; 52F) reviewed their progress towards goals in the year
- 95 participated in sexual reproductive health and rights pilot program

11 youth groups participating (some existing groups some newly established):

- 171 participants in total
- 9 events run in the community and or school by youth reaching a further 1 434 youth
- 10 youth joined the dlalanathi team at the annual Global Leadership Summit

This is an exceptional achievement for the beginning of the youth process and we look forward to the work with youth growing in size and influence over the next 2 years.

For more detailed information on what youth think of the youth process, please see the Youth Evaluation Follow-up on www.dlalanathi.org.za.

Program Development and Training

In 2016 we developed a new program, field tested 2 programs and trained 293 people in partner organisations on existing programs. Trained participants used the skills learnt to serve 780 children and 171 mothers/caregivers.



Program Development and Training



In partnership with Singakwenza and the Thandanani Children's Foundation, we developed, trained and tested through implementation the *Play Mat Process*. The program aims to establish family driven play and learning with children under 5, as part of household routine. The program is unique in that it combines parenting principles and play for learning activities (i.e. parents make educational toys made from recycled waste, plastic bags, bottles, cereal box card board). The rhythm or routine of play at home is established through 9 weekly and 6 monthly group sessions where caregivers and children meet together and play. This is supplemented with home visits to encourage regular intentional play at home.

In preparation for feasibility research that will take place in 2017 we field tested *Ibhayi Lengane* with our Antenatal partner **Ethembeni** in Mpopomeni. Nine home visitors already working with pregnant mothers were trained and served 109 mothers and 116 children under 2. The power of the program to transform relationships was demonstrated well, and much learning from the field work has guided our preparation for the research.

In training staff of Partner Organisations, 85 participants from Singakwenza, MIDI & Thandanani Children's Foundation (TCF) participated in our Child Protection trainings. Ethembeni and TCF DREAMS team (a USAID Program) were also trained in the use of the 'Inside Story' movie in sensitizing youth to the importance of knowing one's HIV status.

African Solutions for African People (ASAP) trained 5 of their sites in Matatielie in Play for Communication. We hosted World Social Workers Day and follow up professional skills development workshops with social workers and other practitioners in the field of Child and Youth Care. Our development Manager Linda Smallbones also influenced 19 leaders who attended the Global Children's Forum with attendees from all over the region.

With the assistance of 5 skilled doll makers from Uthando Doll Project in Australia, dlananathi offered a workshop to the general public in Pietermaritzburg and this has kick started doll making in support of organisations right here in KZN.



Program Development and Training



The Steven Lewis Foundation hosted a 'Grandmothers Gathering' as part of the pre International Aids Conference Events, 2 staff and 7 grandmothers took part in this gathering to present the voice of older caregivers and their needs and contribution to child care and the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Quotes about training:

"The Play Mat program also helped me personally. I have a 4 year old daughter and she has been very slow since she was young and she has been going to a speech therapist for her delayed developmental milestones. Then last year I began the Play Mat training and everything that I would do with my group of caregivers I would come back and do at home with her. She was struggling at speech therapy to hold a crayon and to draw a simple circle, but when I would play with her at home and use the toys to develop her fine motor muscle and do some activities with her, when we went back to our next session with the therapist she could not believe the improvements my child had made and asked me what had I been doing. I told her that through this play program I had learnt how the toys help to develop the child's fine and gross motor muscles. I told her about what toys work for hand-eye co-ordination basically everything we were learning and teaching the caregivers in our groups. The therapist was very impressed and asked me to continue. I love this job and I'm very dedicated to it and my caregivers are very fond of me and it makes me happy that they are gaining something valuable from what I'm teaching them" – Play Mat Facilitator



"One pregnant women was in our support group. She has nothing to eat. The pregnancy card shows healthy eating is important. We were able to refer this pregnant woman to the family support team and they did a home visit and admitted her to the program. They are helping her get her ID and the grant and also with food" – Ethembeni Home Visitor



Staff Capacity Building



Back Row: Rachel Rozentals-Thresher, Nontobeko Mpungose, Siya Mnguni, Dumisa Zondi, Cathy Simpson, Nontobeko Khoza, Linda Smallbones

Front Row: Sthembiso Madlala, Nomagugu Mpembe, Nicky Houghton, Robyn Hemmens, Katie Robinson

We welcomed Nicky Houghton (Administrator) and Siya Mnguni (Youth worker) and to our team this year, bringing our total staff to 12. Katie Robinson joined our team from Wheaton College for a 6 month HNHR internship.

Two staff members attended the International AIDS Conference in Durban, with a view to strengthening Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in our youth work.

All staff were trained in the skill and art of effective Facilitation – Thank you Davine Thaw!!!

Thandeka Zuma and Dumisa Zondi have been certified as Trainers in the Solution Focused Approach (SFA), which they have used to powerful effect in their work with youth.

We were able to attend the Global Leadership Summit in Pietermaritzburg, 10 young leaders from Mpumuza joined the full dlanathi staff at this 2 day leadership conference. This was an inspiring and connecting experience for us all.





In 2017 we are piloting in partnership with the Human Science Research Council (HSRC) *Ibhayi Lengane*, a home visiting program for pregnant mothers and mothers with children from birth to 2 years in Mpumuza. Community Caregivers connected with DOH will be testing the feasibility and acceptability of the home visits as an add-on to their work.

We plan more support to Bereaved Children and Families, as well as Play, Parenting and Protection training and support for community led action.

For youth we will focus on the establishment of a Youth Network and a stronger focus on youth strengthening their Career and Work focus as well as their Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.



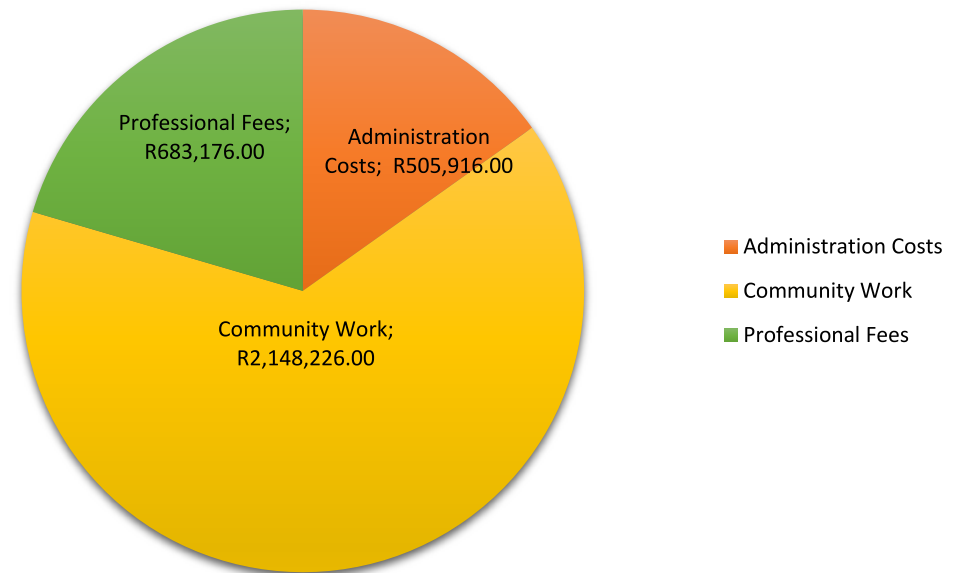


Once again we have been truly humbled by the generous giving of our loyal and supportive donors. The Community Members including Children, Care Givers, Youth and Families, the Board and Staff of dIalanathi, thank you all for your unwavering dedication and heartfelt donations.

[CLICK HERE](#) to check our website for the Annual Financial Statements

A summary of Income and Expenditure: Year ended 31 December 2016

	2016	2015
Total Income	3 306 183.00	3 856 510.00
Donor Funds	3 192 762.00	3 493 773.00
Interest	63 669.00	67 441.00
Other Donations	49 752.00	295 296.00
Expenditure	3 337 318.00	3 726 394.00
Administration Costs	505 916.00	552 824.00
Community Work	2 148 226.00	2 553 987.00
Professional Fees	683 176.00	619 583.00



Sustainability Fund:

Our Fund invested with Communtiy Chest has grown from R500 000.00 invested in 2015 to R600 000.00 in 2016

2016 Audit:

Our Financial Statements for the period ended 31 December 2016 have been audited by PriceWaterhouseCoopers Inc. and found to fairly present the operations for the year and the financial position of the organisation at year end.



Donors

Pietermaritzburg & District Community Chest

Charlize Theron Africa

Outreach Program (USA)

Ken Collins Trust

HCI Foundation

Kindernothilfe (Germany)

Stephen Lewis Foundation (USA)

Uthando Doll Project (Australia)

Terres Des Hommes Schweiz (Switzerland)

Imagine Youth (Switzerland)

Donations in kind

Uthando Doll Project:
Dolls and Sewing Kits

University of Orange Freestate:
Stationery

Calibre Education (Johannesburg):
Christmas Shoe Boxes

Desdesigns:
Annual report

Financial donations

AD Wood

C E Merrett

DR Julie Stone

The Hilton Methodist Church

Sarah Pennington

Laddsworth Primary School



With gratitude we wish to thank all those who have invested in our work this year.



Evaluation Executive Summary

Liz Clarke (February 2016)

This evaluation was conducted on two projects implemented by dlalanathi in the uMshwathi Municipality which is situated adjacent to Pietermaritzburg.

The municipality as a whole covers an area of about 1 811 km² and has a total population of 106,374.



Evaluation Executive Summary



The Community of Swayimane

The two projects in the Swayimane area extend through five municipal wards (Numbers 6, 8, 11, 12 and 13) in the south eastern area of the municipality. Most of the area is considered to be tribal land under the jurisdiction of Traditional Authorities in cooperation with uMshwathi Municipality.

The projects began in late 2012 and were completed at the end of 2015, each project had its own focus. **One focused on families and children** to 'strengthen circles of support to enhance care around children', through increasing access to safe spaces for children; strengthening care givers; and strengthening local safety nets. **The other project focused on youth**, to support youth in actively improving their own, their families' quality of life and contributing to the broader common good. The objectives in the youth project were for youth to engage in purposeful activity; contribute to positive relevant youth activities and be active in the lives of children in the household.

The evaluation took place during October to December 2015 and set about through interview, focus groups and an analysis of project reports to 1) establish evidence of increased and strengthened circles of care; and 2) establish evidence of purposeful activities of youth in the community.

Circles of Care impact of the project is summarised as follows:

The evaluation found that the program is community based, the real strength of **dlalanathi's** approach, is that it works with people "where they are at" which ensures that the learnings occur "in the community space, place and with their own children." All the activities are located in the community being served and reflect the realities and issues that confront those communities on a daily basis. **Caring for and protecting children at neighbourhood/ community level** the evaluation found that training and participation in the program has brought about the emergence of active neighbourhood care and protection of children. Respondents gave several examples of community members intervening to improve the safety and well-being of children. One respondent summarised the longer term impact of the program by saying "We (rural women) *only knew how to cook and plough the fields. Now we are doing more than that - we are playing a part in shaping the girls and women in our community*".



Evaluation Executive Summary



Women from Swayimane who participated in the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers Gathering

Conclusions: In terms of the overall objective and sub objectives the project has achieved its intended results and made a substantial contribution to building the understanding of caregivers and community stakeholders to the importance of consciously building *safe spaces* for children in their neighbourhoods. This was achieved through the organisation of training and awareness raising which readily translated into local level actions such as play groups and holiday programs as well as *safe houses* in the community where children go if they had problems and their parents/caregivers were not available. The communication between caregivers and their children was transformed which led to closer bonds and more open communication. For some families the improved communication and relationships permeated the family as a whole and by their own admission resulted in adults too experiencing healing and finding new sources of happiness in their own relationships and life in general.

The evaluators recommendation are that a longer project inception phase may contribute to the building of social capital, stronger and more internalised participation and commitment, as well as increase the potential for the long term sustainability of the project. Value could also be added by broadening the child protection network of resource people and engaging participants in the monitoring and assessment of the training and the project.

Swayimane has had a troubled history and this can create difficulties for projects that aim to bring about change. Many of the communities in the area contend with abject poverty and very poor infrastructure development and service delivery. The progress made within this project is very impressive and demonstrates what can be achieved with good planning, sustained effort and competent staff.

Youth in action impact of the project is summarised as follows:

The project targeted both in and out of school youth, in school, aged 13 to 19 years and out of school, aged 20-26 years.

Over the past few years Swayimane has often been the focus of negative press reports because of the high crime rate within the community coupled with the high rates of unemployment amongst youth.



Evaluation Executive Summary



Youth from Solidarities Youth Group

However, the success **of this project has changed the way local communities view the youth in their midst.**

In terms of the expected results this project has achieved a great deal of progress against all three objectives. In terms of *Objective 1*, the **participating youth have developed the confidence and motivation to engage in a number of activities for their own development** many of which benefitted the wider community as well. Young people now participate in the Community Policing Forum and Ward Committees. Their changes in their behaviour is favourably commented on.

In terms of *Objective 2*, **the community can now observe young people being active citizens in their midst.** They focus on positive things and are no longer involved in crime and drug abuse activities. In some areas there has been a decrease in crime as the youth have become involved in fighting crime in their communities. Youth participate in a wide range of community activities assisting families, schools and the clinic in a variety of ways including establishing food gardens, cleaning up and painting school buildings, organizing youth events in cooperation with other stakeholders including health, education and the municipality. Each area has a contact person who is there to assist with community issues. In terms of *Objective 3*, **youth have organized Kids Clubs and holiday programs for children.** Youth have undertaken training in counselling for teenage mothers and peer group counselling for fellow learners. There is a better relationship between youth and their parents. Parents are now more involved in the development of their youth. Parents are invited to attend and be a part of youth events. Often parents are not aware of the talents their children have and they get to know more of the skills and talents their children have developed through participating in this program.

The success of the project is very impressive. At several levels it has taken positive youth development to a higher level. The exceptional facilitation skills of the project coordinator and implementing staff and the support of the organization management combined with the youthful enthusiasm and commit of the youth themselves brought about phenomenal transformation which all concerned can be very proud of.

The evaluators recommendation are that a longer preparation for phasing out of the community,



Evaluation Executive Summary

including the establishment of a support structure for youth within the community; more training for youth on the use and management of finances as a group; and, **engaging participants in the monitoring and assessment of the project** would improve learning and sustainability of outcomes.

Overall Conclusions on both projects

The experience of planning, implementing and writing up an internal review on two different programs in the same area for inclusion in a single document has been very rich. Different programs are often, but not always, conceptualised and implemented with a silo mentality. However, **these two projects which addressed different target groups and had different objectives have in many ways exceeded the expectations outlined in the separate project proposals.** The concerted effort of one organisation implementing and managing two projects in the same area has unleashed new and focussed energy on the needs of children and youth. Despite this community's volatile history and propensity for using violence as a means of solving problems – **the projects have jointly contributed to nurturing and embedding a more compassionate and supportive response to the needs of children and youth.** It becomes very evident that projects such as these take on a life and momentum of their own. With the support of the local stakeholders the projects may well contribute to sustained long term social change. The community participants, stakeholders and **dlalanathi** can feel very proud of what they have jointly achieved.

