

Background

The Bizweni Centre for Disabled Children was established in 1998, and is 50 km from Cape Town. Its purpose was to provide quality care for children with a range of disabilities such as cerebral palsy and autism.

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In 2005 the Rotary Club of Helderberg became aware of some 16 disabled children being cared for in cramped and very basic conditions.

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Between 2005 and 2010 the Rotary Club of Helderberg raised R 2 million (US \$ 250.000) and built a specialised 378 sqm. facility which caters for up to 40 children, a huge undertaking, of which we are very proud.

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The children ranged from 18 months to 13 years of age-some requiring constant treatment, and others being prepared for standard schools with special facilities for the blind, deaf and mentally and physically impaired.

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Most Bizweni children came from poor families within a 15 km radius of Somerset West. They are referred by doctors, hospitals, social workers, psychologists and members of the community.

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The Bizweni Centre for Disabled Children relies for most of its funding on private donations. Families of children are asked for R 150 per month (US\$ 20), which many cannot afford.

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Some children will only have a short life, while others will reach maturity. The more seriously disabled require ongoing care, with the necessary qualified staff and equipment.

The Mission

To build a Skills Development Centre onto the existing facility.

Purpose

To provide up to twenty 15 to 18 year old disabled children with specialized facilities to:

- A.) Teach the more severely challenged basic life skills, such as washing themselves, dressing, toilet use etc.
- B.) Help those capable, with basic home skills, such as cleaning, cooking and bed-making.
- C.) Train those who are able into skills such as crafts and computer literacy.

And, most importantly we want to generate within each child a sense of self worth as well as to develop them to their full potential so they can contribute to family and society in their own way.

To achieve this 5 modules are offered:

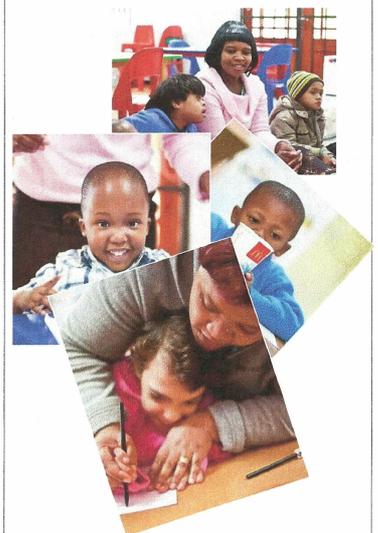
- 1.) Life skills
- 2.) Recreation and leisure
- 3.) Independent living
- 4.) Vocational education and workshop learning
- 5.) Planning for the future

Together with you the Donors, we can help these children to become valued members of their Communities.



The Project

To build onto the existing Bizweni Centre for Disabled Children a Skills Development Centre for Disabled Children aged 15-18 years at a projected cost of R 1.9 million (US \$ 232.000) and to furnish and equip the Skills Development Centre at a projected cost of R 150.000 (US \$ 18.300)



Note:

We have negotiated a long-term lease for the extended facility at a nominal cost from the land owners the Bizweni Community Church.