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UBUNTU AFRICA CHILD HEALTHCARE

Ubuntu Africa was founded in November 2006 with the mission to provide much needed support and love to HIV positive children and teens in South Africa.

About Ubuntu Africa: Ubuntu Africa Child Healthcare (UBA hereafter) is a Section 21, not-for-profit, organization dedicated to providing lifesaving healthcare and support services to HIV positive children and teens in Khayelitsha, South Africa. We provide comprehensive community based healthcare and support services aimed at improving the health and well-being of HIV positive children. UBA is also committed to fostering an empowered attitude towards HIV/AIDS in young people in South Africa and beyond.

The Meaning of Ubuntu: *Ubuntu* is an African concept based upon the connection of all human beings and sharing what you have to help another. "I am because we are" is a phrase that is often associated with the meaning of Ubuntu.

"*Ubuntu* [is] that profound African sense that we are only human through the humanity of other human beings."

-Nelson Mandela



The Need:

According to UNAIDS, around 40 million people worldwide were living with HIV at the end of 2006. Every day around 8,000 people under the age of 24 are newly infected with the HIV virus. Over 60% of new HIV infections occur in young people aged 15-25. In South Africa, around 5.7 million people are believed to be living with HIV and the prevalence of the virus is continuing to increase. An estimated 294,000 children under the age of 15 are living with HIV in South Africa. It is estimated that only around 20% of children in South Africa who need to be on antiretroviral drugs (medication to treat HIV) are receiving treatment.

Where we run our project:

Khayelitsha, the community in South Africa where Ubuntu Africa provides services, is the largest township outside of Cape Town and is home to around 1 million people. In addition to having high rates of HIV, the Khayelitsha community also faces high levels of crime, unemployment and poverty. Many HIV positive people in the community lack easy access to clinics, nutritious food, antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) and even indoor plumbing, making their illness particularly difficult to manage. Currently, there are few support services offered to children and teens in Khayelitsha who are living with HIV.

After being diagnosed with HIV, young people in Khayelitsha are often left to bear much of the burden of this disease alone. There is a great need for Ubuntu Africa's comprehensive HIV care program, which provides services designed to assist and empower these young people living with HIV in Khayelitsha.



UBA's pilot project, **Ubuntu Africa's Child Healthcare Center**, is a comprehensive community based project that addresses the needs of HIV positive children and teens in Khayelitsha. The center offers a comprehensive HIV care program aimed at improving the health and well-being of these children, and provides a loving and safe environment in order to restore the humanity of children living with HIV.



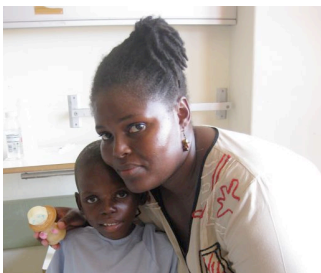
Meals

Nutritious meals that best support participants' immune systems and complement the medications that they are taking are provided at the center. For some children this is the only full meal they will eat during the entire day. Ubuntu Africa advises participants on nutrition, focusing specifically on strategies for people with limited



HIV Education and Counseling

HIV education and ARV drug compliance programs empower these young people with the skills and knowledge they need to better care for themselves. Information sessions about the disease and workshops on how best to care for young people who are HIV positive are available to parents and caregivers of the participants. In order to address the emotional and physical impacts of HIV/AIDS, both private and group counseling is available to participants at the center. This provides these children with a safe environment, where support is available, to encourage them to overcome challenges that arise in their lives.



Health Care Provider

A registered nurse ensures that participants access ARV medication (medications used to treat HIV) and is onsite to monitor the health of the children and treat minor infections before they pose a greater risk to their well-being. UBA's healthcare staff ensure medications are being taken properly, and offer care and support during illnesses, visiting participants' homes to provide care when necessary.



Social Work

The children who participate in UBA's program come from a variety of situations—many have only one parent or no living parents at all and some have been victims of abuse or neglect. UBA's social worker ensures that every child lives in a safe home that provides for their needs, attends school, receives appropriate government grants, and closely monitors their wellbeing and progress.



Fun & Confidence Boosting Activities

The center has enrichment activities including life skills training, art projects, yoga, surfing lessons, fitness, and other activities aimed at raising self-esteem and empowering the participants to care for themselves.



About the Founder

Whitney Johnson, founder of Ubuntu Africa, graduated from Colorado College in 2006, after having spent a year studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa, and volunteering in an orphanage in Khayelitsha, a township located just outside Cape Town. Ms. Johnson, who is 24 years old, was so moved by the desperate state of HIV positive children and teens in Khayelitsha that she founded Ubuntu Africa to make a difference. Ms. Johnson, is also committed to fostering an empowered attitude towards HIV/AIDS among students in the United States and South Africa and engaging young people to help battle this epidemic.

"I know that with the right support HIV positive children can achieve the health and happiness they deserve."

From the start of this organization it has always been my mission to change what it means to be HIV positive for young people. Many HIV positive children in Khayelitsha face illness completely alone and do not receive the support they need to survive. HIV does not have to be a lonely disease. I know that with the right support HIV positive children can achieve the health and happiness they deserve. UBA is putting a new face on children with HIV- they are strong, healthy, happy, and empowered.

At UBA it is not about hope or hopelessness - there is a space beyond that. I call that place limitless love and it is where all of our power lies. Love is stronger than any disease. Together we have the power to restore humanity to the lives of children living with HIV. Our impact on the world is greater than we know—and our actions have benefits that reach farther than you will ever realize. Together, one child at a time, we can heal each other, communities, and our world. That is all part of the philosophy known as "ubuntu," which we are making every effort to put to practical use.

-Whitney Johnson

Founder/Executive Director of Ubuntu Africa.



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