



**KIDS OF
TOMORROW**
When everyone lends a hand, great things happen.

SIKELELA CRECHE



Kids of Tomorrow is my registered NPO (Non Profit Organization) which I have started to try and assist creches in informal settlements in Port Elizabeth. These areas consist of houses called shacks which are made up from various materials nailed together to form a “house”.

The services in these locations are non-existent so there is no running water, no electricity and no toilets. We have managed to purchase and install 3 Dry Pit toilets at each crèche which at least restores the dignity to the children and teachers. Before the toilets were installed they used the “bucket system” which was horrendous and very unhygienic. There is no running water so water is collected in buckets for the day from various taps in the area.



There are 2 creches that I am trying to assist. The first one is called Sikelele Creche which has been operating for 4 years in Airport Valley location. They started off in 2014 with only 6 children and now have 32 children who attend daily. The children range in age from 1 -6 years of age.



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The crèches opens at 7am to allow working moms and dads to drop the children off before they leave for work and then they close when the last child is picked up which could be around 6pm when the parent is

finished work. School fees are less than \$8-00 a month and even this is difficult for quite a few families to afford. In some families both parents are unemployed so the family then has to attend a soup kitchen in the area where they can get one meal a day which is certainly not sufficient food for a growing child. For the families who cannot afford the school fees, the teacher would rather forfeit the school fees and accept the child into the school than to know the child will be sitting at home all day doing nothing.



Due to the minimal school fees it means that the teachers sometimes don't have enough money to give the children any food during the day. This has to be the creches most urgent need. You can hardly expect a child to concentrate on school work when their tummies are rumbling. I try to find sponsors for food but it is very difficult. Examples of food they need would be samp and beans, soy mince, porridge, pilchards, macaroni, rice and

vegetables ie potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, pumpkin.

ESINELITHA CRECHE



The second crèche is called Esinelethu Day Care. They have 45 children who attend. The situation is exactly the same as Sikelele crèche where there are no services. At this crèche there are 2 classrooms, one for the little ones and then one for the older children.



There is one pre-requisite for me to help the creches and that is that they have to teach the children during the day. I don't want the creches to be a baby sitting service, they have to use the time constructively. I have had the teachers training courses sponsored and I pay for the teaching material and books for the children. The teachers have to attend courses through out the year on knowing what and how to teach the children.



At the end of the year I put together a Christmas party for the children. I get sponsors for each child at the 2 creches where the sponsor will buy specific Christmas presents for each child. Items would be for example a toy, an item of clothing, a ball, a facecloth, bar of soap, toothbrush and a packet of sweets. These families don't have money for food let alone Christmas presents so I try and spoil each child at least once a year.