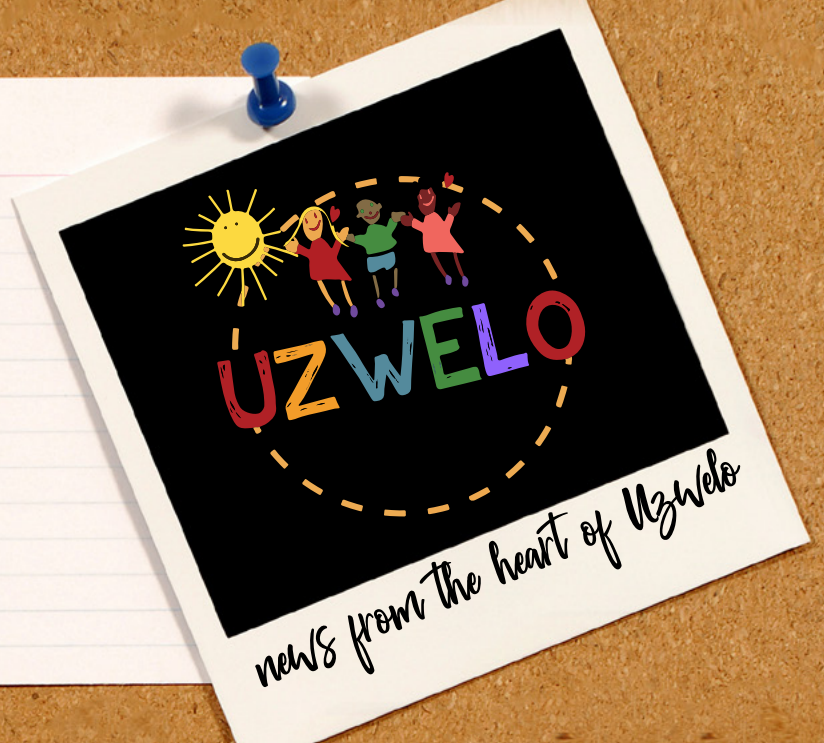


UZWELO NEWS



SUMMER 2020

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come with fear. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue."



August was Women's Month...

..and there is no better place to find examples of women we can look up to for various reasons than in the Bible:

Ruth as an example of faithfulness and redemption, Hannah as an example of dedication, Deborah was a prophetess and judge....But when it comes to looking for a woman who changed an entire community there is no greater example than Esther.

If you've never read it before, the Book of Esther reads just like a story book. There's a rebellious wife who was excommunicated, the evil schemer who wanted to kill off an entire nation, a vain king, a wise old uncle, and finally, a beautiful, innocent young Jewish woman. The Lord strategically placed Esther in the presence of the king at just the right time in order to save the Jewish people from being killed. God's chosen people!

Esther risked her own innocent life in order to approach the king and plead for the lives of her own Jewish nation. Esther's uncle says the words often heard in Christian circles "... and who knows but that you have come to a royal position for such a time as this."

One can't help but ask the question of our own selves- why has the Lord placed me here and at this specific time?

We may never know what greater purpose the Lord has for us in what may seem like an ordinary, everyday life. Who knows what life you may influence that could have the ripple effect to change an entire community! Never let the enemy use what may seem a weakness (for Esther, that was being a Jewess) to stop you from being obedient to the Lord in both the big and the small things.

In our own organisation, in our own town we are privileged to have women that make a difference in the lives of the lonely, the little and the lost. These dedicated and dynamic women lead by example, serving and advocating for children.

We salute you!

Written by Christen Hallis



James 1 vs 27: Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this to look after orphans and widows in their distress"



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OUR UZWELO *women of strength*



DAGMAR WESTON

She is a mother of 3 children and grandmother of 8 grandchildren and a mentor-mother to many in Wellspring Ministries and in His Kingdom.

She and her late husband, Pst. Len Weston were the co-founders of Uzwelo Home in 2001. As a couple they travelled far and near to raise awareness regarding the needs of traumatised children and children heading families during the HIV pandemic. They were able to establish partnerships which also financially fuelled the Uzwelo Home and UROC projects.

Funds generated were utilised for renovations of buildings, purchasing of equipment and establishing of safe parks in rural areas servicing hundreds of children. They were instrumental in encouraging local and international volunteers to share their time, treasures and talents with Uzwelo children.

As a true ambassador she has a commitment to improve the lives of children in Piet Retief, Mpumalanga, RSA and Africa. She is a women of strength.



DR. MELINDA DE KLERK-FERREIRA

Melinda is a general medical practitioner in Piet Retief since 2004. She has a special interest in women and children's health. Her strength is rooted in the Lord and her passion is serving the community.

Her kind manner and professional conduct makes her an asset in our health programme.



MATRON SARAH NTSHALINTSHALI

Sarah is a qualified child and youth care worker. She has dedicated fifteen of her life serving at Uzwelo Home. Not only is she available for children 24/7 but plays a significant role in mentoring care workers.

She has strengthened Uzwelo Home chain of services and supported the weak meticulously.





BAKHETHILE BUTHELEZI

Bakhethile grew up in Mdukuzane, a rural village in the Piet Retief district. She joined the community based child and youth care programme, Uzwelo Rural and Orphan Care in 2007 after being unemployed for 7 years.

She qualified through NACCW as a care giver. Her experience as a teenager- taking care of her own schooling needs and supporting her family has enabled her to have a good understanding of poverty and children's struggle to continue with schooling.

As project manager she is a worthy role model for many residing in rural communities.



ANNEKE RABE

Anneke Rabe is the founder of a Non-Profit Organisation - Victorious Women in Christ - who has as its goal the reaching and discipling of rural girls and women to help them to reach their God given potential.

Through Victorious Women in Christ and the assistance of various partnerships in the body of Christ, eight learners have been assisted to further their tertiary education.

She strongly believes when the Church in Mkhondo is truly unified- the most vulnerable will be taken care of, which will eliminate the societal ills that we as a community are deeply faced with.

She coordinates a ladies Prayer Group – the Esther ladies and also the Mkhondo Prayer Network. She served for 12 years on the leadership of WENSA(World Evangelisation Network of SA).She is currently on the leadership of a national SACLI (South African Leadership Initiative) - working on helping the South African Church to journey from Racism to Reconciliation called Reconciliation SA.

Her strength is her faith that prayer can bring about changes. A true friend and prayer warrior for children of Uzwelo.



RIANA BRITS AND KAREN NIEUWENHUIZEN

Riana Brits and Karen Nieuwenhuizen are the founders of Keeping Girls in School. They became aware of girls being absent from school due to their menstrual cycle and the lack of sanitary towels in 2016. KGS has empowered many girls in rural areas (also 287 Uzwelo Rural Orphan Care girls) through providing Subz pads and panties.

They are a dream team putting girl's unique needs first.

A HUGE thank you to PG Bison, Piet Retief

Thank you for our HUGE table.

Here home work will be done, projects will be planned, meetings will be held and special meals will be eaten!





THE 3 GOLDEN RULES TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19:



Wash hands



Wear masks



Maintain social distancing

UROC was able to give **890** children masks.

Thank you for the masks donated and the funds to purchase masks for children in rural areas.
Thank you for being part of the solution!

WE STILL REQUIRE MASKS FOR CHILDREN. THE CHALLENGE IS ON!!!



Uzwelo Home has a new roof!

Renovations : meaning the process of repairing and improving a building so that it is in good condition again, or the improvements that are carried out.

This main building consists of: 17 bedrooms for 40 kids, 8 bedrooms for care givers, bathroom for girls, boys, staff and disabled, a store room, a medical room, 2 TV rooms (for juniors and seniors), dining room, kitchen that serve nearly 50 000 meals per year, walk-in fridge and freezer and a covered veranda. Although we are ready for the next season, the rainy season, the ceilings and walls are begging for a lick of paint.



You can be a partner in making this building a comfortable and pretty home for the residents. Call Khantsi @ 017 826 1204.

Child Protection Week 2020

National Child Protection Week is commemorated in the country annually to raise awareness of the rights of children as articulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and Children's Act (Act No. 38 of 2005).

Uzwelo Home was honoured to receive the MEC of Social development, Ms Thandi Shongwe and other official during the child protection week in May 2020. Not only did she bring words of appreciation and encouragement but she showered the children with purposeful gifts.

The children appreciate this kind and warm gesture of care!



Uzwelo Home staff and MEC and officials of department of Social Development.

“ Mother Teresa: Love begins at home

Catherine Pulsifer: Home is where we should feel secure and comfortable.

William J. Bennett: Home is a shelter from storms- all sorts of storms.



Nothing like a warm winter blanket to drive the cold away!





COVID-19 impacted the lives of everyone - our beneficiaries were also hard hit.

Children residing in rural areas were not attending schools and thus not receiving a daily meal from the school feeding schemes. For many this was their only meal for the day. For others they desperately needed this meal to continue with their chronic medication. In accord to the Covid regulations children could not be served with hot meals at the safe parks. Neither were they able to meet at the safe parks to engage with care



UROC



UROC



UROC

givers or peers. Being aware of our children's needs UROC was able to partner with different organisations to ensure food security for rural children during the past 5 months. Caring community members also contributed financially and in kind.

UROC says "Thank you" to:

Lunchbox, Vumbuka Trust -TWK, Wellspring Ministries Fontana congregation, Mondri, Gift of the Givers Department of Social Development & Shoprite.

DID YOU KNOW?
INTERESTING FACT

SA is food secure but millions of children are stunted Ofentse Mboweni 15 Oct 2019 - online night editor at the Mail & Guardian

The right to food is enshrined in our Constitution. According to the 2018 Global Food Security Index, South Africa is ranked as the most food secure country in Africa and 45th out of 133 countries worldwide. But, this status is in stark contrast to the fact that at least a quarter of South African children suffer from stunting. In essence, we produce

enough food, but not enough of it is finding its way on to everyone's plates.

Stunting is a condition that arises from prolonged undernutrition and affects the physical and brain development of children, especially in pregnancy and the first two years of life. This affects the cognitive development of young children and undermines their ability to learn. As a result, stunted children are more likely to drop out of school and live in poverty and unemployment as adults.

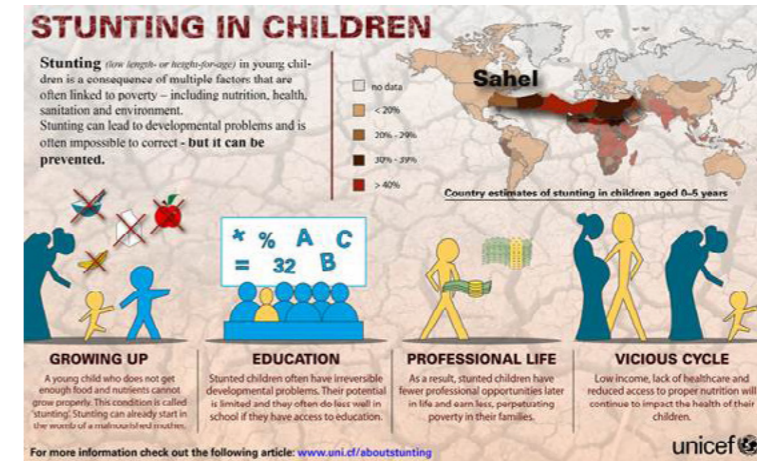
National dietary surveys estimate that 77% of children between the ages of six and 23 months do not receive a minimally acceptable diet and that 2.5-million children live below the food poverty line, because there is insufficient money in their households to cover the cost of their basic nutritional needs.

South Africa's prevalence of stunting is far higher than one would expect for a country that ranks as the most food-secure country on the continent; it is much higher than its development counterparts Gabon, Ghana and



Senegal, which rank lower than South Africa on the Global Food Security Index.

The good news is that stunting can be beaten. Countries such as Brazil, Mexico and Chile have reduced stunting significantly. They employ a well-co-ordinated, multisectoral approach to ensure that children can get nutritious foods in their neighbourhoods, as well as clean water and sanitation to protect them from diarrhoeal diseases that limit the absorption of nutrients.



These countries also prioritise local health workers as the workforce best placed to reduce stunting, equipping them with the skills to support families to make healthy food choices and identify vulnerable children early so that they can receive the extra care they need.

Keeping this in mind UROC wishes to play a positive role in preventing stunting. UROC has engaged with the Department of Health and will continue with the awareness programme in the rural communities as the Covid regulations allows.

IN LOVING MEMORY

In memory of Uzwelo Board members:

**Francois Mostert
and
Ashwin Mahabeer**

Their legacy will live forever.





MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS!



No matter how small your action, Mandela Day is about changing the world for the better, just as Nelson Mandela did every day.

Medical staff caring for COVID-19 patients face mental stress, physical exhaustion, separation from families, stigma, and the pain of losing patients and colleagues. With this in mind Uzwelo staff decided to spoil the health workers that offer services to Uzwelo children and staff diligently throughout the years. Uzwelo staff spent more than 67 minutes in baking, packing and distributing sweet eat treats to various of our frontline health workers of Mkhondo.

Khantsi Soldart-Dludla, operational and communication officer, Nospoho Mntyali, Manager/ Social worker with health workers during the Mandela day visit at the local clinic.

"It always seems impossible, until it is done"
-Nelson Mandela



UZWELO HOME

BANKING DETAILS



FNB
Current: 6203 277 4699
Piet Retief
270844

UZWELO RURAL ORPHAN CARE

BANKING DETAILS



FNB
Current: 6212 098 7617
Piet Retief
FIRNZAJJ335

