

## MARY COETZEE FOSTER CLUSTER HOME, SOMERSET EAST

Tollie's African Safaris is a loyal supporter of Mary Coetzee Children's Home. There are 18 children in the children's home at present and 3 house mommies who look after the kids. The children's home are very dependent on donations such as clothes, toiletries, school supplies and food such as meat and fresh vegetables and fruit as well as cash to pay for the monthly expenses like power, water etc.

## **PROFILE AND BACKGROUND:**

The launch of the "HIV/Aids and Care for Children" program during 1998 led to the establishment of this project. Despite funding constraints, it was the impact of HIV/Aids and the degrading living conditions of vulnerable and orphaned children that motivated the Somerset East Child Welfare Society to initiate this child care project during 2004.

Funding from the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund enabled the organization to implement planning around 2004. The need to ensure stability and providing the necessary care for vulnerable children is growing at a rapid pace. The necessity for displaced children to grow up in a more normal set up, unlike a Children's Home structure, motivated the organization to establish the option of foster cluster homes. At the moment the generosity and support of the local community is helping to keep the Home going.

A high prevalence and devastating consequences of the HIV/Aids pandemic and other life threatening diseases on family life make it more difficult for family placements in the community. Escalating poverty and unemployment growth in a community with already limited resources is a direct cause of increased family disintegration. Insufficient child care facilities in the Eastern Cape and the trend to move away from residential care to a more normalized living structure are contributing motivational factors. Long distances hamper family re-unification services, which are a significant feature of this project.

## **MISSION STATEMENT:**

To ensure a healthy, happy and caring environment for HIV/Aids affected and infected, abused, orphaned, abandoned and children at risk.

- 2.3.1 We believe in the potential of each child to develop if nurtured over time.
- 2.3.2 We recognize the importance of quality education and will continuously strive to enhance a constructive daily program.
- 2.3.3 We will comply with legislative requirements and the general accepted Code of Good Practice as to uphold the standard of service delivery.
- 2.3.4 Continuously emphasize the importance of teamwork and a supportive attitude towards one another. Activities of the Project:
- 2.3.5 Meet the basic needs of the affected children through the provisioning of food, clothing and shelter.
- 2.3.6 Ensure the necessary education and primary health care through a constructive daily program.
- 2.3.7 Render emotional and psychological support through a wider network of professional expertise.
- 2.3.8 Equip children with the necessary life skills as to enhance their successful adaptability during the vital phases of their life cycle.
- 2.3.9 Provide recreation and sporting activities.

Thanks to all our past hunters who have contributed money, clothing, supplies, meat, food etc and to those who will do so in future.

If you would like to contribute towards the children's home, or if you would like to sponsor a child, please get in touch with us.

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Hunting in Africa with Tollies African Safaris

