

Deepening our Case Management Services

“Ubuntu’s strategy is all about “moving closer to the child,” and this is exemplified in our case management work,” explains Ubuntu COO Jordan Levy. Ubuntu’s Case Management approach is proving effective in stabilizing the most vulnerable households in our community through counselling and referral to essential services such as income grants, emergency food parcels, and an array of much needed clinical services. This system has allowed Ubuntu to penetrate the lives of over 500 child clients on a much deeper level, resulting in a truly profound and long lasting impact.



Our case managers reach the most vulnerable children.

Ubuntu’s Deputy President and teacher of 25 years, Gcobani Zonke, was recently confronted with a very tough situation when a student participating in Ubuntu’s camp programme behaved so aggressively and disrespectfully that Gcobani had to stop the entire class in order to deal with him. However, the boy continued to threaten and intimidate both his classmates and his teachers. Gcobani tried to work with the child, but the child was obviously in need of help

beyond discipline. He referred the boy to Xolelwa Ncinitwa, one of Ubuntu’s eight Case Managers, who met the child for ongoing counselling sessions to break through the abusive behaviour that the boy displayed toward her.

Xolelwa bonded with the boy by showing him that she had grown up in the same type of circumstances. He began to open up to Xolelwa sharing the horrible truth that both his parents had perished from HIV/AIDS and he was living in a shack with his sick grandmother and five younger siblings.

Xolelwa began visiting the family on a regular basis, counselling both grandmother and child and showing them that they should not blame each other for their suffering. She then began educating the grandmother on ways that she could treat her illnesses and lessen her pain. The boy became more and more responsive to Xolelwa’s ideas. His behaviour at the camps improved, and he even became a star performer at the talent show at the end of the three week term. His poem “The Future” brought many of our staff to tears.



UBUNTU

UPDATE

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Responding to a Crisis

The rapidly increasing number of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in the townships of Port Elizabeth is an immediate measure of the impact of HIV/AIDS in our communities. In a recent intake of a general population of schoolchildren into one of our school holiday camps, 40% were OVC. The incidence of child-headed households is escalating, as is the number of elderly grandparents caring for orphaned grandchildren. The burden of responsibility for care giving and coping with a family member who is suffering from AIDS-related illnesses invariably falls on women, particularly girls and grandmothers. Ubuntu Director Anne Magege explains, “We are experiencing “repeat orphaning” — OVC’s are taken in by a close relative who then also becomes sick and dies. There is a significant lack of safe spaces with adult mentorship and support in a community-



Young girls making friends at the Ubuntu holiday camp.

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Archbishop Tutu Headlines Ubuntu’s Annual Benefit



Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Donna Karan and Iman at the benefit.

On June 6th, Ubuntu Education Fund hosted our First Annual Benefit at New York City’s Puck Building. Nobel Peace Prize winner and Ubuntu Patron Archbishop Desmond Tutu addressed the 450 guests as the inspiring keynote speaker. Kevin Bacon emceed the event which featured Angelique Kidjo, a Grammy-nominated singer from Benin and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, whose up-tempo, effusive music had the entire room on their feet by the end of the evening — including the Archbishop.

In his speech, Archbishop Tutu praised Ubuntu’s range of activities, from introducing children to computers to counseling young girls on protecting themselves from HIV infection. The Archbishop focused on Ubuntu’s philosophy of local, community-inclusive development, which initially drew him to our grassroots efforts in Port Elizabeth. Referring to Ubuntu President Jacob Lief, Tutu said “He didn’t come in as a know-it-all. He has gone in as someone who has wanted to serve. He has also involved (our community) as partners.”

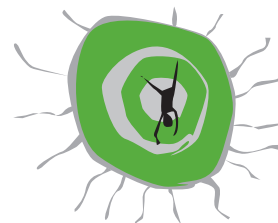
It is this overwhelming spirit of community that made the evening such

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based setting for OVCs. These spaces are essentially to ensure well-being and recovery from trauma”

Over the past year Ubuntu launched a specialized OVC programme to focus on providing 300 of our most vulnerable children with access to health services, nutritional support, assistance with obtaining child support and foster care grants, school kits, learner-ship/bursary opportunities, after-school programmes, holiday camps, intensive academic tutoring and support groups.

Ubuntu's Holiday Camps

School break. A tiny girl no more than eight years old stands proudly in the center of a large circle of her peers. In her loudest voice she bravely leads her schoolmates in a call and response warm up exercise that soon has the whole group whooping with laughter. While many children look forward to a few weeks of sleeping in late and playing with their friends, holidays in the townships often mean missing free school lunch and a time of extreme vulnerability for school age children. A lack of adult supervision results in increased instances of child abuse and neglect during these holiday periods. In



Kids attending the holiday camp are provided with a healthy meal.

response, Ubuntu has devised a unique plan which empowers 300 Orphaned and Vulnerable children with a fun and educational experience while keeping them off the streets and fed during the school holidays. During “Camp Ubuntu,” children are provided with counselling and emotional support in addition to educational activities such as art, drama, poetry, lifeskills, and journalism.

Librarian of the Year

Ubuntu Programme Director Qondakele Sompondo has been nominated for the Librarian of the Year Award for 2006 by The Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA). A prize of R25, 000 will be awarded to the winner for research and professional development. The Librarian of the Year is a prestigious award given to a person whose contributions are judged to have made a lasting impact on the South African society in the field of libraries and information services.

Qondakele has been recognized based on his work at Ubuntu Education Fund, his expertise in educational development and his commitment to improving library and information services in South Africa. Throughout his career, Qondakele has worked within his disadvantaged community to reach thousands of children and young adults with literacy programs, career guidance and resources. The nomination for the award is an acknowledgement that Qondakele and Ubuntu Education Fund have demonstrated best practices in the field of information services in South Africa.

The winner will be announced at the LIASA Conference 2006 later this year.



Ubuntu Program Director Qondakele Sompondo.

In other news

We would like to thank **Until There's a Cure** for generously donating AIDS awareness bracelets to our kids in the holiday camps.

Ubuntu at the World Economic Forum

In a major recognition of Ubuntu Education Fund's unique approach to development, Ubuntu Co-Presidents Banks Gwaxula and Jacob Lief were chosen this year as finalists for the prestigious Social Entrepreneur of the Year award from the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. The final round for the award was incorporated into the World Economic Forum in Cape Town from June 1st – 3rd, 2006.

While attending the World Economic Forum, Banks and Jacob had an unprecedented opportunity to explain the Ubuntu Model of Development to major players at the highest levels of African development. The Ubuntu Presidents spent three days attending workshops with government leaders, captains of industry, decision makers from large foundations, community leaders, international aid agencies, and other stakeholders in South Africa's future.

Jacob emphasized that; “The vote of confidence from the Schwab Foundation and our inclusion in the conference are indicative of the growing international profile of Ubuntu's innovative approach to the challenges facing our communities.”

Ubuntu Walks Tall

Over 500 Ubuntu supporters joined AIDS Walk New York in Central Park on May 21st 2006. By far the most ambitious grassroots fundraising and awareness event Ubuntu has ever undertaken, the AIDS Walk raised \$100,000 to treat and prevent HIV and AIDS in our communities. The event was an opportunity for many people to translate their concern about AIDS into action by getting directly involved with Ubuntu's efforts. High School Junior Kitty Ng said, “It is so important for my generation to know about AIDS in the world — and to know we can do something about it.”

Making Treatment Accessible

KwaZakele Day Hospital is a severely under-resourced health clinic located 5 minutes away from Ubuntu Education Fund Headquarters in Port Elizabeth. Through our partnership with the Canadian Government and American Jewish World Service, Ubuntu has spent the last six months building the clinic's capacity to test people for HIV and distribute life-saving ART drugs. During this time period, Ubuntu has doubled the number of people receiving the pre- and post-test counseling necessary to get tested for HIV and has increased ART access by 22%.



Community members attending a workshop on ARV drugs.

Ubuntu Director, Lungi Fatyela, who was recently appointed Secretary of Port Elizabeth's steering committee for ART distribution, explained the importance of our clinical services: “Over the past six months we are reporting an astronomical 54% positive rate of the people we are testing at the clinic, of which 69% are female. We are obviously reaching a high-risk population which is going to prove key in reducing prevalence rates through secondary prevention services including risk reduction and timely enrollment in Anti Retroviral Treatment.”

Ubuntu's pilot initiative has proven that the NGO sector can play a vital role in bridging the gap between HIV testing and ARV therapy. Today, we are capable of ensuring that our community can access treatment, regain health and, in essence, stem the tide of AIDS deaths.

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a great success. The benefit was a true turning point for Ubuntu Education Fund. The event was covered by several leading news organizations including the *Financial Times* and the *New York Times*. We raised in excess of \$600,000, far surpassing our fundraising expectations for the event and enabling us to reach thousands more orphans and vulnerable children and their communities. More than that, it was a chance to share the spirit of *ubuntu* with our family of supporters in New York.

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