

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



play and be well.

dlalanathi

hope and healing for children affected by loss.

# in celebration...



... of our achievements in 2011 we bring you a new look Annual Report. We have drawn out the highlights of our year and as the story unfolds, we trust you will discover something of value that will stay with you (or even hang on your wall).

As dlalanathi enters a new decade of service to children we affirm that to make the world a better place for our children we need to support families and those consistently in children's lives to value mental health and wellbeing as a critical part of children's development. We start by meeting families in difficult circumstances and offering a gentle invitation to play. We can only do this as we are supported by others, and by faith and hope.

We remain humbled by the commitment of families and selfless community organisations caring for children against the odds. They remain our teachers daily. Together we have served 3 950 children, a welcome 13% increase over last year!

Sincerely yours,  
**dlalanathi team**

<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Adults</b>	1210
<b>Families</b>	495
<b>Youth</b>	846
<b>Children</b>	3950

read a detailed report at  
[www.dlalanathi.org.za](http://www.dlalanathi.org.za)

# chairperson's report



...we also  
need to  
learn  
from our  
children...

If I look at our context today, and what the media reflects as fundamental causes of the wrongs in our society I cannot help but think maybe it is about time that we as parents, leaders, carers and adults in general not only listen, educate and socialise children but also learn from them. Our children teach us values fundamental to enabling change, through play and exploration. As adults we can espouse the values and yet we embody contradictions even with our own children.

### **Children teach us to ask searching questions:**

Wise men and women of development processes assert that to facilitate the most empowering development requires an ability to ask good, deep and critical questions and do this with patience. Sadly adult impatience to know and answer often silences children's questions.

### **Children teach us to take risks:**

We learn that the most successful and honest entrepreneurs (not the tender ones) are those who take calculated risks. Children find it much less intimidating than adults to learn, explore and analyse stuff 'outside the box'.

### **Children teach us to tell the truth:**

Children are so honest at times, how safe is such honesty with us? When an adult asks the child if he/she was responsible for a mess and we punish them for accepting responsibility. Are we hoping that they will grow up telling the truth?

Our society requires of us as parents, time with our children. The board of **dlalanathi** have taken the challenge of playing with our children and we invite all adults to do the same. We also challenge our peers to go one better and nurture the above values the correct way. As we encourage and nurture good values with our children **dlalanathi** (play with us) must also be fundanathi (learn with us)!

The board would like to extend our appreciation to the communities we worked with. We are grateful to our staff, management, those who recently moved on from **dlalanathi** and those who joined, as they all have made our year a success.

We record our appreciation to our committed donors, collegial organizations and other service providers for complementing our humble strategies.

For us as the Board, sustainability discussion was the highlight of the year. We also welcomed new members, and introduced a finance sub-committee to add value to an already well-oiled team of financial management.

Let's play and learn from our children. Thank you.

**Simanga Sithebe**

# community process

by Faith Shabangu and Nontobeko Khoza



**O**ur Community Process has produced results beyond our expectations! 2011 represents the final year in a 2 and a half year journey with Mafakatini and KwaPata communities. A more emergent process begun in 2009 sought to increase a community based response to children and families affected by loss. Through awareness, networking, joint service, training and mentoring partnerships we achieved many of the goals set, including much greater reach of children, better referrals for children, and a fund to support and sustain activities after **dlalanathi's** exit. Each aspect of the process encourages community independence, as led by the intentions of the participating community members. Emotional care for those serving children and families in distress is a vital part of the model.

Beneficiaries	Mafakathini – Rural KZN	KwaPata - Peri Urban KZN	Grand TOTAL
Adults	356	531	887
Families*	149	243	392
Youth	781	65	846
Children	999	1826	2825

\*incl adults in family support & P4C

Overall Impact in both Mafakatini and KwaPata:

- Outstanding community based reach of children and families;
- Base for sustaining this service, established prior to exit;
- Essential skills necessary for building and sustaining emotionally safe relationships with children mastered by community member's;
- Consistent quality of emotional care to children and families demonstrated in feedback.

## Mafakatini Community (on the road to Underberg)

A committed group of 16 community members who call themselves **Aba Duduzi Besingane** (Comforters of children) or **AB's** for short have been trained and supported in practice to provide community based psycho-social support to children and families within Mafakathini.

The group above has achieved the following (total reach reflected in table):

- Run healing support groups or individual play based counseling for children and families;
- Created and sustained play opportunities for children through holiday programmes and play groups;
- Participated in the establishment of the Mafakatini Child Care Forum – a group of community members, community stakeholders seeking to keep children's issues on the community agenda AND direct support to those in need.

The community process included strengthening emotional care of children through other community based structures (clinics, creche's; and other NGO's). It was facilitated by Faith Shabangu as Community Manager and Nqobile Nhlumayo as Community Facilitator, who was replaced in May by Gugu Mpembe.

## KwaPata

### (Peri-Urban Community in Pietermaritzburg)

Nontobeko Khoza entered KwaPata in her second year as Community Manager, and Mbulelo Duma served as Community Facilitator. In KwaPata we support different organizations operating in the community (churches, women's groups, NGO's and CBO's). Most of our efforts in 2011 focused on a consistent group of 8 active AB's from Thandanani Children's Foundation, Red Cross and Izimbali Zesizwe CBO.

The group celebrates significant reach of children (see table of results). Their establishment of a Child Care Forum has made a significant contribution by creating a better referral system in KwaPata, AND it supports working together to respond to needs and address challenges.

### Highlight of the year:

Mbulelo Duma, accompanied Sithembile Ndlovu and Gogo Zondi both gogo's (grannies) AND active AB's on a trip to Canada hosted by the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF). The Foundation's funds come from grassroots Canadian grandmother's efforts to raise awareness and funds to support grandmothers in Africa. The trip to Toronto and Vancouver involved meetings with SLF staff, media interviews, presentations to donor groups and building international relationships.

On returning home Sithembile said " I valued being given space to tell my own story, and felt humbled that I was representing not just **dlalanathi** and children and families in KwaPata context, but all of Africa's children. The presentations gave me the opportunity to think and talk about the broader issues affecting children and gogo's in South Africa".

# working with youth

by Mbulelo Duma

As a team we have completed the development of **dlalanathi's** Youth Process during 2011. We aim to provide emotional support to youth and involve young people in taking positive action for themselves. Our efforts in each community have focused on understanding youth and testing newly designed programs in practice, e.g. using play and music appropriate to teens and youth to support loss.

During 2011 we acquired skills in the solution focused approach, and developed short workshops specifically for youth looking at strengths and power and co-operating with others in groups (we call this Hero's in harmony). These workshops have helped us support youth and directly increased youth participation in issues affecting them;

Running community and school events, setting up and sustaining a referral system within a school and many other personal stories of mastery and empowerment. Adding youth as a group to support alongside work with families and children in KwaPata & Mafakathini has enthused and challenged us. At the end of 2011 KwaPata has a strongly functional youth group, continuing into 2012 with a relationship with young people in Switzerland in an organization called, 'Imagine international'. In Mafakathini our hopes of an independent youth group working together beyond 2011 were not achieved due to political dynamics affecting youth and group harmony. We served youth with deep care in urban and rural settings over the year, and our rich learning will strengthen youth as we enter new communities in 2012.



# training unit

by Nandisa Tushini



Training work within the **dlalanathi** framework involves building professional and respectful relationships between **dlalanathi** and key strategic partner organizations. These relationships challenge African and Western worldviews and inspire change and growth for the purpose of healing by using the resources (emotional, cultural, and educational) that the community already has as a building block for training in emotional healing practices. We build close relationships with partner organisations serving communities that we do not directly work with. This strategically scales up the work that we do exponentially. Three Counseling Psychologists, Pinky Majola, Nandisa Tushini, and Sibongile Mkhize ran a total of 46 workshops (33 trainings plus 13 feedbacks in 2011).

Our highlight has been the reach achieved by those we trained as trainers. Seven partner organisations trained a further 81 people, to use play to support a child coping with loss.

The staff of St **Anthony's Children's Home** in Newcastle said "**dlalanathi** training has helped us to be open minded and not judgmental towards children. We learnt skills to help us to listen to children from their point of view and to work at understanding where the child is coming from. The training also gave us the opportunity to deal with our own emotional needs and that this is important to ensure that we are socially and emotionally available to children. The tools that **dlalanathi** uses with children are cheap and easily accessible and they help children to tell their stories the way they wish to, even the quiet children open up. This process has raised our awareness to the fact that though there are many things that may have shaken one's life, there is also a positive story that one can tell. **dlalanathi** staff are highly professional and make the training enjoyable. We are grateful for the opportunity to have achieved so much in such a short time".

Participants also noted the importance of strengthening families as well as children. The training process with regular follow-up with the group offers something critical to participants, i.e. Emotional Support, listening and care for their own journey of learning and ongoing work. Resilience requires emotionally supportive relationships and we can't support others without having them ourselves.

Beneficiaries	Trained in direct work with children	Training others	Grand TOTAL
Partner Organisations	25	7	32
Adults	242	81	323
Families	103		103
Children	1125		1125

# financials

## 2011

by Sindi Mkhize

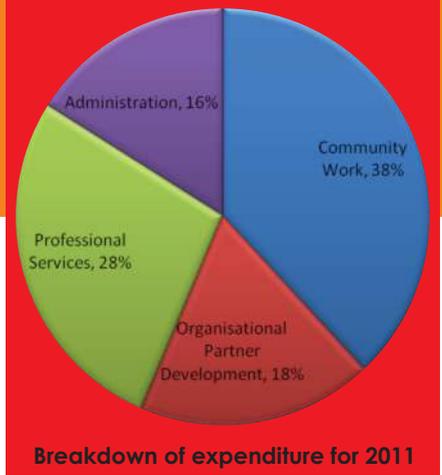
### Financial Report Year ended 31 December 2011

**2011** has been a difficult year for the economy in general as reflected by donors and corporate organizations cutting back on spending and new projects. **dlalanathi** managed funds carefully to serve beneficiaries and achieve goals utilizing the available financial resources. The financial position at the end of the financial year was good. 57% of 2012 budget was committed at the end of 2011 (beginning of 2011: 56%), same level as the previous year and a healthy start to the new financial year.

**Income:** **dlalanathi's** overall income for 2011 was R 2 893 541 (5% decrease from 2010's R3 039 133). The total income comprises of funding income totaling R2 756 957; a slight decrease from the 2010 figure of R2 799 712; general income decreased significantly from R240 210 in 2010 to R136 584 in 2011. General income includes interest, regular and random donations, and **dlalanathi**-generated-income.

**Expenditure:** Overall expenditure equaled R2 919 785 (2010: R2 707 290). Cash holding at year end was R677 467 (2010: R741 144).

**Sustainability funds** invested with Pietermaritzburg and District Community Chest's Beneficiary Investment Consortium, R200 000 (2010:R100 000). Return on this investment in 2011 was 12% (2010: 10%).



Breakdown of expenditure for 2011

## Financial Contributors

*With gratitude we wish to thank all those who have invested in our work this year.*

- Kindernothilfe e.v. (Germany)
- The Uthando Project (Australia)
- Stephen Lewis Foundation (Canada)
- terre des hommes schweiz (Switzerland)
- Pietermaritzburg & District Community Chest
- Firelight Foundation (USA)
- D G Murray Trust
- Ken Collins Trust

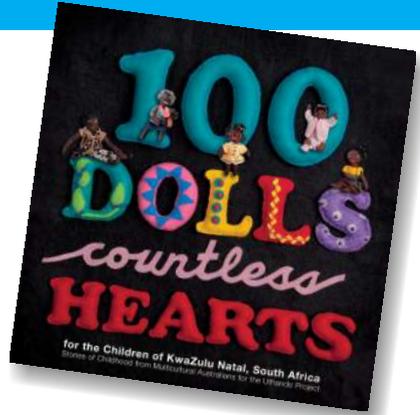
- National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund
  - KZN Provincial Government: Department of Social Development
  - HCI Foundation
- Individuals**
- Christopher & Christine Merrett
  - Mr Alistair & Helen Stephen

- Mr & Mrs A Wood
  - Mrs B M Ward
  - Mrs Zohra Sooliman
  - Des from DesDesigns for her amazing gift of making **dlalanathi** look so good
- Gifts in Kind**
- Cowan House School (stationary, toys & sweets)
  - The Uthando Project (dolls)

# 100 dolls

# countless hearts

For a number of years, **dlalanathi** has enjoyed a creative, caring and supportive partnership with Uthando Dolls, a grass roots organisation in Australia that mobilises men and women, old and young to make dolls for distribution to children here in KwaZulu Natal. Uthando Dolls has made, packaged and sent via boat over 31 000 dolls to the shores of KZN and each doll now belongs to a child somewhere in our province. One of the things that we are grateful to share with Uthando is the joy of believing in "possibility". We believe in the possibility of renewed relationships between children and adults, which strengthen children even in the most adverse circumstances and that the love and care invested in the making of a doll in Australia communicates an ocean of love and belonging to a child who has never owned a doll before in their lives.



In 2011 Uthando Dolls published a book that tells the story of a multicultural group of people in Australia who make dolls for different organisations in KwaZulu Natal. "100 dolls Countless Hearts" is a photographic and narrative essay that looks at 100 dolls and their doll makers, the organisations to which the dolls are sent in KZN, the dolls on the ground and in the hands of children, and a compilation of patterns to both sew and knit to guide the reader in their own doll making.

The publishing of "100 dolls Countless Hearts" shares the compassionate generous story of people who care. It is a creative way of generating income for **dlalanathi** and a vehicle of creating awareness of amazing work that is being done with the intention of strengthening the capacity of caregivers to build closer emotional connections with the children in their care.

If you are interested in purchasing a book do contact **dlalanathi** at 033 345 3729 or [admin@dlalanathi.org.za](mailto:admin@dlalanathi.org.za) The cost of the book is R250 + postage.



7<sup>th</sup> Floor Gallwey House, Gallwey Lane, Pietermaritzburg, 3200  
Postnet Suite H46, Private Bag X9118, Pietermaritzburg, 3200  
Tel: 033 345 3729 • Fax: 086 517 2525 • [www.dlalanathi.org.za](http://www.dlalanathi.org.za)



“

what we desire our children to become,  
we must endeavour to be before them.

”

andrew combe

play and be well.



**dalanathi**

hope and healing for children affected by loss.