



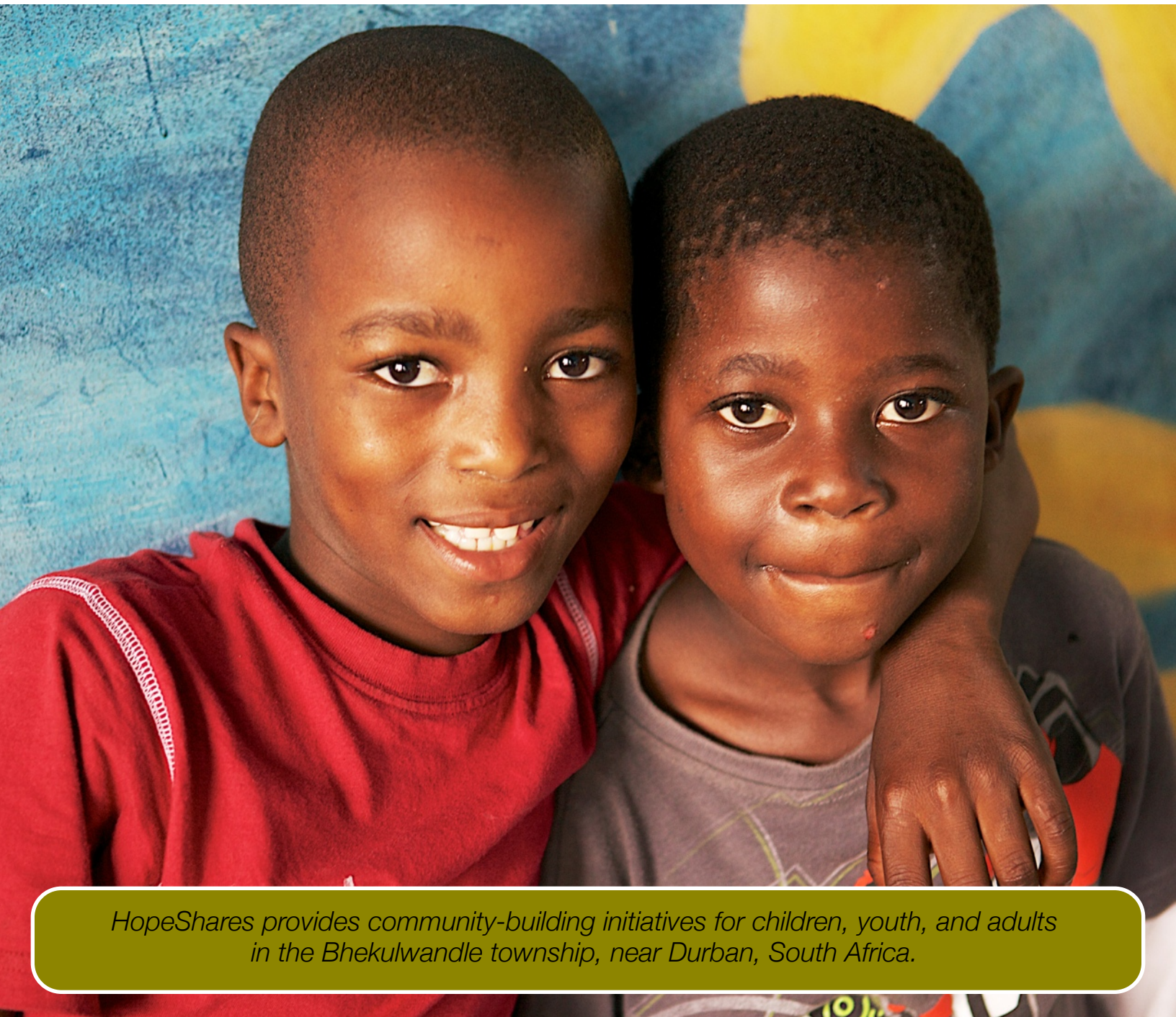
October 2013

H O P E S H A R E S

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LOOKING FORWARD

Celebrating a decade of restoring hope, changing lives and empowering the community.



HopeShares provides community-building initiatives for children, youth, and adults in the Bhukulwandle township, near Durban, South Africa.

VOICES OF BHEKULWANDLE

Greg Gillespie shares his experience about creating a moving documentary about not only a community's struggles but also its hopes and dreams.



As part of the Seed of Hope's 10th Anniversary Celebrations, I had the opportunity to co-produce a short film, the Voice of Bhekulwandle. It was meant to be a gift to the community. The film features a variety of residents recalling memories of the area, explain their current struggle with crime and poverty and sharing their hopes of what they'd like to see Bhekulwandle become.

In seeking trust and cooperation from community members, the film's most valuable asset became obvious: The solid reputation of the Centre and its staff, Gloria and Musa. I considered this an honor, because I realize that they entrusted me with their credibility as they requested volunteers. They

knew who in the community should be included in the film, who would need time to be convinced and would never pressure anyone to do so. In turn, each interviewee trusted us to frame them with dignity and maintain the integrity of their statements. That kind of trust isn't cheap.

Because of this, most of our first meetings were without a camera. We'd simply visit people in their homes, explain the project and show a little preview of our first interview stored on my phone.

It was important that one of our first visits was with an Induna, one of the senior community elders. As Gloria or Musa would explain the project in Zulu, I would wait in

anticipation that the nods of understanding would turn into nods of agreement.

The film isn't an advertisement for the Centre in South Africa, and is completely unscripted. We believed that enabling people to speak with their own voice would be another way that the Centre could live out its mandate of equipping people of Bhekulwandle to bring about social growth.

This film was literally made for the community by the community.

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40,000 TO ZERO

Together we can see the number of children infected with HIV each year be reduced to zero.



In a small shanty on the other side of the world sits a young woman named Precious. She's facing a dilemma. Expecting her first child, she feels joy and excitement as a new life grows inside of her. Sadly, though, it is overshadowed by fear. You see, Precious is HIV-positive.

Precious is scared of what is to come. She has seen many family and friends suffer the heart-breaking stigma of this deadly disease. She wonders if she will pass the virus onto her baby. She worries about what kind of life her child will live...or if it will live.

It is a story that is all too familiar in South Africa.

Each year, 40,000 South African children are infected with HIV through childbirth or breastfeeding.

To curb this devastating tide, all it takes is a single dose of medication during labour and training about prevention of HIV transmission during breastfeeding.

At HopeShares, we are helping the women of South Africa by providing pre-natal education, HIV

testing and post-delivery follow-up at Seed of Hope Community Development in the township of Bhekulwandle.

To support this life changing work at the Centre, we are introducing the "40 Project". Our goal is to see the number of children infected with HIV each year reduced from 40,000 to zero.

Your donation today will help our health team provide HIV education and community health care to HIV-positive women in this community and truly see the number of children infected drop to zero.

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10 YEARS OF COMMUNITY BUILDING IN BHEKULWANDLE

A beautiful celebration of the past decade of life changing work in South Africa



Local children perform in traditional attire at the Seed of Hope's tenth anniversary celebration.

Tracey Mah-Gillies of Calgary reflects on her experience at the 10th Anniversary Celebrations at Seed of Hope.

"Jabu, sing for me. Sing anything." The deep bass voice began with a soft note, added to by the others on the kitchen cleaning detail. Soon the space was filled with words of praise for God, encouraging all who were blessed to be present, with the natural harmonies of their voice. These were the voices of the staff at Seed of Hope as they prepared together for the 10th Anniversary Celebration.

The preparation began long before this past week. A team was formed

months ago to plan for this gift to the members of the community of Bhekulwandle. It was the vision of the team to celebrate the history of Seed of Hope while at the same time, encouraging the voices of the community to come together to lead themselves into the future. A future filled with hope, with peace and with compassion for one another.

Saturday arrived with warmth and breezes...a perfect day. The tents were set, the chairs in rows, the food prepared,

and the Seed of Hope Center dressed in her finest. The guests arrived, many of them past volunteers, young adults who had attended programs in their youth, and others who had been touched by the love of those at Seed of Hope. What reunions! Tears, hugs, and much laughter.



A tent full of people eagerly await the celebration

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The Program began with music, traditional Zulu dancing and singing, with prayers of thanks to our Heavenly Father and memories of Derek Liebenberg, co-founder of the Seed of Hope South Africa. One of the many highlights included personal testimonies from several community members whose lives have been deeply touched by the staff and programs offered at Seed of Hope.

The afternoon moved on with additional comments from Heather Liebenberg, Carl Waldron, Robert Diami and local Inkosi, Nathi Maphumulo. The Inkosi is the local Head official, sometimes referred to as King, so it was certainly an honour for him to participate in the program. In keeping with tradition, a large ram was offered to the Inkosi as a gift for attending.

A definite highlight was the video presentation of a documentary by Greg Gillespie and Carl Waldron, entitled "The Voice of Bhekulwandle". At the conclusion of the showing, Carl invited members of the community to add their voice through upcoming meetings facilitated at the Seed of Hope.

The formal portion of the afternoon wrapped up with a Zulu Song that had the entire audience up and singing.



A ram was given as a gift to the local Inkosi (King), Nathi Maphumulo who was an honoured guest.



Carl Waldron, Kelly Schwartz (HopeShares Canada), Robert Dlamini, Heather Liebenberg, Trish Pritchard (HopeShares Canada) and Gareth Bowley, SOH Board Chairperson



Guests exhibit pure joy while celebrating with dance during the anniversary event.

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18 HOLES FOR HOPE

Our inaugural golf tournament was a huge success

Despite drizzly and cold weather, the hearts of golfers were warm and generous at the First Annual 18 Holes for Hope tournament on Wednesday, September 18th at the Hamptons Golf Club in Calgary. With forty golfers registered and several tournament sponsorships secured, the event was deemed a success even before the first golfer teed off.

18 Holes for Hope was the brainchild of long-time friend of Heather Liebenberg, Tracey Mah-Gillies. She and her husband, Jim Gillies, believed that a golf tournament could be a great opportunity to introduce their friends and associates to the important work being done by Seed of Hope in South Africa.

“We were so grateful and humbled by the response we received to the invitations we sent out,” says Tracey. “It wasn’t long before we received a Gold Sponsor and from there it just grew!”

In fact, with golfer registrations, sponsorships and generous donations, over \$28,000 was raised through the tournament. “Considering we were aiming for \$10,000, this was pretty remarkable,” says Jim with a smile.



Jody Schwartz, Jim Gillies, Tracey Mah-Gillies and Kelly Schwartz present Heather Liebenberg with a cheque for \$26,800. More donations were received after the event bringing the total to over \$28,000

After their round, golfers enjoyed a reception and silent auction in the beautiful Hamptons clubhouse. A delicious dinner followed, along with prize presentations and an inspiring program featuring video clips from Seed of Hope and a special address by Heather Liebenberg who was home in Alberta at the time.

“Being at the tournament to see the support for the work we’re doing at the Centre was very gratifying,” says Heather. “I was able to thank the golfers and sponsors personally for their donations and let them know that their generosity was going to have a huge impact on the lives of the people we serve in Bhekulwandle.”

Plans are already underway for next year’s tournament. If you would like to lend your support to the planning or have interest in sponsorship, please contact holesforhope@hopeshares.ca.

“We were so grateful and humbled by the response we received”

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HopeShares Canada is grateful to the following sponsors for making our inaugural golf tournament a great success!

Gold Sponsor:



Silver Sponsors:



Bronze Sponsors: Axis Mechanical, Jim Doucette - RE/MAX (elbowvalleyhomes.com), Foley Inspections, Hopewell Developments, TRL & Associates

Hole Sponsors: Burnco Rock Products, Legacy Kitchens, Manchester Properties, Whissell Contracting, Williams Group of Companies

Special thanks to Doug Gunn and Tim Hortons for their generous donation of lunches, refreshments, prizes and gifts for our golfers and volunteers.



Westside King's Church pastor, Bobby Thirsk (shown here with Heather Liebenberg) proudly wears the African "Green Jacket" for his tournament winning foursome!



Grant Mutch, Ian Whitfield, David Friesen, HopeShares Board Member, and Sander VanderWhissle



Cold weather was no match for the warm hearts of the BKDI foursome.



Gerry Provencal, HopeShares Canadian Director golfs with Duane Grierson of Axis Mechanical and Rob Johnson.

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FAITH FOR TRANSFORMATION

Progress can be hard to gauge. It's particularly true when your goal is massive and bigger than your own capabilities.

At Seed of Hope, the aim of our work is the eventual transformation of a community through its own people. The measure of our success has become the number of local men, women and children who are committed to improving the lives of others and have faith in God's ability to use them in the process. When a person, whether young or old, educated or not, realizes that they have great value and potential, they automatically begin to exert influence over the circumstances and environment in which they live.

As we have listened to the voices of Bhekulwandle's residents this year, we've heard remarkable new things stirring all around the community.

Zephania, who attended a short conservation farming training workshop last year, is now inundated with neighbours asking about the unique methods he's using and the superb results they have produced in his garden. He has begun helping us prepare a training garden in a new community to enable other farmers to emulate his success.

Two young men who graduated last year from our Live Out Loud leadership program, Ntokozo and Luyanda, are among the founders of a grassroots community group that now encourages youth in Bhekulwandle to serve community needs. They also use their creative



talents to motivate other teens to avoid violence and drug abuse. Recently they and their fellow young leaders made faith commitments to Jesus Christ and joined a local church where they are thriving.

Ernestina, who has been teaching women to sew at the Seed of Hope Centre for 6 years, is making plans to launch a fashion design training program for our graduates. She will teach them to creatively craft patterns for wedding dresses and fancy traditional Zulu garments – opening up new marketing opportunities in Bhekulwandle for high quality sewn goods.

And when we interviewed 24 community members for our Voices of Bhekulwandle documentary this year, we were stunned to hear no requests for outside help – but rather an appeal for locals to gather to discuss their shared problems, and find shared solutions.

These living, breathing signs of transformation give us faith that the

renewed community we strive for is possible! Faith that new ideas are cultivating hope for the future. Faith that a new generation of leaders will be willing to serve and sacrifice in order to right the wrongs that have held their community in poverty, dependency and disease. Faith that God is indeed making all things new here amongst us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Waldron".

Carl Waldron
HopeShares Director
South African Operations



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