



TIAS ARMS

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Our Vice
President Visits
South Africa

HEARTBEAT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

- Nelson Mandela

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

TIAS ARMS is a non-profit, non-denominational organization that believes in providing a dignified, nurturing, and compassionate environment for orphaned or abandoned children affected by HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Dear TIAS ARMS Community,

As I write this letter, my heart is filled with deep gratitude and admiration for the incredible community surrounding TIAS ARMS. With mixed emotions, I share the news that February will mark my last month as the president of this remarkable organization. However, I am confident that TIAS ARMS is in capable hands, and our impact together will resonate for years to come.

My journey with TIAS ARMS has been nothing short of inspiring, and I am immensely grateful for the unwavering support of our dedicated volunteers and generous donors. Your selfless contributions have been the driving force behind our success, enabling us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children we serve.

Our collective efforts have brought about positive change, offering hope, education, and a brighter future to those most in need. We sent around \$130,500 to our groups in 2023! Your kindness and generosity will leave an indelible mark on the lives of countless children, and for that, I extend my deepest appreciation.

I look forward to seeing TIAS ARMS thrive in the capable hands of those who will carry the torch forward. Thank you once again for your invaluable support and may the impact of TIAS ARMS continue to resonate for many years to come.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Margaret Moodian, Ed.D.
President of the Board, TIAS ARMS





FROM EMPTY CONTAINER TO FULL HEARTS

TIAS ARMS' Never-Never Land Full-Service School Library Project Triumphs, Thanks to Generous Donors

Thanks to our generous donors, the Never-Never Land Full-Service School Library Project is up and running. Over the past year, our boots on the ground in South Africa, our donors, and the TIAS ARMS Board have made this idea a reality for over 160 students from pre-K to 6th grade. In June 2022, it was only an empty container. During Joanne Baker's visit in 2022, our founder spoke with one of the boys and asked him about his favorite book and his love of reading. He went to the bookcase and returned with his favorite book. It was well-worn, as were many of the other books on the shelf - and so the idea was born.

The founder and headmistress of Never-Never Land School, Zandile Olga Mdladla, gave her blessings for this project. A retired school librarian, Carol Brebner, volunteered at Never-Never Land twice a week and became our primary point of contact in South Africa. She was instrumental in locating contractors for the construction and used her professional relationship with book publishers and bookstores to streamline the process of acquiring books, lessons, and other library materials. Carol Brebner and her team of five volunteers are the heart and soul of this project's success. We are grateful to you all.



TIAS ARMS Board Vice President Belinda Stewart-Burger visited her family and Never-Never Land in February 2023 and January 2024. She eagerly jumped in, facilitated payments, and established agreements with vendors. The entire TIAS ARMS Board has contributed to the success of this project.

Today, that container is a library with custom shelving, books, computer desks, projector, and audio-visual equipment. Adding an outdoor veranda with a covering and concrete floor greatly expanded the outdoor library space. Adding mats, tables, and chairs created a space for large gatherings and student performances.



In 2024, TIAS ARMS will shift into sustainability mode. Incorporating the music appreciation program, replacing and updating materials and equipment, and maintaining the librarian stipend.

Thanks to our donors and supporters, TIAS ARMS has enhanced the gift of learning with this library. Never-Never Land School is in a remote township away from the city's resources. In the words of Carol Brebner. "Never-Never Land School is a shining light in a needy community where Zandile and her teachers inspire confidence, through knowledge, in children who could otherwise so very easily never reach their potential. The children's imagination will soar. "The library is fully functioning and our All-Time HAPPY PLACE."

The Board of TIAS ARMS warmly welcomes you to

SAVE THE DATE

for our annual spring fundraiser



TEA AT TWO

May 5, 2024

2 - 5PM


2023 IMPACT REPORTING

From the Vice President of the TIAS ARMS Board, Belinda Steward Burger:

TIAS ARMS prides itself as an organization for knowing where our funds go. This is made possible by the fact that not only is TIAS ARMS a grassroots and personal organization, but that Board Members are frequently able to visit the sites and grantees. These visits bring newfound joy, passion, and transparency to the work we do. In February 2023 and again in January 2024, I was blessed to travel to South Africa and visit the staff and children at HOKISA, Khazimula Children's Home, St. Joseph's Preschool, and Never-Never Land Full-Service School. These visits provide the opportunity to establish very meaningful relationships with all those involved, such as the incredible staff and teachers who provide the care to the children affected by HIV/AIDS. We make a huge impact in the lives of the children we support. Our gratitude is immense! The children are doing well under the dedicated care of all those involved, and the library at Never-Never Land looks beautiful.

The next pages detail the use of our funding towards the organizations we supported in 2023.
Thank you for your generosity!

GRANDMOTHERS AGAINST POVERTY AND AIDS (GAPA) IMPACT REPORT

 VEGETABLE GARDEN

 NUTRITIOUS MEALS

Reflection on 2023 from Natalie at GAPA:

We are so grateful that we will be able to continue our work in Khayelitsha - our hearts are full.

With your 2023 funding, we can:


1. Maintain our prolific vegetable garden, with carrots, spinach, morogo (African spinach), kale, spring onions, celery, parsley, and tomatoes. Our fruit trees were too young to yield in 2023, but we look forward to enjoying their fruit in 2024!
2. Gift grannies and children with seedlings to start or maintain their own gardens.
3. Supplement our children's daily meals with fruit, chicken, and fish.



Our Aftercare project continues to nurture vulnerable children in Khayelitsha in many ways because of your generosity. This allows us to continue supporting, feeding, encouraging, building resilience, and showing them charity and kindness.

WAVES 4 CHANGE IMPACT REPORT

 HOT MEALS

 SURF THERAPY

 TRANSPORT

- o Providing Surf Therapy to girl children, including hot meals and safe transport to and from the program, all while building trust with their communities.



NEVER-NEVER LAND FULL-SERVICE SCHOOL IMPACT REPORT

 FOOD

 TRAINING

 SHELTER

 SALARIES

 TRANSPORT

 WATER STORAGE TANKS

 BREAD-MAKING PROJECT

 RESOURCES FOR VEGETABLE GARDEN

 STAYING OPEN DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



Teachers at Never-Never Land Full-Service School

Zandile Olga Mdladla, principal, writes of 2023:


"We are grateful for your donation and for being part of our cause. Your generosity inspires us every day. Your support means the world to us! Without it, we would not be able to have the impact we have on our community and world. We couldn't do it without donors like you - thank you for believing in our mission and helping us make a positive impact".

ST. JOSEPH'S PRESCHOOL IMPACT REPORT

 HOT MEALS

 SALARIES

 TRANSPORT

 SCHOOL FEE SUBSIDIES

- o The most basic need of St. Joseph Preschool continues to be a subsidy to school fees, so the staff can be paid a minimal remuneration for their dedicated years of service.
- o Salaries for long-time teachers, a hot meal program for the children with food being sent home for the neediest of families.
- o Transport from the township so that the children can attend this preschool.



Joanne Baker (founder) with children at St. Joseph's Preschool

KHAZIMULA CHILDREN'S HOME IMPACT REPORT

🍲 FOOD	👕 SCHOOL UNIFORMS	👟 SHOES
💰 SALARIES	🚗 TRANSPORT	🎵 MARIMBA LESSONS
🩺 HEALTHCARE SERVICES	🕯️ THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM	🎓 EXTRA SCHOOL HELP

With a generous donation from an anonymous donor, we have supported the future purchase of a much-needed mini-van for the transport of the children at Khazimula Children's Home.



A note from Lorraine Yoko, Chairperson of the Board:

TIAS ARMS' instrumental support of our organization gives us the opportunity to continue to positively influence the life trajectory of each child in the Khazimula. Know that the children in our care make good progress both physically, emotionally, and academically because of your generous funding. Thank you for partnering with us to uplift the lives of the vulnerable children and youth at Khazimula!

MIDLANDS HOSPICE IMPACT REPORT

🍲 FOOD	💰 SALARIES
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- Salary for Childcare & Social workers serving children with HIV/AIDS.
- High-caloric food program with twice monthly deliveries to the homes of the child patients.



HOMES FOR KIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA (HOKISA) IMPACT REPORT



HOUSING



MEDICAL CARE



EDUCATION



THERAPY

Phillip Rihlampfu, Manager, shares the following story:

Your contributions have played a pivotal role in sustaining our mission at HOKISA, enabling us to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children in need. You have contributed to essential programs, education, and healthcare for the children in our care. Below is the story of Bongani, whose life has been transformed through occupational and play therapy and the love and care received at HOKISA:

- Bongani was placed under the care of HOKISA, after being admitted to hospital due to malnutrition and other chronic illness. Under our care, Bongani attended school for the first time. However, the school and Care Workers noticed significant developmental delays.
- Bongani received daily individual care from a volunteer occupational therapist, who found that his basic concepts, body awareness, muscle tone, gross motor, fine motor, and visual perceptual skills were delayed. Therefore, he repeated his Grade R year in 2023 and attended play therapy.
- The therapist also noted Bongani's difficulty regulating his emotions, and that he did not engage verbally, due to trauma. He frequently experienced anger outbursts and dissociation.
- Thankfully, the play therapy provided excellent support for Bongani's behavior and emotions. He has settled in well both at home and at school.

None of this could have been possible without your continued support. HOKISA wishes you a joyous and prosperous 2024 filled with love!

JOY2READ IMPACT REPORT



ART SUPPLIES & LESSONS

- This is our newest outreach program, providing art supplies and lessons to children in an underserved rural community. Many of the children have HIV, and the program brings delight to their challenging days.

GET INVOLVED

Are you interested in volunteering or becoming a board member with TIAS ARMS?

If so, please contact Joanne:
(949) 375-0616
joanne@tiasarms.org

SUPPORT US

A little goes a long way - see how you can help!



SCAN ME

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.TIASARMS.ORG