

~~~~~ **1000 HILLS**  
**COMMUNITY HELPERS** ~~~~~



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## 1. Summary

“ I have been to homes where four to five family members are sitting on the floor having warm water for supper” says Dawn Leppan, founder of 1000 Hills Community Helpers. *We have taken them under our wing.*

We had three young boys come to our office the other day looking all dirty and scraggly, “Why are you not at school”? we asked, they said that they were hungry and heard that we give food. After questioning them we learnt that they hadn’t seen their mother since 2003 and that a neighbour a couple of houses down from where they live was giving them food but she couldn’t feed them any more.

*We have taken them under our wing.*

Xolani stands by the doorway holding his baby brother in his arms while his four year old sister stands by his side. They watch as we approach with our vehicle as they are expecting us this time of the week. We enter this one room shack, and sit on a tattered mattress. Xolani glances through the entrance of the shack. His gaze lingers on a group of children kicking a ball nearby, but only for a moment. He rises and lays the baby down on the mattress. We have brought food and other goodies and they need to be put away.



Xolani is 12 years old.

His parents both died a year ago, probably of Aids, but no one really knows for sure.

*We have taken them under our wing*

We have many stories like these, too many to list here..

Today, the number of Aids orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) thrust into parenthood like Xolani is soaring in Kwazulu-Natal, the hardest-hit province in South Africa. By tradition, Zulus adopt all orphans, whether they’re family or not.

It’s not unusual for 10 unrelated children to live with an elderly “auntie” or “granny”.

There’s a word in isiZulu, ubuntu, which means ‘helping other people in the community’ But the sheer number of orphans is overwhelming this centuries old practice.

Not only does this disease constitute an enormous health challenge, it also undermines efforts to raise living standards and eradicate poverty, and jeopardize peace and stability in many of the worst effected areas.

A comprehensive response to this disease is needed. This requires predictability of funding levels, long term financial commitments and resources.

Investments in effective prevention, treatment and supporting health delivery systems will save thousands of lives and lesson the socioeconomic impact of the disease on all.

1000 Hills Community Helpers have been active in and around the Valley for the past 11 years and currently have a dedicated part-time group of volunteers working from temporary premises at St Theresa’s Mission in the Inchanga area. The need to develop our own centre has become pressing, with the increase in the numbers and the need for assistance in the areas growing daily. **This project is a high profile social responsibility opportunity for many organisations to be involved with.**



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## 2. INTRODUCTION

The Valley of 1000 Hills is a breath-takingly beautiful subtropical area in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa - covering approximately 100 sq km and stretching from somewhere east of the city of Pietermaritzburg almost to the Indian Ocean just north of the coastal city of Durban. The “Valley” - as it is known to those who live in and around it - is covered by a myriad small hills - which cause the life-giving waters of the Umgeni River to thread a convoluted path to it’s destination in the sea.

But the beauty and seeming tranquility of the Valley is marred by the misery and destruction caused by those dreaded horsemen of the apocalypse who ply their deadly trade in vast areas of Africa - HIV/AIDS, hunger, unemployment and crime. Actual statistics for any one region are extremely difficult to come by - but administrative records from various NGO’s working in the area suggest an unfolding tragedy along the following lines –

- A “Valley” population of approximately 300,000 with a death rate which is lowering overall life expectancy at an alarming rate
- An HIV/AIDS infection rate of 42%
- A mother-to-child infection rate of 41%
- Unemployment of at least 40% of the working age population
- Unconfirmed crime statistics which show a frightening level of social violence which include - rape, child abuse, incest and murder

By 2010, there will be 40 million Aids orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in 19 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, USAID predicts. Before the first Aids case was reported 25 years ago, about 2 percent of South African children had lost one or both parents. Today that figure stands at 10 percent.

There are many reasons behind the epidemic’s harsh grip on South Africa: the legacy of apartheid, limited access to antiretroviral drugs, widespread denial, a tradition of polygamy, a high rate of child rape and child brides, government apathy, the prevalence of diseases like tuberculosis and malaria that weaken the immune system. But above all there’s poverty.

It is this scene which confronts the very many charity, community, and church groups who work tirelessly in the area in an effort to arrest - or at very least - slow down - the carnage being caused by HIV/AIDS, hunger and crime.





### **3. 1000 HILLS COMMUNITY HELPERS**

#### **Start-Up**

Dawn Leppan - founder of 1000 Hills Community Helpers - was raised by her grandparents who owned a restaurant situated beside the then main highway which meandered through the Valley, on route to Durban. It was her grandmother's never-ending compassion towards the impoverished local community which inspired Dawn to visualise a goal for improving the lives of those in the area less fortunate than she.

Dawn realised that many children were dying in poverty, hunger and without dignity. This was unacceptable to her and her vision of providing structured assistance to those in need was soon to become reality.

Together with the late Alan Paton, the first "soup kitchen" was established to provide nourishment to some of the people in the community. From that first project, this vision has grown to provide essential services to the people in the form of health care, education, infant care and HIV/AIDS awareness. But these needs have now far outgrown the operation currently in existence.

Dawn Leppan has received numerous awards over the years for her dedication to the people of the valley one of which was the Paul Harris Award from Rotary International.

The "1000 Hills Community Helpers" organisation was established in 1995 and has since been registered as a "Non profit Organisation" with the Department of Social development (Registration No. 042-122-NPO) and have registered as a public benefit organization with the Receiver of Revenue (Registration No. 930020228)

#### **4. Current Operations**

1000 Hills Community Helpers have been active in and around the Valley for the past 11 years and currently have a dedicated part-time group of volunteers working from temporary premises at St Theresa's Mission in the Inchanga area where they provide support in the following areas:

- A **feeding scheme** which has this past year supplied over 12 000 plates of nutritious food to the hungry - operating one day per week - and which continues to feed approximately 300 destitute people each week.
- A **medical clinic and baby clinic** which is only able to operate one day per week because of financial constraints - tending approximately 90 adults, 130 children and 65 babies - and providing instruction and education for mothers on proper feeding and hygiene for their babies who are weighed and provided with food, nappies, clothing and bottles on a regular basis



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- 1000 H.C.H are currently trying to meet the needs of the jobless sector through identifying appropriate poverty alleviation opportunities for persons with minimal skills. Several self-help programmes have been set up to empower those who are living below the breadline. **Craft skills** development training for adults has proven to be very successful.
- Instruction and training in the creation of **community gardens** for the cultivation of vegetables for self nourishment.
- A **home-based care** team who give as much suitable medication available. Families are counseled about hygiene, nutritional and HIV/Aids issues .Those that are unable to get to the clinic are not forgotten. Dawn and her helpers drive into the valley to deliver medicine and food and to tend to the sick They visit the ill and dying at home in the evening. When a child is dying they visit twice daily to give moral support.
- **Food parcels** are handed out to the very needy and 35 child headed families are assisted with food parcels, clothing and counseling.
- Several **crèches** in the Valley of 1000 Hills are assisted. These include Mamjokwe's, Sibahle and Imbaliyezwe.

If there has ever been an event in history that has united people across cultural, political and geographical boundaries, it is the AIDS pandemic of the 21st Century.

While researchers put all their learning, skill and creativity into finding a cure for this modern day plague – every day, people are infected and are dying.

Whilst the need is great - the facilities, helpers and funds are severely limited - thereby creating a desperate situation for both those who provide assistance - and for those who are in urgent need. There is thus an ongoing appeal for foodstuffs, medicines, clothing and above all - finance. Large numbers of children who have been badly infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS virus and are now orphans with nowhere to go for assistance.

So what of the future?





## 5. FUTURE PLANS

1000 Hills Community Helpers have developed a long term operational plan. The need to develop our own centre has become pressing, with the increase in the numbers and the need for assistance in the areas - highlights of which are reproduced here –

- **Vision** - Our Vision is an improved quality of life for HIV/AIDS infected and affected children and adults living in the Valley area through feeding schemes, clinics, counseling, home-based care, crèches and support groups.
- **Mission** - Our Mission is to help turn that Vision into reality through dedicated and compassionate service to the people of the Valley of 1000 Hills.
- **Goal** - Our initial goal is to create a facility in the Inchanga area in the form of a Child Development Centre & Outreach Centre which will provide-
  - Medical care in the form of a clinic staffed by nurses trained in specialised HIV/Aids care in partnership with Charishealth U.K. & USA and Care Now Foundation U.S.A.
  - Counseling, protecting and supporting children and adults affected by HIV/Aids
  - Subsistence feeding
  - Crèche facilities. These children can be physically and mentally stimulated to help develop their potential
  - Craft tuition
  - Vegetable gardening instruction and training
  - Religious instruction

In pursuit of that goal - we have been granted a 50 year lease - at no cost - of an ideally placed 1.5 acre site in the Inchanga area on which we plan to establish our first Community Care Centre called Ikhaya Lo Thando (See conceptual architectural drawings in Appendix A). The building work has been phased to facilitate the financial feasibility of the project. Local labour and skills development of the local community are encouraged and are to be used to ensure this is truly a community project.

We have the support and approval from the local chief as well as the full support of the local community.

At this point in time we have been assured of initial funds of R 420 000.00 out of an estimated current total requirement of R 1 202 286.32



## 6. FINANCES

### Capital Costs :

At this stage it is planned to construct the new Community Care Centre on a two-phase basis :

#### Phase I

This phase will involve the construction of the essential core facilities :

|                                                   |                      | <u>Cost</u>  |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| • Kitchen, Office, Storeroom & Skills Development | 331,16m <sup>2</sup> | R 461 784.28 |
| • Child Development Centre                        | 234,03m <sup>2</sup> | R 253 048.53 |

#### Phase II

This phase will consist of the construction of the balance of the Community Care Centre :

|                            |                      | <u>Cost</u>  |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| • Medical consulting rooms | 324,54m <sup>2</sup> | R 444 753.51 |

## 7. Estimated Capital Expenditure

| Summary of   | <b>Community Care Centre</b>                            |              |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Present      | Kitchen, Office, Storeroom                              | R 431 784.28 |
| Construction | Child Development Centre                                | R 233 048.53 |
| Cost         | Medical consulting rooms                                | R 404 753.51 |
|              | Sundries (Municipal approval of plans, soil tests, etc) | R 11 400.00  |
|              | Contingencies                                           | R 31 300.00  |
|              | Professional Fees                                       | R 90 000.00  |

Prices are based on present average prices for labour and material within the framework of the building industry.



## 8. APPEAL

1000 Hills Community Helpers - as a completely voluntary and non-profit organisation which relies totally on the voluntary work of community-minded helpers and the generosity of its financial donors, it is on this basis that this appeal for assistance has been launched.

In order to assist with bringing Phase I and II to fruition - donors and sponsors are needed to assist with –

Building and construction costs - R 782 286.32

Monthly operating costs once the Centre commences full time operations - R 75 000.00

For those wishing to participate in this desperately needed project - see Appendix B for further information.

## 9. Local and International reports

UNAids reports "Over the past year, there has been a broad, growing recognition of the need to intensify and accelerate action towards universal access to comprehensive prevention, treatment, care and support"

The Emergency Plan in South Africa: The U.S. Government (USG) supports implementation of South Africa's Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan and works with more than 200 diverse partners, including governmental partners at all levels, academic institutions, NGOs and faith based organizations (FBOs), and private sector partners.

Several other key principles also guide the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (the Emergency Plan) response in South Africa. Those principles include:

- Evidence-based programming selected and designed on a sound research base;
- Enhancing human and infrastructure capacity to help South Africa achieve its health and social goals related to HIV/AIDS while strengthening the overall public health system;
- Designing sustainable programs and service improvements.





## **Critical Intervention for HIV/AIDS Care**

Nearly 900 community leaders, volunteers and resource center staff have been trained as “barefoot” social workers to help provide assistance to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in conjunction with Nurturing Orphans of AIDS for Humanity (NOAH).

### **Challenges to Emergency Plan Implementation**

Over the next few years, South Africa will greatly increase the entire spectrum of HIV and AIDS interventions. The health system response must be scaled up from providing antiretroviral treatment (ART) to 56,000 people now to hundreds of thousands more, and also must cope with long-term support for the increasing numbers of patients on ART. At the same time, over one million orphans and perhaps millions of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) will need access to social and health services by 2008. While the Emergency Plan will contribute substantial support to an integrated SAG program in all of these areas, needs will exceed services available, making efforts on prevention to ensure the majority of South Africans remain HIV negative essential.

Mr. Nelson Mandela “Eloquence on this pandemic is good, but it is not sufficient... Unless we are able to follow what we say by doing something practical, our eloquence is less than useless.” “Aids is a war against humanity.”

## **10. CONCLUSION**

Our organisation has the support of the community at large and is not limited to a specific race, religion or section of the community.

Our organisation maintains proper financial records, regularly audited by registered external auditors.

Our organisation regularly networks with other like-minded organizations or groups.

Our organisation and the proposed project will be sustainable in terms of personnel and financial resources.

The basis of any funding will be a transparent relationship whereby donors will have the right to examine the books of the organization at any time.

1000 Hills Community Helpers will ensure rigorous assessment of all activities through regular and accurate reporting and evaluations to monitor our achievements.

The challenge will be to scale-up the response with the most effective programs, to meet the human and system capacity demands, and to continue transformation of health care and other systems so the response is sustainable.



Investments in effective prevention, treatment and supporting health delivery systems will save thousands of lives and lesson the socioeconomic impact of the disease on all.

It will only be through the continuing selfless dedication of the team of helpers who will operate the Centre, the generosity of it's donors - together with the courage and determination to survive by those affected by the greatest scourges of our time - poverty, hunger, HIV/AIDS and crime - that the people of this magnificent Valley area - have a fighting chance of survival !

We - from a privileged level of society - dare not fail those who need our help !

For and behalf of 1000 Hills Community Helpers

Ms. S.M. Woods  
Trustee

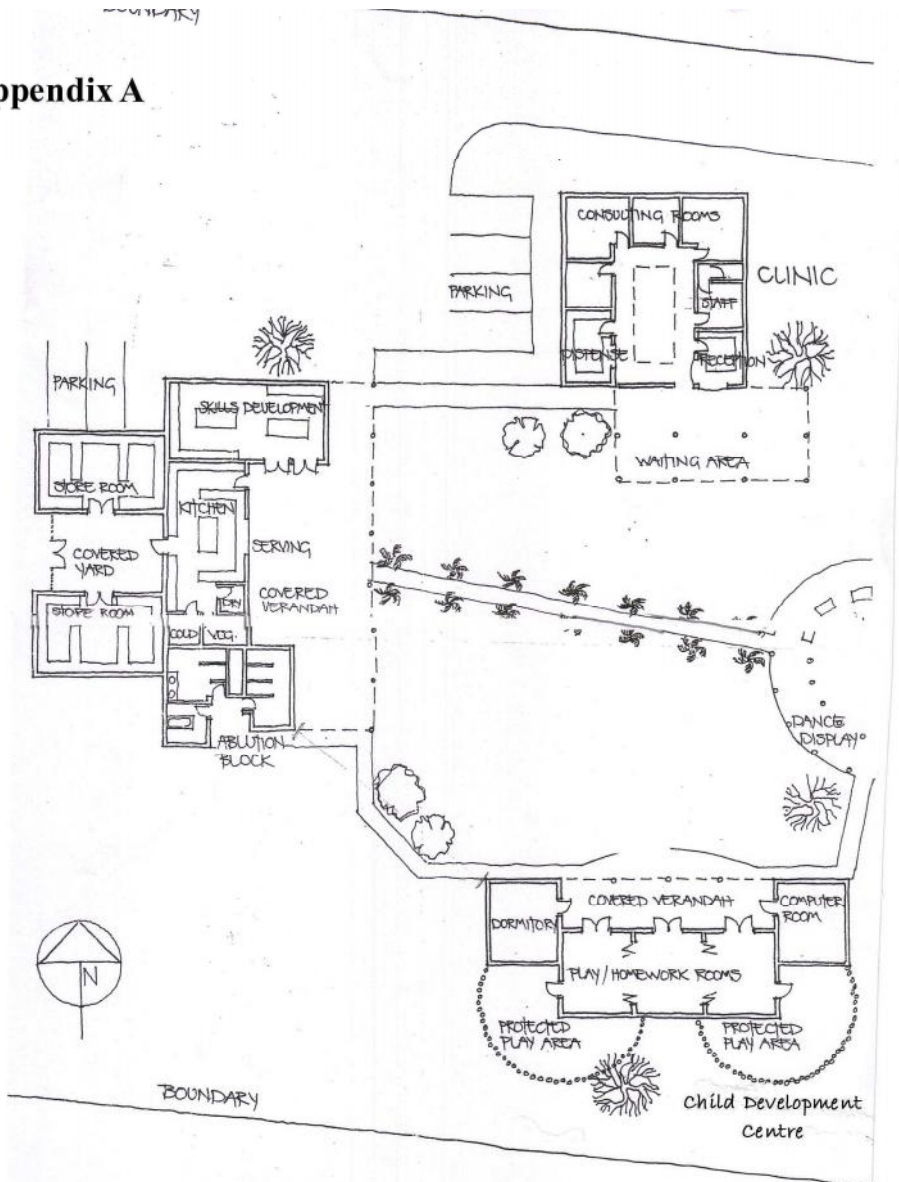
**Registration Number: 042-122-NPO**  
**Registered public benefit organisation No. 930020228**

## **Always in the fight against HIV and Aids**





# Appendix A



1000 HILLS COMMUNITY HELPERS

IKHAYA LO THANDO  
COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE



## **Appendix B**

Please find below a list of information of businesses and individuals participating with the building of the Community Care Centre.

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Land                   | 50 year lease signed with The Ethembeni Association<br>School for the Physically Disabled and Visually Impaired<br>Private Bag X1021, Hillcrest, 3650, KZN, South Africa<br>Headmaster : Mr Braam Mouton      Tel: +27 (0)31-783 4718<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:ethembeni@mweb.co.za">ethembeni@mweb.co.za</a> |
| Surveyors              | McCann & O'Neill<br>P.O. Box 411, Pinetown, 3600, KZN, South Africa<br>Mr. Clive McCann      Tel: +27 (0)31-702 0494<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:mob@hit.co.za">mob@hit.co.za</a>                                                                                                                                |
| Architect              | Wade Woods Architectural Services<br>P.O.Box 104, Botha's Hill, 3660 KZN, South Africa<br>Mr. Wade Woods      Tel: +27 (0)31-777 1860<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:heart4africa@xsinet.co.za">heart4africa@xsinet.co.za</a>                                                                                       |
| Project Manager        | Minella Construction<br>Cluster Box 43, 1000 Hills Drummond, Botha's Hill, 3660<br>Mr. Mike Allan      Tel: +27 (0)31-783 4788                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Funds Managed          | Ewing Trust Company Ltd<br>P.O. Box 59, Hillcrest, 3610, KZN, South Africa<br>Mr. Andrew Ewing      Tel: +27 (0)31-765 5937<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@ewing.co.za">info@ewing.co.za</a>                                                                                                                   |
| Founder                | 1000 Hills Community Helpers<br>P.O. Box 15758, Westmead, 3608, KZN, South Africa<br>Mrs. Dawn Leppan      Tel: +27 (0)846252771<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:pshade@iafrica.com">pshade@iafrica.com</a>                                                                                                          |
| Treasurer<br>Secretary | 1000 Hills Community Helpers<br>P.O. Box 15758, Westmead, 3608, KZN, South Africa<br>Ms. Sylvie Woods      Tel: +27 (0)31-701 4713<br>Cell: +27 (0)82 922 9264<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:pshade@iafrica.com">pshade@iafrica.com</a>                                                                            |

1000 Hills Community Helpers will ensure all interested parties receive up to date progress reports and schedules of draws required.

Kindly contact Ms. Woods should you require any further information.

## Soup kitchen brings hope to the hungry

THURSDAYS are special days for the residents from a small, poor community in the heart of Inchanga. It is the day they put their woes aside and gather early in the morning to welcome their weekly visitor.

Dawn Leppan is a Drummond woman who brings food for the starving, simple medical care for the sick and hope to those suffering from HIV/Aids.

Every Thursday

for the past four months Dawn has devoted Thursdays to helping the community. Having lived in Drummond all her life Dawn has grown up with some of the locals, many of whom she regards as family. Many of the older folk vividly remember Dawn's late grandmother, Ivy Tooley, who spent much of her time in the village feeding the hungry and delivering babies. She is buried in

a quaint cemetery in the village, only a few hundred metres from where Dawn now operates a soup kitchen.

### POVERTY

"It devastates me to see the escalating poverty in this community because of unemployment and Aids. I grew up in the area and so many of the residents are like family to me which has urged me to help where I can," said Dawn.

Each week Dawn arrives at the same spot in her bakkie which is loaded to the roof with large pots of soup, rice and sandwiches. Ready to greet her are hundreds of locals, many who are young, orphaned children. She said it was common to see a child, as young as eight years old, with a baby in his arms, arriving to get a plate of food.

"It is sad to see so much poverty and unemployment there and so at least the soup kitchen pro-

vides one hot meal a week for the people," said Dawn.

Her plan is to introduce sustainable development by teaching people how to plant their own vegetables.

"I can't feed these people forever, but I can slowly encourage them to eventually have the means to feed themselves."

Dawn's idea to start a soup kitchen was inspired by the late Alan Paton, who started a temporary soup kitchen near Inchanga shortly after the 1987 floods. He and Dawn brought food to people who were left destitute after their homes had been washed away.

Being a member of St Dominic's Catholic Church, Dawn said the food and donations were supplied by the church's parishioners.

Dawn runs her soup kitchen with the voluntary help of Pearl Ndawonda and Desmond Dlamini. Once their soup pots are empty,

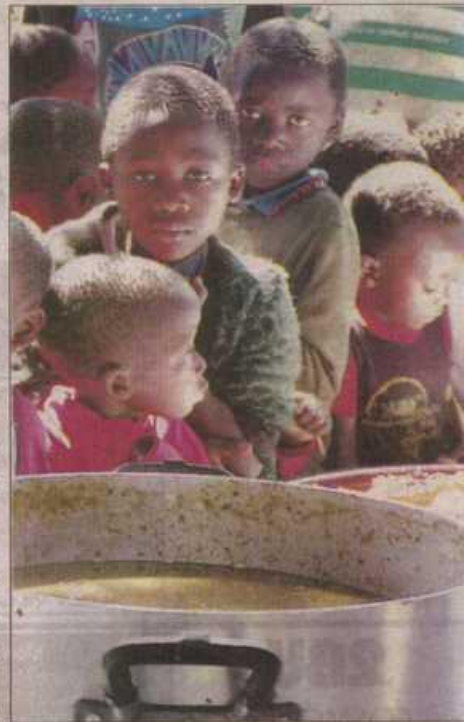
the team then run a 'mini clinic', which is assisted by a nurse from Fredville Clinic.

"We treat sores, coughs and give simple medical care. From there Pearl, Desmond and I go into the field and give home-based care. We visit people who are sick and help where we can by teaching them basic hygiene or giving them easily digestible food. We were recently donated coffins and so were able to give these to locals who didn't have burial schemes."

### ROOTS

Dawn said helping people was in her roots and stemmed back from the days when her grandmother used to visit the small community. "The locals would call on her at any time if they needed help. Like me, she was also part of this community."

Contact Dawn on 7834614.



CHILDREN excitedly gather to Dawn Leppan's soup kitchen in Inchanga each week where they receive a hearty home-cooked meal.



Dawn Leppan with some of the children from the valley and the new four wheel drive donated to the 1000 Hills Community Helpers.

## Dawn carries on tradition of helping the poor

THE 'poorest of the poor' is a phrase that might seem like an exaggeration to most people but not to Dawn Leppan who is carrying on a long tradition of volunteering her help to the people of 1000 hills.

Dawn's vocation, besides her day job, is helping the poorest of the poor. And in a way, it is a family business. "I'm just carrying out the tradition of my grandmother Ivy Tooley, who in her own way was also a community helper," she said modestly.

In the Inchanga area of 1000 Hills, poverty it seems, is another unavoidable tradition. And this is where Dawn, as a member of the 1000 Hills Community Helper's, runs a feeding scheme which she affectionally calls, "The soup kitchen." She established it in August 2002. Up until nearly a year ago, the 1000 Hills Community Helper's would meet with the poor and needy every week under the trees at the St Theresa's church in Inchanga where they distributed simple sandwiches and a meal of stew and rice, from the back of Dawn's bakkie.

As people queued, Dawn spoke to them and identified problems the Helpers could work with. After the meal they held a 'mini clinic' where minor medical problems were dealt with.

Those who were desperate, received food parcels and old clothing was also distributed to the needy.

Everything the Helper's distribute are from donations from churches and individuals from the surrounding area. According to Dawn, the Helpers and the people they support would not survive without these donations.

From their humble beginning under the trees, the 1000 Hills Community Helper's have moved their operation into an old church which has recently been renovated.

In the past, Dawn used to cook at home

and carry the huge pots to the site.

"We've now got a separate area for the kitchen and clinic, the kitchen even has running water," said Dawn with enthusiasm.

Her enthusiasm to help is catchy, and as word of the Helpers' work has spread, so too has the number of the volunteer staff, from the plumber and electrician who helped prepare the building for occupation, to the volunteer nursing sisters, pharmacists and a doctor who help run the clinic.

And as word of their work has spread through the surrounding community, so too has the demand for their services.

The Helper's now run a weekly baby clinic, where babies are weighed and mothers are given advice; baby food and baby clothing is given out by the sister in charge of the clinic.

Their services have spread from the soup kitchen and clinic into the local community where they help run three crochets and oversee and assist with fourteen sewing groups and four baking groups.

"At the moment we assist 18 child headed households with food, clothing and bedding and raise money to pay school fees and buy school books and uniforms," she said.

Dawn personally manages the home based care group in the valley, where together with her volunteers they try to make life a little easier for the very sick by helping with basic things like a good diet, medication and teach general cleanliness.

"We get a lot of help from kind people. Recently the Hillcrest chapter of St Vincent De Paul donated four sewing machines to one of our sewing groups. And after hearing about the work in the less accessible parts of the valley, someone donated a brand new Lada Niva four wheel drive. But those are the big things every little bit helps," she said.

"We still need the basics, the food parcels and the medicines. We would not have got this far without the help from all the very generous people who have helped us and I would like to thank them all, especially the anonymous donor of the 4x4. We put it to good use only minutes after it arrived, thank-you," she said.

**'We get a lot of help from kind people'**



# “WOMEN OF THE OUTER-WEST” AWARDS

## NOMINEES

### 1. PAMELAMANDI

Pamela has given up her home in Johannesburg to live and work at Agape childrens home in Waterfall, looking after HIV infected and affected children. Nominated by: Sanne van der Zanden

### 2. DAWN LEPPAN

Dawn grew up in Drummond and has been involved in helping the local community in one way or another all her life. She currently heads an organisation called 1000 Hills Community Helpers, running soup kitchens, self-help projects, a clinic and counselling service, a creche and more. She and her fellow helpers drive into the valley to visit those too sick to make the journey to the clinic, taking medicines and food to them. Her empathy and compassion for the poorest of the poor is evident in everything she does.



Nominated by: Sagren Pillay

### 3. JOEY DU PLESSIS



Joey runs the Care Line Crisis Centre in Assagay, a haven for rehabilitating young drug and alcohol abusers. She always goes the extra mile for her young charges, no matter what time of day or night, even cutting short her own precious family time to come to their aid. Joey also attends many trauma scenes within our community, counselling the bereaved and victims of violent crime. She is a guardian angel amongst us.

Nominated by: Teri K

The criteria for nomination are as follows:

1. Nominees must reside in the Outer West or serve the Outer West community.
2. They must be worthy of recognition for their unselfish efforts in serving the community in some way.
3. Persons who serve the community above and beyond the call of duty.
4. Nominees must be willing to give an interview and be featured in the OWL newspaper.



Dawn Leppan, Sharon Burden and three of the children from the 1000 Hills community were thrilled at the successful outcome of the winetasting evening at the Hornby Centre last Wednesday.

## Dawn's vision: a care centre

TAKE food, wine, song, great company all at a spectacular venue, and what do you have? The perfect evening for the wine tasting fundraiser and auction for the 1000 Hills Community Helpers hosted by Hornby Centre in Assagay on Wednesday, 26 July.

The Helpers is headed up by Dawn Leppan, who is no stranger to people who have worked in the 1000 Hills communities. Dawn and her helpers run a clinic for mothers and babies out of a church hall in the 1000 Hills valley. She has support and help from the surrounding communities in feeding the mothers and their other children who visit the clinic. The Rotary Club of Inchange 1000 Hills provides clothes, formula and blankets for the

families.

The fundraising from last week's wine tasting will go towards building a permanent community care centre in the valley, which has been Dawn's long standing vision.

Guests mingled, tasting wines from 10 different estates and distributors, while nibbling on the scrumptious snacks. Funds were raised from the sale of the tickets as well as an auction that took place on eight donated items. Judging by the smiles on people faces, the evening was a definite success; or perhaps that was the wine?

Anyone wishing to contact Dawn Leppan to get involved in helping the community, can call her on 084-625-2771.

# It's all go for Cindy's 'gogo bag' mercy gifts

AIDS, violence, and job seeking often leave grannies and grandpas with the uneasy task of raising youngsters in less than favourable conditions.

Last Friday members of the Highway community delivered over 700 heavily laden "gogo bags" to help out these old folk as part of the World Aids Day initiative.

The "gogo bags" as they were named, were in fact packets of food and household items which the less privileged members of the community desperately required. Cindy Norcott is the young woman who devised a plan to help out the grannies and grandpas who look after the youngsters in Inchangha as a result of factors which prevent their parents from being there.

Cindy sent out an e-mail to many people which asked the question



Many of the youngsters in Inchangha have never tasted a sweet or played with a ball.

"What are you getting for Christmas?"

In the e-mail, Cindy stressed the fact that those grannies and grandpas were in desperate need of basic food and household items and urged anybody to help in the supplying of necessary goods. The initial goal Cindy set was 70 bags, however on Friday 1 December, almost a dozen cars and bakkies pulled up at the hall, all heavily laden with hundreds of bags. Although the bags were not counted, an estimated 700 bags, each with goods of up to R300, were delivered. To make the day even more special, toys and sweets were also delivered to the hundreds of little children who the elders care for so much.

Dawn Leppan who heads the 1000 Hills Community Centre, said that the donation was "overwhelming and incredible" and that those who were involved in the organisation are "angels".

Cindy says that the hand over was just the beginning and another will take place on Thursday 7 December in Jamaica, a near Chesterville, and more "gogo bag" hand overs are scheduled to take place at Inanda Valley, Hammarsdale, Port Shepstone and Mkuze. Anyone wanting to find out more or be part of this great initiative which is snow balling into a huge charity can contact Cindy on 031-265-2000.

To contact Dawn at the 1000 Hills Community Centre phone 084-625-2771 or 031-783-4013.



For some the gifts were too overwhelming, and emotions took over as the hall filled up more and more with the bags. PHOTOS: Jason van Deventer



## ROTARY CLUB OF HILLCREST



District 9270

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Date: October 18, 2004

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

#### DAWN LEPPAN

I have known Dawn Leppan for many years as an active member of the Management Committee of the Makaphutu Childrens Village, of which I am a member.

In particular, she was responsible for the Health and Welfare aspects of the children. She did this job efficiently and at times, beyond the call of duty. She visited the home early, nearly every morning to check on the children's welfare. She took an active interest in their schooling and their extra mural activities, and still organises the grocery shopping for the home.

She is active in securing funds for the continued running costs of Makaphutu through her wide range of contacts.

Apart from her active participation in Makaphutu, she is very involved in doing social upliftment work in the Valley through an organisation which she started, The Thousand Hills Community Helpers. Her knowledge of the Zulu language and the Zulu culture means that she is ideal for this voluntary work.

Our Rotary club applied to Rotary International for her to receive a Paul Harris award, a prestigious international recognition for her work for those less fortunate.

I know that Dawn Leppan will make every effort to ensure that whatever she undertakes in helping others, either privately or as a member of an NPO, will succeed.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Draper  
Past President, Rotary Club of Hillcrest

# ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

Councillor James Nxumalo



1 October 2004

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter serves to confirm that Dawn Faith Porrill Lappan ID No. 470427 0089 082 resides at Inchanga Park and has been so helpful in the greater community of Fredville, Inchanga, KwaXimba, KwaNyuswa and Bothas Hill. She is a people's person who cares for everyone.

She is involved in a number of community projects.

1. Feeding Scheme Programme
2. Distribution of food parcels to the destitute families.
3. Distribution of second hand clothes to the poor.
4. Assisting numerous crèches and day care centres
5. Founder member of the hospice at Inchanga, which cares for the terminally ill patients.
6. She also does home base care.
7. Feeds ± 400 people every Thursday.
8. Also helps grandmothers and grandfathers by taking them to the Clinic every week.
9. She also used to organise Doctors to come and check the people voluntarily.

I would appreciate your assistance because it is not for Dawn but for the poor people.

Yours in community development

Councillor James Nxumalo

  
JAMES NXUMALO  
Councillor



31 Avondale  
18 Boom Street  
Sarnia  
3610  
Phone/fax 031 708 6029  
04 October 2004

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**I have known Dawn Leppan for several years and have no hesitation in recommending her as a person of integrity and an indefatigable worker for the underprivileged.**

**I have worked with her as a supporter of The Right to Live Campaign of which organisation I am Honorary Treasurer. She has made many contributions to the Campaign which supports the poor, Aids sufferers and women with pregnancy crises and/or who have been abused.**

**As part of her duties she took part in our 24-hour crisis telephone line project and personally answered calls from distressed persons for a period of 2 years.**

**In addition to all of this, Dawn runs her own charitable endeavours, which I believe enjoy a great deal of success.**

  
**L W Robinson ACIS, CFA(SA)**