

1. Background & area of operation

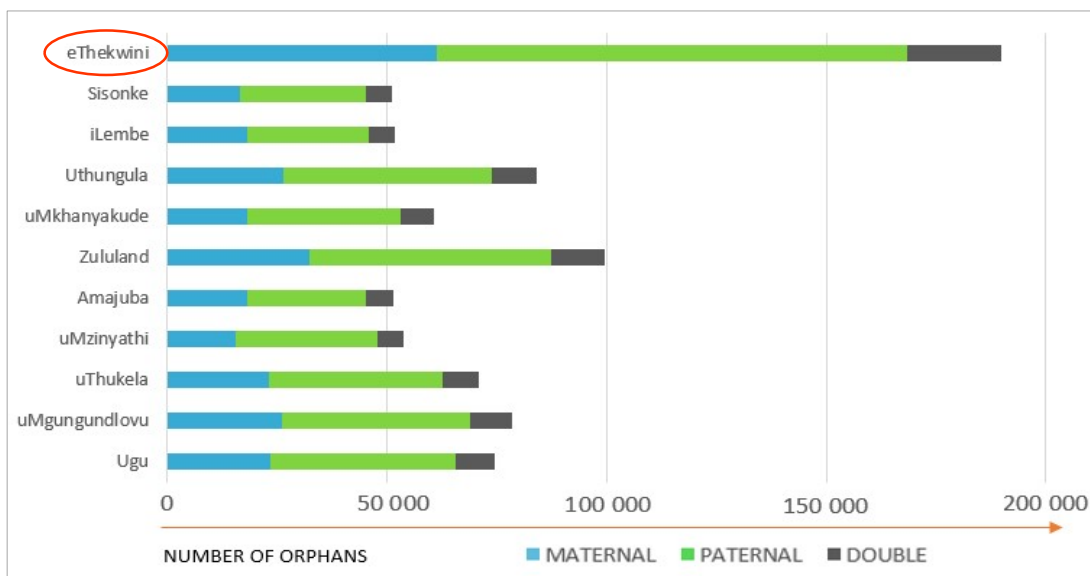
Vukukhanye was formed in 2001 in response to the threat to child and family welfare caused by the HIV and AIDS epidemic in South Africa and the reality experienced in the community of Chesterville (in the Cato Manor region of the eThekweni District in the province of KwaZulu-Natal) - broken families and an increasing number of orphans who needed care at a time when extended families were being stretched beyond their ability to cope.



The founder members of Vukukhanye have been associated with Chesterville since 1989. This history with Chesterville and the needs expressed by community leaders and health workers lead to the formation of Vukukhanye in 2001, our initial response being the establishment of a Children’s Foster Home to care for orphans.

2. Motivation

While much progress has been made in South Africa’s national response to HIV and AIDS, census results from 2001 to 2011 show a steady increase in the number of orphans in South Africa to over 3 million in 2011 (19% of children aged 0-17 years)¹. Current estimates place the number of orphans in South Africa in the region of 4 million, with the numbers being particularly high in the eThekweni Municipal District of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN)...of South Africa’s 9 provinces, KZN has the highest number of orphans (30% of all orphans in South Africa)²; and as can be seen in the figure below, of the 11 districts in KZN eThekweni has the most orphans (22% of the estimated 866 000 orphans in KZN)².



ORPHANS IN KWAZULU-NATAL, BY DISTRICT

1. Stats SA. Census, 2011 2. Stats SA. Community Survey, 2016

Socio-economic demographics of Chesterville

In addition to orphaned and vulnerable children; poverty, unemployment and low levels of education are still realities in Vukukhanye's area of operation.

ORPHANS

16% of children under 14 years are orphans
(of whom 3% have no living biological parent)



YOUTH (<18 years)

32% of the population

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION

% of population with **Grade 12** as highest education level achieved – **43%**

% of population with a **tertiary** qualification – **3%** (in eThekweni = 6.5%)



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

12,2% of children 5-17 years are **not** attending school



Primary & Secondary Schools - Chesterville has 3 primary schools and 2 secondary schools. School fees are R300 to R500 per year. The government feeding programme provides daily meals to children who require assistance.

Preschools – there are at least 12 formal crèches in Chesterville. Children attending crèches receive two meals per day. Fees are approximately R160 per month (R200+ for babies)

INFORMAL DWELLINGS (SHACKS)

23% of all households are shacks (nearly 3x the rate in KZN)

8.5% of all households are shacks in **informal settlements**



Chesterville consists of a mix of formal RDP (government subsidised) homes and informal dwellings (shacks). Informal dwellings include backyard shacks, shacks in informal settlements and government provided temporary accommodation in transitional communities (awaiting homes).

UNEMPLOYMENT – 25%

25% unemployment (this is 1.5X the rate in KZN)

An additional 5% are discouraged work-seekers.

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME

R14,600 per year (R1200 per month)



References:

Stats SA (2011) - using Ward 29 statistics as this ward is most representative of the area of operation of Vukukhanye.
<https://wazimap.co.za/profiles/ward-59500029-ethekweni-ward-29-59500029/>

3. Mission

Vukukhanye's Mission is the protection, support and development of orphans and vulnerable children, youth and families; to help them reach their potential.



Children's Foster Home (est. 2001)

Up to six children are cared for on a short or long-term basis, until reunification with family, foster care or adoption is achieved or until the children have been supported to the point of being independent adults.

Seventy-nine children have been cared for to date.



Bursary Programme (est. 2008)

Long-term school and tertiary bursaries are provided to children and youth, with the aim of helping them achieve tertiary qualifications.

There are 3 bursars at the moment and 18 bursars have achieved tertiary qualifications.



Early Childhood Development

'The Vukukhanye Educare Centre' (established in Chesterville in 2012) provides quality preschool education and care to 45 children aged 2 to 5 years.

The children also receive two meals daily. Staff training is a priority and is ongoing (NQF Levels 4 & 5).



Orphans & Vulnerable Children, Chesterville

When resources allow, support is provided to vulnerable families; such as assistance with school needs, infant formula, food and household consumables.

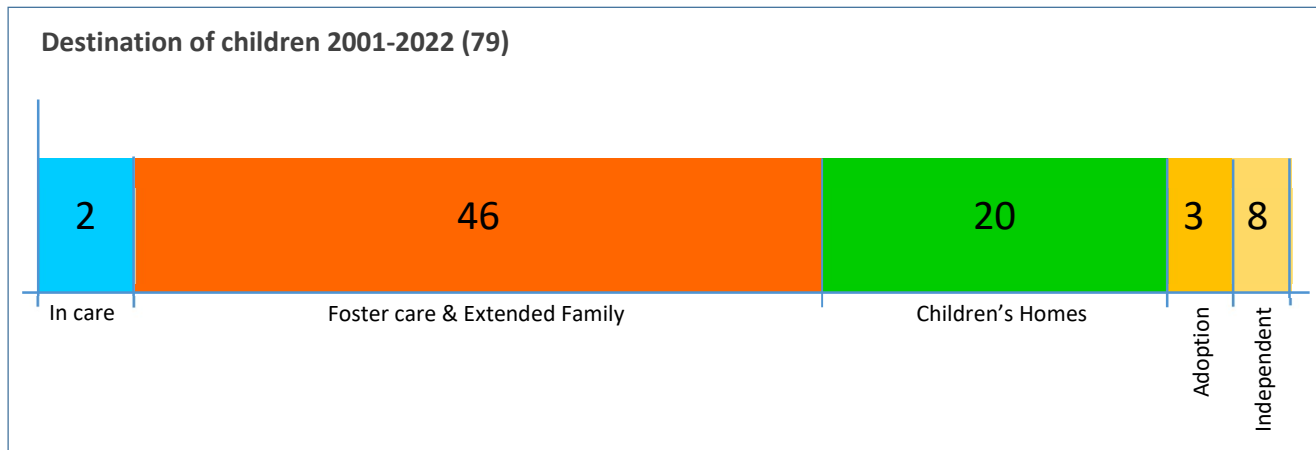
Vukukhanye also works with corporate partners, NGOs and the community, to support local preschools, schools and community-based organisations (for example with school needs for children or resources for the schools and organisations).

4. Projects

4.1 Children's Foster Home

This Home in Berea West, Westville, was established in 2001 to provide a source of short or long-term care for orphans and vulnerable children. Our aim is to provide the children with a loving, stable home environment, guide their educational progress and provide psychosocial and other support (e.g. counselling and extra-lessons) as needed. Contact with extended family is supported when appropriate and wherever possible children are reintegrated with their family or placed with adoptive or foster parents; but in some cases long-term placement of children at the Home occurs. The children are cared for by a Foster-mother, Nomakaya, who receives assistance with domestic work and respite care from Maureen.

Seventy-nine (79) children have been cared for since 2001, with four children living at the Home at the moment. Children placed in care have included sibling groups, abandoned, neglected or abused children, as well as refugees. In a number of instances social workers have placed children in short-term crisis care, such as when home circumstances become dangerous or a single-parent is sick and there is no extended family to provide care.



4.2 The Vukukhanye Educare Centre

The Vukukhanye Educare Centre was established in Chesterville in March 2012 and we are very pleased with the consistent quality of care and education which has been provided by the dedicated staff for the last six years. Approximately 45 children attend daily, cared for by 3 teachers and 1 cook/cleaner. The hours of operation are 7:30am to 3:00pm daily, with the formal programme between 8:00am and 1:00pm.



The children live in the neighbouring community of Chesterville and are largely from poor families, cared for by single parents, extended family or other caregiver. The poverty of caregivers places the children at risk of not receiving sufficient early childhood stimulation and inadequate nutrition. The services offered by the Vukukhanye Educare Centre seeks to meet these vital developmental needs.

In addition to the early childhood development services provided; the children are fed breakfast, lunch and a morning snack daily. Partnership with the local Department of Health ensures that standard immunizations are done on-site during visits from clinic staff. Ongoing training of the staff is a priority, and all staff have received child-care training through Phakamisa, and accredited (NQF Levels 4-5) early childhood development training through NELRU and Caversham. One of the teachers recently achieved her Level 5 qualification. The educare centre also benefits from participating in the Cato Manor Preschool Forum, which provides training and support a central resource centre at Inkanyezi Crèche.

Recent research confirms that the first five years of a child's life are particularly important for the development of the child's brain, and the first three years are the most critical in shaping brain architecture. Early experiences provide the base for the brain's organizational development and functioning throughout life, directly impacting the development of learning skills, social and emotional abilities.

(Child Development and Early Learning, www.factsforlifeglobal.org)



4.3 Bursary Programme

Quote...

“Without substantial numbers of university-trained professionals a country cannot advance. No educational factor correlates as strongly with gross national income as does university enrolment” (Mayer, 2007).

Building on our relationship with Chesterville Secondary School, Vukukhanye launched a Bursary Programme at this school in August 2008 - all Grade 12 learners were invited to apply, two candidates were selected and their tertiary studies sponsored from 2009. Vukukhanye has to date helped 18 bursars achieve tertiary qualifications - in the fields of commerce and accounting, civil engineering, marketing, nursing, human resources, social science, aviation support, supply chain management, as well as welding & fabrication. Each bursar has a unique story and we have included some of Silindile’s journey below.

Vukukhanye is currently supporting 5 bursars, 4 of whom are at school and one is completing a tertiary qualification in Chemical Engineering. Bursaries include fees, text books, stationery and uniforms and our goal is work with the bursar and their family until they achieve a tertiary qualification. Guidance, mentorship and support is provided to help make wise choices and support the bursar through challenges along the way.



Silindile’s Journey

Graduation 2018 – Bachelor of Social Science

Sli was raised by her grandmother, who sadly passed away when Sli was in grade 10; after which Sli continued living with her grandfather and uncles in very poor conditions in a small home in Chesterville. Sli performed well at school and was selected from the Grade 8 class of Chesterville Secondary School in 2009 as a beneficiary of Vukukhanye’s Bursary Programme. Sli has been supported in her educational journey for the nine years since; including with tuition fees, text books and stationery; as well as assistance with food and transport costs to travel to and from university. Silindile passed all her school grades and went on to be accepted to study a Bachelor of Social Science Degree at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Sli specialised in Geography and Environmental Management and in 2017 achieved her Bachelor’s Degree. Sli developed a passion for teaching and in 2018 started her Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal Edgewood Campus, conducted her practical teacher training at Chesterville Secondary School and is now qualified to teach in a secondary school. We are very proud of Sli’s achievement!



2009 (Grade 8) - Sli on the day she was awarded a bursary, with 3 other recipients



“In 2009 I was diagnosed with pneumonia and tuberculosis, however my illness did not hinder my way to success because I had Vukukhanye as my support system and I already knew from a very young age that I wanted to succeed in life and the only thing that would help me is education” (Silindile).

4.4 Welfare Support (Vulnerable children and families, Chesterville)

The aim of the Welfare Support Project is to contribute to social welfare service delivery in the greater Chesterville area of Cato Manor, by identifying and supporting vulnerable children and families. This support is currently dependent on specific funding being available, and support provided includes emergency or periodic assistance with food, infant formula, toiletries household consumables, as well as referral to other organisations.

A common scenario is that of an aunt or grandmother who takes responsibility for the care of children following the death of the children's mother. This can be overwhelming when the new caregiver is unemployed (or employed only part-time) or is a pensioner already with dependants and now has to shoulder the burden of providing for and raising their sister or daughter's children.

Vukukhanye also seeks to partner with companies and other donors to direct resources to local preschools, schools and community based organisations (such as those caring for the elderly or disabled).



5. Registration and B-BBEE Status

Vukukhanye is a Non-Profit Organisation (017-325 NPO) registered with the Department of Social Development and a Public Benefit Organisation (130002073) registered with SARS in terms of Section 18A of the Income Tax Act. Vukukhanye is an 'Exempt Micro Enterprise' as defined the Broad-Based BEE Act

All donations to Vukukhanye are subject to income tax exemption in terms of Section 18A of the Income Tax Act (RSA), and donations (up to 1% of net profit after tax) qualify as Socio-Economic Development contributions and donors are provided with Section 18A donation receipts.

6. How to Partner

Vukukhanye would love to partner with more individuals and companies who identify with our mission, as we continue to protect vulnerable children in our area of influence and support them in achieving their potential. Please contact us at the details below if you would like to discuss partnership or have any questions.

Donations can be made securely via Vukukhanye's website or by direct bank transfer (details below). All donors will be provided with Section 18A donation receipts and any other documentation needed for tax, BEE or Socio-Economic Development (SED) contribution purposes. In-kind Section 18A donation receipts reflecting the value of in-kind donations made can also be provided.

Secure online donations:

Visit www.vukukhanye.org and click on the  button on the homepage to donate securely via GivenGain.

Bank transfer (eft):

Account Name: Vukukhanye
Account number: 25 254 884 1
Bank: Standard Bank
Branch: Westville
Branch code: 045426 (or universal code 051001)

8. Contact Details



Anthony van der Meulen (CEO)

C: +27 (0)83 233 2924

T: +27 (0)31 262 0958

E: anthony@vukukhanye.org / admin@vukukhanye.org

Address: 3 Royston Road, Westville North, 3629 (KZN)