

UPDATE FROM MAFAMBISA | SOUTH AFRICA

Hands at Work in Africa (UK) in partnership with
St Andrew's Church



Hands at Work
AFRICA

October 2022

Eight dedicated local volunteer Care Workers support the most vulnerable children in the community of Mafambisa. The love and care they provide ensure that each child is cared for physically, emotionally and spiritually.



At 13 years old, Justice*, loves to practice his English and easily connects with people. Laughing with friends at the Care Point, you'd never know how difficult his home life is. Yet when Care Worker Khethiwe visited the family, she was shocked by what she found.

Traumatized by experiences with their mother's volatile boyfriend, Justice and his five siblings were found crowded in a one-roomed shack. With no income apart from infrequent temporary work, Justice's mother struggles to look after her family. Originally from Eswatini, she has no South African Identification documents, leaving them all in a tough position, not least because children without papers are told that they are not allowed to attend school.

For now, Justice enjoys a trusting and genuine relationship with Khethiwe. Confident and creative, he loves to play games, sing and learn Bible stories.

Community Update

This year, the Care Workers have grown in numbers and in the ownership that they take at the Care Point. They take responsibility for the maintenance of the building as well as fully devote themselves to the children. With clear rhythms and awareness of their responsibilities, they ensure they are fully accountable, encouraged by Pastor Mbowane from the local church, who likewise is personally invested in all of the activities of the Care Point. Although the Care Workers struggle to let go of some social dysfunctions that have a stronghold in this community, they have good relationships with each other and increasingly share their challenges with each other. The Hazyview team are walking with them one-on-one to hear their stories, share scripture and pray. A successful effort has been made for greater focus on the various ages at the Care Point, with targeted attention on connecting in ways particularly relevant to each age.



Activities and Projects

The Care Workers and children feel greatly blessed and encouraged by their ongoing partnership with St Andrew's Church in Biggleswade. In July, a team from the church visited and was able to paint the newly constructed children's shelter in bright, primary colours (pictured left), as well as to repaint the existing kitchen. The youth on the visiting team brought life and joy to the children with dances, songs and an appreciation day for the Care Workers - a huge encouragement to the Mafambisa CBO. Recently, the basic necessities of blankets, mattresses and school uniforms were purchased and distributed to the most vulnerable families, based on their individual needs. Having these items goes a long way to ensure the health and hygiene of the children and their families.

