

0.0 Executive Summary

Project Name: Strengthening community organisations and partnerships in the townships of Port Elizabeth

Project Code: [not applicable]

Project Holder: Ubuntu Education Fund

Project Description: In order to achieve its mission assisting vulnerable youth to access higher and further education, as well as the world of work, Ubuntu Education Fund must ensure that youth and their families have a wide range of health and education services. Therefore, it is in the interest of our mission that we facilitate the capacity and sustainability of local CBOs and NGOs that also work in our community. HIV and AIDS run rampant in our community and undercut the potential of children and families. By working with local clinics on HIV management in particular, we keep families stable and ensure the academic future of our children. Together, we can make a significant impact in the lives of the people of the Port Elizabeth townships.

Summary: Ubuntu Education Fund will help build capacity of local clinics by:

- Relieving congestion at local clinics by providing clinic-based, on-site and mobile medical services.
- Ensuring quality of care at local clinics and providing client support.
- Maintaining feeding and gardening programme at local clinics, particularly for TB-infected clients.
- Establishing a state-of-the-art clinic in *The Ubuntu Centre* for community members.

We believe that by providing these services, we will improve the quality of care that community members receive and ensure the sustainability of local clinics to provide proper care to their clients. Ultimately, partnerships and the sustainability of community institutions are important because the community needs these services. In all of our partnerships, we prioritize the community's **long-term needs for quality health care**. HIV-infected and affected families, will receive the comprehensive care they need to ensure their children's future success.

Programmes & Activities

Major Achievements:

1.0 Background

Ubuntu Education Fund assists vulnerable youth to access higher and further education, as well as the world of work. The Port Elizabeth townships remain haunted by the legacy of systemic impoverishment and destabilisation of apartheid and are reeling from the devastation wreaked by the AIDS epidemic. Access to adequate nutrition, sanitation, health care, housing and educational facilities remain a challenge for most children growing up in our communities. Additionally, our communities are burdened with an **HIV prevalence rate of 40% and an unemployment rate of approximately**

80%.¹ Although general HIV/AIDS knowledge and awareness is high, most people do not know their HIV status. Life expectancy has fallen to 46 years for men and 51 years for women.² As a result, there are an estimated 50,000 orphaned and vulnerable children in the townships of Port Elizabeth.

For the past 10 years, Ubuntu has built itself into one of the premier NGOs in the Eastern Cape. Beginning with computers and libraries, we developed a comprehensive system of support that can drastically change the life path of a child, a family, and a community. We now reach 40,000 community members with a range of services and develop an individualised plan of action that will stabilise their household. Ubuntu has been recognised for its excellent work with several awards, including the Crystal Eagle Award and the Social Entrepreneur Award for South Africa (2008 finalist). We have also been presented with grants from the US (PEPFAR), Canada and South Africa.

Ubuntu Education Fund is a recipient of a joint grant from A Chance to Play and terre des hommes, which supports Ubuntu's programmes for orphans and vulnerable children. This grant particularly focused on programmes that use soccer and the World Cup 2010 as an opportunity to teach vital life skills and HIV prevention.

Ubuntu is requesting R2 000 000 to support the strengthening of community organisations and partnerships in the townships of Port Elizabeth.

2.0 General Objectives

Improved access to a range of community services for OVC and their families.

3.0 Specific Objectives

- **Relieve congestion at local clinics by providing clinic, on-site and mobile medical services.** Our local clinics are burdened with high caseloads and few resources. Since the HIV rate in our community is so high, Ubuntu believes that it is essential to provide testing and management services in the most convenient ways possible. Therefore, Ubuntu administers some basic medical services—particularly HIV related—to community members in order to relieve some congestion in clinics, ensure that all community members receive basic care and improve the overall health of the community. Through a combination of these services, **we will reach approximately 7,000 individuals.** When we receive government approval, we will also begin providing home-based care.
 - *Clinic-based VCT:* Ubuntu provides nurses and counsellors to local clinics in order to provide high-level voluntary counselling and HIV testing services (VCT). If clients test HIV-positive, we

¹ 2004 antenatal survey, Nelson Mandela Metropole, South African Department of Health

² Statistics South Africa, 2001 Census

urge them to enrol in treatment and our treatment adherence services immediately.

- *Mobile VCT*: Four days a week, Ubuntu's mobile VCT van travels to different areas of the townships to test community members. We have seen great success since we started this programme at the end of 2008, especially with men and youth, who rarely visit clinics. If clients test HIV-positive, we refer them to local clinics for care and enrol them into our treatment adherence services. The van is always staffed by a nurse, a counsellor and a prevention outreach worker who brings clients to the van.
- *On-site VCT*: Ubuntu also offers VCT services at its headquarters in Zwide. A nurse and counsellor meet each client and talk to them about HIV, how it is transmitted and how they can prevent HIV transmission, whether he/she is HIV-positive or HIV-negative. If needed, the nurse will also demonstrate how to use condoms.
- *HIV management services*: In Fall 2009, Ubuntu will be prepared to also take on HIV management services, including CD4 count. As soon as a client tests positive for HIV, we will take blood to run in our CD4 machine in our headquarters (if the client tests at our headquarters, they will receive results immediately). Ubuntu staff will determine the appropriate HIV management package for each individual. **All 1,400 HIV-positive Ubuntu clients will receive proper HIV management.** Ubuntu is currently rolling out its HIV management strategy and will amend as necessary in order to provide the highest-quality care.
- *Provide health education for community members*: As part of comprehensive support, we will ensure that Ubuntu and clinic clients are properly informed of health-related issues. In particular, we will focus on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections and pap smears. Through regular case management and community outreach, Ubuntu will reach approximately **7,000 community members**.
- **Ensure quality of care at local clinics and provide client support.** Ubuntu has worked with local clinics, particularly KwaZakhele Day Hospital (KDH) since 2005. As the largest local clinic, KDH serves many of the children and families also enrolled in Ubuntu. We have consistently provided technical support and human resources to the overburdened clinic. Through the leadership of our Clinical Advisor, Dr. Cecilia Lopez, we have continued to enhance the capacity of local clinics to meet the demand and improve the quality of HIV-related treatment.
 - *Provide vital equipment to KDH*. On a monthly basis, Ubuntu will ensure that KDH has **necessary hygienic equipment**, including

soap dispensers and hand-drying machines in the bathrooms. We will also provide **technical supplies**, such as computers and TV screens. We will also install a **filing cabinet** for the overflow of client files.

- *Maintain tracking and referral systems at KDH.* In 2007, Ubuntu and KDH established a tracking and referral system to improve communication between the staff of both organisations. We will continue to **maintain these systems**, and amend as necessary.
- *Monitor and data entry into Disease Management Systems (DMS) for KDH and all feeder clinics.* DMS is a data input system that accurately manages our care and treatment services at KDH and its feeder clinics. DMS produces warnings when treatment is not being provided and tracks statistics against key indicators that signify whether Ubuntu and our partner clinics are progressing. We have hired a professional data capturer to input patient information on a daily basis. This software has enabled us to more accurately, efficiently and effectively manage and enhance service delivery for HIV treatment and overcome the lack of resources in the public healthcare system. Ubuntu will continue to **monitor and maintain the database**.
- *Enrol HIV-infected clients from KDH in Ubuntu support services.* Ubuntu counsellors are now present at KDH on days during which medication is available to HIV-positive individuals. We explain how Ubuntu services can help them improve their health. Services particularly for HIV-positive individuals, such as treatment adherence counselling, family support and nutritional services, are vital to the overall health and well-being of an individual with a compromised immune system. By providing these services, we are ensuring healthier clients with fewer complications for KDH. We are especially reaching out to HIV – positive children, for whom these interventions are even more essential for a happy, healthy life. We are currently serving **more than 40 children** enrolled at KDH. We will **ensure that these children receive optimal care, and then reach out to the additional children and their families** over the next 12 months.
- *Treatment adherence preparation with HIV+ clients.* When a person first tests positive for HIV, we begin to counsel him/her about beginning treatment. We talk to clients about disclosing their status to family and friends and identify a treatment partner, who will ensure that the client continues treatment and values his/her health. When clients complete the counselling, we will enrol them on ARV treatment at the local clinics. Approximately **600 individuals are currently preparing for treatment**. We expect many of these individuals will begin taking treatment, and

that we will prepare more clients for treatment over the next 12 months.

- *Advocate for HIV-positive clients at clinics and ensure they receive and adhere to ARV treatment.* Because Ubuntu serves the comprehensive needs of each client, we are aware of the variety of challenges faced by each client, which they may not disclose to their doctors. Therefore, Ubuntu counsellors will advocate for the full treatment needed by clients. Counsellors will also ensure that clients go to the clinics to receive their ARVs, sometimes even providing transport. **377 Ubuntu clients are currently receiving ARV treatment** from local clinics.
- *Provide PMTCT care services, in partnership with local clinics.* Preventing mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV is a huge step in improving the health of our community. Ubuntu counsels mothers on infant feeding, ensures that mothers receive proper ART/AZT and provides ongoing post-natal care for mothers and infants. We will enrol **50 pregnant women and/or new mothers** this year.
- **Maintain feeding and gardening programme at local clinics, particularly for TB-infected clients.** In 2005, we established our first clinic-based organic garden at KDH. We planted a variety of vegetables and herbs that would be especially beneficial to people infected with TB. All produce from the garden is used in soup prepared for TB-infected clients. Ubuntu was awarded with a soup-and-bread tender by the government to guarantee this vital service. We do not use any pesticides in our garden, ensuring that we are providing healthy food to clients who are already struggling with their health.
 - *Establish and maintain gardens at KDH and its feeder clinics.* In July 2009, we planted a larger garden at Lunga Kobese Clinic that will allow us to expand the clinic-based gardening programme. We will continue to maintain the gardens at KDH and Lunga Kobese and **ensure the quality** of vegetables produced for client meals.
 - *Train volunteers to maintain gardens.* Ubuntu uses a number of volunteers to maintain the clinic gardens regularly. Mava Dpelu, our garden manager, trains each volunteer on how to plant, prune, and safely harvest the vegetables. When there are excess vegetables that the clinics cannot use, volunteers may sell some of the vegetables for extra income to sustain themselves. We currently have **18 community members** who volunteer their time at the gardens.
- **Establish state-of-the-art clinic in *The Ubuntu Centre* for community members.** In Summer 2010, The Ubuntu Centre, a multi-purpose community centre, will open its doors. Currently under

construction, the Centre will feature computer labs, a multi-media library, a theatre and a clinic for community members.

Provide high-quality medical services at The Ubuntu Centre clinic. The clinic will be able to provide a range of services, including HIV management and post-rape examinations. There will be a laboratory and pharmacy on-site. As clients visit the clinic, they will also be referred to other Ubuntu programmes that can assist them, including care, educational support, career counselling, legal services and prevention education.

4.0 Beneficiaries

Vulnerable children and families in the Port Elizabeth townships (**population: 400,000**), especially families affected by HIV and AIDS, will benefit greatly from this project. Ubuntu serves **1,400 HIV-positive clients**; KDH serves **1,800 people HIV-positive people**. These clients will especially benefit from our services, but each day we are reaching to more and more individuals who want to know their HIV status, or want to learn more about pressing health issues. The best way for us to provide our community with the services and information they need is to work closely with the local clinics, and ensure that they have **the capacity to meet the needs of our community**.