

# TWENTY YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES

NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION



## Striving to build safe, healthy communities



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## TAMAR SHELTER SOCIETY

# Homely environment for victims of abuse

The centre has helped women heal, regain their voice

**T**ameryn Ellis best encapsulates the spirit of Tamar Shelter for Abused Women and Children, a non-profit organisation providing a safe environment for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors in Kimberley, Northern Cape.

Tamar shelter, which was established in the early 1990s, caters for victims of abuse, focusing on women and children.

It provides counselling for the trauma that GBV survivors have experienced, and assists in their integration back into the community.

Ellis first encountered the shelter through police protection as a human trafficking victim. She was rescued last year after being promised a job interview as a hostess under false pretence.

Ellis, who endured abuse dur-

ing the 365 days she was kept hostage, escaped by jumping out of a double-storey building. She was brought to the shelter by the police.

Today Ellis is a project development manager at Tamar shelter. She said previously that there were crisis centres that assisted rape victims, but not shelters where women could regain their voices.

“We help the abused women to obtain a restraining order when they come in, depending on how they have come in and the kind of abuse they have endured. If they come through police protection, there are different avenues that we follow,” she said.

“I am the person I am today

because of the love, kindness, guidance and constant concern for my wellbeing. I used to be addicted to drugs but I’m clean now because of their [the shelter] help.”

The centre allows gender-based violence victims to stay at the shelter until they have healed and are ready to face the world. The funding that Tamar Shelter for Abused Women and Children received from the National Lotteries Commission has contributed immensely.

The shelter has since built an additional unit next to the main building, and is in a process of building a therapy pamper room where survivors’ hair, nails and make-up will be done to boost their confidence.

Plans to erect an arts and crafts centre are also under way.

The shelter’s caretaker, Rinah Louw, said they were struggling to handle their daily operations due to insufficient funds and thanked the commission for assisting them to extend the shelter. Louw hopes the commission’s financial support will continue.

South Africa is increasingly becoming unsafe for chil-



Tamar shelter project development manager Tameryn Ellis, right, and caretaker Rinah Louw. Ellis was sent to the home after escaping human traffickers. She now works there.

“I used to be addicted to drugs but I’m clean now because of them



dren and women. A report by Statistics SA, *The Crime Against Women in South Africa*, shows that the rate of femicide in the country is five times higher than the global average.

Horror stories of missing women always find their way to social media platforms but few catch the attention of the media to become a subject of national interest.

## WOMEN TO WOMEN

# SA needs mushrooming of safe havens

The commission has helped the Kimberley organisation purchase an existing building

**S**outh Africa lacks safe environments for abused women and children to feel protected and taken care of, according to Women to Women, a nonprofit organisation operating in the Northern Cape.

Established in 2013, the Kimberley-based organisation has been advocating for the rights of abused and fragile women and children across the province. Founder Priscilla Smith, 48, started the organisation after identifying a need to help vulnerable women.

“Due to the increase in domestic violence against women and children, it’s important to have accessible places of safety where they can feel loved and cared for,” she explained.

“As a survivor, I believe in such establishments, as they give a person the hope that their situation is not the end. I was abused in my previous marriage and I knew I had to get out.”

Smith believes women should sustain themselves financially in order to avoid being subjected to abuse. She plans to impart skills to survivors of gender-based violence, who will be accommodated at the recently purchased building.

Other programmes she plans to offer include psychological assistance to the victims, training for business opportunities, counselling and support groups.

“Once you realise who you are, you will not settle for less, that’s how I escaped my abusive marriage. I’m happily married now for 18 years. I’m the mirror of hope where abused women



Maria Louw, left, is joined by Women to Women founder Priscilla Smith, Stephanie Cloete and Felicity Oor to send out a message against the abuse of women. The organisation runs programmes against gender abuse. / Photos / Tiro Ramathatse

can see that it’s possible for them to move out,” explained Smith.

The organisation is renovating the shelter with the funding from the National Lotteries Commission. The shelter which is situated in a huge yard, has

a swimming pool, two conference halls, and a three-bedroom house with a lounge, three bathrooms and reception area.

Funding was a big challenge for Smith before the commission offered to help.

“They’re our biggest funders; they have changed our lives. They also changed the lives of survivors,” she said. “We used to move from house to house



Maria Louw and members of the organisation are glad that the commission helped purchase a building which was converted into a shelter for abused women in Kimberley, Northern Cape.

due to lack of funding. With the help of the lotto, we’ll never move around again. There are not enough words to explain how happy I feel....We are because of them.”

The shelter has given refuge to many like Maria Louw, 45, who experienced abuse from her family after she was diagnosed with HIV.

“It’s important to have accessible places of safety where they can feel loved



THABANG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

# Thabang plants seeds of joy, hope

Poor now go to bed with full stomachs

**M**any destitute households in Hartswater, Northern Cape, rely on Thabang Community Development Centre for donations of blankets, school uniforms and food.

The impoverished community, which has a high rate of unemployment and poverty, is heavily dependent on the centre for support. Eighteen volunteers founded the centre in 2001 after identifying the need to help struggling families.

The centre, a nonprofit organisation, was named *Thabang* – bringing hope, light and joy to vulnerable people. The centre operates a soup kitchen dubbed meals on wheels everyday of the week. Stationed at two dish-out points, it serves more than 150 people.

Irda Lebatla, the centre's assistant director, believes many families would go to bed hungry were it not for the centre's help.

Lebatla explained: "We distribute blankets especially in winter, assist with adherence to medication for those with chronic diseases, and provide social support

programmes, and home-based care, among other things."

Northern Cape, North West and Mpumalanga have the highest percentages of households that have inadequate access to nutritional food at 12.9%, 12.5% and 11.4% respectively.

Beneficiaries are identified through profiling by Thabang during its door-to-door programmes aimed at assessing households' living conditions.

The organisation has more than 350 beneficiaries comprising unemployed youth, poor people, street children, and older persons. It also provides skills

development, educational workshops, health talks and support groups.

Previously, the centre had a challenge of space, but thanks to funding from the National Lotteries Commission, a house was purchased. It has three offices, a boardroom and two garages.

Lebatla explained that the funding has also helped pay the stipend of 33 permanent workers. She explained: "Lotto has done a lot. They changed our lives. There's been a huge impact since they have come on board, we can now see the difference. "We have our own



Irda Lebatla, the centre's assistant director, says it distributes blankets to poor people in winter. Beneficiaries are identified through profiling during door-to-door programmes. /Photos/Tiro Ramatlhatshe



**“**If it wasn't for them, we would still be using a small office

Ebennette Makhoana and Sarah Arends, the centre's chairperson, donate school uniform to a learner.

building and equipment, and operate in a professional way as a result of the commission's assistance. If it wasn't for them, we would still be using a small of-

office and operating without proper equipment."

One of the beneficiaries, Elizabeth Kokobitle, 64, is always grateful of the food parcels and school uniform. Betty Verwey, 51, an unemployed mother of two, started receiving food parcels last year after being referred by a social worker.

According to Sarah Arends, the centre's chairperson, they need a bigger vehicle to transport staff and beneficiaries especially when they need to travel to secluded farming areas. They would also like more kitchen equipment to add two more kitchen points.

TUMI LEEUW PRODUCTION

# Arts puts bread on the table

Women from rural and poor backgrounds shine

**A**rts and crafts have the potential to create jobs that can sustain the livelihoods of people in the Northern Cape, according to Tumi Leeuw, who identified arts as one of the reasons she formed a production company in an attempt to alleviate unemployment in the province.

Based in Kimberley, Leeuw, 40, started the company in 2012.

The company, which began operating last year, is named after her and aims

to empower women in the arts industry by giving them exposure through workshops and exhibitions.

It conducts women empowerment and educational programmes through arts and runs workshops seminars and training for arts initiatives.

Tumi Leeuw



Through funding by the National Lotteries Commission last year, the production company successfully organised a workshop that created a platform for 700 women in the arts and crafts industry to showcase their artistic skills and earn an income through sales.

Leeuw is proud that the workshops also attracted talented women from rural and poor backgrounds.

"We invited experienced mentors to provide skills for those in rural areas and sharpen their talents. We were also able to create jobs for 24 local young people who supplied sound, catering and décor," Leeuw explained.

Masego Mazabane, 37, is one of the women who benefited from the workshops. She was hired to do catering at the event. "It was something big



Lena Mokgosi and Masego Mazabane benefited through job creation at Tumi Leeuw's workshops.

and new for me; I saw it as an opportunity for my business," explained Mazabane.

Lena Mokgosi, 33, was also employed as hostess at one of the exhibitions put together by Leeuw. "I like arts and I was impressed with what I witnessed at the exhibition. I never knew women from different backgrounds had such raw talent in arts and crafts," said Mokgosi.

Leeuw's company still needs more funding to reach out to more women in the arts.

"Most women in the craft industry don't know where and

how to market their products online. We're planning to introduce a digital platform where women can market their products online. We thank the lottery for their funding. You are changing lives indeed, by empowering and inspiring young women to reach their full potential."

The performing arts has long been viewed as an untapped source for job creation.

The unemployment rate in the Northern Cape has jumped to 26%, while the expanded unemployment rate currently stands at 41.5%.



## ETHEMBENI (PLACE OF HOPE)

# Ethembeni a rock for abused kids and women

Survivors return home healed

**E**thembeni, a nonprofit organisation, offer refuge to victims of gender-based violence who seek protection in the Northern Cape.

Situated in De Aar in the Northern Cape, the organisation accommodates abused women in and around Richmond, Hanover and Britstown. It started as a soup kitchen and programme for street children addicted to drugs.

Claire Adriaanse, the founder of Ethembeni, said the support received from the National Lotteries Commission had been of great help to the organisation.

“With the support of the lottery and government, I honestly can say I no longer experience challenges. They have made a huge impact with the money that they give us,” explained Adriaanse.

“When the victim comes in, we have to supply them with an emergency pack that has toiletries and clothing, we buy that with the lottery money.

“It also includes clothing for kids and food.”

In 2014, she ventured into victim empowerment programmes in a bid to help abused women.

Adriaanse was uncomfortable witnessing desperate women going through long and dreadful processes to get protection orders and child maintenance from the authorities.

As a result, she set up a place of safety for the women as some of them would, at times, present with physical injuries sustained while being abused. Because of this, the women would be scared to return home.

The shelter, well-secured with CCTV cameras and high electrical fencing, provides therapeutic services offered by a qualified social worker and psychologist.

The centre also offers various activities to abuse survivors such as beadwork, prayer sessions and support groups.

One of the survivors, a 39-year-old mother of four who wished not to be named, turned to the shelter after she fought with her husband and was later granted a protection order. She enjoys her stay at the shelter.

The woman received counselling and has now returned home to her husband feeling more emotionally strong.

“I’m in control of my life now. Before I came here, I just wanted



**The centre also welcomes kids struggling with drugs addiction.**  
/Graphic / The Herald

to satisfy my husband and never thought of myself. I now have the courage to say no and make my own decisions,” she said.

Another beneficiary, Dina Isaacs, 35, used to abuse alcohol as a coping mechanism to the unbearable conditions she was subjected to in her marriage. This led to the mother of six neglecting her children.

Ethembeni helped her rediscover herself, quit alcohol and become an involved mother.

Vuyelwa Cofa, 41, another survivor of gender-based violence, explained: “I really got the support I need from Ethembeni.

“I can see the impact the lottery money does in women’s lives



**Asnanell Duiker, Ester Eland, Vuyelwa Cofa and Claire Adriaanse all have positive stories to tell about Ethembeni, a place of safety for victims of gender-based violence.** /Photos /Tiro Ramatlhatshe

I met other women here who are [as strong as] rocks; they have reassured me of my strength.”

Adriaanse pleaded with

the commission to continue supporting the centre.

“We treat the victims with respect and dignity. I want to

thank the lottery for their ongoing support. I can see the impact that the money does in the lives of the women and children.”



## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: HEALTH IMPACT

Women exposed to intimate partner violence are →

Mental Health

**TWICE**  
as likely to experience depression

**ALMOST TWICE**  
as likely to have alcohol use disorders

Sexual and Reproductive Health

**16%**  
more likely to have a low birth-weight baby

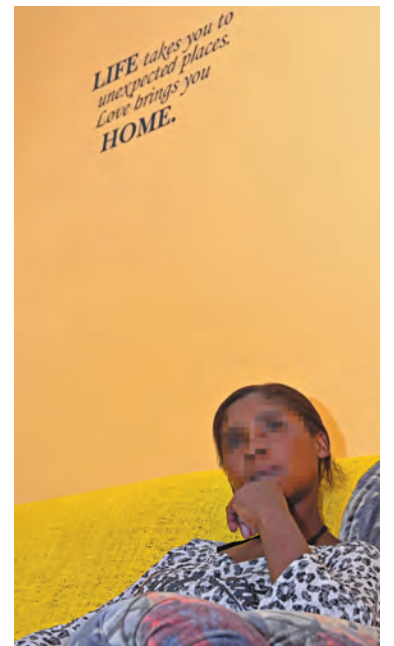
**1.5 TIMES**  
more likely to acquire HIV and 1.5 times more likely to contract syphilis infection, chlamydia or gonorrhoea

Death and Injury

**42%**  
of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of a partner have experienced injuries as a result

**38%**  
of all murders of women globally were reported as being committed by their intimate partners

LIFE takes you to unexpected places. Love brings you HOME.



Ethembeni’s intervention has helped Dina Issacs quit alcohol and become an involved mother to her kids.



PHILIA SERVICE CENTRE

# Beukes feed their poor community

Pupils and elderly get free meals

At the outskirts of Nourivier in Namaqualand exists a soup kitchen that has been feeding disadvantaged Northern Cape families since 2017 and improving the unbearable, dire conditions they live in. The soup kitchen, dubbed Philia Service Centre, was established by its chairperson Willem Beukes and wife Velizithy Beukes in 2017 after his wife, a local shop owner at the time, discovered a shortage and need of nutritional meals for learners in grade R to 7 in the area.



Rosetta Beukes prepares food at Philia Service Centre.

“Apart from the nutritional meals, we also realised most of the pupils dropped out of school before reaching grade 8,” explained Beukes. “The initial idea was also to ensure that these pupils, as well as the elderly and people living with disabilities and chronic diseases such as HIV/Aids, TB, receive appropriate meals so

that they can be able to drink their pills.”

After drafting what their non-profit-organisation (NPO) wants to achieve, the couple, concerned about their neighbours living in heart-breaking poverty-stricken environment, started growing their own vegetables using seeds they received from the government.

Neighbouring farmers also assisted, supplying meat



The community of Nourivier, 100km outside Springbok, gather three times a week to get free meals from the soup kitchen. / Photos / Tiro Ramatlhatshe

supplements. The NPO has also over the past two years been supported by big retailers and local government in realising their vision.

“The soup kitchen operates for three days per week on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays, and serves food from five o’clock in the afternoons. When we started, Velizithy used her own funds ensuring that an average of 123 people per day

were served with food.

“Unfortunately, the last two months have been a very difficult time and due to financial constraints, we had to cut [down] on the preparation of food. We are excited that the lottery has approved funding for Philla, which will put smiles on many people’s faces.”

The NPO expects funding from the National Lotteries Commission which it says will be for the salaries of workers, kitchen equipment, groceries, electrical and office equipment.

Lack of funding remains the organisation’s major challenge on a daily basis.

**The Beukes make sure that the children always have something to eat.**



In addition to NLC, the NPO has been supported by retailers

NAMKO (NAMAQUALAND)

# Namko helps survivors claim back dignity and pride

NPO fights for women’s rights, empowerment

Namko, a nonprofit organisation (NPO) from Okiep in the Northern Cape, has been fighting for women’s rights and encouraging survivors of gender-based violence to stand for themselves.

Namko, which stands for Namakwaland Ontwikkeling (Namaqualand Development) has been advocating for women’s rights and empowerment since its formation in 1994.

The NPO’s main focus is to fight all injustices against the poor, vulnerable and marginalised communities.

Namko’s director, Quinta Titus, said they are always trying to create better living conditions for those in need by assisting them to be financially stable through their various programmes.

The 55-year-old believes in improving the dreadful living conditions of the residents in the



Namko director and members Ronald van Wyk, Davinadra Titus, Judine Nero and Quinta Titus. / Tiro Ramatlhatshe

Namaqualand region.

“We create opportunities for communities to grow and develop by helping them to empower themselves to improve their lives. We have evolved as an organisation and have developed a unique community driven and owned development model that bring changes in the lives of ordinary residents,” explained Titus.

Namko’s programmes comprise, among others, women empowerment workshops, arts and craft, bakery, women-owned brick-making plant, community gardens, soup kitchens, computer literacy and tourism projects aimed at uplifting women.

However, funding still remains one of its big challenges to tackle the the scourge of gender-based violence. But



The Okiep-based organisation in the Northern Cape has been fighting for the rights of women since its formation in 1994. Graph / GCIS

through the National Lotteries Commission, the organisation has managed to implement most of its activities. “We would like to thank the lottery for their generous contribution over the years, they have assisted in making a huge difference in the rural commu-

nities of Namaqualand,” said Titus.

It has assisted many households like Paulina Maarman, 55. She now owns a brick-laying business and has produced vegetable gardens.

“This program helped me to regain my dignity,” she said.



## DOCKDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

# A champion for rural communities

Lottories commission helps Dockda Rural Development Agency support the poor



Dockda Rural Development Agency visits indigent homes and provides advice and skills development. It also provides home-based care for those with chronic conditions.

**D**ockda Rural Development Agency strives to uplift and reignite hope in indigent families in rural communities across the John Taolo Gaetsewe district in Kuruman.

Established in 1994, the Northern Cape agency has nine community-based organisations (CBOs) across the region to focus on developing rural areas by ensuring that unique issues at those respective communities

are prioritised.

The agency's programme officer Ruth Molaolwe, 49, said they provide food parcels and vegetable seeds for communities to cultivate their own food gardens so that they can sustain themselves.

The agency also offers diverse programmes such as home-based care, human rights awareness, girls' rights to education, food security and assistance to gender-based violence survivors in the Gasegonyana and Joe Morolong municipalities.

"We're always at various rural areas holding prevention campaigns, raising awareness on teenage pregnancy and donating food parcels and sanitary pads at schools. We also mentor our staff and constantly monitor all our beneficiaries," Molaolwe explained.

The organisation has received



Dockda Rural Development Agency works to uplift rural communities, giving them the skills they need to be self-sustaining. The Northern Cape agency has nine community-based organisations across the region. / Photos: Tiro Ramathatse

funding from the National Lotteries Commission, which has enabled training for more than 100 people in various programmes. "The Lottery is very important to us. It has funded us in the past and we were able to see the change that the CBOs do in their respective areas."

Most of the beneficiaries suffer from chronic diseases and

Dockda assists them with their medication. One of them is a 34-year-old HIV-positive woman who got gravely ill and was hospitalised because she wasn't on medication. The mother of two said she didn't know she had to be on antiretrovirals after her diagnosis last year.

"I'm grateful to be healthy. I'm also happy that the organisation

gave me more information about my sickness," she said.

Another beneficiary is a 58-year-old grandmother who takes care of her five orphaned grandchildren.

"The NGO helps me to get social grants for my grandchildren. We started last year and I'm satisfied with how they're helping me."

**“**We were able to see the change that the CBOs do in their areas**”**

## BATHOPELE

## Teaching women to stand and fight back

Bathopele raises awareness of GBV

**B**athopele was founded to help in the fight against the abuse of women and children in Kimberley.

The Northern-Cape nongovernmental organisation (NGO) was established in 2010 to tackle sensitive community issues and provide an inclusive approach to domestic abuse. The NGO offers services such as psychological and legal counselling to survivors of gender-based violence, legal rights awareness, and educational programmes.

It was founded by Florence Mookwa. After her death in 2014, her grandson, Thapelo Mookwa, took over.

Mookwa believes domestic abuse is enforced by economic



**Bathopele helps survivors of gender-based violence understand their legal rights, among other programmes.**

hardships, alcohol abuse and social and cultural inequalities.

"We want to help our women and children to openly speak about abuse. We've brought women together to tell their unique stories, and have skilled

and empowered them. We've also provided some shelters for survivors to make sure they are safe, break their silence and revive their strength," Mookwa explained.

One of Mookwa's main

concerns is that GBV continues to escalate in the province.

"We believe in taking a stand to assist those violated by providing food, clothing and shelter. We can eradicate sexual and gender-based violence within our life time, we just need enough resources.

"We also need institutions to address sexual violence in the workplace and more people to reach out to those affected. Let's stand together and fight this epidemic as a community."

One of Bathopele beneficiaries is a 34-year-old man who used to abuse his girlfriend.

"I would be very controlling of what she wears and where she goes. I used to verbally, emotionally and physically abuse her. I was very jealous. I'm now happy that such an organisation helped me," he said.

Through the intervention of

**Thapelo Mookwa believes SA should unite to fight GBV.**

the NGO, he has reformed after receiving counselling and attending various programmes.

Two more beneficiaries, a 52-year-old woman and a 36-year-old divorcee who were both abused in their relationships, managed to find strength and get out of those relationships through the help of the organisation.

"We thank the lottery for the funding. It ensured that we were able to assist the vulnerable and conduct awareness campaigns," Mookwa concluded.





GOLDFIELDS FAMILY ADVICE ORGANISATION

# Saved from ruin and ready to serve

Funding allows Goldfields to remain open

**G**oldfields Family Advice Organisation continues to protect lives after being saved from financial ruin by the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) this year.

The nonprofit organisation opened its doors in 1996 after a group of female creche owners around Welkom in the Free State were trained by social workers on how to run a protection home for women and children facing abuse and human trafficking.

The director of the organisation Sarah Lekale said the organisation had closed its doors due to food insecurity and lack of funds to pay stipends to its volunteers and employees.

The annual memorandum the organisation had signed with the Department of Social Development saw volunteers paid R600 monthly, which was not sustainable.

“I applied for Lotto funding and I strongly hoped that they would give us funding so we could return to saving lives. They [National Lotteries Commission team] said they do not usually fund shelters because they do not understand how we work, but they fortunately gave us something to work on,” she said.

The organisation received R247 000 from the National Lotteries Commission, allowing it to continue providing services.

The money will be used to renovate the house, buy enough food for the victims and pay the four employees who work at the shelter.

“I am grateful to Lotto for this funding and I promise they will see the good we are implementing at the shelter with their help, they will be proud and we are proud. I wish they would continue funding us for years to come.”

Motherhouse Nomsa Mbekwa, 51, who has been working with the organisation for more than a decade, said she was heartbroken when the shelter closed its doors and the employees walked away due to nonpayment.

“I was paid because Lotto [NLC] funded us, and I am still grateful to them because we are now definite that we cannot struggle with food to eat in the morning or late at night, and we know we cannot turn any victims back because we cannot afford to have them around.

“Although we lost some of the people that were working here, we have had enough money to hire staff members,” she said.

Nonkie Chauke, 33, who has only been employed for a month



Goldfields director Sarah Lekale, second from left, says the organisation had closed its doors after failing to pay stipends to volunteers and its employees.



Goldfields Family Advice is committed to support victims of gender-based violence.

at the shelter, said the funding helped her get a job as a social auxiliary worker.

“If there’s anything I should say, I want the Lotto team to know wherever they are that I am personally grateful for the funds and the shelter will see change,” said Chauke.



“

I was paid because NLC funded us, and I am still grateful to them as we cannot struggle with food to eat in the morning or late at night.

LIFELINE SOUTH AFRICA

# Lifeline Free State gets lifeline

Lotto funding keeps counselling service open

**F**unding from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) this year helped Lifeline Free State keep its doors open after a major sponsor pulled out.

Lifeline South Africa is a nonprofit organisation that specialises in 24/7 telephonic counselling assistance.

Lifeline national director Molefi Jeremiah Takalo said many of its offices nationwide have been receiving funding

from the NLC over the years, except for Lifeline Free State.

He said the region has been struggling to get funding over the years, but the NLC has breathed life back into it by donating money and a car.

“Free State almost closed because its major sponsor pulled out. The late director of the centre [Mpho Ralepedi] called me to say he cannot imagine the organisation surviving for the rest of the year,” said Takalo.

“He told me that he was already having thoughts of closing down Lifeline that side and



Late director of Lifeline Free State Mpho Ralepedi.

there was nothing we could all do, but Lotto [NLC] people helped us continue giving our services to the people of Free State. That’s how huge Lotto’s existence is. We need to pay people and Lotto helps to pay salaries,” said Takalo.

Although Lifeline specialises in telephonic counselling, it also reaches out to people through national mobile clinics and marketing at petrol filling stations during festive season and Easter holidays.

Takalo said the festive season is a busy time. “Our main aim is



Lifeline provides 24/7 telephonic counselling. The Free State centre nearly closed down due to a lack of funding.

to visit places where there are a lot of people, even entertainment events like the one we recently attended, Macufe [Mangaung African Cultural Festival], in Free State.

“We know that those people

go there to enjoy but once they leave, especially under the influence of alcohol, there might be cases of rape or unwanted pregnancies. So, we give away condoms and advice to those attending the event.”



# A passion to care for the poor

**S**iyabonga Huis van Danksegging's founder, Chrisna du Plessis, opened a clinic in 1999 to serve the St Helena Bay community in the Western Cape because there were no doctors in the area at the time. Deeply religious, she was guided to open Siyabonga in 2005 to care for the sick, the disabled and vulnerable women and children. "Today, we are an empowered NGO on the West Coast - we run 11 programmes, primarily focusing on health, disability, families and children, early childhood development, and unemployed youth," explained Chrisna, who adds that the programmes are subsidised by government departments. She said she had nothing when she started Siyabonga in 2005. "We worked on a voluntary basis because there was no money for salaries. It was tough."

She first requested funding from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) in 2009. "I was over the moon when my application was successful."

"The NLC has assisted Siyabonga with funding that covers salaries, municipal

**The mission is to improve lives, largely those stricken by poverty and abuse**

and travel costs, food and maintenance - and this year Siyabonga was able to purchase a bus.

"Siyabonga transports 75 adults and children with disabilities and 80 children attending ECD [early childhood development] to the programmes and back home again. The NLC assists with petrol costs, which makes the transportation viable."

The NLC funding was also used to build an ECD centre.

"We previously had four Wendy houses for 60 children - in 2015, we received funding for an ECD building, of which we are very proud. We are very blessed."

Chrisna says Siyabonga's mission is to improve lives, largely those

stricken by poverty and abuse.

"Even some of the staff were not skilled or work-ready to begin with. We take them in, train them on the job, and help them to believe in themselves."

Siyabonga employs 150 people and services 250 clients every day. It also provides learning opportunities for 100 unemployed youth and supporting 55 poverty-stricken families.

Siyabonga's slogan, "Caring is our passion", speaks to its commitment to provide welfare for poor people. "NLC assisted me in providing for the needs of others. I provide services that are not duplicated in the area. I am grateful to the NLC for everything they have done to help us."



Sisters Incorporated receptionist Mellissa Phanyaza, teacher Danica Gennison and kitchen supervisor Hilda Alexander preparing supper. / Tiro Ramatlhatshe

## Sisters still doing it for others ... 60 years on

Lotto funds helps home feed its residents

**S**isters Incorporated celebrated its 60 birthday this year - no mean feat for a nongovernment organisation (NGO). Founded by Lynette Veldhuizen and Sue Henderson in 1959, the former home for white unmarried mothers has gone through changes. The advent of the birth control and the legalisation of abortion meant there were fewer unwanted pregnancies - but domestic abuse was becoming a pressing social issue. As more women sought refuge from abusive partners, the founders decided to offer them accommodation and counselling. They took in everyone, regardless of racial classification.

Today, the NGO provides a home-like environment for survivors of domestic and interpersonal violence, as well as rape.

"We are not an emergency shelter," stresses Delene Roberts, director of Sisters for the past five years.

"We provide lodging and care for women and their children - and they can stay for up to three months if they need to do so. We offer a skills development programme for the women and there's a creche and playground for the children."

The double-storey house can accommodate 28 women and their children at one time.

"Our annual budget is R2.5-million and the Department of Social Development covers roughly half that."

Sisters has received much-needed assistance from the National Lotteries Commission.

"We are grateful to have received funds in 2014, 2016 and again this year. It has helped us to pay staff salaries. In 2017, we were able to buy a car for the organisation with funds received in 2016.

"It was wonderful to get our own branded vehicle," added Roberts.

Roberts said R90 000 of the R465 000 received has gone towards paying for food.



Siyabonga Huis van Danksegging employs 150 people and services 250 clients everyday. The NLC funding was used to build an early childhood development centre, among other things. / Photos / Tiro Ramatlhatshe

### USEFUL NUMBERS TO KEEP

SAPS Emergency Services	10111	Commission for Gender Equality	Report Gender Discrimination and Abuse 0800 007 709
Childline South Africa	Report child abuse to Childline South Africa's toll-free line: 0800 055 555	South African Human Rights Commission	Call 011 877 3600 to lodge a complaint about human rights violations
Gender Based Violence Command Centre	Contact the 24-hour GBV Command Centre toll-free number 0800 428 428	Domestic Violence Helpline	Stop Women Abuse 0800 150 150
South African Police Service	Report all cases of rape, sexual assault or any form of violence to a local police station or call the toll-free Crime Stop number 086 00 10111	Aids Helpline	0800 012 322
Legal Aid South Africa	Call the toll-free Legal Aid Advice line 0800 110 110 for free legal aid if you cannot afford one	People Opposed to Woman Abuse, or Powa	011 642 434/6

### About the NLC

The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) was established in terms of the Lotteries Amendment Act (No 32 of 2013) to regulate the national lottery and other lotteries, including society lotteries to raise funds and promotional competitions. The NLC evolved out of the National Lotteries Board, which was established in terms of the Lotteries Act No 57 of 1997. Other responsibilities of the commission include advising the minister of trade and industry on policy matters relating to the national lottery and other

lotteries. NLC members are also trustees of the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund, into which national lottery proceeds that are intended for allocation to good causes are deposited. The NLC does not adjudicate applications for funding or make allocations to organisations. This job is reserved for committees known as distributing agencies, appointed by the minister of trade and industry and other relevant ministers after public nominations. The NLC provides administrative support to the distributing agencies.