

## **Epworth Childrens Village**

### **March Newsletter: Celebrating Resilience and Community**

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Hello from Epworth Children's Village!

As March arrives, we are filled with gratitude for the resilience of our children and the unwavering support of our community. This month, we focus on celebrating the progress we have made and the strength that continues to guide us through challenging times.

Our children have shown remarkable adaptability as they navigate the transitions in their lives. We are proud of their growth and the positive steps they are taking toward their futures. Our dedicated staff remains committed to providing the emotional and behavioral support necessary for each child's well-being, ensuring they feel safe and valued.

Thank you for standing with us and for the children we serve. Together, we are creating a brighter future filled with hope and possibilities.

After much careful consideration, the board of **Epworth Children's Village** has made the heart-wrenching decision to begin preparations for closure. With declining funds and a crisis that shows no signs of easing, we must take responsible steps to ensure the safe transition of our children into alternative homes.

This decision highlights the serious challenges facing all NPOs today, including increasing regulatory demands, diminishing government support, and donor fatigue. Many homes across South Africa are closing for similar reasons, but our priority remains the children. We are exploring legal options to extend our timeline.

We are working diligently to maintain a sense of normalcy for the children, as Epworth has been home to many for over 15 years, with most children having been here for an average of five years or more. However, the uncertainty is causing stress among the children, as they worry about their future, and other homes are hesitant to take them in due to the current crisis.

Furthermore, the new Service Level Agreements (SLAs) have yet to be signed by the department, despite promises that this would be resolved in January. While we have our registration for five years, the lack of a signed SLA has made donors reluctant to contribute, leaving our future uncertain.

## How to Get Involved with Epworth Children's Village

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There are many ways to support Epworth and make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children. Here's how you can get involved:

1. **Volunteer Your Time:** Share your skills, talents, and energy by volunteering with us. Whether you can mentor a child, help with daily activities, or provide administrative support, your time will be invaluable.
2. **Support a Project:** Help us continue our essential services by sponsoring a specific project. From education to therapy programs, your contribution can help fund the critical resources our children need.
3. **Join Monthly Giving:** Become a monthly donor and provide consistent support. Even small contributions can make a huge impact, helping us cover essential costs like groceries, clothing, and therapy services.
4. **Donate Monthly Groceries:** Partner with us to supply monthly groceries, ensuring our children have nutritious meals. You can also coordinate with your company or community group to provide bulk donations.
5. **Contribute to Our Wishlist:** We always need items like toiletries, school supplies, and clothing. Check our website for an updated wishlist and see how you can help with essential day-to-day needs.

Every bit of support helps create a safe and nurturing environment for the children in our care.

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**Thank You to Our Generous Donors! -From the bottom of our hearts, we extend our sincerest gratitude to all our donors who have contributed this month.**