

Clowns Without Borders South Africa

**Providing Laughter and Emotional Relief
to Children and Caregivers in Communities
Affected by HIV/AIDS, Poverty, and Violence**



No Child Without a Smile!

Our Mission

Clowns Without Borders-South Africa is an artist-led humanitarian organization dedicated to improving the psychosocial condition of children and communities in areas of crisis through humor and laughter.

We also seek to raise our society's awareness of conditions in these areas.

CWB-South Africa maintains a spirit of peace, joy, compassion and loving kindness in all of our endeavors.

Since 2004, CWB-South Africa has provided emotional relief to over 100,000 children and caregivers.

What We Do

CWB-South Africa uses play and laughter through performance and theatre arts education to address the psychosocial needs of communities in areas of crisis around the world. We partner with both community based organizations and larger national and international NGOs to complement existing programs for children and their caregivers. Our focus is on strengthening child-to-caregiver relationships within existing family structures as well as providing emotional relief from trauma.

We hope to empower communities with the means to develop a sense of wellbeing in the present and hope for the future.

Where We Work

CWB South Africa works primarily in rural and urban communities in South Africa, Swaziland, and Lesotho. We are also committed to inspiring laughter and emotional relief throughout Southern Africa, the African continent, and around the world. It is our long term intention to empower, train, and provide support to organizations so that they may develop local capacity to respond to crisis situations on a sustainable basis.

Our Programs

Emergency Relief Expeditions

Send in the clowns! Using nonverbal physical comedy, music, storytelling, and dance, our performances provide momentary relief to large numbers of children and adults throughout the world. We help transform places of grief into joy by creating an atmosphere of celebration where it is needed most. While humor and play is the primary focus, we also raise awareness of important issues affecting the community.

Project Njabulo—HIV/AIDS

Providing emotional relief to children and caregivers affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic is our primary focus in Southern Africa. Project Njabulo, the Zulu for "joy and happiness" (pronounced *iN-Jabooloh*), interventions consist of performances and workshops in collaboration with a community based organization. Our teams of clowns, artists, and facilitators work within the community over a 10 day residency. Emphasis is on developing tools for resiliency through drama, play, storytelling, creative movement, circus arts and mindfulness-based stress relief techniques.

Professional Development

CWB-South Africa provides professional development to artists and community volunteers through organizational and artistic skills capacity training. We empower artists to enhance their own careers with the skills necessary to create sustainable social circus and theatre programs in their community.

Raising Awareness

CWB-South Africa works to raise the social awareness of our society both domestically and internationally through educational tours consisting of publicity campaigns, performances, and presentations. We also aim to connect communities together in a network of support and solidarity.

Partner Organizations

South Africa

Amazing Grace Children's Home
African Dream Circus
God's Golden Acre
Ingwavuma Orphan Care
Mpande Toddlers
Ndlovu Medical Centre
Nurturing Orphans of AIDS for Humanity
Rob Smetherham Bereavement Service for Children
World Camps
Woza Moya Project

Swaziland

Lutheran Development Service (LDS)
Schools Health And Population Education (SHAPE)
Swaziland for Positive Living (SWAPOL)
Swaziland SOS Children's Village

Lesotho

Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative
Lesotho Child Counseling Unit
Lesotho Girl Guides Association
Malealea Development Trust
Mants'ase Children's Home
Maseru SOS Children's Village
St. Luke's Mission
Save the Children, Lesotho
Semonkong Lodge and Community Project
Sisters of Charity Sekamaneng Home

International

Cirkus Cirkor (Sweden)
Clowner Utan Granser (Sweden)
Emerson College (United Kingdom)

What People Say...

"Things like this are absolutely vital!"
– Newsweek Magazine

"Laughter is the best medicine...it's clear that it is a job that Project Njabulo does well"
– Ch. 27, ABC affiliate, Madison, Wisconsin

"Clowns Without Borders helps children around the world laugh in the face of daunting obstacles"
- NPR, National Public Radio

"I learned that I am not alone in my dreams. There are people there to support me. At first I felt shy, but now, I feel different and it feels great!"

– Thandokuhle, 12 year-old orphan after a Life Dreams workshop in Kwazulu-Natal

"Your support shows that someone loves us to come from so far away and bring laughter. It shows us that from something simple you can make beautiful things. Thank you today for giving us so much."

- Mbisi, 17 year old orphan in Mpumalanga

"It brings tears of joy to my eyes to see the work you are doing. There are only two things you can give a child that no one can take away and those are memories and education. You do both. To teach a child how to make others laugh while laughing himself must be one of the greatest gifts you can give. I am so proud to be associated with Clowns Without Borders."

– Kathy Poulter, director of Makaphutu Children's Village, South Africa

"The children of Ufafa look forward to two events each year: Christmas and the Clowns' visit!"

– Sue Hedden, director of Woza Moya Community Project, South Africa

How We Are Supported...

Clowns Without Borders is a non-profit organization registered in South Africa. NPO Registration Number: 057-149.

We rely on the generosity of individuals and organizations to continue our healing work.

About 85% of our funds go directly to expedition costs in the field.

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