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RE: COVID-19 APPEAL

Dear Sir or Madam,

Our low-income communities are now the country's hardest hit group by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to new coronavirus projections from Dr. Mkhize and top scientists, one million Covid-19 cases, 40 000 deaths are projected in South Africa in the months to come. With this, the country could become soon the "epicenter within the epicenter" which will experience the highest rates, and the country still struggling with the fact that a pandemic has just worsened the already existing realities of living in poverty. In response, with our limited resources, [Ithemba Labantwana](http://www.ithembalabantwana.weebly.com) is working to promote proper sanitation and hygiene among rural and poor communities, raising awareness to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in rural areas of KZN, we are conducting in-person and virtual home visits to the most affected by the lockdown due to pandemic and we are improving nutrition for low-income communities impacted by COVID-19 lockdown through distribution of food parcels and more..

The challenges for our families living in poverty have always faced - financial hardship, job insecurity, hunger, and limited access to health and mental health care - are now even more destabilizing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. And because low-income families have less ability to work remotely, live in more crowded spaces, and have higher rates of pre-existing health conditions, their COVID-19 infection and lockdown have skyrocketed.

Furthermore, our targets areas are overcrowded and under-resourced therefore COVID-19 will have a massive and potentially disastrous impact. The hardest hit will include: - The unemployed as they will not have the extra money for soap and sanitizer; - People living in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions; - The sick and elderly who cannot risk exposure; - People for whom no work means no pay; - Children who are usually fed at school (schools are closed) - Those with no access to medicine to treat their symptoms

Therefore, we are currently requesting for donations from companies, foundations/trusts and individuals to help our communities in rural areas who mostly impacted by the COVID 19. The donations requested will help Ithemba Labantwana to assist in reducing the spread of infection between people by:

- Providing non-perishable food, basic medicines, soap and sanitizers, masks, gloves, hand-sanitizers, protein-rich food and immunity-boosting supplements, you can help the poorest of the poor in poor communities to survive despite the odds. It's almost impossible to isolate or even to keep a social distance when you live with so many people in such close confines but with your help, we can work to reduce the impact.
- Promoting proper sanitation and hygiene by establishing hand washing stations, and teaching proper hand washing techniques, in low-income communities.
- Raising awareness about how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through radio and social media campaigns.
- Supporting local health systems by providing temperature reading and health care referrals at established points in coordination with the Department of Health.
- Supporting the ability of our volunteers to provide increased counseling and support services for victims of sexual and gender based violence, in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Supporting mental health and well-being in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic through counseling.
- Improving access to health care in rural communities by equipping mobile medical clinics with basic medicines and personal protective equipment for health care workers.
- Improving nutrition for low-income communities impacted by COVID-19 by equipping mobile food banks.

We do believe that by bringing practical assistance and showing the community that they do not have to battle COVID-19 alone, the impact on the people we serve will hopefully be reduced. All assistance will be accompanied by education on how to prevent the infection spreading, the benefit of social distancing where possible and assistance on caring for those infected.

Thank you in advance and hopefully you will contact us in order to provide any support where you can to prevent the infection spreading in our poor communities.

My Kindest Regards



William Manana

Director

Giving African Children Hope /

Ithemba Labantwana

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