



VISITING THE CHILDREN'S HOME IN MANZINI

His Hands for Swaziland

March 2017

Visiting Swaziland

by Jamie Dennett, Child Sponsor Program Coordinator

A team visited our program in late February. This was my first visit to Swaziland. The other two team members had already been in Africa for two weeks visiting other programs. We met in Johannesburg, South Africa, and then flew into Swaziland to meet Thabsile from The Fortress.

Since I had only my school vacation in which to travel, we had only a few days in which to do our work. After some errands on Monday, we visited the children's home. We met the eleven children and teens living there, updated the information we needed and took new individual photos of them. As evidenced by the photo above, we also took a few fun shots as well!

We also saw nine other children who live nearby that Thabsile wanted to add to the program. These are vulnerable children who need help with their schooling fees and supplies. We learned that a complete uniform costs approximately \$75 US. Only three of these children live with a parent. The others live with a sibling, an aunt, or a grandparent.

Feeding Programs

Thabsile also asked us to add children from two feeding programs and nearby schools. Although the feeding programs are subsidized by the government, a preschool is part of the program. The children we saw are especially needy.



Marilee

Some little ones grabbed onto Marilee's hands as we entered the room used for the feeding station and preschool. She was more than happy to sit with them!

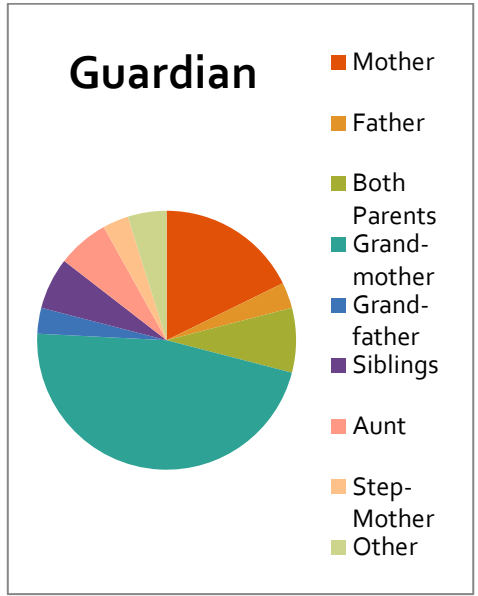


Jamie C.

In our travels we saw these large pineapple fields. They seemed to go on forever, making a nice contrast to the red dirt!

Of the 62 school and feeding program children we saw, half of them live with a grandparent. Their parents are deceased, living away, or sadly, they have abandoned their children. Some of these children are HIV+.

FAST FACTS



It was hard to see these precious little ones and to know that many were single or double orphans, but it was heart-breaking to see the ones who had been abandoned.

The grandmothers (Gogos) often



care for more than one grand-child. One grandmother we met has eleven grandchildren living with her. All of her own children have died and now she is raising the next generation. This is a common story in the country that has the highest rate of AIDS in the world.

What Can We Do?

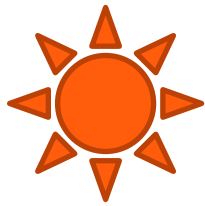


Our web page will be updated to add a new section of "Children in Need." These children will be the ones enrolled in the Ebenezer and Ngcina feeding programs and schools associated with them.

We will continue to have the children from The Fortress' children's home listed separately since they are two different programs. Currently, there are only three children from the children's home who need sponsors.

Please check our website for more information in the days ahead.

[His Hands for Swaziland](http://www.hishandsforswaziland.org)



This photo shows what traditional Swazi homes look like. Even though most people are building updated, more modern homes, these huts still remain on their family property.



We hope you will share about His Hands for Swaziland with your friends and families to help us find sponsors for the children in our new program.

Serving joyfully,
 Jamie Dennett
 Child Sponsor Coordinator

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