

From Gardens to Goats: Thanda's Agriculture Program Expands



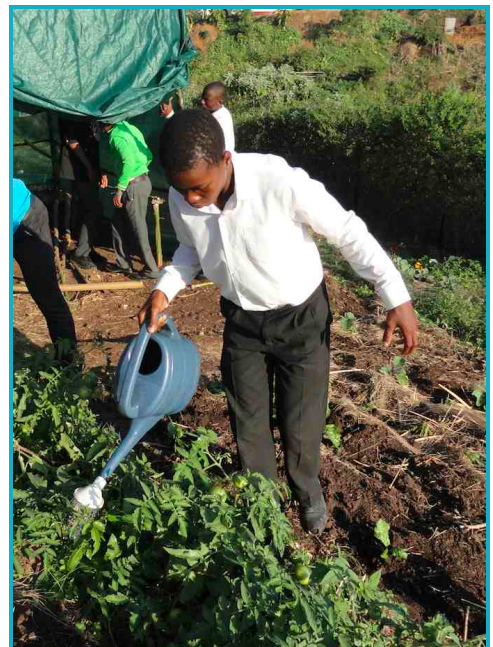
When we started our Agriculture program, our kids told the staff that, "Gardening is for grannies" and they would have no part of it. It wasn't a cool thing to do. And they were cool kids.

The kids were right in one sense. Five years ago, in the community where Thanda works, only grannies kept vegetable gardens, and only a few grannies at that. But gardening is cool.

Today, Thanda's Agriculture program is one of our most popular programs, and this is thanks to our remarkable staff and their innovative lessons about sustainability, responsibility, and economic independence--all taught in Thanda's ever-growing vegetable gardens.

We've had such success with the gardens on our site, that we've started community gardens, which alleviate food shortages, and our Agriculture students sell our vegetables locally to generate income.

But why stop at vegetables? You may remember the celebrated arrival of a few



feathered females in March--egg-laying hens!



While the sale of eggs are adding to our income, the hens also offer our staff unique opportunities to teach about ecosystems, biology, environmentalism, and economics. The independence and responsibility the students learn from taking care of animals is profound and impactful.

So when we had the chance to acquire some goats and ducks... you can see where this is going.



By now, Thanda's Agriculture program has exploded into a wildly popular, full-blown farming operation, providing endless teaching opportunities, hands-on experience in a sustainable business operation, income generation, and fun for Thanda students.

Throughout August and September, we'll be asking for your help with some exciting changes on site to help us

improve our farming education programs and keep this momentum going! We also have our eye on some pigs....



HELPING COMMUNITIES HELP THEMSELVES

Our Mission

Providing targeted educational, physical and emotional support, Thanda helps rural South African children and their communities develop and implement local, sustainable and lasting solutions to the devastating problems created by poverty and HIV/AIDS, empowering them to reach a brighter future independently and permanently.

The Situation

In South Africa:

- 62% of all children live below the poverty line.
- Only 4 in 10 complete secondary school.
- 1.9 million children have been orphaned by AIDS.

In KwaZulu-Natal Province, where Thanda is based:

- Home to a quarter of South Africa's children.
- 30% of the population has been infected with HIV.
- 4 in 10 pregnant mothers are HIV-positive.

Join us

Give these children the opportunity to thrive. Give these communities the opportunity to grow strong.

Give to Thanda.
thanda.org

Join the Thanda = ❤️ Program and give love every month. Become a Red Heart Donor at \$50/month or more and receive a free gift when you sign up! Visit thanda.org to enroll.

EMPOWER. OVERCOME. THRIVE.



Our Projects

Thanda After-School

Offering targeted, year-long after-school programs in sports, art, computers and agriculture, Thanda's flagship program serves 325 local orphans and vulnerable children, ages 5-18, with the educational, emotional and physical support they need to develop as confident problem solvers and active rural citizens. Thanda After-School's model keeps resource use and costs low by using empty classrooms and community sports fields every afternoon. Thanda After-School staff are all from the local community, and they stand as local role models for their learners. They are integral to making the curriculum locally relevant—especially Thanda's HIV/AIDS prevention curriculum, which is taught in all of the Thanda After-School programs.



Community Center and Library

The first ever library in the Umzumbe municipality, Thanda's new home features a counseling office, meeting space and a computer lab. Students and recent high school graduates are pursuing new avenues of learning in the library, while Thanda students use the computer lab after school. Only a year old, the Community Center and Library has already become a crucial community resource.

Social Entrepreneurship

Thanda works with community members to develop solutions to food insecurity and endemic poverty by teaching skills and exploring local business opportunities, such as household vegetable gardening and poultry farming.

The 'Next Steps' program teaches recent high school graduates entrepreneurship skills to help them start their own businesses. They learn to sew school uniforms and gain experience running small-scale businesses together.



Thanda Zulu

Thanda Zulu was founded as a way to support South African beaders and to fund the work of Thanda. Handmade with pride, Thanda Zulu jewelry is beaded in KwaZulu-Natal by women in an income generation project that offers them a chance to uplift themselves and their families and preserve a traditional artform.

Shop thandazulu.org as a way to support Thanda.