

A Day in the Life of Thandanani

Four o'clock in the morning comes early at Thandanani House of Refuge. The live-in house parents are already up boiling water so the 22 children that live here can awaken to hot water for washing up before heading off to school. Electricity supply has been sporadic for months so it is dark and chilly within these walls. Breakfast is simple porridge, beds are made, clothing lockers organized, and then off to school by 6:15. There are 10 different schools that the children are shuttled to depending on their needs - mainstream, technical, specific needs, and an awarded scholarship school for one child. Traffic is dreadful and transportation is not reliable.

The children return home mid-afternoon to open arms and a pre-prepared lunch. After lunch the children busy themselves by washing their socks, polishing their school shoes, doing homework and social time. Supper is eaten with little light, the kitchen is tidied, water is boiled for baths and then off to bed only to do it all over again tomorrow.

The children are grateful for the prefabricated container behind the house to use for recreational activities or a quiet place to do homework. Education and reading time is encouraged at Thandanani to reinforce that learning equals self-confidence and sustaining on their own. Success here is not returning to Zandspruit with 100,000 other shack dwellers.

“Thandanani isn't an institution - it's home.”

Thandanani isn't an institution - it's home. Individuality is respected and each child is provided exclusive love and attention whether that be tutoring, emotional support, or simply time for togetherness.

Many of these children do have at least one parent but have seen and experienced unspeakable conditions. Many were found living within the informal settlement being physically and emotionally abused. Imagine living under a piece of plastic because your family do not have enough money to even build a shack. The battle is real, but love finds a way. With security, consistency, emotional support and lots of unconditional love these children are able to succeed, becoming self-sustaining individuals in their communities and society.

Security, food on the table, a roof over their heads, and love. This is home.



*“Love One
Another”*

www.Thandanani.org