



Strive To Thrive

A TLC Village Initiative For
Empowering Our Youth



What is Strive To Thrive?


The Strive to Thrive program has been developed to assist in the final phase of “growing up” the children who are being raised as permanent beneficiaries of TLC.

This cohort includes children of school going age up to those who have aged out of education and need support to become independent either through Further Education, Training or Access to Employment, understanding that several of these are Low Functioning and will require a supported/ assisted environment in which to function.

TLC management spent time over the last few years collaborating and learning from the success of others, in how best to facilitate the transition of these young people out of care. We hope to access sufficient support and resources to build a program that complements our core work and encourages a life of contribution, meaning and purpose in each of our beneficiaries.

It is common in the residential care context that children who come into care, often take a little longer to exit mainstream schooling, many having travelled the route of special education and assisted learning. Children from care need a more supportive “bridge” into independent living than most other young people their age. Of the over 900 children TLC has nurtured, there have been a cohort of 38 children who remained in the care of the Founding Families, 23 remain participants of the program. We would like to support them as best we can and we need your help to do it.

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TLC Children's Home



The program has some overarching standard support offerings such as Assisted living residential support and a trained facilitator for the program. We design skills components or amended support offerings as appropriate to each of the participants individual needs and capabilities. Critical to the success of the program is its ability to reinforce the interconnectedness of all the 'moving parts' of TLC.

Bear Cub Club Gr 00 and Gr R

This small cohort of children are a mix of children aging out of TLC CYCC's care into alternative residential care and the last of the children absorbed by the Founding family. They attend school offsite and participate in the after care program run by the Senior group and our volunteers.

Senior Cohort Gr 10 to 12

Those beneficiaries who are in their final phase of Secondary education enter the program with the view of being better prepared for the workplace and independent living.

Pathways (Post school)

A small number of TLC youth, who have left school still need a bridge to independence. History has shown us that some youngsters take very little time to find their way and the more vulnerable among them will always need a safe, assisted living community in which to participate.

Junior Cohort Gr 1 to Gr 9

TLC beneficiaries ages 7 to +-16 years reside and are cared for in the appropriate TLC structures and currently attend 6 different schools, some mainstream, some remedial and some special schools. They participate in the weekly Youth group and the Homework support sessions after school.



These supported young adults participate in the above offerings and are given a dignified, 'support' role where they can earn a bit of money and participate in their upkeep by taking on some operational responsibilities. Every effort is made to find an independent living plan for each where possible.



The TLC Village

Our Thinking

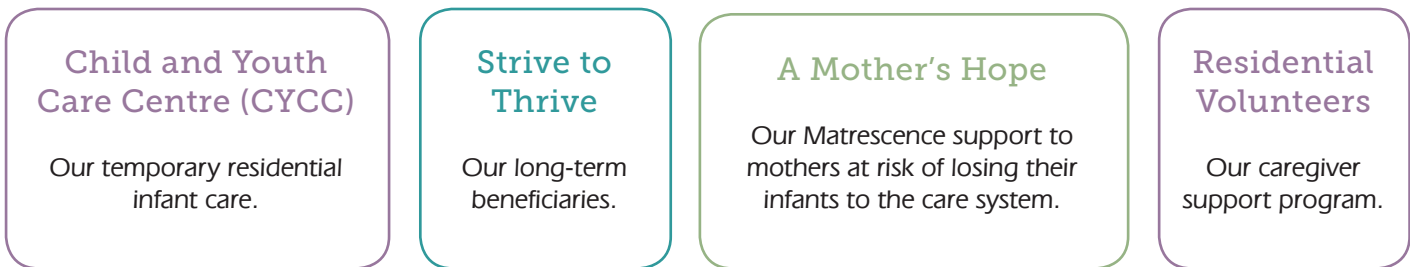
OUR VISION Community cohesion through leadership that inspires.

OUR MISSION To lead and inspire community cohesion which enables the rapid, responsible placement of every child in need of a permanent, loving family.

We aim to be part of the community, reweaving the damaged social fabric to strengthen its ability to support children in families so that ultimately every child can be raised in a loving home and never need care in an institutional environment.

The broader concept

TLC envisions creating a vibrant “Village” where each beneficiary receives the support they need for the time that they need it, while also developing the skills and strengths unique to them that will help them move into the wider world as participating community builders themselves. We have the following inter-related programs aimed at “Reviving the Village”.



We have developed some ideas of ways to input developmental opportunities which build links between TLC’s “Village” programs. We believe that by encouraging growth and building understanding we can help strengthen the social fabric of our wider world. By allowing participants of the different programs to share time, overlap experiences and activities we are re-creating the sense of community many people lack. Some ideas of these interconnected “Village” activities are as follows:

- Shared Caregiving time with the Infants.
 - Weekly Outreach to the creche in the local Informal Settlement.
 - Support Roles in TLC operations (eg. Kitchen, access control etc).
 - Real world” exposure – community events, travel
- and other opportunities are encouraged to broaden horizons. (Children from care often lack basic experiences and are at a disadvantage with peers who have seen “corporate” environments, public transport and general strategies for individual daily living).
- Shared work time in all aspects of operating the Charity Shop (still to be implemented).
 - Weekly Youth Group.
 - External Mentorship Relationships (still to be implemented).
 - Life Skills training/ short courses and classes.



Financial Education

A critical component to each Senior and Pathways beneficiary is the opportunity to earn a Stipend for their involvement in the Village. The management of personal finances is an often-overlooked aspect of youth transitioning into independence and is fundamental to successful navigation of the adult world so having some predictable, earned income to work with is essential.

Incorporating our beneficiaries in the operation of the Charity shop, Support Roles and the Caregiving time allows TLC to minimise salaried positions in favour of employment experience on a stipend basis. We are passionate about developing a model of true empowerment working to community cohesion. We appreciate your input, consideration and support.

Here are some ways you can get involved:

Cover Costs

Help cover the costs involved in the education of the beneficiaries.

Post-school Housing

Help partially fund or provide materials, labour or material assistance to improve transition housing.

Development Funds

Help partially fund the stipends, materials, training or implementation of one of our development activities!

Sponsor a Year

Help partially or fully sponsor a person for 1 year the Strive to Thrive program.

Mentorship

Take a candidate under your wing and journeying with them as they embark on this new adventure.

Connect

Connect us with interesting people who could share an hour of insight into their lives with our youngsters.

Shadowing

Commit to sharing opportunities for “real life” experiences with one or more candidates either in your personal time, through your company or community.



We are confident that with this intervention the opportunity for the youth to create a life of meaning and impact will not be missed. After investing in them from the time they were infants, TLC believes these youngsters have a great deal to offer the world and we are excited to help them blossom into independent adulthood with confidence.