

Profile: Emmanuel's Family Home

Emmanuel's Family Home was established in 2006 as an initiative of Emmanuel Assembly Church in Graskop to provide a shelter for orphans and traumatised children.

Komatiland Forestry and Newtownards Elim Church in Ireland also helped Emmanuel Assembly Graskop to purchase and equip a home at the entrance of Glory Hill in Graskop for this purpose.

Various members from the Graskop community became involved and community involvement has ensured the continued existence of the Home

The Emmanuel's Family Home now provides shelter and care for nine orphans and other vulnerable children from the local community. Only children referred by the Department of Social Services or by officials authorized under the Child Care Act are considered for admission to the Home.

There are currently nine children residing in the home under the care of one foster mother. This number fluctuates according to the admissions from the Social Workers but the home can accommodate up to 20 children. However, we can currently only afford the salary for one mother and are thus not able to take in more children.

We receive foster grants from the government for some of the children but this is sometimes inconsistent and involves lengthy procedures, especially if a child was not registered at birth and has no birth certificate.

Foster grants and donations by the public enable us to cover the children's day-to-day needs but our greatest need remains the salary of the house mother and any helpers to relieve her. Legislation determines that grant money may only be used for the children's direct needs and not to pay any salaries.

The Home is governed by a Management Committee consisting of volunteers from the churches and community in Graskop. The Committee is responsible for the ethical care of the children and enlist the services of health and other professionals needed by the children.

The Management Committee meets at least once every quarter and financial statements indicating all income and expenditure is then circulated to all members and interested parties.

The Committee is responsible for the daily running of the Home and liaise with the House Mother to meet the daily needs of the children and to ensure that the care provided meet the standards and principles required by law and Christian ethics.

For more information please contact:

Pastor Ken Scrimnger on 082 838 5330 (Deputy Chairperson of the Management Committee)