

# The SAVANNA Trust

Just outside the gates of the Sabi Sands Wildtuin, residents in the surrounding villages experience some of the worst health, education and economic development outcomes across South Africa. Unemployment rates are approximated at 83 percent and HIV prevalence rates remain devastatingly high. High poverty levels and illiteracy rates continue to be major challenges throughout the area.

The Savanna Trust has been set up as a non profit organisation, allowing us to collaborate with various community partners and support locally owned projects that focus on improving the lives of vulnerable individuals in the area surrounding the Sabi Sands.

**The overall goal of the Savanna Trust is to help build more resilient communities, which empower vulnerable individuals to meet their basic needs and secure a better future.**

## Flagship Community Projects

### Tiyimiseleni Home Based Care Centre

Savanna is supporting Tiyimiseleni, a home based care centre in the nearby village of Mabarhule, to provide daily care and support for 300 orphans and vulnerable children (aged 2-18 years) affected by HIV and AIDS. Every day, the 15 women who run the centre prepare a nutritious meal, provide homework help/ HIV education and facilitate recreational activities for all of the children who come to Tiyimiseleni after school. The women trained as health caregivers also visit the homes of each of the children to be sure they are safe, healthy and have adequate food supply. As needed, the women deliver food parcels to the homes, purchase school uniforms for the children to be able to go to school and take them to the local health clinic.

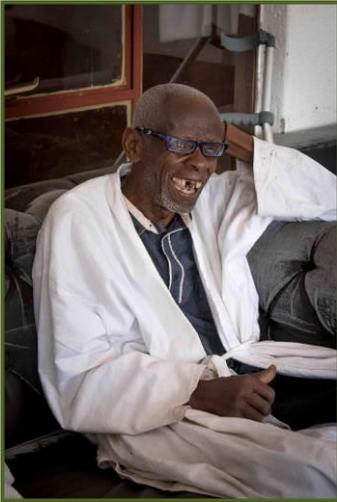
With the support of many of Savanna's guests, we have been able to build a multi-functional hall at the centre, so the children can have their daily meal and the staff can cook in a clean environment. Savanna is currently supporting the operating costs for Tiyimiseleni, and we are committed to working with the local team to improve the sustainability of the centre by investing in their income generating initiatives.

For instance, there is a group of women from the community at the centre who take care of the vegetable garden on site. The vegetables are used in the meals for the children, with any surplus being sold to the community as a profit. Some of the women also do beadwork and undertake sewing projects for the local community. We aim to help support these initiatives to become even more profitable.



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## Hlayisekani Nursing Home



The Hlayisekani Nursing Home was established in 2010 by Nyiko Mokoena, a professionally trained young nurse in the village of Huntington in response to the immense gap in healthcare and support for the elderly and people with terminal illnesses. By 2014, Nyiko and his small team were caring for 20 elderly people in very confined quarters and facilitating home visits for 40+ others with incredibly limited resources.

In 2015, the Savanna Trust partnered with Hlayisekani to build the first permanent nursing home in the area, fully equipped with water and electricity. We have worked together to approach the Department for Social Development, gaining support from the government for the running costs of the nursing home. The Hlayisekani team is now able to provide 24x7 care to all elderly residents living at the centre, with caregiver staff and a professional nurse on site at all times.

Given the success of the project, we are currently working with the Hlayisekani team on a building extension project to meet the needs of the 70 residents that now call the centre home. The Savanna Trust is proud to support Nyiko and his team in developing Hlayisekani as a centre of excellence for elderly care in Huntington.

Hlayisekani's mission is to provide the highest possible quality of care and support to its sick and elderly residents, ensuring that each individual lives the rest of his or her life in dignity, comfort and happiness.

As Nyiko Mokoena, founding director of the centre, explains, many of the residents were formerly abandoned and neglected by their families and communities. Each and every day, he seeks to create a home and build a family at Hlayisekani that, in his words, "restores hope to the hopeless."



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## Additional Community Partnerships

Savanna has identified a handful of local partners that we believe are also contributing to our overall development goals in the area, including a nearby pre-primary and primary school. We sponsor small-scale, once-off projects with these partners and believe that these collaborations are critical to long-term cooperation and development with and for our neighbouring communities. Savanna is also committed to working with local businesses to support employment and economic development in the local area. Following are a few of the local businesses we support.

### Mabarhule Youth In Action Choir

Savanna supports the Mabarhule Youth In Action Choir to sing at Savanna for our guests 2x per week. Not only is this an employment opportunity for the youth choir members, but it also provides them with a constructive way to avoid the drug and alcohol abuse that is all too common amongst their peers. We have supported the choir to build a youth centre in Mabarhule to keep these youth off the streets and encourage their various income generating activities.

### Hlulani Farm

Savanna has partnered with a local farmer, Mr. Frank Manyike, and supported him to set up a vegetable garden and chicken rearing project. We now purchase produce from Frank, allowing his business to continue to grow and expand.



Frank facilitated a vegetable farming and chicken rearing training at Hlulani Farm to three young boys at Tiyimiseleni Home Based Care Centre. Two of boys now run their own gardens at the centre as an income-generating project.

### Justicia Village Tours

We offer our guests a cultural immersion experience during their stay at Savanna through a visit to the nearby village of Justicia. All village tours are led by a local guide, and all profits generated go back into the community.

**On behalf of all of our community partners: INKOMU!**