

# 'The Village of Hope' ( 'Themba-village' )

## The Vision

The **Thembalitsha** foundation is a South African NGO reaching out to the poor and needy people in the Western Cape with an emphasis on those infected or affected by HIV and Aids.

Since its formation **Thembalitsha** has been doing some amazing work with people infected by Aids and is having great success with the treatment of the ARV (antiretroviral) drugs and support programmes it has set up in and around Cape Town.



One of the major problems affecting many of the charities working with people infected by HIV Aids is the high rate of children orphaned by this awful disease. These children really do suffer as they could also be infected with Aids.

There are over 1.5 million Aids orphans in South Africa and the figure is only going to grow over the next few years.

**Thembalitsha** fully recognises the need to place the children back out into the local community, once they have been stabilized with good nutrition and ARVs within their **Thembacare** facility (currently over 150 children are being supported by **Thembalitsha** in this way). However there are so many people infected or dying from Aids there are simply not enough people to adopt or foster these children. A bottleneck is therefore created at **Thembacare** Athlone with 'stabilized' children taking up beds which should be used for those critically ill.

With all these issues it's hard to see how anyone can help. However when we were over in SA in August this year we found a 'small holding' property which would be suitable to set up a

'Village of Hope' which will be run by **Thembalitsha** to provide a safe home environment for these children who have little or no hope of placement back into their families or foster care.



Google earth image of the land

The property is set on 6 hectares of land in the farming community of Grabouw where **Thembalitsha** already have a 7 bed overnight care facility supporting people not only with Aids but also TB.

There are 4 buildings on the land, which will be converted into accommodation to host the babies, children and workers. There is also a small river running through the pine trees and has immediate access to the mountains which are situated behind the land.

We are currently in the process of registering the UK arm of the charity **Thembalitsha UK**, which will help support the existing work and will provide a means for us to buy this land outright.



A deposit has now secured the property and we have until April 2008 to raise £200K to enable us to buy the property and make necessary changes to the buildings.

The land also provides future development opportunities as we seek to create a community of hope, working not only with the children who have been through **Thembacare**, but also the local people in the town of Grabouw

where not only do 34% of the 50,000 strong population live with Aids, but the living conditions of many of them leave you in tears when you see their homes.



Roidaka informal settlement

There is enough space on the land to enable us to plant further trees for fruit, and areas where we will cultivate crops to provide farm skills to the local people thus enabling them to move to a place of self reliance.

## How Can You Help?

1. We would like you to consider making a one off gift (we will be able to claim Gift Aid once the UK charity is registered) to enable us to purchase the property outright by the end of March. Not only will you provide a legacy for the charity but also invest into many young children's lives.

2. The first option will help us initially but if that seems outside your budget then we would ask that you consider a monthly commitment to **Thembalitsha UK** to help maintain the property and ensure that the children are well cared for on an ongoing basis.

3. If you feel you could help fundraise that would be much appreciated, and by sharing this vision with others (even emailing to friends and colleagues who may be able to support this project) it would make such a difference.

For info on the charity please visit [www.thembalitsha.org.za](http://www.thembalitsha.org.za) (Please do not use **Thembalitsha UK** web site to donate until we have made necessary changes to that site).

Or phone 01296 641003 to speak to **Tim or Maz Walker**  
On behalf of **Thembalitsha**.