

South Africa Rural Education Inc.

South Africa Rural Education Inc. is a volunteer run 501(c)(3) U.S. nonprofit charity raising funds for Philangethemba NPC (an education nonprofit) and other education programs in Southern Africa. Philangethemba (means Living through Hope in Zulu) promotes education, jobs.



The Toy Library, Philangethemba campus, Molweni

The Outreach Ministry at St Agnes Anglican Church in Kloof, near Durban, KwaZulu Natal, felt called in 2003 to go to where the poor live and build relationships and offer empowerment rather than continuing with traditional "Charity" which can be disempowering. They seek to "be" the Gospel rather than just preaching in the neighboring community of Lower Molweni in the valley. They partnered with people in Molweni to create **Philangethemba**, building a history of community collaboration and sound financial accountability. The valley is breathtakingly beautiful but the lives of the residents are a world away from Kloof. Molweni has high unemployment, many families with little or no income, many child or grandparent headed households, parents dead from AIDS.

The Philangethemba campus next to the High School in Lower Molweni runs free programs for young people - preschool to adult, their education, AIDS prevention, job skills training, provides access to teacher training. Computer training and access for entire community, free. For the latest information, see:

<https://www.facebook.com/Philangethemba/>

<http://www.philangethemba.co.za>

Questions? Call Helena Champion 781-724-6812 or email Philangethemba@gmail.com

Please donate to South Africa Rural Education Inc., to support Philangethemba at Paypal Giving Fund: <https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/2731875>

or the **Facebook Donate** button: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthAfricaRuralEducation/>

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Or send a check payable to South Africa Rural Education Inc.

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The GuideStar 2021 Silver Seal of Transparency has been awarded to South Africa Rural Education Inc.



The comfortable, attractive suburb of Kloof is near Durban, KwaZulu Natal. Kloof is named after the Afrikaans name for the spectacular gorge that runs through the suburb, the route of the Molweni river on its way to the sea. St Agnes Anglican Church in Kloof has a history of over a century of ministry.

In 2003 the church was challenged to go to where the poor live and build relationships and offer empowerment rather than continuing with the traditional "Charity" which can be disempowering. Our challenge was to "be" the Gospel rather than just preaching it. We discovered the community of Molweni valley who live on the banks of the Molweni river, further down the river from Kloof where it widens out into a valley. They are literally our neighbours. The valley is also breathtakingly beautiful but the lives of the residents are a world away from their Kloof neighbours.



The valley comprises approximately 750 households with nearly 3 000 official residents. Municipal water and power is available but not water borne sewage. Official statistics record that some 20% of the residents have no income and 50% earn below the official minimum wage. Unemployment statistics

for this community are not published but are well above the official rate of around 26% (nearly 50% for young people). Our experience is that families with both parents are rare, teenage pregnancy is common and employment prospects are dim.

The valley has one high school, two primary schools (Primary spans ages of both Elementary and Middle School in US), at least 6 formal creches (child care centers) and a large number of homes where a family member is babysitting several pre-school children because parents are either deceased (frequently from AIDS) or working. Child-headed households are another very sad feature of life in Molweni valley. It is a community of nearly no hope.

Philangethemba (meaning "Living through Hope") was created to work with the Molweni Valley community by empowering them to address their poverty related challenges. ("Do with" instead of "do for"). We are located on a campus adjacent to the High School and have now focused our programs to target the young people of the valley and their education.

Over the 15+ years that we have been ministering in the valley we have managed to channel Corporate funds to build up a campus to provide a number of facilities for the community. In addition we have been able to find significant funds to improve the facilities at all of the public schools and several of the creches in the valley. In all we have been able to provide 3 classrooms (including a science laboratory), 3 sports fields and toilets for the schools. On our campus we have a computer centre, a craft workshop, a training centre for Early Childhood Development and a Youth Centre. An additional Skills Training centre (for plumbing, electrical, carpentry work etc.) has just been completed.

The integrated program covers interventions in Early Childhood Development (ECD or preschool), Primary/Elementary School, High School and post school Skills Development.



The overall program is managed by Rev Sipiwe Gumede, who has been with Philangethemba from its earliest days.

Early Childhood Development program is run by Luyanda Sikhakane



The ECD program has several elements, all aimed at improving the level of stimulation and preparation for formal schooling for the children of the community.

- We run a Training Centre for teachers at crèches in the community. The course is validated by the regulatory authorities at NQF4, the highest level of secondary education and is externally adjudicated.
- We run play groups for mothers and toddlers where educational reading and play is demonstrated, using Toy Library on the campus.



- We train community members who look after preschool children on how to read to and play with children and then equip them to pass the learning on to their neighbours.

For more information, see:
<https://www.facebook.com/Philangethemba/>
<http://www.philangethemba.co.za/>

The Youth Development program (covering Primary and High Schools) is run by Nono Dlamini Penn



The Youth program aims to find some form of extra mural activity for every child in the schools, something that the education authorities are unable to provide. Presently we offer:

- Sport. This is the core function of this program as the physical and emotional benefits of school sports are well known. We currently arrange coaching and competitions in soccer, basketball and netball for both Primary and High Schools.



- Drama. Presently we are blessed to have a very talented intern who coaches drama and music, providing space for the development of the natural talent of Africans to move and sing.



- Kids Club take place on Friday afternoons and Holiday clubs in the midyear and year-end holidays and give the children of the community a place for safe and developmental play in a community that is plagued by violence and drugs.

In addition to the programs covering various stages of child development we have a program of Computer Training for all ages run by Siya Khubeka



Donors have very kindly donated computers for all schools and Siya and his team teach entry level skills at both Primary and High School level.



Teaching is also offered to members of the community on Saturdays.

Our latest program and the last piece of the picture is Skills Training in sewing, cooking, carpentry, plumbing, electrics, welding and motor mechanics at a new centre which we have named "The Workshop". This program was launched in 2018/9 starting with cooking, carpentry and motor mechanics, with other skills training to follow. It will also offer incubation of business start-ups.

Questions? email Philangethemba@gmail.com

If you live in South Africa, please Donate directly to Philangethemba Impact NPC, Standard Bank Acct No: 0251155129 Durban North, Branch Code: 051 001

Funding: We need donations to help cover the costs of the ECD and Youth Development programs.

Philangethemba is blessed to have the continuous support of St Agnes Church which presently funds the manager's salary and some of the overheads.

The computer program operating costs are covered by the donor who funded the computer centre building and equipment.

We acknowledge ALL donors with gratitude.

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An invitation to ministry in South Africa by Helena Champion

South Africa Rural Education raises funds for Philangethemba and other education programs in impoverished rural areas of Southern Africa. Philangethemba, a Zulu word meaning living through hope, is a collaborative project between St Agnes Anglican Church in Kloof, KwaZulu Natal, and people in the neighboring town of Molweni. The purpose is to promote education, provide youth programs, and AIDS prevention education. There is a campus adjacent to the high school in Molweni. Now there is a need to support an early childhood development program to provide preschool care and training, as well as a youth development program.

<http://www.philangethemba.co.za>

Helena's story and call about why this matters

Many Epiphany parishioners supported and volunteered for Books for South Africa, either as adults or middle and high school students from 2000 to 2014. They helped to create many rural libraries, including one created in Molweni in 2008 by St Agnes Outreach and Philangethemba. Epiphany parishioners also raised funds for Ekuvukeni AIDS clinic in KwaMashu, KZN.

Supporting education in Africa matters to me because I grew up in South Africa and believe education and literacy are important in helping people overcome poverty and achieve democracy. Many poor and unprivileged people in Africa respect and want education and are willing to walk miles to school every day, if a school is available, even if the school is under-resourced. I feel called to help these people.

Decades ago, I graduated from the University of Natal with a science degree, worked in SA for three years, then immigrated to Canada and then to the United States. I had a rewarding career here but stayed in contact with friends who are active in education in Africa. When visiting my hometown in 2000, local newspapers reported that many schools in rural and poor areas nearby had no books for students to read. My friends confirmed that many areas were still very under-resourced. That situation continues to this day, except where community groups, often churches, have focused on helping schools and youth.

In 2000 I found people here in Winchester who shared a vision to send books to Southern Africa. The Parish of Epiphany and other people donated used children's' books and volunteers sorted them. At first, we mailed them and later we sent them in 40-foot containers, thousands of books in each shipment. This was the beginning of **Books for South Africa, Inc.**, which sent over 300,000 donated children's books to schools and communities.

For years, various churches and organizations in South Africa distributed the books sent by **Books for South Africa**. **Books for South Africa** worked with St Agnes Church and Philangethemba to create and stock rural libraries. In 2015, Books for South Africa was succeeded by the African Story Book project, which provides e-books in about a hundred African languages.

The library built by St Agnes Church and Philangethemba in Molweni 2008



Inside the library built in Molweni 2008



In 2017 I visited Philangethemba again and saw firsthand how much they have achieved since I visited them in 2007 and how they have expanded their vision to empower the community to collaborate on child care and education at all levels. They need funds to provide educational enrichment to preschool children and young people up to high school age and beyond and they asked me to help. I then founded South Africa Rural Education Inc., a volunteer run 501(c)(3) U.S. charity, to raise funds for Philangethemba NPC (an education Non Profit Company in SA).

Please join Helena after worship on Sunday, 15 July in the Suter Room for a conversation to hear more about South Africa Rural Education Inc. and Philangethemba. Feel free to email me at helenamchampion@gmail.com or telephone me on 781.724.6812 to learn more.