

Organisational Profile November 2014



Busfare Babies is a small centre serving a rural community of Xhosa women. We offer women a gentle, safe, nurturing place to birth their babies. We aim to meet the needs of pregnant women in an impoverished community, where 30% of these women are living with HIV. We believe that good care can be affordable and that women should not have to go far to find this care.





Contact Details:	
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We advocate for a health care system in which it will be standard procedure for mothers and babies to thrive and not merely survive through birth and early life. The midwifery model of care could save our health care system millions each year.

Our knowledge and expertise is not complicated or technologically advanced, we are skilled in waiting, holding, and comforting. Old skills and most often all that is required to let a birth to happen by itself. Being a distance from a hospital we need to be able to cope with various medical emergencies and to transfer when appropriate. In most instances, we focus on keeping birth normal and looking after the needs of mother and baby.



BFB Operational Report 2013-2014

- Started providing HIV testing at the birth house as there were confidentiality issues causing reluctance for women to test at the local clinic.
- Started offering injectable contraceptives which has been received with enthusiasm by particularly the younger women.
- Continue to train Nomvula Gxaka in caring for women in labour and in birth at the Birth Centre.
- Addressed challenges with transferring complicated labours to hospitals in the area.
- Referred disabled children to Toy Library for accessing toys
- Work in conjunction with the local clinic in caring for pregnant women and women of child-bearing age.
- Promoted Kangaroo Mother Care with low birth weight babies.
- Worked with community towards improving exclusive breastfeeding practise and promoting safe infant feeding.
- Continued to focus on providing quality care.
- Assisted the community with the financial burden that some families face losing a child.
- Advocated in facilities for human rights of mother and baby.



Staff and structure:

Nomvula is employed at the birth house to assist in labour and birth as well as to look after the women after they have given birth for the duration of their stay at the birth house.

Anelisa is employed to clean the birth house once a week and after births.

Our board consists of six members who represent Hamburg and the surrounding villages.

Funding:

Funding received all goes directly into the running of the birth centre, paying for medical supplies, transport for women to and from home and hospital if required and food and electricity used at the birth house.

This next year we will be adding a fundraiser to our staff who is also working at the birth house as a midwife apprentice.

The cost of birth:

Each birth costs at least R1500. We provide care for between 1-6 births a month.

Creating a Donor Base: Up until this point we have survived on minimal funding. As the Birth House becomes busier, we are striving this next year to grow our donor base and will be actively fundraising to that end.

Challenges:

Addressing hospital attitudes: We have been struck by the reality women face in hospitals in terms of the attitudes of staff in facilities when having to transfer into hospitals for complicated labours, and having to experience severe delays in treatment and suffering loss as a result of these delays.

Our aim is to try to mentor staff in facilities in order to improve relations and improve care. We are also working towards creating mandates with specific hospitals for transfer, which will enable swifter care in emergency situations.

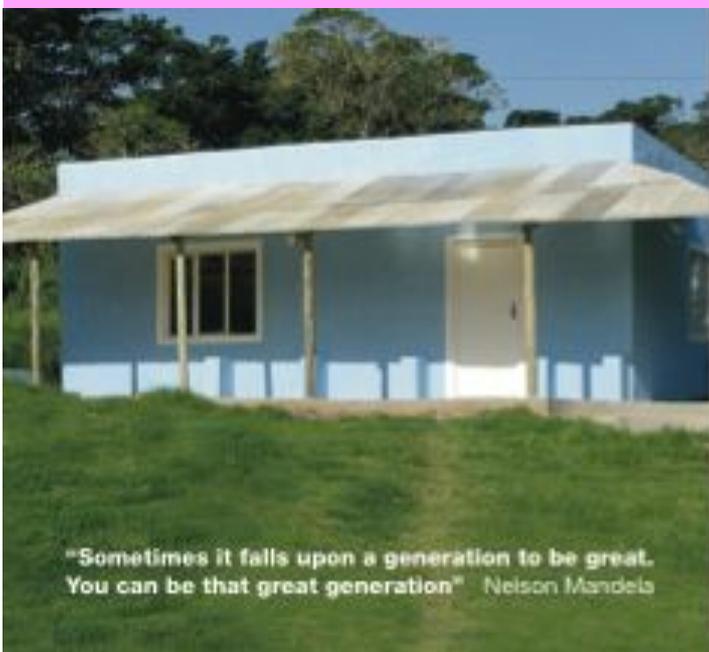
Women's finances are limited and birth experience is not valued. For this reason, and to make it an accessible option for women, we are no longer charging a birth fee.





Busfare Babies Birth Centre advocate for a health care system in which it will be standard procedure for mothers and babies to thrive and not merely survive through birth and early life.

Birth is very much the beginning, but good beginnings can go a long way in leading to a better life. We really feel that we can make a difference one mother and baby at a time.



"Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation" Nelson Mandela



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