Acknowledgements

OTSK would like to offer grateful thanks to—

Tania Bryer, Lesley Bryer (King-Lewis), Lisa Bryer (Villiers) and Mrs Aidan Barclay for their support in raising funds for OTSK.

Lindsay Henley of Beth Uriel and Stephen Moolman of Marsh Memorial Homes for making the programme possible in Cape Town.

Anna Telford, Ali Jacobs, Felix Seuffert, Kathryn Torres and Merieke Heinkens for their practical help and support.

The Website Girls (Sarah Peters, Kelly Eagan and Alison Groves) who keep OTSK in cyberspace by managing the website, email newsletter, Facebook and Twitter in the most professional manner.

The OTSK Board of Trustees, especially Gillian Anderson, without whose ongoing support OTSK would not have survived its first year.

Our donors, without whom this project would not have been possible:

Artists for a New South Africa, Arlene Shoemaker, EPR Architects, Inkworks Inc., The Harrodian School, Marit Mohn, Lisa and Eddie Villiers, Gillian Anderson Africa Fund, IBG Fans, Australian & German X-Files Fans, Julie Tomlin, Bronwyn Robertson, Catherine O Donnell, Harry Jurgens and many others.
Welcome to OTSK...

After two and a half years of research and planning, Off The Street Kids is making an impact on the lives of marginalised youth in South Africa.

Defined as young adults aged 18-24, youth form 45% of the population in the Western Cape, the South African province in which Cape Town is situated. Poverty, violence, drug abuse, gangsterism, low levels of education and HIV/AIDS form a major part of the South African social landscape, particularly in the Western Cape.

In this context, thousands of children find themselves without adequate family care every year. They enter the social services system, which provides basic care until the age of 18 when they are expected to make their own way.

It is at this crucial juncture that Off the Street Kids targeted its first programme: working to ensure that youth leaving care are given the skills, resources and education they need to keep them off the streets and away from a life of gangsterism and crime.

Setting up this programme has been an incredibly rewarding experience for me. I have been humbled to see the courage with which the young people in our programme face their uncertain futures and the enthusiasm they show for helping others in similar situations. It is certainly a positive indicator of the success and sustainability of our work.

At this point, I would like to offer sincere thanks to our board of trustees and our generous donors who make this project possible. Your support brings hope to what would otherwise be a very bleak situation, changing lives in ways you can only imagine.

Michelle Potter
Executive Director

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**Background**

Youth comprise 45% of the population in the Western Cape. Just over 25% of children in the Western Cape live in poverty, while 20% experience severe deprivation and 6% report hunger being common. Just under 7% of the population in the Western Cape relies on social grants to meet their basic needs, the majority of these being beneficiaries of the child support grant (in 2010, the Child Support Grant amounted to R240 a month, about £20).

HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases are a significant problem in South Africa. In 2002, a best estimate suggested that 1 in 8 pregnant women were HIV positive, with the highest rate of prevalence occurring in women aged 25-34. Approximately 15% of all teenage girls are HIV positive. Youth aged 18-34 are overwhelmingly the population group most affected by HIV/AIDS: 71% of deaths in people aged 15-49 are AIDS-related and 49% of all orphans in the Western Cape lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS.

“The effects of the pandemic are felt in a number of ways: the growing number of child-headed households with the accompanying exposure of children to abuse, neglect and violence; increasing mortality and morbidity amongst persons who should be economically active; and the increasing numbers of older persons becoming more and more impoverished by having to accept the role of primary caregiver for children.”
orphaned by HIV and AIDS, without being able to access
necessary and sufficient resources.’ (Western Cape Status of the

Substance abuse is another major factor impacting on
youth in the Western Cape. Over half of all patients admitted to
treatment centres for alcohol and drug abuse are adolescents.
Research has also shown that over half of all Grade 11 students in
Western Cape schools use drugs or alcohol. In his 2007 address,
Western Cape Premier Ebrahim Rasool clearly linked substance
abuse to socio-economic problems such as gangsterism – rife on
the Cape Flats, a large and particularly impoverished area in the
Western Cape.

According to research carried out in 2007 (StatsSA March
2007 LFS), 51% of youth aged 18-24 are unemployed, constituting
70% of the total unemployed population. Research studies in
the Western Cape have linked youth unemployment to anti-
social behaviours such as drug trafficking, prostitution and
other high-risk behaviours (2008 Western Cape Status of the
Youth Report). The same report found that it can take up to two
years of job searching before employment is found, and that
these opportunities are usually found through family and social
networks.
Additional factors relating specifically to the marginalisation of youth in the province include personal, individual or psychological factors such as low self-esteem and confidence; disempowered, uninvolved, demotivated and unqualified parents; dysfunctional community structures such as gangs, which offer a sense of belonging and alternative family support structure as well as a culture of crime as an alternative to legitimate economic participation; rising levels of violence and crime, leading to the incarceration of potential economic participants and inhibiting their re-entry into the economic sector after their release; and the widening gap between rich and poor both nationally and globally (Western Cape Status of the Youth Report 2008:27).

Yet, in this seemingly bleak picture, there are untold opportunities to reach out to youth and help them to build new lives as responsible, contributing adult members of society. OTSK believes that the mentoring approach, which has proven its success amongst disaffected youth in the UK and elsewhere, can make a real difference in the lives of young people and the communities they live in, complementing and strengthening those aspects of African culture that cultivate resilience and a spirit of giving.
Who we are

Off The Street Kids is a UK-registered charity established in 2008 to aid the empowerment of marginalised children and young people in South Africa. Operating in Cape Town, South Africa, OTSK is headed by Michelle Potter, also co-founder of the organisation, ably assisted by Amy Beckett, responsible for bookkeeping, administration and fund raising.

Michelle graduated from Roehampton University with a BA (Hons) in Education in 2007. She carried out research on children in care in South Africa and the UK for her dissertation, for which she received the Froebel Guild Award from Roehampton University in 2008.

Since completing her studies, Michelle has been working towards developing evidence-based programmes to best assist marginalised and homeless children in the South African context. Research has demonstrated the effectiveness of mentoring programmes in working with socially excluded, marginalised young people and it is this approach that forms the bedrock of OTSK’s activities.

OTSK works hand-in-hand with existing not-for-profit organisations, dovetailing programmes to create a continuum of care for children and youth at risk and in need of care, enabling them to improve their skills and education, participate in legitimate economic activity and engage positively and responsibly with their communities.
Our Philosophy

OTSK has adopted the African indigenous concept of Ubuntu in our programme development. Ubuntu is a philosophy that is summed up in the Zulu maxim ‘umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu’, meaning ‘a person is a person through other persons’.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu has defined a person with Ubuntu as being open and affirming of others and having a self-assurance that comes from knowing that we are all part of a greater whole.

Ubuntu calls for unity, consensus and a humanitarian ethic in decision-making and is also a way of life that seeks a reflexive relationship between personal and community development.
What we do

Transition to Independent Living (TIL), OTSK’s first programme, officially launched in January 2010, though preliminary work on the project began in 2009. The three-year pilot project aims to equip youth leaving care with the skills, knowledge and resources they will need to establish themselves as productive, responsible adult members of their communities.

The programme uses the evidence-based mentoring method to empower the programme beneficiaries. Through the mentoring process, youth are connected to existing resources in their communities and empowered to take personal action to improve their prospects. According to Clayden & Stein (2005), mentoring offers disaffected, socially excluded, antisocial or disadvantaged youth an alternative but complementary relationship to professional care that encourages responsible social and economic participation.

The first young people in the programme have shown a tremendously positive response to the one-on-one interaction they enjoy through the mentoring process and are keen to develop their own skills as mentors of future programme participants.

OTSK works in conjunction with Marsh Memorial Homes, a best-practice children’s home, and Beth Uriel, a unique residential facility for young men, in programme development and implementation.
Programme goals

**Hard outcomes:**
- Assisting youth to source housing
- Directing youth towards basic or further education and training
- Empowering youth to enter employment
- Offering life-skills training workshops
- Grooming youth to be mentors to future programme participants.

**Soft outcomes:**
- Improved self-esteem
- Development of leadership potential
- Fostering a desire to give back to the community, in keeping with the spirit of Ubuntu.
Our beneficiaries

So far, the TIL project has 15 beneficiaries. These young people are in residential care and are in the process of establishing themselves as independent adults.

All of our beneficiaries come from disadvantaged communities and have little or no consistent family support. The mentoring programme offers them an alternative relationship where they can experience the kind of support and guidance that is most often provided by parents and family members.

Our first beneficiaries are keen to give back to their communities and will become mentors to future programme participants. This is vital to the sustainability of the programme and will see greater numbers of youth leaving care benefit from the mentoring process.

Two of our beneficiaries, Masakane and Thulisile, have chosen to share their stories to illustrate the circumstances so many young people in South Africa find themselves in.
Thulisile was seven years old when he turned to the streets to survive, having to beg for food and clothes as his mother was not working and could not take care of him and his brothers.

Three years later, he went to the Homestead, a shelter for street children in Cape Town. He says he stayed at the Homestead because he ‘had a good life’ there and the opportunity to go to school. He says things at home were ‘not right’.

In 2000 his mother died and he was separated from his brothers, who had a different father, and he stayed on at the Homestead.

Thulisile left the Homestead in 2008, having reached the age of 18. He moved into Beth Uriel and is now completing Matric (the South African high school leavers’ exam) and is in contact with his father and stepmother through a family reunification programme. His dream is to become a social worker.

‘I need guidance to show me what I need to do to achieve what I want to achieve,’ he says. ‘I need to be motivated.’

Thulisile was one of the first boys Michelle met in Cape Town, and served as her inspiration for the TIL programme.
Masakane and his brothers were born in the Eastern Cape. When they were still very young, their parents moved to Cape Town to find work, leaving the boys without care. When their parents left, they did not attend school and struggled to support themselves.

They managed to obtain the address of a distant relative in Crossroads, an informal settlement in Cape Town, and set out on a bus to Cape Town. When they arrived, their relative paid their bus fare and helped them to find their father. He had managed to get work as a caretaker in Tamboerskloof, a wealthy suburb in Cape Town, but he was unable to keep his sons with him. He told them they should have stayed in the Eastern Cape and also informed them that he was now divorced from their mother.

The brothers tracked down their mother to Nyanga, another informal settlement in Cape Town. They stayed with her for a year, but due to her alcoholism, they moved on to stay with their older sister.

At that time, a family friend helped the boys to go to school for the first time, but they were far behind and did not progress. It was only when they were put in touch with
the School of Hope through a local church that Masakane says the learning and knowledge really began.

Masakane made friends with a boy at school who introduced him to Beth Uriel. He took himself and two of his brothers to the home, where they were offered a stable environment for the first time. Masakane says it was there that he started to see the possibility of a bright future for himself.

‘Beth Uriel gave me boundaries,’ Masakane says. ‘I needed that because I didn’t grow up with parents.’ He has been at Beth Uriel for four years now. Masakane describes himself as ‘striving for success’ and says of his hopes for the mentoring programme, ‘I need somebody who can be supportive and give me a foundation so that when I have my own family, I can be a good role model.’
**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2009**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income and expenditure</th>
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<td><strong>Incoming resources</strong></td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Gift Aid tax recovery</td>
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<td>Interest received</td>
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<td><strong>Total incoming resources</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fundraising costs</strong></td>
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<td>Fundraising and publicity</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total funds</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Management and administration</strong></td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Other professional fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trustees/directors travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference expenditure</td>
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Net incoming (outgoing) resources for the year: **288**

Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2008: **-**

Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2009: **288**
### Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009

**Current assets**

*Bank balances*

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<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
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**Current Liabilities**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Net current assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
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**Funds**

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<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
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**Total assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Trustees

Gillian Anderson is an actress and writer, best known for her role in The X-Files. She has since starred in numerous films including The House of Mirth, The Last King of Scotland and the BBC series Bleak House. In Gillian’s spare time she has been involved in supporting numerous charities including Artists For a New South Africa, Treatment Action Campaign, Buskaid and Neurofibromatosis, Inc. Gillian is a co-founder of OTSK.

Anna-Louisa Psarras graduated from Edinburgh University in 2001 with an MA in Social Anthropology and Pragmatic Religion. Since then she has been working in the Third Sector specialising in areas of political conflict and has extensive experience working with NGOs, governments and key individuals including Nobel Prize winners.

Diana Gerald has 20 years of experience in a range of business, public sector and not-for-profit settings. She specialises in organisational change and currently is the Assistant Chief Executive for the Girls’ Day School Trust—one of the UK’s leading educational charities. She is also a trustee of Women’s Pioneer Housing Limited and Chair of Finance Committee for a large maintained-sector primary school in Stanmore, North London.

Lisa Bryer, co-founder of Cowboy Films, which she successfully ran for 20 years, was responsible for the production of numerous commercials, music videos and four feature films: the OSCAR winning Wasp, the OSCAR and BAFTA award winning The Last King of Scotland, Goodbye Charlie Bright and The Hole. Lisa is a trustee of Action on Addiction, a treatment and research charity, as well as a trustee of the Westside Independent School in west London—a small school for 14–16 year olds who have been found to be disengaging from mainstream education and are at risk of exclusion.

David McCoy is a medical doctor who worked as a clinician in the UK for two and a half years before working in a rural government hospital in northern Kwazulu-Natal for a further two and half years. He was policy research fellow at the Child Health Unit of the University of Cape Town for 18 months, and then spent six years with the Health Systems Trust, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) established in South Africa to develop a research and evidence base to inform the transformation of the apartheid health care system. David is currently a senior clinical associate at the Centre for International Health and Development at University College London.
Bibliography


Help us help them

Help us to help the children of South Africa by making a donation to Off The Street Kids (OTSK).

To make a bank transfer from outside the UK:
Bank: HSBC City Corporate Banking Centre
Account Number: 72138549
Sort Code: 40-05-30
SWIFT BIC Code: MIDLGB2141W
IBAN number: GB48MIDL40053072138549
Account name: CAF Bank Ltd
For credit to: Off The Street Kids
Account number: 00018601,
Sort code: 40-52-40.

To make a bank transfer within the UK:
Bank: CAF Bank Ltd
Address: 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ
Account number: 00018601
Sort code: 40-52-40
Account name: Off The Street Kids

To make a payment online:
Log on to our website:
http://www.offthestreetkids.org
Click on the DONATE button. Select one of the Payment Service Providers (e.g. JustGiving, Everyclick or PayPal) and follow the on-screen instructions to make your donation.

To make a payment by cheque:
Please make cheque payable to 'Off The Street Kids Ltd'.
Cheques can be mailed to:
Off The Street Kids
2-6 Cannon Street
London
EC4M 6YH
UK

When making direct payments, if you are a UK tax payer, please complete and return the Gift Aid declaration available from:
accounts@offthestreetkids.org.

To find out more about our work, contact Michelle at michelle@offthestreetkids.org or visit our website www.offthestreetkids.org.