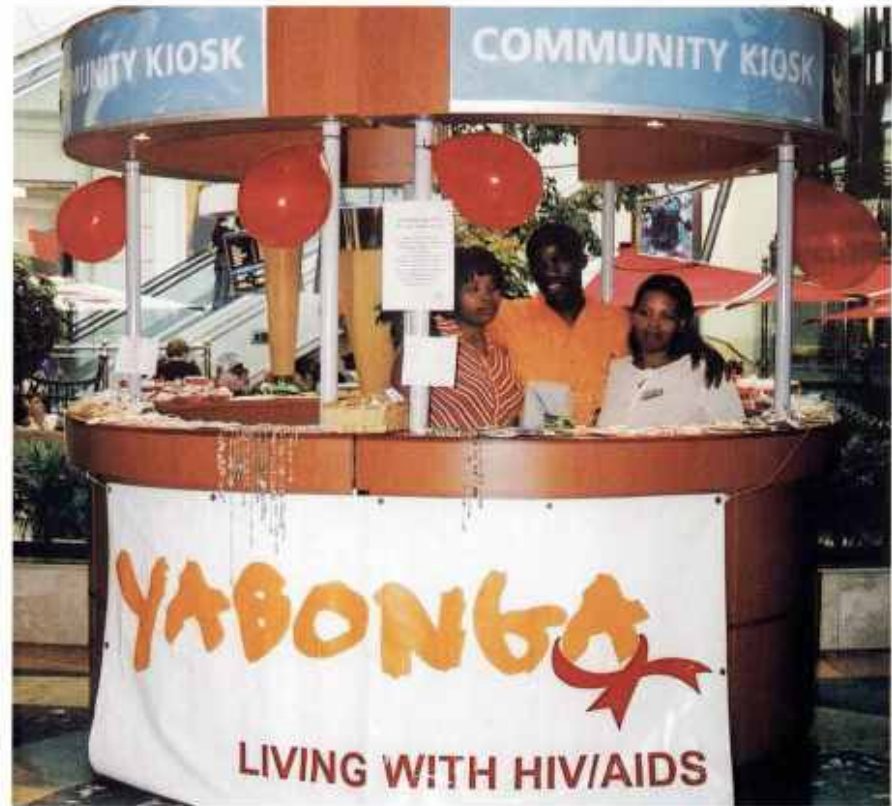


# annual report 2004



children's project in africa

**YABONGA** 



children's project in africa | helping people help themselves



## management report

Over the past year Yabonga was able to step up its level of support for mothers and children in impoverished communities in Cape Town.

We have targeted three areas:

**educare centres** | This year the focus in our seven educare centres was to improve the school readiness of the Grade R children and to reinforce and upgrade the various elements of the daily programme.

**HIV | Aids training programme** | Two four month training programmes were offered at the Yabonga Training Centre in Wynberg. In total, fifty HIV positive mothers completed the course. The programme included modules on HIV education, personal development, income generation, home-based care and vegetable gardening.

**HIV | Aids support centres** | Two new centres were added this year, in addition to the three centres opened last year. These container-based centres are all located at clinics, and they serve an additional eight clinics in neighbouring areas. 47 Peer Educators (all graduates of our Training Programme) work in these centres and extend various elements of the training programme to women who are HIV infected. Yabonga Educare centres presently cater for 900 preschool learners and we estimate that the HIV/Aids centres offer education and support to approximately 2600 families per week. Yabonga teachers and peer educators are strong and resilient and we salute them for how they support each other and constructively and positively serve their communities.

We are grateful to our staff and directors for their commitment over the past year, and to the many volunteers who give so freely of their time and energy.

**Ulpha Robertson | Ursel Berlin**





## **educare centres**

**focus** | During 2003 our main focus was to provide extended support to Grade R children. The aim was to provide a quality educational programme and to improve the level of school readiness. All centres received educational equipment and creative materials.

**training** | Regular workshops were run for the teachers to reinforce the importance of various elements of the daily programme, and to provide guidance on the usage of the educational materials. In addition, the staff members were enrolled in a two year training programme at the Centre for Creative Education and at the Cape College of Education.

**infrastructure** | Up to now we have provided converted containers to our Educare Centres. These containers provide an “immediate” solution and are secure. However, they have many drawbacks, and where appropriate we would like over time to assist in the provision of permanent structures. During the year we undertook to fund the extension of two Grade R classes at Sunrise Preschool in Vrygrond. We also took over responsibility for the Thandabantu Community Centre in Khayelitsha

and have converted it into another preschool. Thandabantu now has very good facilities and well-trained teachers. Our aim is to develop Thandabantu into a model educare centre.

Our year-end functions are occasions of much joy and celebration and included an outing to Ratanga Junction for children from all the centres, graduation ceremonies for the Grade R's, and an award of school readiness gift packs to all graduating Grade R's.





## HIV | Aids training programme

Increased emphasis was placed on developing the skills training. Crafts taught were sewing, beadwork, wire crafts and fabric painting. Yabonga acted as 'distribution agent' for the finished produces, and towards the end of the year a number of women were able to achieve significantly higher income for themselves.



The HIV/Aids training programme is divided into 3 main areas:

- HIV/Aids Education
- Personal Development
- Income Generation

All training is focused on the development and empowerment of the woman to enable her to be a more effective mother, to equip her with the skills required to teach and support other women in her communities, and ultimately to be a role model in living a positive lifestyle with HIV. The education section includes modules on First Aid and Home-Based Care.

**activities** | Trainees were recruited from disadvantaged communities in Philipi, Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, Nyanga and Mitchells Plein. In total, 67 women have now completed the four month training programme in three different groups. 47 of the those who completed the course are now employed by Yabonga as peer group educators, 10 have been employed by other organizations also working with AIDS related issues. 3 women have died as a result of AIDS related illnesses.

**graduation** | Each year we have held a "graduation ceremony" at the Desmond Tutu Hall in Khayelitsha. The ceremony is well attended by family and friends and the graduates disclose their HIV status publicly. This is an important milestone in their lives, and for their friends and family. The last event was attended by about 1000 people, and was an especially proud day for the 50 newly qualified peer group educators.





## HIV | Aids support centres

**location** | The Yabonga Support Centres are housed in converted containers which are situated at the following clinics: Matthew Goniwe Clinic, Mfuleni Health Clinic, Crossroads Community Health Clinic, Masincedane Health Centre and Hout

Bay Main Road Clinic. Our educators have direct access to people in the waiting rooms and get referrals from the medical staff at the clinics.

**expanded programme** | At each centre we have a team of seven peer educators, including one team leader. In addition to the “host” five clinics, the programme is also offered at 8 other clinics. The programme runs from Monday to Thursday with activities that include HIV/Aids Awareness, Support Groups, and counselling, income generation programmes, home based care and growing vegetable gardens. The programme focuses on support for women, but has recently been extended to men and grandparents. On Fridays the educators return to the Yabonga training centre in Wynberg where the focus is on problem-solving and on-going training. We employ



a total of 47 peer educators to present the programme of education and support, and we estimate that at present we reach approximately 2600 families per week.

**school and community programme** | Selected members of the teams present HIV Education workshops at local schools. These workshops have been enthusiastically supported by ten schools, and are provided to learners from Grades 2 through to 12. In addition, the peer group educators have extended the public campaign to shopping centres, churches and crèches.



## financial summary

We raised R1,642,467 (2003:R1,113,082) through **donations** and **grants**

Funds were spent as follows:

|                     | 2004             | 2003             |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Educare Centres     | 413,137          | 90,448           |
| Training            | 601,511          | 286,714          |
| HIV Support Centres | 679,621          | 501,190          |
| Administration      | 123,670          | 318,112          |
|                     | <b>1,817,939</b> | <b>1,196,464</b> |

Available funds at the end of the year were R612,600.

*The full accounts (audited by Deloitte) are available on request.*



Offering better learning environments to less fortunate children  
and empowering HIV positive mothers to be agents of change in the  
communities where they live and work.



donations are gratefully accepted and may be mailed to us at Yabonga Children's Project  
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or deposit directly into our account account name Yabonga Children's Project | bank Nedbank  
branch code 0063 | account number 1452 012 563.

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