



# AFRICA FOUNDATION



## CENTRES FOR ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Extending a successful model to transform hundreds of young lives.

Kruger National Park, South Africa



*Meet Lotus Khoza, &Beyond Foundation's Senior Development Officer in the region. There is nothing Lotus doesn't know about the needs of people in the communities fringing the Sabi Sand. Born in one of the communities, he grew up alongside, lives alongside and works side-by-side with the community leaders, school governing bodies, teachers and carers in all eight of their communities as well as with central government departments - identifying the most pressing needs of these poor rural people.*

For him the greatest challenge is to find a way to care for the many children who each year are orphaned by AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Lotus will tell you that the key is to keep them in their families, rather than institutionalising them in orphanages. 'In many instances it is

older children who now head up these families - all the adults have died - and they have to care for large numbers of vulnerable siblings.'

Led by Lotus, &Beyond Foundation's response to this has been to work with the community to set up a successful prototype centre in the Lillydale community. Children can come to the centre for support with their school work, for one or two healthy meals a day, for mentoring and advice and for fun in the playground. They are encouraged to bring their school friends and to feel at home. In fact the centre serves as a home from home when their home carers are still at work or away from home. The centre also offers help and advice to the surrogate parents. And the government provides financial support for 'parents' whose children use the centre.

But this is just one community. There are hundreds if not thousands of similarly affected children and families in the other Sabi Sand communities and Lotus wants to roll out the Lillydale model and set up five new day care centres along the same lines in Justicia, Huntington, Somerset, Hluvukani and Dumphries communities - each with a meeting room, a kitchen facility, and a playground - with a proper water supply laid on. And the community already has the carers to staff them.

Help Africa Foundation enable Lotus and the concerned and caring community leaders to build and equip these five centres and transform the lives of hundreds of destitute young people. Help us provide the **£23,000** needed for each of these centres - **£115,000** in all.