



AFRICA FOUNDATION



A NEW CHANCE FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN Mduku Community, Kwazulu Natal



Meet Princess Bongwiwe (it's her name - she's not really a princess - except in spirit!)

Princess looks after 27 handicapped children at the Khulani Special School in Mduku - children who need 24-hour care and attention. She is just one of the several people who work all hours - ensuring there is a roster of voluntary 'workers' to help from the community, feeding the children, bathing them when there is enough water, teaching them what little is possible, and sleeping over with them at night on mattresses laid out on the floor of the tiny building that serves as schoolroom, dining room, playroom and dormitory - and is kept spotless and perfectly organised at all times.

It is tragic to see children so afflicted simply surviving in such hopelessly inadequate surroundings - and yet this is a happy place - full of love and laughter.

'This is a shelter,' Princess Bongwiwe will tell you. 'I do this because I love these children - as do all the people who also help care for them. The community sees us as their mothers.'

And these 27 children are just the tip of the iceberg - just a few of the 6-14 year-olds, and there are older children too, hundreds in all - that need help in these communities.



Help Africa Foundation enable Mrs Nsukwini, the community 'champion' for this project, the Principal, Christiana Ngobesi and Princess Bongwiwe and the team of volunteers - to build a proper boarding school for all these desperately vulnerable and needy children. They already have the land donated by the community elders, have registered the school with Department of Education and received some initial funds from the government - now what they need is the **£230,000** to make it happen.