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Children's Trust

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## Greensleeves Children Trust

Greensleeves children's trust was started some 18 years ago by Di and Ian Lehy.

They never planned to open a Children's home – it was planned for them! Everything started when they decided to help an existing staff member's girlfriend when she arrived at their home with a baby on her back and a baby on her hip. This was the beginning!

Gradually the local community heard about what we Di and Ian were doing and that they were happy to help children who needed a place of safety, and so the numbers grew and so too did their vision. They would often get calls from Child Welfare asking them to place a child in a safe environment for 3 months and then possibly foster the child.



As the need for this is so high, the realization grew that there was not enough space to accommodate all the children. The need for more room for all the children led them to look into altering an existing stable into a proper Children's home.

In order to try and get the conversion of the stable going and with limited resources, Di, on celebrating her birthday, invited friends and family to the farm indicating that she would love their "presence" and their presents! The list of presents included paint, hardware vouchers etc.

And people were truly incredible. They came to celebrate Di's special day by helping her fulfil a dream. And so it has continued. Friends and family of Di and Ian, as well as their Church have been very supportive of all that they were doing and especially in the conversion of the stable into accommodation for their 39 children.

Materials were donated and the building gradually progressed until it was completed and officially opened in November 2010.

The community continues to make a huge difference to the lives of the children.

Doctors, dentists, optometrists, social workers, teachers and a chemist have all come forward and offered their services in various ways.

At this point in time, Di and Ian are running the home using their own resources and any donations they receive. They are in the process of applying for Government support, but this takes time and as yet, is not available.

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## **Mission Statement**

### **Rescue a Child**

Greensleeves Place of Safety was founded to provide for the care and nurture of abandoned, abused or orphaned children.

### **Revive a Life**

These children are placed in a family environment where they receive unconditional love and spiritual discipleship. All their daily physical needs are met in the home.

### **Raise a Leader**

Children are our hope for tomorrow so the manner in which they are raised will influence who they become.

### **Release a Talent**

Each child will have the opportunity of developing into a respected citizen capable of bringing positive change in South Africa, our continent and even the world.

## **Core Vision**

Greensleeves aims to provide holistic residential care for abandoned and abused children in order to groom them into adults who can participate in the growth and development of South Africa in a valuable and meaningful way.

In order to fulfil our vision we have a board of trustees with the expertise to plot the way forward, review financial reports and update short and long term goals.

Greensleeves is not an orphanage in the traditional sense, although it caters for children who have become vulnerable for various reasons.

Originally the children lived in a large home which was horse stables. We have since converted the 10 rooms into: bathroom facilities, 2 classrooms, sewing room, art room, computer room and library.

Our vision is to build separate cluster homes where 6 children of various ages can live cohesively as a family with a house mother. Only in such a home can they learn to love and respect each other and develop a sense of responsibility and belonging. We have managed to build one proper safe house but are trying to raise funds to complete the other 3.

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At present the children's physical health is monitored by Dr Jenny Nash who visits the farm. We also have Toni Midlane, a certified child psychologist, who is qualified to help with the children's emotional needs. However, the long term vision is to build a separate clinic which can meet the needs of an entire children's village as well as those of the surrounding community.

We have opened a mission school on the property, employing 3 qualified teachers and a teacher aid. The children were not fitting into the regular schools. Our teacher ratio is 1-10. This has made a huge difference. We aim to give these children the right to quality education. You can read all about it in the 'News' and see pictures in the Gallery.

### The priorities are:

- Reliable transport for the 30 children and staff in our care as all the transport currently used has been obtained privately through the Lehy's by borrowing on their bond
- The monthly salaries and wages for 3 teachers and 12 staff (on rotation basis)
- 3 non-permanent structures to be implemented as safe houses
- 2 non-permanent structures to utilise as classrooms
- Maintenance and general upkeep like grass cutting, leaky taps & roofs etc. is non-existent due to funding restrictions
- GS started a school this year and school fees per child are approximately R1000.00 per month.

### Volunteer

Come volunteer your time. Working hands on with our children on the farm. Volunteer your time. (homework/playground/class room or outings). 5 hours a day gets you a 1 meal and bed. (Own breakfast and lunch). Contact us for an opportunity of a life time.

If you would like to contribute to the running of the home in a monetary way, banking details are:

Greensleeves Trust Account

Absa: 9265431853

Branch Code: 632005

May you in return be abundantly blessed.