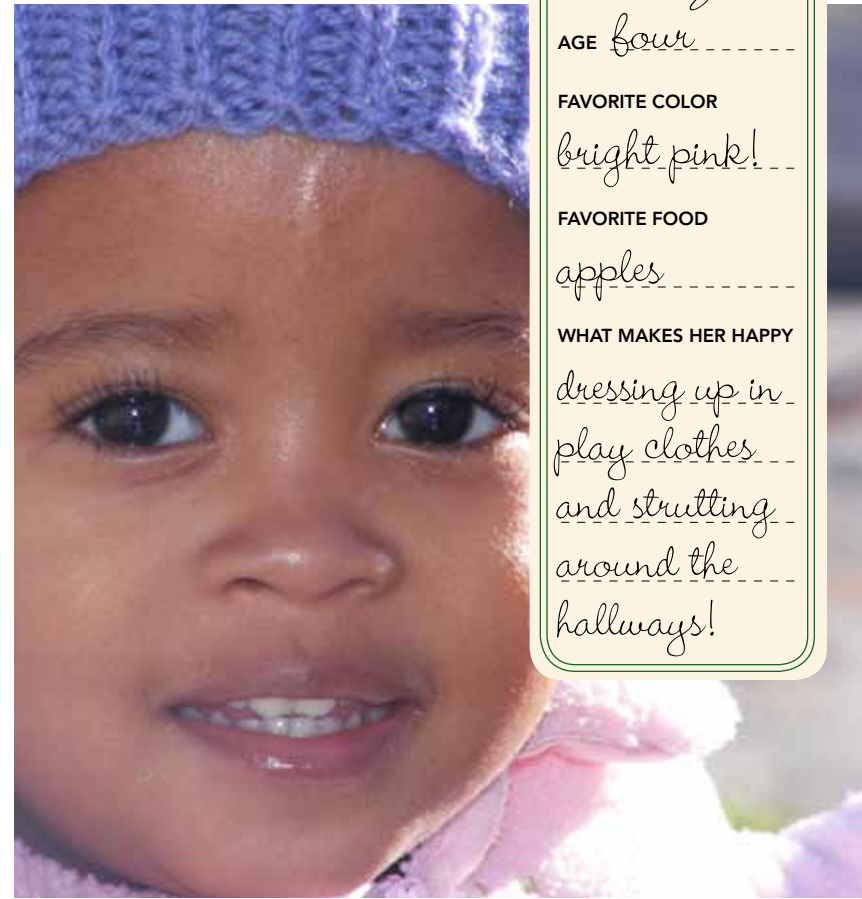



get to know:

Thandazwa



 Thandazwa
 AGE *four*
 FAVORITE COLOR *bright pink!*
 FAVORITE FOOD *apples*
 WHAT MAKES HER HAPPY *dressing up in play clothes and strutting around the hallways!*

Thandazwa (tahn-doz-wa) has lived at Open Arms for more than two years. She came with her brother, Siphamandla. Thandazwa attends Komga Kids Preschool. She loves to dress up in play clothes and fancy shoes and can often be seen wearing two things that absolutely don't match each other but fit her sparkling personality! She is very bright even though she is very small for her age. Thank you for providing love and hope to our little miss "life of the party!"



our new cottages

CONTACT INFORMATION

open arms

UNITED STATES
 P.O. Box 2198
 Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340

SOUTH AFRICA
 P.O. Box 165
 Komga, Eastern Cape 4950

PRESIDENT
 Bob Solis, 602-920-9958
 BOB@OPENARMSHOME.COM

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
 Ted Freese, 612-590-0675
 TED@OPENARMSHOME.COM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Rita Montgomery
 RITA@OPENARMSHOME.COM

WEBSITE
 WWW.OPENARMSHOME.COM



Open Arms is a 501 (c)(3) organization and any tax deductible donations can be sent to the US address at right.

open arms news

VOLUME 2
 ISSUE 1
 APRIL
 2010

A LETTER FROM BOBO

Friends,

What a start to the year! On January 30th, we dedicated four new cottages and our beautiful new amphitheater. We were very pleased to have 19 visitors from America with us in addition to more than 200 local folks who joined us for a day to remember. The big celebration included a marching band, native dancers, readings from our kids and speeches from local dignitaries. The ceremonies were followed by a delicious BBQ dinner that featured lamb and pork on a spit. A great time was had by all!

As pleased as I was with the celebration, I was even more pleased two days later when we welcomed our first new child in more than a year. Three year-old Thina (pronounced "tina") was welcomed to Open Arms on February 1. Her mother is dying of AIDS and tuberculosis in the hospital and she had no place else to go.

As you can see, Thina is very underweight for her age. She has

obviously been malnourished, probably due to her mother's weakened condition. Thankfully, Thina tested negative for HIV/AIDS.

When I look at Thina, I see a young child who has lived through a very difficult period in her life. But I am thankful every day that she is now "home." We look forward to fattening her up on good food and giving her the love that every child deserves.

I know Thina's photo will look very different a year from now. But the sparkle in her eyes, even today, tells me of the great possibilities ahead.

Children like Thina are the reason that Open Arms exists. And as we get ready to welcome more children soon, she is the surest proof that your support is changing lives. What a blessing you are to this child and to all our kids!

Gratefully,

THINA ARRIVED AT OPEN ARMS ON FEBRUARY FIRST, 2010



it's a home!

Open Arms is More than a Shelter

At Open Arms, we're pleased to provide food, shelter and love to our kids every day. But we want Open Arms to be more than a place of safety — we want it to be a home! For that reason, our kids play sports at school, take karate lessons, attend Sunday School, go

on beach outings and enjoy movie night every Friday night. We do these things to ensure our kids are well-rounded and that they have opportunities in all areas of their lives. Here are some photos of the kids engaged in some recent activities.



1 KWAKHANYA ON A PIZZA OUTING 2 OUR KIDS AT THE EAST LONDON ZOO 3 SEEING SANTA AT A LOCAL FESTIVAL 4 ASANDA AND NAMHLA ON A JEEP RIDE TO SEE WILD ANIMALS

CHILDREN SINGING FOR OUR CHILDREN

On December 13th 2009, the Grammy-award winning **PHOENIX BOYS CHOIR** entertained 400 people at the Wigwam Resort in Phoenix to help raise funds for Open Arms. It was a great performance, highlighted by the surprise appearance of **ASEKHONA**, the oldest child from Open Arms, who personally thanked everyone for their support. There wasn't a dry eye in the place and we're thankful to everyone who made it such a special day. This year's event is slated for Sunday, December 12th at 4:30pm at the Wigwam. Please put in on your calendar and help us capture the true spirit of the holidays.



did you know?

OPEN ARMS JUST RECEIVED A NEW 14-PASSENGER VAN, thanks to the late **BERTHA JENSEN** and the **ROTARY CLUBS** in **SUN CITY** and **PEORIA NORTH** in **ARIZONA** and the **EAST LONDON SUNRISE CLUB** in **SOUTH AFRICA**. A big thank you is due to Bertha's family and the members of three Rotary clubs who worked together to get our kids around in comfort and safety!

beep, beep!



OPEN ARMS OWES A HUGE DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO TWO SCHOOLS IN THE MINNEAPOLIS AREA: BENILDE-ST. MARGARET'S HIGH SCHOOL and ST. THERESE GRADE SCHOOL. Both schools recently adopted Open Arms as school service projects and helped raise funds among their students. Bob Solis graduated from both of these schools and we thank them for making such a difference for our kids!

SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE HOSTING THE SOCCER WORLD CUP THIS JUNE AND JULY AT 11 STADIUMS AROUND THE COUNTRY. The closest venue to Open Arms is three hours away in Port Elizabeth. A lot of money has been spent to get the country ready for the expected 450,000 foreign visitors for the first world cup in Africa. We will avoid the crowds and watch the games on TV!

The kids are hoping for a good showing by South Africa, while our board of directors says go USA!



SOUTH AFRICA 2010



wish list

CURRENT NEEDS

Many people ask if there are particular items or projects that need to be funded. To that end, here is a partial list of some of our more pressing needs. Please don't hesitate to call Bob or Ted if you have any questions.

 **COMMUNITY DINING FACILITY + KITCHEN**
\$250,000.00
 This will allow 75 children to eat together and give us a proper kitchen to cook for so many

 **FENCE**
\$25,000.00
 An electrified fence and gate is needed to protect our kids and staff

 **USED VAN**
\$15,000.00
 We need a small used van for shift changes for our staff every 12 hours. Often, our big vans are in use carrying kids and we're short a vehicle.

LEAVING A LEGACY

Last month, Open Arms received the first bequest in our history. A generous \$25,000 gift came in quite unexpectedly from an anonymous donor. Such gifts will be a lifeblood for our growing organization in the future. If you would like to include Open Arms in your estate plan, please go to our website and find suggested language under **DONATE** and **PLANNED GIFTS**. We are extremely grateful to those people who have already done so ... may God bless you!