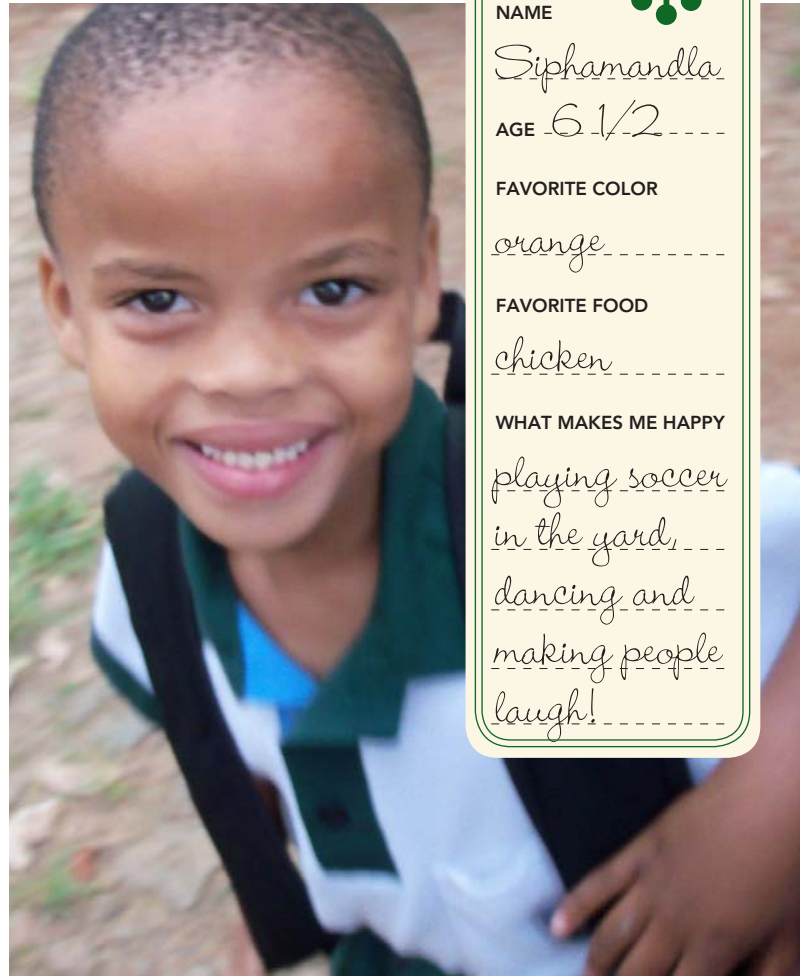



get to know:
Siphamandla

Siphamandla (sip-ah-mand-la) is a six year old boy born October 11, 2004. He has been at Open Arms for four years along with his younger sister, Thandazwa. Siphamandla is a very bright and active child and has a great sense of humor. He recently started first grade at the best school in town and we are very proud of his achievements. He is small for his age but packs a big punch with his energy and ability to make us all laugh!



NAME 
Siphamandla
AGE 6 1/2
FAVORITE COLOR
orange
FAVORITE FOOD
chicken
WHAT MAKES ME HAPPY
playing soccer
in the yard,
dancing and
making people
laugh!

CONTACT INFORMATION



ASANDA, AGE 6, HAPPILY HEADS OFF TO PRESCHOOL IN OUR VAN

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

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2011

A LETTER FROM BOBO

Friends,

For those of us who spend time at Open Arms, it is first and foremost, a place of great joy. Every day, children laugh and play, free from the incredible pressures which have marked their young lives. Because of this, I often say that our 70 acre campus rivals Disneyland as "the happiest place on earth."

This was certainly the case on March 16th when we celebrated our 5th anniversary. Just five years ago, two year-old Sifundo arrived at our door, the first child to be welcomed with open arms. Since then, more than 50 children have come to find love and hope at our campus. It has been a time of great progress for our organization and for our children — and we have you, our donors, to thank for that.

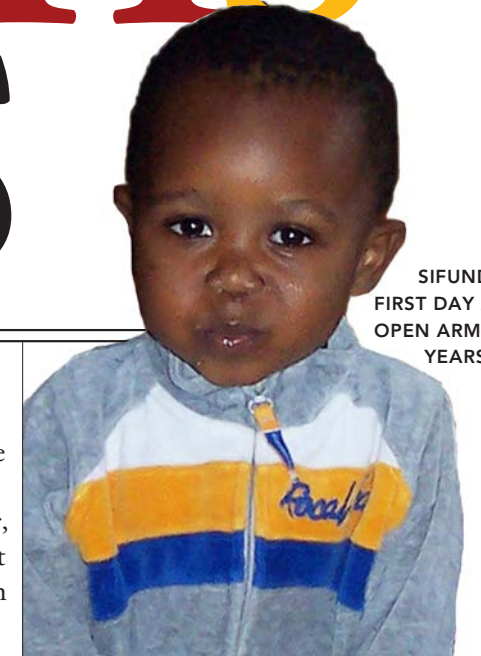
And yet, there is another side of our work that we also see every day. Outside of our gates, we see children often without parents, suffering from lack of basic necessities, abuse or neglect. There is a great tide of suffering in South Africa and we do our best to combat it

by serving the children in our care.

Unfortunately, on March 3rd, that tide of suffering entered our gates. Little Anele, a 2 1/2 month old girl who came to us in late January with her twin sister, passed away due to a respiratory ailment and complications from HIV and low birth weight. We had been taking her to the clinic every day and had placed her in the hospital a few days before she died.

For all the members of the Open Arms family, this was an incredibly sad day. While we did the best we could to care for this precious little girl, we could not help but feel the tragic weight of losing a child in our midst. To say that there are more questions than answers would be an understatement. Anele had only 80 days on earth and we feel a profound sense of loss.

In reflecting on her death, however, I am comforted by the fact that she knew in her short life that people cared for her and that she was loved. She knew hugs and kisses and enjoyed good nutrition, a warm bed and the joy of being in a family. She came to know that the world was a good place with good



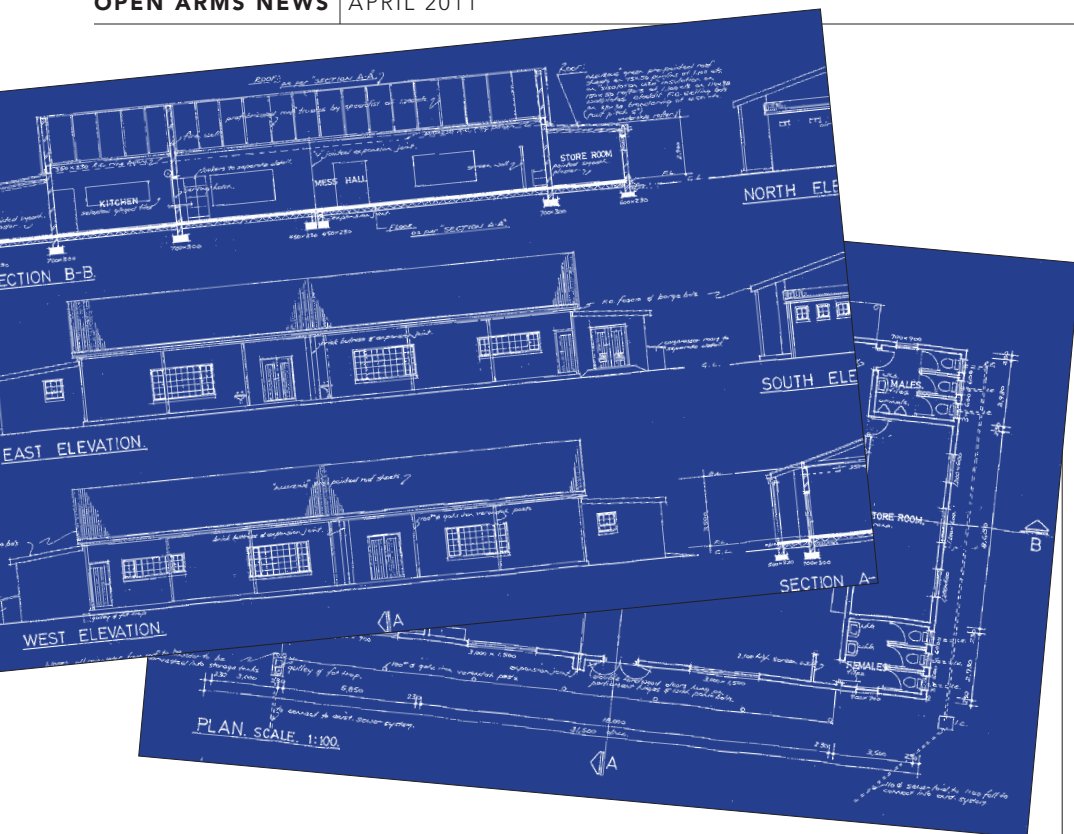
SIFUNDO'S FIRST DAY AT OPEN ARMS FIVE YEARS AGO.

people. We can all take comfort in that.

We continue to care for Anele's sister, Anelisiwe. We are hopeful that she will grow up healthy and full of joy. But we cannot, and we will not, forget her twin sister. It was a privilege to hold her and to care for her. In her honor, we have had a star named "Anele" in the constellation of Gemini, the twin. Now, when we look up in the southern sky, we remember with her love in our hearts, determined to carry on.

We are privileged — and thankful — to share this work with you. Please remember little Anele in your prayers.

Bob Solis



Open Arms gets ready for expansion!

Just recently, we embarked on the start of construction for our new kitchen and dining hall facility. This building will allow us to properly feed and care for 70 children, our eventual capacity. Many thanks to the incredibly generous donors who have allowed us to start construction! We hope to be feeding children in the new facility by November and we look forward to the dedication next January! Because of this project, another 30 children will have a home in the next few years!

did you know?



Open Arms is now home to **41 children** who are served by **25 staff members**.

Our youngest child is **3 MONTHS OLD** and our oldest, **ASEKHONA**, is now **13 YEARS OF AGE**.

You can **SPONSOR A CHILD** in our care for \$100.00 per month. The program is called **OPEN ARMS ANGELS** and you can learn more about this special program at **WWW.OPENARMSHOME.COM**. We would love to have you as an Angel for one of our recent arrivals!



BHUKO AND SIPHAMANDLA

SIX CHILDREN NOW GO TO THE BEST SCHOOL IN TOWN!

We are very pleased that 6 of our children have qualified to attend the best school in our local town. **KOMGA JUNIOR** has very competitive entrance standards and we are pleased that we now have a half-dozen of our kids there: **NAMHLA** (4th grade), **ZIMKHITA** (2nd grade) and **PHELISA, BHUKO, SIPHAMANDLA** and **SIFUNDO** (1st grade). We know that education is the key to success and we are readying another group to take the entrance test next year!

ENDOWMENT FUND ESTABLISHED

Open Arms has recently established an Endowment Fund to serve our operating needs in perpetuity. If you would like to consider a gift to this fund, we would appreciate it. The fund will eventually receive bequests or other large gifts that will help us meet our needs for years to come. There is nothing in the fund at present but we hope that won't be the case for long! **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!**

say hello

TO DAVE HORAN

Open Arms Home for Children is served by a 9 member Board of Directors who serve 2 year terms. We are blessed with committed, caring and generous individuals who give selflessly of their time, talents and treasures for our children. From time to time, we'd like to highlight these amazing individuals.

DAVE HORAN has been on the Board of Directors since Open Arms first opened its doors. Dave is a financial advisor in Minneapolis and like all of our Board members, has done a great deal for the children in our care. Dave is a constant advocate for the organization, having traveled to Open Arms four times to visit the children and assist where needed. He and his wife, Michelle and children Maggie (14) and John (12) enjoyed a family trip to Open Arms last January and are as much a part of the Open Arms "family" as our children and staff. "I am so proud to be a part of this effort," Dave said recently. "This organization is literally life-changing for the children that we serve — and it's been life-changing for me and my family as

well. We could not imagine being more enthusiastic about a cause or project and Open Arms will always be a key part of our lives."

Dave attends fundraisers around the country at his own expense, is a generous donor and is passionate about spreading the word about the way children's lives are changed at Open Arms.

"This organization is a blessing to the children we serve, to me and to our family."

We think that Dave, like all of our Board members, is a great blessing too.



Additional Board members include **ANN PARSONS** (Seattle), **TED FREESE** (Minneapolis), **MARK PETERSON** (Scottsdale), **TIM CHERVENAK** (Spokane), **DAVE NELSON** (Sarasota), **JEFF TOWERY** (Boise) and **BOB** and **SALLIE SOLIS** (Phoenix).

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.

VOLUNTEER HOUSING

\$50,000.00

To help us build a five apartments at Open Arms which will house volunteers once our cottages are full of children in the next few years.

USED VAN

\$15,000.00

To help us buy a used van to get children and staff to local appointments, school and health facilities.

KITCHEN ITEMS

\$2,000.00

To buy all of the pots, pans and cooking utensils for our new kitchen.

APARTMENT FURNISHINGS

\$1,200.00

To completely furnish a volunteer apartment with a bed, linens, chair, table and lamp.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

\$500.00

To build a new swingset or climbing structure for our playground, needed to accommodate our growing number of children.