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Pietermaritzburg & District COMMUNITY CHEST

6TH FLOOR, GALLWEY HOUSE, GALLWEY LANE
P O BOX 971, PIETERMARITZBURG 3200
TEL: 0331-941031 FAX: 0331-949653 EMAIL: chest@pixie.co.za



20 September 1999

Ms Sandy Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
The White House
United States of America

Dear Ms Thurman

re The Children In Distress (CINDI) Network in KwaZulu-Natal

Since the visits of you and your colleagues in March & April this year the HIV/Aids problem in our country has got worse. Latest reports state the over thirty per cent of ALL pregnant women in hospital or attending ante-natal clinics are HIV positive. It is estimated life expectancy in South Africa will fall from 67 to 47 over the next five years.

The positive work being done by the CINDI network is becoming more important and, at the same time, more difficult to fund. When you and your colleagues were with us you all seem to recognise the value of CINDI and, seemed to express a desire to help in some way.

Although I have sent several letters, either direct or through the offices of USAID in Pretoria, we have not received any reply. I can only assume that somehow they have not been received; and so we shall send this letter by airmail, fax and E-mail direct to your White Address with a copy to USAID in Pretoria.

The operating cost of CINDI for one year is R200 000 (about US\$34 000). Is there any way in which your programmes could provide help to fund that amount?

We all enjoyed your visit and the time you spent with us and hope that we might have the opportunity of meeting you and your colleagues again.

Yours sincerely,

John M Scarrott
Executive Director

cc Dr K Yamoshita
USAID PO Box 55380
Arcadia Pretoria 0007

Helping you to help others

With Compliments from

Children in Distress

CINDI

Networking for children affected by AIDS

Supported by the
Nelson Mandela's Children's Fund

P O Box 1659
Pietermaritzburg 3200

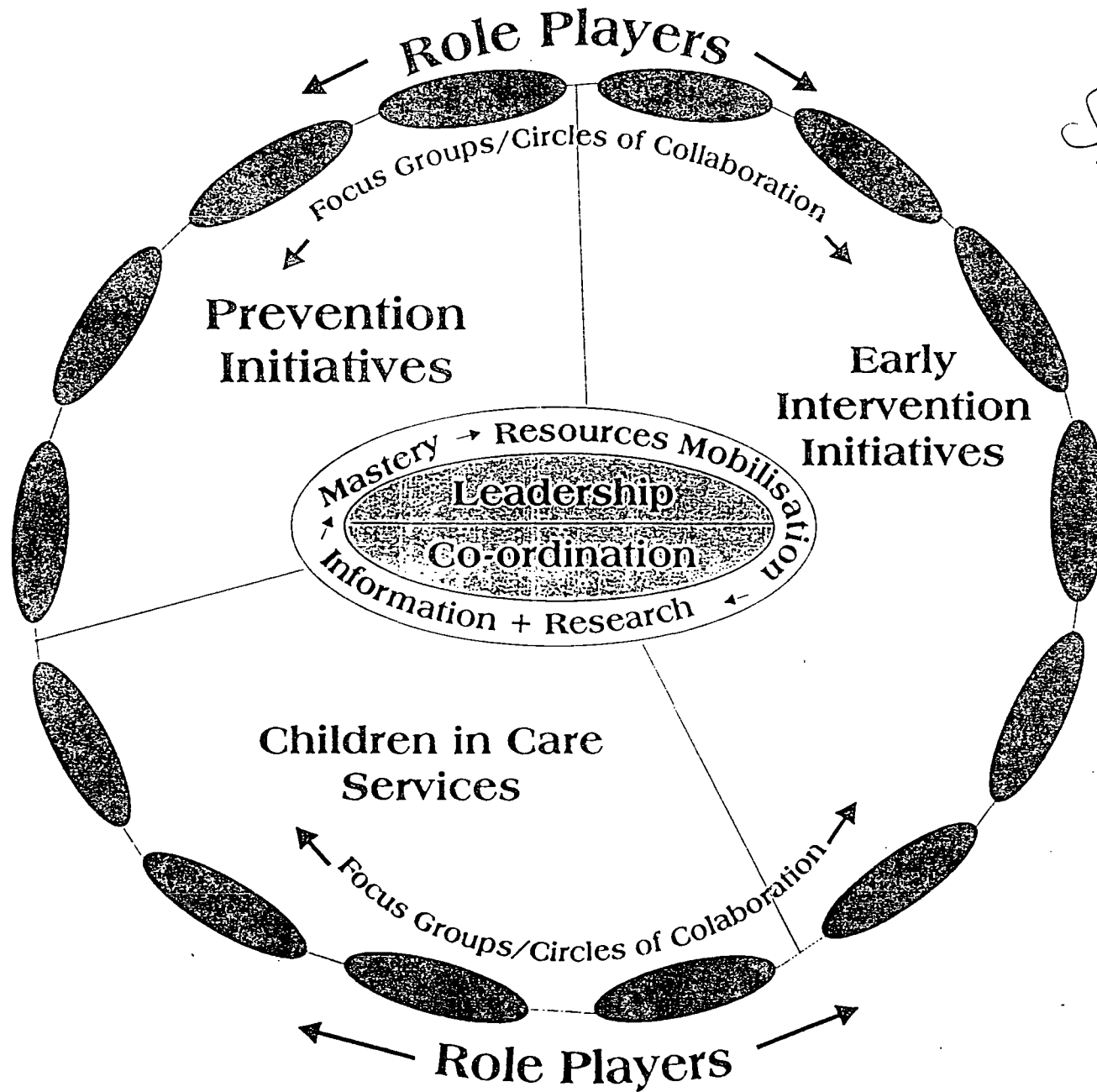
Tel. 0331-452970
Fax 0331-451583
E-mail yfc@pmb.lia.net

To:

Sandra L. Thurman
Director
White House Office of NAP
With Love from Africa
Themba

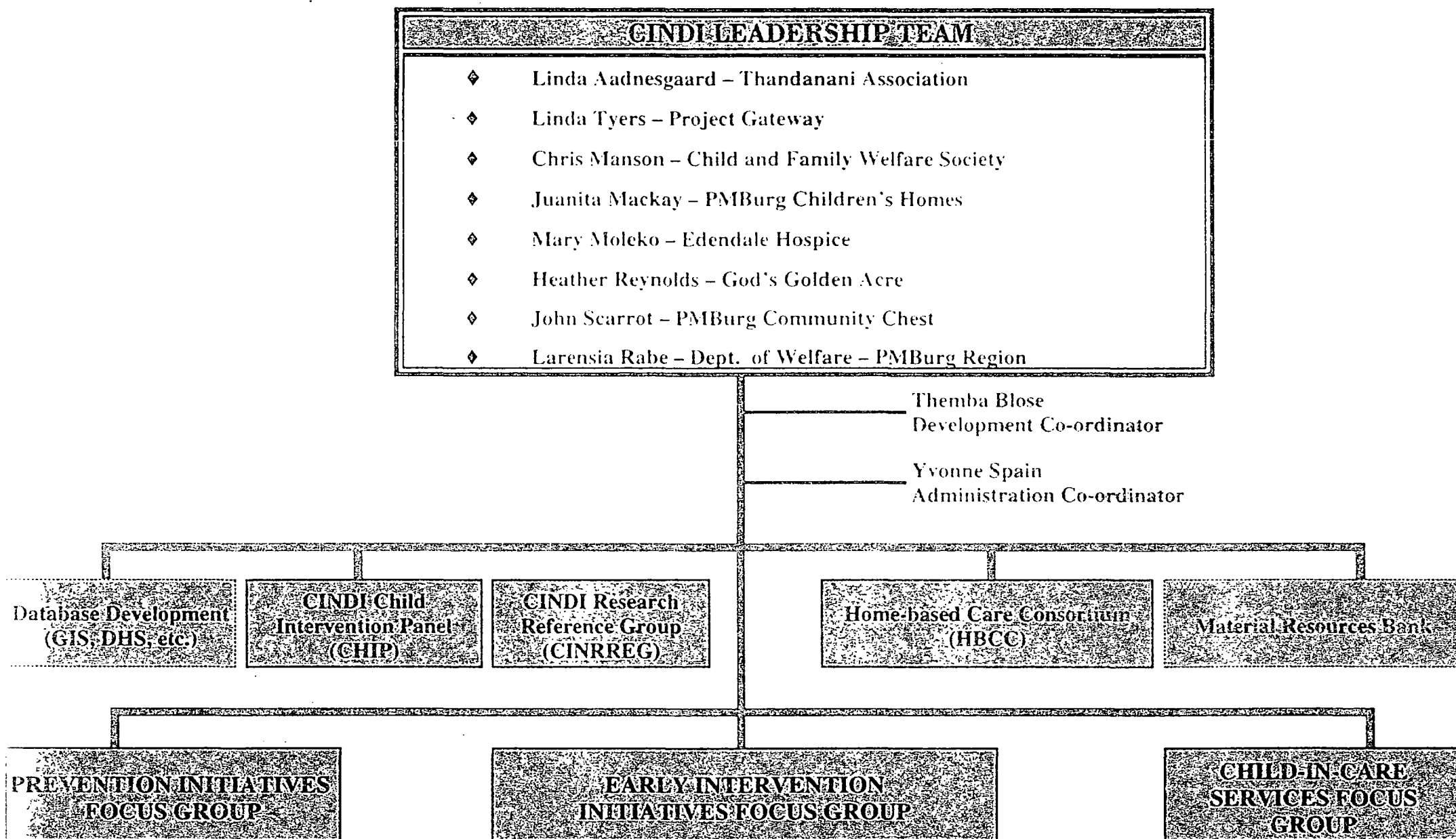
Affiliated to the Pietermaritzburg & District Community Chest

CND NETWORK



*Self
SAfrica*

CINDI ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



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CINDI CO-ORDINATION OFFICE

1 Durban Road,
c/o Youth for Christ Office,
YMCA
Pietermaritzburg,
3201

P. O. Box 1659,
Pietermaritzburg,
3200

Telephone: (0331) 452 970/452 555
E-mail: yfc@pmb.lia.net

Fax: (0331) 451 583

Yvonne Spain

Themba Blose

Administration Co-ordinator:

Development Co-ordinator:

The CINDI Network Partners:

Kenosis

Project Gateway

Community Chest

Edendale Hospice

God's Golden Acre

Thandanani Association

Pietermaritzburg Hospice

SAPS - Child Protection Unit

Khayaletu (Youth for Christ)

Child and Family Welfare Society

Pietermaritzburg Children's Homes (PCH)

Child Development Resource Centre (CDRC)

Department of Social Welfare - Regional Office

Joseph Baynes Children's Home (Salvation Army)

South African National Epilepsy League (SANEL)

South African Health Care Organisation (SAHECO)

Pietermaritzburg Aids Training Information and
Counselling Centre (ATTIC)

Pietermaritzburg Family and Marriage Association of
South Africa (FAMSA)

National Institute for Crime Prevention and
Re-integration of Offenders (NICRO)

Pietermaritzburg-Msunduzi Transitional Local Council -
City Health Department

KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health - Regional AIDS
Co-ordination Office (to participate in 1999)

CHILDREN IN DISTRESS (CINDI) NETWORK

(Established on the 7th of July 1996)

Networking for Children Affected by AIDS

VISION

A multi-sectoral, well resourced network of civil society and government agencies, capable of implementing diverse, effective, sustainable care and preventative programmes for children affected or orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

MISSION

To foster a spirit of Ubuntu among CINDI partners; encourage collaboration in the implementation of prevention, early intervention and children-in-care programmes; enhance the mastery of partners; co-ordinate research and data management; and unlock resource mobilisation opportunities for the benefit of all partners.

FOCUS GROUPS' GOALS

Prevention Focus Group Goal:

"To build the strength and capacity of families and communities to take care of their own vulnerable children or AIDS orphans through mobilisation, education, research and development facilitation".

Early Intervention Focus Group Goal:

"To intervene rapidly with children who, despite prevention initiatives, are still vulnerable and endeavour to divert children from institutional care to community-based models of care".

Children-In-Care Focus Group Goal:

"To ensure that children who have been formally placed in care receive optimum, appropriate intervention and care in terms of their physical, intellectual, socio-cultural, emotional and spiritual needs".

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES

The Child Intervention Panel (CHIP)

CINDI's Child Intervention Panel (CHIP) is the most successful, working example of collaboration among the Network partners. It is composed of senior and highly experienced Social Workers (from non-government and state agencies), the Child Protection Unit (CPU) - SAPS and both CINDI Co-ordinators.

CHIP is a monitoring and advocacy group which intervenes on behalf of children (including persons or agencies caring for children) who are not receiving due attention or care from either Social Workers or any institution or care setting they have been placed in. This includes a wide range of issues including, among others, abandoned children staying in hospitals for long periods, delays in the payment of child grants, child abuse, etc.

The CINDI Research Reference Group (CINRREG):

The CINDI Research Reference Group (CINRREG) met for the first time in January 1999 to finalise the Research Proposal and Research Agreement for a study commissioned by the CINDI Network and funded by the National Department of Welfare. The Research Team will be led by Professor Tessa Marcus (Phd) of the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

CINRREG includes, over and above CINDI partners, participants from Law and AIDS (Lawyers for Human Rights), Hospice and Dr Neil Mackerrow (Chief Pediatrician - Grey's Hospital).

The study entitled, "Living With AIDS - Preparing for Death" will investigate all preparations that must be done prior to the death of a care-giver to ensure the survival, protection and development of children after death. This will include, among other arrangements, the drawing up of wills, providing for the continued education of orphaned children, community-based support systems or indigenous fostering of orphaned children, culturally appropriate grieving procedures for children, etc.

The Research Project is scheduled to begin in February 1999 with a literature review and end in June 1999 with the tabling of the Research Report before the full CINDI Network. It is expected that the study will make specific recommendations for implementation of appropriate models of care for orphans or children in distress and policy changes.

The Home-based Care Consortium:

The Home-based Care Consortium was set up to develop a database, training manual, standards of care and co-ordinate funding proposals (including tenders to state departments) for organisations working in the home-based care field. The Consortium is made up of Pietermaritzburg Hospice (Lead Partner), FAMSA, PADCA, the Dept. of Welfare, CINDI Co-ordinator and other individuals.

"Materials Resources Bank" (being formed):

As documented in the HIV/AIDS and Human Development South Africa Report by UNAIDS - UNDP, poverty and AIDS are two of the most devastating pandemics ever to hit Southern Africa.

In response to this challenge, CINDI partners are currently engaged in a process of setting up a "Material Resources Bank" with a capacity to supply food parcels, clothing and other needed materials to needy families and communities.

The well attended Material Resources Meeting of 01 December 1998 was unanimous on the great need for material aid and social relief strategies. This does not detract from the importance of pursuing income generation poverty alleviation programmes. The project is viewed as a complimentary strategy emanating from the harsh reality that developmental social welfare strategies will take longer to bear fruits while the dire need for food and clothing is acute now.

Plans are afoot for a strategic planning workshop, before the end of March 1999, to map the way forward. There are positive indicators that Kupugani Trust, the Benevolent Society and a local Rotary Club will come on board this initiative.

Database Development:

A tool for tracking the HIV/AIDS pandemic, local interventions and response capacity of local institutions is indispensable. Collated data can be fed into co-ordinating responses and updating the country situational analysis.

CINDI is presently investigating ways of setting up a comprehensive Database to serve the information needs of the Network partners. The Geographic Information System (GIS), a method of presenting data on maps and graphs, will be explored. The GIS pilot project involves the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), Umngeni Water Board, the Regional Office of the Department of Welfare and the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands Welfare Forum.

PCH - SAHECO Home/Child Care Training Project:

The Pietermaritzburg Children's Homes (PCH) in collaboration with the South African Health Care Organisation (SAHECO) are running a training project for unemployed, out-of-school care givers from the predominantly African communities. The project's main objective is to train community-based volunteers in home/child care practice. The learners receive theoretical and practical training at PCH. A database of people with caring skills in the poorer communities is also kept.

Children's Participatory Project:

On the 5th of February 1999, the CINDI Co-ordination Team assisted 6 Child and Youth Workers and Social Workers from NICRO, PCH, CDRC, Khayaletu, Thandanani and Child Welfare Society to attend the S.A. Law Commission's Children's Participatory Project in Durban. They were trained by Mr John Errington of Save the Children's Fund UK on Facilitation Skills for appropriately engaging children in the Child Care Act Review.

Between March and April 1999, the CINDI Network will facilitate the participation of approximately $6 \times 12 = 72$ children in different sectors (disabled, foster care, in trouble with the law, homeless, sexually abused, residential care) in the Child Care Act Review consultations. The Development Co-ordinator will hold consultations with children in normal family and community settings.

It is envisaged that this Children's Participatory Project will continue beyond April as there is a need to affirm the children's right to participate in matters that affect them directly such as HIV/AIDS, orphanhood, grieving, etc.

RAPLEXITY

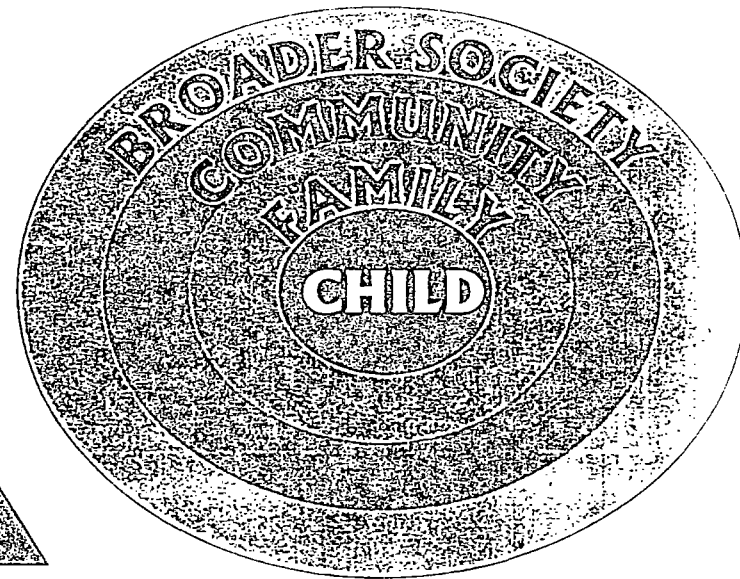
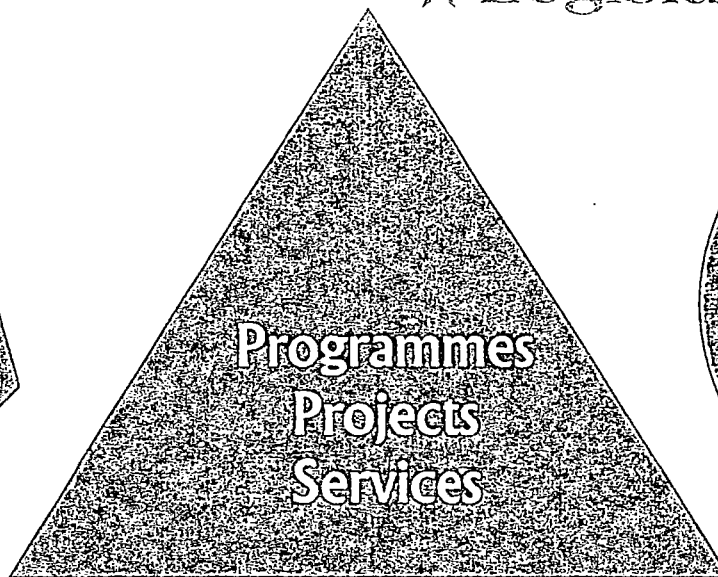
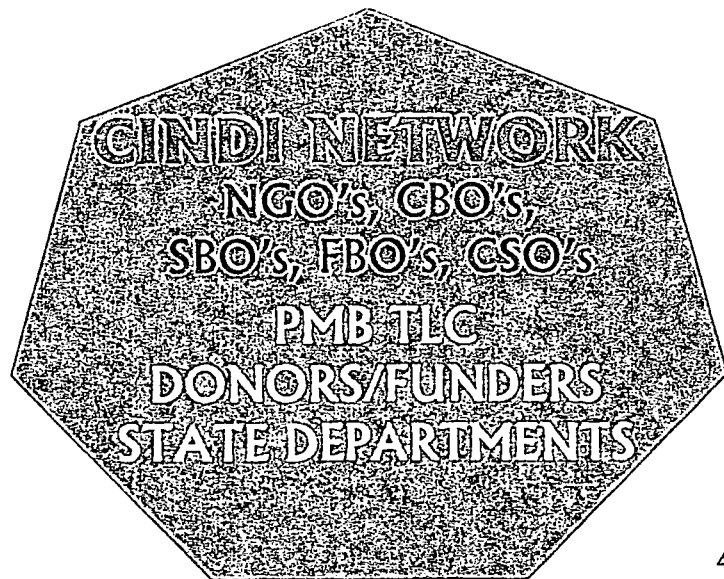
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★ Donor/Funding Issues

★ Poverty

★ Information Technology

★ Legislation



★ HIV/AIDS Impact

★ Diversity of Cultures

★ Economics

★ Politics

FOCUS GROUP: Prevention Initiatives

PRIMARY GOAL:

Building the strength and capacity of families and communities to take care of their own vulnerable children or AIDS orphans.

PROGRAMMES/ PROJECTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	IMPACT INDICATORS	INPUT RESOURCES	TIME FRAME	HOST
Community Care for Orphaned Children	8 Trained Ward Child Care Committees	Child Care Committees initiate and run care programmes for orphaned children in their wards	-Training in community development, childcare and Income Generation . - Material Aid eg: food and clothes. - R1000.00 for operational costs.	23/11/98 - 30/04/99	TKZEE
Economic Empowerment					
Community Education and Mobilisation					
Family Preservation					
Children's Participation					
Youth Development					

AN EXAMPLE OF INTEGRATED SERVICE DELIVERY AT PROGRAMME / PROJECT LEVEL

PROGRAMME / PROJECT:

Rapid identification and placement of orphaned, abandoned, homeless and abused children in appropriate care.

AGENCY F:

Provides material aid and social relief such as food, children's clothing and playthings.

AGENCY A:

Provides buildings and yard to be used as a Reception Centre.

AGENCY C:

Also provides Foster Care, Adoption and referral services to Residential Care Facilities or Community Care Programmes.

AGENCY B:

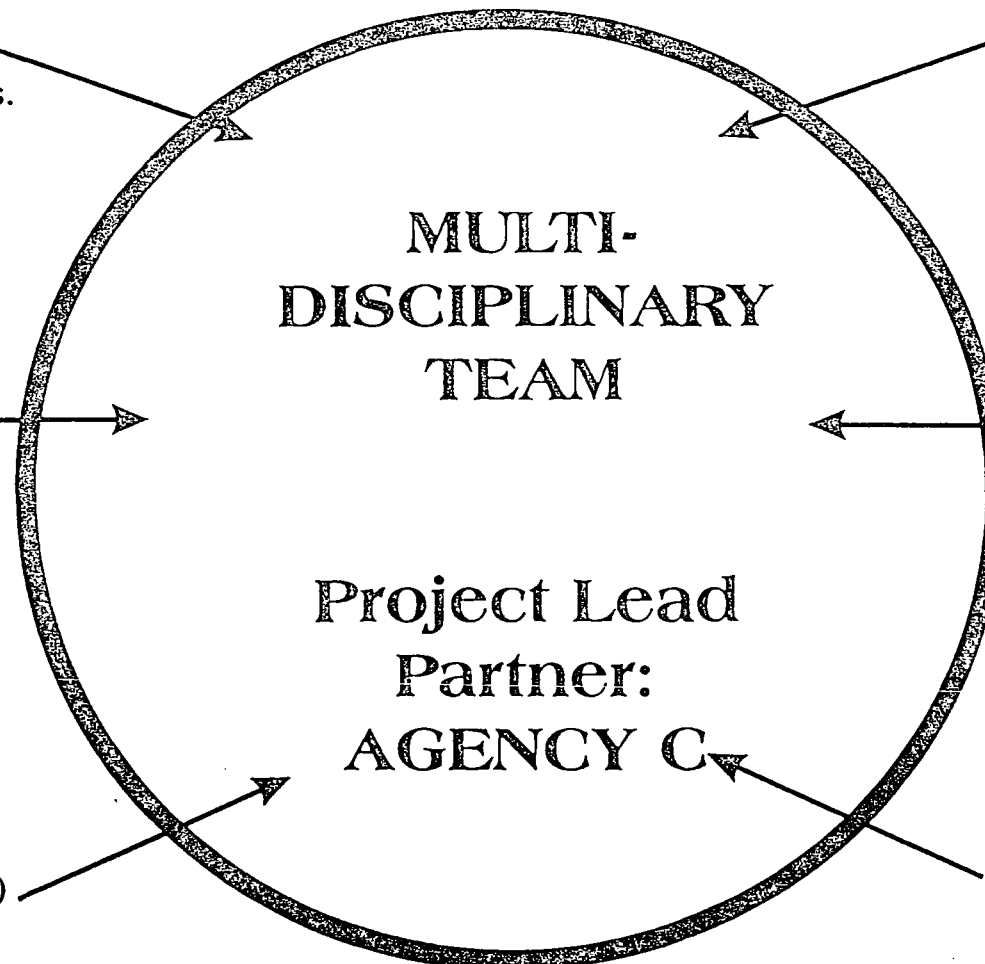
Provides trained Child Care Workers to identify and receive orphaned, abandoned, homeless and abused children at the Reception Centre.

AGENCY D:

Provide a short-term (emergency) Place of Safety while placement procedures are in progress.

AGENCY C:

Provides Social Workers, together with Child Care Workers, to assess the child and help with placement procedures.



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Wo! Zaphela Izingane

-It is Destroying the Children-

Living and Dying with AIDS

Prepared for

The CINDI (Children in Distress) NETWORK

By

Tessa Marcus

of

**The School of Human and Social Sciences (Sociology)
University of Natal
Pietermaritzburg**

July 1999