

*wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo*  
you strike a woman, you strike a rock

South African Women for Women, a Canadian - based organization established in 1996. Created as a forum to commemorate South African Women's Day, South African Women for Women celebrates the spirit of the more than 20,000 women, from all parts of South Africa and regardless of socio-economic background, who marched together for freedom on August 9, 1956.

A diverse group of women, S.A.W.W. is dedicated to fostering the spirit of Ubuntu in all of us and to the empowerment of South African women both in South Africa and Canada through working together, supporting each other, valuing the gifts of women and encouraging the spirit of noble living.



## South African Women for Women

REPORT | JUNE 2006

## MISSION

- We will EMPOWER through education and health promotion
- We will SUPPORT through funding
- We will HONOUR through celebration and recognition



## S.A.W.W. Annual Awards

"These are important stories as they define who we are and who we could become."

- Carole Adriaans S.A.W.W. Founder and President

S.A.W.W. honours unique women in their efforts to make our world a better place. Every year S.A.W.W. honours women who have served their communities in education, health, the arts, and liberation movements. These women are stories of triumph over adversity. It is important not only to honour these women, but to learn from them. Engaging their wisdom, and from that, empowering our own individual spirit, and societal progress. Come share in the wisdom of empowerment. And join us in recognizing the many unsung heroes. Contact us to let us know of any remarkable women. Or to find out when this year's awards are happening! An annual gala event celebrates South African Women's Day and honours outstanding achievements. It is the highlight of our year and our main fundraiser.

On August 9, 1956, twenty thousand women from all strata of South African society converged on the Union Buildings in Pretoria to see the Prime Minister. At great personal cost and in the face of concerted official obstruction, the women came to voice their opposition to the government's decision to extend the hated pass laws to women. It was a historic and moving occasion.

All gatherings in Pretoria were banned that day, so the women walked to the Union Buildings in

groups of never more than three. All Pretoria was filled with women wearing the green and black Congress blouses, brilliant saris and ochre robes with elaborate head scarves.

As the women slowly filled the hillside amphitheatre which flanks the pillared wings of the Union Buildings, their leaders went in and left hundreds of thousands of signed petitions at the office of the Prime Minister who, of course, was not available to see them. Afterwards they stood in complete silence in the winter sun - even the babies on their backs did not cry - for thirty minutes, then they burst into the magnificent harmonious singing of the anthems, *Nkosi sikele' iafrika* and *Morena Boloka*. The singing, as they dispersed, echoed over the city, and the women began a new freedom song.

The 1956 demonstration shook the apartheid regime for it was impressive evidence of the power of angry, but highly organized women and it marked an important stage in the growth of unity among the oppressed.

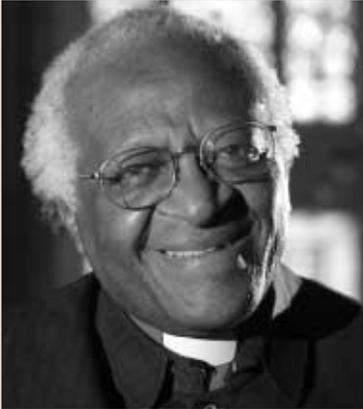
We acknowledge the contributions of the many women who sacrificed so much and are inspired by their perseverance and triumphs.

We will remember.



## VISION

South African Women For Women is a diverse organisation committed to supporting South African women. Through education and health care initiatives, we contribute to the empowerment of the women of South Africa. Through education and support we contribute to the empowerment of the women of South Africa now residing in Canada. We will honour those who have struggled and celebrate those who have achieved.



### Archbishop Desmond Tutu Scholarship Fund

“Dream! Dream. And then go for it! Young people are idealistic, they believe this world can become a better place – go for it!” - Archbishop Desmond Tutu

S.A.W.W. awards Desmond Tutu Scholarships annually to qualified, financially disadvantaged students in South Africa. Your support is needed to help us continue, and increase the number of scholarships. Your help in creating opportunity, for deserving young women in their quest for education, is appreciated. Let us know if you would like to help, or, if you know a student in South Africa needing assistance. In 1977, South African Women for Women was initiated and formed under the leadership of President, Carole Adriaans. That same year, S.A.W.W. launched

its scholarship program. Through S.A.W.W.'s Education Initiatives, our mission is to support and empower South African women. Thus the Tutu Scholarship Fund awards annual scholarships to qualified, financially disadvantaged, South African born, female students. Archbishop Desmond Tutu has through the years been an indefatigable supporter of S.A.W.W. He has shown his support by attending various fundraising functions and lending his name to the Scholarship Fund. His Grace is constantly in touch with S.A.W.W.

#### INVEST IN EDUCATION

The Scholarship Fund has been an outstanding success for our community. Many of the female scholars who received scholarships over the past ten years would not have been able to complete their degrees or diplomas without this valuable assistance. Each year the Scholarship Selection Committee faces a heart-wrenching task as it receives increasing numbers of

applications from students who meet or surpass the selection criteria. The Scholarship Fund has grown, but not sufficiently to meet these requests. The cost of tertiary education has increased significantly and so have the requests for financial assistance. The challenge of raising funds is immense. Your continued support is appreciated.

REMEMBER - Educate a woman and you educate a whole family. Please, invest in education.



## CRITERIA

Teachers should be actively teaching in the Ontario school system and must have the pertinent expertise as required for the project. Participants are responsible for their own medical arrangements. Current requirements may be obtained from your personal physician, South African High Commission or travel agents. Participants are also responsible for their own travel, medical insurances, and are responsible for their own travel arrangements within South Africa outside of the project. Participants must be willing to continue the dialogue with their counterparts upon their return to their own schools and must commit to submitting a brief report outlining their experiences and providing an indication of the mechanism for the ongoing dialogue established.



## Teacher Mentoring Project

“There can be no significant or sustainable transformation in societies and no significant reduction in poverty until girls receive the quality basic education they need to take their rightful place as equal partners in development.”

A unique opportunity for Canadian teachers to work with South African teachers in the classroom, experience the issues, understand the changes, share ideas, and introduce your students to their South African counterparts. We plan to share our strategies in support of South African teachers who are implementing the Outcomes Based Curriculum which was introduced in 2005. This approach is vastly different from the current methodologies in practice.

South Africa has continued to experience great changes in recent years and one of the most challenging of these has been moving beyond the past, the challenge of the future and developing a curriculum that will fulfill the government's vision of being an internationally competitive country of literate citizens.

The TMP serves as a means by which Ontario-based educators can share their expertise in curriculum implementation through partnerships with their counterparts in South Africa. Since 1999, fourteen Ontario-based teachers have participated in the S.A.W.W. Teacher Mentoring Projects at South Peninsula High School, Cape Town, Moshoeshoe Primary School, Gauteng (two years), St. Theresa's Catholic Primary School, Durban and W.D. Hendricks Primary School, Cape Town. In 2001, a South African educator from the University of Natal participated in an S.A.W.W. Teacher Mentoring Exchange Project in Toronto.

The projects have facilitated the sharing of expertise in literacy, numeracy, information technology and conflict resolution and peace studies. The Teacher Mentoring participants have continued their relationships and their students both in Ontario and South Africa have been the beneficiaries.

## THE PROJECT PROCESS

Through the local provincial departments of education and networks of educators in South Africa, schools are identified in areas where there is an urgent need for teacher development and support. Participants are briefed prior to their departure as to the details of their school's location, the details of their assignment, and the local realities that should be expected. If possible, appropriate books, resources and manipulatives, etc. could be taken along and left behind for use in the South African classroom. S.A.W.W. is not

able to assist in the financing of shipping but will assist if at all possible. In South Africa, arrangements are made by the host/school to provide adequate accommodation for the teachers for the duration of their stay. The visiting teachers will take care of their own meals, unless other arrangements are made by the host/school. Project participants are requested to attend a debriefing with the S.A.W.W. Board and are requested to submit a written report for publication in September.

## THE PURPOSE

The Teacher Mentoring Project provides Ontario-based teachers with an unique opportunity to enter into a mentoring partnership with South African-based teachers. During the 3-4 week project, in July and August, the partnered teachers will discuss issues and share strategies for implementing new curriculum and technologies. At the conclusion of the session, the teachers are expected to link their classrooms to enhance the learning requirements for students in both classrooms. Indirectly, the Teachers will have an opportunity to learn more about the country and its peoples and the challenges faced as the 'new' South Africa unfolds. Hopefully, this awareness will result in new networks of support for education in South Africa. In the future, with sufficient funding, it is hoped that this project will enable the South African teachers to be brought to Ontario for a similar experience in the classrooms of their Canadian counterparts.

## OUTCOME

- Identification of needs, struggles and access to health care in these marginalized and at risk communities in South Africa.
- Increase understanding, knowledge, and skills of health care professionals, women and children in the areas of prevention, early intervention and promotion of health care issues at large.
- To enhance support, partnership and collaboration and connections between South Africa and Canada.
- Involve and encourage the community to participate in their own health care.
- Increase collaboration and contact with South African Communities, Universities, Colleges and Community health centers.



## S.A.W.W. Health Promotion Program

*"We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right."*

- President Nelson Mandela

The S.A.W.W. Health Program works from the spirit of Ubuntu, meaning, *"I am what I am because of who we all are"*. Recognizing and promoting individual and societal well-being, S.A.W.W. fosters the health and respect of humanity. We provide women and children in South Africa, a sustained education and support in all aspects of health. The priority focus is supporting programs that reduces rape among girls and women. S.A.W.W. is guided with the vision to heal and educate women and children from the infection of HIV/AIDS, and other consequences deriving from sexual violence and abuse. Together, we empower living. The women's health program of activities, supports the health initiatives geared to enhance women's health and welfare in South Africa.

The Health Program also facilitates linkages to other women's health promotion advocacy activities initiated by women's organizations globally. The program is premised on the understanding that *"...health is a resource for everyday living..."* as noted by the World Health Organization. Here in Canada, over the past ten years, S.A.W.W. has focused on building awareness of Canadians so that we can encourage support and awareness for this very serious situation in South Africa - the prevention of mother and child transmission of HIV/AIDS. S.A.W.W. is working on two health initiatives, the Cassinga Security Project for Violence Against Women and the Phelophepa Health Care Train HIV/AIDS Coach. Your support would be invaluable in this endeavour.

## THE GOAL

The goal of this project is to assist and support the development of a comprehensive, prevention, promotion, educational and treatment program in women and children's health care. The project is conducted through identified health care centers in these marginalized, under serviced communities in South Africa. As we develop the program further, we

will review and add other components to our work. In all this work, please note that for some of the projects identified, we will be working in collaborative partnerships with other organizations that have the same interests we do. Please continue to visit our website for updates on this program.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Once we have identified the current health care needs of the South African Community, we will be able to implement and make the necessary changes to ensure that health care is at par with other privileged members of the South African community. Ultimately, we would like to work with members of the South African Community to establish the health and prevention health and delivery structure. This might include end products such as written materials, information, manuals, videos, websites and personnel. Currently, we are exploring a program supporting forensic testing for sexual abuse victims in South Africa. This program is related to the HIV/AIDS testing and treatment support.

## TRANSNET

- The Transnet Foundation is the vehicle for Transnet's Corporate Social Investment program. The Transnet Foundation's Health Care Train, the Phelophepa provides rural people in South Africa with essential health care services.
- Phelophepa represents a ±R15 million Transnet capital investment and is operated according to sound business principles.
- Transnet Foundation monthly operating budget of approximately R1, 2 million after deduction of donations and patient income.
- Local, national and international donors and funders also sponsor the train.



### HIV/AIDS Coach on the Phelophepa Health Train - A HEALTH INITIATIVE OF S.A.W.W.

The Phelophepa Health Train is an innovative and incredible mobile health delivery project that provides health services to numerous rural communities across South Africa. It is the only railway mobile health program in the world. Started by Transnet in South Africa it has reached hundreds of thousands of South African women, men and children since it began in 1994.

**PHELOPHEPA – “GOOD, CLEAN HEALTH”** The train is set up in such a way that each coach provides specific health care support. We are working towards supporting the outfitting and health personnel increase for the HIV/AIDS coach.

The health train has a proven track record of over 10 years of best practices in the provision of health services to very hard to reach communities. Over a million people have benefited from the train's innovative service delivery and multiple services. The Transnet organizers are now working on setting

up a second train with the support of the South African Ministry of Health.

More support is needed for programming, equipment and upgrades. The second train will ensure that the services of the train can reach more people in other African countries in the region.

#### DIRECT SERVICES AND CANADIAN SUPPORT

The train provides several health services, such as clinical diagnostic work, eye care, dental care, reproductive health care, pre and post natal care, paediatric services and general family health care. There is a strong interest in adding HIV/AIDS prevention education, treatment and care support. The train is also planning to start services in other surrounding African countries. Already the train provides a number of HIV related services such as the HIV/AIDS literacy, counselling and peer education, and capacity building for local health care providers.

Here in Canada, we have focused on building awareness of Canadians so that we can build support for the health train. Your support would be invaluable in this endeavour. We are asking you to support the outfitting of this coach, which would include provision of the HIV testing equipment, diagnostic and treatment requirements, support the formula clinic within the coach. The Formula support clinic would provide donated milk formula, food supplements and clean water, as well as providing community education on care and support. Communities would also receive educational information on HIV prevention as well as strategies for maintaining clean water systems.

- Phelophepa operates for 36 weeks a year.
- The train utilises and supports existing primary health care services through referral to the nearest local clinic, hospital, social worker or doctor.
- A total of 452,657 patients have been treated in the various clinics on board the train and have received health education.
- A further 746,828 individuals have been reached through our school screening, health education and counselling workshops outreach programs.

## BACKGROUND

Cassinga is one of seven student residences at UWC. The levels of sexual violence and rape as well as the high incidence of HIV infection among the youth were alarming to us. This has become a matter of urgency and we have been providing support for a number of safety measures but this is not enough.



### The Cassinga Women's Safety Project Summary - THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN INITIATIVE OF S.A.W.W.

The Cassinga Project was identified through our association with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who is the Chancellor of the University of the Western Cape (UWC). Initially we focused our work on providing scholarships to young South African women students.

As we developed our relationship with them and especially after our visit to the University a few years ago, we became aware of the critical problem of violence against young female students on Campus, especially for the residents at Cassinga House.

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION & GOAL

Since our visit in 2002 and follow up work, we are now looking for financial resources to support the safety measures needed at Cassinga Residence. These include both infrastructure support and the development of services for the women residents as well as some of the public education campaign to eradicate violence against women and to prevent the

spread of HIV/AIDS. The goal of the HIV/AIDS and the Violence against Women programs is to address the everyday safety issues of the female residents at Cassinga, by providing ongoing safety and support for the students thus ensuring that they can focus on their studies and work at becoming secure and productive members of society.

#### ABOUT CASSINGA

Information taken from the UWC website; "The name change to Cassinga was decided with reference to an event that was significant in the Liberation Struggle. Because we saw our struggle, and that of the Namibian people, as one struggle fought against the South African Government, we chose the name Cassinga. Cassinga was a refugee camp where 3000 Namibians, primarily children, women and old people lived. The most deadly raid into Angola, took place on 4th May 1978. The refugee camp, Cassinga was attacked, and 867 people were killed, 464 were wounded and 200 were captured by the SADF and were forced to return to Namibia." The naming of the residence after the Cassinga massacre reminds all of us of South Africa's shared history of the liberation struggle with Namibia and the importance of safety and freedom.

This is a critical and life threatening situation for young women and it requires urgent response from all of us.

Your donation is needed to complete this project, please donate.

#### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Safer environment for female students
- Empowerment of female students through the HIV/AIDS and Violence against Women support and counselling programs
- Better understanding of HIV/AIDS transmission
- Ability of negotiate safer sex practices with male partners
- Reduced drop out rates of female students
- Better future for South Africa



## Canadian Donation Boosts UWC projects

Excerpt taken from the 'on Campus' newsletter #25 - University of the Western Cape

UWC has received significant donations and pledges from the South African Woman for Women (S.A.W.W.) organization in Toronto, Canada. The donation, aimed at supporting the advancement of women's causes in law and business was the outcome of a major fundraising event held in Toronto last year in honour of our chancellor, Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Founded in 1996, S.A.W.W. is dedicated to the empowerment of South African women - both in South Africa and in Canada - and encourages systemic change.

S.A.W.W. members visited our campus during the Summer Graduation. The delegations was headed by its president and founder, Cape-Town born Carole Adriaans. They met with staff and students from various faculties, as well as funded projects such as the Law Students Resource Centre and the HIV/AIDS research project in the Faculty of Dentistry. They also visited the Women and Gender Studies Program.

The highlight of the visit was the unveiling of a plaque in the Cassinga Residence Foyer. The plaque

recognized the patronage of Leila Joy MacKenzie, guest of honour at the function, S.A.W.W. patron and Honourary Consul General of Senegal in Toronto.

In her speech MacKenzie said her visit to South Africa had only become possible after the end of apartheid.

*"To be here at UWC is a fulfillment of a dream,"* said MacKenzie.

Second year Law student Ncumisa Felicity Pinda thanked the delegation. *"We are very happy for the donation,"* said Pinda. *"This will really help us make UWC a home away from home."*

On behalf of her fellow students she bestowed the title 'Mama Cassinga' on the guest of honour.

The function was attended by Archbishop Tutu. Other guest at the unveiling function included Acting Rector Prof. Ikey van de Rheede, Registrar Ingrid Miller, Development Head Prof. Ulrich Plüddemann, Residences Head Mark Seale, S.A.W.W. scholarship holders, and Cassinga students.



For all enquiries please contact

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