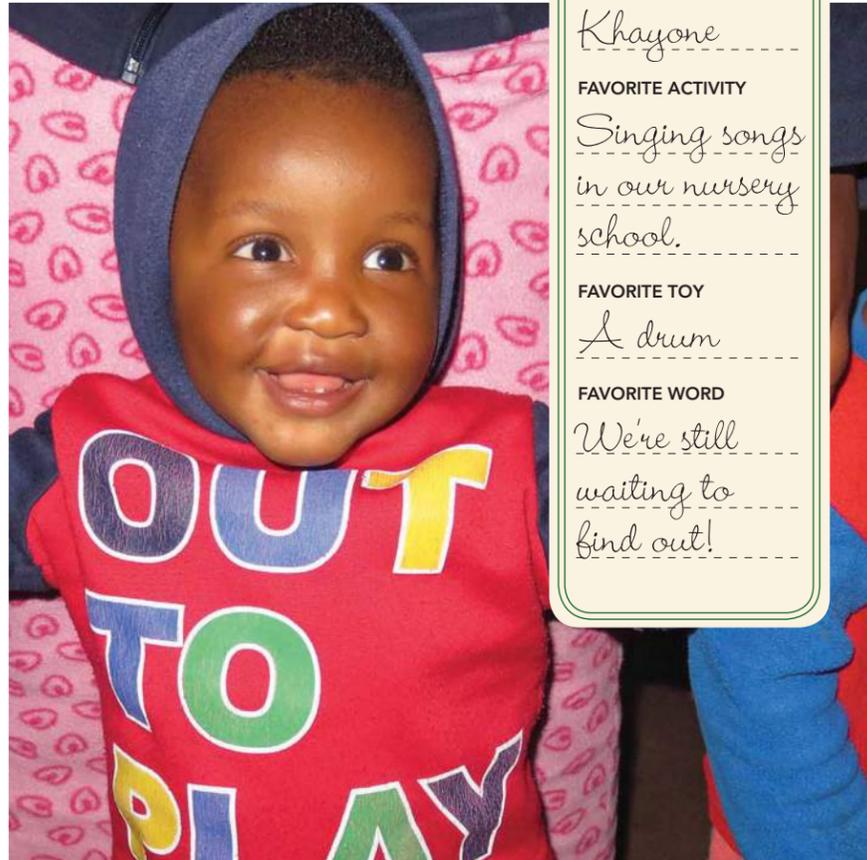


get to know:
Khayone!

Khayone (kai-yo-nay) is currently the youngest child at Open Arms. He celebrated his first birthday on July 26th and started walking a few days later! As the youngest child, he gets a lot of attention from his older siblings and has no shortage of daily kisses and hugs! Thank you for giving this happy boy a loving home!



NAME  Khayone

FAVORITE ACTIVITY Singing songs in our nursery school.

FAVORITE TOY A drum

FAVORITE WORD We're still waiting to find out!

Another Day at School!

Our children get up at 6:00 am each school day, eat breakfast at 6:30 am and head off to school at 7:00 am. Early morning is very busy for our children and staff!

TOP Sifundo (13), Kwakhanya (14), Bhuko (13), Siphamanda (13) and Khanyisa (16) are pretty chipper for so early in the morning! They have spent more than 9 years living together! They are brothers!

BOTTOM Liyema M. (12), Kungawo (12), Phelisa (13), Liyema S. (10) and Anazo (14) get ready for another day at Komga Elementary School.



CONTACT INFORMATION

open arms

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Open Arms Home for Children is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to Open Arms Home for Children, PO Box 2198, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340 or made online at openarmshome.com. **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN!**

open arms news

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A LETTER FROM BOBO

Friends,

Ten years ago, two brothers came to Open Arms. The night before they arrived, the children endured a very traumatic home invasion and a violent assault on the female adults in the shack they called home. With their mother near death in the hospital, the boys needed a home. They joined the Open Arms family and have been with us ever since.

At the time, Siyathemba, the oldest brother, was nine years old. His younger brother, Simnikiwe, was seven. The boys did not have a strong academic foundation when they arrived so the only school that would accept them was a very substandard place down the hill from Open Arms. For the entirety of their elementary school years, that school represented the best we could do for them. There were 70 to 80 students in a classroom, no text books and a high degree of teacher absenteeism.

Because of the poor conditions at that school, for many years we provided extra tutoring to Siyathemba and Simnikiwe. Our dedicated, college-educated volunteers provided that extra help. For their part, the boys worked hard, improved their grades and dreamed of getting into

a good high school. They were excellent athletes and always were leaders on soccer and rugby fields. Most importantly, they were good kids, always trying to do the right thing and make the most of the opportunity they had been given at Open Arms.

When time came for high school entrance exams, the boys studied hard and were accepted at a very good high school. We were thrilled that they now had the chance for an excellent education — one that your support made possible.

Because of the difficulties that Siyathemba encountered his first year in high school, it was decided that he would stay back a year and join his younger brother in the class of 2017. Sometimes, a step back helps produce several steps forward. This was certainly true for Siyathemba.

The Lilyfountain High School Class of 2017 will graduate in December with two handsome, athletic and driven young men from Open Arms. This fact alone is reason for celebration.

But the story doesn't end there.

Both brothers have recently been accepted into college. Starting in January, Siyathemba will study hotel management in college in Port Alfred; his younger brother Simnikiwe will pursue a sports management degree in Cape Town.

So much good comes from your generous support of Open Arms. Children are loved, given a home, provided with opportunities that seemed out of reach given their humble beginnings. Combined with God's grace, your support will allow two hard-working young men to go to college in January. This is nothing short of a miracle — just one of many that you continue to make possible.

I hope you are inspired by Siyathemba and Simnikiwe. Because of your generosity, their story is yours too.

With Boundless Gratitude,

Bob Solis



SIYATHEMBA + SIMNIKIWE

Bicycles! When Open Arms was founded, a large site was sought to give children plenty of room to run and play in fresh air. Our beautiful 70-acre hilltop property does just that,

allowing our children to enjoy the great outdoors. Although we could have satellite TV, we choose not to! The fun at Open Arms is outdoors!

While our children play tag, rugby, soccer and lots of other games, riding bikes continues to be among the favorite activities. Thank you to so many supporters who have provided bikes and repairs over the years. As you can see, your generosity creates a lot of smiles!

AND PIGGYBACK RIDES TOO... While bicycles are popular, another preferred method of transportation at Open Arms is the piggyback ride! Constantly, our older children carry their younger siblings around the campus. These rides constantly prove that your support of Open Arms doesn't create just a home but a family!



1. Endinakho is all smiles on her bike! 2. Kungawo rides on our tennis court. 3. Our oldest boy, Siyathemba (19) gives a lift to Ayabulela (4) 4. Lisakhanya (10) brings Luniko (3) to our dining hall! 5. The children play traffic cop! 6. Our little ones love to ride their scooters down the hill!



Aerial view of neighboring farm

Our Wish List

Serving 55 children each day is truly a privilege. In order to serve our children better, we currently have these larger needs! Thank you for your consideration.

ADJACENT FARM—\$140,000

With our continued growth, we would be very pleased to have the adjacent 37-acre farm for our work. The farm has a four bedroom house and a barn. We could use this property for transitional housing for older children, vocational training and extra room for additional projects.

LAUNDRY BUILDING—\$50,000

In early 2018, we hope to build a laundry building with 5 commercial washing machines and 4 commercial dryers. We have simply outgrown the 3 small machines we have – they are located in one of the children's cottages and the time has come for a small building dedicated just to laundry. With so many children, this is an important need!

GOOD USED VEHICLE—\$20,000

Recently, we were excited to learn that three of our 7th graders were accepted to Stutterheim High School, a 45-minute drive from Open Arms. Starting in January, we will need an additional used vehicle to get these children to high school each day.

A RIDING LAWN MOWER—\$5,000

We have a working lawn mower but could use a 2nd one. With so many acres to mow, another riding lawn mower would be very helpful!

BICYCLE REPAIR—\$25.00

We have a number of bicycles in need of repair. A \$25 gift will restore a bicycle so it can be enjoyed again.

Thank you for your consideration and generosity!

did you know?

Open Arms will spend an estimated \$93,000 on education in 2018. More than 40 children will attend 7 different schools and 2 colleges! Thank you for supporting our children in the classroom!

We employ 43 local people, making us the 3rd largest employer in our rural area. Our staff consists of mamas, tatas, cooks, cleaners, drivers, yard workers, social workers and four college-educated volunteers. With a local unemployment rate of 40%, many of our employees are the sole bread-winners for their families.

Every two years, we accompany each child in our care for an appearance in South African courts. This gives local judges and social workers an update on each child's progress. Our two very capable social workers, Verlaine and Zaza, coordinate these important appearances.

ATTENTION AMAZON SHOPPERS:

Make our Children Smile!

Open Arms is pleased to participate in the Amazon Smile program. This allows all Amazon shoppers to shop online as usual with a portion of the proceeds going to help our children. It does not change your online experience or the prices but just helps us out! To participate, go to www.smile.amazon.com and find Open Arms Home for Children as a benefiting charity. One half of one percent of all your purchases will go to Open Arms! Thanks for helping us with your online shopping!