

get to know:  
**Ayabulela**

Ayabulela (aye-uh-boo-layla) was born on January 28, 2013 and is now four years old. He came to us with his brother Ayaka at only two months of age and they have been with us ever since! Ayaboo (his nickname) is a loving and very friendly child who always has a smile on his face. He loves to play with the younger boys and the mama in his cottage reports that he makes a bed better than any young child she has ever seen! Thanks for giving him a home and a loving family!



Ayabulela at breakfast



NAME  Ayabulela

FAVORITE ACTIVITY all sports!

FAVORITE TOY Superman action figure

FAVORITE COLOR red

**did you know?**

**Open Arms recently produced a drone video of our grounds?** Visit our website, [openarmshome.com](http://openarmshome.com), to see this unique video of our campus and children!

**Open Arms has no debt of any kind—and never has!** If we can't afford to do something, then we just don't do it or wait until we can. We are very serious about being good stewards of your generous donations! With the U.S. dollar currently weakening vs. the South African rand, our operating budget has increased more than 23% this year just based on currency fluctuations. For that reason, we are more grateful than ever for your generosity in 2018! It will be a challenging year but we trust all will be well in the end!

**The 10th annual Davey Nelson golf tournament for Open Arms** will be held on **Monday, June 25, 2018** at **Whistling Straights** in **Sheboygan, WI**. Details on this great event can be found at [brewers.com](http://brewers.com). Thank you to our awesome Board member, Davey Nelson, and the Milwaukee Brewers for putting on this first-class event for our kids!

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](http://openarmshome.com). **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN!**

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open arms news

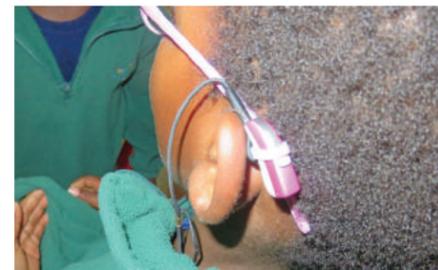
VOLUME 9  
ISSUE 1  
SPRING 2018

A LETTER FROM BOBO

*Friends,*

Every time I visit Open Arms, I am struck by so many things. My first impression is always seeing the happiness of our children. The kids are really happy, something you make possible. I am also touched by the commitment of our loving staff members, most of whom have long tenures with us. Lastly, I am always happy to be reminded of the beauty of our campus—it is a wonderful place for children to grow up!

On my most recent visit, I was also impacted by something we don't usually associate with children. Maybe that's why a particular sight caused tears to well up in my eyes. One of our children, a little girl named Entle, was eating breakfast before school when I noticed her wearing



eyeglasses that also feature a built-in hearing-aid.

Several years ago, Entle was abandoned with her twin brother and came to Open Arms that same day. Her brother has many developmental delays and attends a special needs school. At seven years of age, he is non-verbal but always ready with a smile and a hug. Entle, for her part, was born with both impaired hearing and sight. However, she is not developmentally delayed and attends kindergarten at the local elementary school.

Certainly, the sight of a seven year old with glasses and a hearing aid is a bit unusual. But that is not what caused tears to flow. What impacted me was knowing that a once abandoned, sensory-impaired child was getting her needs met by people half a world away in the United States. It was your generosity that brought tears to my eyes and made me realize how blessed Entle is by your presence in her life.

One of the hallmarks of Open Arms is the way we try to meet the needs of every single child in our care. No child falls through the cracks. If children need special help, we find it. If a child needs medication, or a new backpack or school



ENTLE, AGE 7

uniform, we get that too. The budget can be strained, the needs seemingly endless, but every child is treated as an individual, a child of God. This is only possible because you, our donors, find it important for children like Entle to have a chance at a full life.

Entle is like every other child in our care. She is joyful, has a great laugh and is happy to share a smile. The fact that she wears glasses and a hearing aid doesn't make her special—it just makes her different.

Thank you for blessing Entle with your love and generosity. Like me, she can both *see and hear* the difference you are making in her life.

Gratefully, *Bob Solis*



Open Arms is just a half hour drive from several beaches on the Indian Ocean. As such, we often head to the beach for a good time. Here are a few photos from a recent outing!

# a DAY at the BEACH



1. Sifundo 2. What happened to Asanda? 3. Bhuko digs out 4. Ukho cools off!

## a new LAUNDRY



We are very happy to be constructing a new laundry building at Open Arms. The new building will feature commercial grade equipment: 5 washing machines and 4 dryers. As you can imagine, with 57 children, we go through a lot of laundry each week! Many thanks to the special families who made this construction possible: **PAUL & MARGOT GRANGAARD** of Minneapolis, Board member **JEFF TOWERY** and his wife **CHERYL** of Boise and the **DOLORES WERDER FAMILY** of Arizona. Finally, we will have a laundry facility to meet our growing needs!



The foundation for the new laundry building



## Horses come to Open Arms!

We are pleased to now serve as home to 3 horses that graze on our grounds and provide riding opportunities for our children. One of our employees, **AUNTIE DEBBIE** who works as a driver, owns the horses and provides riding lessons to our kids. There are many studies about the beneficial therapeutic impact that horses have on children and we are happy to welcome our four-legged friends to our family! Unlike our two legged creatures, we don't have to feed them—our ample grass on the hillside takes care of that!

## Update on our Children

Open Arms recently sent our first two family members to college! Brothers **SIYATHEMBA** and **SIMNIKIWE** started their university education in Cape Town. We are excited about their futures!

Open Arms graduate **AYABONGA** recently posed with Sallie Solis at his place of work. Ayabonga works at Save-Mor, the closest grocery store to Open Arms. He works in a management training program. It is great to see Ayabonga working in our immediate community!

**SIKELELWA** and **ZIMKHITA** are currently in their last year at Baysville Vocational High School in East London. Both are concentrating their studies in computer science and will be eligible for jobs in the local community next year. Both young ladies are on the honor roll and average better than 90% on their school work!

Many of our children participated and placed well in the recent track and field day at Komga Junior Elementary School. It was a great day for the little athletes at Open Arms!



1. Our 1st college students! 2. Sallie and Ayabonga 3. Sikelelwa 4. Zimkhita 5. Thandazwa, left, goes for it! 6. Mama Sallie with Thina and Lisa 7. Liyema and David, speedster brother and sister! 8. Sive and Asekho



### A NEW CLUBHOUSE!

Part of our garden shed was recently converted to a clubhouse complete with a pool table, boxing speed bag and a TV to watch sporting events. Our older children enjoy the special time spent there on weekends!

1. Kwakhanya in the clubhouse 2. Siphamandla lines up a shot!