

touching hearts & bringing play to life



December 2015 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Dollmakers of Uthando:

First of all, Season's Greetings – and thank you for your unfailing commitment to the wellbeing of children through Uthando!

This special newsletter is a crucial message to ask for your support for our first crowd funding campaign which will raise vital funds for our dear partner organisation in KwaZulu Natal, *dlalanathi*.

Many dollmakers have made dolls for the communities touched by *dlalanathi's* programmes proved to bring strength and gentleness to raising children and keeping communities safe. In fact, *dlalanathi* uses dollmaking within many of these programmes for a deeper understanding of one's own childhood. Within Uthando's activities, *dlalanathi* is a familiar and loved organisation, known through personal meetings with leadership and staff, their website, dlalanathi.org.za, our website, our publications and newsletters.

For those of us receiving this newsletter, not as dollmakers, but as Uthando friends willing to express our compassionate love for the children in the World's Family, this is an opportunity to contribute funds. You may wish to make your contribution represent gifts for your friends using the crowd funding certificate.

Christmas Gifts with a Difference: please help us raise \$20,000 for *dlalanathi* – one of Uthando's partners working in KwaZulu Natal

Uthando has worked hand in hand with *dlalanathi* since our beginning.

Now *dlalanathi* has set up a Training Team to develop programmes and train other volunteers and professionals who work with families, in the ways that play can transform the lives of children, gogos and whole communities.

Our President and founder, Dr Julie Stone, would like your help to reach out to others you know, to help raise the necessary money, so that this Training Team can continue. *Dlalanathi's* principles shown in thoughtful community approaches and authentic results are very highly regarded across South Africa and other countries. Despite being a small organization, it delivers far beyond its weight. This Training Team opens up space and time for programme research, design, reflection, management, implementation and evaluation which otherwise might be crushed under the pressure of unimaginable daily challenges.

Plans includes a Christmas crowdfunding campaign, *Changing the World through Play*. Contributors will receive a beautiful gift certificate – a meaningful present for those who say 'There's nothing I need.'

Here are ways you can help us:

- Share with your friends and family – particularly those who say, 'I so admire what you're doing with the dolls, but I can't sew.' Send them a link to the campaign: the crowdfunding site (easy to contribute through Paypal or credit card), the Facebook page (with campaign updates), or the Twitter or Instagram account. You could simply send this newsletter, but it will be more successful if you forward it with your personal request and comments.
- Be creative in the ways you might generate a contribution. Perhaps you could take a cake to work, ask people to donate for '*dlalanathi* morning tea', then proudly share your gift certificate ... You might show the 3 short videos described next.
- Watch the three short documentary vimeo clips about *dlalanathi's* work. You will want to share them. They are deep and brief conversations with a woman about her husband, (Mr and Mrs Gwala – Families Healing Families), a young man, (Building the Road – Youth Changing Perceptions of Youth) and a grandmother, (Gogo's Story – Healing Through Play). Go to dlalanathi.org.za/impact/videos
- Post your pictures about childhood and play, eg 'Christmas toys of the past', or 'My latest Uthando doll cuddling my grand daughter', to the campaign Instagram page and include the Crowdfunding link.
- Wish us well. If you can think of other ways to help, please email one of the campaign team:

Heidi Adriaanse: heidiadriaanse@icloud.com

Clare Harris: clareh@iinet.net.au

Robyn Hemmens: robyn@dlalanathi.org.za

Julie Stone: change@jolpet.com

Our goal is \$20,000 – please help us get there!

Crowdfunding link: <http://dlalanathi.causevox.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dlalanathi/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/dlalanathi/>

In conclusion, there are several items to complete our fulfilling Uthando year.

- □ □ • Friday 11th December is our Christmas Party at Georgia's, 2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill, WA. All welcome. Bring a plate to share and a 'Bring and Buy' treasure worth anything you like, to be sold @ \$5. 10 – 2pm

- ☐☐☐• Come to Albany Feb 11 – 15, 2016 to make Uthando dolls for an engaging and friendly time for yourself and others. Contact, Julie Fletcher; brookend@wn.com.au
- ☐☐☐• We embrace a new Uthando Project group in Belgium! Facebook; Uthandoproject Belgium
- Our new dollmaking friends in DADAA, Midland have made these dolls ready for play from our first term of dollmaking there. DADAA stands for Disabilities and Disadvantage in the Arts Australia where Uthando has been warmly welcomed and useful.



Photo by Stephen Smith.

- Nandi Chinna composed this poem for Georgia, who feels this poem belongs to all of us. This is Uthando's gift to YOU.

WORLD'S FAMILY

Into this scrap of cloth

I stitch a heart

to beat with yours

as you walk into rooms

that are blindingly bright,

where even the walls

seem to shout "stranger".

We are all grandmothers,

grandfathers, newborn children.

I sit in my room across the globe

knitting our universal family.

Thank you for making this a memorable, wonderful year and may our Crowd Funding Campaign be a joy of generosity for you and yours,

Love,

Georgia, Julie, Clare, Heidi, Robyn, the Board and all the teams and dollmakers