



# Annual Report for Financial Year 2016

**Reporting Period:** 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016

## Uitkoms Home for Girls

*Giving our girls their lives back*

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**UITKOMS**

Home for Girls

PART OF  
DEEL VAN  
**Tutela**  
OMGEE BRING HOOP CARING BRINGS HOPE

## Brief Overview

This annual report gives an overview of the achievements and challenges of Uitkoms Home for Girls for the financial year ending 31 March 2016, and is based on reports compiled by Uitkoms personnel.

Uitkoms Home for Girls was established in 1944 by the NG Church, Synod of Southern Transvaal, now known as Synod Highveld, to provide residential accommodation and support to unwed mothers and pregnant teenage girls. For the past 72 years, Uitkoms has gained a vast amount of knowledge and experience pertaining to the effective ways of empowering young mothers and vulnerable teenage girls, and enabling them to become independent, responsible adults and valuable members of society. Uitkoms' services have transformed over the years in keeping with the changing needs of our greater Gauteng community. In 1999, Uitkoms was officially registered as a Children's Home (Child and Youth Care Centre) and, for the past 17 years, its services have broadened to include orphans and teenage girls requiring physical, emotional, and spiritual support as a result of exposure to abuse, sexual exploitation, as well as physical and emotional neglect.

A faith-based organisation, Uitkoms is a project of the NG Church under the auspice of Tutela. The attainment of its goals through the delivering of programmes is guided by its Code of Conduct, designed to establish a corporate climate of responsibility, accountability, fairness, and transparency, based on Biblical principles. This Code applies to Uitkoms Board Members, employees and volunteers.

Uitkoms has maintained its uniqueness in the care of pregnant teenage girls, and is one of the very few registered Child and Youth Care Centres that offer non-discriminatory services and protection to pregnant teenagers, but has broadened its client base to include all teenage girls who are found by the State to be in need of care and protection by whatever cause.

Our services are delivered from a Christian perspective through the following programmes: residential care, therapeutic (individual and group counsel-

ling) assessment, developmental programmes (formal education, ABET and Life Skills) and recreational programmes. We believe that it is through these programmes that Uitkoms can make a sustainable and meaningful impact in the lives of our girls.

The home is situated in Observatory (bordering on Yeoville) in Johannesburg and accommodates girls who are generally between the ages of twelve and eighteen. The majority of placements are done through the courts, and sometimes the home is used as a 'place of safety'. Private placements are rare, but also accommodated.

The past financial year was marked with significant changes in management. Mrs Feesia Van Der Colf and Mrs Vera Schutte resigned from the Management Board and various committees in January 2016. A formal farewell function was held for Mrs Van der Colf, Mrs Schutte, and Mrs Lorein Winter, who had resigned in the previous year. Mrs Van Der Colf stepped down as Chairperson of the Board and as a member of various committees, after almost 40 years of service. Mrs Schutte stepped down as a member of the Board and various committees after approximately 17 years of service, and Mrs Winter stepped down from the Board and various committees after having been involved with Uitkoms for approximately 40 years, originally through the "Vrouediens" of the NG Church.

Uitkoms also appointed two new Management Board Members in February 2016. Mr Clint Harker, who is also the chairperson of the Observatory Estate Residents Forum, and Mrs Mercia Scharneck of Mercia Scharneck Ministries. Uitkoms welcomes their expertise and input.

The Management of Uitkoms takes pleasure in providing you with a report on the activities and on what impact has been realised in the past financial year to ensure that Uitkoms achieves its main objectives.

# Programme Purpose

Uitkoms' aim, as a Children's Home, is to negate the depressing circumstances that have characterised our girl's lives.

To this end, our main objective is to offer comprehensive social services to girls in need of care, including the provision of facilities for the protection and care of committed girls, girls in temporary safe care, and pregnant girls as well the facilitation of adoption or access to support services for babies born to residents of the home.

The journey is not always easy, but with various methods of support, Uitkoms is able to create a whole new environment for healing and hope. In terms of our mission, Uitkoms strives to offer comprehensive, holistic and integrated social services to teenage girls in need.

## **Our services focus on the following:**

**Caring:** This focus area involves addressing the immediate care needs and distresses of the girls

by providing a secure and structured home environment. Residential care, beside for the evident physical needs of food and clothing etc., includes the provision of physical, psycho-social, and spiritual support.

**Education:** We endeavour to ensure that each girl should achieve her full academic potential within a formal educational system. Aside from formal schooling, Uitkoms takes whatever steps necessary to facilitate the attending of extra lessons and daily structured study and homework periods.

**Life Skills:** Through attending formal schooling, and by participating in our Life Skills programmes, the girls are equipped with knowledge and skills so that they can cope with their life situations, and be prepared to take their place in the community as well-adjusted, independent, and responsible adults.

# Mission Statement

Uitkoms' primary mission is in keeping with our long-established motto, giving our girls their lives back.

With the implementation of structured life skills and educational programmes, we endeavour to equip our girls for re-integration into their communities and, where possible, to find acceptance into their families, and for them to develop into productive, self-sustaining citizens.

## Programme Sustainability

Various initiatives have been undertaken in the past year to improve the sustainability of Uitkoms Home for Girls. These include the following:

1. Engagement of services of a marketing consultant from January 2016;
2. Employment of a *Business Development Officer* on a commission basis;
3. Marketing of the home's services at every opportunity to individuals, churches and companies;
4. Sending out of information pamphlets, information leaflets and newsletters to rekindle awareness amongst the local community;
5. Jumble sales which are held in order to raise much-needed funds;
6. Funding applications which were submitted to various prospective donors including:
  - a. Carl & Emily Fuchs Foundation
  - b. National Lottery Commission
  - c. Johannesburg City Council
  - d. Coca-Cola
  - e. Vital Foundation
7. Rentals of two, two bedroomed flats and one bachelor flat as a source of income; and
8. Holding *Strategic Planning Committee* and *Marketing Committee* meetings. The meetings are held specifically to address financial issues, plan for the years ahead and to try find solutions to combat the rising costs and diminished support – these combined efforts achieved donations of cleaning materials, clothing, bedding, toiletries, groceries and food. These items are greatly appreciated as they give some assistance and enable us to 'stretch' our subsidy to cover other unavoidable costs.

## Activities & Achievements to the Benefit of the Target Group

Uitkoms provided residential care to all types of vulnerable girls including pregnant girls in a clean, well-kept and secure facility with daily nutritious meals. The girls were given protection and security. The physical needs of the girls were taken care of. They were provided with both school uniforms and casual clothing and we received donations of casual clothing far in excess of our needs. Pregnant girls' needs were taken care of. There

was empowerment of teenage mothers to take responsibility for their own babies. Teenage mothers were also encouraged to return to school to pursue their educational goals while their babies were placed in suitable care.

We take pleasure in providing you with a short summary of our activities and achievements that benefitted the target group:

### Admissions and placements

There were thirty-one (31) girls cared for during the year under review. Five of them arrived pregnant. Three babies were born, two of which went to children’s homes, and the other was placed in foster-care. There are currently two expecting young mothers.

### Statistics of the girls cared for

- 9 children reported or (services rendered) with regard to neglect and physical abuse
- 22 children reported or (services rendered) with regard to teenage pregnancy and sexual abuse
- 6 of the children are orphans
- 3 Girls in labour were assisted by the Housemother or relief Housemother

### Admissions breakdown

Admission Type	Count
White	1
Black	29
Coloured	1
Asian	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>

### Sources of intake:

Department of Social Development: 11  
 Other welfare organisations/CMR: 20

### Placement types

Committed	Count	Temporary Safe Care	Count
White	-	White	1
Black	14	Black	15
Coloured	-	Coloured	1
Asian	-	Asian	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>

### Status on admission

Non-pregnant	Count	Pregnant	Count
White	1	White	-
Black	25	Black	4
Coloured	-	Coloured	1
Asian	-	Asian	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>

### Discharges from Uitkoms

Reason	Black	Coloured	White	Asian	TOTAL
Placed with family	9	-	1	-	10
Absconded	-	-	-	-	-
Foster care	-	-	-	-	-
Other homes	4	-	-	-	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14</b>

### Babies born during reporting period

Gender	Black	Coloured	White	Asian	TOTAL
Male	-	-	-	-	-
Female	3	-	-	-	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>

We provided psycho-social support services to the girls in order to enhance their social functioning and confidence. Social work services at Uitkoms cover a variety of activities. Once the child has been admitted, a thorough assessment is done and then an Individual Development Plan (IDP) is developed in consultation with the child. An intervention plan is then drawn up to ensure the implementation of the IDP. It is the duty of the resident social worker to de-traumatize those girls who have been severely, emotionally and physically abused. The activities include orientation, therapeutic intervention according to individual

needs, group work and general education. The girls learn to turn setbacks into triumphs and how to become change agents. Children that were previously abused, abandoned, neglected, raped and traumatized are now being nurtured not only physically but also emotionally. They receive love and attention and the right mix of discipline. Girls' self-esteem was promoted by maximising their strengths and helping them to develop into well-adjusted responsible members of community. Some girls may be reunited with their families in the near future

### Impact made

- ✓ The Social Worker held regular interviews with each girl and provided counselling, and she also facilitated various group counselling, therapeutic programs, and life skills classes. Thirty (30) IDP Assessments were conducted; IDPs were monitored and relevant interventions were done in order to promote sustainable exits from the home.
- ✓ Two (2) girls were referred to Educational Psychologists and their assessments were completed. The conclusion and success of IDPs lie in the sustainability of the exit plan of the girls of Uitkoms. Through all our activities, Uitkoms strives to provide interventions that will lead to sustainable exits as we hope to develop girls into productive future citizens.

- ✓ Weekly Life Skills-Emphasis was placed on effective habits of highly effective teenagers, turning setbacks into triumphs, communication, sex education and particularly the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases. A considerable amount of literature was distributed and explained. Girls are given pocket money as part of life skills, i.e. to teach them budgeting skills, and also to buy the items they require which are not provided such as airtime, panties and roll-on.
- ✓ Where outside therapy or professional assistance was required, the Social Worker identified the type of therapy required and arranged for visits to an outside professional; six (6) girls were referred for further specialized assessments to other allied professionals, i.e. Psychologist and Teddy Bear Clinic.
- ✓ The Social worker also did a development and empowerment program so that ultimately the girls can be re-integrated into society, and take their place within their families (where possible) and in their communities. Fourteen (14) exit panels were held with all necessary role players. As a result we had 12 successful exits.
- ✓ Five (5) pregnant girls attended anti-natal clinics regularly. Girls were coached on all aspects of pregnancy and motherhood and babies were delivered without any complications. Panels were also held prior to the births of the babies where plans were made for the young mothers to maintain relationships with their babies. Generally the babies were placed in suitable foster care where the young mother could have access to her baby over weekends, but continue to pursue her educational goals during the week.
- ✓ In total, thirty-three (33) food parcels were provided to the girls when they visited their families or host families during the school holidays to meet the most basic needs the girls have, especially those who take daily medication.
- ✓ Individual Developmental Programs were developed and reviewed for the girls in order to monitor their personal progress and were adjusted where necessary, to accommodate the specific needs of each individual girl.
- ✓ Twenty-three (23) girls attended four (4) different local schools in the community. These various schools cater for different needs of education and language.
- ✓ Our girls attended extra-mural activities at school and compulsory school outings. These activities enhance the social well-being of the girls.
- ✓ The Schools and Volunteers provided extra lessons and individual tutoring. The tutors help to improve the standard of academic performance.
- ✓ School uniforms, school books and stationery were provided to all the girls who attend school. Andrew Murray Church sponsored the majority of the school stationery.
- ✓ During the school terms we provided structured study time and homework supervision which are supervised by the housemother.

- ✓ Eight (8) girls attended home schooling presented by a trained ABET facilitator. We implement an ABET programme for the girls who cannot attend schools due to pregnancy and for those who are in temporary safe care. This programme is outcome based and follows the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and National Qualifications Framework (NQF) guidelines.
- ✓ Our girls attended regular church services for spiritual growth and development. They attend church each Sunday and have Bible Study sessions with Cornerstone Church every Tuesday evening at the home. They also get invited to attend Mercia Scharneck Ministries once a month on Saturdays. Members of the Cornerstone and Andrew Murray church also take the girls on social outings. This is an integral part of moral and emotional development. The girls often get spiritual support from various Ministries including Christ Embassy and this provides them with a sense of belonging and also teaches them to forgive and let go of any negative feelings and to find meaning in life's difficult circumstances.
- ✓ The local NG church, Andrew Murray, has been involved in numerous recreational activities offered at the home. On Saturdays our girls have art classes that are sponsored by the church. Occasionally they also go for outings such as to the theatre, Christmas functions and birthday celebrations. This contributes massively to the human development processes. Meaningful leisure is an essential source of self-esteem and positive self-image development.

**Staff development; training workshops**

Our staff members attended staff development workshops named below. This was done in order to capacitate personnel through training and the development of teamwork.

<b>Workshop name or description</b>	<b>Date</b>
First aid and fire training (in-house)	3 July 2015
Book-keeping and administration (in-house)	(ongoing)
Treatment plans	10 October 2015
Child abuse	19-21 August 2015
"Better Parenting in Seven Steps"	21-22 August 2015
Work ethics	4 June 2015

**Administration and financial practices**

Our internal auditor has provided accountability to ensure that healthy and transparent administrative and financial systems and practices are in place. Finances are managed transparently and audited regularly internally and a complete audit is undertaken annually by an external auditor, namely, Nkonki East Gauteng who provide us with our Annual Financial Statements. An Asset Register is in place and is updated regularly. Expenses are closely monitored and controlled and reported to Management regularly. We follow our

procurement procedures when buying assets and groceries for our organisation as well as when selecting Service Providers. Like other organisations in the non-profit sector, Uitkoms has cash flow problems from time to time. During pressing times when government, via the Department of Social Development pays out subsidies late, Tutela (NG Ministry of Caring) has made bridging capital available to see us through.

## Acknowledgements and thanks

Management would like to thank our Employees, Marketing Committee, Donors, Associates, Volunteers, Tutela, local churches and the community we work in for their outstanding and selfless support to the organisation.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Synods Churches, companies, pastors and other individuals that make a real difference. This kind of support is greatly appreciated by Uitkoms.

We are grateful to have Mr Gideon Visagie assisting us with Strategic Planning. We have also procured the services of Ms Tanya Krause as a Marketing Consultant and Mr Michael Rockétt, who specialises in web design and development, document design, and other areas of marketing as part of our Marketing Committee. Their knowledge and skills are of great value to the organisation. This team has made various marketing changes which are now bearing fruit.

### A list of donors to which we give thanks

AAAKEE	Gary and Jackie Nell
Ada Blignaut	Genie Wright
Amala Okolo	GX Diesel Power
Angela Schoonbee	Helene Rautenbach
Asante Kapanga	Hindu Cultural League
Bags of Hope	Janene De Beer
Basadi Bakopane	Janice April
Boxer Stores Johannesburg	Kalex Flavours and Fragrances
Calico and Cream	Karen Matthyser
Carl & Emily Fuchs Foundation	Kay Muwoki
Caroline Tlakula	Kensington Secondary School
Chris and Brenda Bennett and Family	Kerry Allemann
Christ Care Therapy Projects - Wendy Vermaak	King Edward VII School
Clifford Robertson	Lambton Scouts
Clint Harker	Luke Cheketri
Clover SA	Maria Kloppers Home
Cornerstone Church	MDA Consulting
Davina Pillay	Mel Wiid
De Beers Group	MMM SA
Deborah Levy	Mpho Mashatola
Edenvale Ladies Circle	M-Web
Elandspark School	N M Plumbing & Electrical
Eye on Wood	Nicola Van Rooyen
Ezweni Distribution - Michela Metelerkamp	Niesha Bissoon
Fiona Pole	Nthabiseng Kure
Freemasons South Africa	Observatory East Primary School

Observatory Estate Residents Forum  
Ornella Scarpellini  
Ovation Dance Company  
Palesa and Associates  
Park Care  
Paul Soafo  
Phindile Msomi  
Poetry Rosebank  
Portia Nkabinde  
Prebantha Moodley  
Prestige Credit Insurance  
Rasigie Bhika  
Reatile Foundation (Egoli Gas)  
Rene Hattingh  
Robust Road Repair  
Rotary Johannesburg East  
Roxana Mini Market  
Santa Shoe Box  
Sci-Bono  
Senzeni Tshuma

Sharon Dickinson  
Sharon Mutai  
Shirley Naidoo  
Sibongile Tatane  
Spa Sense  
St Giles Home  
Stay City - Johannesburg  
Susan Commins - Stallion  
Suzy Warne  
Taste Holdings  
Theresa Barreto  
Thundergun Steakhouse  
Tip Top Cleaning  
Uberforgood  
Winnie Mutheiwara  
Woolworths Bedfordview  
Zanele Ntsibande  
Zenzo Moyo  
Zinto Marketing

## **A list of churches to which we give thanks**

NG Church Andrew Murray - Lindè van Zyl, Anina Maree and Janene De Beer have all been instrumental in the on-going input at Uitkoms.  
NG Church Brackenhurst  
NG Church Brakpan East  
NG Church Hoogland  
NG Church Norkem Park  
NG Church Presidentsoord  
NG Church Parkkruin

NG Weltevreden  
NG Witfield West  
Kerkbode Kersfonds  
Bedfordview Methodist Church  
Cornerstone Church  
Christ Embassy  
Mercia Scharneck Ministries  
SDA Youth Team

## Some photographs of donations and volunteering at Uitkoms



# Management Board and Staff

## Board

Name	Designation
Mr A E Prakke	Chairperson
Mrs N Munjoma	Vice Chairperson
Mr F Swanepoel	Treasurer
Mrs L Van Zyl	Secretary
Dr R B Van Aarde	Board Member
Mrs M Scharneck	Board Member
Mr C Harker	Board Member
Mrs N Moyo (Social Worker)	Board Member
Mrs E M S Van Der Colf	<i>Resigned after 40 years of service</i>
Mrs V Schutte	<i>Resigned after 17 years of service</i>
Mrs L Winter	<i>Resigned after 40 years of service</i>
Mrs C Botes	<i>Resigned after 2 years of service</i>

## Members of staff as at 31 March 2016

Name	Designation
Mrs N Moyo	Social Worker
Ms M R Rathepe	Housemother
Mrs L Da Rocha	Administration Officer
	Business Development Officer
Ms C K Rathepe	General Assistant
Ms A Motau	ABET Facilitator
Mr B Ndiweni	Driver, General Assistant

## Table of board and committee meetings held throughout reporting period

Executive Management Board			
8 April 2015	5 August 2015		
Management Board			
4 February 2015	20 May 2015	16 September 2015	18 November 2015
3 February 2016			

<b>Property Committee</b>			
4 February 2015	20 May 2015	16 September 2015	18 November 2015

<b>Financial Committee</b>			
4 February 2015	20 May 2015	16 September 2015	18 November 2015

<b>Personnel Committee</b>			
21 January 2015	20 May 2015	16 September 2015	18 November 2015

<b>Marketing Committee</b>			
20 April 2015	26 January 2016	29 February 2016	30 March 2016

<b>Senior Personnel Management Committee</b>			
7 May 2015	11 June 2015	31 July 2015	28 August 2015
9 November 2015	26 January 2016	15 February 2016	

### Organisation Constitution

Uitkoms Home for Girls is managed within the framework of its constitution.

## Current Financial Status

According to our 2015/2016 budget, which was prepared by our Internal Auditor, who took particular care to only include necessary expenditure, our Government Subsidy was only able to cover approximately 48% of the funds needed to run the home successfully. Some financial donations were made by companies, individuals and churches, and rentals were collected from 3 flats on the property, but the financial year was concluded with a deficit in the region of R 450 000.00. Like other NPOs, Uitkoms built up a reserve during more fruitful years, but those reserves are very close to being depleted and hope of receiving funding from other large funding corporations is

diminishing due to the large number of new NPO's being registered annually. Uitkoms has made applications, in any case, to several organisations and are awaiting responses. Our marketing committee has also been putting in serious effort to find ways of raising sustainable incomes through various avenues. Donors have eased our financial pressures by donating food, clothing, cleaning materials, toiletries and other useful items, this has enabled us to allocate additional funds toward unavoidable expenses such as utilities and rates. Audited financial statements can be viewed on Uitkoms' Website: [www.uitkoms.org.za](http://www.uitkoms.org.za).

## Financial Report

Our financial statements exclude goods in kind donations such as clothes, cleaning materials, food, and the precious time of volunteers, e.g. drive way repairs and painting. These donations in kind are vital in our service delivery and worth mentioning is that Uitkoms is able to issue Section 18A Certificates which are Tax Deductible for and further adds to the benefits our donors enjoy. Uitkoms have been receiving regular donations-in-kind such as food, clothing, cleaning materials and toiletries as well as voluntary services, which has helped Uitkoms to free up some finances for

utilities and maintenance, and these continuing donations are truly appreciated.

Uitkoms Home for Girls is registered with the Department of Social Development in terms of the Non-Profit Organisations Act of 1997 and with the South African Revenue Services as a Public Benefit Organisation with exemption from taxes and duties and approval in terms of Section 18A(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act. Uitkoms further complies with the relevant Sections of the Public Finance Management Act (Act 1 of 1999).

## Auditors

The Annual Financial Statements for the Year 2015/2016 will be compiled by Messrs Nkonki East Gauteng.

## Accounting Policies

Accounting is done within the framework of the organisation's financial policies. The following are some of the requirements:

- ✓ Monthly income and expenditure statements are drawn up from the trial balance to compare results with budgetary goals and submitted to the Financial Committee and Management Board;
- ✓ Annual budgets are compiled by the Internal Auditor for the approval of the Financial Committee and the Board;
- ✓ Only financial institutions and banks with the highest rankings are used for financial transactions;
- ✓ Two signatories are required on cheques and for electronic transfers;
- ✓ The Financial Policy requires that requisition forms for all cheques and internet payments to be completed and approved by the Administration Officer and co-signed by the Social Worker in her capacity as a member of the Management Board before any payment can be made;
- ✓ Internet bank statements are printed regularly and checked by the Internal Audit Function;
- ✓ All entries on the bank statements to be entered monthly into the computerised accounting system after which a bank reconciliation is printed for inspection by the Internal Audit Function;
- ✓ At least three quotations to be obtained for expenditure exceeding R5 000.00 (Five Thousand Rand) and for capital expenditure;
- ✓ All quotations for expenditure exceeding R 5 000.00 (Five Thousand Rand) to be authorised by the Chairperson of the relevant Committee e.g. Property, Financial/Audit or alternatively the Treasurer;
- ✓ An annual audit is conducted by an independent Auditor, appointed by the Board.

**Financial results and budget**

	<b>Results</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	31 March 2016	2016 / 2017
<b>Income</b>		
Donation: NG Church	-11 855	-14 000
Donation: Public	-30 736	-40 000
Fundraising: Uitkoms	-4 126	-15 000
Fundraising: Fundraiser	-	-204 000
Donation: National Lottery	-	-
Investment Income	-9 507	-8 000
Rental from Flats	-74 811	-81 900
Government Subsidies	-652 192	-691 000
Sundry Income	2 099	1 500
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>		
Staff Salaries	663 699	717 600
Employer Contributions	102 059	126 900
Vehicle & Transport Expenses	35 429	40 200
Office Expenses (Inc. Insurance)	84 808	92 900
Grounds & Buildings Rental, Maintenance, Utilities	199 659	219 000
Household & Resident Expenses	49 154	55 800
Special Services:	66 570	102 600
- Audit & Accounting Fees		
- Marketing Consultants		
- Salary Services		
Depreciation	43 921	30 700
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1 245 299</b>	<b>1 385 700</b>
<b>Surplus / (-) Deficit</b>	<b>-459 973</b>	<b>-330 300</b>

## Testimony from one of our girls

*I'm now 20 years old, I passed Matric in 2015. I am currently doing computer course and skills development at MES Uitkoms has helped me towards building and maintaining family relationship with my extended family. My life has changed for the better. I will forever be grateful.*

*Bongiwe Phumelele Tshabalala*

01 April 2016

### Letter of appreciation

My name is Phumelele Bongiwe Tshabalala. I am 20 years old and currently staying at Uitkoms home for girls. I really appreciate the home and the way things are being organised.

Safety and Security → The Uitkoms' staff and Management has made sure that we are being protected at all times.

The home is protected by Station, our gate have electronic fence and we also have a CCTV, which is a very good thing and I also feel safe.

The Services → The staff always make sure that we are healthy and well-fed. When we are Sick, They transport us to the health care and our place always stay beautiful and tidy at all times. For me the Services are good.

Staff → The staff members are very good to me, they treat me with respect and they give me the love that they give their children. They care for us and support us when we face some challenges.

Life skills → We do life skills every Wednesday with our Social worker. The life skills has taught me to forgive, to love, care, support, respect, believe and to be brave towards life and also

build a good relationship with other people. We also have a spiritual group that comes every Tuesday and the fitness programme that is organised for us to stay fit at all times. These things teach us to be positive in life and it also heal us.

From the life skills, I learnt that happiness is not what you want but wanting what you have. and Saying Sorry sometimes is the most difficult thing on earth but it's the cheapest thing to save the most expensive gift called relationship.

Above all, I would like to thank the Management, the staff and the girls for teaching me to be responsible and to be independent in life, also for allowing me to change my life in their presence.

Yours Faithfully  
Phumelele Tshabalala  
Babalala.

For more information about Uitkoms, feel free to browse our website at:

[www.uitkoms.org.za](http://www.uitkoms.org.za)