

# Mama Dorah: Uplifting Grassroots Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking

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## Backstory



## Definition of Trafficking in Persons

- Trafficking in persons refers to the illegal trade or sale of human beings for sexual exploitation or forced labour through abduction, the use or threat of force, deception and fraud (Perkins, 2005, p. 54).

## Global Incidence Trafficking in Persons

- Although largely unreported, UN Global Report TIP(2012) suggests over 20 million victims.
- While the official report, many suspect closer to 30 million (Hall, 2014).

## Incidence Trafficking in Persons -Africa

- 68% of all person trafficked in Africa are children (UN Report, 2012)
- Multiple forms of trafficking in persons due to poverty- what is seen as trafficking in the west, is considered a way of life" (ISS, 2017, np)

## Trafficking in Persons (South Africa)

- Increase before, during and after Soccer World Cup
- Although slavery is prohibited, no specific laws to address trafficking
- Corruption found during World Cup

## Siyabonga Dorah's Ark Children's Home and Place of Safety

- History of Dorah's Ark
- Need recognized with increase in trafficking
- Challenges faced in development

## Local Church

- Church committed to social justice. Pastors and congregation fully committed
- Desired to help combat trafficking in persons, especially children (aware of kidnappings in the local community)
- Aimed to partner rather than begin a new project

## Partnership

- Partner, not take over
- Mutual respect and mutual focus of protecting children
- No one had her own agenda
- Mutual mission statements

## Theology of Caring for Orphans

- Psalm 82:3
- Matthew 25
- James 1:27
- Isaiah 58:6



## Mission Statements

- Church Mission Statement: Make Christlike Disciples' with a focus of being the hands and feet of Jesus in the community
- Dorah's Ark Mission Statement: to provide the protections of shelter, sustenance, education, medical care, spiritual and emotional support, to needy orphans and vulnerable children in our area

## Components of Partnership

- Children provided a boost to a growing multicultural church that had lacked children in the past
- Church provided financial support, training as requested, holiday celebrations, extracurricular and spiritual development (SS, youth, quiz team, Christmas play, dance team, youth worship team, holiday Bible club, etc)

## Christmas Play



## Youth Day Celebration with Community Sponsors



## Youth Day



## Easter Event





## Holiday Bible Club



## Youth Group



## Why it worked?

- Mutuality and real partnership
  - asking what was needed,
  - seeing what was working and
  - assisting not doing,

## Questions and Sharing

- While social work clearly embraces and teaches macro practice that includes knowing and understanding the needs of the community... this doesn't always happen in the church.
- As social workers, I would love to hear how you have helped your local church assess the needs of her community and reach out in effective ways.
- If you haven't, I encourage you to be a voice for the community that isn't always present in the church.

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