



angels'
care

Annual Report - 2021

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Message from our Chairlady

2021 saw the world continue to grapple with the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of this and the unprecedented civil unrest experienced in our local community during July, our focus at Angels' Care Centre remained steadfastly centred on: education, nutrition, health care, spiritual enrichment and social outreach. Our unwavering commitment to the most marginalised children in our area allowed us to have maximum humanitarian impact during these unprecedented times of crisis.

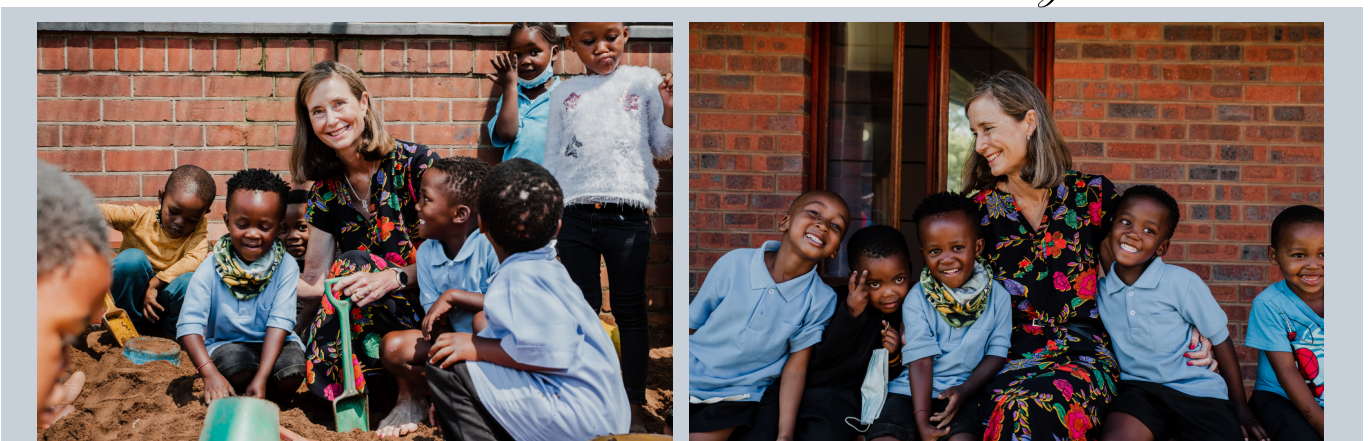
Our new facility at the Agricultural Hall which we purchased in 2020, combined with our original campus which houses our pre-school and health care services, have been invaluable "homes away from home" for hundreds of children and provided us with the space to at any time pivot and change the way in which we could be of help to the children. Our culture of always providing unconditional love in all we do never faltered. Despite a relentless series of challenges, we have provided a greater service to the children in our care than at any time before.

An ancient African proverb claims, "It takes a village to raise a child". We could not be more grateful that "our village" includes people from all walks of life and even from other continents. Through the joint efforts of us all not a single child in our care ever felt the effects of the greatest disease of all; that of not feeling important to anyone.

In 2021 we provided a record 46080 meals to children, 117 child victims of rape and abuse were helped by our crisis centre staff, 610 children received general health care, 110 youngsters were educated and 914 community members supported through various outreach programs.

For us working on the ground, we have dearly missed the ability to brighten a child's day through them seeing the smiles on our faces as they were hidden behind medical masks. Nevertheless, each child always knew they were precious as they still saw the light and love in our eyes and felt the gentle touch of our hands. This has indeed been a humbling but inspirational time; a moment in history where we were often able to do very "ordinary things" such as providing meals, with extraordinary dedication and affection. Despite the seemingly insurmountable challenges we frequently faced, Nelson Mandela was truly insightful in saying "it always seems impossible until it is done".

Carolyn Hancock



Our Mission

The mission of Angels' Care Centre is to provide for the optimal growth and development (mentally, physically and spiritually) of the children we serve in a safe and loving environment. The Centre provides an environment where they are provided care, guidance and protection from people and things that seek to deny these God given rights intentionally, unintentionally or through apathy.

We accomplish this through providing not only for the basic needs of the children we serve but also their caregivers through access to health care and other human services as well as by providing excellent educational services.

Since all our decisions are driven by what is best for the children we serve we will always seek long-term sustainable solutions. This will require us to be in partnership with others not only locally but also nationally and internationally.

Our Values



Faith, Integrity, Partnership,
Discipline, Diversity, Respect,
Courage, Empowerment,
Impact





Challenges and Focus

All our programmes are designed according to the actual needs of the community. Community members are encouraged to actively engage and ensure that programmes implemented will drive beneficial, effective and sustainable change.

This was of particular importance during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the civil unrest in our area, where the community's needs were constantly changing.

In depth ongoing community based research findings:

- Staggering unemployment which has been exacerbated during the pandemic and the recent civil unrest in our area.
- Out of school youth often left hungry and in need of assistance when State schools were closed.
- Major health issues especially HIV/AIDS and TB, COVID-19.
- Rampant drug and alcohol abuse.
- Limited access to food.
- Increased gender based violence and little safety for women and children in the community.
- Woman and child headed households with little to no income.
- Child marriages and teen pregnancy.
- An increase in the number of orphans and vulnerable children.

Research informed focus areas:

- General health services (primarily for children), but also the chronically ill.
- Community Outreach especially in the area of health care.
- Education and Youth Development
- Nutritional feeding programmes for children and their families
- Gender based violence, sexual assault and Crisis Care.



JULY 2021 - Civil Unrest

We are hugely grateful to have been able to purchase the Old Agricultural Hall in 2020. Not only did it allow our preschool to open sooner in 2020 due to the additional space, it has been our second home allowing us to expand the number of children and families we assist and adapt and accommodate our community's needs in times of crisis. In 2021 the Hall was used to continue handing out weekly family food parcels as well as daily food and meals to all children needing our care and coming to the Centre.

In July 2021 our small town of Howick was severely damaged during frightening civil unrest. It was a time in history that none of us will ever forget. We were concerned for the lives of our our staff, volunteers and families and children we serve. Additionally the livelihood of friends, family and even what the future held for our country were top of mind. Angels' Care Centre had to close for the first time ever for a full week as it was not safe enough for anyone to go out. Gunshots were heard throughout the day and night, civilians and the police were constantly and bravely on patrol trying to save what was left as businesses were looted and then burnt.

We were unable to check on our children, it was an extremely emotional time. The resilience of people has however been incredibly heartening as the Howick community came together and cleaned our streets and fed and supported those who needed it most. Unfortunately the unrest meant many became unemployed with businesses being forced to close. By year end it was inspiring as we watched businesses rebuild and rehire staff.

We were beyond lucky to not have suffered any damage to either of our properties and welcomed the children back as soon as it was safe to do so. We focused on feeding the children a hot cooked meal daily as food insecurity became exacerbated due to empty stores and access cut off to suppliers.



Caring for our Community

2021 Impact



46080
Daily Food
Parcels
Distributed

177
Assisted by
our Rape and
Abuse Crisis
Centre

914
Community
members
educated and
supported

110
School
pupils

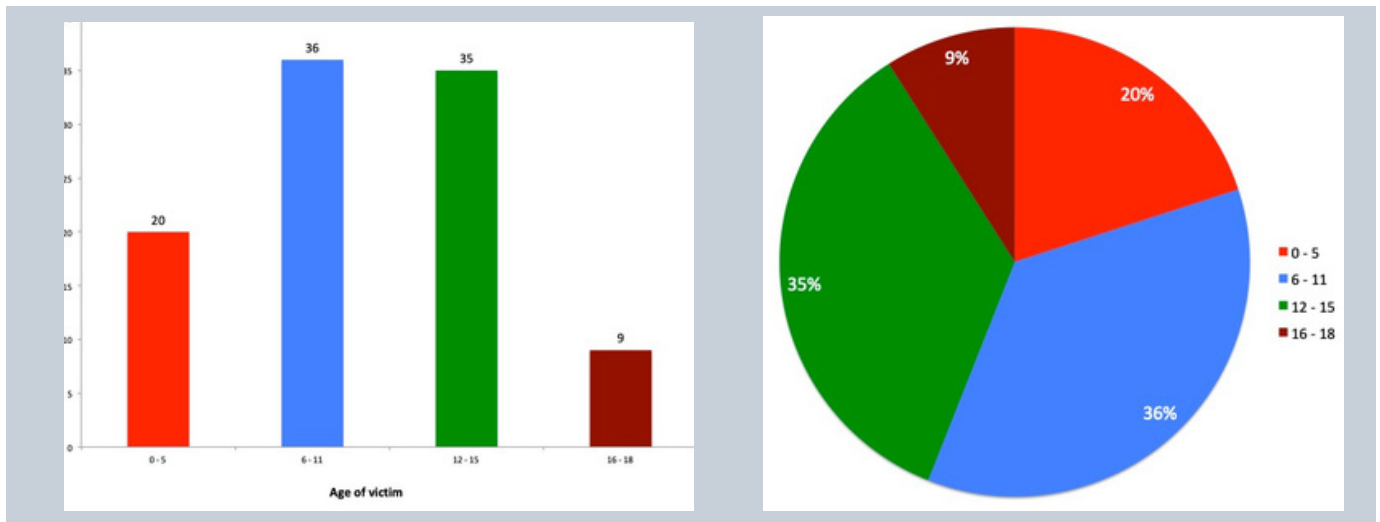
610
Children
received health
care

Health Services: Crisis Care

Angels' Care is uniquely focused on caring for children of abuse in the Howick area in the KZN Midlands within the Umngeni local municipality. The need for such a facility exists as sexual offences committed against women and children has reached alarming levels in South Africa.

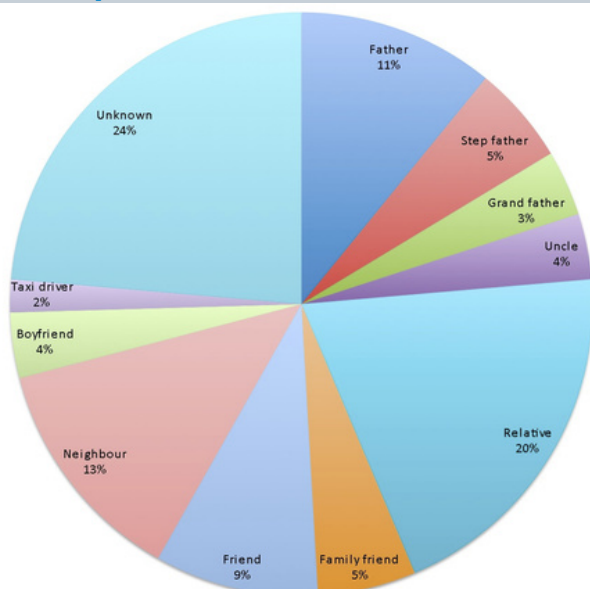
The Centre provides children and their caregivers with access to every form of assistance they would require in the event of their being victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, neglect, physical abuse, gender based violence or trauma. We also have services for children affected by grief due to losing loved ones to chronic diseases such as HIV, TB or violence.

With the COVID-19 pandemic and the Civil Unrest in KZN, 2021 was unique and difficult. Our staff assisted with 59 new cases of sexual assault and 177 cases where grief and trauma counselling was necessary to bringing help, hope and healing to children and families.



- **Sexual assault: 56% are under the age of 12 (statutory rape)**
- **The majority of cases are children aged 6 or in their early teens**
- **In 43% of cases the perpetrator is a family member and in 76% of cases of sexual abuse of minors the person responsible is known to the victim.**

Perpetrators of sexual abuse



Emergency short term housing

During 2018 we were registered as an official White Door Centre by the Department of Social Development, enabling the Centre to upgrade our overnight shelter facilities and offer 24 hour care to victims of abuse.

During 2021, **47 victims** were provided with counselling, medical care and shelter until long term solutions to their safety had been secured.

Benefits of Angels' Care Crisis Centre

- Decentralisation of Gender Based Violence services in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, including our semi-rural town of Howick.
- Access to medical, legal and psychosocial support services under one roof reducing secondary victimization.
- Reduction of long distances to be travelled by victims before accessing assistance.
- Reduction in the influx of cases to Edendale TCC and Northdale State hospitals.
- Improvement of the management of sexual violence cases by different stakeholders such as the Police, Department of Health and National Prosecuting Authority.
- Increased access to medical treatment required by victims e.g. Antiretrovirals to prevent HIV infection.
- Strengthen educational programs for sexual violence survivors which will empower them with information and thereby increase reporting of cases.

MANAGEMENT ALGORITHM

SUSPECT

Who...How?

INVESTIGATE

Social worker, SAPS, Health care worker

VALIDATE

Judicial system

TREATMENT AND FOLLOW UP

Ongoing physical and emotional support

ENSURE SAFTEY

Empower family, Alternative placement

FAMILY RECONSTRUCTION

Maintain support system



Crisis Centre - 2021 Case Study

During August 2021, three minor clients aged 12, 10 and 8 years old, were referred to Angels Care Centre by the Howick Police. The children had allegedly been raped by a relative. All three children reported the matter to their Grandmother who is their guardian as the parents are working in Johannesburg. After confirmation of sexual assault was given by a medical doctor at Thuthuzela Care Centre (The Rape Crisis Centre attached to the public hospital), the relevant documentation was completed, a case opened.

According to the grandmother, the 10 and 8 year olds are her grandchildren, and the 12 year old is a friend and a neighbour. She unknowingly invited the perpetrator into her home since he had no friends and they were related. According to the grandmother the perpetrator had a good relationship with the children and they affectionately called him Malum` Nkesh.

After some time passed, the grandmother confirmed that the children had confronted her with concerns that they did not want to sleep with the perpetrator in the same room but did not give reasons as to why. The children were subsequently removed from sleeping in the same room as the uncle. However, following this, another incident of sexual abuse involving the 8 year old girl took place which the grandmother witnessed,

Through Angels' Care Centre the clients are receiving vital ongoing counselling. This access to our social worker and counselling has enabled the children to talk through what happened and disclose details of the abuse so that the case could be elaborated on and further evidence gathered. All children were able to tell the story as it happened, and in accordance with what the grandmother alleged.

The children will continue to receive treatment from the Centre to ensure we continue to bring them help and healing whilst also ensuring the perpetrator is held accountable for his inexcusable actions by the judicial system.

The case is ongoing and the perpetrator has been arrested and remains in police custody.



General Health Care Services



Angels' Care has a professional nurse who provides general health care to all children who attend programs at the Centre. Her duties include:

- Treatment of, and referral when necessary, of sick children and staff members to the clinic.
- Treatment of children with minor ailments.
- Monthly developmental status assessments for all children who attend educational programmes, including constant monitoring of their height, weight and head circumference; all measures which assist in determining whether the child is reaching age appropriate milestones or may be malnourished or chronically ill
- All child vaccinations are up-to-date.
- Physical examination and treatment of victims of sexual or physical assault and neglect.
- Medical screening, treatment and counselling for children suffering from HIV and TB.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, in 2021, we were able to continue with all health care services as the children could easily access our facilities through our Early Childhood Development Centre (pre-school), as well as when coming to the Centre for daily food parcels.

As always, our main focus was to ensure health care for any child when needed. In 2022, we hope to reach more children through an increase in educational campaigns and a stronger partnership with Thembelihle School (426 children) and the Department of Health. .



2021 Impact Analysis

Type of Assistance Provided

On-going medical review of school children at our ECD Centre

115

Children/caregivers seen at Centre for minor ailments at Saturday Feeding Scheme/Walk-Ins

495

Total Cases this year

610

General Health Care

2021 case study



A 9-year-old boy by the name of Amohelang was brought in by his aunty Mathibela from Shiyabazali . Mathibela is one of the mothers that utilizes our 'young moms' group organised by our Crisis Centre staff. The group is there to support first time/young moms through what can be a very difficult time. We make sure their children are vaccinated, healthy and reaching all age appropriate milestones. We also educate the mothers on the importance of the first 1000 days in their child's development. The moms learn how to engage with, and ensure, the optimal development of their babies.

Amohelang came from Johannesburg to stay with Mathibelas (his aunty) as his mum was unemployed and the school that he was attending was too far from where they resided. According to his aunty he was born normally however after a few years his head structure changed and he started growing veins under his scalp. When taken to a local hospital by our nursing sister, the doctors established that he had a tumour that was growing and causing him to become mentally disturbed. He also often felt extremely nauseous and had severe headaches.

While he was undergoing surgery to remove the tumor we enrolled him at Thembelihle School where we were excited for him to obtain a great education, as well as all the medical care he may need, However, once he recovered his mother came to fetch him to take him home to Johannesburg.

Our farewells to this young boy who had received life saving treatment through our Centre were bittersweet as we waved him off, happy, healthy and thriving to be reunited with his mother.

Education

We are committed to the development of the whole child: body, mind and spirit.



Angels' Care has an Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD), for 100 children in grades RRR and RR. Sponsored children have an education that is free, including the provision of health care, school uniforms and nutritious daily meals.

We focus on the development of the following key skills: language, cognitive and critical thinking, numeracy, motor skills improvement, and emotional strength.

Other educational programs include a Bridging Class for 10 children who have had limited to no previous access to schooling. They receive individualised instruction enabling them to enter mainstream schooling. In 2021 we also catered for three extremely vulnerable, disabled children.

Throughout the pandemic, these children always had access to food, education, hygiene, and health care. We were also fortunate to have a volunteer Occupational Therapist, helping these vulnerable children with therapy for over a year, before she relocated to Johannesburg to open her own practice.

Exciting plans for a world class ECD Centre

We are thrilled to report that we are making progress on establishing our new ECD Centre through the purchase of the property adjacent to our current facility. Consultations with several global experts based in Australia have been ongoing for several months as we collectively work on the ideal architectural design. These planning discussions and design process have focused specifically on learning through play and ensuring that all spaces within the new campus fun, optimally designed and encompass every aspect of a young child's growth and development. The state of the art playground will include three zones, focusing on the different aspects of play including: (i) Social and Emotional Play, (ii) Cognitive Play and (iii) Physical Play. This development at Angel's Care Centre will create a world-class ECD campus. That will host our six Grade RRR, RR and Grade R classes and our bridging class, Once completing grade R all these children will move onto primary schooling at our partner organisation, Thembelihle School. We are grateful to the support received to date from CUSP in the USA and look forward to reporting back soon on the successful opening of this new campus - we hope to open in January 2023!



Nutrition

Both 2020 and 2021, were challenging as our community already had very high levels of unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the civil unrest in our area worsening the situation. Along with lack of employment opportunities, the cost of living increased dramatically, meaning those living in poverty experienced additional suffering and hardship.

We continued our weekly family food parcels for the first 6 months of 2021, handing out 110 food parcels weekly. We also continued our daily nutritional programme, providing **46,080 meals** to children. The number of children needing support increased during the school holidays, and after the July civil unrest we started providing the children with more cooked meals to ensure they were well fed and healthy. We are very grateful to the Do More Foundation, who provided us with free porridge for months. This porridge was used at the feeding scheme as well as at the ECD centre, helping us feed just under 1000 children weekly. Truda Foods also kindly donated large amounts of mealie meals to hand out to families in need. Additionally we are thankful to all those who provided us with vital financial assistance.



Youth Development

Our youth development programme was largely put on hold in 2021 due to many COVID-19 regulations. We were however able to continue assisting some children with help with their school work during the day as the State school's operated a rotational schooling system of "one week on and one week off". Whenever primary and high school students needed a safe space to learn, our Angels' Care Centre staff and facilities were available.

Towards the end of the academic year, we responded to the immediate need of high school students with preparation for end of year examinations by partnering with the educators from Howick Tutoring Service. The programme yielded huge improvements in examination results with all progressing to a higher grade level.

The coaching of our soccer teams continued throughout the year when restrictions allowed.



Community Outreach

Every year our community outreach stories are about those who received help in a life changing ways, however 2021 was a year that we were able to go above and beyond what we have provided in the past to assist families and children through the pandemic and the July civil unrest. Our community outreach projects were constantly adjusted and adapted to ensure that we were meeting the immediate needs of the community, families and children we help. None of these initiatives (listed below) would have been possible without the incredible donations we received, both financially and through donations of food, clothing, footwear and household items.

- Ahead of the impending winter and extreme cold experienced by our children and their families who live in shacks made of plastic, timber and metal sheeting, we distributed **900** blankets, over a **1,000** beanies, and tremendous amounts of warm clothing and shoes.
- We also assisted as many households as possible with necessary household items, clothing, hot meals, food parcels and firewood to assist with warmth and cooking.
- Many children were provided with hygiene comfort packs.
- Our community caregivers continued with home-based care for children as well as adults.
- We conducted household profiling of those living in informal settlements thus gathering valuable data on the communities we serve's most pressing needs.

During the **16 days of activism**, multiple women and children benefited from our partnership with the Jes Foord Foundation (JFF) where our two organizations together conducted educational awareness campaigns focused on Gender based violence (GBV).

At schools, teenage support groups and communities, girls all received hygiene comfort packs and were empowered with knowledge of their constitutional rights and where to go when needing help. The younger children were taught about the different types of abuse and sexual assault and what to do if someone is harming them. They were also all introduced to our crisis centre team, to show them that we are just around the corner and always able to help. Education around these topics is essential as many of children do not know that what is happening to them is wrong. Following these educational talks, there has been an increase in clients coming to see our Crisis Centre team. The partnership with the JFF was such a success and we hope to partner with them more in 2022.



Community Outreach

Angels Care Centre has two wonderful community caregivers, who are constantly making sure that those who need help receive it. They focus on home based care, educational talks, support groups, home visits when requested by our social worker, winter warmth campaigns, clothing drives and reacting to new needs that arise in the community.

One of the many stories of hope came out of the work they do on a daily basis was helping a family of four after their home (an informal shack) burnt down. The mother left her three children in their home for the night. The oldest child, who is 8, forgot to blow the candle out they were using for light, as there is no electricity in their settlement, The candle fell over and the shack caught alight completely burning down their home. Luckily all three children aged 8, 4 and 1, managed to get out with no injuries. The oldest child attends Thembelihle School, the 4 year old attends Angels' Care preschool and the youngest stays at home. Due to the children attending our schools and our community caregivers living in the area, we were notified of the fire. By mid-day the next day, the following had been donated to assist the family:

- New school clothing for the two school age children
- Clothing for all three children and the mother
- Blankets, duvets and pillows
- Household items
- Two mattresses
- Food parcels

Our community caregiver was so generous allowing the family to stay in her house for a few days while they looked for a new place to move. We are so grateful that the Howick community, as well as Hilton College, who came together to help us assist this family.

Unfortunately, fires occur often in the informal settlement and they are extremely difficult to put out due to there being no running water. It is also common practice that police and fire trucks rarely respond to calls of help in the settlements as they are not safe at night and with only one access point. We continually strive to help as many families as we can that fall victim to fires and other forms of trauma caused through their extremely challenging living conditions.



Community Outreach

One of the standout projects of 2021, was when our Howick community came together and made 350 blankets. Angels' Care Centre purchased the materials, thanks to an incredible donation from 2019 Miss South Africa, Tamaryn Green. Once we had all the warm blanket material, we asked the community to assist us in making the blankets. So much love went into each blanket and every child that received one, was warm and cozy throughout our harsh winter. We were blown away by the support of the community, including the Spot Bistro, Activ8 Performance, Homeslice Cafe (who all allowed us to utilize their staff as the COVID-19 restrictions meant they could not serve any of their clients). This support from these small businesses during their toughest times was inspirational as they helped us "give back".

We were also very fortunate to have been donated beautiful blankets by "Knit A Square Foundation" in Johannesburg.



Christmas

Our community outreach projects are more than just helping the community with their needs, it is also about creating moments of joy that give our children HOPE for a better future. 2021 was a very difficult year and we were thrilled with the donation of **560 Christmas presents**. This meant every child attending our ECD and feeding programmes received a Christmas gift that made them feel special and cared for. Each gift contained a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, facecloth, vaseline and of course an age appropriate toy or "treasure". We partnered with St Charles College, St Anne's Diocesan College and Hilton College, as well as our local community and other donors to make this happen. A big thanks must go to the Lego foundation, who donated bags and small gifts.



How to help

- Sponsor a child's education	R6859
- Sponsor a teacher	R155 000
- Youth Development	R110000
- Sponsor a child's meals for a year	R3000
- Support a victim of abuse	R1000
- Feed a family for a year	R9500
- Community Outreach Project	R500

We are a non profit public benefit organization, this means we can offer 18A tax certificates.



How to help

We are a registered Non Profit, Public Benefit Organization:

- Public Benefit Organisation 930004928
- Non Profit Organisation NPO 020-084

BANK DETAILS:

Angels Care Centre

First National Bank: Business Cheque

Howick Branch: 220725

Account: 620 357 154 18

Swift code : FIRNZAJJ

WEBSITE:

www.angelscare.co.za offers PAYFAST and ZAPPER as additional donation options.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

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INSTAGRAM - angels_care_centre

