



Chadd Bain, founder of Izulu Orphan Projects, died tragically on 7 December 2009 during preparations for their annual Christmas party. In the eight years since he started the project outside Empangeni, the organisation has expanded to the extent that 1500 orphans and vulnerable children and their caregivers had been invited to the event, a celebration of life, love and fun in a community beset by poverty and other problems.

After spending some years travelling overseas, Chadd felt the need to come home to South Africa to make a difference in the community in which he had grown up. A committed Christian, Chadd had a strong desire to address the needs of poor orphans and widows affected by HIV and AIDS. These needs are dire and include basic necessities such as food, clothing, school fees and uniforms and help with accessing grants and social services. In KwaZulu-Natal, the province which has the highest reported prevalence of HIV and AIDS in South Africa, access to voluntary counselling and testing, and antiretroviral therapy (ART), is critical. Recently Chadd and his wife Kate qualified to test community members, thereby lessening the load at the local clinics and hastening the process of people learning of their status and starting ART.



*“School, feed, clothe and love as many orphan kids as possible”* has been the driving aim of Izulu Orphan Projects (IOP). IOP’s records show that the number of orphans (age six and upwards) needing support increases by 60% per year. The organisation's main aim is to raise funds to provide feeding programmes for the villages where the orphans live. IOP has also initiated vegetable gardening projects to produce fresh food and promote a degree of self-sustainability.

There are plans to establish crisis support centres in five of IOP's primary focus areas. These support centres will offer skills training, computer literacy studies, vegetable gardens, after-school and crèche facilities, meals, monthly visits from a mobile clinic, temporary care for abandoned children, and church services. The establishment of a support centre in the area of Ngqamuzana, where most of the orphans live, is underway.

Although remaining in their community is the ideal situation for orphans, the numbers are

becoming overwhelming and IOP hopes to buy an adjoining farm, Riverview, and set up cluster homes to accommodate orphans. This farm would also house a number of income-generating and agricultural projects, an AIDS hospice, a school and sports facilities.



Kate, in spite of being widowed with two children under three and two foster children, will continue the work of her partner who loved and served his community so well. She and the local communities need much support. To contact Kate go to the [website](#) , email [kate@izuluorphanprojects.co.za](mailto:kate@izuluorphanprojects.co.za) or phone +27 84 600 9947.