

Street-Wise South Africa

Street-Wise South Africa is an independent, non-racial, non-profit, inter-denominational, non-governmental organisation. It aims to take care of abandoned and neglected children on the streets of South Africa.

The Street Wise project first started in Durban in December 1988, by opening a shelter and running a school from the Durban Methodist Church. In April 1992, after much upheaval, Street-Wise Durban finally moved to its permanent premises at the Old Mill in Mariannhill, Pinetown. Here it provides shelter, food, clothes, a loving environment and schooling for up to 52 boys aged seven to 14.

A board co-ordinates Street-Wise policy and overall management. The board members' contribution is voluntary, with each member having a specific area of expertise related to the work of Street-Wise. Street-Wise has a central office and two branches, in Pretoria and Durban. Each branch is managed by a co-ordinator and a central co-ordinator oversees the work of the organisation as a whole.

Street-Wise aims to:

- Offer humanitarian aid to the children living on the streets of South Africa, pending reconciliation with their families.
- Assess the needs and circumstances of the children, tracing their families and affecting reconciliation with families where possible,
- Offer life skills and social skills training to facilitate re-integration into the community.
- Address the educational needs of the children by providing bridging education and placing them into mainstream schools wherever possible.
- Impact on National Policy regarding the rights of street children.
- Refer children to other services as and when necessary.
- Liaising and networking with other relevant organisations

Projects: Rehabilitation Shelter in Mariannhill

Street-Wise Durban runs a shelter housing up to 40 children at any one time. This allows for longer-term assessment of children who cannot be returned home easily. Shelter placements are short-term (up to one year) while work is undertaken with the child and the family to find ways of reconciling them.

At Street-Wise Durban the children are reintroduced to routine and stability. They are expected to help with daily household tasks, are given support with school work and taken on trips and outings at the weekends.

Programmes offering counselling and life skills are also run to help prepare the children for life back with their families.

Every child placed at the centre is also placed into formal education as soon as possible, with the cost of fees and uniforms etc. being met by Street-Wise.

For more information please contact Street-Wise on (031) 703 2666, or visit their website, www.street-wise.co.za.

Venue: Street-Wise South Africa
The Old Mill
Mariannahill
3601
eThekwin
Pinetown

Directions from Durban:

Take the N3 Western Freeway towards Pietermaritzburg.

Take the M13 J.S. Marwick Highway split.

Take Old Main Road, Richmond Road off-ramp.

Turn left into Richmond Road.

Turn left into Wiltshire Road, at the second set of traffic lights.

Take the first left on Wiltshire Road and drive until the road becomes gravelled. The venue will be in front of you.