**Tshepong Stimulation Centre**

The Tshepong Stimulation Centre in the Katlehong Township on the East Rand (Ekurhuleni) provides daycare facilities for 60 profoundly mentally disabled children aged five to 16, many of whom also have physical disabilities. The centre has been providing care to these children since 1986. Tshepong means “hope” in Sotho.

The need

The Katorus area, which includes the Katlehong, Thokoza and Vosloorus townships, as well as the surrounding informal settlements, outside of Johannesburg, is home to an estimated 1.6-million people. No daycare facilities exist for profoundly mentally disabled children in these impoverished areas, which barely provide sufficient schools, crèches, and daycare services for children without disabilities.

The Tshepong Stimulation Centre provides care and protection for children with mental disabilities who are also affected by poverty, child abuse and HIV/AIDS.

The centre provides daycare services to persons who are profoundly mentally challenged, and respite to their families. This allows employed parents and grandparents peace of mind and a safe haven for their children as they are stimulated to the best of their individual capacities. Programmes offered include a stimulation programme, which includes feeding and toilet training, speech, language and fine and gross motor skills, self-help skills and recreational outings.

The centre also has a social work programme, which includes counselling services, clinical services, support services, psycho-social rehabilitation, early childhood development knowledge and de-institutionalisation.

In addition to these services the centre offers an art therapy programme for those who have experienced trauma.

For more information please contact The Tshepong Stimulation Centre on (011) 909 325.

**Venue:** 363B Simelane and Sibisi Streets
Katlehong
Johannesburg
Gauteng

**Directions from Johannesburg:**
Take the N3 South.
Take the N12 highway.
Take the R59, or Sybrand van Niekerk Freeway.
Take exit 46 Alberton toward M7, or Kliprivier Drive.
Keep left at the fork, follow signs for M7/Kliprivier Rd/Thokoza and merge onto Kliprivier Drive.
Turn right at Rivett-Carnett Street.
Turn left at S.S.Setai
Turn left at Simelane Street.
The Tshepong Stimulation Centre will be on your left.