

## Organizational Information

Heartbeat is a NPO/Section 21 company and a Public Benefit Organization that exists to alleviate the suffering of Orphans and Vulnerable Children by facilitating change in communities.

The Heartbeat model is based around 4 leading principles:

1. Children's rights (encompassed in the South African Constitution, the African Charter and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)
2. Community Based
3. Developmental Approach
4. Partnerships

### ***The Heartbeat vision***

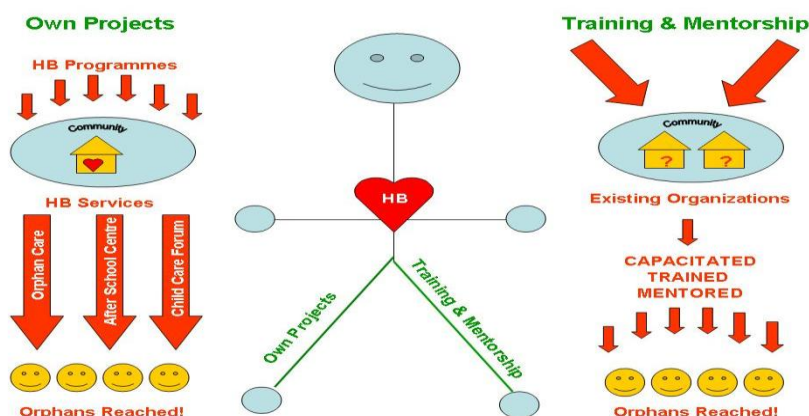
Heartbeat dreams of all children in Africa being happy and having opportunities to fulfil their dreams.

### ***The Heartbeat mission***

**To empower Orphans and Vulnerable Children to reach their full potential through quality service provision, development and capacity building.**

Heartbeat was formed in 2000 as a response to address the OVC problem in South Africa. Its first intervention was to buy a pair of shoes for a child so that he could go to school, mainstream into his age group, be seen as normal rather than different. Its overarching aim is not only to address the OVC problem here and now for the children but to provide them with a future that will not only assist them as individuals, but assist the future 'lost' generation of South Africa. Heartbeat's 2010 goal has been to reach 50,000 children both through its direct programme and its Mentoring & Training programme where CBOs are taught over a 2-year period to apply the Heartbeat model.

Heartbeat operates on what could be termed a hybrid model which is unique in South Africa.



This model currently upholds all the rights enshrined in article 28 of the South African Constitution, namely: the right to property; name and nationality from birth; family & parental care; basic

nutrition; shelter; basic health care services; social services; basic education and protection from abuse, maltreatment, neglect and degradation. Heartbeat has received acclaim for this best practice model from the South African Ministry of Social Development and was selected in 2002 as one of 44 “Greenfields” projects in the country to pilot Public-Private Partnerships. Various principles of our model have been adopted by Government and other NGO’s, and are being replicated in the country through various structures. Also, Dr. Sunette Pienaar, Heartbeat’s founder, received the Social Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2006, awarded by the Schwabb Foundation.

In the nine years since its inception, Heartbeat has successfully partnered projects in all 9 provinces of South Africa. To date, both the direct and indirect Heartbeat interventions have met the needs of over 39,000 OVCs. These children mostly live in child-headed households, granny headed households or with a parent that is terminally ill. Heartbeat aims to reach 50,000 OVCs by the end of 2010, and is on track to meet this strategic objective.

Heartbeat’s model of care offers a hybrid system of community support that reaches not only its own OVCs but assists other CBOs reach OVCs in their area, thus broadening its reach. Heartbeat’s Mentoring & Training programme is a minimum of 2 years’ preparation for the organisation to stand alone – and if it is not ready to do so, then the programme continues to assist until it is – and it is always required to provide its own funding. The aim of this is to empower CBOs with a world-class model of care. There are many NGO organisations that provide assistance to communities, ranging from soup kitchens to orphanages. The difference with Heartbeat is that the funding goes toward a model developed over 10 years that holds much proprietary knowledge, and is forever developing to suit the changing needs of the OVC and the communities within which they operate.

The services that Heartbeat provides are:

<b>Material Support</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Children’s Empowerment</b>	<b>Rights &amp; Access</b>	<b>Capacity Building</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food parcels</li> <li>• Food gardens</li> <li>• Donations-in-kind</li> <li>• Emergency fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School uniforms</li> <li>• Stationery pack</li> <li>• Homework assistance</li> <li>• Holiday school</li> <li>• Access to school/transport</li> <li>• Post-secondary development</li> <li>• Holiday programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Visits</li> <li>• Support Groups</li> <li>• Individual counselling</li> <li>• Memory Work</li> <li>• Abuse Interventions</li> <li>• Staff debriefing</li> <li>• Buddies (Chozas)</li> <li>• Child evaluation workshops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that the children’s basic rights are met, and that they access basic services for free. (e.g. identity, shelter, services, grants, free schooling, basic health)</li> <li>• Exemption of school fees</li> <li>• Social security grant assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Mentoring</li> <li>• Development of Community Child Care Forums</li> </ul>