



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Let's Fix It**

**TX: Tuesday 9 September at 8.30pm**

The Sive Nathi home, situated in Cape Town, caters for 62 bed-ridden children. Sive Nathi's mission statement is to establish, maintain and conduct a homely environment for children with profound and severe intellectual and or physical disabilities irrespective of race, colour or creed.

The home was originally started by Mrs. Lorraine Joja, a domestic worker from Khayelitsha, in 1997. Since then Mrs. Joja has given a home to disabled children whose parents have either died, no longer want their sick children or simply cannot cope with their disabilities.

There is a local retailer who assists with fund-raising and food, but their budget does not extend to providing other basic comforts. They have requested that the home receive a facelift, as well as panel heaters, toiletries, cutlery and blankets.

Next, in Jouberton township, Klerksdorp, a letter writer has requested assistance for a local woman, affectionately known as Mrs. Shago, who teaches and takes care of 21 disabled children in the community. She runs this makeshift school from her home, where she built on two rooms to accommodate the children.

Here she teaches the children to read and write, but she requires educational toys, furniture and equipment to assist in the holistic development the children. The Let's Fix It team offers a helping hand.

Disabled people are disproportionately among the poorest of the poor and more likely than fully able-bodied people to be uneducated, unemployed or under-employed.

The grim realities of life for South Africa's 2, 5 million disabled people (approximately 6% of the population), particularly among the African community, have been highlighted in a nationwide study, which found an astonishing 88% unemployment rate among disabled people.