

UHAMBO



SHONAQUIP[®]



**PARTNERSHIP PROJECT OPTIONS FOR
ROTARY NEWCASTLE**

Uhambo Foundation is part of a hybrid social enterprise founded by the parent of a child with a disability. We are an award-winning Social Enterprise consisting of Shonaquip (Pty) Ltd, the Uhambo Foundation and several related entities. Uhambo and Shonaquip work hand-in-hand to create an inclusive society for people with disabilities, especially children - Shonaquip manufactures and provides assistive devices and clinical support, while Uhambo Foundation builds capacity in communities and breaks down barriers to access for these children and their families. Uhambo USA is a nonprofit in the U.S. and is dedicated to resource development to extend the Uhambo Foundation's work in Africa. Uhambo USA has been successful with Rotary International Global Grants.

We are unique in many ways in that we look at supporting whole community transformation with local partners to be able to ensure that children (and adults) with disabilities and their families are able to live inclusive lives. We run a range of different programmes and focus on finding the right fit depending on the community and the partner. These programmes include:

1. Assistive Devices & Clinical Support for children (& adults) with mobility disabilities.

Posture support – particularly for children with mobility disabilities but also for adults is vital for those with mobility disabilities and without the appropriate devices children particularly suffer significant complications such as spinal curvatures and pressure sores can be life threatening for children and adults alike. Our clinical team assesses each recipient to ensure that they are prescribed the appropriate device from posture support chairs to walkers, buggies and strollers. We also have standing frames and side positioners for those who need 24 hour positioning. WHO recommends 6 monthly assessments and repositioning of all children with disabilities.

With regular review, clinically appropriate devices and 24 hour positioning, assistive devices can play a vital role in rehabilitation. (Below is the same child after 4 years of positioning)



Mobile outreach seating teams:

- a. overcome the challenges of transportation for those with mobility disabilities.
- b. provide regular positioning as children grow, preventing secondary complications
- c. upskill caregivers and training for therapists in correct positioning
- d. share the skills and experience of senior seating therapists needed for advanced clients
- e. deliver disability awareness training to reduce stigmas about disabilities
- f. assess, fit, review and repair devices, keeping people mobile
- g. ensure users are waitlisted for appropriate devices when necessary

WHAT WE COULD DO TOGETHER IN NEWCASTLE

In Newcastle we could run open, and 6 monthly, clinics providing a regular service for the community and building a reliable relationship with the community which would help ensure that families who self-isolate build the confidence to attend clinics. The clinical team are also mobile and could visit families unable to travel in the community. These clinics could even take place at the library or other centres supported by Rotary. [We are committed to linking with government services and would include Department of Health therapists and mentor them during the outreach clinics with a view to handing over the service as their skills and experience grows.](#) This may take 3-5 years as positioning is a post graduate and experience guided skillset.

2. Disability Dialogues & Community Capacity Building

Uhambo Foundation has found that it is vital to break down stigma and barriers to accessing services. We run community dialogues and disability workshops which serve to: support an inclusive society; build networks between neighbours; facilitate parents initiating their own self support groups. We run 2-3 day training workshops for other NPOs and organisations working in the sector.

WHAT WE COULD DO TOGETHER IN NEWCASTLE

In Newcastle we could couple our 6 monthly visits with community dialogues in different areas (typical group size ranges from 20-80 participants). This could be at the library, but would also be working with the networks of Rotary Newcastle. These workshops will shortly be linked to a NQF skills programme and may be of interest for companies in Newcastle interested in supporting the understanding amongst their staff as part of building an inclusive community.

3. Inclusive ECD Capacity Building

Uhambo runs an award winning programme (Ndinogona) to train the caregivers in ECD Centres, Day Cares and Care Homes on how to do educational play with children with all disabilities – from mobility disabilities to children with hearing or visual disabilities; to children with profound disabilities who are non-verbal! This programme is currently being piloted by DSD in Ndwedwe & Umlazi as a way to ensure that ECD Centre staff have the ability to include all children with disabilities. By ensuring that children with disabilities are included at ECD age, particularly one that will assist them in overcoming their barriers, they are much more likely to be able to be included into mainstream schools and further education.



It is vital that children with disabilities and their families develop the skills and tools to participate in education as early as possible. Unfortunately children with disabilities who do attend special needs

ECD centres or schools often follow a programme that is geared towards basic care instead of development and learning opportunities. This puts children at an even greater risk of being rejected by schools with appropriate levels of learning later in life. **Many children, particularly those with mobility and profound disabilities are entirely unstimulated even at centres.**

The Ndinogona Programme includes both training, mentorship and follow up as well as a unique set of manuals which documents activities that can be adapted to include children with all disabilities. The programme includes a comprehensive “starter” kit which includes all the items to run the programme as well as items to support inclusion from communication aprons (for non-verbal children or children with attention challenges) thick grips and universal cuffs for children with limited grip all the way to eTrans for children who are only able to communicate using eye gaze. We train on how to use, and make all these items.

Training takes place with children with different disabilities from within the community and includes onsite training at recipients own ECD Centres (we have learnt that unless training takes place at learners own centres that learning is less likely to be internalised).



The Ndinogona Programme

Is Not Just ...

A TRAINING



But it includes 24 hours of practical, mentored facilitation with caregivers and children

A MANUAL



But the manual includes over 100 adaptable activities across the disability spectrum

A KIT



But it contains over 100 (replaceable) toys gathered into educational themes



WHAT WE COULD DO TOGETHER IN NEWCASTLE

We could run Ndinogona Training at 3-10 ECD Centres across Newcastle. From mid-2017 this programme will be NQF accredited and Rotary could look to encourage local companies to support this programme as part of their own skills development initiatives.

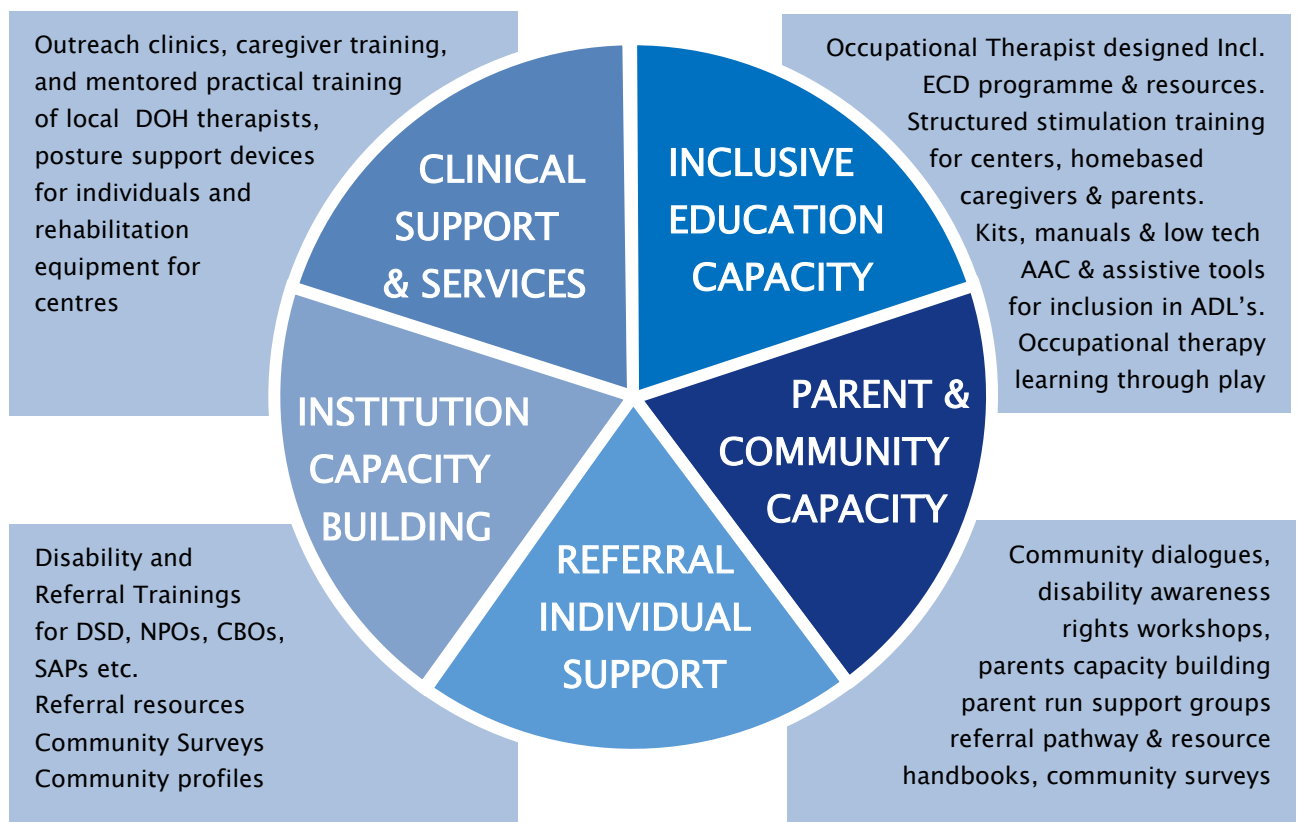
4. Community Support Network Capacity Building

Uhambo Foundation has a variety of programmes to support community transformation and self-support. These include:

- **Training Programmes for NPOs and CBOs** in the community on how to also include people with disabilities in their programmes.
- **Inclusive Workplace Services for businesses** who would like to include people with disabilities
- **Producing local referral handbooks and processes** for all families and individuals with disabilities. (Where to go and who to speak to in Newcastle, what the referral pathway is in KZN if the resources are not available in Newcastle etc)
- **Parent Self-Support Group** training (to support parent groups/disability groups have the skills or run their own self-support groups.
- **Specific Skills Training Workshops for parent groups or centres** who need further training on safe feeding, moving and handling or 24 hour positioning.

5. Community Support Network Capacity Building

Our partnership offerings are comprehensive, and we are committed to providing the capacity building for communities to become inclusive.



Uhambo recognises that providing children with mobility and multiple disabilities with posture support is key to prevention of secondary health complications as well as function and physical accessibility to education and into their communities. However, this addresses only one barrier to inclusion.