

THANDO HOUSE BABY RESCUE HEAVEN

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EDEN HOUSE CHILD AND YOUTH CARE CENTRE

It is with great appreciation, hope, and wholehearted support that Thando House Baby Rescue Heaven endorses the establishment of **Eden House Child and Youth Care Centre**. We believe this initiative will fill a vital gap in the continuum of care for vulnerable children in our community and provide a place where children can experience the love, stability, and security every child deserves.

At **Thando House Baby Rescue Heaven**, we provide temporary residential care for babies from birth to two years of age who have been abandoned, neglected, abused, or are in need of a Place of Safety. We also care for babies awaiting the finalisation of their adoption process. Every child entrusted to us is placed in our care by registered social workers from various child protection organisations and government departments.

Thando House opened its doors in **October 2023**, and since then we have had the privilege of caring for **27 babies**, including **6 babies placed for adoption**. Every baby who enters our home receives not only food, clothing, and medical care, but also unconditional love, nurturing relationships, and a safe, family-like environment where they can begin to heal physically, emotionally, and spiritually after experiencing unimaginable trauma.

One of the greatest challenges we face is what happens when a child in our care reaches the age of two and there is no foster family or permanent placement available. While our heart is to continue protecting these children, our registration only permits us to accommodate children up to the age of two. Sadly, there are very few suitable Child and Youth Care Centres available to receive these vulnerable children and continue the journey of healing that has already begun.

This is why the vision of **Eden House** is so important.

Eden House will provide an urgently needed safe haven where older children who have experienced abandonment, neglect, abuse, and trauma can continue to grow in a stable, loving, and nurturing environment. It will offer these children the opportunity to heal emotionally, spiritually, physically, and socially while being surrounded by caring adults who become consistent and trusted mother and father figures in their lives.

Every child deserves to know what it feels like to be safe, to belong, and to be deeply loved. Children need adults who are passionate about their wellbeing, who will advocate for them, encourage them, protect them, and help them believe that their past does not define their future. We believe Eden House shares these same values and will provide exactly this kind of compassionate care.

As an organisation dedicated to protecting vulnerable children, we are deeply encouraged by Eden House's vision to become a place of healing, hope, and restoration. Their commitment to providing quality care, stability, accountability, and a loving family environment aligns closely with the values and standards we strive to uphold every day at Thando House.

The opening of Eden House would also provide immeasurable reassurance to organisations such as ours. It would mean that when children in our care reach the age of two without a permanent family placement, we would know they are transitioning into another safe and loving home where they will continue receiving the same level of care, compassion, protection, and support they have experienced at Thando House.

Without facilities such as Eden House, many vulnerable children remain at risk of being returned to environments marked by instability, neglect, abuse, or other unsafe circumstances simply because there are no suitable alternatives available. No child should have to face that reality after already experiencing such hardship.

For this reason, we wholeheartedly support the establishment of Eden House and sincerely hope that this much-needed Child and Youth Care Centre will receive the support required to open its doors. The impact it will have on the lives of vulnerable children, their future, and the wellbeing of our wider community cannot be overstated.

We are grateful for the vision, dedication, and compassion behind Eden House and look forward to seeing many children find safety, belonging, healing, and hope within its walls.

We wish Eden House every success and offer our full support in this important and life-changing initiative.

Kind Regards,

Sonett Mather

Director

Thando House Baby Rescue Heaven