



The start of 2019 marks the arrest of a single mother who murdered her 4 children and the abandonment of a newborn baby at a garbage site.

A mother from Mpumalanga hands herself over to police after her 4 children were found dead, just weeks after, Baby Daniel's mother and her boyfriend are convicted for their roles in the death of the 3 year old toddler and the month marks yet another newborn baby found at a garbage site. Although we welcome the recent harsh sentences being meted out, we can't help but wonder what we could have done differently to stop these heinous acts.

Filicide, which is the deliberate act of a parent killing their child, seems to be increasing in South Africa. Research has indicated that these crimes are committed in the context of increased levels of violence, intimate partner violence and violence against children. Family breakdown is the centre of this phenomenon.

As a Child Protection Agency Childline KZN continues to be deeply saddened by these incidents and urge families and individuals in crisis to seek professional help. We urge stakeholders and service providers to promote an 'open door' policy encouraging individuals to seek the help that they need. So often red tape and protocol discourages an individual from seeking help. The fear of rebuttal or retribution forces one to keep silent. Let's all stand together and ensure that we as service providers and concerned community members help these families and in turn save our innocent children.

### 24/7 CRISIS LINE

The 24/7 toll free Crisis Helpline provides an accessible and immediate service to all children in and around KwaZulu – Natal. We receive approximately 15 000 calls per month. In 2018 abuse was the highest category of calls received.

### SIYAKHANYISA OUTREACH PROGRAM:

Our goal for this program is to empower communities to protect children against abuse, neglect and exploitation. During November/December period of 2018 we reached a staggering **10 921** individuals which included learners, educators, parents and other community members.

### THERAPEUTIC UNIT :

A core element of our service delivery at Childline KZN is to provide emotional healing to children who have been sexually abused. Mediums of play therapy and group work are used to heal children from the trauma of abuse and the deep wounds caused by the trauma. 197 new cases of sexual abuse was reported during the November/ December period of 2018.

### EYE ON YOUR KID CAMPAIGN

The campaign aims to create awareness around the issue of missing children, child abduction as well as kidnap cases – while urging parents to pay closer attention to their children's whereabouts and friends.

### WE CARE CAMPAIGN

This is our way of "sharing our slice". 200 loaves of bread sponsored by Premier Foods will be distributed per month. This year we are hoping to extend this service to include other much needed items and an occasional spoil.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 22 February-Barnyard Theatre Fundraiser
- 29 March-Annual Golf Day

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