

Volunteers needed to help children

When Precious (3) was placed in the New BeginningZ (NBZ) Haven for abandoned, neglected and abused babies, she was semi-disabled and suffering from hydrocephalus, also known as water on the brain.

Precious was unable to walk or talk and was lacking in all areas of development.

After two years and a lot of love, care and attention by the NBZ team, Precious was almost on the same level as other 5-year-olds and was soon adopted.

According to NBZ founder and director, Tahiyya Hassim, Precious reminds Hassim of the importance of her work every day.

"On the days when I question why I do what I do, I think of Precious and know why."

NBZ provides programmes and services to abandoned or abused children, living, working or begging on the streets of Pretoria.

In 2003, due to the HIV/Aids pandemic, the organisation added child-headed households to its focus group and in 2004 included another vulnerable group, abandoned babies and toddlers.

Some of the ways in which NBZ assists these children are by way of the Thuto Ke Lesedi daycare centre, a community outreach programme and a basic medical programme.

With only a handful of staff members and a legion of children

requiring constant care, love and attention, the organisation is in desperate need of a project manager to monitor and evaluate these projects to ensure the projects deliver to their maximum capacity.

When Vodacom invited community organisations to state the requirements that would help them attain self-sufficiency in its *Change the World* initiative, NBZ indicated that it was in dire need of a volunteer with strong financial and organisational skills.

Vodacom is now inviting interested parties with the required background to take part in the 12-month programme.

The volunteers will receive R25 000 each month to cover their living expenses as well as a laptop, mobile phone, internet connection and airtime so that they can share their experiences with the world and inspire others to make a difference. In addition, the non-profit organisation will be given R190 000 during the year of their involvement.

South African citizens over the age of 18 who have the passion, drive and commitment to donate themselves to a charity organisation are invited to submit an online application form at <http://changetheworld.vodacom.co.za> by February 10.

Once selected, the successful applicants will be placed within the charities that match their interests, skills and experience.