Children as active citizens

The Revolution will be televised
Status of children in SA

• South Africa’s commitment to the realisation of socio-economic rights is enshrined in the Constitution
• Children are specifically mentioned and included in the general rights: every child has the right to basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services
Status of children in SA

• There were 18.5 million children in SA in 2011.
• 21% have lost are orphans; 24% live with neither of their parents, 0.4% are in child-headed households
• 58% are in households that lived below the poverty line
• 35% lived in households where nobody was employed
  – For more info
    www.childrencount.ci.org.za
Why Soul Buddyz Clubs

• Laws in place but not realised – especially for children worst affected by poverty, which makes them vulnerable to a host of other problems
• Gap in children’s programming and in putting children’s issues in the mainstream
• Experience and benefit in creating long-term vehicles
Soul Buddyz

- Children’s Rights programme
- All about citizenship
- Children as active change agents in their communities

Soul Buddyz Clubs
Buddyz on the Move
Soul Buddyz Clubs

- 6 500 clubs
- 130 000 children
- Across country
- Marginalised schools
- Run by and for children
Objectives of Campaign

• Put Children on the Agenda of the Taylor Commission of Inquiry
• Increase Child Support Grant to 18 years
• Remove Barriers to grant access

- Lack of ID books needed for grants
- Lack of birth certificates needed for grants and for ID book
- Lack of information on rights to social security and how to access them
- Poor service delivery by government to ensure access
Campaign Elements

• Training community activists in media advocacy

• Workshop with journalists

• Material for journalists

• Editors’ forums

• Protest events and material

• Activation around Soul City programmes
What is a children’s grant?

The Department of Social Development gives three kinds of grants for children:
- The Child Support Grant
- The Care Dependency Grant
- The Foster Child Grant
Read about these grants on pages 2 and 3.

Where can I apply for a grant?
- You can apply for the children’s grants at the government welfare offices or Department of Social Development offices.
- Read page 4 to see what documents you need to bring with you.

How will I know if my grant is approved?
- You will be told to collect your grant in about 3 months time at a grant pay-point near you.
- You will also get a letter telling you what happened to your application. If your grant was refused, the letter must tell you why.

How long will it take before my grant is paid?
- It should not take longer than 3 months after you have handed in all the documents.
- If it takes longer you can contact:
  - the help desk at a grant pay-point
  - the Social Development Hotline – 0800 601 011

Short-term relief for people who need help NOW!
Some families cannot wait for the money for the children’s grants. They need help now. If this happens, you may be able to get Social Relief of Distress for 3 to 6 months from the government. Read pages 12 and 13.

Government grants for children

The constitution says that government needs to look after people who cannot look after themselves, especially children. A grant is money that is given by the government. It helps people who are caring for children if they are unable to support them on their own.

Community Information
You can get help to apply for the grants from church welfare organisations, community organisations and advice offices.

Thomas is no longer able to work. How will he look after the children?

We need to apply for a Government Grant to help them.
Did we have impact?

Made it into the Taylor Commission

We won the litigation for alternate documents

Child Support Grant increased to 14 years

Currently grants increased to 18

Govt has adopted the jamboree strategy of reaching communities