

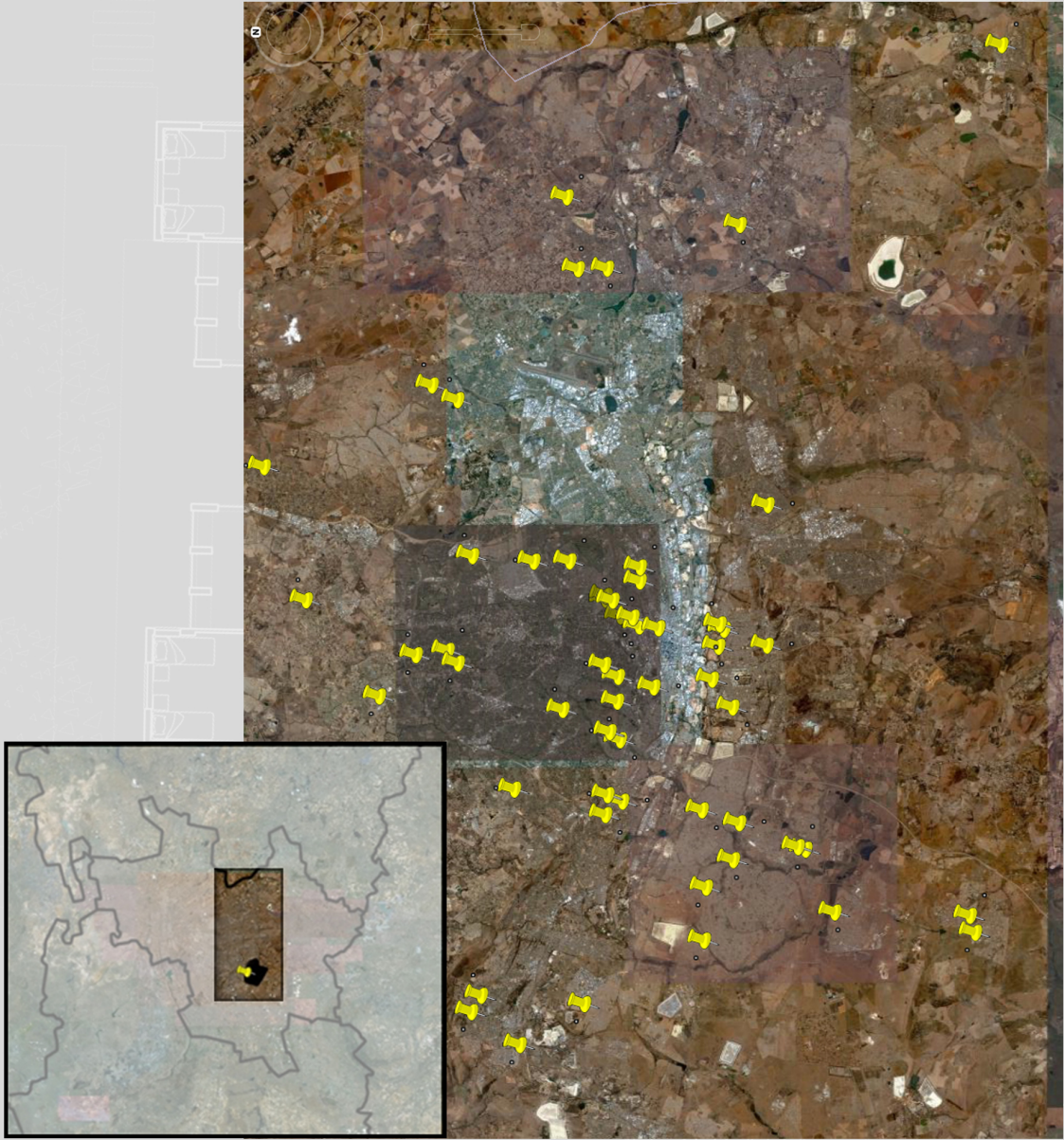
# Umamkhulu Place

or Aunties Place

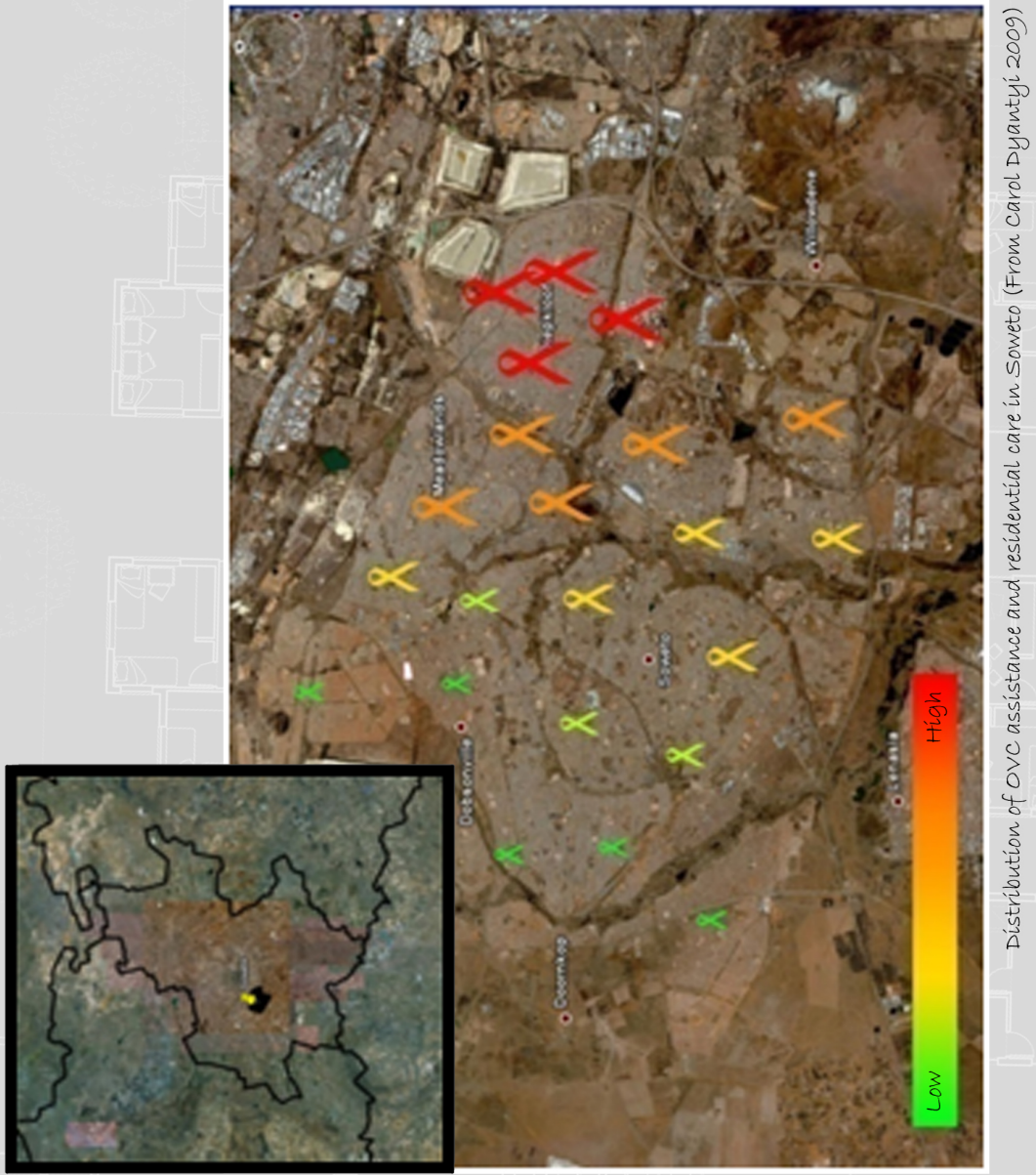
Group foster care that will care for OVC in a family environment and embed the model of care in the community where the OVC can learn about their roots and be protected and cared for by that community.

The focus would be on the creation of family environments. In traditional culture the OVC would be taken in by Aunties and uncles; the OVC centre care givers would take on the role of full time Aunty allowing the children to form bonds.

The idea would be like the traditional extended family caring for the children. The Umamkhulu, or Aunties would be older women in and around the community who are themselves made vulnerable but are willing to care for the children without the worries of caring for their own family. By incorporating surrounding areas in the employment process, the community will form a secure base for community upliftment.



The map above shows the distribution of children's home in the Soweto and Johannesburg areas. There are very few children's homes within Soweto. This is a fundamental problem since Soweto has the largest urban population and OVC problem, this means that too many children are being uprooted from their communities and placed elsewhere, destroying social and cultural ties. When the children reach 18 and leave the homes, they find they cannot return to their communities and feel like outcasts (Carol Dyantyi 2009).



There are many outreach programs in Soweto that support OVC and child headed households (these places help with food, clothing and blanket distribution. The greatest concentration of the outreach programs is in the areas around Orlando (see fig 14). Other areas in Soweto are in need of support and have the potential to successfully host a children's home.



There should be established facilities in the community that will assist in keeping the child safe and comfortable. These facilities should include

- Schools
- Libraries
- Recreational facilities
- Community centres, outreach and projects
- Shopping centres
- Law courts
- Police assistance (police station)
- Clinics or a hospital (medical care)
- Close to major transportation routes (taxi, bus or train)

With these elements in place the children should have a supportive community to grow up in.



Mmes' Park main aspect for selection was the close proximity to main roads that link the various areas of Soweto by taxi and bus, allowing children to remain connected to their living relatives and remain in their schools to maintain early childhood social networks. The streets surrounding the site are largely void of vehicular traffic.

The site is already used as a pedestrian thoroughfare from the roads leading from surrounding areas to Mmes' Park shopping centre. This offers another area for possible social interaction but because of the overgrown state of the park, it becomes dangerous.

The wide pavements offer very little social interaction and feel unused, unwanted and unsafe due to pedestrians merely walking by with no social interaction and pausing.

The site is made dangerous by its state of overgrowth

The site has started to become a litter ground due to lack of usage and ownership.

The site is not a place where people socialise and therefore it is not "owned" by the community

Very few trees and no maintained green spaces



There are a number of community empowerment projects like the food gardening centre and computer training classes. This indicates that a group foster care and the facilities it will provide, will encourage community interaction.



The pedestrian movement intensity through the site, with the implementation of Umamkhulu Place, it is hoped that the pedestrian movement through the site will improve and thereby creating a sustained passive surveillance.

The soccer field just behind the hawkker stalls and open area is often used and becomes a social activity for the community

On the approach to the site there is formalised hawkker trade, this gives the pedestrian the first connection to the community. The open space behind is often used to set up umbrellas, the area offers the possibility of chance meeting.

Activity and gathering spaces in and around the site